



FACT SHEET: HUD's Commitment to Serving Homeless and Housing-Unstable Youth and Families

Agency Releases Report on 2014 Annualized Homelessness Data

For the past 50 years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been committed to serving our nation's most vulnerable children, youth and families. Today, these families are facing a challenge that is all too common. Communities across the country are experiencing a housing affordability crisis that has left too many people without a safe, stable home. This crisis is hurting the very families that HUD works to serve. Tackling our housing affordability crisis is critical to ensuring that every child is able to reach their full potential.

HUD and its Federal partners continue to make progress in reducing homelessness, but sustained investment and focus is critical to making lasting progress. To demonstrate the current level of need among children, youth and families experiencing homelessness, HUD today released its [2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report Part II](#). The report paints a more complete picture of the state of homelessness and housing instability for all populations, including children and families, by presenting data on homelessness on a single night and over the course of a year. These data play a critical role in helping the Federal government, States, and local communities in [reaching the national goal](#) of ending youth and family homelessness.

Comprehensive data are critical to understanding the level of need in our communities and the resources necessary to serve any person who is experiencing homelessness or housing instability. HUD values and takes into account other complementary data, like the American Housing Survey and the U.S. Department of Education's data, to paint a more accurate picture of housing instability and homelessness than any one data set can do alone.

HUD and our Federal partners are committed to using a variety of data sets—a whole picture of housing instability—to inform policy decisions. This commitment is reflected in this year's report. More robust data can also help schools and community organizations better work together locally to end youth and family homelessness by informing strategic planning, identifying needs and gaps, and highlighting where investments can be made.

To confront this nationwide challenge, HUD is strongly urging collaboration among homeless services providers, all homeless-serving organizations, school systems, schools, and educators in order to ensure closely coordinated work in support of the goals to end family and youth homelessness in 2020. Together, HUD and the Obama Administration are committed to working with our partner agencies, state and local governments, and service providers to ensure children, youth and families can access opportunity.

For more information about HUD's work to serve children, youth and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, please visit: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/>.

HUD Homeless Youth and Families Data Highlights

Source: [2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report Part II](#)

Homeless Youth:

One-Night Estimates

- Based upon the 2014 annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count, an estimated 45,205 unaccompanied children and youth were homeless on a single night in January 2014; 86.1 percent were youth ages 18 to 24, and 13.9 percent were children under 18.
- Less than half (45.6 percent) of unaccompanied homeless youth reported in the 2014 PIT count were on the streets or in other unsheltered locations on a single night in January, while a larger share (59.3 percent) of unaccompanied homeless children were unsheltered.
- Almost all homeless children reported through the 2014 PIT count were accompanied by their families, whereas the majority of homeless youth were unaccompanied. Only 4.6 percent of homeless children were unaccompanied, while about two-thirds (66.4 percent) of homeless youth were unaccompanied.
- Counts of youth homelessness are a work in progress and we are working with communities each year to improve them. While we work to best understand how to count youth and provide critical services, HUD expects that in many communities, counts will show more youth experiencing homelessness because of improved methodology. These refinements will likely make it difficult to assess data from year to year until communities and HUD are confident that the data collection is more accurate.

One-Year Estimates

- The AHAR does not currently include 1-year estimates on unaccompanied homeless children and youth. HUD is in the process of improving and updating its annual data collection on this important population and is in the process of updating its data collection on one-year estimates now. These changes will be reflected over time in the next few years.

Homeless Families with Children:

One-Night Estimates

- On a single night in January 2014, there were an estimated 216,261 people in families with children experiencing homelessness in 67,613 family households in the United States. About 37 percent of all people experiencing homelessness on a single night were in families.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the estimated number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness dropped by 2.7 percent (5,936 fewer people). The number of family households with children experiencing homelessness dropped by an estimated 4.7 percent (3,347 fewer households).
- In 2014, 88.7 percent of all people who were homeless in families with children on a single night stayed in shelter programs.
- Since 2007, the number of sheltered people in families with children on a single night increased by an estimated 7.6 percent, while the number of unsheltered dropped by an estimated 57.4 percent.

One-Year Estimates

- Based upon Homeless Management Information Systems data, in 2014, an estimated 517,416 people in 160,301 family households used shelter programs at some point during the reporting year. People in families with children comprised 34.8 percent of the total sheltered homeless population, essentially unchanged from the previous year.
- After a decline of 12.6 percent (71,620 fewer people) between 2010 and 2013, the estimated number of people in families with children using shelters increased by 4.4 percent (21,702 more people) between 2013 and 2014.
- For the first time, HUD has included data from the American Housing Survey and the Department of Education's local education agencies in this report to provide additional information about homelessness and housing instability for families.