

2015

# Point-In-Time Count Report

Homelessness in Broward County



Broward Regional Health Planning Council



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE INNOVATIONS

[www.BRHPC.org](http://www.BRHPC.org)

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## I. Executive Summary

The data presented in this report provides an updated point-in-time snapshot of the homeless population in Broward County. The purpose of this report is to share the results of the count with the community, to provide a discussion of the methodology used, and to offer analysis of the findings. The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Florida's Office on Homelessness require the count. The count includes all sheltered and unsheltered homeless in Broward County. Due to changes in the definition of homelessness and the process of counting the homeless in past years, we argue for caution in making generalizations across different time periods. A person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the places described below:

1. In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings (on the street).
2. In an emergency shelter.
3. In transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.
4. In any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution.
5. Is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and lacks resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
6. Is being discharged within a week from an institution, such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or a jail/prison, in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.
7. Is fleeing a domestic violence housing situation and no subsequent residence has been identified and lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

The Broward County 2015 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, conducted within a 72-hour period on January 27-29, identified 2,730 individuals and families who were homeless. The 2015 count was conducted in order to collect data for the Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). The VI-SPDAT is a data collection instrument that combines two widely used existing assessments: (1) The Vulnerability Index, developed by Community Solutions (VI), which helps determine the chronicity and medical vulnerability of homeless individuals, and (2) the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool, developed by OrgCode Consulting, which is an intake and case management tool. Results from the 2015 VI-SPDAT are provided in another report.

An additional 724 people were counted as “at-risk” of homelessness, which is generally defined as an individual or family seeking permanent housing but who stayed the previous night at an institution; a hotel paid by self; a jail, prison or detention center; a family member or friend’s house; or were facing imminent eviction; or in foster care. Additional people “at-risk” of homelessness include:

- People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a doubled up situation, within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing. In 2011, HUD had allowed people who were being displaced within seven days to be considered homeless.
- Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state. This is a new category of homelessness, and it applies to families with children or unaccompanied youth who have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 60 or more days, have moved twice or more in the last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment.

From 2014 to 2015 the total number of **sheltered and unsheltered** persons experiencing homelessness in Broward County decreased by 5.5 percent, from 2,766 to 2,615: (a) the number of sheltered persons decreased by 4.8% from 1,887 to 1,795; (b) the number of **unsheltered** persons decreased by 6.8% from 879 to 819. The difference in homeless counts between 2014 and 2015 is not statistically significant.

The Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC), Hands on Broward, the Homeless Initiative Partnership Advisory Board led the 2015 Point-in-Time Count effort in collaboration with approximately 200 volunteers, consisting of County staff, homeless services agencies, law enforcement agencies, individuals, advocates, faith-based organizations, foster care providers, youth and community-based organizations. Trained volunteers fanned out across the County to homeless encampments, labor pools, meal programs and homeless shelters.

Table 1. Final Homeless Count 2008-2015

Location	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Median
Unsheltered	819	879	829	1268	1268	800	800	701	904
Sheltered*	1,795	1,887	1,981	1,915	2,533	2,425	2,425	2,453	2,255
Total	2,615	2,766	2,810	3,183	3,801	3,225	3,225	3,154	3,159

\*Includes women in distress, HOPWA, emergency, transitional and safe-haven adults, children and families

## **II. Introduction**

The Broward County 2015 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count was conducted within a 72-hour period on January 27-29. The PIT count provides information about the homeless population that is critical to program and service planning, helps to inform the allocation of resources for services to help the homeless, and offers a means of measuring the impact of homeless programs and services. In addition, it is required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of a national effort to enumerate the homeless population.

Per the guidelines set forth by HUD, the point-in-time count must include all unsheltered homeless persons and sheltered homeless persons staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs on the date of the count. Jurisdictions report the findings of their point-in-time count in their annual application to HUD for federal funding to provide housing and services for the homeless. The compilation of data collected through point-in-time counts across the United States helps the federal government to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide.

Community volunteers canvassed the streets of Broward County in teams on January 27-29 to administer surveys to homeless individuals living outdoors, in vehicles, in makeshift structures or encampments, and in other structures or areas not intended for human habitation. For the count of sheltered homeless persons, staff of emergency shelters, drop-in centers, transitional housing programs, mental health facilities, treatment centers, the county jail, and city hospitals counted the number of homeless sheltered at their facility on the night of the count.

Our methodology, while HUD approved and academically sound, has some inherent biases and shortcomings, which could result in undercounting the homeless population, particularly those subsets of the population staying in places not easily or safely accessible by enumerators, such as private property and abandoned structures. Nonetheless, the count provides a snapshot of the homeless population for Broward County to plan programs and allocate resources to better serve the homeless.

This report details the process of planning the count, the methodology, and the findings and limitations of the data. It also provides analysis, conclusions, and a contextualized interpretation of the findings.

## **III. Planning Process**

In September of 2014, the Point-in-Time Homeless Count Committee organized an initial planning meeting to discuss and agree upon the count methodology and timeline. The team convened a series of more detail-focused steering and logistics meetings to coordinate the logistics of the PIT count in the following months in addition to sub-committee meetings. A final meeting was convened in January to finalize the count methodology.

## IV. Methodology

Broward County's 2015 PIT count was composed of the following components:

1. Paper Survey: A trained team of over 200 volunteers administered a comprehensive survey to self-identifying homeless individuals, primarily in outdoor locations throughout the county. This is a population survey, meaning all possible homeless individuals were surveyed. The survey elicited information about the homeless population's demographics, history of homelessness, living conditions, barriers to overcoming homelessness, and use of homeless services. Additionally, people at non-HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) participating agencies were asked to complete the county portion of the survey. However, not all non-HMIS participating agencies participated in the count. A copy of the 2015 PIT survey instrument is presented in Appendix I.
2. Sheltered HMIS: Per HUD requirements, an enumeration of homeless individuals residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing on the date of the count using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data was created. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is an electronic database used to hold information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless people in the U.S. The program was developed in the 1990s in response to a mandate by Congress requiring states to collect data in order to receive funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address homelessness. While homeless counts are essential for gathering information about homeless people, they do not give us all the data we need to assess the breadth and scope of homelessness and plan for solutions. Broad utilization of HMIS can help provide a consistent and accurate snapshot of a region's homeless population, including a population count and information on service use. HMIS also provides a measurement of the effectiveness of homeless programs as it helps track the number of chronically homeless clients and placements into permanent housing.

### Data Collection

Survey interviewers emphasized the anonymity and confidentiality of the survey to encourage respondents to be candid in their responses. Interviewers assured respondents that these responses would be reported only as general findings and would not be traceable to any one individual.

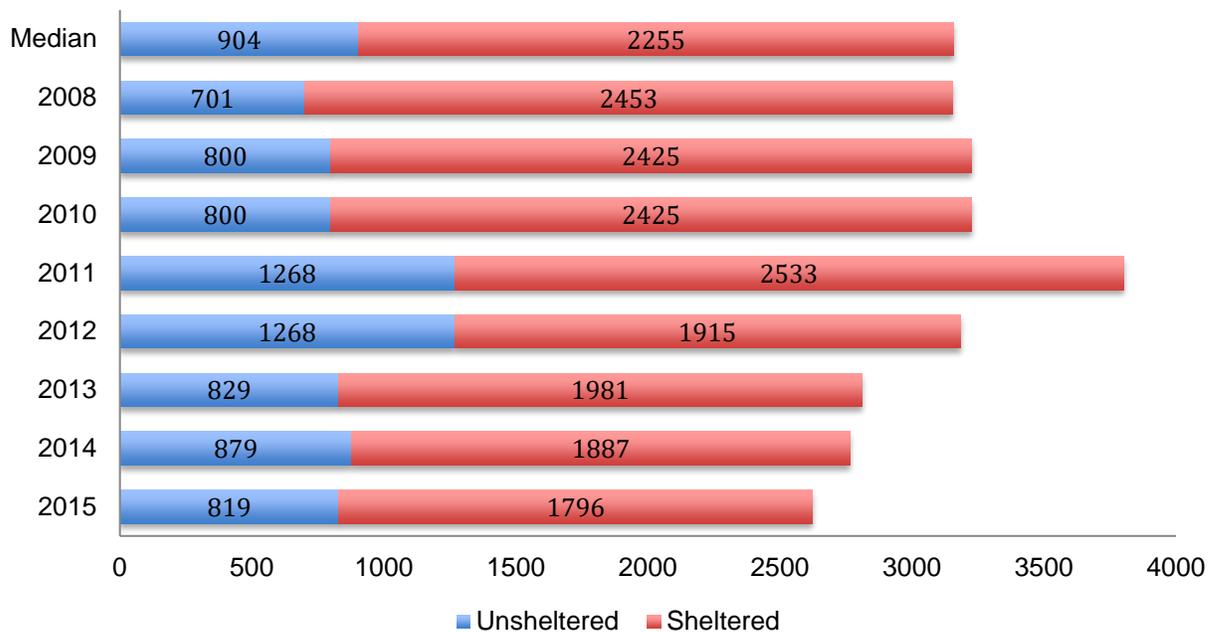
### Data Analysis

To avoid potential duplication of respondents, the survey queried respondents' first name and last initial, the last four numbers of their social security number and date of birth, so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate potential duplicates. This process examined respondents' date of birth, name, gender, and ethnicity. In addition, a question was placed on the survey that asked respondents if they had completed the survey earlier in the day. Lastly, the final survey data was cross-tabulated with the HMIS to determine if duplicates existed in sheltered and transitional housing counts. For data analysis purposes, simple descriptive statistics were calculated for all survey responses.

## I. Definitions

- Chronic Homelessness - refers to an unaccompanied individual with a disability who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.
- Emergency Shelter - is a facility whose primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for homeless persons.
- Individual - refers to people who are not part of a family during their episode of homelessness. They are homeless as single adults, unaccompanied youth, or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.
- Persons in Families - are people who are homeless as part of households that have at least one adult and one child.
- Sheltered Homeless Persons - are individuals who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.
- Transitional Housing Program - is a type of housing where homeless people may stay and receive supportive services for up to 24 months, and which are designed to enable them to move into permanent housing.
- Unsheltered Homeless Persons - include people who live in places not meant for human habitation, such as the streets, abandoned buildings, vehicles, or parks.
- Homeless Age Groups include - children who are under 18, youth who are 18 to 24, and adults who are 24 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 or older.

Figure 1. Final Homeless Count -- 2008-2015



## II. Results

The following section provides an overview of the results of the 2015 Homeless Survey. One measure that is not clearly measured in our PIT count are people who live with friends or family due to economic need, often referred to as “doubled-up”. Doubled-up people have an elevated risk of experiencing homelessness. In fact, prior to their entrance into the homeless shelter system, the most common living situation for adults in families is living with friends or family.<sup>1</sup>

### Homeless Demographics in Broward County

In order to measure the diversity of homeless residents, respondents were asked to answer several questions pertaining to their gender, age, race, military service, foster care, and disabilities. The demographic information data is compiled from both the paper survey and HMIS data. A typical Broward County homeless person is a black male, between the ages of 25-54, presenting with either a mental health or substance abuse issue. Four percent of the respondents were youth who aged out of foster care. Over the course of a year, the odds of experiencing homelessness for a youth emancipated from foster care are estimated to be 1 in 11.<sup>2</sup>

### **Gender**

Men made up the majority of the homeless persons. Of the persons surveyed in 2015, 64% were men. This is consistent with the State of Florida (65%) and last year’s 2014 Broward County PIT count (65%).

Table 2. Gender Composition

Location	Male	Female	Transsexual/ Transgender
Unsheltered (N = 819)	85%	15%	0%
Transitional (N = 888)	59%	41%	0%
Safe Haven (N = 34)	100%	0%	0%
Emergency (N =874)	67%	33%	0%

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1 National Alliance to End Homelessness--SOH 2012: Chapter Three - The Demographics of Homelessness

2 *IBID*

**Age**

In the US, 23% of all homeless are children under 18, 10% are between the ages 18-24 and 66% percent 25 years or older.<sup>3</sup> Based on available data, in Broward County, 1% are under 18, 8% are 18-24, and 71% are over 24.

Table 3. Age Composition

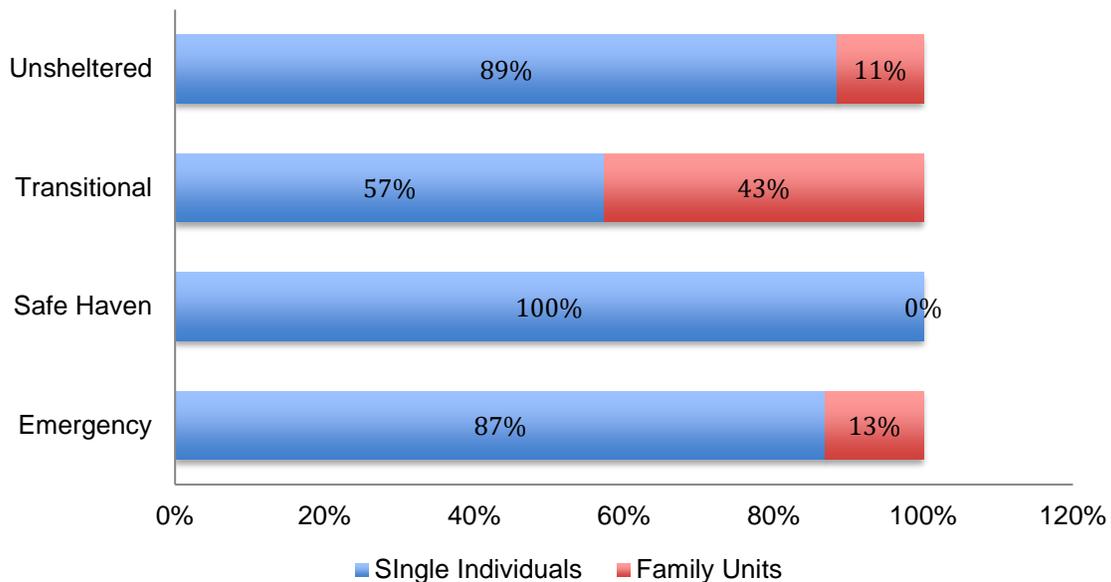
Location	0-17	18-24	25-54	55-64	65+
Unsheltered (N = 819)	2%	6%	60%	24%	9%
Transitional (N = 888)	29%	7%	45%	14%	4%
Safe Haven (N = 34)	0%	0%	81%	19%	0%
Emergency (N = 874)	10%	8%	58%	18%	5%

**Families<sup>4</sup>**

Typically, families become homeless as a result of some unforeseen financial crisis. Examples include a medical emergency, a car accident, or a death in the family that prevents them from being able to hold on to housing.

In January 2014 of the people experiencing homelessness on any given night in the United States, 32% were in families, and 68% were individuals.<sup>3</sup> In Broward County, we found 78% were in families and 22% were individuals. The majority of the unsheltered homeless and safe haven are individuals, while 87% of emergency and 57% of transitional homeless are individuals.

Figure 2 Single and Family Units by Homeless Type (2,615)



<sup>3</sup> HUD. The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to congress. October, 2014

## **Youth<sup>4</sup>**

Young people often become homeless due to family conflict, including divorce, neglect, or abuse. A large majority of homeless young people experience short-term homelessness, later returning to live with family or friends.

In the US approximately 1 percent of homeless are children 18 or younger. In Broward County 1% are unaccompanied minors 18 or younger. Of these children, 58% are in emergency shelters and 39% in transitional housing. In the 2015 PIT count, one unaccompanied minor 18 or younger was found in the unsheltered group, none in safe-haven.

Table 4. Homeless Composition by Family Type

Location	Adults Only	Child Only	Adult and Child
Unsheltered (N = 819)	85%	2%	13%
Transitional (N = 888)	100%	0%	0%
Safe Haven (N = 34)	56%	1%	43%
Emergency (N =874)	88%	0%	11%

## **Ethnicity**

Approximately 11% of the Broward County homeless population self-identify as Hispanic or Latino, while in Broward County, 27% of the total population self-identifies as Hispanic or Latino.<sup>5</sup>

Table 5. Ethnicity by Homeless Type

Location	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic/Latino
Unsheltered (N = 819)	19%	81%
Transitional (N = 888)	14%	86%
Safe Haven (N = 34)	9%	91%
Emergency (N =874)	10%	90%

## **Race**

<sup>4</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness--SOH 2012: Chapter Three - The Demographics of Homelessness

<sup>5</sup> US Census Quick Facts, 2014

In 2015, statistics show that fifty-two percent of the homeless in Broward County self-identify as Black or African-American, compared to 34% in the State of Florida, and 40% in the United States. In regards to population averages, 28% of Broward County’s overall population self-identifies as Black or African-American, while 13% in the US and 19% in the State of Florida self-identify as such. This clearly indicates that Blacks or African Americans, as a percent of the Broward County population, are overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD reports that overall Blacks or African Americans are three-times more likely to be living in an emergency shelter.<sup>6</sup>

Figure 3. Racial Composition by Homeless Type (N=2,615)

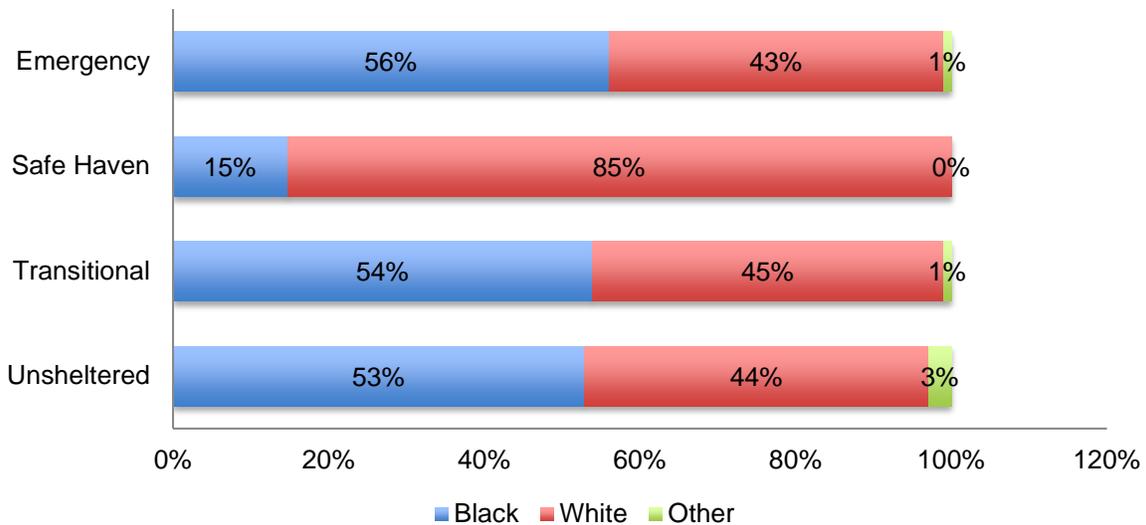


Table 6. Racial Composition by Homeless Type

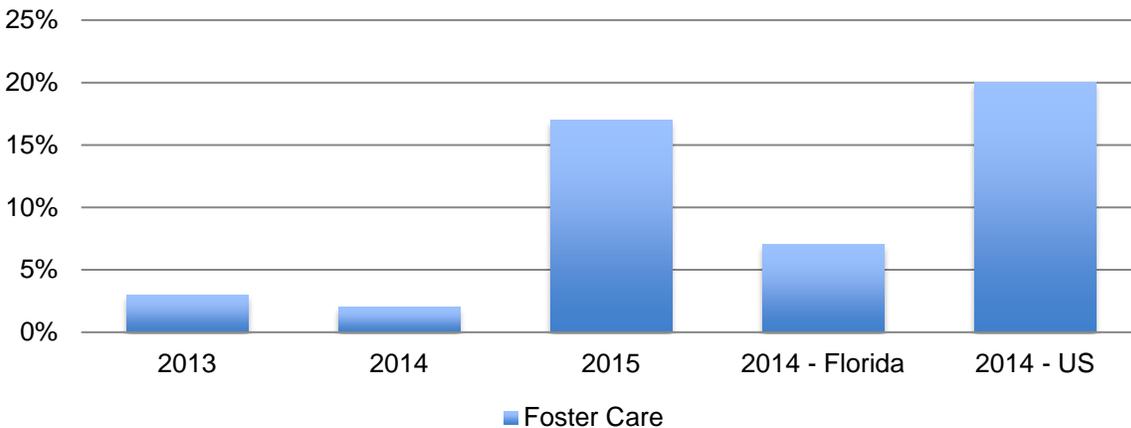
Location	Black	White	Other	Total
Unsheltered	439	367	24	830
Transitional	478	400	9	887
Safe Haven	5	29	0	34
Emergency	489	375	9	873

### ***Aged Out of Foster Care***

<sup>6</sup> HUD. The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to congress. October, 2014

In 2015, 16.8 percent of respondents indicated that they were youth who aged out of foster care. This figure is a notable increase from the previous years where the percent of respondents who aged out of foster care was 3% (2013) and 2% (2014). Furthermore, this is greater than the state average of 7.1%.<sup>7</sup> Over the course of a year, the odds of experiencing homelessness for a youth emancipated from foster care are estimated to be 1 in 11.<sup>8</sup> Predictors of homelessness among youth aging out of foster care include: (1) number of delinquent behaviors, (2) being male, (3) having a mental health disorder, (4) frequency of running from foster care, and (5) number of foster care placements.<sup>9</sup>

Figure 4. Homeless Aged Out of Foster Care by Year



### Veterans

In 2015, 10 percent of respondents stated they were veterans which is an increase from 9% in 2014. In the state of Florida it was 14% in 2014 and 16.3% in 2015. The differences in reporting may be due to sampling error. Nevertheless, according to The 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (2009 AHAR), the group at greatest risk is poor veterans, who have a one in 10 risk of experiencing homelessness over the course of a year.<sup>10</sup>

Table 7. Number of Veterans

Year	2014 (N = 2,615)	2015 (N = 2,766)	SOF 2014 (N = 24,139)	SOF 2015 (N = 28,855)
Sheltered	141 (7.4%)	137 (7.6%)		
Unsheltered	86 (9.7%)	110 (13.4%)	3,974 (14.0%)	5,100 (16.3%)
Total	227 (8.6%)	247 (8.9%)		

SOF = State of Florida

<sup>7</sup> State of Florida Department of Women and Families, Council on Homelessness 2014 report

<sup>8</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness--SOH 2012: Chapter Three - The Demographics of Homelessness

<sup>9</sup> [www.chapinhall.org/research/inside/predictors-homelessness-during-transition-foster-care-adulthood](http://www.chapinhall.org/research/inside/predictors-homelessness-during-transition-foster-care-adulthood)

<sup>10</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness--SOH 2012: Chapter Three - The Demographics of Homelessness

## Disability

Forty percent of Broward County homeless report a disability. This compares to 51% across the state of Florida and 41% from the 2014 PIT count. In a report from the High Clinicians Network<sup>11</sup> it is reported that...

*Persistent physical and mental health problems commonly result in poverty and homelessness, and are only aggravated by life on the streets. Risks of developing a disability while homeless are substantial. Exposure to the elements or to communicable disease in shelters, victimization, nutritional deficiencies, co-morbidities, and limited access to health care increase the likelihood that minor disabilities in homeless individuals will become serious functional impairments.*

Comparing Broward County (2015) numbers to the state of Florida (SOF-2014) reveals that Broward County homeless report lower disability numbers across all categories except for HIV/AIDS.

Table 8. Disability Comparisons Between 2013 through 2015

	Physical	Substance Abuse	Mental Illness	Develop	HIV/AIDS
PIT- 2013 ( N = 660)	15%	34%	20%	1%	2%
SOF- 2013 (N = 14,320)	31%	33%	31%	2%	3%
PIT- 2014 (N = 378)	12%	33%	21%	1%	6%
SOF – 2014 (N =13,627)	26%	37%	30%	3%	3%
PIT- 2015 (N = 655)	17%	31%	30%	2%	21%

In the United States approximately 13% of homeless individuals possess a physical disability. In Broward County 17% of the homeless report a physical disability, the majority of which come from the emergency and unsheltered homeless. Two-thirds of all reported disabilities include substance abuse or mental illness.

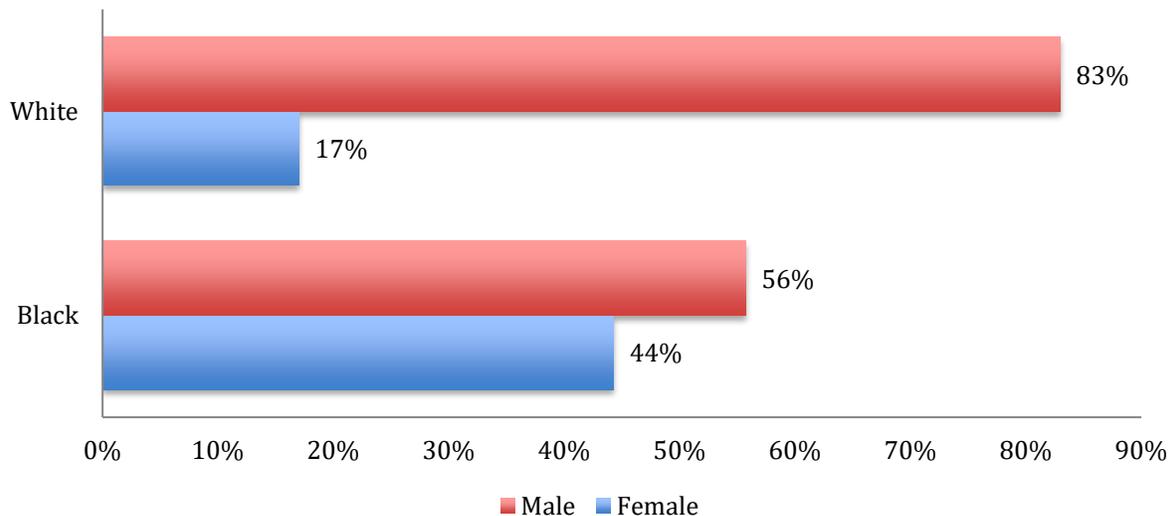
Table 9. Disability by Homeless Type

Location	Physical	Substance Abuse	Mental Illness	Develop	HIV/AIDS
Unsheltered (N = 252)	21%	41%	36%	2%	0%
Transitional (N = 226)	2%	22%	15%	1%	60%
Safe Haven (N = 34)	0%	29%	71%	0%	0%
Emergency (N =128)	43%	27%	29%	1%	0%
Total (N = 640)	17%	31%	30%	1%	21%

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/hh.10\\_02.pdf](http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/hh.10_02.pdf)

The large increase in reported HIV/AIDS cases in the 2015 PIT count demonstrates a need to examine the relationship between homeless factors and HIV acquisition. Recent research demonstrates the relationship between food insecurity, homelessness and HIV acquisition among African Americans. Research finds that high-risk behaviors increase due to food insecurity related to homelessness, this in turn increases the likelihood of HIV acquisition.<sup>12</sup>

Figure 5. Homeless with HIV/AIDS by Gender and Race (N = 117)



Qualitative research examined former homeless persons with serious mental health issues and found three overriding themes affecting mental disabilities: (1) social losses because of death and estrangement; (2) the significance of chronic stressors as well as acute events; and (3) the cumulative lifetime nature of adversity. The findings suggest that life experiences of trauma and loss have a cumulative influence in the lives of this population.<sup>13</sup>

Another current study examined the relationship among a trauma history, a substance use history, chronic homelessness, and the mediating role of recent emotional distress in predicting drug treatment participation among adult homeless people. The most notable result was that recent emotional distress predicted less participation in current substance abuse treatment (both formal and self-help) whereas a substance use history alone predicted significantly more participation in treatment.

<sup>12</sup> Chowdry, M et. al., A convergence of risk: The Association between homelessness, food insecurity and HIV risk behaviors in Oakland, CA. 2nd Conference on Overcoming Health Disparities in the Bay Area February 3, 2015

<sup>13</sup> <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1939-0025.2012.01159.x/full>

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, HIV/AIDS and homelessness are intricately related. The reasons are as follows:<sup>14, 15</sup>

- (1) The costs of health care and medications for people living with HIV/AIDS are often too high.
- (2) Homeless people who inject drugs intravenously may not be able to afford clean needles and may share or reuse needles.
- (3) Many shelters are single sex, and most offer limited privacy, including communal sleeping and bathing. These circumstances make it difficult for shelter residents to form stable sexual relationships.

### ***Attacked While Homeless***

In 2015, 16 percent of respondents reported being attacked while homeless. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless report on hate crimes against the homeless, Florida consistently reports the second greatest number attacks on homeless.<sup>16</sup> A profile of the homeless victim is a male, between the ages of 40 and 50, while the profile of the perpetrator is a male under the age of 30.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/hiv.html>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/hiv.html>

<sup>16</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless (2014). A survey of hate crimes & violence committed against homeless people in 2013.

## The Facets of Homelessness in Broward County

When we examine the current length of homelessness the numbers are similar to 2013 and 2014. Differences are found for homeless in transitional shelters, where we find more homeless in the shorter-length periods. Additionally, it appears that in the unsheltered group, we see respondents reporting a longer length of homelessness than in 2013 and 2014.

Table 10. Length of Time Homeless by Type

Location		< 1 Week	1+ Week - 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-12 Months	12+ Months
Emergency Shelter	2013: N = 755	10%	23%	31%	20%	16%
	2014: N = 636	4%	18%	38%	26%	13%
	2015: N = 699	4%	3%	14%	18%	61%
Transitional Shelter	2013: N = 204	9%	9%	16%	31%	35%
	2014: N = 127	13%	5%	24%	35%	23%
	2015: N = 100	22%	15%	49%	8%	6%
Unsheltered Shelter	2013: N = 266	5%	7%	14%	17%	57%
	2014: N = 204	4%	3%	14%	18%	61%
	2015: N = 243	5%	20%	42%	23%	10%

The research based on sheltered homeless also adds an intriguing element to this discussion. Research published in 2014 found that intensive homelessness prevention programs may not noticeably alter shelter spell lengths.<sup>17</sup> Additionally, they find that for purposes of cost-benefit analysis, expenditure forecasting, and shelter planning, a city starting an intensive homelessness prevention program should not worry so much about longer or shorter shelter stays. Focusing on entries is sufficient.

<sup>17</sup> Goodman et. al. How effective homeless prevention impacts the length for shelter spells. Journal of Housing Economics, 23, 2014:55-62

An examination of the length of time homeless in Broward County indicates that at the time of the count, the majority of respondents have been homeless in Broward County for more than 3 months. We see very little change from 2014 to 2015. The analysis indicates that the majority of homeless are local; they are not arriving homeless from other geographical areas.

Table 11. Length of Homelessness in Broward County by Type

Location		< 1 Week	1+ Week - 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-12 Months	12+ Months
Emergency Shelter	2014: N = 656	8%	4%	3%	8%	77%
	2015: N = 700	7%	2%	6%	11%	73%
Transitional Shelter	2014: N = 128	6%	3%	2%	68%	21%
	2015: N = 155	8%	3%	10%	21%	58%
Unsheltered	2014: N = 204	10%	3%	7%	12%	68%
	2015: N = 227	12%	4%	8%	14%	61%

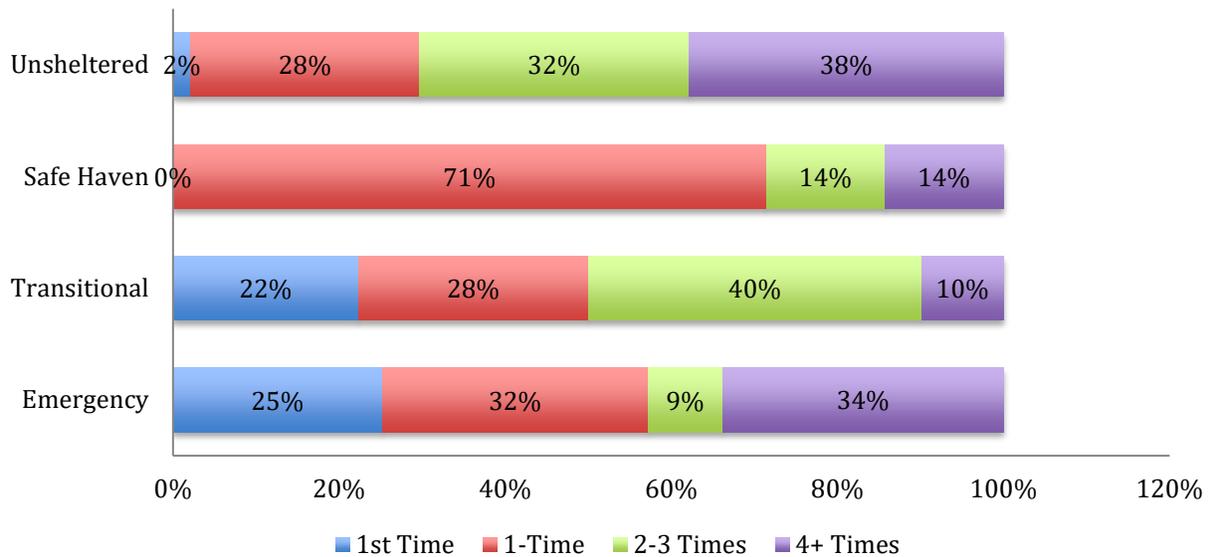
We see no significant differences in number of times homeless between 2014 and 2015 for the unsheltered and transitional homeless. However, for individuals in the emergency group we see a trend towards a greater frequency of homelessness. In 2015 fewer individuals in emergency shelters were homeless 2-3 times, but more individuals in emergency shelters were homeless 4+ times.

Table 12. Number of Times Homeless by Type and Year

Location		1 <sup>st</sup> Time	1-Time	2-3 Times	4+ Times
Emergency Shelter	2014: N = 656	12%	24%	28%	36%
	2015: N = 610	2%	28%	32%	38%
Transitional Shelter	2014: N = 128	22%	29%	38%	11%
	2015: N = 152	22%	28%	40%	10%
Unsheltered	2014: N = 204	34%	20%	25%	21%
	2015: N = 222	25%	32%	9%	34%

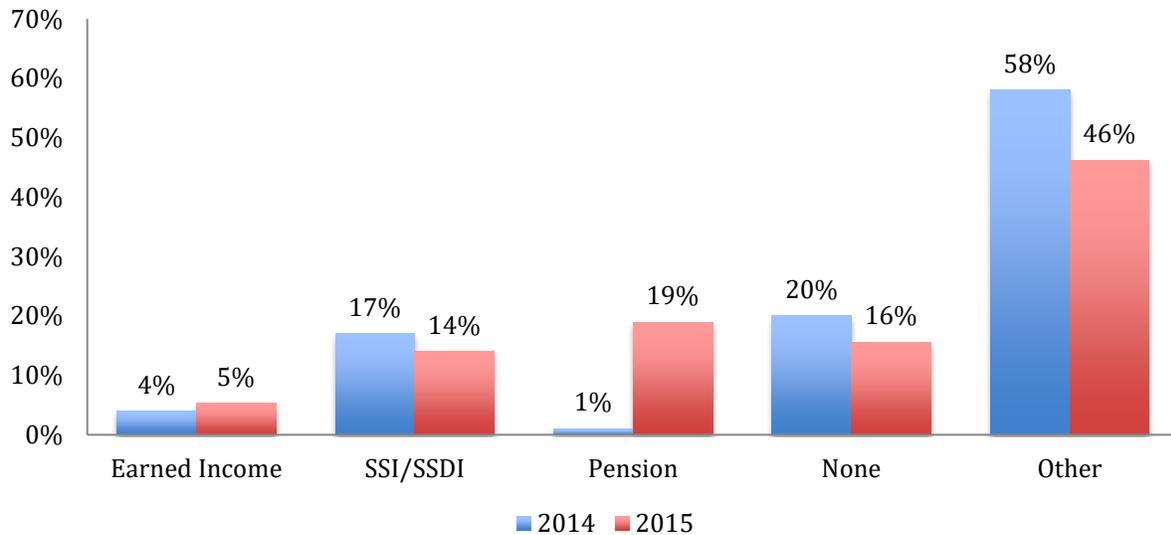
In the state of Florida (2014) 14% of the homeless reported this was their first homeless episode, 32% reported one prior homeless episode, 30% 2-3 prior episodes, and 24% four or more episodes.

Figure 6. Number of Homeless Episodes by Type (N=991)



In 2014 the majority of respondents listed NO income as their primary source of income (20%), closely followed by SSI/SSDI (17%). In 2015 pension became the most selected response (19%) followed by none (16%). While the Other-aggregate category (which refers to contributions, alimony, child support and "other" was selected the most often, individually the responses were small.

Figure 7. Economic Support (N=988)

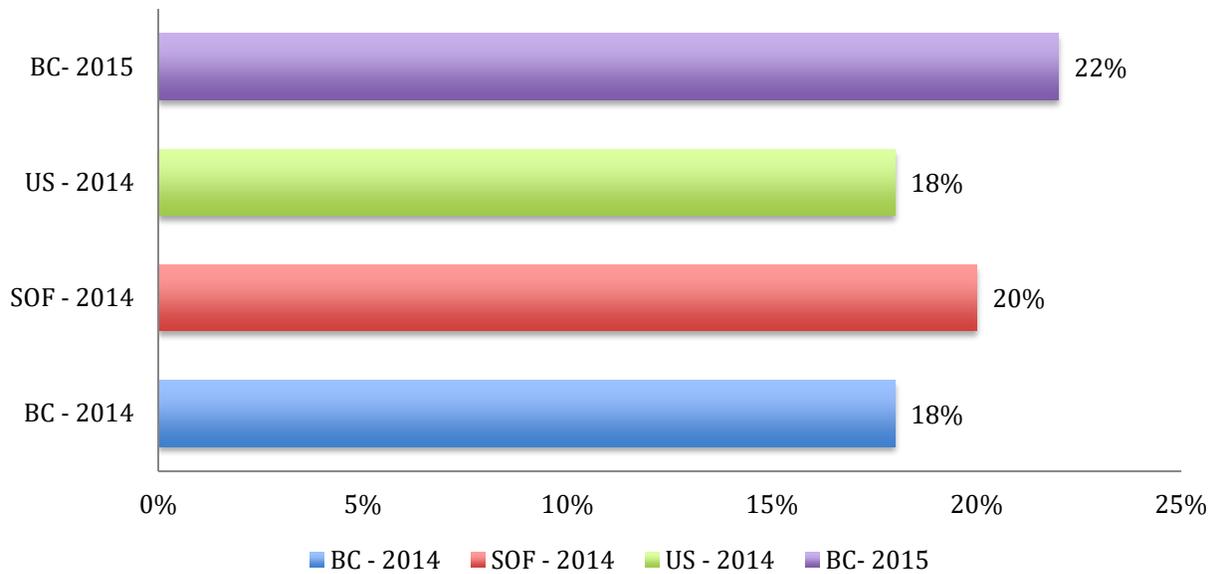


*\*Other refers to contributions, alimony, child support, and an "other" option*

A chronically homeless individual is defined by HUD as a person who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years and has a disability. A family with an adult member who meets this description would also be considered chronically homeless.

Of the 288 people who are chronically homeless, 80% were counted in unsheltered locations. The remaining 20% were counted in emergency or transitional housing. An increase in chronic homelessness was found between the 2015 PIT count, 2014 PIT count, the state of Florida and United States 2014 averages.

Figure 8. Chronic Homeless (N=1,295)



More than half of the nation's chronically homeless population was counted in three states: California (39,250 or 36 percent), Florida (9,647 or 9 percent), and New York (6,317 or 6 percent). In California, Florida and Mississippi more than 80 percent of chronically homeless people were unsheltered.

As Broward County implements the Housing First model (an approach to ending homelessness that provides permanent supportive housing (PSH) first followed by the appropriate social, and medical services) it is important to examine the relationship between this approach and reducing chronic homelessness. Research examining the relationship between PSH and chronic homelessness using community-level data reveals that communities that add more PSH units show steeper declines in chronic homelessness over time.<sup>18</sup> As such, the study's findings are encouraging, suggesting that concerted community-level efforts can lessen chronic homelessness through the expansion of PSH.

<sup>18</sup> Byrne, T. et. al. The Relationship between Community Investment in Permanent Supportive Housing and Chronic Homelessness. *Social Service Review*, 88( 2), (2014): 234-263

Table 13. Reasons for Homelessness by Type

Location		Subst. Abuse	Employ	Domestic Violence	Housing	Other*
Emergency	2014: N = 667	5%	22%	37%	13%	23%
	2015: N = 700	7%	56%	2%	7%	28%
Transitional	2014: N = 108	74%	17%	1%	4%	4%
	2015: N = 83	12%	36%	4%	11%	37%
Safe Haven	2014: 10	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%
	2015: N = 8	13%	38%	25%	13%	13%
Unsheltered	2014: N = 253	5%	22%	37%	13%	23%
	2015: N = 281	7%	32%	20%	8%	33%

\*Other refers to Criminal Conviction, Medical, Mental Illness, Natural Disaster and Immigration

In the 2015 Broward County PIT count, the most commonly cited reasons for homeless were employment (48%), housing (8%) and substance abuse (8%). In the 2014 Broward County PIT count the most commonly cited reasons for homeless were employment (21%), housing (12%) and substance abuse (12%). In 2014, the state of Florida reported employment (48%), medical disability (17%) and family problems (17%) as the most common reasons for homelessness.

Table 14. Reasons for Homelessness by Foster Care and Veterans

Location		Subst. Abuse	Employ	Domestic Violence	Housing	Other*
Foster Care	2014: N = 51	10%	37%	7%	12%	35%
	2015: N = 118	9%	36%	9%	12%	34%
Veterans	2014: N = 103	14%	42%	4%	7%	33%
	2015: N = 121	5%	51%	2%	11%	31%

\*Other refers to Convictions, Medical, Mental Illness, Natural Disaster and Immigration

For homeless individuals aged out of foster care, the primary reason in both 2014 and 2015 was employment (37% vs. 36%), followed by substance abuse (10% vs. 9%), and housing (12% vs. 12%). Among veterans, the primary reason in both 2014 and 2015 was employment (42% vs. 51%), followed by substance abuse (14% vs. 5%), and housing (7% vs. 11%).

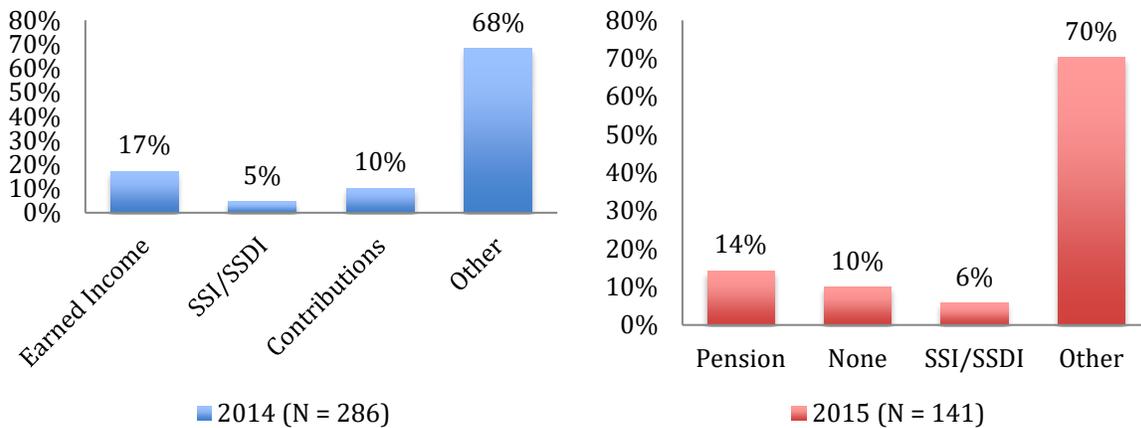
## At Risk for Homelessness

A subgroup analysis was conducted to look at people considered "at risk" for homelessness. Persons were so identified based on the following definition:

*an individual or family seeking permanent housing but who stayed the previous night at an institution; a hotel paid by self; a jail, prison or detention center; a family or friend's house; or were facing imminent eviction; or in foster care.*

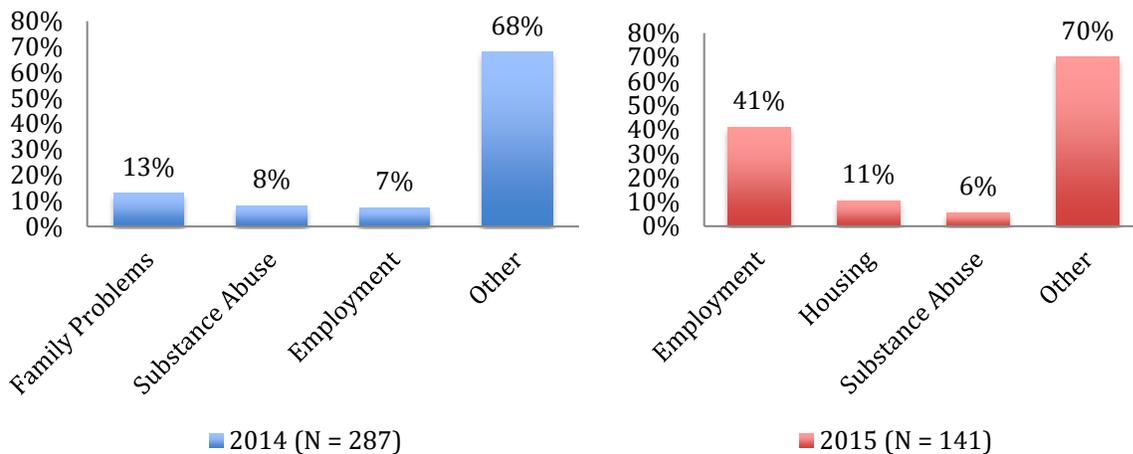
In 2013, the PIT count found 753 at-risk individuals, in 2014 it dropped to 716, and in 2015 it increased to 724. Based on at-risk subject responses in 2015, we see the following: 59% are men, 7% have a substance abuse issue, 2% were veterans, and 17% were aged out of foster care, 12% were attacked while homeless, 45% were between the ages of 18-54 (27% 18-24), and 16% were in families. Additional information follows.

Figure 9. At Risk for Homelessness Economic Support



\*Other refers contributions, alimony, child support, and an "other" option

Figure 10. At Risk Reason for Homelessness Reason



Other refers to Criminal Conviction, Medical, Mental Illness, Natural Disaster and Immigration

## Correlates of Homelessness

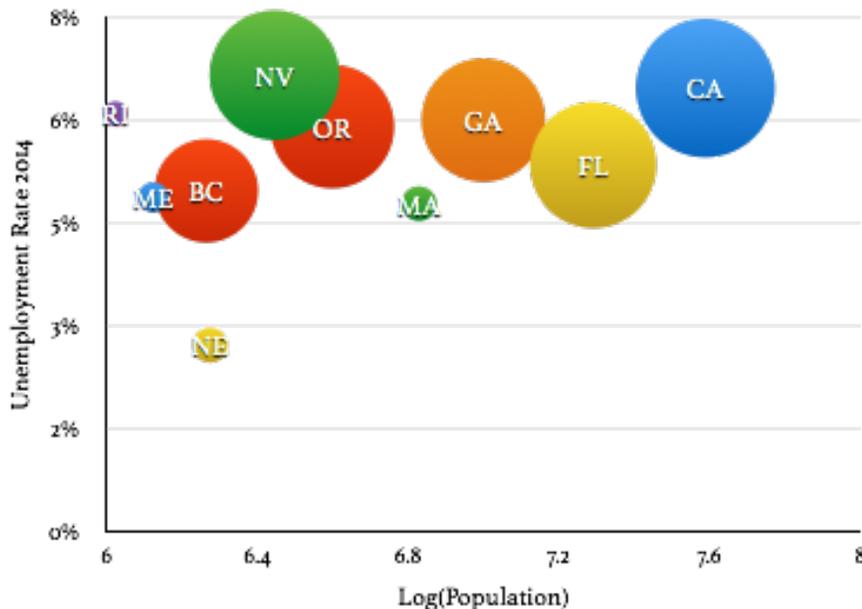
Additional analysis was conducted to examine the ratio of unsheltered to sheltered homeless. Florida ranks third overall in the US in the number of unsheltered homeless at 52%.<sup>19</sup> Broward County demonstrates a much smaller percentage at 32%.

Table 15. Percentage of Unsheltered to Sheltered Individuals

Rank	State	Percent Unsheltered	Rank	State	Percent Unsheltered
1	= CA	63%	46	= DE	4%
2	= NV	55%	47	= NE	4%
3	= FL	52%	48	= MA	3%
4	= GA	50%	49	= ME	3%
5	= OR	50%	50	= RI	2%
<b>Broward County = 32%</b>					

To make meaning of this percentage, we plotted the unsheltered homeless against the 2014 unemployment rate and the natural log of the states or county population. The size of the bubbles represents the percentage of unsheltered individuals. We find two areas of interest: (1) Massachusetts has a similar underlayment rate and a larger population than Broward County, but their unsheltered homeless is much smaller, and (2) the greater the unemployment rate the higher the unsheltered. This holds true for all states and Broward County, except Rhode Island.

Figure 11. Percentage Unsheltered by Unemployment Rate and Population



<sup>19</sup> HUD. The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to congress. October, 2014

## Homeless Facts

Homeless persons have a much higher incidence of a range of secondary characteristics.

- Prior homelessness: 35-67% of currently homeless persons have experienced at least one prior, separate episode of homelessness.
- Single, unattached adult males: single, adult males make up about 70% of the adult homeless population but fewer than 10% of all adults living below the poverty line.<sup>20, 21, 22</sup>
- Solitary women with children: solitary women head about 80% of all homeless families.
- Unattached youth: youth separated from parents or a foster care situation with few resources has a strong likelihood of ending up homeless or at risk for homelessness.
- Mental illness: about one-third of homeless adults have spent time in a mental institution.
- Alcohol and/or other drug problems: about one-third or more of homeless adults suffer from chronic alcohol problems and 10-20% have other drug dependency problems.
- Health problems: more than 25% of the homeless population is too disabled to work and about 40% report themselves in poor health, compared to 20% of the total United States poor population.
- Institutional histories: homeless and most-at-risk persons are much more likely to have a history of mental hospitalization, inpatient treatment for alcohol and/or other drug problems, foster care, or time spent in jail or prison.
- Weak support networks: homeless and most-at-risk persons have far less extensive or helpful support networks of family and friends who might provide them with housing or other assistance.

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<sup>20</sup> Preventing homelessness: Meeting the Challenge. The Urban Institute, Feb. 2002.

<sup>21</sup> The Prevention of Homelessness. National Alliance to End Homelessness, Sept. 1992.

<sup>22</sup> Destination Home. A Ten-year Journey to End Homelessness. <http://www.destination-home.info/Homelessness/at-risk.htm>

## Homeless Locations

The figures below represent the location for the At-Risk and unsheltered homeless in Broward County. Similar to 2014 the majority of at-risk individuals lived in Ft. Lauderdale (29%), followed by Hollywood (10%) and Lauderhill (6%). Of interest is the large increase in the number of at-risk now residing in Ft. Lauderdale—a 16% increase.

Figure 12. At Risk Homeless by City

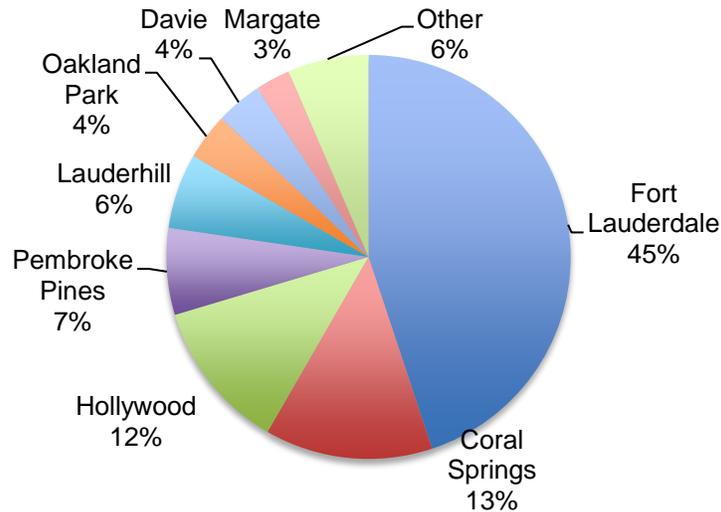
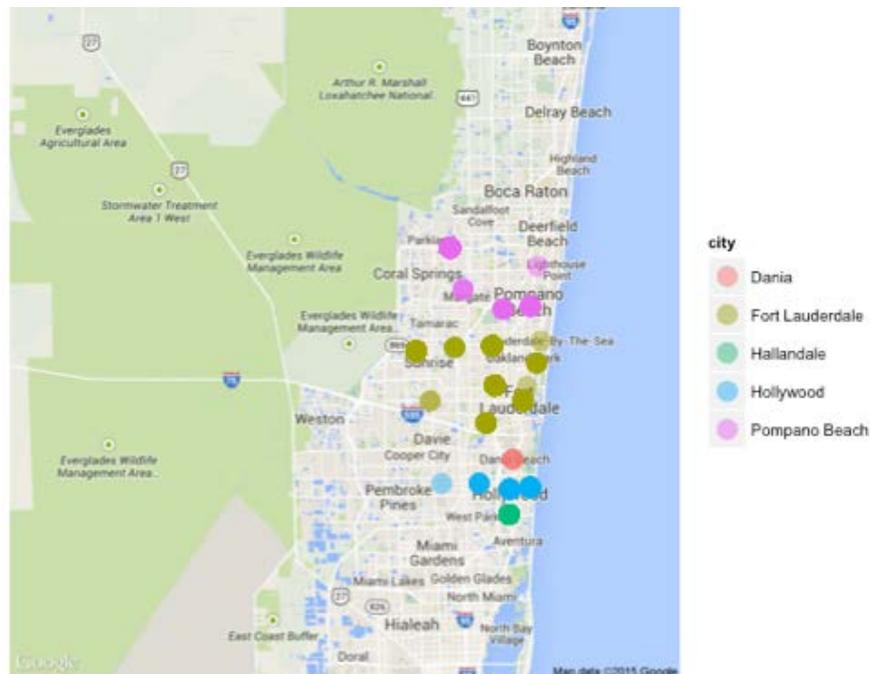


Figure 13. Unsheltered Homeless Map



**SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VOLUNTEER – BEFORE ASKING SURVEY QUESTIONS**

Name of Volunteer Completing Survey: _____	Date: January _____, 2015
Point Location or Cross Street: _____	Time of the day: _____

Declined to complete the survey (*NOTE for VOLUNTEER: **U** Be sure to turn in the form anyway*)

**SURVEY QUESTIONS BEGIN**

1. Have you completed this survey earlier this week?  if "YES", **STOP: DO NOT COMPLETE SURVEY\***  
 No (\*Turn in the form anyway)

2. Please tell us your first name and first initial of your last name: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Your last 4 digits of SS# \_\_\_\_\_

4. What gender do you identify with?  Male  Female  Trans-sexual  
 Transgender F-M  Other  
 Don't Know  Transgender M-F  
 Refused

5. What is your date-of-birth? \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  Refused

6. Have you ever served on active duty in the US Armed Forces?  Yes  No  
 Refused

7. Are you Hispanic or Latino?  Yes  No  Don't Know  Refused

<p>8. What is your race? (Check one)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Racial <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Refused	<p>9. Where did you wake up Tuesday morning (January 27, 2015)?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Place not meant for human habitation - car/boat/sheet/encampment/abandoned bldg <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Owned (Condo, house) <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel-self paid <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Transitional Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel-paid by voucher <input type="checkbox"/> Substance center facility <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Rental <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Haven <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Jail, prison, detention <input type="checkbox"/> Refused <input type="checkbox"/> With family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Foster care
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10. In what CITY did you wake up Tuesday morning (January 27, 2015)? \_\_\_\_\_  Refused

11. How long have you been living in Broward County?  
 30 days or less  More than 30 days, less than 6 months  6 months or more  Refused

12. How long were you in Broward County prior to becoming homeless?  
 1 week or less  1-3 months  1 year or longer  
 More than 1 week, less than 1 month  More than 3 months, less than 12 months  Refused

13. In what CITY did you last have your own apartment/house, rent a room, or live with family/friends? \_\_\_\_\_

14. In what STATE did you last have your own apartment/house, rent a room, or live with family/friends? \_\_\_\_\_

15.	<b>On this homeless episode, were you discharged to the street from one of the following?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Jail <input type="checkbox"/> Prison <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric Facility <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
16.	<b>Have you been continuously homeless for a year or more?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
17.	<b>How many episodes of homelessness have you had in the past three (3) years?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> First time homeless ( <i>no prior episodes</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> One time <input type="checkbox"/> 2-3 times <input type="checkbox"/> 4 or more times <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
18.	<b>How long have you been homeless this time?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 week or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 months <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or longer <input type="checkbox"/> More than 1 week, less than 1 month <input type="checkbox"/> More than 3 months, less than 12 months <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
19.	<b>Have you been attacked or beaten up while homeless?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
20.	<b>What was the <u>number one</u> reason that caused you to become homeless? (Check only one)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Refused <input type="checkbox"/> Employment/Financial reasons <input type="checkbox"/> Housing issues (high cost, eviction, foreclosure) <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence <input type="checkbox"/> Forced to relocate from home <input type="checkbox"/> Family Problems <input type="checkbox"/> Medical/disability problems <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/substance abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Natural/other disaster <input type="checkbox"/> Recent immigration <input type="checkbox"/> Youth aging out of foster care <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Mental illness <input type="checkbox"/> Convictions/criminal record <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
21.	<b>Were you ever a foster care child?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
22.	<b>Do you have an alcohol or drug problem, a serious mental health problem, a developmental disability, or a chronic physical illness or other disability?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
23.	<b>What type of disabling condition(s) do you have (Check all that apply)?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical/Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health <input type="checkbox"/> Drug addiction <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
24.	<b>Does your disability limit your mobility?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
25.	<b>What is your number one source of income? (Check only one)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Refused <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time employment <input type="checkbox"/> Contributions from another person <input type="checkbox"/> SSDI <input type="checkbox"/> General assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> SSA retirement <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed <input type="checkbox"/> SSI <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans disability <input type="checkbox"/> Alimony <input type="checkbox"/> Annuities/interest <input type="checkbox"/> Pension/retirement <input type="checkbox"/> Child support <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans pension <input type="checkbox"/> Workers comp insurance <input type="checkbox"/> TANF <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<b>ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ONLY IF YOU ARE WITH HOMELESS FAMILY MEMBERS</b>	
26.	<b>How many other ADULT family members other than yourself (18+) are staying with you?</b> _____

1st. Adult Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Active duty veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Trans-sexual	2nd. Adult Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Active duty veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Trans-sexual	3rd. Adult Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Active duty veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Trans-sexual
4th. Adult Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Active duty veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Trans-sexual	5th. Adult Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Active duty veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Trans-sexual	6th. Adult Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Active duty veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Trans-sexual
<b>27. How many children (family members 17 or younger) are staying with you? _____</b>		
1st. Child Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Former Foster Care	2nd. Child Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Former Foster Care	3rd. Child Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Former Foster Care
4th. Child Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Former Foster Care	5th. Child Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Former Foster Care	6th. Child Initials _____ Age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender M-F  <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender F-M <input type="checkbox"/> Former Foster Care