

2018 COLLIN COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS

JANUARY 25, 2018



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Point-In-Time Homeless Census event, coordinated by the Collin County Homeless Coalition (CCHC), was conducted on Thursday, January 25, 2018. The information contained in this report represents a snapshot of homelessness in Collin County on this one night. The Census took place with the help of volunteer teams and police departments in Plano, Fairview, Frisco, McKinney, Allen, and Wylie. A rural area team was also stationed at the Branch Volunteer Fire Department near Lake Lavon. After receiving training, volunteers canvassed assigned areas in teams of four to six people, looking for individuals and families identified as experiencing homelessness. Volunteers conducted a survey with them and provided a care package that included a list of social service agencies and shelters, along with food, hygiene, and survival items. A total of 323 volunteers and 10 homeless service providers participated in the Census, which resulted in counting a total of **427 persons experiencing homelessness** in Collin County, Texas.

Why do we conduct a Homeless Census?

Between \$350,000 and \$600,000 in annual grant funds are awarded to Collin County service providers by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness. The implementation of the Annual Homeless Census is a requirement of the grant awards, as the amount of funding allocated is based on a formula that considers a region's homeless population and need. More importantly, conducting the census helps communities understand the needs of their homeless population, and how they can better be served. The data provided in the 2018 Annual Homeless Census Report will be used by the TX-600 Dallas City & County/Irving Continuum of Care (CoC), local cities, social service providers, faith communities, school districts, Collin College, and businesses to enhance the lives of those experiencing homelessness in Collin County by addressing their needs and the barriers they face to housing stability.

What is the definition of a person experiencing homelessness?

For the purposes of this survey, the HUD definition of homelessness was used. The abbreviated definition is as follows: An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and hotel rooms paid for by charitable organizations. The definition also includes unaccompanied youth and persons fleeing domestic violence. The full definition can be found at 24 CFR § 576.2.

What were the results of the Homeless Census?

The number of persons experiencing homelessness identified in Collin County during the Annual Point-in-Time Homeless Census on January 25, 2018 was 427; 100 unsheltered and 327 temporarily sheltered persons. The Annual Homeless Census Report details the lives of those experiencing homelessness on this one night. A few of the results include:

- 427 persons were identified as experiencing homelessness, of which 140 were children.
- In comparison to last year, there was a four percent decrease in the total number of those experiencing homelessness.
- 62% of unsheltered persons reported working full-time, part-time, temporary or seasonal positions.
- Six persons were identified as residing in a hotel room paid for by a charitable organization.

What can you do to help?

Join the Collin County Homeless Coalition and learn of ways to partner with organizations to make a difference in lives of persons experiencing homelessness. You can also volunteer or donate to any of the organizations listed on page 16 of this report, all of whom serve persons experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness in Collin County.

What is the Collin County Homeless Coalition?

The Collin County Homeless Coalition was founded in 2004 as a community organization consisting of City Governments, School Districts, Collin College, Homeless Service Providers, Businesses, Advocates, and Faith Communities working together to provide solutions to homelessness in Collin County through:

1. Increasing Awareness of Homelessness
2. Coordinating Advocacy for the Homeless Issue
3. Facilitating Information to the Community
4. Empowering Collaborative Programs and Services



<http://collinhomeless.wixsite.com/cchc>



www.facebook.com/collinhomeless

Meetings take place on the first Thursday of every month, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM at St. Mark Parish Center, 1105 W. 15th Street, Plano, TX 75075.

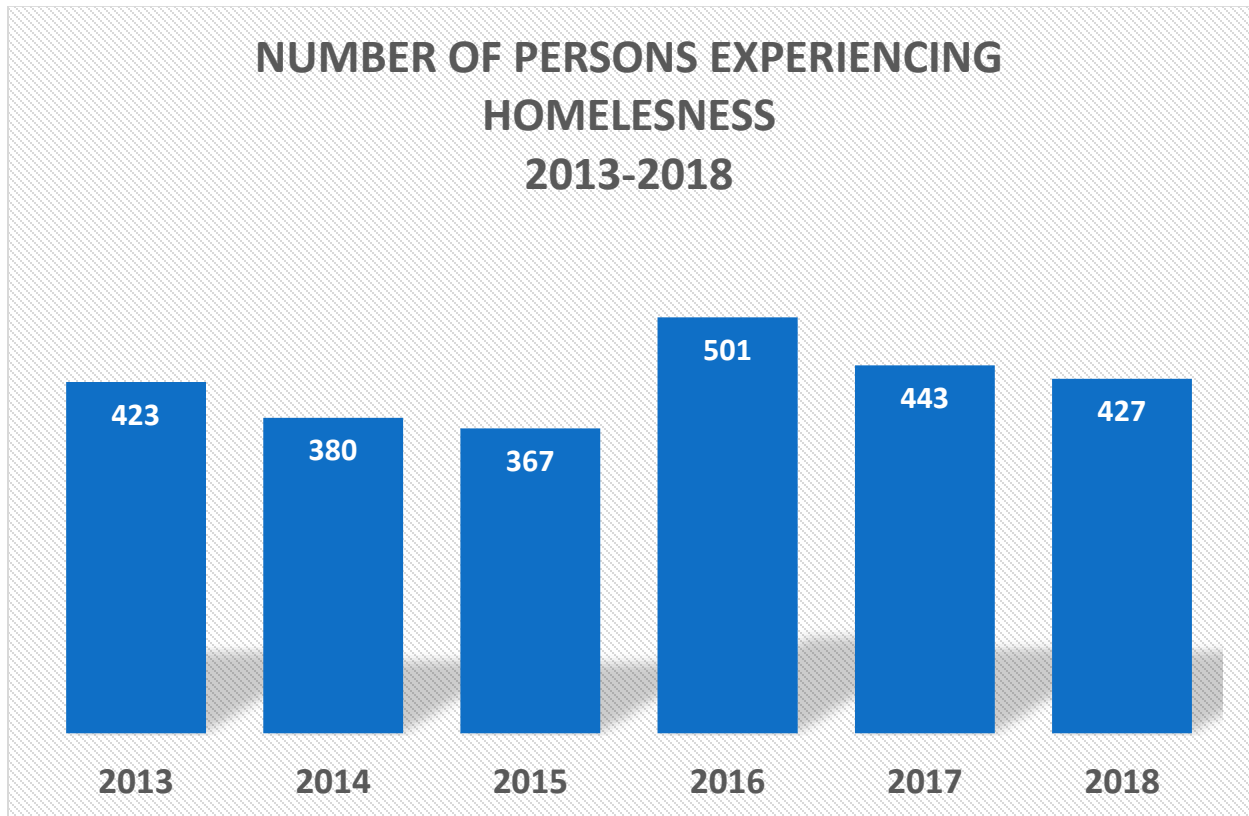


CENSUS NIGHT PHOTOS



HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

The table below represents the number of persons experiencing homelessness who completed a survey, were observed sleeping outside or in their car, or were residing in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs on one night in January over the past six years. The number of persons represented in the Annual Homeless Census can fluctuate due to weather conditions, the number of cities and shelters participating, and the time of the event. The number of persons counted during the 2018 census, in comparison to the previous year, represents a four percent decrease.

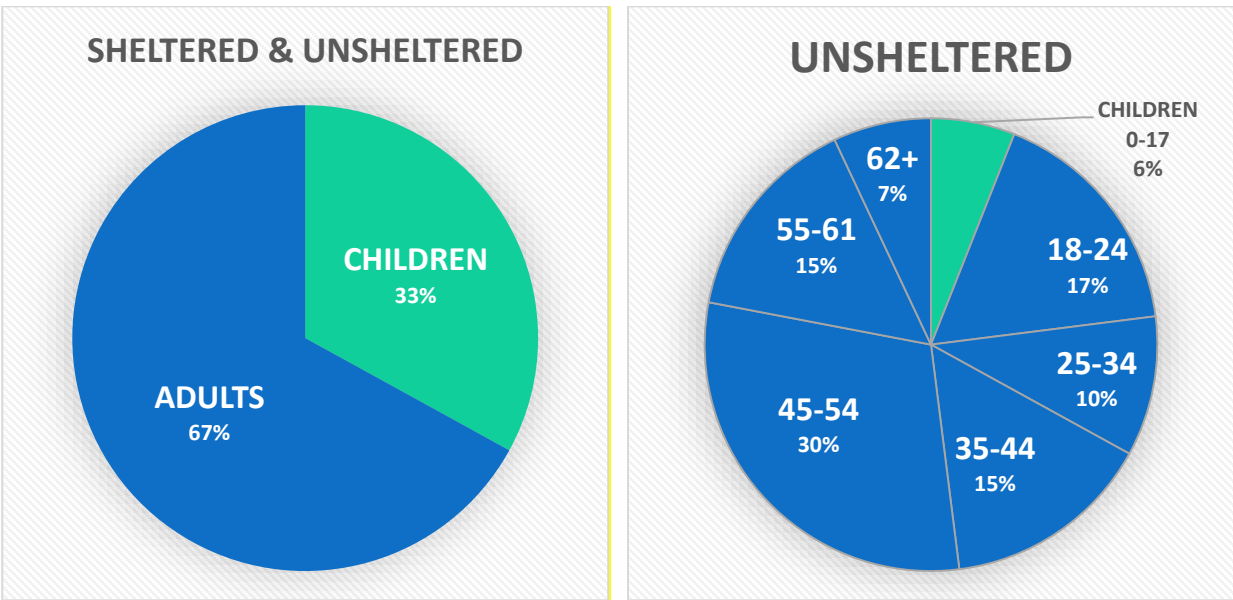


CENSUS RESULTS

The census results are represented by charts and graphs that separate the data into three groups; 1) unsheltered persons, 2) sheltered persons, and 3) combined sheltered and unsheltered persons. Unsheltered persons reside in a vehicle, outside, or other place not meant for human habitation. Sheltered persons reside in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a hotel room paid for by a charitable organization. Combined data depicts both groups, sheltered and unsheltered persons together, for an overall analysis.

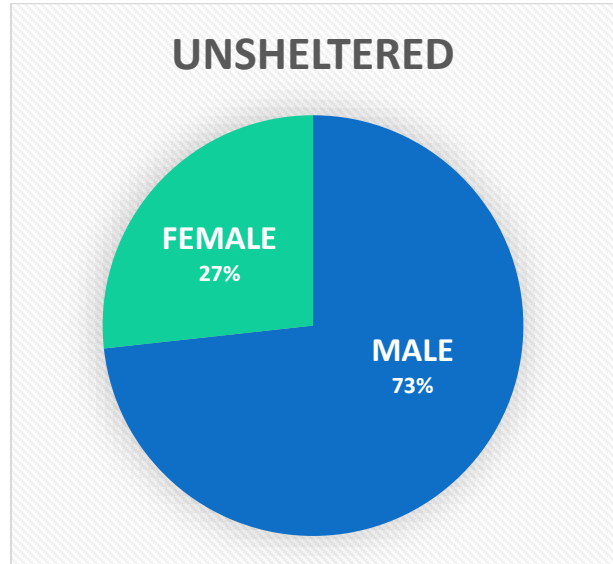
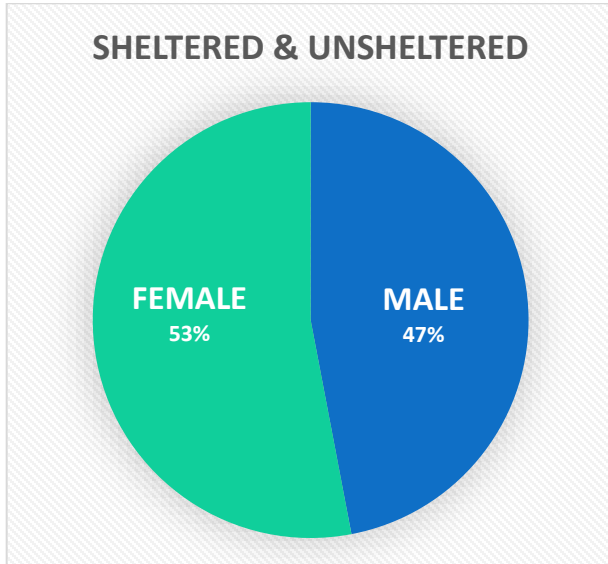
AGE

The age of persons represented by the surveys and shelter data are depicted in the charts below. The definition of child is a person from birth to 17 years old, and the definition of adult is a person 18 years of age or older. Adults account for 67% of the overall homeless population, while children account for 33%. Last year, children made up 30% of the overall homeless population. When looking at the subset of the unsheltered population, adults account for 94%. The number of unsheltered children in 2018 is six percent, a decrease of seven percentage points from last year.



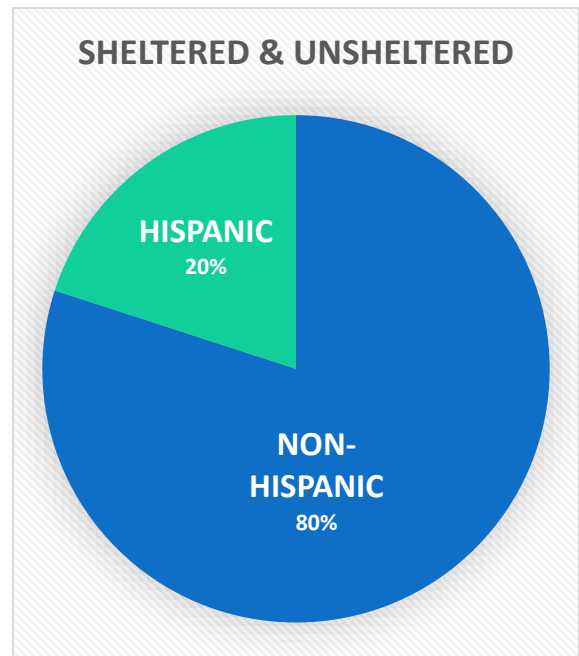
GENDER

The two charts below show the gender of persons in the combined data and the unsheltered population. Females comprise 53% of the total homeless population, an increase of five percentage points from last year, while males comprise 47%. Males are the largest percentage of the unsheltered population at 73%, while females comprise 27%. The unsheltered male and female populations remained comparable to last year, with a difference of only one percentage point.

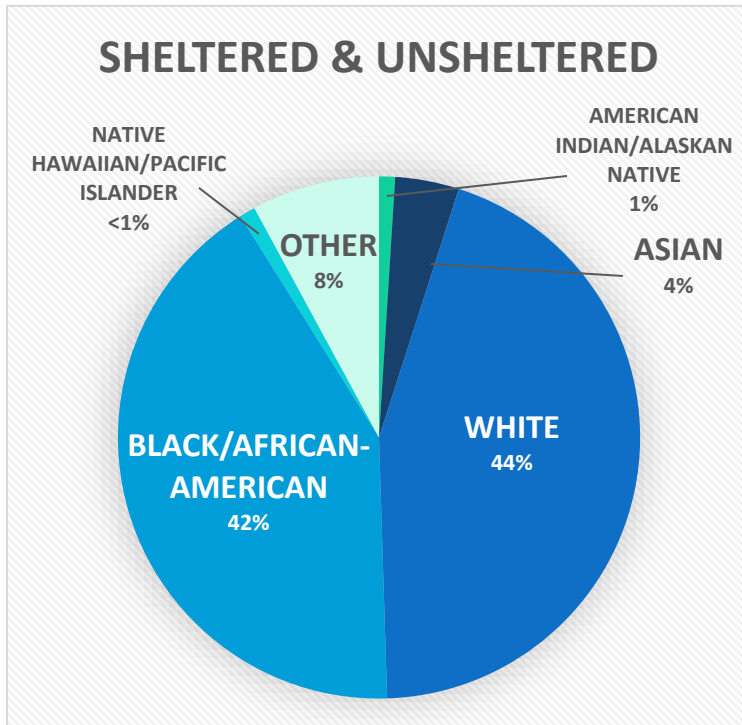


ETHNICITY

The chart to the right shows the ethnicity of both sheltered and unsheltered persons. Ethnicity is considered separate from race and respondents only select whether they are Hispanic or Latino. This year, 20% of all persons counted in the census were Hispanic or Latino. When looking at the unsheltered population alone, the number of Hispanic or Latino persons increases to 30%. Last year, Hispanic or Latino persons comprised 10% of both the sheltered and unsheltered populations. Therefore, there has been a significant increase in Hispanic or Latino persons in both the sheltered and unsheltered populations this year, with a sharper increase observed in the unsheltered population.

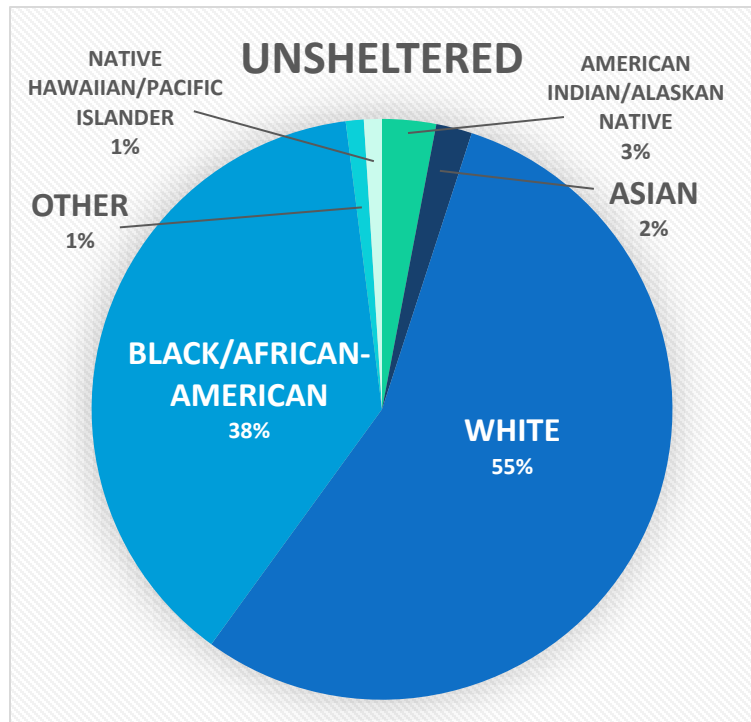


RACE



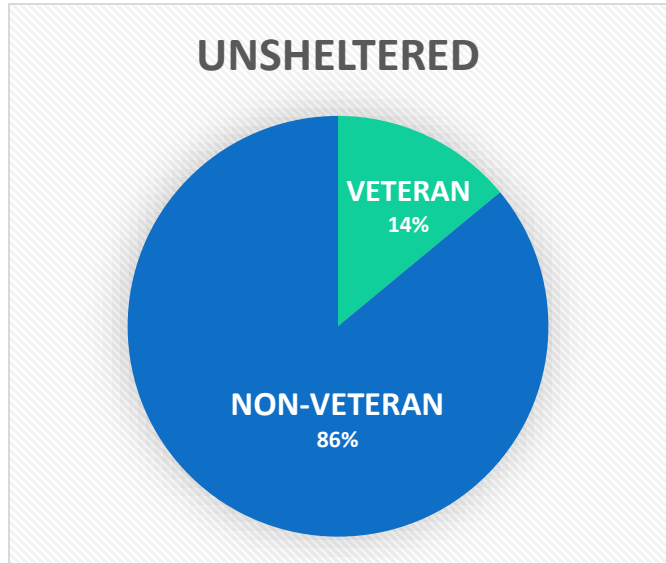
The chart on the left shows the racial data of both sheltered and unsheltered persons. In comparison to last year, the number of white persons decreased by six percentage points, Black/African-American persons increased by four percentage points, Asian persons decreased by one percentage point and both Other/Multi-Racial and American Indian/Alaskan Native persons remained the same.

The chart on the right shows the racial data of unsheltered persons only. In comparison to last year, the number of white persons decreased by three percentage points, American Indian/Alaskan Native persons increased by three percentage points, Other/Multi-Racial decreased by two percentage points, Asian persons increased by one percentage point, and Black/African-American persons remained the same.



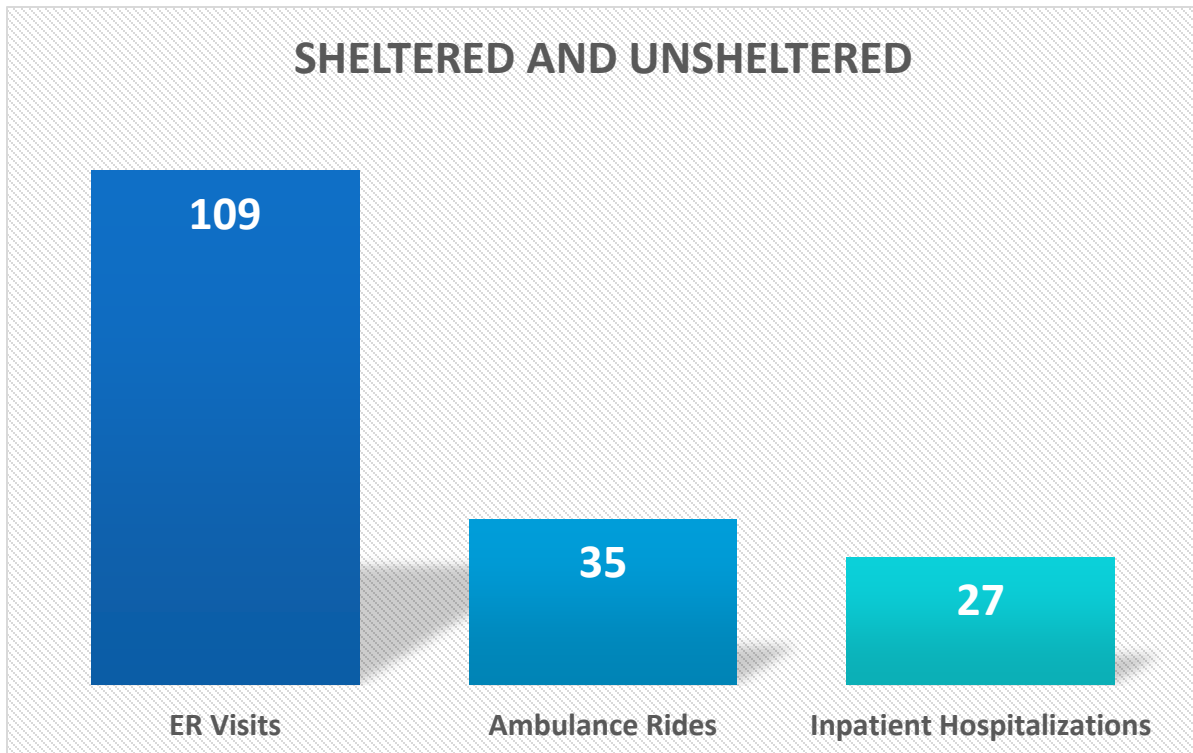
UNITED STATES MILITARY SERVICE

The chart to the right shows the number of unsheltered persons who reported serving in the U.S. military. A total of 14% of the population reported prior military service, while 86% did not serve. The number of unsheltered veterans decreased by three percentage points this year.



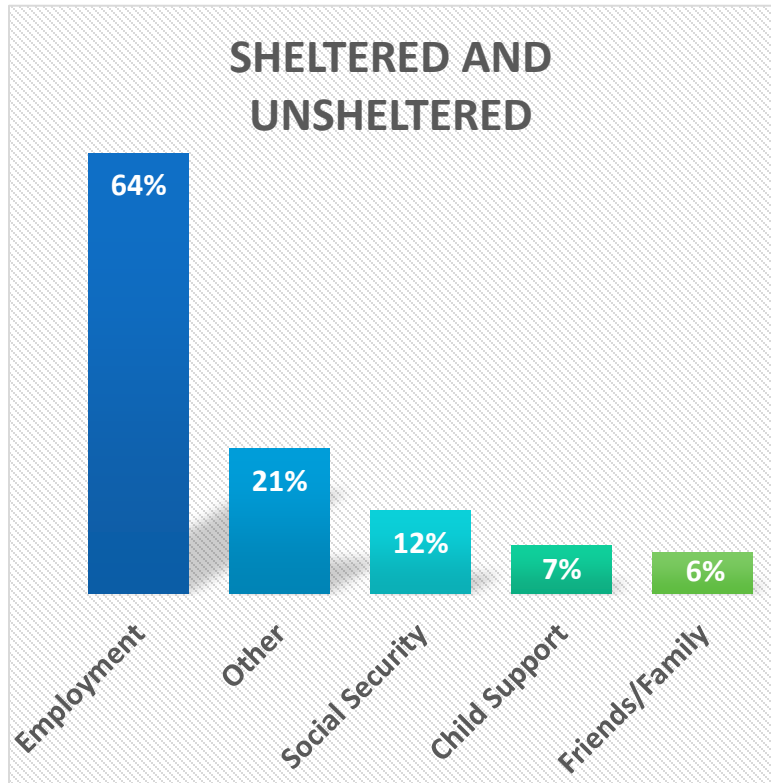
EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICE UTILIZATION

The chart below depicts the total number of times both sheltered and unsheltered persons reported using the following services in the past six months: Emergency Room (ER), Ambulance Ride, and Inpatient Care.

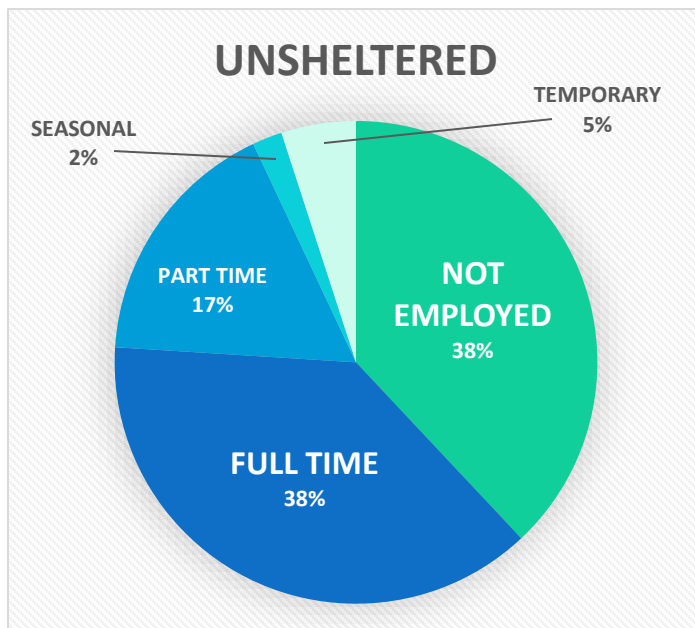


SOURCE OF INCOME

The chart on the right shows the top five sources of income for both sheltered and unsheltered persons who reported having an income on the survey. Multiple responses were allowed. Therefore, the percentages represent the total number of people who selected each answer. Additionally, 21% of respondents reported other sources not listed. Some of the answers written in for “other” included day labor, food stamps, and recycling cans.



EMPLOYMENT STATUS



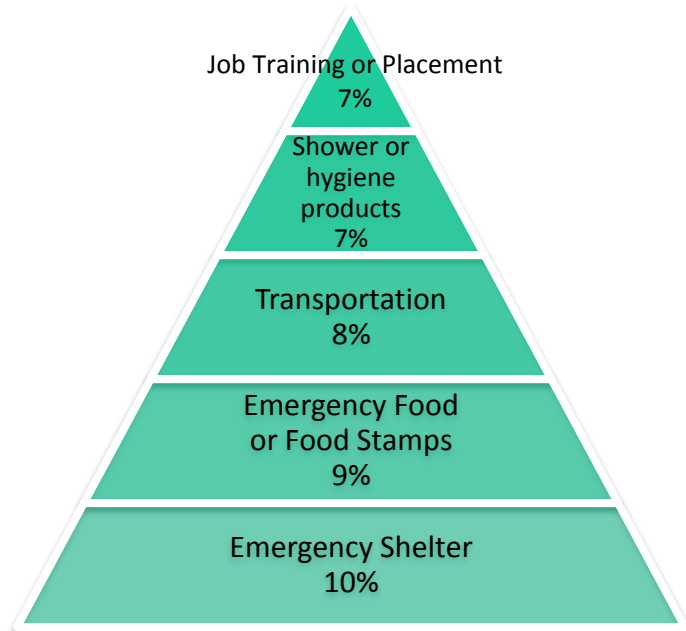
The chart on the left shows employment status of unsheltered persons. The overall percentages of those employed versus not employed remained the same as last year. The majority (62%) of unsheltered persons surveyed are employed on some level. The other responses regarding employment status were part-time (17%), temporary (5%) and seasonal (2%).

“WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMMEDIATE BASIC NEEDS TONIGHT?”

Respondents were given a list of options from which to select their immediate basic needs. The needs of unsheltered persons can vary from those who are in shelter, so the data has been presented for both groups. Multiple answers to this question were allowed, so the data below represents the most frequently selected answers from the choices provided.

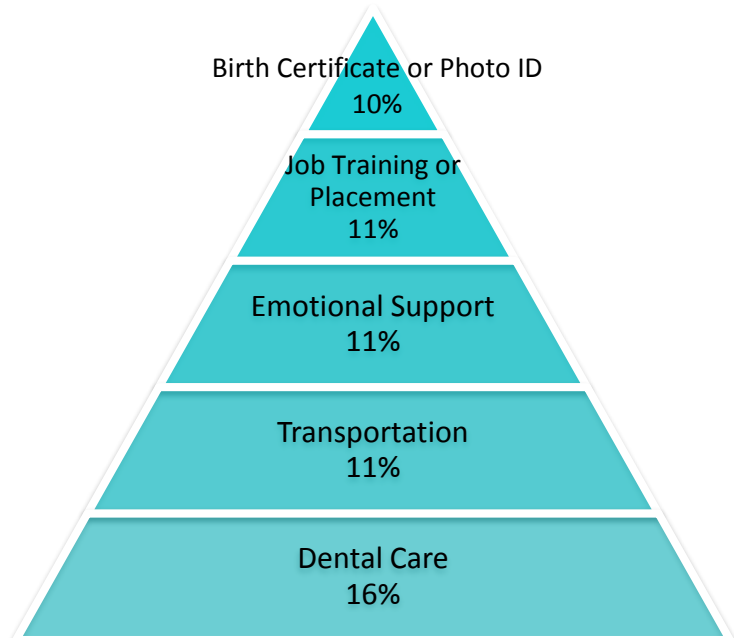
UNSHELTERED

This chart represents the top five reported needs of unsheltered persons who completed the survey. Emergency shelter was the top need of the unsheltered population. Other top needs included: emergency food or food stamps (9%), transportation (8%), shower or hygiene products (7%), and job training or placement (7%).



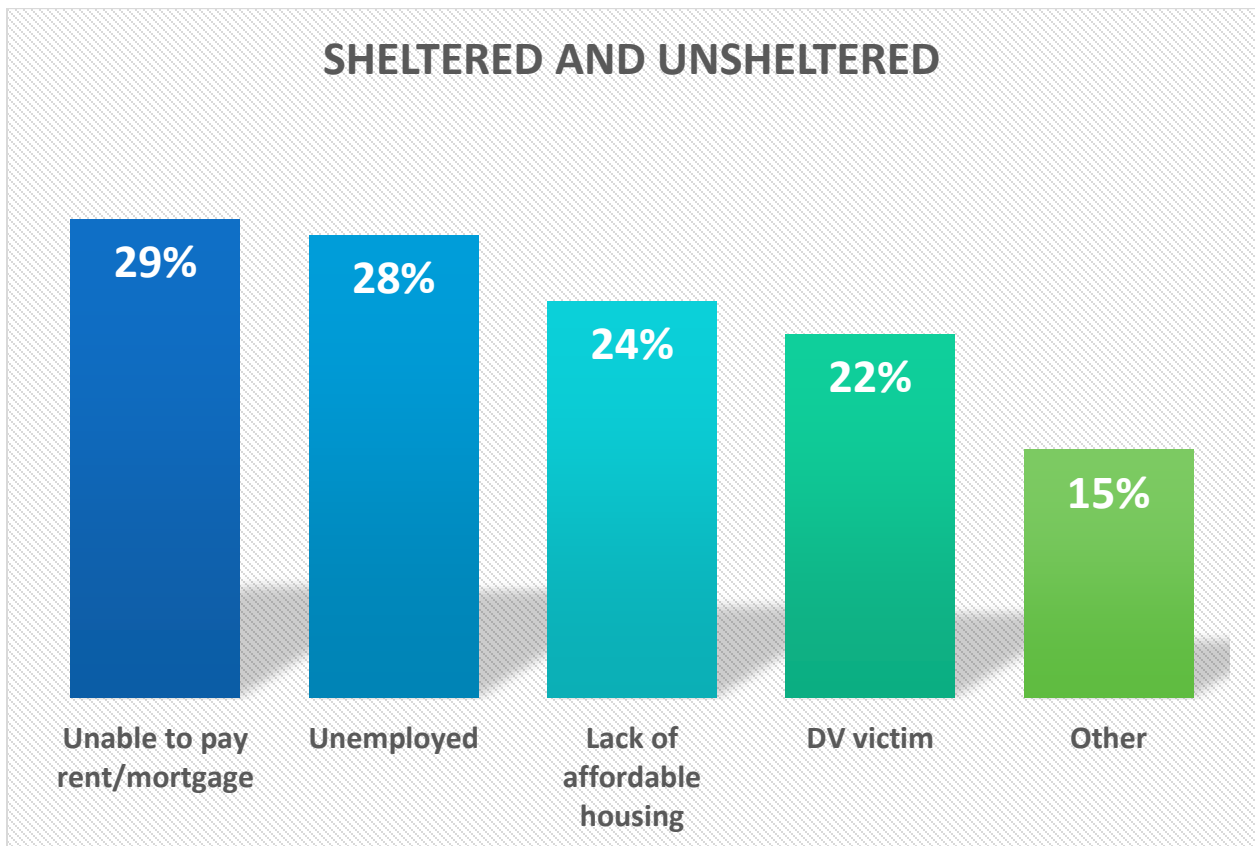
SHELTERED

This chart represents the top five reported needs of sheltered persons who completed the survey. Dental care was the top need of the sheltered population. Other top needs included: transportation (11%), emotional support (11%), job training or placement (11%), and birth certificate or photo ID (10%).



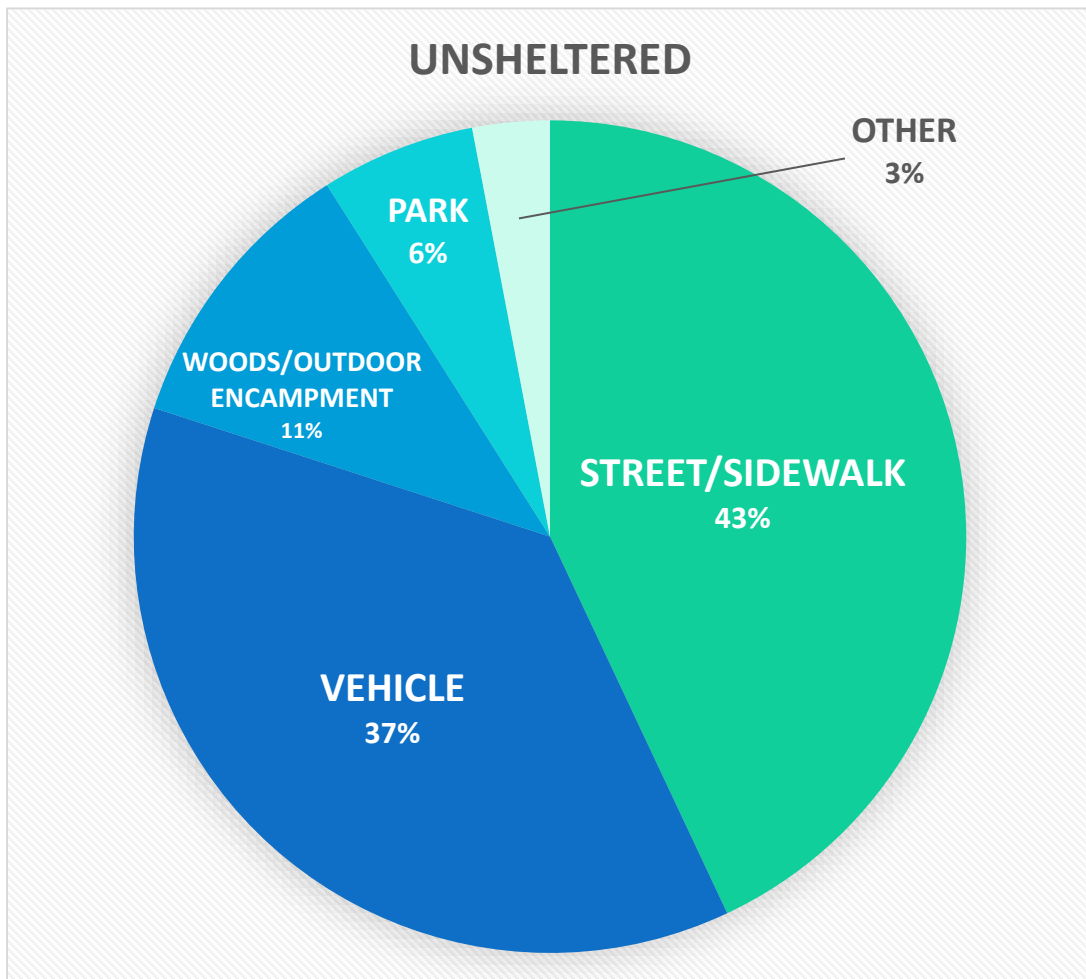
“WHAT LED YOU TO BECOMING HOMELESS?”

The chart below represents the top five underlying reasons for one’s homelessness, as self-reported on the survey. Multiple answers to this question were allowed, so the data below represents the most frequently selected answers from the choices provided. Out of 22 possible answers, the top five reasons remained the same, and in the same order of frequency, as reported on last year’s census. A total of 53% reported the inability to pay rent/mortgage and the lack of affordable housing as the top reason for being homeless.



“WHERE ARE YOU SLEEPING TONIGHT?”

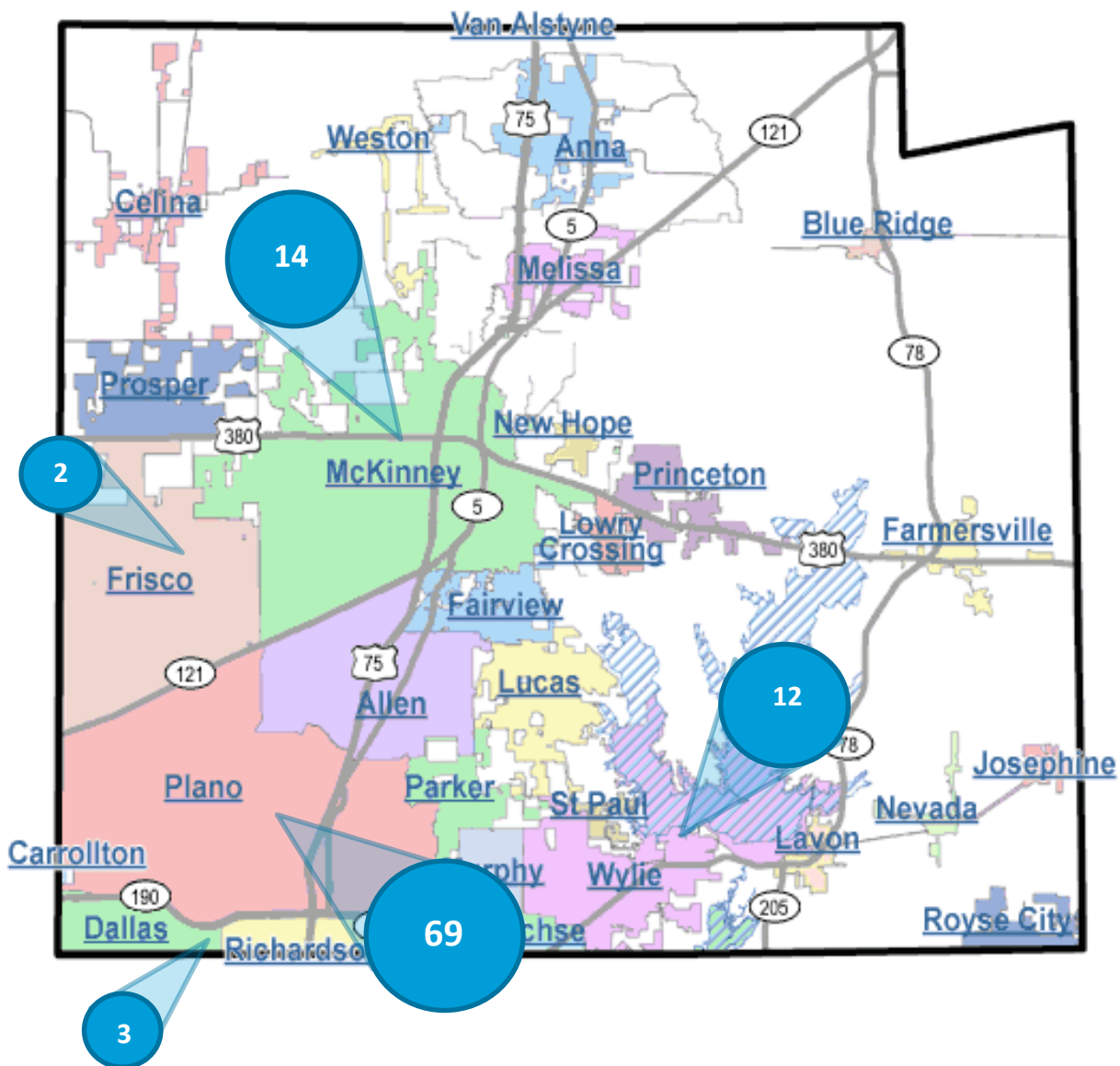
The chart below shows where unsheltered persons slept on the night of the survey. In comparison to last year, the number of persons sleeping on the street/sidewalk increased by 20 percentage points, and the number of persons sleeping in their vehicle increased by 13 percentage points. This is due to the large decrease in the “other” category, which accounted for 32% of responses last year. Many of the respondents who answered “other” last year were sheltered in a hotel or motel paid for by a charitable organization. This year, those persons have been counted as “sheltered”, as the HUD definition of homeless considers these persons to be in emergency shelter. Therefore, they are not reflected in this chart.



UNSHELTERED PERSONS BY CITY

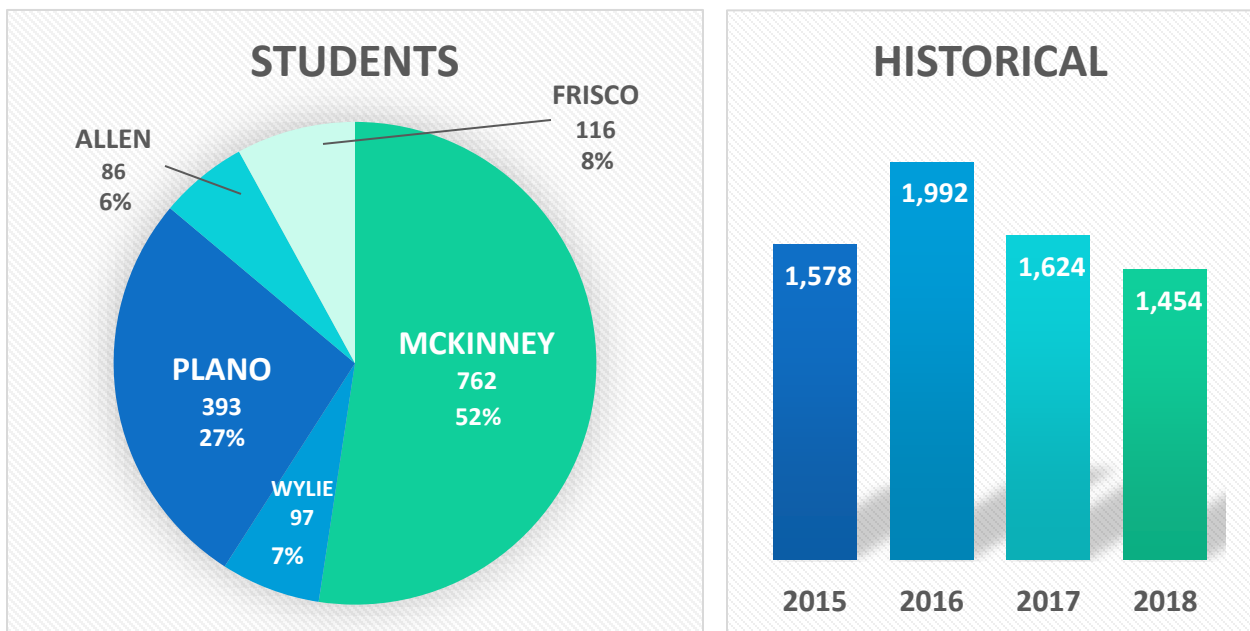
The graphic below illustrates the number of unsheltered persons surveyed in each city across Collin County. The counts by participating cities are listed below.

City	Count	City	Count
Allen	0	McKinney	14
Fairview	0	Plano	69
Frisco	2	Rural Areas	0
Dallas (Collin County)	3	Wylie	12



SCHOOL DISTRICT DATA

The five independent school districts (ISD) that participated in the Homeless Census are Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano, and Wylie. The total number of students identified as experiencing homelessness in five Collin County school districts on January 25, 2018 was **1,454**. The total number of students identified as experiencing homelessness decreased by 170 students or 10%. Allen ISD and Plano ISD saw increases in the number of homeless students this year, while Frisco, McKinney, and Wylie saw decreases. The chart on the left shows the number of students from each ISD identified as experiencing homelessness. The chart on the right shows the total number of students identified over the last four years.



As noted in the Executive Summary, the school districts use the following U.S. Department of Education definition of students experiencing homelessness as worded in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, Section 725.

“...individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and (B) includes —

- (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
- (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).”

METHODOLOGY

Similar to the ten-year federal government census, the Annual Homeless Census gathers current detailed and situational information on persons experiencing homelessness.

This year the Homeless Census was conducted using three methods:

- (1) Counting Us mobile application – All unsheltered persons completed a preliminary survey with a volunteer, who entered the data into the application. The app was used across the TX-600 CoC (Dallas and Collin counties).
- (2) Paper Survey – All unsheltered persons and about half of sheltered persons also answered additional questions that were not included in the mobile application. Answers were recorded on a paper form.
- (3) Shelter Spreadsheet – Demographic data was submitted via an Excel spreadsheet for shelter and transitional housing programs.

Survey of Unsheltered Persons

Community volunteers, through the organizational efforts of city staff, local churches and nonprofits, assisted a total of 91 persons in completing surveys. An additional nine unsheltered persons were counted through City House's Street Outreach program. Searches were conducted in the following cities: Allen, Fairview, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie. A rural team was also stationed at the Branch Volunteer Fire Department near Lake Lavon. The surveys were completed by persons residing in a number of places including: outside, in vehicles, in homeless shelters and transitional living homes, and in hotel rooms paid for by charitable organizations. The survey data was then entered into an Access database by volunteers, analyzed by staff, and made available in report form.

Data of Sheltered Persons

Surveys were submitted on the lives of 161 persons experiencing homelessness that were sheltered in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs. Additionally, some programs provided demographic data only on another 166 persons residing in their programs.

The organizations providing this information include:

Agape Resource & Assistance Center
Blake's House
City House
Emily's Place
Family Promise of Collin County
Hope's Door New Beginnings Center
The Samaritan Inn
Shiloh Place
Texas Muslim Women's Foundation

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Collin County Homeless Coalition would like to acknowledge the following participants and supporters of the 2018 Homeless Census including service providers, Collin College, cities, school districts, civic groups, advocates, businesses and faith communities. Additionally, the census could not have taken place without the many residents of Collin County who volunteered their time to prepare care packages and/or assist in the outdoor census.

Service Provider Participants

Agape Resource & Assistance Center: www.hope4agape.com

Assistance Center of Collin County: www.assistancecenter.org

Blake's House: www.blakeshouse.org

City House: www.cityhouse.org

Collin County Community Health Center www.collincountyadultclinic.org

Emily's Place: www.emilysplacetx.org

Family Promise of Collin County: www.familypromiseofcollincounty.org

Hope's Door New Beginnings Center: www.hdnbc.org

The Salvation Army: www.salvationarmydfw.org

The Samaritan Inn: www.thesamaritaninn.org

Shiloh Place: www.shilohplacemckinney.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society: www.svdpdallas.org

Texas Muslim Women's Foundation: www.tmwf.org

Veteran's Center of North Texas: www.vcont.org

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Data Entry

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Volunteers, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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Allen Police Department

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Thomas Cathey, St. Jude

Michael Wilson, St. Jude

Bill Kearns, St. Jude

Veterans Center of North Texas

Town of Fairview

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Ross Fasolino, Veteran
Leyland Payne
Tom Connelly
Fannie Connelly

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City of Frisco Social Services and Housing Board
City of Frisco Police Department
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Boys and Girls Clubs of Collin County
Frisco Citizens
Frisco Citizens on Patrol
Frisco Family Services
Grace Avenue Methodist Church
Greater Denton County Links
Junior League of Collin County
On the Road Lending
Preston Trail Community Church
RoughRiders Foundation
Veterans Center of North Texas

City of McKinney

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City of McKinney Fire Department, Community Healthcare Team
City of McKinney, Housing & Community Development Department
Rick Crocker, The Samaritan Inn, Executive Director
Vintage Church
St. Andrews' Bless Mobile
Roadside Church
Independent Bank
Community Volunteers
Veterans Center of North Texas

City of Plano

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Ofc Kanvin Ravin, Plano Police Department
City of Plano Police Department
City of Plano Citizens Academy
City of Plano Jail
City of Plano Day Labor Center
Assistance Center of Collin County
Christ United Methodist Church
City House
Collin County Community Health Center
Collin County Democratic Party Community Outreach
Custer Road United Methodist Church
First Christian Church
Junior League of Collin County
Lifesource
Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance
Preston Meadow Lutheran Church
Salvation Army
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Veterans Center of North Texas
Community Volunteers

City of Wylie

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Mary Warkentine, Wylie Christian Care Center
Jon Bailey, First Baptist Church Wylie
Wylie Police Department
Wylie Christian Care Center
Wylie Independent School District
St. Vincent de Paul Society
St. Anthony Catholic Church
Veterans Center of North Texas

Rural Count

Collin College

Dr. Terry Hockenbrough, President, Collin County Homeless Coalition

Branch Volunteer Fire Department

Collin County Sheriff's Department

Allen Community Outreach

Jimmy Knipp, Branch Volunteer Fire Department, Chief

Julie Macpherson, Allen Community Outreach, Chief Client Services Officer

Angela Poen, Community Garden Kitchen

Veterans Center of North Texas

School Districts

Allen Independent School District

Frisco Independent School District

McKinney Independent School District

Plano Independent School District

Wylie Independent School District

Veteran Team Coordinator

Paul Hendricks, Veterans Center of North Texas, President

Leadership Team – Collin County Homeless Coalition

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Christine Ortega, Preston Trail Community Church, *Vice President*

PJ Holland-Rasor, Community Advocate, *Secretary*

Ronni Fetzer, St. Vincent de Paul Society, *Treasurer*

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Mary Alice Garza, First United Methodist Church of Plano

Luisa Melgarejo, City of Allen

James Thomas, Plano Independent School District

Shanette Eaden, City of Plano, CCHC representation on Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) Board