



## Homeless Point-in-Time Count 2013

### *A Snapshot of Homelessness in Johnson County*

The Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness counted literally homeless persons and households on the night of January 22, 2013. While it is likely that this number is an undercount of the true number of homeless in the county, these findings are a valuable planning tool to improve the response to homelessness in Johnson County and are collected annually.

### 213 Johnson County residents were literally homeless on the night of January 22, 2013

#### Key Facts:

- Analysis was based on surveys of 81 households experiencing homelessness.
- 81 households containing 213 persons reported being literally homeless, which is defined as living on the streets, in cars, or in emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- Half (53%) of literally homeless persons counted were children ( $\leq 18$  yrs.) which is consistent with prior Point-in-Time proportions. Persons within households with children made up 88% of all persons identified as homeless.
- 41 of the 81 homeless households were without housing due to domestic violence.
- Four individuals were identified as chronically homeless – having been homeless for more than one year or having had four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years, currently in an emergency shelter or on the streets, and having at least one adult in the household with a disability that limits his or her ability to get or keep a job, take care of self or others, or get around the community.

#### Comparing the 2011 point-in-time count to the 2013 count:

- The number of literally homeless residents counted decreased from 315 in 2011 (the most recent count of both sheltered and unsheltered persons in homelessness) to 213 in 2013, a 32% decrease. The number identified as homeless in 2013 is approximately the same number as was identified in the 2009 point-in-time counts (210).
- The number of homeless children who were unsheltered dropped from 31 in 2011 to 8 in 2013. Overall the number of unsheltered homeless residents identified dropped 75% between 2011 and 2013.

#### Literally Homeless Point-in-Time Count Comparison: 2011 to 2013 Households with vs Households without Children by Shelter Status

|   | 2011       | 2013       |
|---|------------|------------|
| Number of <b>Sheltered*</b> Persons in Households with Children                     | 213        | 174        |
| Number of <b>Unsheltered*</b> Persons in Households with Children                   | 45         | 14         |
| <i>Total Literally Homeless Persons in Households with Children</i>                 | <u>258</u> | <u>188</u> |
| Number of <b>Sheltered*</b> Individuals or Persons in Households without Children   | 34         | 22         |
| Number of <b>Unsheltered*</b> Individuals or Persons in Households without Children | 23         | 3          |
| <i>Total Literally Homeless Persons without Children</i>                            | <u>57</u>  | <u>25</u>  |
| <b>Grand Total</b> (Persons in households with and without children)                | <b>315</b> | <b>213</b> |

## Literally Homeless Point-in-Time Count Comparison: 2011 to 2013

### Adults and Children by Shelter Status

|  | 2011       | 2013       |
|--|------------|------------|
| Number of <b>Sheltered*</b> Adults (single or in households) | 110        | 84         |
| Number of <b>Unsheltered*</b> Adults                         | 37         | 9          |
| <i>Total Literally Homeless Adults</i>                       | <i>147</i> | <i>93</i>  |
| Number of <b>Sheltered*</b> Children                         | 137        | 112        |
| Number of <b>Unsheltered*</b> Children                       | 31         | 8          |
| <i>Total Literally Homeless Children</i>                     | <i>168</i> | <i>120</i> |
| <b>Grand Total</b> (adults and children)                     | <b>315</b> | <b>213</b> |

\* Sheltered homeless includes people staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing, and includes those in domestic violence shelters. Unsheltered homeless includes people who meet the HUD definition of staying in places not made for human habitation, such as living in their cars or on the streets.

### Demographics of interest among those identified as homeless:

#### Young Adult (18-24 yrs)

- At the 2013 PIT count, 20 persons were identified age 18 to 24 years. This represented 9% of the total homeless population. This compares to the total Johnson County population proportion of 8%.
- A significant proportion of 18-24 year olds who were homeless (7) were still within their parent's household vs living in their own household.

#### Having been in Foster Care as a child or youth

- Among the adults who were identified as homeless in the 2013 PIT count, 18% reported having been in foster care as a child or youth. This is a much higher incidence/prevalence than that of the general adult population (estimates range from 1-3% of the adult population 25 years or older).

#### Veteran status

- No veterans were identified as being sheltered in Johnson County on the night of the PIT count. One was identified housed in a substance abuse recovery bed, but as such did not qualify as homeless.

#### Substance Abuse and/or Mental Illness

- Those who are living on the streets or in their cars were slightly more likely to report substance abuse or being mentally ill than those who were in shelter or transitional housing. However the sample size of households who were unsheltered was very small compared to those who were sheltered (7 vs 74) so it is unclear if this is a significant difference.

#### Employment

- Families and individuals become homeless for a wide variety of reasons – they do not fit neatly into one box with a short list of common characteristics. More than half are employed – in fact, in households that have children 71% are working. Of those working, 54% are working 40 or more hours per week.

#### So then, what do these numbers mean?

It is unclear why or if there has been a drop in the number of homeless residents in Johnson County. With future input from school districts, homeless service providers, census and homeless management information data, multiple theories will be evaluated so we can better understand the trends and needs of some of the most vulnerable residents in our county.

SOURCE: 2011 & 2013 Point-In-Time Homeless Count conducted by the Johnson County Continuum of Care and facilitated by UCS. Summary prepared by United Community Services of Johnson County. The analysis is based on 81 surveys.

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