

**2015 POINT IN TIME HOMELESS CENSUS SURVEY
AND FIVE YEAR 2011 – 2015 ANALYSIS**

**CITY OF HARRISBURG AND DAUPHIN COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA**



Submitted by the



Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness

*...to educate and mobilize our community and coordinate services to
prevent and reduce homelessness in the Capital Region.*

INTRODUCTION

The 2015 Annual Point in Time (PIT) homeless census and survey by the Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness (CACH) was conducted from noon on January 28th till noon January 29th 2015. This represents a community wide effort to enumerate and survey individuals and families who experience homelessness in the City of Harrisburg and Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. This endeavor is done in concert nationwide with Continuum of Cares (CoCs) i.e. geographic consortiums of housing and homeless service providers, related organizations, public and private entities, homeless and formerly homeless members who have as their goal to end homelessness.

CACH mobilized volunteers and its membership of over seventy organizations in its CoC (PA501) to gather survey information on persons in shelters, transitional housing, Safe Havens, and permanent housing programs. CACH also surveyed those who are unsheltered at places like soup kitchens, service agencies and through some street and camp outreach. In addition, surveys were gathered on those who were imminently in danger of needing shelter or being unsheltered.

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, duration and reasons for homelessness. The final set of questions queried the type of housing that was requested or rendered.

The organizations, volunteers and sites that participated in the 2015 PIT include (in alphabetical order): Bethesda Mission and Mobile Street Mission; Brethren Housing Association; Bridge of Hope; Capital Area Intermediate Unit; Case Management Unit of Dauphin County; Christian Churches United and Susquehanna Safe Harbor; Dauphin County Crisis Intervention; Dauphin County Housing Authority; Dauphin County Children and Youth; DELTA Community (Gaudenzia); Downtown Daily Bread; Catholic Charities; Family Promise of Harrisburg and Capital Region; Harrisburg School District; Harrisburg Housing Authority; HELP Ministries; Holy Spirit Medical Outreach; Interfaith Shelter, Catholic Charities; Keystone Community Mental Health Service; NHS CDA-Windows; Pinnacle Health – Harrisburg Hospital; Salvation Army; Shalom House; St. Francis Soup Kitchen; the YWCA Harrisburg; and Lebanon VAMC.

Special thanks to all these organizations, members and volunteers of CACH, and to the Service Delivery and Data Collection Committees for making the 2015 Point in Time Survey possible.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details 2015 results of Point in Time surveys and compares them at each category with results from PITs conducted since 2011 for a five year analysis. National and State data is also presented for comparison, where possible, from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's *2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR)*'s 2007 -2014 comparisons and the analysis of those trends in the *State of Homelessness in America in 2015*, by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH).

The 2015 Point in Time enumerated **402 people of which 134 were children** who resided in shelter, transitional housing, Safe Havens or who were unsheltered i.e. defined as "homeless" and the target population. Another 182 including 37 children were counted who are no longer homeless but reside in permanent housing programs. 56 persons including 9 children who are "near homeless" were also counted.

Summary of findings from the 2015 PIT and five year analysis:

The defined “homeless” (sheltered and unsheltered) combined count increased by only 16 persons since 2014, **but the homeless trend over five years is upward**. Nationally, the combined count trend decreased but Pennsylvania is one of 13 states where the homeless count did increase.

Out of the combined count the increase is found in the number of persons who are sheltered, i.e. in emergency shelter, transitional housing or safe havens. **Those who were sheltered increased from 321 to 385 in five years and from 357 to 386 in the past year. Consequently, the count of those who are unsheltered decreased by 23 persons since 2014 and 57 persons over the five years.** The decrease in the unsheltered count follows national and state trends as well.

Emergency shelter count and utilization increase was steady. However, the **transitional housing count increased sharply from 138 in 2014 to 166 persons in 2015.**

Safe Havens are facilities dedicated to chronically homeless unsheltered individuals. The Safe Haven count and utilization increased over five years, although the census decreased in 2015 because a Safe Haven and its count of residents was converted to permanent housing category.

The **permanent housing census rose to 182 and the inventory increased also to 210 beds in 2015.** National trends also show an increase in permanent housing inventory since 2007, but in Pennsylvania permanent housing beds decreased in 2014.

The “near homeless” count increased and then decreased over five years to 47 households in 2015. The increase in “temporary living situation ended” as a reason for homelessness and the increase in the sheltered count suggests that **the recent years’ decrease in near homelessness is because those who are near homeless are utilizing shelter or transitional housing.**

Duration of current homelessness and multiple incidences of homelessness, was new question in the 2015. **Nearly half of the homeless population were homeless more than once** and of those most (37.5 percent) experienced their combined duration of homelessness between 4 to 12 months. Over half of all who were sheltered or unsheltered did not or could not answer how long their current episode of homelessness was, but most of who did respond (19.2 percent) were homeless less than a month.

Chronic homelessness changed little from 2014 to 2015 at 83 individuals or families which is 28.4 percent of the homeless population. **The chronic homeless count over the five years has been rising since its lowest count in 2012 because those who experience homelessness chronically are increasingly sheltered in dedicated beds like Safe Havens.** Nationally and in Pennsylvania chronic homelessness is decreasing, although not many continuums have Safe Havens that would add to their chronic homeless census.

61.3 percent of the sheltered and unsheltered became homeless while in the city of Harrisburg and 10.3 percent became homeless in Dauphin County outside of Harrisburg. 17.1 percent became homeless outside of Dauphin County and the rest did not answer.

Roughly **60 percent of the sheltered and unsheltered population were male** and 40 percent were female in the 2011 and 2015 count. The reverse was the case in 2012 and 2013.

11.6 percent were Hispanic in ethnicity. **Roughly 50 percent were African American, 38 percent were Caucasian and 12 percent were from combined and other categories.**

The **average age of those experiencing homelessness is 42 years**; 46 years for those who are unsheltered and 42 for those who are sheltered.

Three quarters of the homeless population are unaccompanied. Family homelessness remained relatively unchanged over five years at one quarter of the households surveyed. In 2015 **one-third of the homeless population are children under 18 years of age but none were unsheltered.** Family homelessness decreased in the US and Pennsylvania by 3 and 2 percent respectively.

Veteran homelessness decreased from 2014 to 2015. At 14.7 percent, the percentage of homeless veterans decreased significantly from being a quarter of the homeless count in 2011, yet remains at the average percentage since 2012. **Out of the homeless veteran population the percentage who are unsheltered has steadily and significantly decreased over five years to 2 percent in 2015 because of increased transitional and permanent housing opportunities.** Veteran homelessness decreased in the U.S. by 10.5 percent and in Pennsylvania by 3.5 percent.

Substance use (alcohol, drugs, or both) remains the highest primary reason given for homelessness. The next highest primary reason given was that **“temporary living situation ended.”** The third primary reason was **mental health.** Substance use, mental health, and job loss were in the top three as the primary reasons given for homelessness over the past five years, although job loss did decrease as both a primary and secondary reason in 2015. “Eviction due to non-payment of rent” did increase both as a primary and secondary reason in the 2015 PIT.

As far as income sources, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the highest benefit (42.1 percent). Increasing to almost **a third (31.8 percent) is the number of homeless persons who were employed, and no-one listed unemployment as a source of income in the 2015 survey.** In the US, unemployment decreased by 7.4 percent and in Pennsylvania by 6.8 percent from 2007 to 2014. Combined Social security, SSI, and SSDI remained relatively the same as did child support. A combined 17.5 percent received public subsidy through Cash Assistance (9.6 percent) or TANF benefits (7.9 percent). There is a sharp increase in those receiving veterans’ benefits in 2015 (9.6 percent).

44.3 percent of the homeless population have health insurance of one sort or another.

Emergency Shelter inventory of beds remained largely unchanged at 246 beds in 2015. In the U.S., Emergency Shelter beds increased 4.5 percent in 2014 and in Pennsylvania by 3.3 percent.

Transitional Housing beds increased to 220 beds since 2011, especially in the past two years. In the US transitional beds reduced by 6.5 percent in 2014 but by only 0.6 percent in PA.

There is one Safe Haven facility for men with 25 beds. In 2014 a women’s Safe Haven with 8 more beds opened and was then converted to permanent housing in 2015.

Permanent Housing beds increased by 33 percent to 210 beds since 2011. The U.S. saw an increase of 59.2 percent since 2007 but Pennsylvania had a reduction of 3.6 percent in 2014.

The final set of question in the survey asked those at housing programs if they were able to receive housing or had to otherwise be on a waiting list or that the program was unavailable. This was used together with occupancy rates and housing categories to help discern unmet need for shelter, transitional housing, Safe Haven and permanent housing. **In 2015 the unmet need was determined to be 54 beds for emergency shelter; 46 transitional housing beds, 12 Safe Haven beds; and 65 permanent housing beds.**

OBSERVATIONS AND SOME CONCLUSIONS

The number who were housed in permanent housing as well as the inventory of beds increased significantly, which is the solution to serving the unsheltered and chronic homeless populations.

Substance use is the top reason given for homelessness and includes those who also have mental health or co-occurring diagnoses. Although many homeless housing programs serve those with addictions because of the dynamics of group living in a facility, or because of a philosophy about assistance, proven and continued sobriety is a requirement. True “Housing First,” in which sobriety or supportive services are not pre-requirements for a roof over one’s head, yet where recovery is often still the result, is an evidence based best practice that can be further pursued.

Many who ended in shelter or being unsheltered said they had temporary living situations which ended, i.e. they were in the “near homeless” or at risk category. Therefore, Homeless Prevention studies, resources and efforts for those who are doubled up or who have housing instability is warranted.

Homeless recidivism or a history of homelessness was experienced by over half of the sheltered and unsheltered persons surveyed. There is also an increase in number of chronically homeless served. This may be because this continuum is increasing its focus and service to those who are homeless repeatedly i.e. through dedicated beds like Safe Havens, but further study is needed.

Homeless veterans are being engaged at an ever increasing rate as more veterans are sheltered and less are “on the streets.” The federal and national effort to end homelessness among veterans by 2015 has helped open resources for this population. The US Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) Supportive Services for Homeless Veterans (SSVF) program, which in this area is operated by the YWCA and Volunteers of America (VOA), recently expanded the eligibility categories for veterans and this year we have seen a sharp increase in persons receiving veteran benefits. VA Per Diem Transitional Housing by Shalom House and the YWCA, YW-Veterans Permanent Housing, VOA housing initiatives, and increases in VA Supportive Housing (VASH) HUD vouchered subsidies have greatly reduced the number of veterans who are unsheltered. The YWCA also operates a U.S. Department of Labor Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) that helps homeless veterans find employment in addition to housing.

The percentage of family homelessness remains unchanged and one-third of all persons who are homeless are children in Harrisburg and Dauphin County. In contrast, family homelessness in the US and in Pennsylvania is decreasing. Nonetheless, this continuum has more shelter and transitional bed options for families than for singles. Further study needs to be done on what more is needed to decrease the rate of family homelessness in this area.

Unaccompanied homeless minors is an uncounted sub-population and remains as a service gap in this continuum. There are no dedicated shelters, services or outreach for runaway or homeless youth, with the exception of those who may be victims of human trafficking and served by the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg. Specialized and concerted efforts to count this population will continue this year and in subsequent Point in Time censuses.

Rural homelessness is undercounted and underserved. In past efforts, rapid rehousing through rent assistance proved most effective for those in rural Dauphin County who experienced homelessness. This resource is now scarce.

Submitted by George Payne, Chair of Data Collection, on behalf of CACH.

2015 CACH POINT IN TIME SURVEY RESULTS

I. SURVEY RESPONSES

<u>Table 1:</u> Surveys	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total Survey Responses.	548				
Unduplicated Survey Responses.*	452	530	555	540	567
Unduplicated Surveys Responses LESS “Other” and “Unverified” Surveys.**	392				
Total Adults and Children (including near homeless and formerly homeless i.e. those in permanent housing programs.)	640	683	988	793	791
Survey Responses for Verified Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Unsheltered.***	292	297	317	281	287
Total Adults and Children for Verified Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Unsheltered.***	402	396	390	386	394

* Each participant in a survey has an anonymous identifier composed of a string of letters and numbers derived from first initial, birth year, partial social security, and other demographic response codes that when created is unique only to that individual. The unique and anonymous identifier is used to de-duplicate all survey responses.

** “Other” refers to an option that survey participants check out of a list of known shelters, transitional, and permanent housing programs. They are discounted since living in “other” housing programs such as living in transitional halfway homes, recovery programs, etc., they may or may not be considered homeless by definition. “Unverified” refers to surveys that records the participant as staying in a known shelter, etc., but that shelter or facility does not show that participant’s anonymous identifier in their bed inventory during the night of the count. Unverified also pertains to submitted entrants from participating service provider’s caseloads that are known to be unsheltered, but were not contacted during the survey period to verify that they were unsheltered during the night of the count.

*****For the purposes of analysis, we define “homeless” those who are “unsheltered,” (Un) or in “Sheltered (Facility)” which are non-permanent homeless housing programs, specifically Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), and Safe Haven (SH).** This is the census target of the Point in Time Survey required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Other categories of homelessness in this report include:

- “Sheltered (Non Facility)” i.e. Rapid Re-housing (RRH) and other rental assistance programs
- “Near Homeless” (NH) i.e. those who are in a home or institution and about to become homeless, and
- Those who are formerly homeless in “permanent housing” (PH) specifically designed for homelessness.

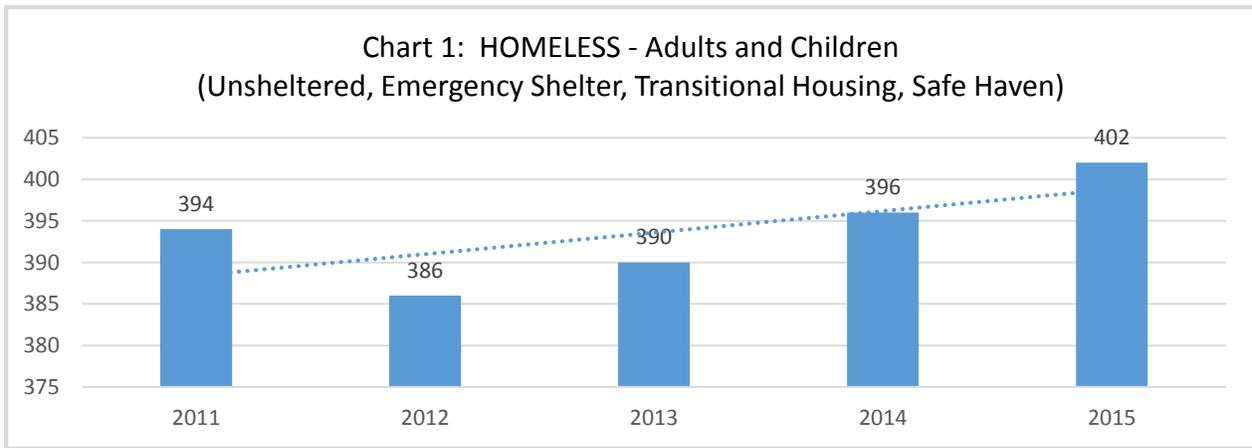
II. HOMELESSNESS SITUATION – HOUSING, DURATION, LOCALITY

A. “HOMELESS” Target Population of the US HUD Point in Time Census

Table 2: Homeless - Unsheltered and Sheltered (Facility). Percentage is derived as a percentage from unsheltered and sheltered (Facilities) totals only and of both adults and children.

UNSHELTERED	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
	#	% of Homeless	#	% of Homeless	#	% of Homeless	#	% of Homeless	#	% of Homeless
Total (Adults and Children)	16	4.0%	39	9.8%	48	12.3%	58	15.0%	73	18.5%
Street/Sidewalk	6	1.5%								
Vehicle	2	0.5%								
Park	0	0.0%								
Abandoned Building	1	0.2%								
Bus/Train Station/Airport	0	0.0%								
Under Bridge/Overpass	1	0.2%								
Woods/Outdoor Camp	5	1.2%								
Client Did Not Specify	1	0.2%								
SHELTERED (Facility)	#	% of Homeless	#	% of Homeless	#	% of Homeless	#	% of Homeless	#	% of Homeless
Total (Adults and Children)	386	96.0%	357	90.2%	342	87.7%	328	85.0%	321	81.5%
Emergency Shelter	199	49.5%	192	48.5%	184	47.2%	178	46.1%	166	42.1%
Transitional Housing	166	41.3%	138	34.8%	143	36.7%	136	35.2%	143	36.3%
Safe Haven	21	5.2%	27	6.8%	15	3.8%	14	3.6%	12	3.0%

Homelessness - Adults and Children Unsheltered or in Shelter (Facilities) ES, TH, SH

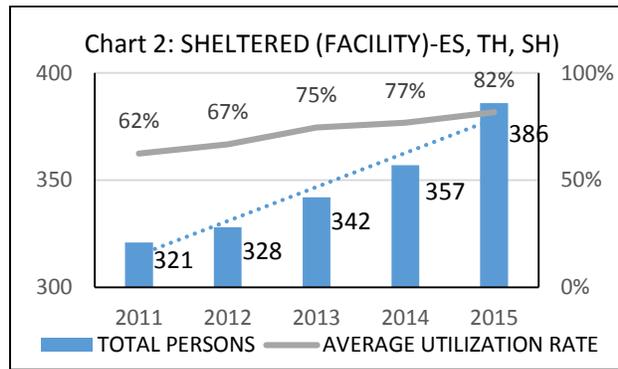


From 2012 to 2015 there is an upward but modest trend of only 16 people when totaling both the sheltered (facility) and unsheltered homeless adults and children (Chart 1). The average number of persons experiencing homelessness over each of the five years' Point in Time is 394 persons, and 2015's result is above that average.

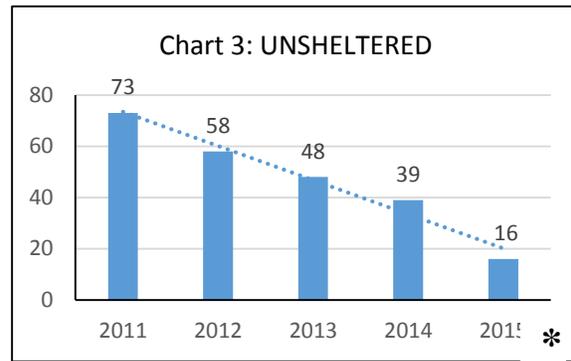
Nationally, PIT homeless count overall decreased by 2.3 percent from 2013 to 2014, but our PIT follows Pennsylvania's trend, as one in only 13 states where the count increased, by 1.6 percent.

However, when distinguishing between the different situations of homelessness i.e. category of homeless dwelling, the trends are markedly different. The trend of aggregate sheltered facility census and utilization rate has significantly increased, while conversely there is a significant declining trend in the unsheltered count each year over the past five years. See charts 2 and 3.

Sheltered (Facility) Homelessness



Unsheltered Homelessness



1. Unsheltered Homelessness:

From 2011 to 2015 the count of persons who were unsheltered i.e. sleeping on the streets, in vehicles, encampments, or places not suitable for human habitation, decreased from 73 to 16. This follows national and state trends in unsheltered census, which in 2014 had decreased by 10 percent and 24 percent respectively from the prior count.

Outreach enumerators and visitation workers stated the known encampments and homeless dwelling sites that they visited were sparsely populated. This is likely due to the severe winter, and could be reflected in the increase in shelter census including overnight winter shelter.

* It must be noted that the count of 16 unsheltered homeless persons in 2015 may represent an undercount. One reason is that a significant survey site during the dawn hours was closed due to early inclement weather. A major reason is that this the first year incorporating new PIT unsheltered counting standards released by U.S. HUD in the Fall of 2014 (U.S. Dept. of HUD, *Point in Time Count Methodology Guide*, September 2014).

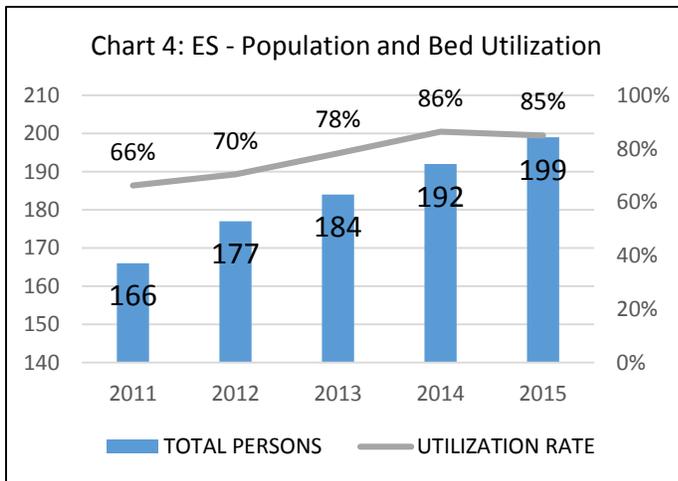
Our PIT unsheltered survey relies on services based sites i.e. at places of service where persons who are unsheltered may congregate such as soup kitchens, health case management sites, etc. We also conduct limited outreaches to known places of encampments. As in previous years staff assisting at service based sites counted and filled out surveys for all clients on their caseload who they knew were unsheltered even though they may not encounter them during the period of the point in time. This same method for instance is required by HUD for homeless housing programs where staff may not see all their housed clients during the point in time period but need to submit PIT date on all clients in order to properly account and match bed utilization reports. This year the method for unsheltered census at service sites is to only count those who the enumerator encounters and can verify that at the night of the count that person was indeed unsheltered. As a result case based surveys were discounted as “unverified.”

HUD allows a seven day window for verification contact, but this year we were not equipped to protract the survey or mobilize more volunteers for extended times at the survey sites such as soup kitchens. In future census, we will take advantage of the seven day window to accurately verify as many unsheltered persons for a better unsheltered count.

2. Sheltered (Facility) Homelessness:

Total sheltered homelessness has increased to 386 adults and children in 2015, up significantly from 357 the previous year in 2014 and 321 five years ago. Overall average ES, TH, and SH bed facility utilization has also increased to 82 percent from 62 percent five years ago.

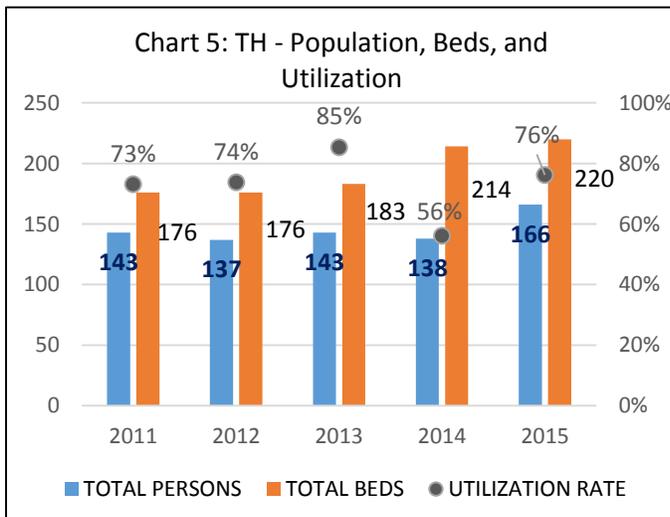
- a. Emergency Shelter (facilities providing emergency stay up to 30 days or night to night)



Although the increase from 2014 to 2015 of adults and children in Emergency Shelter is slight, the trend shows a steady increase over the past five years, from 166 in 2011 to 199 in 2015.

The average utilization of beds has also steadily increased over the five years reflecting the increase in person using emergency shelter. State trend show bed utilization at 96 percent and nationally it is above capacity. This area's usage rate would be similar but had not captured a significant overflow at one large shelter.

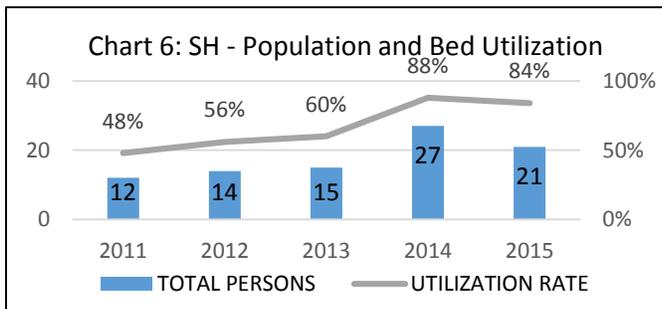
b. Transitional Housing (temporary housing usually from six months to two years)



From 2011 to 2014 the transitional housing PIT count has remained steady, fluctuating around 140 adults and children, but then increased statistically significantly to 166 person in 2015.

The increase may be attributed to the fact that total TH beds also increased in 2014 and 2015, having remained under 200 beds in previous years. TH beds also increased nationally. Other than an anomalous large fluctuation in 2013 and 2014, the average median utilization rate remains at 74 percent, which is under the state and national rate of 84 percent.

c. Safe Haven (facility for chronically homeless and unsheltered individuals)



Safe Haven occupancy and utilization rate increased steadily since 2011 to 21 persons and 84 percent respectively in 2015.

Occupancy peaked in 2014 with the opening of a women's Safe Haven, which however, converted into a permanent housing program in 2015 and SH numbers decreased with the transfer.

B. Other Homeless and Formerly Homeless Defined Situations (Percentage in the table is from out of all homeless category surveys)

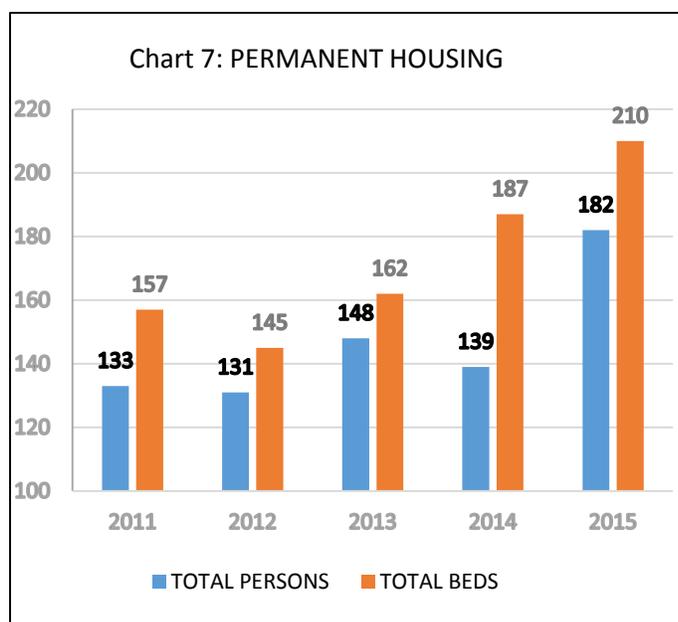
Table 3:	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
	#	% of all surveys								
SHELTERED (Non-Facility)										
Rapid Rehousing	56	6.9%								

PERMANENT HOUSING (No longer homeless)	#	% of all surveys								
Total Surveys (households)	145	22.7%	118	22.3%	130	23.4%	106	19.6%	107	18.9%
NEAR HOMELESS	#	% of all surveys								
Total Surveys (households)	47	12.0%	64	12.1%	108	19.5%	76	14.1%	48	9.7%
i. Being evicted within 2 weeks with no resource or place to go	1	0.1%	4	0.8%	1	0.2%	64	11.9%	5	1.0%
ii. Being discharged within 2 weeks from institution, no resources or place to go.	2	0.2%	8	1.5%	3	0.5%	10	1.9%	9	1.8%
iii. Living with Others temporarily but have to leave within 2 weeks with no resources or place to go; Or living with others while not on lease; Or going from home to home.	43	5.3%	52	9.8%	104	18.7%	2	0.4%	34	6.8%
iv. Motel/Hotel	1	0.1%								

3. Sheltered (Non-facility)

Housing that is not facility based but at scattered sites using singular, short term rental assistance e.g. Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid Rehousing and SSVF Rapid Rehousing for veterans.

4. Permanent Housing

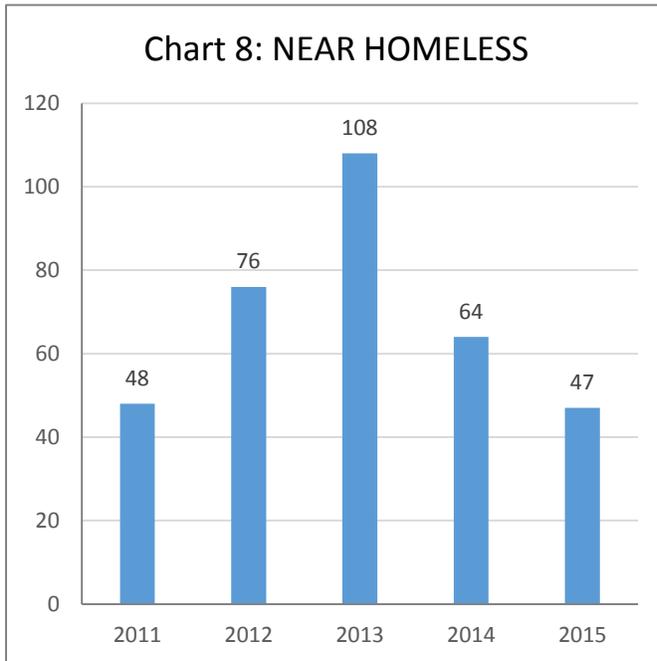


This category counts those in permanent housing programs i.e. Shelter + Care, HUD-VASH, Permanent Supportive Housing and Section 8 Moderate Rehab SROs.

The number of persons permanently housed rose over the past five years and significantly in 2015 to 182 persons (145 adults and 37 children).

PH beds increased by 1/3 Over five years to 210 beds in 2015 which follows the national trend (5.6 percent from 2013 – 2014 and 60 percent since 2007.) However, PH beds in Pennsylvania decreased by 3.6 percent from 2013 to 2014.

5. Near Homeless



Near Homeless encapsulates individuals or families who are at risk of being homeless within two weeks with no defined means or place to go, or residing at a motel/hotel.

Over five years this count is a bell-curve climbing up to 108 households in 2013 and returning to nearly its 2011 mark by 2015.

The US Census Bureau show those living doubled-up increasing by 3.7 percent from 2007 – 2013 and by 8.5 percent in PA.

Our PIT, however, counts doubled up and at risk household from services sites only i.e. a near homeless population that is seeking services. This is more accurate and helpful in comparing that trend to those receiving shelter or who became unsheltered at those same consistent sites.

C. Frequency and Duration of Homelessness

<u>Table 4: Frequency and Duration</u>	# of responses	% of homeless (Un, ES,TH,SH)
No Response	52	21.2%
First Time	86	29.5%
Multiple Times	144	49.3%
Multiple Times: How long in Total?		
Less than 1 month	22	15.3%
1 - 3 Months	43	29.9%
4- 12 Months	54	37.5%
More than a Year	0	0.0%
Unspecified	25	17.4%
All Responses: How Long Currently?		
Less than 1 month	56	19.2%
1 - 3 Months	43	14.7%
4- 12 Months	27	9.2%
More than a Year	17	5.8%
Unspecified	149	51.0%

The duration of homelessness, both currently and over multiple times, is new for the 2015 PIT. Almost half of the sheltered and unsheltered experienced homelessness more than once and of those most (37.5 percent) experienced homelessness for a total duration of 4 to 12 months. Over half of all who sheltered or unsheltered did not or could not answer how long the current episode of homelessness was, but most who did respond (19.2 percent) were homeless less than a month.

D. Chronic Homelessness

The frequency and duration queries in part help to discern chronic homelessness, defined as a person or family with a person that has a disabling condition, who resided in shelter or place not meant for human habitation, either four times in three years or for the duration of 12 months.

Table 5: Chronic Homeless (Percentage is of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH) surveys)

2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
83	28.4%	80	27.3%	69	21.8%	51	18.9%	79	27.5%

The number of chronically homeless households, while negligibly changing from 80 to 83 persons from 2014 to 2015, nevertheless, show a rising trend over the past five years.

In contrast, from 2014 to 2013, PIT combined sheltered and unsheltered statistics show a decrease nationally (2.5 percent) and in Pennsylvania (5.7 percent) in the chronically homeless population. However, since the unsheltered PIT count for this continuum was also decreasing, the chronic homelessness is increasingly being sheltered and engaged. For instance, Safe Havens are facilities dedicated to this population and became operational in our continuum during this five year period. This trend of reaching those who are chronically homeless reflects the national emphasis by dedicating beds and facilities like Safe Havens and permanent housing.

E. Locality of Original Term of Homelessness (Percentage is of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH))

<u>Table 6:</u>	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
Location	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
City of Harrisburg	179	61.3%	179	60.3%	192	60.6%	151	53.7%	131	45.6%
Dauphin County not Harrisburg	30	10.3%	36	12.1%	28	8.8%	37	13.2%	23	8.0%
Outside of Dauphin County	50	17.1%								
Unspecified	33	11.3%	82	27.6%	97	30.6%	93	33.1%	133	46.3%

III. HOMELESSNESS - DEMOGRAPHICS

A. Gender: (Percentage is of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH) non-blank responses to the question)

<u>Table 7:</u>	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
Gender	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	176	60.3%	181	61.8%	115	40.4%	111	41.1%	176	61.8%
Female	116	39.7%	112	38.2%	170	59.6%	159	58.9%	109	38.2%

In 2015, the census specified “transgendered - male to female” and “transgendered - female to male” as options whereas in previous years “other” was provided as an option. There were no transgendered responses in 2015.

The sheltered and unsheltered homeless composition in 2014 and 2015 is approximately 60% male 40% female, while the reverse was true in 2012 and 2013.

B. Ethnicity and Racial Categories (Percentage is of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH) surveys)

<u>Table 8:</u>	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
Ethnicity	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Hispanic	34	11.6%	24	8.1%	31	9.8%	20	7.1%	24	8.4%
Non-Hispanic/ No Response	258	88.4%	273	91.9%	286	90.2%	261	92.6%	263	91.6%

Table 9: Race	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
African American	147	50.3%	151	50.8%	152	53.1%	132	50.6%	136	51.7%
Bi-Racial/ Multi-racial	8	2.7%	8	2.7%	6	2.1%	4	1.5%	3	1.1%
Caucasian	111	38.0%	103	34.7%	116	40.6%	107	41.0%	116	44.1%
Native American	1	0.3%	4	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Pacific Islander/ Asian	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	3	1.1%
No Response/ Other	25	8.6%	8	2.7%	12	4.2%	17	6.5%	5	1.9%

There is little change in ethnic composition over the past five years. The aggregate of minority classifications represent the largest percentage of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons and African Americans comprise a little over half of the population in 2015 and previous years.

C. Age of Heads of Households

Table 10: Age (2015 Only)	#	% of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH) surveys
18 – 30 years old	70	24.0%
31 – 50 years old	128	43.8%
51 – 64 years old	81	27.7%
65 and above years old	5	1.7%
No Response	8	2.7%

Table 11: Average Age	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Unsheltered and Sheltered	42	44	44	48	44
Unsheltered	46	51	49	54	50
Sheltered	42	43	43	47	43

D. Household Composition (Percentage is of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH) surveys)

Table 12:	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
Household Type	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18 – unaccompanied	0*	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Under 18 – unaccompanied but with own children	0*	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unaccompanied Adult	216	74.0%	229	77.1%	200	68.5%	206	75.5%	210	73.2%
Adult Individual with minors	69	23.6%	66	22.2%	89	30.5%	63	23.1%	69	24.0%
Adult Couple – no minors	1	0.3%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	4	1.5%	1	0.3%
Adult Couple with minors	3	1.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	5	1.7%

* Significant attempts were made for this Point in Time to capture unaccompanied or head of household homeless youth under 18 but this proved to be difficult and resulted in a zero count. Unaccompanied youth is 7.8 percent and 6.4 percent of the count in the US and PA respectively.

Household composition changed little over the past five years. In 2015, unaccompanied individuals were 3/4 of all households, which was the average for previous years. Family homelessness decreased by nearly 3 percent nationwide and 2 percent for Pennsylvania from 2013 to 2014. While our CoC mirrored and exceeded that decrease for that period in 2015, and as an average of the past five years, family homelessness remains at 1/4 of households.

Table 13: Children in families (Percentage is of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH) adults and children)

2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
134	33.3%	99	25.0%	117	30.0%	127	32.9%	107	27.2%

In 2015 children make up 1/3 of the combined homeless sheltered and unsheltered population, although no children in families were in the verified unsheltered count. This is up from 2014 where children were 1/4 of the population, and is the highest count and percentage in five years.

E. Homeless Veterans (Percentage is of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH) surveys. Percentage of unsheltered veterans is taken from the total homeless veteran population.)

<u>Table 14:</u>	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
Homeless Veterans	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sheltered and Unsheltered Veterans	43	14.7%	49	16.5%	44	13.9%	40	14.2%	67	23.3%
Unsheltered Veterans	1	2%	4	8%	5	11%	4	10%	13	19%

The number and percentage of homeless veterans has decreased from 2014 to 2015 yet remains at the average percentage of homeless persons who are veterans since 2012.

The decrease in homeless veterans in 2015 was partly due to a reduction of beds at a veteran’s transitional program, but also due to an increase over the years in veterans permanent housing; VASH, SSVF. Increased housing for veterans is why the percentage and numbers for 2015 and prior years are significantly lower than in 2011 where veterans were nearly ¼ of the homeless population. This is proven by the significantly decreasing number and percentage of unsheltered veterans. Veteran homelessness decreased in the U.S. by 10.5 percent and in PA by 3.5 percent.

IV. HOMELESSNESS: CAUSES AND NEEDS

A. Reason Given for Homelessness – Primary (only one) and Secondary (can be more than one)

<u>Table 15:</u>	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
PRIMARY REASONS	#	% of 292 surveys	#	% of 297 surveys	#	% of 317 surveys	#	% of 281 surveys	#	% of 287 surveys
Drugs	23	7.9%	58	19.5%	49	15.5%	47	16.7%	58	20.2%
Alcohol	10	3.4%	29	9.8%	40	12.6%	19	6.8%	31	10.8%
Drugs and Alcohol	21	7.2%								
Domestic Violence	22	7.5%	28	9.4%	13	4.1%	23	8.2%	14	4.9%
Mental Health	35	12.0%	51	17.2%	40	12.6%	18	6.4%	22	7.7%
HIV/AIDS	1	0.3%		0.0%		0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Eviction Due to Non-Payment of Rent	29	9.9%	18	6.1%	25	7.9%	22	7.8%	15	5.2%
Job Loss	21	7.2%	43	14.5%	51	16.1%	44	15.7%	51	17.8%
Family Break-Up	14	4.8%	23	7.7%	28	8.8%	25	8.9%	15	5.2%
Medical Problems	15	5.1%	16	5.4%	14	4.4%	10	3.6%	11	3.8%
Temporary Living Situation Ended	38	13.0%	33	11.1%	48	15.1%	42	14.9%	40	13.9%
Other	8	1.7%	23	7.7%	16	5.5%	47	16.7%	32	11.1%

Table 16:	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
SECONDARY REASONS	#	% of 292 surveys	#	% of 297 surveys	#	% of 317 surveys	#	% of 281 surveys	#	% of 287 surveys
Drugs	16	5.5%	26	8.8%	24	7.6%	24	7.8%	16	5.6%
Alcohol	3	1.0%	33	11.1%	35	11.0%	35	11.4%	29	10.1%
Drugs and Alcohol	23	7.9%								
Domestic Violence	8	2.7%	3	1.0%	11	3.5%	11	3.6%	0	0.0%
Mental Health	43	14.7%	33	11.1%	34	10.7%	34	11.0%	20	7.0%
HIV/AIDS	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	21	6.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Eviction Due to Non-Payment of Rent	22	7.5%	7	2.4%	21	6.6%	6.7	2.2%	11	3.8%
Job Loss	20	6.8%	26	8.8%	40	12.6%	51	16.6%	41	14.3%
Family Break-Up	26	8.9%	20	6.7%	35	11.0%	28	9.1%	12	4.2%
Medical Problems	13	4.5%	23	7.7%	32	10.1%	14	4.5%	17	5.9%
Temporary Living Situation Ended	24	8.2%	41	13.8%	29	9.1%	29	9.4%	31	10.8%
Other	42	14.4%	27	9.1%	24	7.6%	24	7.8%	15	5.2%

Although down in both number and percentage from 2014, the combined response for Substance Use, whether drugs, alcohol, or both (which is a new category this year) is the top primary reason given for homelessness in 2015 and in all the five years. Substance use is also the first or second highest secondary reason given in all five years.

In 2015, Temporary Living Situation Ending is the second highest primary reason for homelessness, which indicates that many were likely in the “near homeless” category, living in temporary situations, i.e. not their own homes, before entering shelter or becoming unsheltered.

Mental Health is a close third in 2015 as the primary reason for homelessness. It is also the top secondary reason given for homelessness. Mental health is consistently the top second or third in both primary and secondary reasons since 2012 and was the fourth primary reason in 2011.

Job Loss decreased in 2015 as both a primary or secondary reason, although job loss was also the top second or third given reason for all the previous years since 2011.

Conversely, Eviction Due to Non Payment of Rent increased in 2015 as both a primary and secondary reason.

At 5.1 percent, Medical Problems as a primary reason for homelessness was a little higher in 2015 than the average response of 4.5 percent. Due to the personal nature of the question, HIV/AIDS responses has been minimal in 2015 and over the years. Domestic Violence as a primary reason was above the five year response average of 6.8 percent being 7.5 percent in 2015.

Note that responses as a percentage of the homeless population is helpful mostly in comparing that response from year to year or to other responses, rather than as a descriptive percentage of the reasons for homeless population in total, since many do not give one or any reason at all.

Relatedly, “Other” as an option for reasons not in the survey list provided, decreased in the primary reason category, but increased greatly to 14.4 percent as a choice for secondary reasons.

B. Disabilities: Table 17:

DISABILITIES	# of Responses	Percentage of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH) surveys.
Chronic Health Conditions	26	5.9 %
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	9	2.1 %
Physical Disability	32	7.3 %
HIV/AIDS	1	0.2 %
Intellectual Disability	5	1.1 %
Brain Trauma or Injury	5	1.1 %
Mental Health	101	23.1 %
Substance Use	35	8.0 %
Drug Use	13	3.0 %

Disabilities was a question re-introduced in 2015. Up to the 2010 PIT, questions included health and disability needs, but were removed the following year to simplify and shorten the survey.

Mental Health is the highest disability presented by survey participants. It becomes even higher when combined with other related survey choice options such as intellectual disability, brain trauma, or specific mental health disorders such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

C. Sources of Income/Benefit: (Percentage in table is of homeless (Un, ES, TH, SH) surveys.)

Surveys prior to 2015 combined SSDI and SSI disability benefits together with Social Security under one category. Cash assistance and TANF were interchanged as one category in previous PITs. In fact in PA cash assistance for most ended in 2012 as reflected in subsequent PITs. Finally, questions about health insurance such as Medicaid, Medicare or other are new in 2015.

<u>Table 18:</u>	2015		2014		2013		2012		2011	
<u>Income and Benefits Sources</u>	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Cash Assistance	28	9.6%	20	6.7%	70	22.1%	46	16.4%	50	17.4%
Social Security	9	3.1%	47	15.8%	17	5.4%	35	12.5%	40	13.9%
Disability SSI	21	7.2%								
Disability SSDI	11	3.8%								
Employment	93	31.8%	73	24.6%	25	7.9%	55	19.6%	47	16.4%
Unemployment	0	0.0%	8	2.7%	47	14.8%	7	2.5%	13	4.5%
Child Support	3	1.0%	7	2.4%	7	2.2%	3	1.1%	11	3.8%
TANF	23	7.9%								
SNAP (Food Stamps)	123	42.1%	128	43.1%	146	46.1%	109	38.8%	107	37.3%
Medicaid	79	27.1%								
Medicare	6	2.1%								
Other Health Insurance	44	15.1%								
Veterans Benefits	28	9.6%	7	2.4%	6	1.9%	8	2.8%	8	2.8%

There is a sharp increase in persons receiving Veterans' Benefits both due to the increase in SSVF services and also in a PIT emphasis to capture this data for 2015.

Employment also increased where nearly 1/3 (31.8 percent) of those who are experiencing homelessness are employed. Likewise, Unemployment decreased and was not a source of income for anyone in the 2015 survey. Unemployment statistics decreased in the states from 2007 to 2014 by 7.4 percent and in Pennsylvania by 6.8 percent.

Combined Social security, SSI, and SSDI decreased 1 percentage point from the previous year.

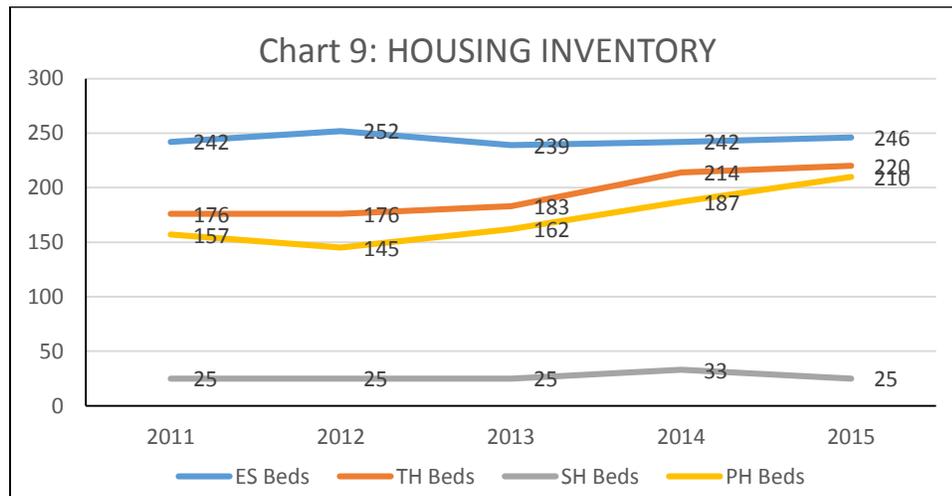
Child Support fluctuates around 2 to 3 percent, and is the lowest source of income or benefit.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the highest benefit at 42.1 percent.

44.3 percent have health insurance of one sort or another, likely due to the Affordable Care Act.

A combined 17.5 percent of the population received public subsidy through Cash Assistance (9.6 percent) or TANF benefits (7.9 percent).

V. HOUSING INVENTORY



- Emergency Shelter inventory of beds remained relatively unchanged over five years with 246 beds in 2015. In the US, Emergency Shelter beds increased 4.5 percent from 2013 to 2014 and 18.4 percent from 2007 to 2014. In PA, shelter beds increased by 3.3 percent in 2014.
- Transitional Housing beds increased from 2011 to 2015 to 220 beds especially in the past two years. Transitional beds nationwide decreased by 6.5 percent in 2014 and 18.4 percent since 2007 reflecting HUD's emphasis on reducing transitional beds in favor of permanent housing. In Pennsylvania, transitional beds minimally decreased only 0.6 percent in 2014.
- Safe Haven reflects the capacity of one facility for men at 25 beds. In 2014 a women's Safe Haven with 8 more beds opened and was then converted to permanent housing in 2015.
- Permanent housing beds increased by 33 percent since 2011 to 210 beds. The US saw an increase of 59.2 percent since 2007 but a reduction of 3.6 percent in Pennsylvania in 2014.

Unmet Need: using sheltered and unsheltered totals together with survey responses on receiving or not receiving types of housing, unmet need was determined to be 54 beds for emergency shelter; 46 transitional housing beds, 12 Safe Haven beds; and 65 permanent housing beds.

Appendix A

List of Tables and Charts:

Table 1: Survey Responses

Table 2: Homeless – Unsheltered and Sheltered (Facility)

Table 3: Other Homeless and Formerly Homeless Defined Situations

Table 4: Frequency and Duration

Table 5: Chronic Homelessness

Table 6: Location

Table 7: Gender

Table 8: Ethnicity

Table 9: Race

Table 10: Age

Table 11: Average Age

Table 12: Household Type

Table 13: Children in Families

Table 14: Homeless Veterans

Table 15: Reasons for Homelessness: Primary

Table 16: Reasons for Homelessness: Secondary

Table 17: Disabilities

Table 18: Income and Benefits

Chart 1: Homeless Adults and Children (Unsheltered, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing & Safe Haven)

Chart 2: Sheltered (Facility) – ES, TH, SH.

Chart 3: Unsheltered

Chart 4: ES – Population and Bed Utilization

Chart 5: TH – Population and Bed Utilization

Chart 6: SH – Population and Bed Utilization

Chart 7: Permanent Housing

Chart 8: Near Homeless

Chart 9: Housing Inventory

Appendix B:

2015 CACH SURVEY FORM

CACH -POINT IN TIME SURVEY 2015 ORGANIZATION: _____ PROGRAM: _____

<p>UNIQUE ID</p> <p>SUBMIT RECORD</p> <p>SAVE & EXIT</p> <p>SEARCH UNIQUE ID</p> <p>◀ ◁ ▷ ▶</p> <p>CLEAR FORM PRINT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT HOMELESS SITUATION</p> <p>If Using HardCopy, in the appropriate category, write the place residing in the space provided. Data Entry- Use PickList or type in the name of place if not listed. Are you currently...</p> <p>A. UNSHELTERED</p> <p>B1. SHELTERED - EMERGENCY SHELTER</p> <p>Street/Sidewalk _____</p> <p>Vehicle _____</p> <p>Park _____</p> <p>Abandoned Building _____</p> <p>Bus/Train Station/Airport _____</p> <p>Under bridge/Overpass _____</p> <p>Woods/Outdoor Camp _____</p> <p>Client Did Not Specify _____</p> <p>B2. SHELTERED - TRANSITIONAL HOUSING</p> <p>B3. SHELTERED - PERMANENT HSG FOR HOMELESS</p> <p>B4. SHELTERED - SAFE HAVEN _____</p> <p>B5. SHELTERED - RENT ASSISTANCE _____</p> <p>C. NEAR HOMELESS</p> <p>Being Evicted within 2 weeks with no resource or place to go</p> <p>Being Discharged within 2 weeks from institution with no resources or place to go</p> <p>Living with Others temporarily but have to leave within 2 weeks with no resources or place to go</p> <p>Living with others temporarily while not on lease, or going from home to home Motel/Hotel</p>
<p>DEMOGRAPHIC - A NONYMOUS UNIQUE ID</p> <p>First Initial Birth Month Last 2 digits of birth year</p> <p>First 2 Digits of Social Security</p> <p>Veteran Status</p> <p>No (N)</p> <p>Served in Armed Forces (Y)</p> <p>Served in Natl Guard or Reserve (Y)</p> <p>Don't Know (x)</p> <p>Client Refused to Answer (x)</p> <p>If Veteran, is client receiving Veterans' benefits?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> Don't Know <input type="radio"/> Refused <input type="button" value="Clear"/></p> <p>Gender</p> <p>Male (M)</p> <p>Female (F)</p> <p>Transgender - Male to Female (F)</p> <p>Transgender - Female to Male (M)</p> <p>Client Refused to Answer (x)</p> <p>Ethnicity</p> <p>Hispanic (1)</p> <p>Non-Hispanic (0)</p> <p>Race</p> <p>African American (2)</p> <p>Asian (3)</p> <p>Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial (4)</p> <p>Caucasian (5)</p> <p>Native American (6)</p> <p>Pacific Islander (7)</p> <p>Other (8)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CREATE UNIQUE ID</p>	<p>HOMELESS LOCALITY <u>When you became homeless were you living in...</u></p> <p>The City of Harrisburg? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> Don't Know <input type="radio"/> Client Refused</p> <p>If NOT Harrisburg, then in Dauphin County? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> Don't Know <input type="radio"/> Client Refused <input type="button" value="Clear"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS</p> <p>PRIMARY Reason for Homelessness? Pick ONLY ONE (#) from list below</p> <p>Hardcopy-Write one NUMBER from below here _____ (Data Entry-use pick)</p> <p>What OTHER (Secondary) Reasons for Homelessness? Check ANY/ALL that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Both Drugs & Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Domestic Violence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5. Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> 6. HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Eviction due to Rent Non Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 8. Job Loss <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Family Break Up <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Medical Problems</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 11. Temporary Living Situation Ended <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Other</p>
<p>FAMILY STATUS Type of Household</p> <p>Under 18 - no accompanying gaurdian</p> <p>Under 18 - with your own children but no guardian</p> <p>Adult - Individual (by yourself)</p> <p>Adult - Individual (by yourself) with children</p> <p>Adult - Couple (without accompanying children)</p> <p>Adult - Couple with accompanying children</p> <p>Client Refused/Unknown</p> <p># of Children with you _____</p> <p>How Many of those Children are Male? _____</p>	<p>DISABILITIES Do you have any of these Disabilities? Check ANY/ALL that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Health Condition <input type="checkbox"/> Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Have You Recieved Special Education Before?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brain Trauma or Injury <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Use <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol Use</p> <p>LENGTH/DURATION ONLY those UNSHELTERED (Streets, etc) or EMERGENCY SHELTER</p> <p>1. Is this first time being homeless? <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> Don't Know <input type="radio"/> Client Refused <input type="button" value="Clear"/></p> <p>2. If NOT 1st time, in the past THREE YEARS have you been in emergency shelter or unsheltered for... <input type="radio"/> 4 times + <input type="radio"/> Less than 4 <input type="button" value="Clear"/></p> <p>2A. How long have you been in emergency shelter or unsheltered for all those times?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> < 1 Month <input type="radio"/> 1-3 Months <input type="radio"/> 4-12 Months <input type="radio"/> > 1 Yr <input type="radio"/> Don't Know <input type="radio"/> Refused <input type="button" value="Clear"/></p> <p>3. How long have you been in emergency shelter or unsheltered at this current time?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> < 1 Month <input type="radio"/> 1-3 Months <input type="radio"/> 4-12 Months <input type="radio"/> > 1 Yr <input type="radio"/> Don't Know <input type="radio"/> Refused <input type="button" value="Clear"/></p>
<p>SOURCES OF INCOME/BENEFITS Check Any/All</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cash Assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security <input type="checkbox"/> Disability-SSI</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disability-SSDI <input type="checkbox"/> Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child Support <input type="checkbox"/> TANF <input type="checkbox"/> SNAP (Food Stamps)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare <input type="checkbox"/> Other Health Ins.</p>	<p>HOUSING AVAILABILITY ONLY for Hsg. Organizations: Was client able to recieve?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Perm Hsg (S+C,PHD,SHARP,etc) <input type="radio"/> Your Hsg Option - Accepted</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10-30 Dav Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Rent Asst. - RRH, SSVF, etc <input type="radio"/> Your Housing Option - Waiting List</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="radio"/> Your Housing Option - Not Allowable <input type="button" value="Clear"/></p>