



# HSC

HOMELESS SERVICES COALITION  
OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

2011 Point in Time Count  
of persons impacted by homelessness  
Conducted on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2011

Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City

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## **Point in Time Count 2011: What the numbers mean to each of us....**

On January 26<sup>th</sup> 2011 Kansas City completed its yearly Point in Time Count. *This year 1912 of our community's citizens found themselves without a home to call their own.* Nearly 900 of those were living on the street, during one of our bitterest winters on record; average temperature 27 degrees, 7 degrees colder than normal (National Weather Service 2010-2011 report).

When I read the report, I am encouraged by many things, saddened and frustrated by others. Most significantly I am aware that 416 families in *our* community, with children from infants to adolescents, are among those who live on *our* streets in 2011.

The 75+ member agencies of the *Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City (HSC)* offer services, support and relief to 1877 of those who are facing homelessness. Those constituents and their families, as well as the community are grateful that so much is being accomplished on behalf of their needs. Even in the face of reduced resources our members work around the clock to provide shelter, access to case management that helps in housing, job search, educational enhancement and medical care as well as effectively pursuing advocacy to impact the system that fosters poverty and its attendant problems. Even as some members of our community, including some policy makers, turn a blind eye to homelessness, many are recognizing the need to address this systemic issue in our City, the region, the state and the nation.

The final report of the Homelessness Task Force (May 2011) that the City formed in 2009 with encouragement from and under the auspices of the *HSC*, is now providing the venue for regional solutions to homelessness through the *Mid America Regional Council (MARC)*. The successful 2010 HUD NOFA application completed by *HSC* resulted in \$8.6M in grant funds for the *HSC Continuum of Care (COC)* as well as the addition of new project funded at \$473,011.00. While HEARTH regulations have yet to be implemented, in the 2011 federal budget an increase in McKinney-Vento funding was achieved through the work of *HSC* and its membership through our partnership with the *National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)*.

Throughout the report we are reminded of the challenges we face in eradicating homelessness, a problem with effective solutions available to us, if we engage the whole community in developing the will to do so. Homelessness respects no age

group (pg 8), no one is immune to it (pg 9 first time homelessness) and it is a growing problem (pg 14) despite the fact that the government has invested significant monies in reducing incidences of persons experiencing patterns of chronic homelessness (ARRA stimulus dollars). Veteran's have served their country but now need help in overcoming homelessness (pg10). While 58% of sheltered families are in transitional housing, there are not enough affordable market rate permanent housing units available to permit them leave the service system (pg 7).

Where then are the answers we seek to finally address the problem of homelessness in our city and our nation? When Alexis de Tocqueville wrote his groundbreaking work *Democracy in America* (1831) after his 9 month tour of the new American nation, he passionately described the heart of the new nation by saying the American's themselves were devoted to the country and to each other; wanting everyone to succeed *by virtue of a common heart* that recognized our need to be of one mind in creating this new ideal of democracy. He was marked forever by what he experienced as an *equality of each person to the other because of their intentional aversion to separating people by virtue of their status at birth*-the opposite of the royalist society in his native France.

In our work we fervently believe that this heart for the common good still exists and that the key to addressing the systemic problem imbedded within the current homeless crisis is to engage the public in understanding the problem, impact the resources devoted to this challenge and to continue to provide effective service to those affected by constantly moving forward with the ever-changing solutions needed within our continuum to create sustainable, affordable, accessible housing for all of citizens.

As you read this report, look within to see how you can be a part of the solution for homelessness. Whether politician, citizen, provider, volunteer or community activist, there is a role for each of us in creating the resolution to this challenge. There is a need within our community to help those who face this issue and to support them in their search for a permanent home that resides within each of us who know that no one can succeed alone. Our success is as a community of individuals, institutions and inter-dependent beings with a common heart for the common good.

Vickie L. Riddle, ACSW  
Executive Director, Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City

# Kansas City, Missouri 2011 Point in Time Count

## Introduction

The Homeless Services Coalition conducted a Point in Time survey in Kansas City, Missouri on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Resources Development Institute (RDI) analyzed the surveys and this report presents a summary of the results of that analysis.

## Results

A total of 1,985 surveys were completed. Survey data was entered into an SPSS data base. Survey respondents provided unique ID codes, which were cross tabbed with gender, ethnicity and age to identify duplicate surveys. Seventy three (73) duplicate surveys (3.68%) were deleted from the data base.

The following results were based on the analysis of 1,912 unduplicated respondent surveys.

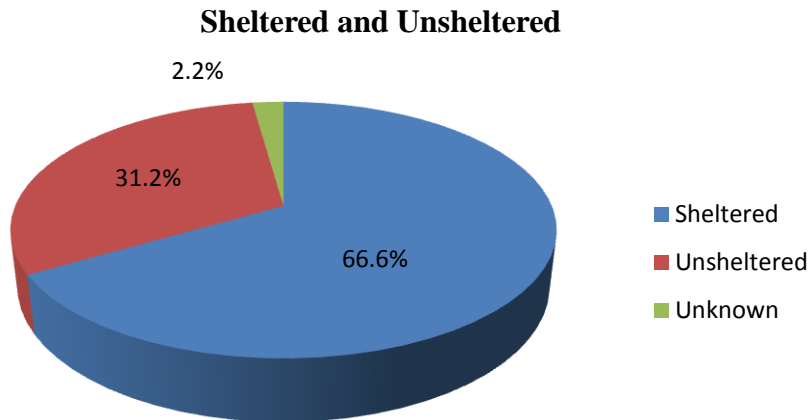
## County

County in which respondent spent the night on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

County	Jackson MO	Clay MO	Cass MO	Johnson MO	Platte MO	Johnson KS	Wyandotte KS	Other	No Response
N	1,793	30	1	19	6	9	13	2	39
%	(93.8%)	(1.6%)	(0.1%)	(1.0%)	(0.3%)	(0.5%)	(0.7%)	(0.1%)	2.0%

## Sheltered and Unsheltered

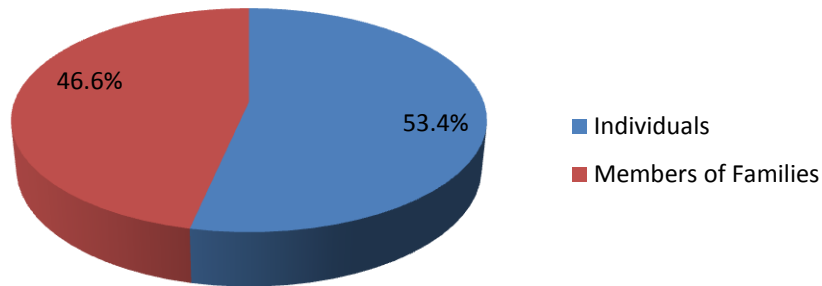
Two thirds (66.6%) of the persons responding to the PiT count were currently *sheltered*. Just under one third (31.2%) were *unsheltered* and 2.2% did *not answer* the question that indicated whether they had been sheltered or not.



## Individuals and Families

Homeless Individuals	= <b>1,505</b>	= <b>53.4%</b>
Homeless Families	= <b>407</b>	
Accompanying “other” family members	= <b>906</b>	= <b>46.6%</b>
Total unduplicated Homeless individuals	= <b><u>2,818</u></b>	

### Individuals and Families



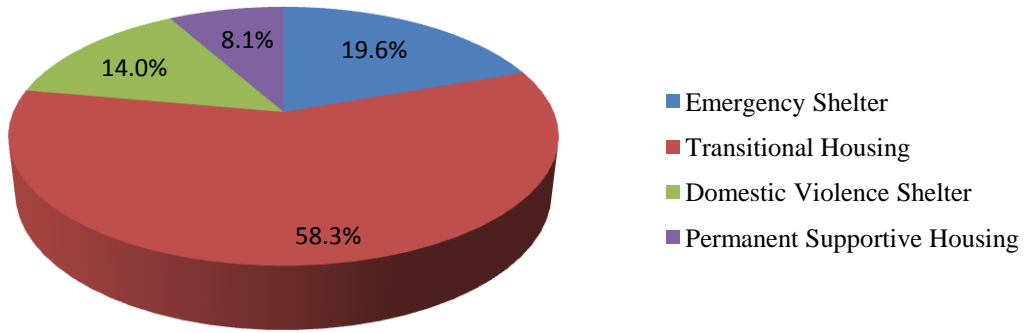
### Individuals and Families – Sheltered and Unsheltered

<b>Individuals (53.4%)</b>			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
1,011	462	32	1,505
<b>Families</b>			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
271	127	9	407
<b>Accompanying “other” family members</b>			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
595	289	22	906
<b>Total Family Members (46.6%)</b>			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
866	416	31	1,315
<b>Total Homeless</b>			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
1,877	878	63	2,818

## Families

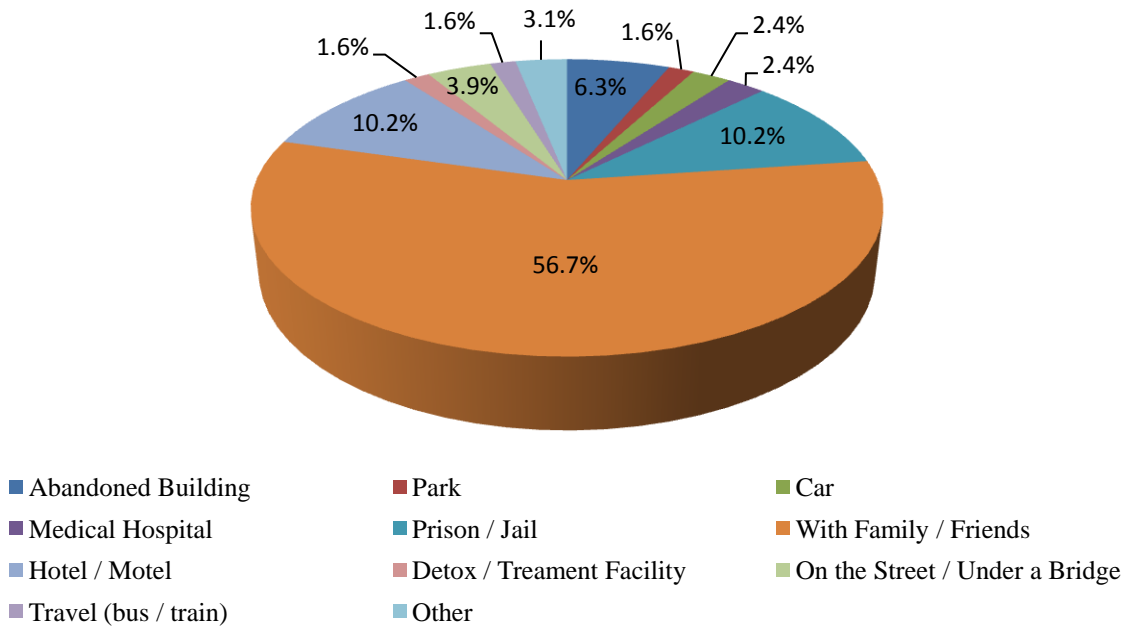
**Sheltered Families** = 271  
 Average age head of household = 33.79  
 Range of ages head of household = 16 to 72

Where Sheltered?

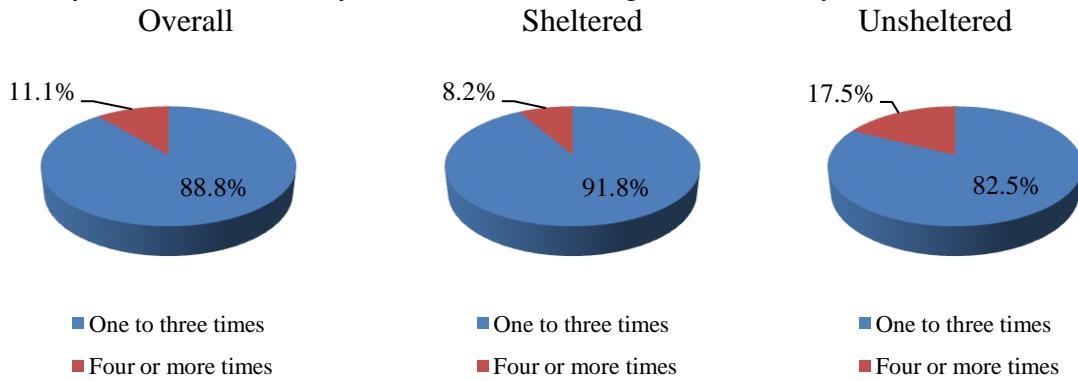


**Unsheltered Families** = 127  
 Average age head of household = 40.59  
 Range of ages head of household = 17 to 87

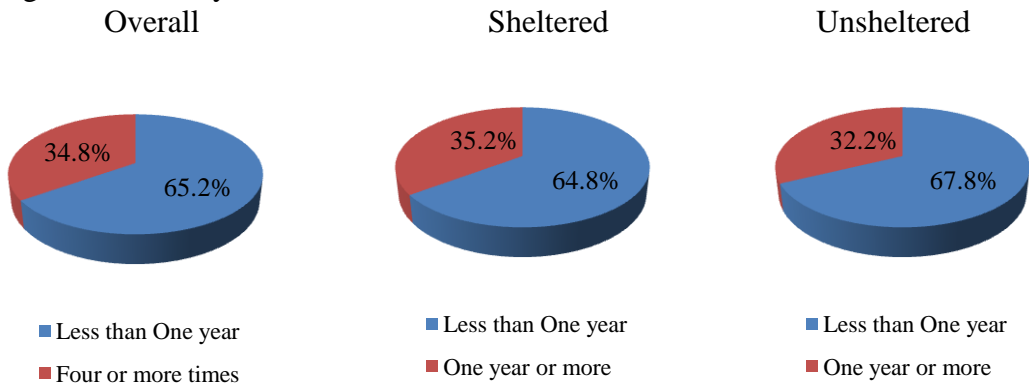
Where Spent Night?



How many times has the family been homeless during the last three years?



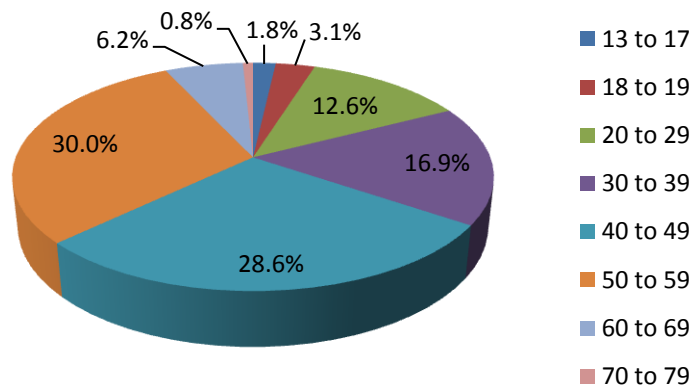
How long has the family been homeless?



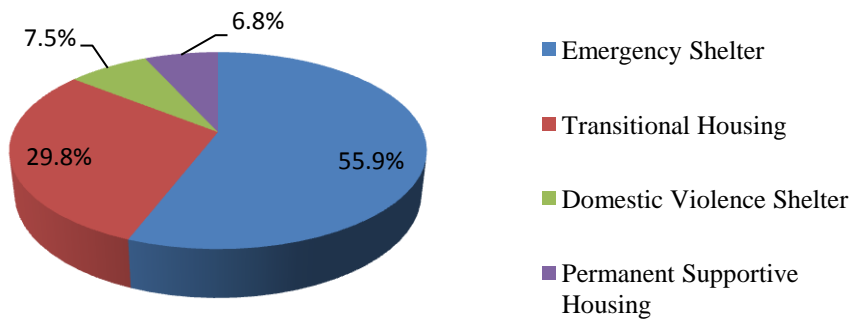
## Individuals

**Sheltered Individuals** = 1,011  
 Average age = 43.31  
 Range of ages = 13 to 79

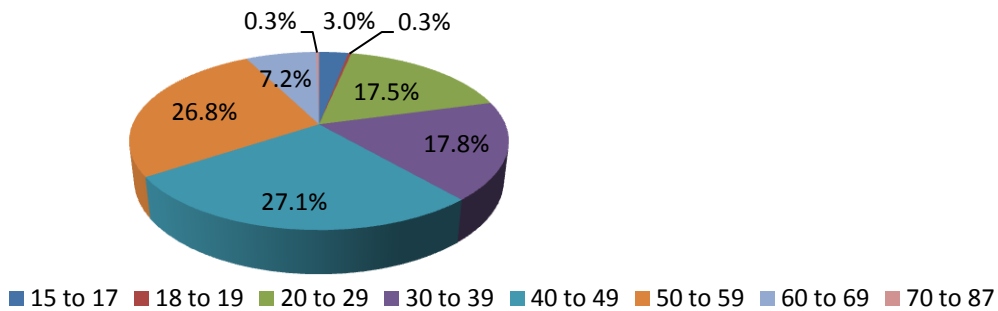
Ages of Sheltered Individuals



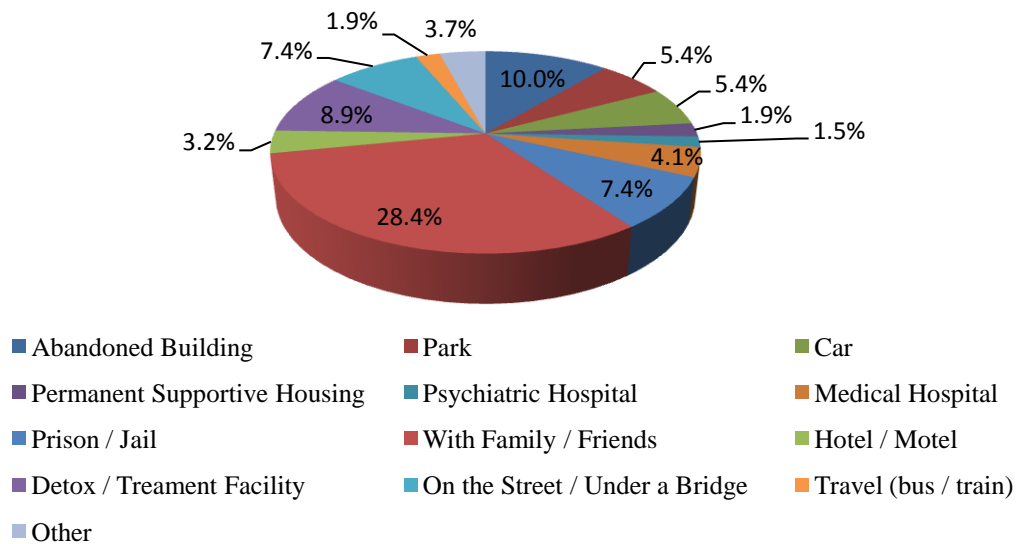
### Where Individual Homeless are Sheltered?



**Unsheltered Individuals** = 462  
 Average age = 42.37  
 Range of ages = 15 to 87  
 Ages of Unsheltered Individuals

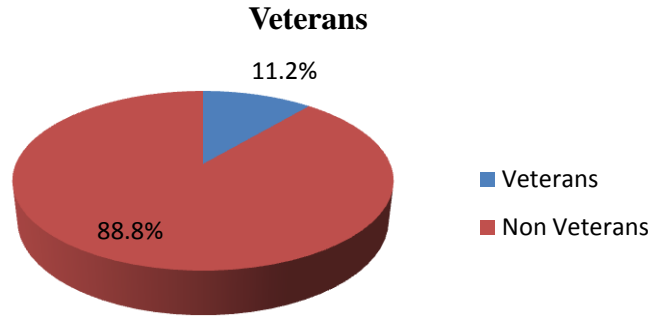


### Where Unsheltered Individuals Spent the Night?



## Veterans

Three hundred and fifteen (11.2%) of the homeless people in the PiT count were Veterans.

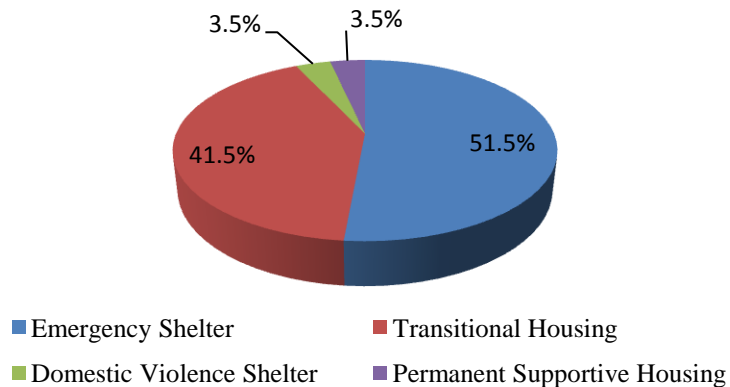


## Veterans – Sheltered and Unsheltered

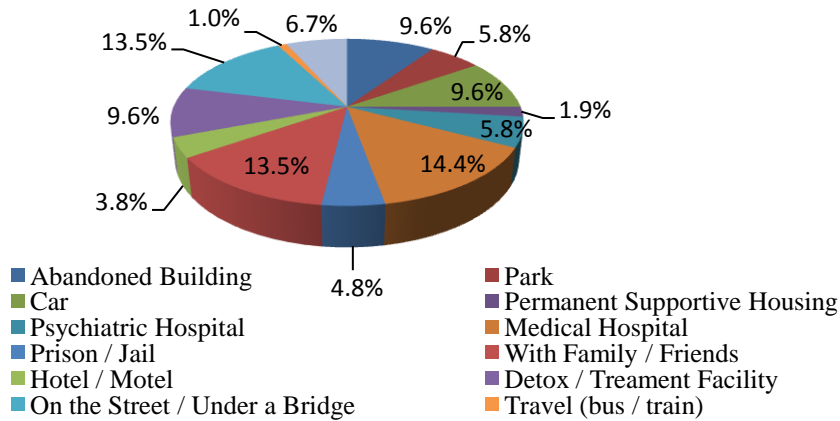
<b>Individual Veteran</b>			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
171	104	5	280
<b>Veteran Head of Household</b>			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
9	11	1	21
Accompanying “other” family member is a Veteran			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
6	7	1	14
Total Families with Veteran Members			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
15	18	2	35
<b>Total Homeless Veterans</b>			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
186	122	7	315

**Sheltered Individual is a Veteran** = 171

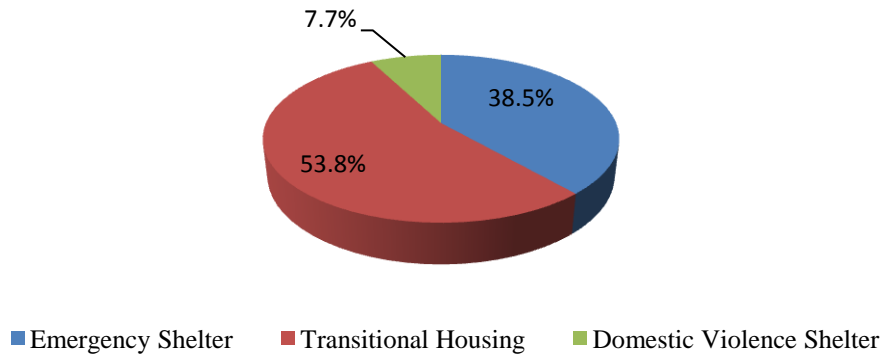
Where Spent Night



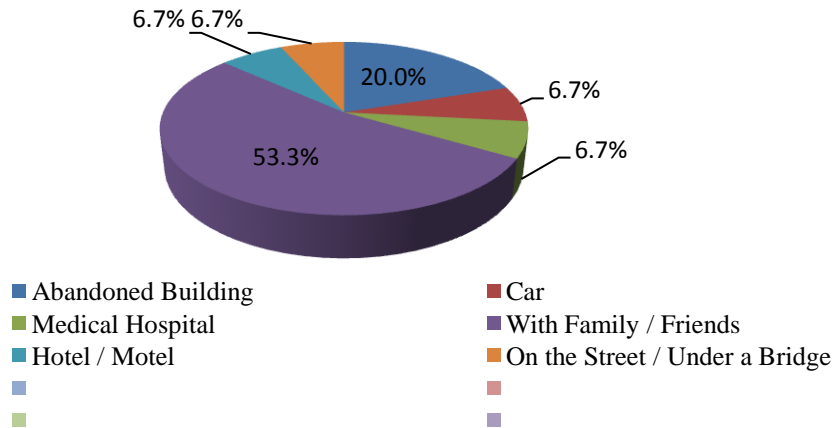
**Unsheltered Individual is Veteran = 104**  
Where Spent Night



**Sheltered Families with Veteran Members = 15**  
Where Spent Night



**Unsheltered Families with Veteran Members = 18**  
Where Spent Night

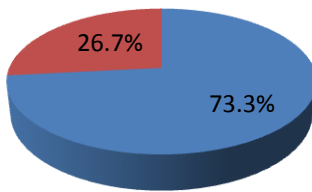


## Unaccompanied Youth

Twenty five (1.7%) of the homeless individuals (not part of a homeless family) in the PiT count were Unaccompanied Youth (age13-17).

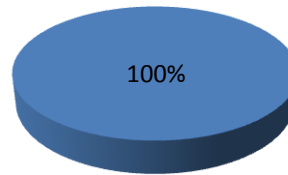
Unaccompanied Youth (13-17)			
Unaccompanied Youth			
Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Total
15	10	0	25

Sheltered Unaccompanied Youth



■ Emergency Shelter ■ Transitional Housing

Unsheltered Unaccompanied Youth



■ With Family / Friends

## People with Disabilities

	Physical Disability	HIV/AIDS	Mental Illness	Substance Abuse
Total	281 (14.7%)	30 (1.6%)	524 (27.4%)	650 (34.0%)
Sheltered	188 (14.7%)	23 (1.8%)	377 (29.4%)	419 (32.7%)
Unsheltered	91 (15.4%)	7 (1.2%)	143 (24.3%)	220 (37.4%)
Unknown	2 (4.9%)	0	4 (9.8%)	11 (26.8%)
Homeless Individuals	244 (16.2%)	28 (1.9%)	425 (28.2%)	549 (36.5%)
Family with Member	37 (9.1%)	2 (0.5%)	99 (24.3%)	101 (24.8%)

## Contributing Factors

Respondents were asked what factors contributed to the household becoming homeless.

	Total	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Unknown	Individual	Family
Loss of Income	833 (43.6%)	545 (42.5%)	276 (46.9%)	12 (29.3%)	655 (43.5%)	178 (43.7%)
Eviction foreclosure	312 (16.3%)	209 (16.3)	97 (16.5%)	5 (12.2%)	204 (13.6%)	107 (26.3%)
Mental Illness	292 (15.3%)	212 (16.5%)	78 (13.2%)	2 (4.9%)	258 (17.1%)	34 (8.4%)
Substance Abuse	468 (24.5%)	317 (24.7%)	147 (25.0%)	4 (9.8%)	411 (27.3%)	57 (14.0%)
Lack of Income	739 (38.7%)	506 (39.5%)	224 (38.0%)	9 (22.0%)	580 (38.5%)	159 (39.1%)
Kicked out of house	316 (16.5%)	219 (17.1%)	93 (15.8%)	4 (9.8%)	245 (16.3%)	71 (17.4%)
Divorce	114 (6.0%)	72 (5.6%)	39 (6.6%)	3 (7.3%)	86 (5.7%)	28 (6.9%)
Stranded transient	74 (3.9%)	43 (3.4%)	31 (5.3%)	0	59 (3.9%)	15 (3.7%)
Medical catastrophe / condition	175 (9.2%)	121 (9.4%)	54 (9.2%)	0	140 (9.3%)	35 (8.6%)
Domestic Violence	240 (12.6%)	207 (16.1%)	30 (5.1%)	3 (7.3%)	139 (9.2%)	101 (24.8%)
Past Incarceration	209 (10.9%)	137 (10.7%)	70 (11.9%)	2 (4.9%)	183 (12.2%)	26 (6.4%)
Other	137 (7.2%)	97 (7.6%)	39 (6.6%)	1 (2.4%)	97 (6.4%)	40 (9.8%)

## Trends

	2009	2010	% change 09-10	2011	% change 10-11
Total unduplicated homeless persons	2,098	2,235	+6.5%	2,818	+26.1%
Individuals	1,080	1,310	+21.3%	1,505	+14.9%
Families	418	318	-23.9%	407	+31.1%
Veterans	317	365	+15.1%	315	-13.7%
Homeless 1-3 time in last 3 years	1,140	1,334	+17.0%	1,235	-7.4%

