

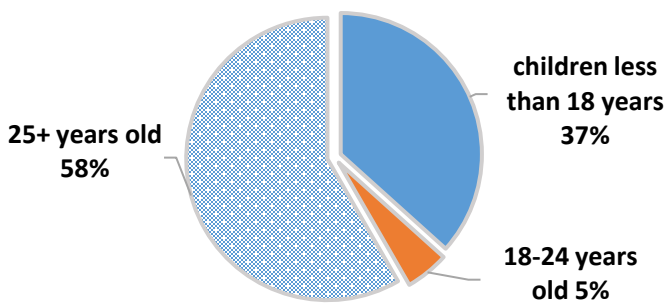
**Homelessness in Johnson County, 2020**

One hundred and eighty persons were identified in Johnson County’s 2020 point-in-time (PIT) count of homelessness – almost the same number as 2019 (189). Household numbers in emergency shelter decreased from 2019 but total persons increased due to larger family sizes. Unsheltered households decreased overall. Understanding who is experiencing homelessness and their permanent housing needs is critical in Johnson County’s work to end homelessness in 2020 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 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 on one night in the last ten days of January annually. The Johnson County Continuum of Care count identified 180 persons as homeless in Johnson County on January 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, having been either in emergency shelter, transitional housing or living in a place not meant for human habitation. Of these, 66 or 37% were under the age of 18 years. Twenty-four persons were found unsheltered – compared to 39 in 2019.	2020 Point-In-Time Count				
		Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
	<b>Total Number of Households</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>Total Number of Persons</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>180</b>
	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>66</b>
	<b>Number of Adults 18-24 years</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Number of Adults 25+ years</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>105</b>

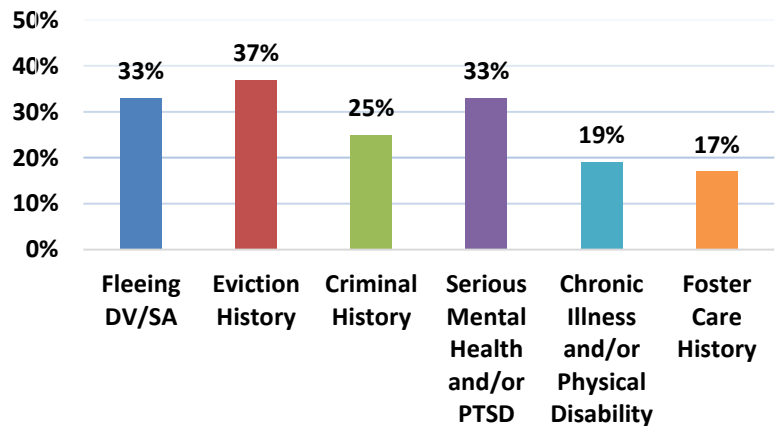
**2020 PIT count by age group**



In Johnson County, 57% of homeless adults surveyed during the 2020 point-in-time count reported they were a survivor of physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. All adults were asked about behaviors and past experiences that may act as barriers to holding a job or living in stable housing. More than two in five were currently employed, and 44% 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.

The median age of a person experiencing homelessness in Johnson County’s 2020 count was 27 years, with more adults 25 years of age and older than children and youth. Sixty-one percent or three in five persons identified as homeless in the 2020 point-in-time count were in households with children under 18 years of age. One child under 18 years of age was counted in an unsheltered family.

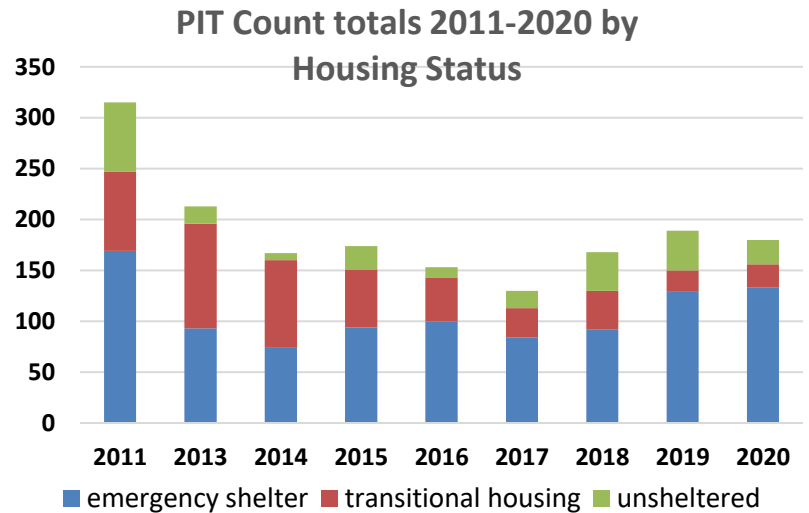
**Characteristics of Households Experiencing Homelessness in the 2020 PIT**



## Johnson County Trends in Homelessness:

- 2020's PIT count numbers are essentially unchanged from 2019, with 180 identified as homeless in 2020. The overall trend between 2011 and 2017 was decreasing numbers, but that turned around in 2018 with an increase of 30% and another 13% in 2019's count
- Two thirds of households experiencing homelessness in 2020 had no children. However, households with 3 or more children pushed overall numbers of children up from the previous year.
- Consistent with national trends, the median age of persons experiencing homelessness in Johnson County has been rising.
- Nineteen persons met the criteria for chronic homeless in 2020 – down from 32 in 2019 - having both been literally 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.

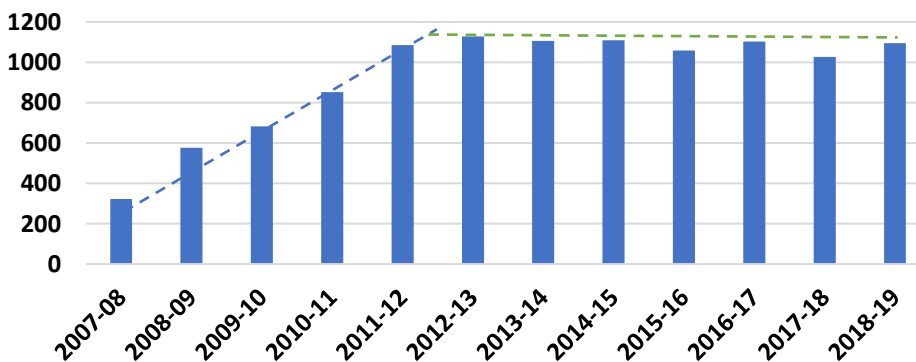
- Two thirds or 67% of households identified as homeless in 2020 were adult only households. While the 2020 proportion of households without children experiencing homelessness decreased from 78% to 67% - reversing the steady increase in adult only households since 2015 - trend analyses indicate that the PIT count is shifting to adults. This is especially pertinent as Johnson County does not have dedicated emergency shelter for this population year-round.
- All three veterans counted as homeless in 2020 were single males staying in the emergency cold weather shelter. No emergency shelter would have been available for them between April and November.



## 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.

**Total number of McKinney Vento students in 6 Johnson County School Districts by school year**



The number reported by school districts 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".

**2019-20 school year numbers are not available until Fall 2020 from the KS Department of Education**

All data was prepared by UCS based on annual Point in Time Counts, 2011-2020; Kansas Department of Education; and reports from the six Johnson County School Districts' homeless liaisons.

**Published July 2020**