



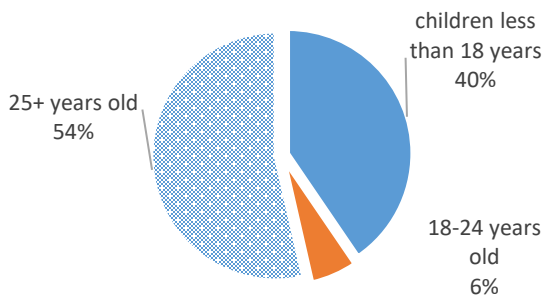
Homelessness in Johnson County, 2018

One hundred and sixty-eight persons were identified in Johnson County’s 2018 point-in-time (PIT) count of homelessness – a sharp increase after years of decreasing overall numbers. The increased number of unsheltered individuals powered much of the almost 30% one-year rise – although all categories of housing increased somewhat. Understanding who is experiencing homelessness and their barriers to regaining permanent housing is critical in Johnson County’s work to end homelessness in 2018 and beyond.

The term “homelessness” invokes a variety of images and experiences. The experience of homelessness results in significant barriers and challenges for adults and children, both now and in the future. Johnson County’s Continuum of Care on Homelessness is a collaboration of public and private service providers committed to quickly and effectively responding to housing crises in order to either prevent or end homelessness among local residents.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that Continuums of Care count all homeless households within their geographic region annually. The Johnson County Continuum of Care conducted its 2018 point-in-time count on the night of January 23. A total of 168 persons were identified as homeless on that night, having been either in emergency shelter, transitional housing or living in a place not meant for human habitation. Of these, 68 or 40% were under the age of 18 years. Thirty eight persons were unsheltered – up from 17 in 2017.	2018 Point-In-Time Count				
		Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
	Total Number of Households	42	14	36	92
	Total Number of Persons	92	38	38	168
	Number of Children	46	21	1	68
	Number of Adults 18-24 years	2	5	3	10
	Number of Adults 25+ years	44	12	34	90

2018 PIT count by age group



The median age of a person experiencing homelessness in Johnson County in 2018 was 28 years, up sharply from a median age of 19 in 2017. 62% or three in five persons identified as homeless in the 2018 point-in-time count were in households with children under 18 years of age. No unaccompanied youth were identified and one child under 18 was counted as unsheltered.

In Johnson County, 63% of homeless adults surveyed during the 2018 point-in-time count reported they had been abused by a household member, either as an adult or a child. All adults were asked about behaviors and past experiences that may act as barriers to holding a job or living in stable housing. While five in ten were employed, almost half of adults reported a disability serious enough to affect their ability to keep a job or stay housed, including serious psychiatric disorders, PTSD, brain injury, and chronic or physical health conditions.

STATUS AMONG HOMELESS ADULTS

6.3 OF 10 Survivors of trauma or abuse

3 OF 10 Experience serious mental illness

5 OF 10 Currently employed



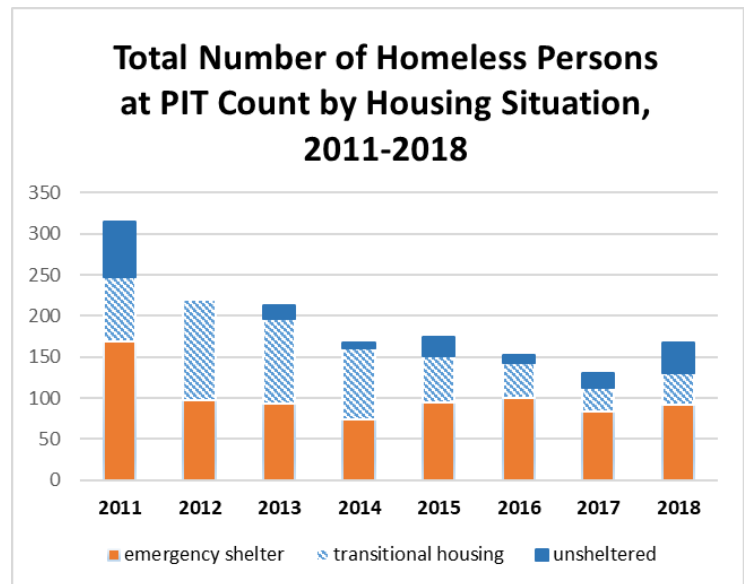
Trends in Homelessness:

2018 PIT results reverse the recent trend of decreasing numbers of persons identified as experiencing homelessness in Johnson County. While over all numbers decreased from 315 in 2011 to 130 in 2017, the 2018 count of 168 is a 30% one-year increase. This was perhaps foreshadowed by the increase in persons who were unsheltered in recent years. Fourteen households met the criteria for chronic homeless in 2018 – having both been homeless 12 months or more in the past three years and having a significant disability that impacted their ability to maintain stable housing and employment – up from three in 2017. Twelve of the 14 were single individuals, only two of which were in shelter.

An increasing proportion of those experiencing homelessness in Johnson County are single individuals, many of whom are unsheltered due to limited options for emergency housing. The majority of those living unsheltered are above the age of 40 years, with the median age being 47 years compared to the median age of 28 for all of those identified as experiencing homelessness in 2018.

Five of the 38 persons identified as unsheltered were between the ages of 67 and 74 years.

Among chronically homeless households, 71% identified having a serious psychiatric and emotional illness as a barrier to housing and employment.



Homelessness among School Age Children and Youth:

The Department of Education uses a broader definition of homelessness than the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). But like HUD, school districts are also required to count and report the number of children and youth in their district that were identified as homeless each school year. The Department of Education’s definition differs in that it also includes those students who are temporarily “doubled up” with family and friends in addition to those in shelter or on the streets. Furthermore, the number reported is not a count of one night – but reflects the total number of students who were identified as homeless at some point during a school year.

Numbers of students experiencing homelessness in any given year in the six Johnson County school districts has varied little since 2011- between 1,050-1,130 students per school year. Approximately 85% of those identified as homeless were “doubled up” and most were living with family members versus living on their own. Very few were classified as “unaccompanied youth”.

School District	School Year						
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Blue Valley	53	52	57	99	96	107	90
Spring Hill	48	49	30	37	57	65	64
Gardner Edgerton	95	123	113	71	98	111	97
De Soto	64	60	56	51	28	13	11
Olathe	326	509	427	392	412	381	435
Shawnee Mission	266	292	445	456	418	382	406
Total:	852	1085	1128	1106	1109	1059	1103

2017-18 school year numbers are not available until Fall 2018 from the KS Department of Education.