



**CITY OF ST. LOUIS
2011 WINTER HOMELESS
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT
CENSUS REPORT**

**City of St. Louis
Department of Human Services
Homeless Services Division**

2011 WINTER HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT CENSUS REPORT:

Introduction

This report contains the analysis of the data collected on January 26, 2011 point-in-time homeless census count in the City of St. Louis, Missouri. This data represents the most recent comprehensive count of persons experiencing homelessness in the City of St. Louis and their demographic characteristics as well as addressing their needs.

St. Louis City Continuum of Care for Ending Homelessness (CoC) represents the local collaboration in the City of St. Louis of more than 60 organizations and individuals. The CoC is committed to preventing people from becoming homeless and to find ways to end homelessness in the St. Louis area. This report provides demographic information on the homeless population served in the City and helps the CoC to identify needs of the homeless and prioritize homeless assistance strategies.

Methodology

City of St. Louis CoC 2011 Winter Homeless Census survey forms were disseminated at the following locations

- 17 emergency shelters
- 15 transitional housings
- 3 winter overflow shelters
- 11 lunch sites
- 4 Mississippi riverfront homeless encampments
- Multiple street locations

Census survey respondents answered questions about their family, demographic information, length of homeless time being, facility history, needed services, and last permanent address data. The 2011 homeless count was conducted during a twenty-four hour period on January 26, 2011 by participants of the St. Louis City Continuum of Care (CoC) and volunteers from the community. The count is unduplicated. Forms collected at lunch sites were categorized by where respondent stayed or slept the night prior to the count. Data was put into SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) and analyzed to review frequency and percentages. The following is an analysis of the census survey.

Homeless Count Analysis

A total of 814 survey forms were collected, identifying 1,274 homeless people (including family members). An additional 32 persons were determined to be homeless and unsheltered during the March 2011 count^{*}. There were also nine individuals Hotline turned aways categorized as unsheltered homeless. These Hotline turned aways are individuals that called the Housing Resource Center hotline (314-892-5444) on January 26 to request for a shelter but were not able to secure a bed and became unsheltered homeless on the day of the census count. The Hotline turned aways and the independent street count in March 2011 added the total number of homeless population in the City of St. Louis to 1,315 persons.

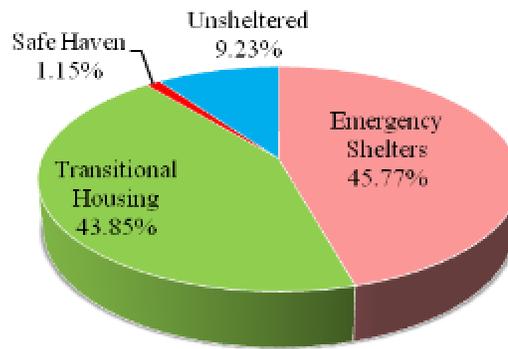
* The March 2011 count was an independent count conducted by a group of CoC member volunteers. This independent count was to ensure that unsheltered homeless individuals were counted in the census as accurate as possible. Survey forms that were used in the March count included a question that asked whether an individual participated in the winter homeless census count in January 2011 to prevent duplication.

Chart A: Homeless population in the City of St. Louis

	Number of homeless surveys	Number of homeless people identified
January 26, 2011 count	814	1,274
March, 2011 count	32	32
Hotline turned aways		9
Total	846	1,315

Places participants and their family members slept the previous night prior to the count

- 601 persons slept in emergency shelters (including unspecified shelters)
- 570 persons slept in transitional housing units
- 15 persons slept in a Safe Haven
- 129 persons were unsheltered (120 individuals were counted from lunch sites, multiple street locations, and the Mississippi riverfront encampments, 9 individuals were the Hotline turned aways)

Chart B: Percentage of sheltered and unsheltered homeless population in St. Louis

Other places census respondents reported they slept at on the night prior to the census count are bus stop, park, alley, garage, in vehicle, and Soldier's Memorial.

The following information is only based on the 814 homeless census surveys disseminated and collected on January 26, 2011.

Family Data

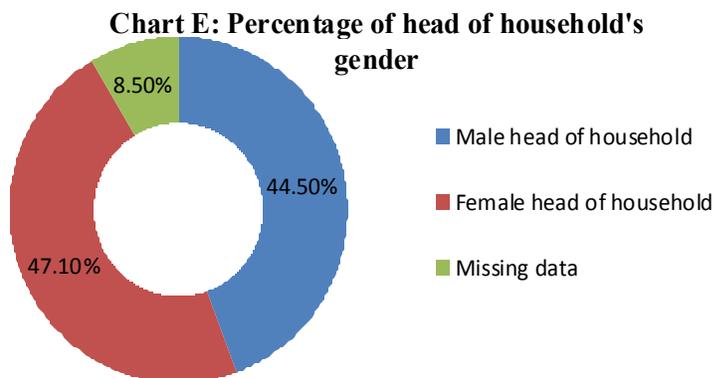
The homeless census survey asked respondents about their family information which can be separated in the following categories: traveling by themselves, traveling with family members who are also homeless, family size, gender of Head of Household, age range of their household, and number of children

Family Composition	Number	Percentage
Homeless individuals traveling by themselves	573	70.4%
Homeless individuals traveling with their family members	185	22.7%
Missing data	56	6.9%

Family Size	Number	Percentage	Family Size	Number	Percentage
One	631	77.5%	Five	14	1.7%
Two	88	10.8%	Six	4	0.5%
Three	53	6.5%	Seven	2	0.2%
Four	21	2.6%	Nine	1	0.1%

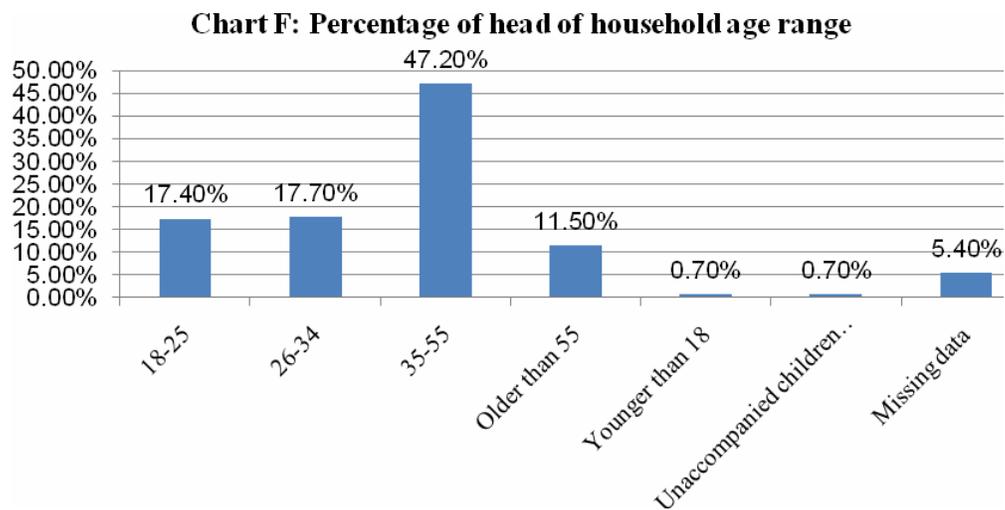
Head of Household's Gender

- 362 census respondents reported as male Head of Household
- 383 census respondents reported as female Head of Household
- 69 missing data



Age range of their Head of Household

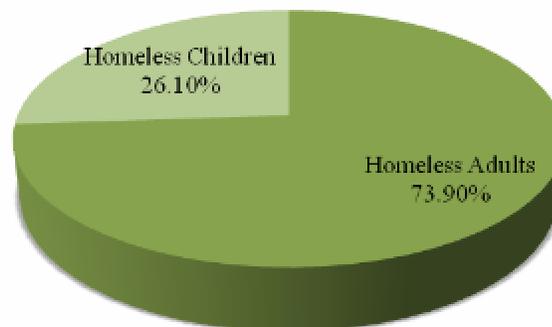
- 142 census respondents reported the age range of their Head of Household is 18-25 years old
- 144 census respondents reported the age range of their Head of Household is 26-34 years old
- 384 census respondents reported the age range of their Head of Household is 35-55 years old
- 94 census respondents reported the age range of their Head of Household is older than 55 years old
- 6 census respondents were unaccompanied children younger than 18 years old
- 44 missing data



Children

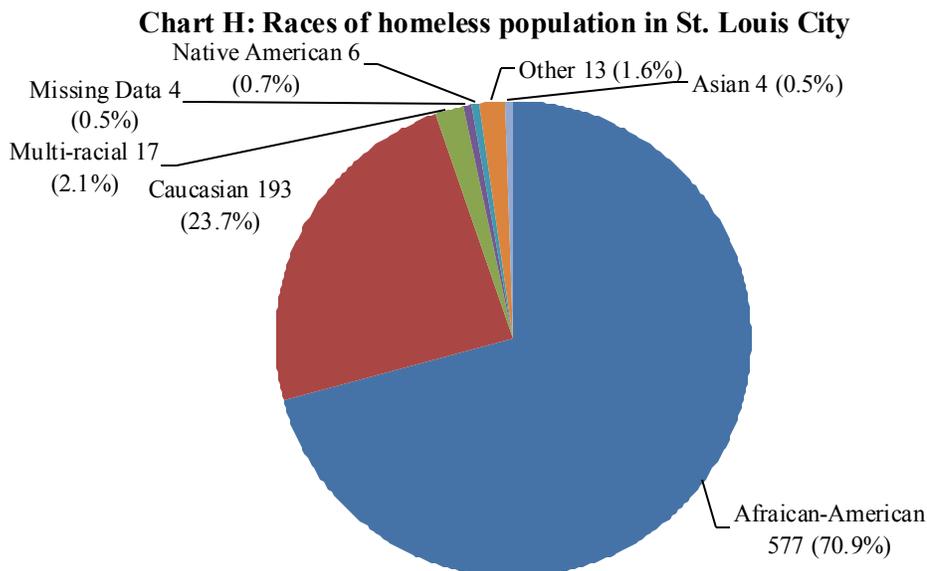
Among 1,274 homeless persons identified in the 814 census survey forms, 333 of them are children traveling with at least one adult homeless family member.

Chart G: Percentage of homeless children and adults in St. Louis City



Race

The majority of the homeless population in St. Louis City is African-American. Caucasian is the second largest group followed by multi-racial. Chart H represents the numbers and percentages of each race of homeless population in the city.



Other races and ethnicities of the homeless population in St. Louis City include African, Bosnian, Indian, and Turkish. In addition 10 census respondents (1.2%) consider themselves Hispanic

Length of Homelessness

- 349 census respondents (42.9%) reported having been homeless for a year or longer.
- 231 census respondents (28.4%) reported having experienced homelessness at least four times in three years.

Sub-populations

Persons with physical disability

- 205 individuals (25.2%) reported having physical disability.

Persons been in jail or prison for a year or more

- 147 individuals (18.1%) reported having been in a jail or prison a year or more.

Mental illness

- 185 individuals (22.7%) have a history of mental illness.
- 65 individuals (8%) have a history of and currently have mental illness.
- 45 individuals (5.5%) do not have history of but currently have mental illness.

Substance abuse

- 237 individuals (29.1%) have a history of substance abuse.
- 38 individuals (4.7%) have a history of substance abuse and is currently a substance abuser.
- 33 individuals (4.1%) do not have a history of substance abuse but are currently substance abusers.

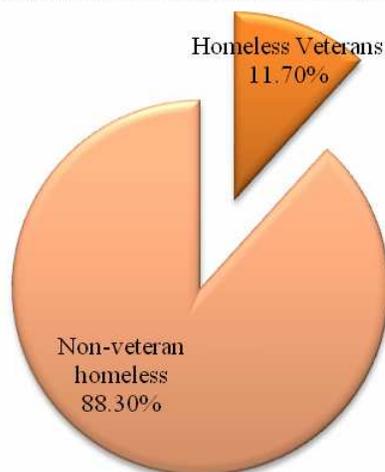
Domestic abuse

- 158 individuals (19.4%) have a history of domestic abuse.
- 20 individuals (2.5%) have a history of domestic abuse and is currently experiencing domestic abuse
- 24 individuals (2.9%) do not have a history of domestic abuse but are currently experiencing domestic abuse.

Ve te rans

One of the questions asked on the census surveys is “Have you ever been in active military service?” This question is used to identify veteran homeless population. 95 veterans were identified among 814 homeless census survey respondents, making up 11.7% of the homeless population in St. Louis City.

Chart I: Homeless veteran in St. Louis City



Facilities enrollment history

Chart J represents homeless census respondents' facilities enrollment history within a year

Chart J		
Facility	Number	Percentage
Treatment program	111	13.6%
Health care or hospital facility	152	18.7%
Criminal justice facility	120	14.7%

Chronic homelessness

According to the new HEARTH ACT, 2011 the term “chronically homeless” means

“that the individual or family – (i) is homeless and lives or resides in a place not meant for human habitat, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; (ii) has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years; and (iii) as an adult Head of Household (or a minor Head of Household if no adult is present in the household) with a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, development disability, post traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of 2 or more of those conditions.”

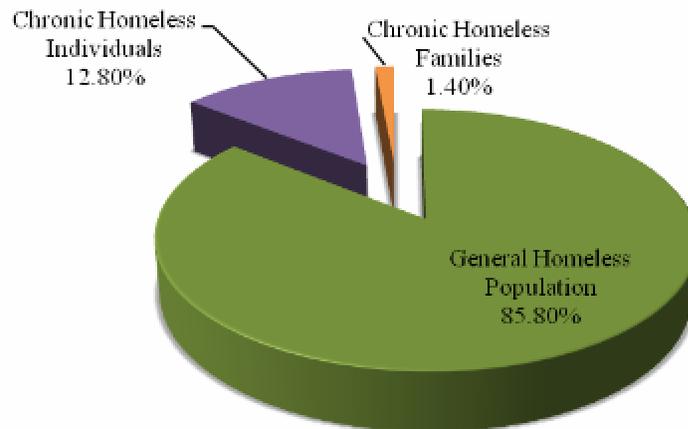
Moreover, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, individuals residing in transitional housing are not considered chronically homeless.

Chart K shows the number of sheltered and unsheltered chronic homeless individuals and families.

Shelter Category	Chronic homeless individuals	Chronic homeless families
Emergency shelters	107	17
Unspecified shelters	12	
Save Haven	12	
Unsheltered	37	2
Total	168	19

Chart L represents the compared percentage of chronic homeless individuals and families in St. Louis and the general homeless population

Chart L: Chronic homeless individuals and families, and general homeless population in St. Louis



Legal

To improve services for ex-offenders, one of the questions asked on the census survey is “Are you currently on parole or probation?” The findings are as follows

- 144 individuals (17.7%) are currently on parole or probation
 - 92 individuals (63.9%) are under state parole or probation
 - 21 individuals (14.6%) are under the city parole or probation
 - 8 individuals (5.6%) are under federal parole or probation
 - 2 individuals (1.4%) are under both the state and city paroles or probations

Chart M: Homeless individuals under legal parole or probation and the general homeless population

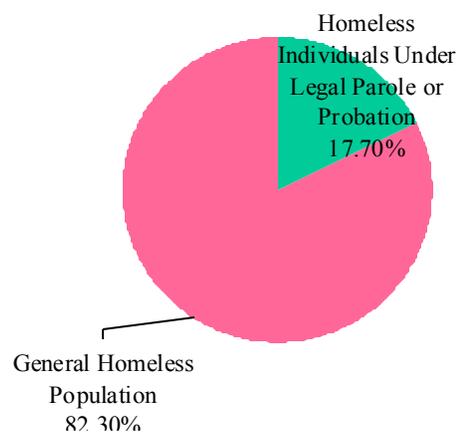
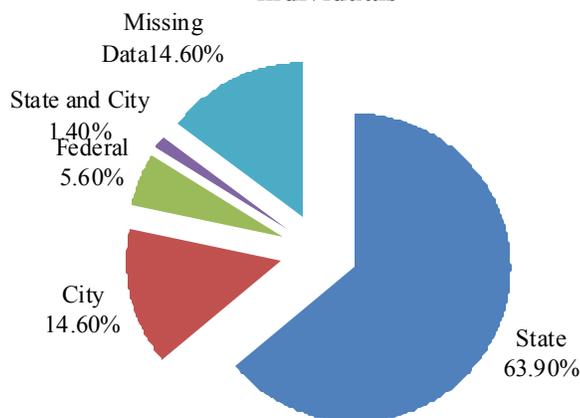


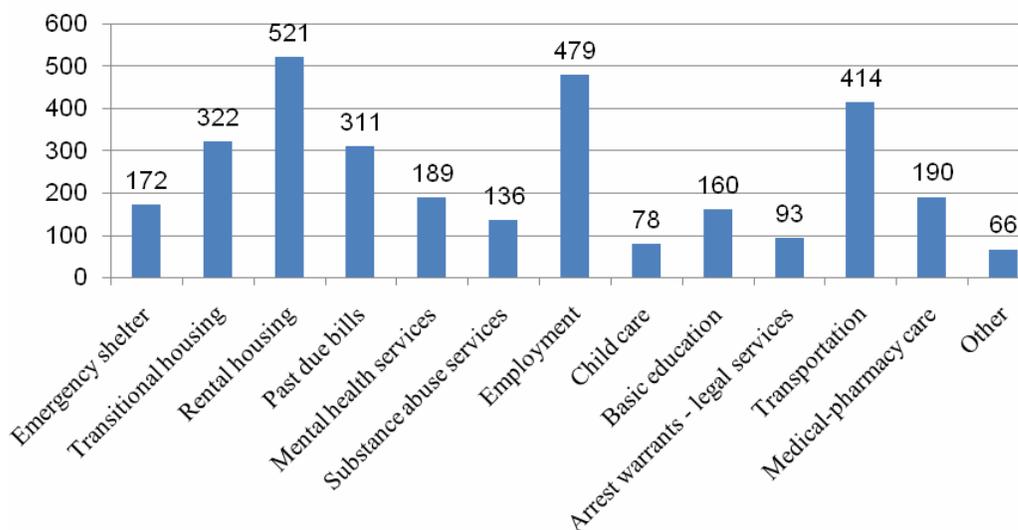
Chart N: Level of parole and probation of homeless individuals



Needed services

Chart P represents needed services of the 814 homeless census respondents.

Chart P: Needed Services



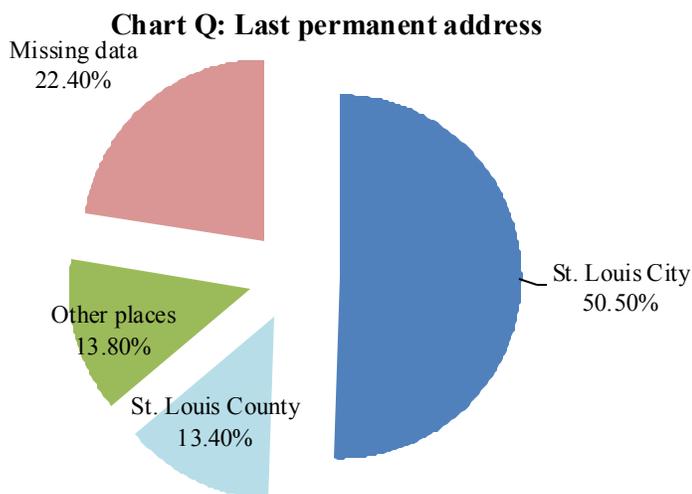
Other services homeless census respondents need are access to computers, shelter plus care, affordable and subsidized housing, financial education, clothing, dental services, furniture, Medicaid-disability, SSI, permanent housing, past child support, rental assistance, safety, temporary financial assistance, etc.

Last permanent address

With such collaborative Continuum of Care and service providers, and multiple resources to assist people experiencing homelessness in St. Louis City, many homeless individuals from other regions traveled to the city to explore and utilize its resources. This fact is proven by the homeless census responses that many of the homeless individuals had their last permanent address somewhere outside the city limit.

- 411 individuals had their last permanent address in St. Louis City
- 109 individuals had their last permanent address in St. Louis County
- 112 individuals had their last permanent address in other regions in Missouri State and across the country.
- Illinois is where most of individuals' last permanent address located in other than St. Louis City and St. Louis County
- There are 182 missing data

Chart Q shows percentage of homeless census respondents' last permanent address



Conclusion

Whereas the country is still battling with the economic crisis and high unemployment rate, many individuals and families continue to struggle with financial hardship and are losing their home. St. Louis City Continuum of Care members have been collaborating to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness in St. Louis to ebb the condition. The CoC also provides services to help prevent those at risk of becoming homeless. This homeless census report can be used as a reference to compare improvements of solving homelessness in the city, to address homeless population's needs, and to help prioritize the strategies. With the ultimate goal of eliminating homelessness in St. Louis City, the CoC will continue its collaboration and support neighboring regions to develop and promote their homeless assistance and prevention programs.