

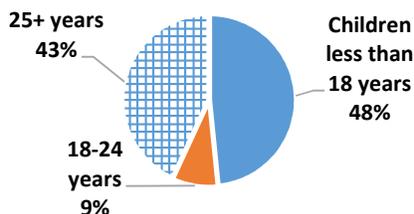
## Homelessness in Johnson County, 2016

The term “homeless” is evocative – it conjures up a variety of images and feelings. Even for those who work year round to assist households regain and sustain stable housing, the term has different meanings. For some, it is a limited definition that includes only those who are either living on the streets or in their cars, at an emergency shelter or in transitional housing having come from the streets. For others it is broader, and also includes those households who have lost their housing and who are temporarily moving from place to place, often “couch surfing” with family or friends, while seeking to re-establish their own home. Regardless of its definition, the experience of homelessness can result in significant barriers and challenges for adults and children both now and in the future.

The Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness is a collaboration of public and private service providers committed to reducing homelessness among local residents. Together, members assist households regain and maintain housing, improve employment and connect to needed services for ongoing stability.

<p>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 2016 point-in-time count on the night of January 26. A total of 153 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, 74 or 48% were under the age of 18 years. Ten persons were unsheltered – down from 23 in 2015.</p>	2016 Point-In-Time Count				
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total	
	<b>Total Number of Households</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>70</b>
	<b>Total Number of Persons</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>153</b>
	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>
	<b>Number of Adults 18-24 years</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Number of Adults 25+ years</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>66</b>

### 2016 PIT count by age group



The median age of a person experiencing homelessness in Johnson County in 2016 was 19 years. 81% of all persons identified as homeless in the 2016 point-in-time count were in households with children under 18 years of age. One unaccompanied youth was identified.

In Johnson County, 70% of homeless adults surveyed during the 2016 point-in-time count reported that 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 six in ten are currently employed, almost half 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

**7 OF 10**   
*Survivors of trauma or abuse*

**3 OF 10**   
*Experience serious mental illness*

**6 OF 10**   
*Currently employed*

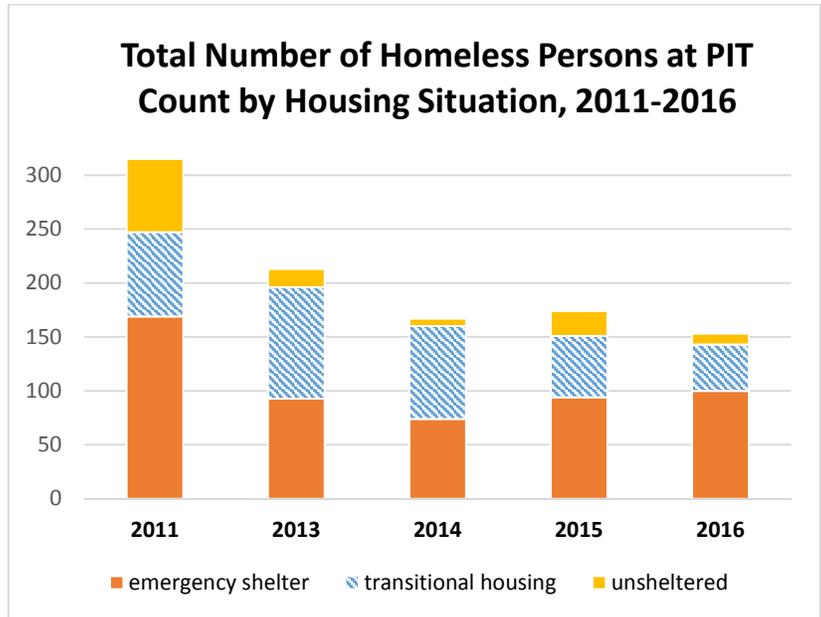
## Trends in Homelessness:

Since 2011, the overall number of persons identified as homeless on a single night in the last ten days of January during the annual point-in-time (PIT) count has decreased from 315 in 2011 to 153 in 2016. No households were identified in 2016 as chronically homeless – having both been homeless 12 months or more and having an adult with a significant disability.

Regardless of the overall number, children are about half of those identified as homeless in each year’s annual count. Several findings are worth watching, including the number of persons identified as homeless who:

- had a disabling mental illness
- had been in the foster care system as a child
- are currently unsheltered.

Of the ten persons identified as unsheltered in 2016, seven were between the ages of 17-19 years. Six of the seven (86%) reported that their psychiatric or emotional condition was a barrier to stable housing and employment. Focused intervention with this age group could have a significant impact on their future.



## 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 particular school year.

School District	School Year					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Blue Valley	19	53	52	57	99	96
Spring Hill	27	48	49	30	37	57
Gardner Edgerton	32	95	123	113	71	98
De Soto	38	64	60	56	51	28
Olathe	265	326	509	427	392	412
Shawnee Mission	301	266	292	445	456	418
<b>Total:</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>1085</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>1109</b>

Overall numbers of homeless students in the six Johnson County school districts increased dramatically through the 2011-2012 school year and then stabilized around 1,100 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” – those living independently.

2015-2016 school year numbers will not be available until Fall of 2016 from KS Dept. of Education.

All data was prepared by UCS based on annual Point in Time Counts, 2011-2016; Kansas Department of Education; and reports from the six Johnson County School Districts’ homeless liaisons. April 2016