

# 2015 Point-In-Time Homeless Count and Survey Report



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MDHA 2015 Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey Report

# **Executive Summary**

On January 22, 2015, several hundred volunteers deployed throughout Dallas and Collin Counties to conduct a survey and census of the unsheltered homeless. On the same night emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing providers counted and surveyed clients enrolled in their programs. Altogether, 3,141 homeless persons were identified in the point-in-time count (PIT). This represented an increase in homelessness of just less than 1% from 2014.

PIT counts are conducted all across the United States during the last ten days of January. This data is submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by May of each year and provides information to Congress on the progress in ending homelessness and our collective progress in achieving some of the key goals of the federal plan to end homelessness "<u>Opening Doors</u>."

Within the plan, the nation set to accomplish four goals to (1) finish the job of ending chronic homelessness, (2) prevent and end veteran homelessness, (3) prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children, and (4) set a path to ending all types of homelessness. In our local 2015 PIT count, survey results indicated that chronic homelessness had increased by 26% from 489 to 615 persons. Veteran homelessness, on the other hand, decreased by 32% from 335 to 291. The number of households with children decreased by 26% and the proportion of children under age 18 that made up the total PIT count population of homeless decreased from 22% to 20%.

The Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) is designated as the local Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency providing two core federally mandated functions to serve as the collaborative applicant of the HUD annual Continuum of Care Program Grant of \$17 million, and to serve as the administrator of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The HMIS is a client database and information system where comprehensive data on persons experiencing homelessness is collected to provide the community with information related to the nature and extent of homelessness as well as provide performance reporting on the effectiveness of housing and services programs. The PIT count is derived from both HMIS and survey data.

MDHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Dallas and Collin counties by building an effective homeless response system in partnership with member organizations, homeless service providers, advocates, the faith-based community, and local, state and federal government agencies with the mission to prevent and end homelessness. MDHA engages nonprofit and public service organizations, policy makers, people experiencing homelessness and the public to make continuous progress toward its mission.

MDHA appreciates the valuable support of the City of Dallas in conducting the count for the city of Dallas. The City's Department of Housing and Community Services, the Dallas Police Department including the Crisis Intervention Team make the Annual Dallas Count possible.

Heartfelt thanks goes to the 287 volunteers who served in a variety of roles on the night of the Count; to the staff members of the 68 participating agencies; and to the 55 data entry volunteers who helped enter 4,147 surveys this year that came from the entire Dallas and Collin counties area.

Special thanks to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and The Real Estate Council Foundation (TREC) for their volunteer and financial support.

# Methodology

The annual Point-In-Time Homeless Count and Survey is a community initiative to gather and analyze data on homelessness in Dallas and Collin Counties. The information is used by healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups and local, state and federal governmental agencies. This report is related to the entire CoC geographical area, which includes Dallas and Collin Counties.

Each year, MDHA works with local service providers, the Collin County Homeless Coalition, and the cities of Garland, Irving and Mesquite to conduct a comprehensive census of persons at each emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supporting housing projects that are dedicated exclusively for homeless populations, and those persons unsheltered and living in places not meant for human habitation. Volunteers visit outdoor encampments where homeless people live. The volunteers gather additional information from those who agree to be surveyed. The information provides a snapshot of homelessness in our CoC on a given night. However, it does not represent everyone experiencing homelessness because many cannot be located.

# **2015 Highlights**

The 2015 results and comparisons with previous counts help identify trends, successes and challenges ahead. The report includes the following findings:

- The number of **chronically homeless** persons **increased 26%** in the past year. Chronicity is defined as an adult having been homeless a year or more, or at least four times in the past three years where the aggregate amount of time homeless is at least a year and the person has a disabling condition.
- **Unsheltered** homelessness, meaning persons that are residing in places not meant for human habitation, such as in tents, under overpasses, in a vehicle or abandoned building **increased to 363** from 242 in 2014. Weather is often a direct determinant on persons found on the night of the count as persons may seek emergency shelter or seek warmth in 24-hour businesses or abandoned buildings inaccessible to volunteers.
- The total homeless population number of 3,141 decreased from 3,314 reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2014. However, the 2015 number does not include those living in permanent supportive housing or substance abuse treatment centers. *Treatment centers were reported in 2014. When applying the same homeless definition standards to both the 2014 and 2015 data set, there is a <u>slight increase in homelessness from 3,112 to 3,141.</u>*
- Of homeless adults who answered surveys, **25%** reported becoming homeless for the first time within the last year.
- The 291 Veterans experiencing homelessness represented **13%** of the total homeless population living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens or unsheltered. This is a **32% reduction in veteran homelessness** from 2014.
- The number of homeless **families decreased by 26%.** 349 households were homeless in 2015 compared to 476 in 2014. A household is defined as containing at least one adult and one child.
- The count identified **12** chronically homeless families, those homeless longer than one year where the head of household has a disability. All of the 29 persons in chronic families were housed in emergency shelters.
- 28 unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 and meeting the HUD homeless definition were identified in 2015 compared to zero in 2014. Additional information on youth homelessness under the broader U.S. Department of Education homeless definition which includes runaways, youth unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, or living with family or friends, decreased to 411 in 2015.

# Analysis

Beginning in 2015, MDHA presented information from the homeless count, an inventory of housing resources, homeless surveys and surveys of homeless service providers in a <u>State of the Homeless Address</u>. These information sources assist in the understanding of the needs and gaps in the homeless response system, which provide the framework for the development of the <u>Continuum of Care Strategic Work Plan</u>.

## Limitations of PIT Count Data

The point-in-time count information represents a measurement of demand for services and is compared to prior counts. It is acknowledged that there are limitations to point-intime count information. MDHA emphasizes the need to apply a common methodology each January following federal guidelines and standards. However, some portion of change year-to-year could be impacted by other factors such as changes to the survey consumer comprehension of survey questions, federal definition differences, the number of volunteers available and even the weather. However, when taking the count in context of qualitative survey information and inventory of housing resources, we are able to provide valuable insight into how the landscape of homelessness is changing over time.

#### Federal Goals to End Homelessness

When comparing results in the Dallas area to other large metropolitan areas, some trends are consistent across the country. One example is the common reduction in veteran homelessness. These results are due to very deliberate actions in both policy, appropriations, and local efforts. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) and Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) programs have added hundreds of permanent and permanent supportive housing beds into the community combined with very aggressive outreach and engagement activities to get to the goal of ending veteran homelessness by December 2015.

Family homelessness is increasing or remaining unchanged in most communities resulting in new strategies such as Rapid Rehousing to try and quickly return families back into mainstream private housing. Many communities converted transitional housing programs to rapid rehousing which directly impacted count numbers by definition because HUD classifies participants of transitional housing programs within our coC were not yet launched on January 22. There will be an impact on homeless numbers in the 2016 count when these programs are in operation and transitional housing programs end.

Throughout the nation, there are many reports of success in the reduction of chronic homelessness. The strategies that are yielding these results are much like those in ending veteran homelessness - committing more housing resources and specifically targeting outreach and enrollment efforts to this subpopulation. Our CoC has recently adopted commitment and prioritization strategies that should result in significant reductions in the number of persons that are chronically homeless over the next 18 months. Action steps include further implementation of a coordinated assessment and access system and the development of one centralized permanent supportive housing *MDHA 2015 Annual "Point-in-Time" Homeless Count Report - Page 7* 

wait list that is prioritized for persons with the longest lengths of stay in homelessness and presenting with the most severe supportive service needs.

#### What We Do Not Know

The 2012 HEARTH Act Interim Rule that guides the planning, distribution and monitoring of Continuum of Care program funding, included the definition of a "high performing community." The criteria of the HUD designation is based on three fundamental performance indicators: (1) the number of homeless, (2) the length of stay in homelessness, and (3) the rate of returns to homelessness.

In May 2015, HUD presented the opportunity in the national registration process for 2015 Continuum of Care Program funding CoCs to apply for *high performing community* designation. To apply, a CoC would have to demonstrate through a report of 24 - 36 months of aggregated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data the following measures:

- The average length of stay in homelessness in the CoC is less than 20 days, or it has fallen by at least 10 percent in the past year;
- Less than 5 percent of people leaving homelessness become homeless again within the next 2 years, or the percentage of people doing so has fallen by at least 20 percent in the past year; and
- The HMIS has both a bed coverage rate and service coverage rate of at least 80 percent.

The Dallas/Collin County and City of Irving CoC does not have a single HMIS system or at least 80% HMIS participation rates in place to produce this information. The significance of not having a single HMIS system is a barrier to an efficient homeless response system and is thus a priority item in the CoC Strategic Work Plan.

# MDHA 2015 Point-in-Time Homeless Count for the Continuum of Care

## **Total Homeless Population**

MDHA reported **3,141** homeless individuals within the Continuum of Care (CoC), which includes Dallas and Collin Counties, on January 22, 2015 living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, safe havens, on the streets or in abandoned buildings. In addition, MDHA reported **2,494** *formerly homeless* people living in permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing programs, which are classified as persons in permanent housing. Persons in permanent housing dedicated exclusively for the formerly homeless do not meet the federal definition of homelessness, however, their enrollments provide critical occupancy information of available housing resources, and survey information provides important insight into improvement of their housing stability.

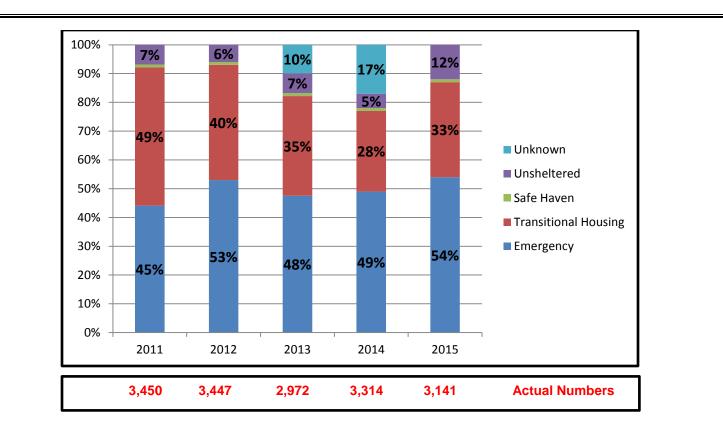
People who are counted as homeless under HUD's definition are those who are:

- unsheltered and living in places not meant for human habitation such as: on the street, parks, and under bridges, in abandoned buildings, in airport or bus terminals
- in homeless emergency shelters
- in transitional housing dedicated exclusively for persons experiencing homelessness

Examples of persons who are not homeless under the HUD definition are those who are:

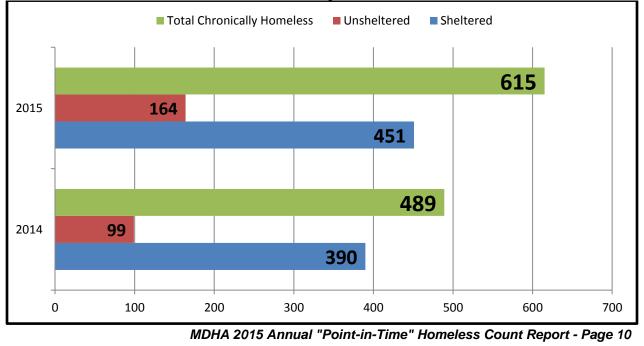
- persons doubled-up and residing with friends or families
- persons incarcerated
- persons in in-patient treatment facilities
- persons in hospitals or other institutional care
- persons in group homes or boarding homes

The chart below demonstrates the progress being made to homelessness. In 2014, several housing programs that were included in the PIT count that are in-patient treatment facilities were not included in the 2015 official PIT count. Had they not been included in 2014, that PIT count would have been 3,112 (rather than the reported 3,314) Therefore MDHA is reporting that overall, the change in homelessness year-to-year, is actually a change of an increase of just less than 1%, an increase of 29 persons.



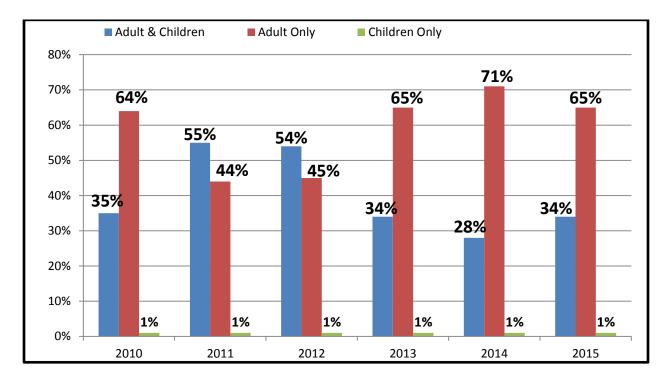
# **Chronic Homeless Population**

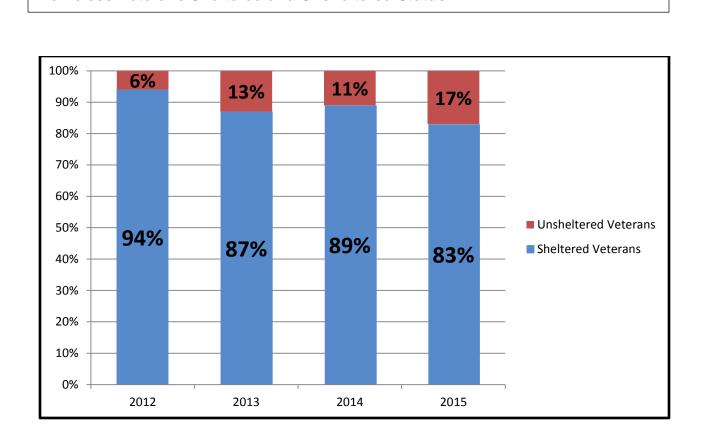
In 2015, there were **615 chronically homeless individuals (586 single adults and 29 persons in families)**. The total number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness had declined in recent years and 2015 represents a significant increase in just one year. It is important to note that the calculation of chronic homelessness is taken from survey information of self-reports of the presence of a disabling condition and time spent homeless. Before committing housing resources to this targeted subpopulation, documentation of homelessness and disabling condition must be verified.



#### **Homeless Families**

The data below offers a view of the familial status of the actual homeless population by grouping: single adults, those with children and unaccompanied children. Though many persons in homelessness are not in households with children, survey results indicated that they were parents. Families appear to be breaking up at the front door of homelessness, thus increasing the number of homeless individuals. Trends are emerging where children are going to live with other family members or in shelters for youth while the adults in the family are moving into shelter. The following chart demonstrates the percentages in the types of households experiencing homeless during the past six years.





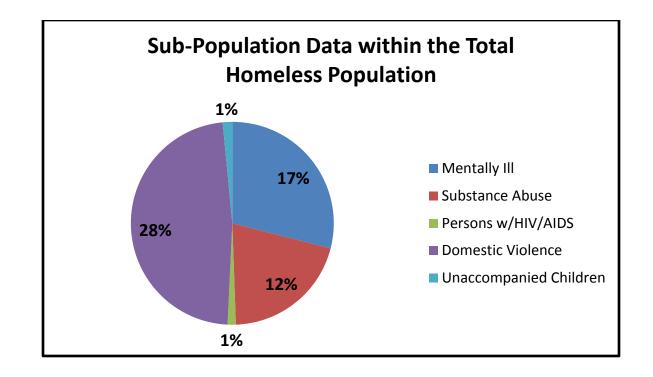
Homeless Veterans Sheltered and Unsheltered Status

This year's Count revealed 49 veterans living in places not meant for human habitation. Unsheltered veterans are a priority and the CoC in conjunction with other area Veterans Affairs programs is working toward achieving functional zero\* by the end of 2015 for veterans. The goal will be met through the VASH voucher program, other CoC programs, and community programs specifically serving homeless veterans.

\*According to our partner Community Solutions, the coordinator of the national Zero 2016 project, functional zero is defined for homeless Veterans or the chronically homeless as: At any point-in-time, the number of veterans or chronically homeless sheltered in an emergency shelter, a transitional housing or safe haven program and those unsheltered will be no greater than the current monthly housing placement rate for those experiencing homelessness.

The housing placement rate is defined as: The twelve (12) month rolling average of veterans and/or chronically homeless people that were placed into housing. This number is used to ensure that a community remains at functional zero. The monthly housing placement rate should be greater than or equal to the community's monthly housing placement goal.

The chart below illustrates the predominance of circumstances that can lead to homelessness. One notable increase is the number of persons reporting domestic violence abuse.



# All Housing Categories – Point in Time Count Surveys

The following report information is derived from surveys of persons in permanent supportive housing, in substance abuse treatment facilities and hospitals.

#### Survey / Sample Size

In 2015, **4,147 surveys** were completed, representing a 4.5% increase compared to the number of surveys completed last year, and 5,502 **people**, a 2.5% increase from 2014. Respondents included those residing in substance abuse treatment centers, hospitals and permanent supportive housing and are not considered homeless by HUD homeless definition.

#### Adult Population

- **4,210 Adults** were represented on the surveys.
- Adults made up 77% of the total homeless population.
- 9% reported having formerly been in foster care.

2015 - Total Adults of Known Gender						
Number / % Adult Adult Transgender Transgender Total Known						

	Males	Females	Female to Male	Male to Female	Gender
Number	2,408	1,783	3	11	4,205
% of Known Gender	57%	42%	<1%	<1%	100%

2015 Total Adults of Known Race						Ethnicity
	Black	White	Multi-	Other	Total Known	Hispanic
Number / %			Race		Race	
Number	2,500	1,506	76	100	4,182	323
% of Known						
Race	60%	36%	2%	2%	100%	8%

# Age of Homeless Adults

The average age of the adult homeless population in 2015 is 47 years old.

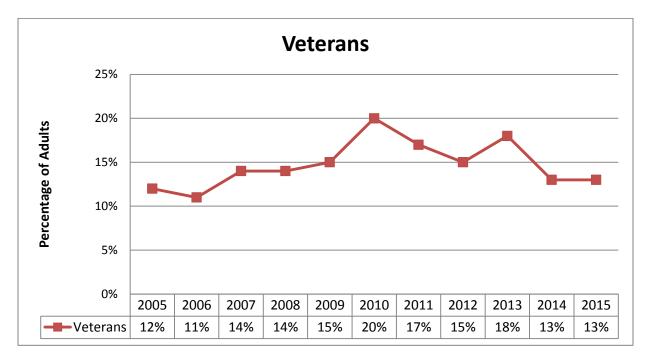
2015 - Total Adults of Known Age				
Age	Number	% of Total		
		Known Age		
18-24 Years	331	8%		
25-29 Years	324	8%		
30-39 Years	700	17%		
40-49 Years	774	19%		
50-59 Years	1,316	32%		
60-69 Years	568	14%		
70 + Years	48	2%		
Total Known Age	4,061	100%		

# Marital Status of Surveyed Homeless Population

2015 - Total Known Marital Status					
Marital Status	Number	% of Total			
Divorced	869	22%			
Married	93	2%			
Separated	325	8%			
Single	2,560	65%			
Widowed	127	3%			
Total Known Marital Status	3,974	100%			

#### Veterans

The percentage of adults surveyed who reported U.S. Veteran status remained consistent with 2014 at 13%



In 2015, 522 survey respondents reported being veterans. Of those, 262 were living in emergency shelter or transitional housing and 49 were unsheltered. Another 211 were living in permanent supportive housing, a drug treatment center or hospital. Of those, 21% were determined to be chronically homeless individuals. 24 of the unsheltered veterans were chronically homeless.

As the community becomes more aware of the needs of veterans, it is important to understand the veteran's population in comparison to the total homeless adult population.

# Comparison of Veteran Demographics to the Overall Homeless Population

Veterans	Veteran Sub-Population as a % of the Total Homeless Adult Population				
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	
% of Total:	15%	18%	13%	13%	
Female:	3%	2%	2%	2%	
Male:	16%	13%	12%	11%	
Transgender Male to Female:				<1%	
Black:	9%	10%	8%	7%	
White:	6%	4%	4%	5%	
Multi-Racial	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	
Other Race:	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	
Hispanic	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	
Substance Abuse:	23%	10%	6%	6%	
Mental Illness:	22%	8%	6%	6%	
Physical Disability:	22%	6%	<1%	3%	

# Child / Youth Population

- 685 survey respondents indicated that they had children living with them on the night of the count, which was an increase of 1% from 2014. This information was not correlated to HMIS and agency PIT count reports. This discrepancy can likely be a result that some adults responding to the survey misunderstood the question and responded that they did have children, but they were actually not with them on the night of the count. Official PIT count data showed a decrease in the number of households with children presenting as homeless as 349 households of 1,073 persons.
- Independent school district homeless data reports identified 411 unaccompanied children representing an 18% decrease from 2014 to 2015. 28 unaccompanied youth were reported from agency PIT count reports, 17 in emergency shelters and 11 in transitional housing.
  - 17 of the Unaccompanied Children were represented on surveys.
  - 80 of the Unaccompanied Children were identified by Dallas ISD
  - 273 of the Unaccompanied Children were identified by Grand Prairie ISD
  - 41 of the Unaccompanied Children were identified by Irving ISD

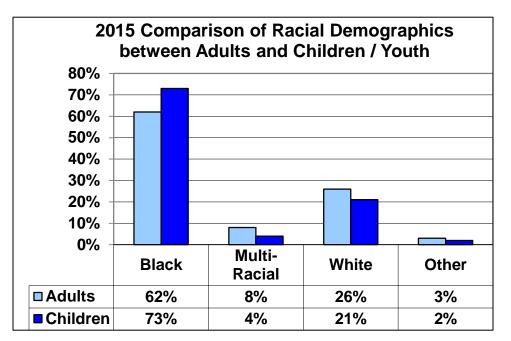
Duncanville, Highland Park, and Richardson reported 0 Unaccompanied Children.

 In 2015, children and youth made up 23% of the total homeless population, down 1% from 2014.

2015 - Total Children / Youth of Known Gender					
Number / % Minor Males Minor Females Total Known Gender					
Number	603	643	1,246		
% of Known Gender	48%	52%	100%		

2015 Total Children / Youth of Known Race						Ethnicity
	Black	White	Multi-	Other	Total Known	Hispanic
Number / %			Race		Race	
Number	916	259	49	25	1,249	186
% of Known						
Race	73%	21%	4%	2%	100%	

The following table illustrates that, for the ninth year, there appears to be an overrepresentation of homeless Hispanic children and youth as compared to the adult homeless Hispanic population.



According to the table on the following page, the largest representation of children was in the age groups of 1 - 9 years. This age group along with those less than one year represented 64% of homeless children.

2015 - Total Children / Youth of Known Ages						
Age	Number	% of Total Known Age				
< 1 Year	46	4%				
1-3 Years	257	20%				
4-6 Years	252	20%				
7-9 Years	252	20%				
10-12 Years	198	16%				
13-15 Years	176	14%				
16-17 Years	83	6%				
Total Known Age:	1,264	100%				

#### Dallas and Collin County Schools Information Related to Student Homelessness

In an effort to provide a more comprehensive picture of homelessness among children in Dallas and Collin County schools were requested to provide data on students experiencing homelessness.

The MDHA CoC Youth Taskforce members continue to make progress in locating youth experiencing homelessness. Taskforce member agencies support homeless student drop-in centers in the four Dallas ISD high schools and two middle schools with the goal of keeping the students engaged so they can complete their educations and be better prepared for self-sufficiency as adults.

A small percentage of the students reporting homelessness were housed in transitional housing programs for homeless families, but the majority was living in a "doubled-up" or "couch surfing" situation. There were 6,114 homeless students reported in Collin and Dallas counties during the current school year as of the January 2015 PIT count date.

The Department of Education uses a broader definition for homelessness than that utilized by HUD. Most notably, the Department of Education includes additional provisions for persons who:

- share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.<sup>1</sup>

The numbers below represent homeless children reported by participating Dallas and Collin County schools who did not complete PIT surveys during the count. Information for the Collin County schools came from the Homeless Census report published by the Collin County Homeless Coalition.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> *Questions and Answers on Special Education & Homelessness*. U.S. Department of Education. February, 2008. http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/spec-ed-homelessness-q-a.doc

School	Total # of Homeless Children Enrolled in Dallas County Schools					
	2014	2015	% of Change			
Dallas ISD	2,452	2,242	-9%			
Duncanville ISD	30	44	+47%			
Garland ISD	208	No Report				
Grand Prairie ISD	1,342	1,566	+17%			
Highland Park	0	0	0%			
Irving ISD	837	520	-38%			
Mesquite ISD	375	No Report				
Richardson ISD	No Report	95				
Winfree Academy Charter Schools	47	69	+46%			
Total	5,291	4,536				

School	# of Unaccompanied Children 17 and younger enrolled in school on the day of the Count in Dallas County Schools					
	2014	2015	% of Change			
Dallas ISD	122	80	-34%			
Duncanville ISD	0	0	0%			
Garland ISD	75	No Report				
Grand Prairie	171	272	+59%			
ISD						
Highland Park	0	0	0%			
ISD						
Irving ISD	90	40	-56%			
Mesquite ISD	2	No Report				
Richardson ISD	No Report	0				
Winfree	14	No Report				
Academy		-				
Charter Schools						
Total	474	392				

School	Total # of Homeless Children Enrolled in Collin County Schools			
		2015		
Frisco ISD		137		
McKinney ISD		1,081		
Plano ISD		360		
Total		1,578		

Fully documenting the presence of youth homelessness at the school level is critical to understand the nature and extent of homelessness and to develop effective interventions.

# **Unaccompanied Children from Point-in-Time Count Surveys**

The number of surveyed Unaccompanied Children decreased by 11 from the 2014 Count.

2015 – Known Ages of Children						
Age	Number	% of Total Known Age				
2 Year	2	11%				
14 Years	1	6%				
15 Years	6	35%				
16 Years	4	24%				
17 Years	4	24%				
Total Known Age:	17	100%				

2015 - Known Gender of Youth						
Number / %	Minor Males	Minor Females	Total Known Gender			
Number	5	12	17			
% of Known Gender	29%	71	100%			

2015 - Known Race of Youth								
BlackWhiteAmericanTotal KnownNumber / %IndianOtherRace								
			inuian	Other	Rate			
Number	8	9	0	0	17			
% of Known	47%	53	0%	0%	100%			
Race								

# Causes of Homelessness based on the Point-In-Time Count Surveys

When asked to provide reasons why they were homeless, respondents provided the following information. The main cause remains, as in previous years, "*Unemployed, Lost Job*."

Se	Self-Reported Cause of Homelessness						
		% of			% of		
Reason Homeless	Number	Total	Reason Homeless	Number	Total		
Unemployed, Lost Job	767	18%	Ex-offender	103	2%		
Not Enough Money	550	13%	Divorce	92	2%		
(Poverty)							
Substance Abuse	508	12%	Legal Problems	49	1%		
Domestic Abuse	398	10%	Aged Out of Foster	41	1%		
			Care				
Family Problems	356	9%	Abandonment	39	1%		
Mental Illness	295	7%	Foreclosure	36	1%		
Other	280	7%	Physical Injury	36	1%		
Eviction/Thrown Out	210	5%	Disaster	35	1%		
Medical Disability	180	4%	Sex-offender	19	<1%		
Released from	139	3%	Hospital Discharge	15	<1%		
Jail/Prison							

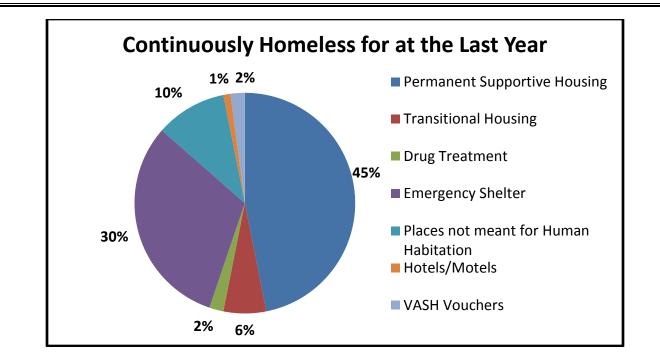
# Frequency / Duration of Homelessness

#### **Continuously Homeless for the Last Year**

• 2,435 respondents (59%) indicated that they had been homeless for at least one year, an increase from the 22% reported in 2014.

Of all survey respondents who provided sufficient information to determine where they were living:

- 1,138 (47%) were living in Permanent Supportive Housing
- 152 (6%) were living in Transitional Housing
- 57 (2%) were living in Drug Treatment
- 755 (31%) were living in Emergency Shelter
- 259 (11%) were living Places not meant for human habitation
- 16 (1%) were living in Motels or Other Locations
- 58 (2%) were living with the assistance of VASH Vouchers

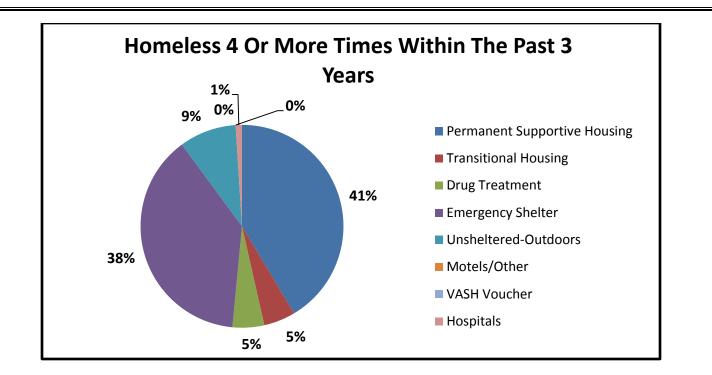


# Homeless Four or More Times within the Past Three Years

• 350 respondents (1%) indicated that they had been homeless four (4) or more times in the past three (3) years.

Of the survey respondents who provided sufficient information to determine where they were living:

- 146 (41%) were living in Permanent Supportive Housing
- 16 (5%) were living in Transitional Housing
- 16 (5%) were living in Drug / Alcohol Treatment
- 135 (38%) were living in Emergency Shelter
- 34 (9%) were living Outdoors or in Abandoned Buildings
- 2 (<1%) were living in Motels or Other Locations</p>
- 1 (<1%) were living with the assistance of VASH Vouchers</p>

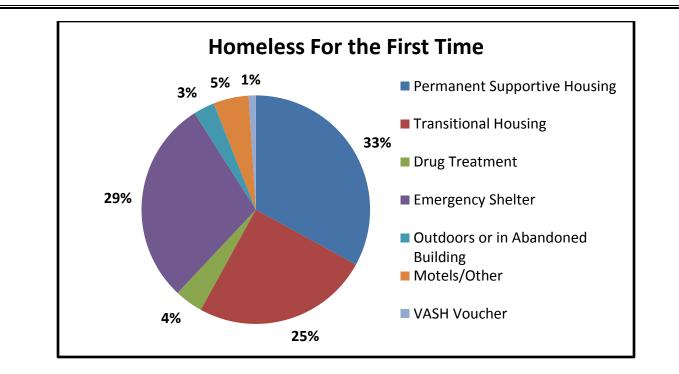


# **Homeless for the First Time**

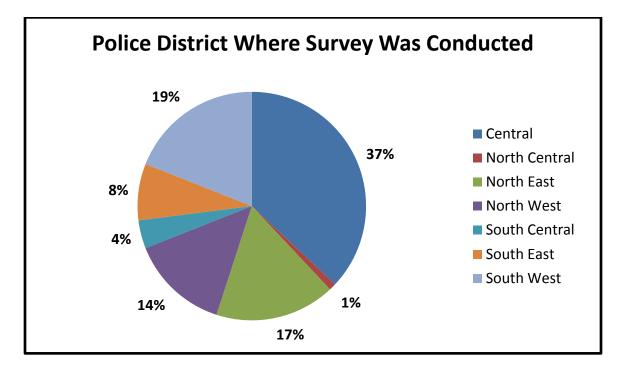
• **1,304 respondents (31%)** indicated that they had become **homeless for the first time in the past 12 months**, down from 35% in 2014.

Of the respondents who provided sufficient information to determine where they were living:

- 227 (17%) were living in Permanent Supportive Housing
- 239 (18%) were living in Transitional Housing
- 33 ( 3%) were living in Drug / Alcohol Treatment
- 643 (49%) were living in Emergency Shelter
- 133 (10%) were living Outdoors or in Abandoned Buildings
- 20 (2%) were living in Motels or Other Locations
- 9 (1%) were living with the assistance of VASH Vouchers



# **City of Dallas Survey Location**



The number of homeless individuals in the City of Dallas Central Police District has declined.

# **Geographical Origin of Homelessness**

3,813 households reported the city and state where they became homeless.

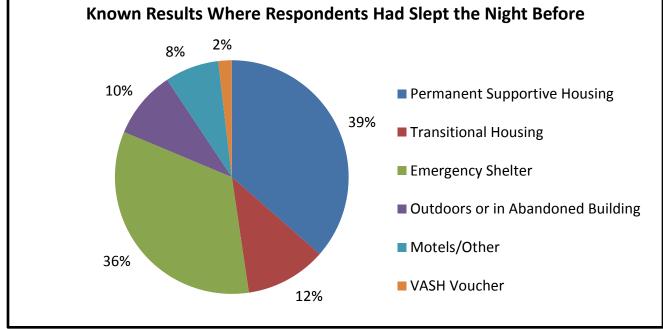
- 2,875 households became homeless in Dallas, TX.
- **177 households** became homeless in Dallas County (not including Dallas, TX).
- **499 households** became homeless outside of Dallas County, but within the State of Texas.

259 **households** moved to Dallas after becoming homeless elsewhere. The chart below shows the number of households who became homeless in another state.

	Original State of Homelessness							
State	# of House- holds	% of total	State	# of House- holds	% of total			
Alabama	4	2%	Nevada	9	3%			
Arizona	7	3%	New Hampshire	2	1%			
Arkansas	9	3%	New Jersey	3	1%			
California	27	10%	New Mexico	1	<1%			
Colorado	3	1%	New York	11	4%			
Florida	10	4%	North Carolina	6	2%			
Georgia	10	4%	Ohio	14	5%			
Illinois	7	3%	Oklahoma	15	6%			
Indiana	3	1%	Oregon	5	2%			
Iowa	1	<1%	Pennsylvania	6	2%			
Kansas	2	1%	Puerto Rico	1	<1%			
Kentucky	1	<1%	Rhode Island	1	<1%			
Louisiana	30	11%	South Carolina	4	2%			
Maryland	4	2%	Tennessee	17	6%			
Michigan	7	3%	Virginia	3	1%			
Minnesota	4	2%	Washington	1	<1%			
Mississippi	12	5%	Washington, DC	2	1%			
Missouri	12	5%	Wisconsin	4	2%			
Nebraska	1	<1%	Outside the USA	3	1%			

The top three states of origin of out of state homeless are from California, Louisiana and Oklahoma. These are the same top three states as identified in other Texas CoC point-in-time counts.

# Sleep Location Night before Count



# **Chronic Homeless Population**

The number of chronically homeless individuals in our CoC increased 26% from 2014 from 489 to 615.

# Comparison of Chronic Homeless to the Overall Homeless Population

Below is a comparison of selected demographics in the total homeless population and the chronic homeless population responding to the survey:

Characteristic	Homeless Population Surveyed			Characteristic			Homele n Surve		
	2012	2013	2014	2015		2012	2013	2014	2015
Male:	59%	45%	58%	55%	Male:	59%	45%	58%	71%
Female:	41%	55%	42%	44%	Female:	41%	55%	42%	28%
Transgender Female to Male				0%	Transgender Female to Male				0%
Transgender Male to Female:				1%	Transgender Male to Female:				1%
Black:	59%	64%	64%	63%	Black:	61%	57%	65%	53%
White:	30%	24%	28%	32%	White:	33%	32%	30%	40%
Other :	4%	8%	5%	5%	Other :	3%	4%	4%	7%
Hispanic:	7%	4%	10%	9%	Hispanic:	3%	7%	6%	7%
Substance Abuse:	42%	31%	22%	25%	Substance Abuse:	61%	46%	46%	33%
Mental Illness:	42%	36%	33%	31%	Mental Illness:	62%	53%	63%	51%

#### **Population Characteristics**

Respondents completed a personal profile that applied to them and/or their spouses.

Below are survey responses from the adults and the unaccompanied children.

Population Characteristics						
Category	Number	% of Total*	Category	Number	% of Total*	
Employed (Working right now)	1,122	26%	Substance Abuse Alcohol	684	16%	
Unemployed (No job at all)	3,111	73%	Substance Abuse- Drugs	904	21%	
Ex-Offender	1,007	24%	Mental Illness	1,713	40%	
On Parole	143	3%	HIV/AIDS	140	3%	
On Probation	199	5%	Domestic Violence	1,182	7%	
Veteran	522	13%	No Schooling Complete	1,090	28%	
Chronic Illness	587	14%	High School Diploma/GED	2,105	50%	
Substance Abuse Alcohol	222	17%	Post-Secondary School	826	19%	
Developmental Disability	141	5%	Ever Been in Foster Care	374	9%	
Physically Disabled	703	17%	Total Respondents	4,238		
*These percentages were g	athered based on	the total nun	nber of adults and unaccompani	ed children repr	esented on	

\*These percentages were gathered based on the total number of adults and unaccompanied children represented on the surveys. However, not everyone who completed a survey provided answers to the questions in this section.

The percentage of respondents indicating *Unemployed, (No job at all)* increased 5% from 2014 to 73%. It should be noted that over 24% of the population reported are exoffenders, which presents a significant barrier to both employment and sustainable housing.

The percentage of adults who are reporting veteran status continues to decrease. Veterans made up 13% of this year's total homeless adult population.

#### Benefits Being Received

Respondents were asked to indicate benefits they were currently receiving at the time of the survey. The list below is expanded from previous years to more fully represent services being received. Some survey respondents indicated receipt of more than one benefit. Below are the responses, based on the number of surveys received.

Benefit	Number	% of Total*
SNAP (Food Stamps)	1,718	41%
Medicaid	844	20%
SSI	669	16%
SSDI	433	10%
Public Housing	332	8%
Medicare	328	8%
VA Healthcare	140	3%
Other Sources	132	3%
TX CHIP	120	3%
Child Support	113	3%
Veterans Disability Income	109	3%
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)	83	2%
WIC (Women, Infants and Children)	72	2%
TANF Childcare	45	1%
TX Department of Rehabilitation Services	19	<1%
Unemployment Insurance	15	<1%
Pension From A Former Job	12	<1%
TANF Transportation	12	<1%
Worker's Compensation	4	<1%
Other TANF Funded Services	2	<1%

\* These percentages were gathered based on the total number of surveys. However, not everyone who completed a survey provided answers to the questions in this section. In addition, not everyone who completed a survey qualifies to receive all of these services for themselves or other members of their household.

### **Benefits / Services Still Needed**

Respondents were asked to indicate which benefits and / or services they needed at the time the survey was completed.

Benefits and Services Still Needed					
Benefit/Service	Number	% of Total	Benefit/Service	Number	% of Total
Bus Passes	1,077	26%	SSDI	256	6%
Job Placement	1,015	24%	Emotional Support	253	6%
Dental Care	1,007	24%	Child Support	246	6%
Permanent Housing (not for disabled)	816	18%	Transitional Housing	242	6%
Transportation	740	16%	Laundry Facilities	239	6%
Job Training	643	16%	Emergency Food	223	5%
Medical Care	605	15%	Phone #/Voicemail	217	5%
Food Stamps	538	13%	Place to Store Belongings	198	5%
Clothing	453	11%			4%
Birth Certificate	450	11%	11% GED Options		4%
Permanent Supportive Housing	406	Shower		130	3%
Educational Options	381	9%	9% Unemployment Benefits		3%
Life Skills	343	8%	TANF	98	2%
Picture ID	334	8%	Substance Abuse Treatment	81	2%
Case Management	311	7%	Tutoring	74	2%
Legal Aid	286	7%	7% VA Disability Income		1%
Childcare	281	7%	7% WIC		1%
Hygiene Supplies	279	7%	VA Health Care 2		1%
Social Security Card	274	7%	Mental Health Care 19 <1%		<1%
SSI	266	6%	Worker's18<1%Compensation		<1%

\* These percentages were gathered based on the total number of surveys. However, not everyone who completed a survey provided answers to the questions in this section. In addition, not everyone who completed a survey qualifies to receive all of these services for themselves or other members of their household.

As indicated by the table on the previous page, the top five (5) benefits requested by all respondents remain the same as in previous years although they reposition in priority each year.

Additionally, respondents were asked to rank the benefits and service needs. The following list is based on the top ten (10) number one priorities

Top 10 #1 requests from all surveys were:

- 1. Permanent Housing (not for disabled)
- 2. Dental Care
- 3. Job Placement
- 4. Bus Passes
- 5. Permanent Supportive Housing
- 6. Childcare
- 7. Birth Certificate
- 8. Medical Care
- 9. Transportation
- 10. Food Stamps

The above list indicates basic needs and services essential to support those experiencing homelessness. These include housing, access to medical and dental care plus services for families needing childcare.

The following table indicates the benefits and services requested from those in emergency shelters and those unsheltered.

Top 5 Benefits and Services Still Needed					
Emergency Shelters			Unsheltered		
		% of			
Benefits/Needs	Number	Total	<b>Benefits/Needs</b>	Number	Total
Bus Passes	617	41%	Photo ID	100	29%
Dental Care	466	31%	Job Placement	83	24%
Permanent Housing ( <i>not for disabled</i> )	443	30%	Birth Certificate	80	23%
Job Placement	372	25%	Social Security Card	70	20%
Transportation	363	24%	Permanent Housing ( <i>not for disabled</i> )	60	17%

# **Glossary of Terms**

**Chronic Substance Abuse** – Includes persons with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both) that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.

**Chronically Homeless Individual** – An unaccompanied homeless adult individual (persons 18 years or older) with a disabling condition (see definition below) who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter/Safe Haven during that time. Persons under the age of 18 are not counted as chronically homeless.

**Chronically Homeless Family** – A household where the head of household has a disabling condition (see definition below) and who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter/Safe Haven during that time.

**Continuum of Care (CoC)** – A collaborative funding and planning approach that helps communities plan for and provide, as necessary, a full range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and other service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons. HUD also refers to the group of community stakeholders involved in the decision-making processes as the "Continuum of Care."

**Continuum of Care Lead Agency –** Agency or organization designated by the CoC primary decision-making body to be the entity that submits the CoC application. The CoC lead agency is responsible for the coordination and oversight of the CoC planning efforts, and has the authority to certify and submit the CoC homeless assistance funding application.

**Disabling Condition** – Any one of (1) a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act; (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment which is (a) expected to be of long continued and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and (c) of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; (3) a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; (4) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or (5) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder.

**Persons with HIV/AIDS** – Includes persons who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.

**Severely Mentally III** – Includes persons with mental health problems that are expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.

**Unaccompanied Child (under age 18)** – Includes persons under the age of 18 with a household size of one.

**Veteran** – Includes persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

**Victims of Domestic Violence** – Includes persons who have been victims of domestic violence at any point in the past.

# Acknowledgements

MDHA would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their assistance in making the 2015 Dallas Homeless Count and Census a success.

## **Organizations Providing Resources and Planning Assistance**

**City of Dallas** – event support through preparation of materials, meeting space, and volunteers

**Community Dental Care** – donated toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss for delivery to the outdoor homeless participating in the survey

**DART** – donated plastic bags containing water bottles, hats, and socks to be used by The Stewpot to prepare the bags for distribution

**Dallas Police Department** – provision of 35 officers to escort survey volunteers and training assistance for the volunteers plus identification of encampments and organizational support from the **Crisis Intervention Team** 

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated** – provision of over 15 women to survey

homeless clients and perform data entry Metrocare Services and The Department of Veterans Affairs – assistance with the

identification of encampment locations and surveying of remote areas during the Count **Texas Real Estate Council Foundation** – underwriting of the event through financial

support and volunteers

**The Stewpot** – preparation of 200 "thank you" bags for distribution to those unsheltered the night of the Count

# A Special Thank You to Those in Our Community Experiencing Homelessness

We especially want to thank those citizens experiencing homelessness who were willing to share their personal experiences so a better understanding of the challenges they face daily can be gained and whose stories remind us that these numbers and statistics represent a human condition that must be remedied.

68 Agencies Participated in the Count					
ABC Behavioral Healthcare	Dallas 24 Hour Club	Homeward Bound	Richardson ISD		
AIDS Services of Dallas	Dallas Housing Authority	Hope's Door	Promise House		
Austin Street Center	Dallas ISD	Housing Crisis Center	Salvation Army		
Blake's House	Dallas Life	Interfaith Housing Coalition	Shared Housing		
Bridges Safe House	Duncanville ISD	Irving ISD	Soul's Harbor		
Brighter Tomorrows	Emily's Place	Magdalen House	Texas Muslims Women's Foundation		
City House	Exodus Ministries	McKinney ISD	The Bridge		
CitySquare	Family Gateway	Metrocare Services	The Family Place		
City of Dallas	Family Promise of Collin County & Irving	Mosaic Family Services	The Samaritan Inn		
City of Frisco	Frisco ISD	Nehemiah's House	The Stewpot		
City of Garland	Garland ISD	New Beginning Center	Turtle Creek Recovery Center		
City of Irving	Genesis Women's Center	Nexus Recovery Center	Under 1 Roof		
City of McKinney	Good Samaritans of Garland	Operation Relief Center	Union Gospel Mission		
City of Mesquite	Grand Prairie ISD	Our Friend's Place	Veterans Affairs		
City of Plano	Green Oaks Hospital	Parkland Hospital	Vogel Alcove		
Dallas County	Highland Park ISD	Plano ISD	Winfree Academy Charter Schools		

	287 Volunteers C			Byon Ballemin
Adam Canalas	Charles Huitt	Jerry Allen	Lynette Pearl	Ryan Bellomy
Adela Jaime	Coleen Richardson	Jesse Aguilera	M. Thorn	Ryan Campbell
	Richardson	Jesse La-Patra-		
Aimee Kaslik	Colleen Jamison	Greene	Machanta Newson	Safiyyah Multani
AJ Guyer	Crimsetta Dunn	Jessica Lennon	Macy LaPatra	Salome Acosta
Alexandra Washington	Daniel Henry	Jessie Avalos	Mae Rowlett	Sammy Gonzalez
Alexis Sanchez	Daniela Fox	Jim Barron	Mamie Lewis	Sarah Poulos
Alfonso Gonzalez	Daniela Martin	Joan Prescott	Manuel Flores	Savannah Martin
Ali Burgess	Danielle Tooker	John B. Smith	Marcus Alexander	Shameka Griffin
Aliah Henry	Danny Edwards	John Kirby	Marcus Kujawa	Shane Bowen
Allen Hueston	Darin Merritt	John Saffelder	Marilyn Fitch	Shannon Adams
Amanda Sharkawy	Darrel Camble	Jonathan Grace	Marisa Gonzales	Shannon Miller
Amisha Multani	Darrick Henkins	Jordon Book	Marquette	Sharon Harvov
	Darrick Hopkins David Owen	Jordan Bock	Stevenson Martin Quilo	Sharon Harvey
Amy Grissom	David Owen Deanna Adams	Joseph Neifert		Sharon Myers Sharon Steele
Angela Bartula		Josh Kelley Josh Tomko	Marty Rogers	0
Angela Caudillo	DeLiza Gierling Deloris	JUSH LUHIKU	Mary Miano	Shirley Harmon
Angela Epperson	Washington	Joyceln Caesar	Mary Shelton	Shirley Smith
Anita Green	Derek Downs	Judson Brown	Mary Valadez	Sierra Dennis
Anjenique Anderson	Destiny Greene	Judy Fong	Matt Keath	Soledad Rocha
Ann Meripolski	Dian Williams	Julia Black	Matt Martin	Sonja Mason
Antwon Wimbish	Dina Hooshyar	Justin Clarke	Matt Turner	Sonya C. Williams
Arthur Jones	Dometric Blaylark	Justin Freeman	Melinda Tger	Sonya Coleman
Arthur MacAlpine	Doug Fox	Kara Hobbs	Melva Bazan	Stayshe Wood
Ashlee Hueston	Dustin Perkins	Kara Lisa Danter	Mic Barnett	Stephanie Valadez
Ashley Postell	Edd Eason	Karen Aguilar	Michael Caldwell	Sterling Washington
Ashley Zachary	Edward Sanchez	Karen Olealy	Michael Wierzbinski	Steve McCoghren
Bailey Hebert	Elizabeth Hart	Kassidy Birdsong	Michele Lee	Steven Fisher
Barbara Key	Elizabeth Serrato	Kate Syfert	Michelle King- Thompson	Synthia Franklin
Barbara Kuhlke	Elvia Flores	Kelly Wierzbinski	Mike Bencheck	Tamara Royal
Becky Knight	Eric D.Franklin	Kelsey Bradshaw	Mike Cunningham	Tammy Regitz
Becky Thurmond	Eric Gary	Kenyatta Newson	Mike Itashiki	Tammy Wood
Ben Russell	Ericka Sanders	Kevin Martin	Miranda Kelly	Ta'Shay Mason
Beth Dattomo	Esmeralda Garcia	Kim Sparks	Mollie Rivas	Taylor Brennan
Beth Leos	Evelyn Gibbs	Kimberly Jones	Mona Woodard	Teddie Story
Beverly Price	Felicia Wright	Kristen Kouk	Nancy Herren	Teri Petty
Beverly Twigg	Sgt. Frank Pontillo	Krystal Lotspeich	Naomi Pastrano	Thomas Emanuele
Beverly Wilborn	Freda Coleman	Ky Stephens	Natalie Henry	Tiffany O.
Blanca Garcia	Freda Ekambo	Larry James	Naya Pope	Tiffany Rippa
Brad Adams	Gale Wortham	Larry Matthews	Niki Prince	Tim Coolidge
Officer Brandi Williams	Greg Brinkley	Larry Williams	Officer M. Galloway	Tim Evans
Brenda Adams	Gwenda Lowe	Laura Lombardo	Oma Conn	Todd McCommas
Brenda James	Hector Ortiz- Lopez	Laura Tschida	Oretta Johnson	Tonie Ward
Brenda Keel	Henrietta Martin	Lauren Bradshaw	Pat Arrington	Tony Castillo

Brent Houston	Hope Stedman	Lauren Halsey	Patricia Chen	Tonya Derrick
Brian Stockton	Ivory Hall	LaVerne Reed	Patrick Harrison	Tricia Perkins-Metz
Bridgett Bennett-Zeno	Jackie Culberson	Lawrence Norman	Paul Crute	Trina Johnson
Bridgette Clemons	Jacob Barath	Leah Colsch	Phil Brenner	Twonnette Pack
Cameron Cariffe	Jana Rogers	Lekesha Horn	Phillip T. Kingston	Valencia Alexander
Camille Massey	Janet Smith	Lennard Armstrong	Phyllis Gonzalez	Valerie Sanders
Candace Berry	Janice Ayi	Linda Jones	Prajakti "PJ" Rao	Vanessa Gray
Candace Thompson	Janine Smeriglio	Lisa Barnett	Quanticya Johnson	Vanessa Nunez
Carissa NaSal	Jara Fansler	Lisa Blouin	QuaTarsha Echols	Vickie Ebner
Carolyn Bailey	Jason Wilhite	Lisa Hill	Rachael David	Wende Burton
Carrie Nixon	Jeff Durham	Lisa Parker	Ralph West	Wendy Brower
Carter Townsend	Jeff Posival	Lisa Stephenson	Raul Hinojosa	Officer Wendy Sheriff
Cathy Benefiel	Jeffery Kinderdietz	Lizette Sosa	Rebecca Peterson	Weston Poulos
CeCe Peppers- Johnson	Jennifer Bishop	Loryn Kelley	Rick Lear	William "Bill" Vandivort
Chalet Thomas	Jennifer Moore	Louis Vela	Ronald Adams	Zaire Smith
Charles Dunson	Jeremy Summerlin		•	

55 Volunteers for Data Entry (many on multiple days)					
			Mirian Matthews-		
Andrea Davis	Heather Lowe	Laura Roland	Fields	Sherri Ansley	
Anthony Collins	Helena Davidson	Laura Thurman	Nancy Johnson	Stephanie Gilyard	
Aretha Beckett	Jeff Brandt	Lori Davidson	Nitika Gill	Steve Daroache	
Barbara Kuhlke	Joan Condell	Lucy Villareal	Oma Conn	Synthia Franklin	
				Tanesha	
Connie Wilson	John Lackey	Mae Rowlett	Pam Mahomes	Livingston	
Eboni Jones	John Grieger	Marcie Hines	Patricia Chen	Tania DeJesus	
Ericka					
Hightower	Joycelyn Caesar	Marilyn Haggard	Phyllis Goode	Tara Williams	
Flor DeLuna	Kara Lisa Danter	Mary Hall	Rebecca Peterson	Tiffany Bailey	
Fred Halfpap	Katherine Berry	Matt Gorman	Rita Davis	Tonya Derrick	
	Kenneth			Tricia Perkins-	
Gayle Gordon	Shepherd	Megan Bennett	Sandy Stillo	Metz	
		Melanie			
Gina Norman	Kylie Hernandez	Robinson	Sheila Zamanian	Yen Fox	

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