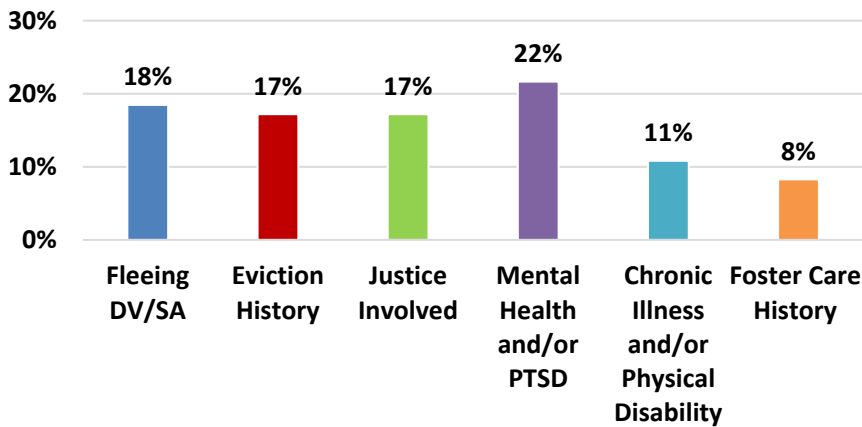


2021 - A Snapshot of Homelessness in Johnson County

Annually, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that Continuums of Care conduct a Point in Time (PIT) count of households within their geographic region experiencing homelessness on one night in the last ten days of January. The count is a snapshot on a single night of who is experiencing homelessness in the County. The Johnson County Continuum of Care count identified 157¹ individuals experiencing homelessness on January 26th, 2021—a decrease from 2020 (180 individuals). These individuals were in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or living in a place not meant for human habitation. Of those surveyed, 32 were unsheltered, and 48 (31%) were under the age of 18 years.

2021 Point-In-Time Count (PIT)				
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Households	60	15	27	102
Total Number of Persons	98	27	32	157
Number of Children	37	9	2	48
Number of Adults 18-24 years	3	10	2	15
Number of Adults 25+ years	58	8	28	94

Factors & Barriers of Households Experiencing Homelessness in the PIT 2021



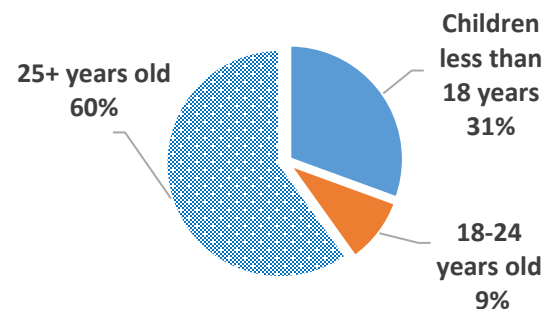
The term “homelessness” evokes a range of images and experiences. The experience of homelessness results in significant barriers and challenges for adults and children, both immediately and in the future as the effects of homelessness cascade. The 2021 PIT count underscores the urgent need for additional shelter and support services to quickly relaunch these individuals. 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 Johnson County residents.

The median age for a person experiencing

homelessness in the 2021 PIT count was 44, compared to 27 – 32 years of age in the 2018-2020 counts. All adults were asked experiences or factors that serve as a barrier to holding a job or living in stable housing. About 17%² of adults were currently employed. Approximately 33% of adults reported having a disability or a mental health condition.

In 2021, households experiencing homelessness were more likely to be households without children and to be older as compared to prior years. Two children under 18 years of age were counted in an unsheltered family. That is an increase of 1 more child without shelter on the night of the count, compared to 2020. The number of children decreased from 66 in 2020 to 48 in 2021.

2021 PIT count by age



¹ 2021 PIT collection process and shelter capacities were impacted due to COVID 19 safety protocols

² Lower reported employment rates may have been a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Johnson County Trends in Homelessness:

The 2021 PIT count surveyed 23 fewer individuals than in 2020. Due to health and safety protocols intended to reduce the spread of the virus, some shelters had to decrease the number of beds available or stagger entry into shelter. The reduction in available shelter beds reduced the number of sheltered households and increased the total number of unsheltered households. In addition, some individuals experiencing homelessness declined to participate in the 2021 PIT count survey and could not be counted due to safety concerns related to the pandemic.

The 2021 PIT count illustrates that when shelters cannot operate at capacity, more individuals go unsheltered. The 2021 PIT count also highlights the need for additional shelter capacity and day shelter services in Johnson County. The effects of the pandemic related closures of public buildings and other facilities created additional barriers to finding shelter both during the day and at night. This also presented barriers to providing services to this population and collecting information about these individuals.

Overall, there was a decrease in the number of households with children experiencing homelessness; domestic violence shelters noted a decline in requests for assistance attributed, in part, to survivor inability to seek assistance while the perpetrator was sheltering at home during the pandemic. There was also an increase in both the number and the *median age* of adult only households. While there are many factors involved, the reduction in overall PIT count numbers can be attributed, in part, to the federal, state and local protections in place in January 2021, including the eviction moratorium. For many who found themselves unemployed, increased unemployment assistance supported their ability to remain in their housing.

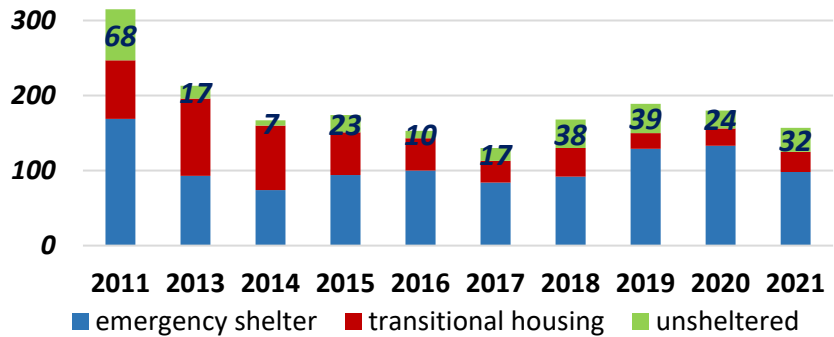
Approximately 19% (30 individuals) are chronically homeless – without housing for more than 12 months, and 40% of respondents reported that this was not their first time experiencing homelessness. Four percent of those experiencing homelessness identified as veterans.

Homelessness among School Age Children and Youth in Johnson County

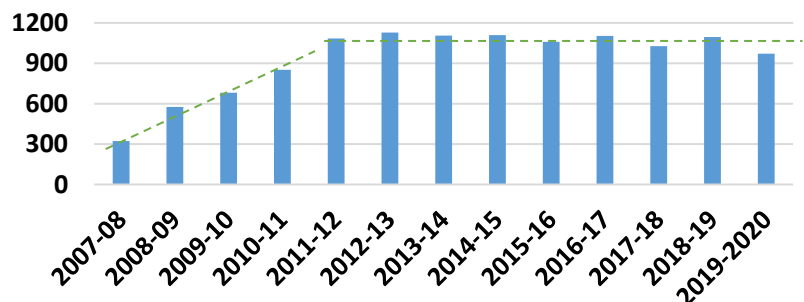
The Department of Education uses a broader definition of homelessness than the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). But like HUD, school districts are also required to count and report the number of children and youth in their district that were identified as homeless each school year. 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.

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 the school year. Numbers of students experiencing homelessness in any given year in the six school districts (SMSD, Olathe, Blue Valley, Spring Hill, Gardner-Edgerton, and DeSoto) has remained stagnant since 2011 (averaging about 1000 students per school year). In the 2019-2020 school year, there was a slight decrease of 32 students from the 2018-2019 school year.

Point in Time (PIT)
2011-2021 Housing Status



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



2020-2021 School year numbers are not available until Fall 2021 from the KS Department of Education

All data was prepared by UCS based on annual Point in Time Counts 2011-2021 and the Kansas Department of Education