

Statewide

2014
POINT-IN-TIME
COUNT
Initial Publication



CONNECTICUT COALITION to
END HOMELESSNESS

April 2014

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Introduction

Since 2005, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has required applicants for federal homeless assistance grants to count and report the number of people experiencing homelessness in their communities on one night during the last week of January. Homeless Point in Time Counts across the country are used as a primary data source informing federal funding towards services to end homelessness and track progress against established goals.

The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) has led communities across the state in an annual homelessness count (CT PIT) since 2007, mobilizing non-profits, local and state government agencies, and hundreds of concerned citizens from every community to gather critical data in order to inform efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

HUD mandates that communities count the number of people who are homeless, but not in emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities, every two years. Since the last “unsheltered count” occurred in 2013, the CT PIT 2014 only counted people in programs.

Connecticut has made great progress reducing veteran homelessness. There was one homeless veteran family counted in the whole state. Furthermore, the total number of veterans in programs statewide has fallen by 38% since 2009.

Community Context

Growing rates of un- and underemployment are the biggest barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing. During the 2013 calendar year, the average unemployment rate in Connecticut was 7.8%, which is slightly higher than the nationwide average of 7.4%. Even at such a rate, Connecticut is experiencing one of its lowest points of unemployment since 2009. In the past 12 months, 11% of all families and 13% of all children in families were below the poverty level.

In order to determine the appropriate costs for housing, the Department of Housing and Urban Development uses an estimate known as “fair market rent” (FMR). The FMR is determined by combining the shelter rent plus the cost of all tenant-paid utilities, except telephones, cable or satellite television service, and internet service. In Connecticut, the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,197. In order to afford this rate without paying more than 30% of total income towards housing, a household must earn \$3,991 monthly or \$47,890 annually. If making an hourly wage, an individual working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year must earn \$23.02 an hour to comfortably afford a two bedroom apartment, while the current minimum wage in Connecticut is just \$8.70 an hour. In order to afford housing, a person would need to hold 2.6 minimum wage jobs to afford housing at these costs.

CT PIT 2014 Results

Total Numbers

Across the state, emergency shelters have been operating at or near maximum capacity for the past few years. During the federal fiscal year 2013 alone, Connecticut's homeless shelters and transitional housing programs served over 13,663 people, including 1,343 families and 2,427 children.

During the CT PIT 2014 count of emergency shelters and transitional housing, a total of 3,571 people were counted in emergency shelters or transitional housing. A large majority of these (64%, or 2,278 people) were single adults not in families. Single adults also made up a large majority of homeless adults; almost 82% of all adults were not in families with children.

There were a total of 780 children counted; almost all (99%) were in families (see Table 1).

Table 1. Total Persons Counted in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Statewide

Population	Number Counted, Statewide	Percent of Total Homeless
Adults in Families	513	14%
Children in Families	775	22%
Single Adults	2278	64%
Unaccompanied Children Under 18	5	.1%
Total Persons	3571	100%

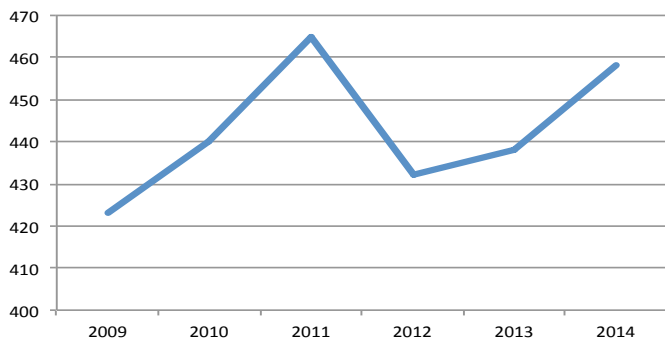
Since CT PIT 2009, there has been a 4% decrease in the total number of homeless counted in programs, including an almost 6% decrease in the population of single adults.

Adults and Children in Families

The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines a family as “a household composed of two or more related persons, at least one of whom is a child accompanied by an adult or a juvenile parent.” Statewide, 36% of all persons experiencing homelessness on the night of CT PIT 2014 were people in families with children. In total, there were 458 families counted statewide in emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.

Within these 458 families, there were 513 adults and 775 children. Proportionally, these adults and children make up 40% and 60% of people in families in programs statewide on the night of CT PIT 2014 (see Table 2).

Figure 1. Change in Families in Programs Statewide



Since 2009, there has been an 8% increase in the number of families, but the number of adults and children in families has remained relatively constant; there have been minor fluctuations, resulting in the total number of people in families being equal to their levels in 2009. In 2010 and 2011 the number of people in families increased slightly, but there was not enough of a reduction in 2012 and 2013 to bring the number below the 2009 level.

Table 2. Breakdown of Families Statewide

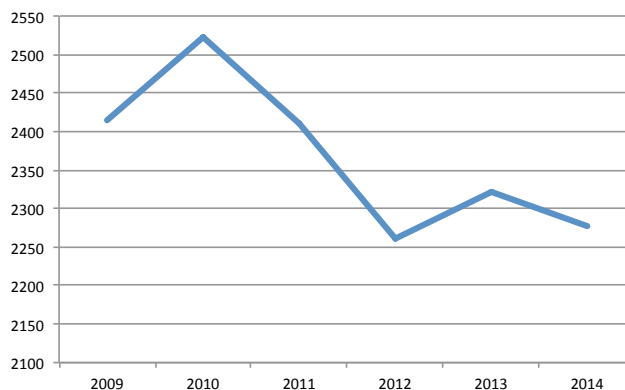
Year	Number of Families	Number of Adults	Number of Children	Total People in Families
2009	423	512	776	1288
2010	440	514	792	1306
2011	465	516	828	1344
2012	432	497	765	1262
2013	438	508	746	1254
2014	458	513	775	1288

Single Adults

Statewide, homelessness is much more common in single adults than among families. Single adults in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs represented 64% of all Connecticut’s homeless on the night of CT PIT 2014 (see Table 1). The 2,278 single adults in Connecticut make up 82% of all homeless adults both single and in families.

Single adults were the only population that decreased since 2009 - about 6%.

Figure 2. Number of Single Adults in Programs Statewide

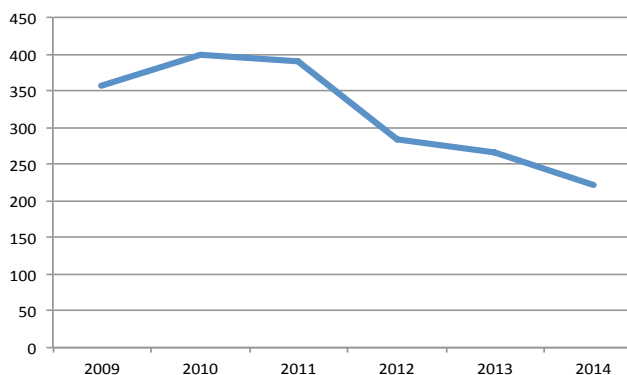


Homeless Veterans

Statewide, there were 221 homeless veterans counted during CT PIT 2014. Thirteen (6%) of these veterans were female; there was one homeless veteran in a household with a child. As a whole, veterans made up 8% of the adult homeless population.

Thanks in part to a national commitment to end veteran homelessness, there has recently been a marked decrease in the number of homeless veterans in emergency shelter and transitional housing. In 2014, there were

Figure 3. Number of Veterans in Programs Statewide



38% fewer homeless veterans counted than in 2009 and 17% fewer than in 2013 (see Figure 3).

Since 2010, there has been a consistent decrease in the number of veterans statewide, and this subpopulation has the most compelling reduction in number than any population or subpopulation.

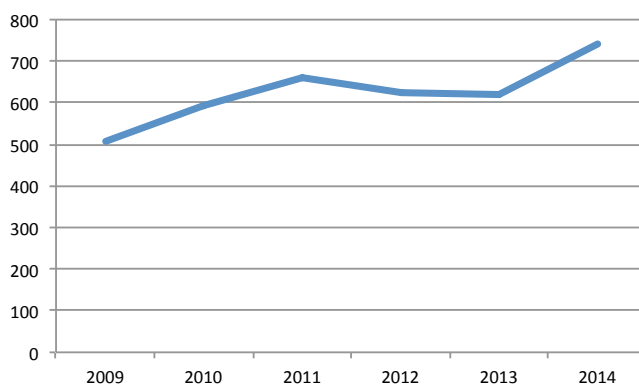
Chronically Homeless

As defined by HUD, a chronically homeless person or family is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition, or a family with at least one adult member who has a disabling condition, which person has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. The term homeless in this case means a person sleeping in an emergency homeless shelter or safe haven, or in a place not meant for human habitation, e.g., living on the streets.

Across Connecticut, there were 708 chronically homeless single adults counted during CT PIT 2014. In addition to the single adults experiencing chronic homelessness, there were 35 chronically homeless adults in families in Connecticut, almost 7% of all adults in families statewide. These 708 chronically homeless single adults comprised 31% of all single adults statewide.

The total number of chronically homeless single adults in emergency shelters as measured on a single night per annum has increased 40% since 2009.

Figure 4. Number of Chronically Homeless Adults in Programs



Consistent with the rest of the nation, Connecticut is continually improving our data collection practices around counting the chronically homeless. Based on national best practices Connecticut is refining the methods and questions asked to make the chronic determination leading to a more accurate and representative count. With this we expect the chronic homeless numbers to come more in line with the national average of about 15%.

Health and Safety

There are a few common service needs shared by a large proportion of homeless individuals. Targeting individuals with specific health needs can greatly benefit both the state and individual in need of care. Targeting and housing these individuals with programs like rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing allows individuals to focus on their care, rather than where they are going to sleep. When individuals can devote their energy to maintaining or improving their health, it shifts the burden away from expensive emergency medical services.

CT PIT 2014 revealed that adults reporting problems with substance abuse was the largest subpopulation for the second year in a row, with 1440 people, or 52% of Connecticut's adult population, citing substance abuse as a reason for their homelessness (see Table 3).

Table 3. Adults with Health and Safety Concerns, Statewide

Year	Substance Abuse		Mental Illness		Domestic Violence		HIV/AIDS	
	Number of Adults	% of all Adults	Number of Adults	% of all Adults	Number of Adults	% of all Adults	Number of Adults	% of all Adults
2009	1502	52%	1220	42%	227	8%	176	6%
2010	1390	36%	1324	35%	640	17%	188	5%
2011	1602	55%	1276	44%	561	19%	187	6%
2012	1405	51%	1496	54%	469	17%	74	3%
2013	1484	52%	1191	42%	515	18%	94	3%
2014	1440	52%	1172	42%	389	14%	89	3%

Those reporting some kind of mental illness comprised 42% of Connecticut's homeless, similar to previous years. Unfortunately, the proportion of adults with substance abuse and mental illness has remained relatively constant since 2009, with only a 1% and 0% variance, respectively.

Except for 2009, the number of respondents citing domestic violence as contributing to their homelessness is lower than it has ever been, both in population and percentage of all adults (see Table 3). The major reason for this is due to methodology changes. Calculations were changed so as to better estimate the survivors of domestic violence, and to exclude perpetrators.

Persons self-reporting a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS have historically been the smallest homeless subpopulation, and this trend continues into 2014. Eighty-nine (3%) adults statewide reported a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS (see Table 3).

There were five unaccompanied children under 18 recorded statewide during CT PIT 2014, a 71% drop from 2009 and a 58% decrease from 2013. All five children were female.

Limitations

Although the point-in-time count provides useful data about homelessness in Connecticut like all surveys, it has certain limitations.

- **Point-in-Time data:** Point-in-time counts generally under-represent the levels of homelessness. The purpose of a point-in-time count is to measure the minimum number of homeless people on a typical night in Connecticut. Since it is a survey of a single night, people who experience homelessness for long periods of time are overrepresented while those who experience homelessness for shorter periods of time are underrepresented.
- **Timing:** Since the count is conducted in January, the number of people utilizing emergency shelter is higher than if the count was conducted during warmer months. Variable weather conditions such as snow, rain, or extreme cold can further affect the population. The weather surrounding this count was particularly bad, potentially increasing the sheltered count in 2014.
- **Definition of “homeless”:** HUD’s definition of “homeless” does not include those who are “precariously housed.” Individuals in these housing situations are typically staying with friends or relatives, in a hotel, substandard or overcrowded housing, treatment facility, jail, or paying disproportionate amounts of their income towards housing.
- **Shelter limitations:** The number of sheltered homeless in one location is largely dependent on the number of available beds in the region. Increases and decreases in certain regions may be the result of the introduction or removal of shelters or programs.
- **Biennial Unsheltered Count:** The unsheltered count takes place every other year. When unsheltered counts are not conducted, the unsheltered count numbers from the previous year are used to determine our sheltered and unsheltered count. However, the purpose of this document was to publish initial data collected on PIT night. Since the unsheltered count was performed last year, these data (current and historical) are *sheltered numbers only*.
- **Self-reported data:** PIT survey results come exclusively from data reported by clients. Therefore, it is possible that some clients provide erroneous responses.
- **Survey question changes:** Changes in the survey can affect the number of responses in certain categories, so discretion should be used interpreting trends. For example, changes in questions regarding severe mental illness were much more broad in previous years.

Appendix

Table 1. Total Persons Counted in in Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs Statewide

Population	Number of Persons, Statewide	Percent of Total Persons
Adults in Families in Programs	513	14%
Children in Families in Programs	775	22%
Single Adults in Programs	2278	64%
Unaccompanied Children under 18 in Programs	5	.1%
Total Persons	3571	100%

Table 2. Number of Total Persons in Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs, by Community

Community	Adults	Children	Total – All Persons
Balance of State	1512	438	1950
Bridgeport	237	104	341
Hartford	619	111	730
Norwalk	128	39	167
Stamford-Greenwich	209	55	264
Waterbury	86	33	119
State Total	2791	780	3571

Table 3. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State - Number of Total Persons in Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs

Community	Adults	Children	Total – All Persons
Balance of State Remainder	479	128	607
Bristol	52	14	66
Danbury	132	16	148
Middlesex	96	33	129
New Haven	441	125	566
New Britain	119	29	148
Norwich-New London	193	93	286
Balance of State Total	1512	438	1950

Table 4. Percent of Total Persons Statewide in Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs, by Community

Community	Percent of All Adults	Percent of all Children	Percent of all Persons
Balance of State	55%	57%	55%
Bridgeport	8%	13%	10%
Hartford	22%	14%	20%
Norwalk	5%	5%	5%
Stamford-Greenwich	7%	7%	7%
Waterbury	3%	4%	3%
State Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 5. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State - Percent of Total Persons Statewide in Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs

Community	Percent of All Adults	Percent of all Children	Percent of all Persons
Balance of State Remainder	18%	17%	17%
BOS - Bristol	2%	2%	2%
BOS - Danbury	5%	2%	4%
BOS - Middlesex	3%	4%	4%
BOS - New Haven	16%	16%	16%
BOS - New Britain	4%	4%	4%
BOS - Norwich-New London	7%	12%	8%
Balance of State Total	55%	57%	55%

Table 6. Regional Breakdown of Families

Community	Number of Families	Percent of Total Families Statewide
Balance of State	253	55%
Bridgeport	54	12%
Hartford	72	16%
Norwalk	24	5%
Stamford-Greenwich	36	8%
Waterbury	19	4%
State Total	458	100%

Table 7. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State Breakdown of Families

Community	Number of Families	Percent of Total Families Statewide
Balance of State Remainder	73	16%
Bristol	10	2%
Danbury	10	2%
Middlesex	18	4%
New Haven	75	17%
New Britain	16	3%
Norwich-New London	51	11%
Balance of State Total	253	55%

Table 8. Adults in Families in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, By Community

Community	Number of Adults in Families	Proportion of Adults in Families in the State
Balance of State	286	56%
Bridgeport	69	13%
Hartford	77	15%
Norwalk	24	5%
Stamford-Greenwich	38	7%
Waterbury	19	4%
State Total	513	100%

Table 9. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State Adults in Families in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs

Community	Number of Adults in Families	Proportion of Adults in Families in the State
Balance of State Remainder	76	15%
Bristol	10	2%
Danbury	10	2%
Middlesex	23	4%
New Haven	94	19%
New Britain	17	3%
Norwich-New London	56	11%
Balance of State Total	286	56%

Table 10. Children in Families in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, By Community*

Community	Number of Children in Families	Proportion of Children in Families in the State
Balance of State	437	57%
Bridgeport	104	13%
Hartford	111	14%
Norwalk	39	5%
Stamford-Greenwich	51	7%
Waterbury	33	4%
State Total	775	100%

*These figures do not include the five unaccompanied children; four were counted in Stamford-Greenwich, and one was counted in the Balance of State Remainder.

Table 11. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State Children in Families in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs*

Community	Number of Children in Families	Proportion of Children in Families in the State
Balance of State Remainder	127	17%
BOS - Bristol	14	2%
BOS - Danbury	16	2%
BOS - Middlesex	33	4%
BOS - New Haven	125	16%
BOS - New Britain	29	4%
BOS - Norwich-New London	93	12%
Balance of State Total	437	57%

*These figures do not include the five unaccompanied children; four were counted in Stamford-Greenwich, and one was counted in the Balance of State Remainder.

Table 12. Regional Breakdown of Single Adults

Community	Number of Single Adult	Percent of Single Adults Statewide
Balance of State	1226	53.8%
Bridgeport	168	7.4%
Hartford	542	23.8%
Norwalk	104	4.6%
Stamford-Greenwich	171	7.5%
Waterbury	67	2.9%
State Total	2278	100%

Table 13. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State Breakdown of Single Adults

Community	Number of Single Adult	Percent of Single Adults Statewide
Balance of State Remainder	403	17.7%
Bristol	42	1.8%
Danbury	122	5.4%
Middlesex	73	3.2%
New Haven	347	15.2%
New Britain	102	4.5%
Norwich-New London	137	6.0%
Balance of State Total	1226	53.8%

Table 14. Regional Breakdown of Chronically Homeless Single Adults

Community	Number of Chronically Homeless Single Adults	Proportion of Chronically Homeless Single Adults	Percent of all Singles who are Chronically Homeless
Balance of State	365	52%	16%
Bridgeport	42	6%	2%
Hartford	168	24%	7%
Norwalk	50	7%	2%
Stamford-Greenwich	67	9%	9%
Waterbury	16	2%	1%
State Total	708	100%	31%

Table 15. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State Breakdown of Chronically Homeless Single Adults*

Community	Number of Chronically Homeless Single Adults	Proportion of Chronically Homeless Single Adults	Percent of all Singles who are Chronically Homeless
Balance of State	104	15%	4.6%
Remainder			
Bristol	14	2%	.6%
Danbury	18	3%	.8%
Middlesex	20	3%	.9%
New Haven	121	17%	5.3%
New Britain	40	6%	1.8%
Norwich-New London	36	5%	1.6%

* Total of Sub CoC subpopulations will not total Balance of State subpopulation number due to the subpopulation extrapolation process.

Table 16. Regional Breakdown of Chronically Homeless Families

Community	Number of Chronically Homeless Adults in Families	Proportion of Chronically Homeless Adults in Families	Percent of all Adults in Families who are Chronically Homeless
Balance of State	24	68%	4.7%
Bridgeport	7	20%	1.4%
Hartford	0	0%	0%
Norwalk	2	6%	.4%
Stamford-Greenwich	2	6%	.4%
Waterbury	0	0%	0%
State Total	35	100%	6.8%

Table 17. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State Breakdown of Chronically Homeless Families*

Community	Number of Chronically Homeless Adults in Families	Proportion of Chronically Homeless Adults in Families	Percent of all Adults in Families who are Chronically Homeless
Balance of State Remainder	12	34%	2.3%
Bristol	0	0%	0%
Danbury	0	0%	0%
Middlesex	3	9%	.6%
New Haven	3	9%	.6%
New Britain	2	6%	.4%
Norwich-New London	0	0%	0%

* Total of Sub CoC subpopulations will not total Balance of State subpopulation number due to the subpopulation extrapolation process.

Table 18. Adults with Health and Safety Concerns, by Community

Community	Mental Illness		Chronic Substance Abuse		HIV/AIDS	
	Number of Adults	Percent of Adults*	Number of Adults	Percent of Adults*	Number of Adults	Percent of Adults*
Balance of State	697	25%	776	28%	35	1.2%
Bridgeport	109	4%	123	4%	16	5.7%
Hartford	216	8%	342	12%	22	7.8%
Norwalk	44	2%	53	2%	1	<.1%
Stamford-Greenwich	77	3%	120	4%	14	.5%
Waterbury	29	1%	26	9%	1	<.1%
State Total	1172	100%	1440	100%	89	100%

*These columns represent the community's share of homeless statewide reporting severe mental illness, chronic substance abuse, and/or HIV/AIDS.

Table 19. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State - Adults with Health and Safety Concerns

Community	Mental Illness		Chronic Substance Abuse		HIV/AIDS	
	Number of Adults	Percent of Adults*	Number of Adults	Percent of Adults*	Number of Adults	Percent of Adults*
Balance of State Remainder	211	8%	218	7.8%	7	.2%
Bristol	26	1%	29	1%	0	0%
Danbury	61	2%	79	3%	0	0%
Middlesex	69	2%	64	2%	0	0%
New Haven	180	6%	229	8%	25	1%
New Britain	52	2%	53	2%	3	<.1%
Norwich-New London	91	3%	96	3%	0	0%

* Total of Sub CoC subpopulations will not total Balance of State subpopulation number due to the subpopulation extrapolation process.

Table 20. Adults Citing Domestic Violence as a Reason for Homelessness

Community	Number of DV Survivors	Percent of all Adults
Balance of State	254	9%
Bridgeport	27	1%
Hartford	42	2%
Norwalk	22	1%
Stamford-Greenwich	26	1%
Waterbury	18	1%
State Total	389	100%

Table 21. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State - Adults Citing Domestic Violence as a Reason for Homelessness

Community	Number of DV Survivors	Percent of all Adults
Balance of State Remainder	114	4.1%
BOS – Bristol	6	.2%
BOS – Danbury	21	.8%
BOS – Middlesex	18	.6%
BOS – New Haven	20	.7%
BOS – New Britain	29	1%
BOS- Norwich-New London	50	1.7%

* Total of Sub CoC subpopulations will not total Balance of State subpopulation number due to the subpopulation extrapolation process.

Table 22. Regional Breakdown of Veterans

Community	Number of Veterans	Percent of Veterans Statewide
Balance of State	137	62%
Bridgeport	42	19%
Hartford	26	12%
Norwalk	5	2%
Stamford-Greenwich	6	3%
Waterbury	5	2%
State Total	221	100%

Table 23. Six Subcontinua within Balance of State - Regional Breakdown of Veterans

Community	Number of Veterans	Percent of Veterans Statewide
Balance of State Remainder	72	33%
BOS – Bristol	1	.4%
BOS – Danbury	8	4%
BOS – Middlesex	5	2%
BOS – New Haven	33	15%
BOS – New Britain	6	3%
BOS – Norwich-New London	12	5%
Balance of State Total	137	