



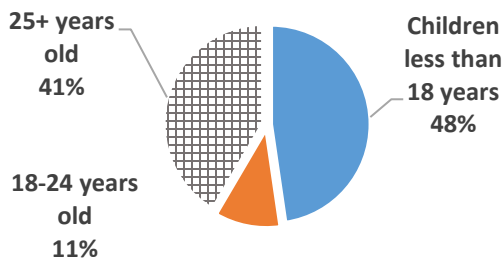
## Homelessness in Johnson County, 2017

The number and characteristics of persons identified in Johnson County’s 2017 point-in-time (PIT) count of homelessness suggests both progress and regress. Overall PIT homelessness numbers dropped to the lowest level since before the recession, with children making up slightly less than half the total number. That’s progress. However, the number of unsheltered individuals and the number of chronically homeless was sharply up – in part due to Johnson County’s lack of a walk-in emergency shelter and limited resources for individuals in crisis (vs shelter for households with children). Addressing these challenges is critical in Johnson County’s work to end homelessness in 2017 and beyond.

The term “homelessness” conjures up a variety of images and experiences. Even for those who work year round to assist households regain and sustain stable housing, the term has multiple meanings. 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 end homelessness among local residents.

<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 2017 point-in-time count on the night of January 24. A total of 130 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, 62 or 48% were under the age of 18 years. Seventeen persons were unsheltered – up from 10 in 2016.</p>	2017 Point-In-Time Count				
		Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
	<b>Total Number of Households</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>59</b>
	<b>Total Number of Persons</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>130</b>
	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>
	<b>Number of Adults 18-24 years</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Number of Adults 25+ years</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>54</b>

### 2017 PIT count by age group



The median age of a person experiencing homelessness in Johnson County in 2017 was 19 years. 74% or three in four persons identified as homeless in the 2017 point-in-time count were in households with children under 18 years of age. No unaccompanied youth were identified and no children under 18 were counted as unsheltered.

In Johnson County, 74% of homeless adults surveyed during the 2017 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, more than a third 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



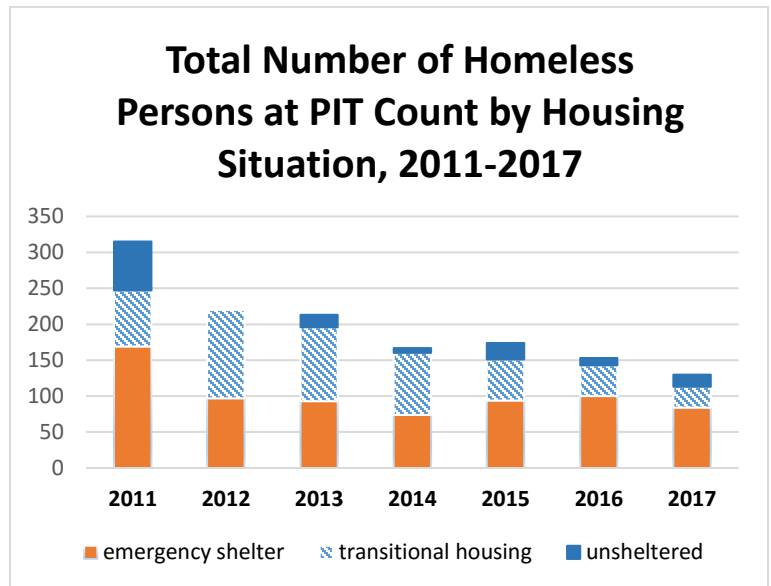
## Trends in Homelessness:

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 130 in 2017. Three individuals were identified in 2017 as chronically homeless – 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. All were unsheltered at the time of the count, with no emergency shelter available for them without leaving the county.

Children and transitional age youth (TAY) are 58% of those identified as homeless in this year’s PIT count. Several findings are worth watching, including the number of persons identified as homeless each year who:

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

Of the 17 persons identified as unsheltered in 2017, six were between the ages of 18-24 years. Half of the TAY 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 likelihood of future homelessness.



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

2016-17 school year numbers are not available until Fall 2017 from the KS Department of Education.

Overall numbers of homeless students in the six Johnson County school districts increased dramatically through the 2011-2012 school year and then stabilized between 1,000-1,100 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.