

City of Cambridge

2014 Census of Persons Experiencing Homelessness Summary Report

OVERVIEW

On the night of January 29, 2014, staff from the Department of Human Service Programs, partner agencies, and community volunteers completed the annual count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The census is conducted in accordance with requirements outlined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and includes a count of individuals and families staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing, and a count of unsheltered individuals.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Cambridge counted 551 persons experiencing homelessness during the night between January 29 and January 30, 2014. Single individuals made up the majority of persons counted (67%), and persons in family households represented one third (33%) of the total count. About half (49%) of the persons counted were single individuals in emergency shelters (223) or in unsheltered situations (47). The total count of 551 persons includes:

- 65 families (181 persons)
 - 30 in emergency shelter (74 persons)
 - 35 in transitional housing (107 persons)
- 370 individuals
 - 47 unsheltered
 - 223 in emergency shelter
 - 100 in transitional housing

The table below shows the number of units by type (ES- Emergency Shelter; TH - Transitional Housing), the Point in Time (PIT) count, and the percentage of occupied units during the overnight count. The City's annual count shows high utilization rates for each component type.

2014 Utilization by housing type

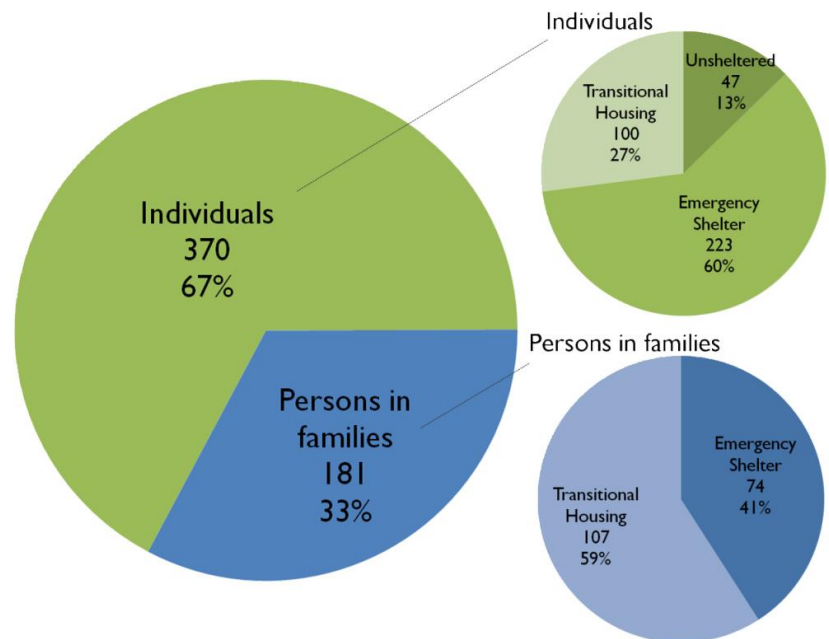
	ES FAM	TH FAM	ES IND	TH IND
Units	31	35	236	103
PIT	30	35	223	100
Utilization	97%	100%	94%	97%

COMPARISON TO 2013

The total count of 370 individuals represents a slight increase (6 persons) over the 2013 count of 364 individuals. Historical trends show fluctuation between the indoor and outdoor count of individuals in relation to weather conditions. The 2014 count is consistent with this trend. It was extremely cold during the overnight count and the unsheltered count was 47, 22 fewer persons than counted in 2013. Likewise, the indoor emergency shelter count was 223, 20 more persons counted than in 2013.

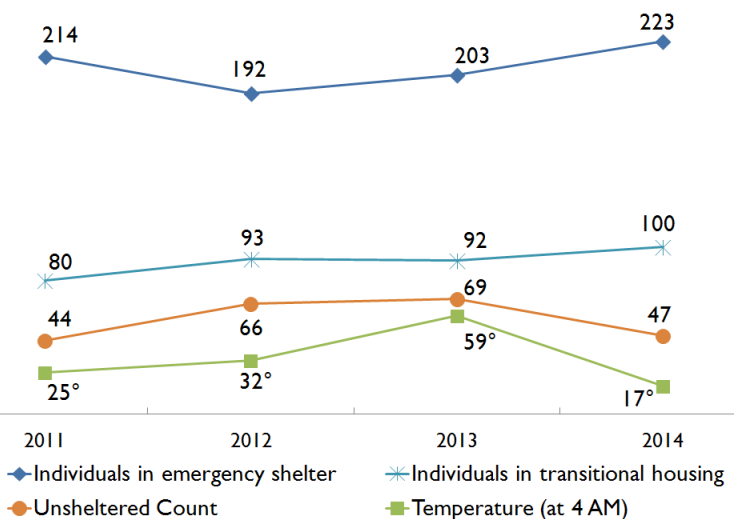
The 2014 count of persons in families increased compared to the 2013 count due to an increase in family shelter units available in

Persons experiencing homelessness the night of Jan. 29, 2014



the City (26 families were counted in 2013 compared to 30 in emergency shelter in 2014).

Individual sheltered and outdoor count: 2011-2014



HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS

The table on the following page shows the demographic characteristics of the 551 persons counted on Jan. 29, 2014. The census includes basic demographic information extracted from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Subpopulation data for unsheltered persons are estimated using data from the active caseloads of the City's two street outreach programs.

Over half of the total persons counted are male, and males represent 70% of the 297 clients sleeping in emergency shelters on the census night.

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The majority of persons counted are non-Hispanic (83%), and almost 60% are white. Of the 551 persons counted on the census night, 20 (4% of the total) identified as veterans. The data show that of the 451 homeless adults counted, 36% have a serious

mental illness and 57% have a substance use disorder. About 3% of the adults identify as having HIV/AIDS, and about 13% are victims of domestic violence.

Characteristics of persons counted in 2014 homeless census

	Sheltered				Unsheltered		Total	
	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing					
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	297	54%	207	38%	47	9%	551	
Household type								
Single individuals	223	75%	100	48%	47	100%	370	67%
Households with children	74	25%	107	52%	0	0%	181	33%
Age								
Children (under 18)	42	14%	58	28%	0	0%	100	18%
Age 18-24	21	7%	16	8%	0	0%	37	7%
Over 24	234	79%	133	64%	47	100%	414	75%
Gender								
Female	89	30%	103	50%	11	23%	203	37%
Male	207	70%	103	50%	36	77%	346	63%
Transgender	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	2	0%
Ethnicity								
Non-Hispanic/Latino	252	85%	164	79%	43	91%	459	83%
Hispanic/Latino	45	15%	43	21%	4	9%	92	17%
Race								
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	1%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%
Asian	4	1%	8	4%	0	0%	12	2%
Black or African-American	77	26%	76	37%	8	17%	161	29%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pac. Islander	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	2	0%
White	178	60%	98	47%	38	81%	314	57%
Multiple Races	34	11%	24	12%	1	2%	59	11%
Veteran Status								
Not a veteran	283	95%	204	99%	44	94%	531	96%
Veteran	14	5%	3	1%	3	6%	20	4%
Other Subpopulations (18+ only, persons may be counted in multiple categories)								
Serious mental illness	108	42%	29	19%	25	53%	162	36%
Substance use disorder	166	65%	51	34%	41	87%	258	57%
HIV/AIDS	2	1%	12	8%	0	0%	14	3%
Victim of domestic violence	23	9%	29	19%	5	11%	57	13%

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

While the annual report to HUD focuses on persons who meet HUD's definition of homeless¹, counts of formerly homeless persons demonstrate the progress the City and service providers have made in placing clients into permanent housing. On the night of the 2014 census, 487 formerly homeless persons were living in Permanent Supportive Housing (housing with services available), including 132 veterans utilizing HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) vouchers administered by the VA Boston Health Care System and the Cambridge Housing Authority.

Additionally, numerous households are prevented from falling into homelessness through work supported by the City and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program based at the Multi-Service Center. Since the ESG prevention program began in 2012, 92 households have received homelessness prevention services, including assistance with back rent, eviction prevention, and stabilization case management. Please visit cambridgecoc.org for additional information about homeless services in the City.

¹ "An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, which includes a primary nighttime residence of: place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation; publicly or privately operated shelter or transitional housing, including a hotel or motel paid for by government or charitable organizations." See https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/HEARTH_HomelessDefinition_FinalRule.pdf