

CITY OF ST. LOUIS
Department of Human Services
Homeless Services Division

2014 Winter Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Census Summary

OVERVIEW

On January 29th, 2014, the City of St Louis Human Services Department and the St. Louis City Continuum of Care for Ending Homelessness (CoC) conducted a point-in-time (PIT), census count, in conjunction with numerous local homeless services agencies and volunteer citizens. This report contains a summary of the data collected on January 29th, 2014 in the City of St. Louis. This data represents the most recent comprehensive count and demographic characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness.

The 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 finding ways to end homelessness in the St. Louis area.

METHODOLOGY

The City of St. Louis CoC’s 2014 Winter PIT survey forms were distributed at the following locations:

- Emergency shelters
- Transitional housing programs
- Lunch sites
- Multiple street locations

PIT survey respondents answered questions about their age, sex, ethnicity, length of homelessness, where they slept last night, Veteran status, income, last permanent address, and services needed. The 2014 winter PIT count was conducted during a 14-hour period by participants of the St. Louis City Continuum of Care (CoC) and volunteers from the community. The count is unduplicated. The shelter-based count occurred at night and the street-based count occurred during the day. To prevent duplication, forms collected on the streets and at lunch sites were categorized by where the respondent stayed or slept the night of the count.

GENERAL RESULTS / ANALYSIS

1328 homeless persons were identified on the day of the PIT. This is a decreased of 95 homeless persons (6.7%) from 1423 homeless persons in 2013.

- **1258** Sheltered (emergency shelters, transitional housings and safe haven)
- **70** Unsheltered (parks, abandoned buildings, cars and places not meant for human habitation)

Of the adult population:

<u>GENDER</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>ETHICITY</u>
Male: 56%	18-24: 15%	African American as ethnicity: 67%
Female: 44%	25-34: 19%	Caucasian: 25%
Transsexual: less than 1%	35-44: 18%	Multi-Racial: 3%
	45-54: 28%	Other: 2%
	55+ : 15%	Native American: 1%
	No response: 4%	Asian: 1%

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

To be considered chronically homeless, a person must meet **both** of the following criteria:

1. Have a diagnosed disability or diagnosed mental illness.
2. Have been continually homeless for a year or more OR have had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years.

Persons living in transitional housing at the time of the PIT count are not counted as chronically homeless.

100% of chronic homeless persons have either a diagnosed disability:

- 70% indicated they have a diagnosed mental illness.
- 33% identified they have substance abuse problems.

112 chronically homeless persons were identified out of the 1328 total homeless population. This figure is a decrease of 26 chronically homeless persons from 138 in 2013, or 18.8%.

The City attributes the 20% decrease to the mayor's initiative, The BEACH Project. The BEACH Project was launched in February 2013 with an emphasis on housing every chronically person identified during the 2013 winter PIT and develop a system of ending chronic homelessness. Over 100 persons were housed and received intensive case management via The BEACH Project.

VETERANS

151 Veterans were identified out of the 1328 total homeless population.

- This is a decrease of 42 homeless Veterans from 193 homeless Veterans in 2013, or 21.8%.
- 50 of the homeless Veterans are sleeping in emergency shelters and places not meant for human habitation.

During the 2014 summer PIT, July 30, 2014, the City of St. Louis and its partnering agencies will launch Operation: REVEILLE. Operation: REVEILLE is a response to Mayor Francis G. Slay's 10-Year Plan to Ending Chronic Homelessness and President Barack Obama's plan to end Veteran homelessness by 2015. The City will coordinate with other local, state, regional and national partners to rapidly re-house every homeless Veteran (those in emergency shelters and sleeping in places not meant for human habitation) on the day of the PIT.

The goal is to ending homelessness for all veterans:

1. To rapidly re-house every homeless Veteran on the day of the PIT.
2. Bring together a wide range of partners to ensure a collaborative impact on a national level.
3. Develop a system of service that ensures that a Veteran never sleeps on the street in the City of St. Louis or in an emergency shelter.