



## 2015 Point-In-Time Report

### Seven County Denver Metro Region



## Glen Carney June 1958 to April 2015

We dedicate the 2015 Point-in-Time Report in honor of our friend and colleague, Glen Carney. Glen was a member of the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Board of Directors, and served on the MDHI Peer Navigator Team through the St. Francis Center. As a Peer Navigator, Glen assisted those currently experiencing homelessness in accessing housing and services. More than that, he truly listened to those in need, and shared his thoughtful, philosophical take on life. Those who knew Glen appreciated his way with words—and Glen always had a kind word for everyone.

In addition to his work with MDHI and St. Francis Center, Glen served the community through participation with EarthLinks, Denver Urban Gardens, the Denver Foundation, RedLine, and Denver University Writing Center. We warmly remember Glen as an artist, writer, advocate, and friend.



*“The soul may heal the mind, the mind may heal the body,  
but only love can heal the heart.” --Glen Carney*

# Contents

*Letter from the Executive Director* ..... iii

*Acknowledgements* ..... iv

*Overview of 2011-2015 PIT Results*..... v

*Key Findings for 2015*..... vi

*Methodology* ..... vii

**Introduction** .....1

*Report Overview* ..... 1

*Limitations of the PIT*..... 1

*Definition of Homelessness*..... 2

**Point-in-Time Findings for 2015** .....3

*Understanding the PIT Data* ..... 3

*Total Estimated Homeless Persons* ..... 4

*Ages*..... 4

*Gender*..... 5

*Race/Ethnicity* ..... 5

*Families*..... 5

*Homeless Persons in Households with and without Children* ..... 6

*Family Member Demographics*..... 6

*Military Service*..... 7

*Employment/Income* ..... 7

*Duration and Episodes of Homelessness* ..... 8

*Newly Homeless* ..... 8

*Chronically Homeless—Respondents* ..... 8

*Chronically Homeless—All Homeless* ..... 8

*Where People Spent Monday Night* ..... 8

*County Comparisons* ..... 9

*Location on Monday Night by County*..... 10

*Families by County* ..... 11

*Migration and Last Permanent Residence* ..... 12

*Observation/Refusal/Missing Information* ..... 13

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<b>VI-SPDAT Data.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Incorporating Coordinated Access into the Point-in-Time Survey .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Results .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<b>2015 Findings by County .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Adams County.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Arapahoe County.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Boulder County.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Denver County.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Douglas County.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Jefferson County.....</i>	<i>27</i>
<b>Population Profiles .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>Veterans.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Chronic Populations.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Youth.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Families.....</i>	<i>32</i>
<b>Appendix .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<i>Survey Tool .....</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Fact Sheet.....</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>MDHI Board of Directors and Staff.....</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Background of Point-in-Time .....</i>	<i>38</i>

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear stakeholders:

Attached you will find the 2015 Point-In-Time report. The Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) has worked in partnership with local governments, non-profits, faith communities, foundations and volunteers to conduct the PIT survey. The annual Point-In-Time survey efforts involve hundreds of volunteers from the metro Denver region to capture the need on a single night of the year. Every year, the PIT effort is dependent upon volunteer turnout, local community organization, weather and participation of those experiencing homelessness.

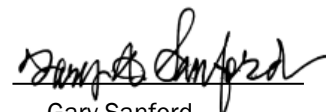
Highlights of the 2015 Point-In-Time include:

- Weather played a factor in 2015 with temperature range on January 26th between 33 degrees to 71 degrees. Many cold weather shelters in the region did not open on the night of the PIT due to unseasonably warm weather, therefore, some individuals slept outside versus gathering in emergency shelters or day centers. This lack of available shelter beds resulted in more individuals reporting that they slept outside on the PIT night.
- Over 250 individuals completed a PIT survey and VI-SPDAT assessment for housing and services. This will allow for targeting of our most vulnerable. Donations from The Denver Foundation and the Governor's Office provided incentives for veterans and those experiencing chronic homelessness to complete a VI-SPDAT.
- City and County of Broomfield did not participate in the 2015 PIT effort.
- Obtained PIT data from Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for transitional housing programs funded by HUD through MDHI and the continuum of care. The HMIS data provides a more comprehensive understanding of those staying in transitional housing programs during the PIT night. In previous years, the transitional housing data set did not include information of those who refused to complete a PIT survey. The 2015 PIT includes all adults and children who stayed in transitional housing on the PIT night.
- PIT volunteers captured data of those who refused to complete PIT survey or observed sleeping outside but didn't participate in the survey.

The Metro Denver region continues to have one of the tightest housing rental markets in the country. The increasing costs and competition for available housing has made it extremely difficult to house those in need even with the necessary resources.

The 2015 PIT report follows the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness. MDHI recognizes that there are others experiencing housing instability and homelessness which fall outside of the HUD definition. It is our intent to focus on both HUD defined and other populations to eliminate homelessness for future generations. If we don't address the needs of those at-risk, we will continue to see a rise in homelessness across the region. Prevention is key to effectively prevent future generations from experiencing homelessness. Increased access to housing and services is paramount in our collective efforts. Only through collective efforts across the region will we end homelessness as we know it today.

Thank you for all that you do for our most vulnerable neighbors.



Gary Sanford  
Executive Director

## Acknowledgements

This is the fourteenth Point-in-Time study conducted by the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) since 1998, and we owe a debt of gratitude to all those who conducted PIT surveys and contributed to this report. This report would not have been possible without the assistance of Brian Garrett, a technical writer who has volunteered with MDHI for the past two years and has provided invaluable assistance with formatting the Point-in-Time report. We are glad to partner with the OMNI Institute who, in collaboration with MDHI, provided the data analysis and reporting for the 2015 Point-In-Time survey.

Every year this effort is made possible by the Point-in-Time Committee members who help modify the survey and coordinate the count for their city, county, or subpopulation. The members who contributed to the 2015 survey are as follows:

Jackie Gutierrez and Dave Riggs, Adams County  
 Josh Meis and Brian Martin, Arapahoe County  
 Scott Medina, Boulder County  
 Sharon Duwaik, City of Aurora  
 Josh Garland and Chris Conner, City and County of Denver  
 Clayton Gonzalez, Urban Peak  
 Rand Clark, Douglas County  
 Linda Barringer and Maryjane Carr, Jefferson County  
 Mae Washam, Jefferson County  
 Michelle Lapidow, US Department of Veteran Affairs  
 Autumn Gold, Colorado Office of Homeless Youth

Special thanks to the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) team from Volunteers of America who administered 262 VI-SPDAT surveys with veterans and unsheltered persons identified during the count. This endeavor marks an early effort to tie the Point-in-Time count directly to providing housing assistance, and it wouldn't have been possible without the generous contribution of bus tickets and gift card incentives provided by The Denver Foundation.

Thank you to the talented volunteers, interns, and Americorps VISTA members who entered over 4,500+ surveys to generate the data in this report:

Nancy Kichler	Cory Jensen
Maryjane Carr	Keith Berry
Brian Martin	Jackie Gutierrez
Geena Torti	Jenny Lucas
Deborah Hopkins	Eden Abraham
Daniela Hernandez	Brent Jacobsen
Alison McCarthy	Dawn Dobie
Michelle Ferguson	Patty Berger
Sarah McKee	Kim Killingsworth

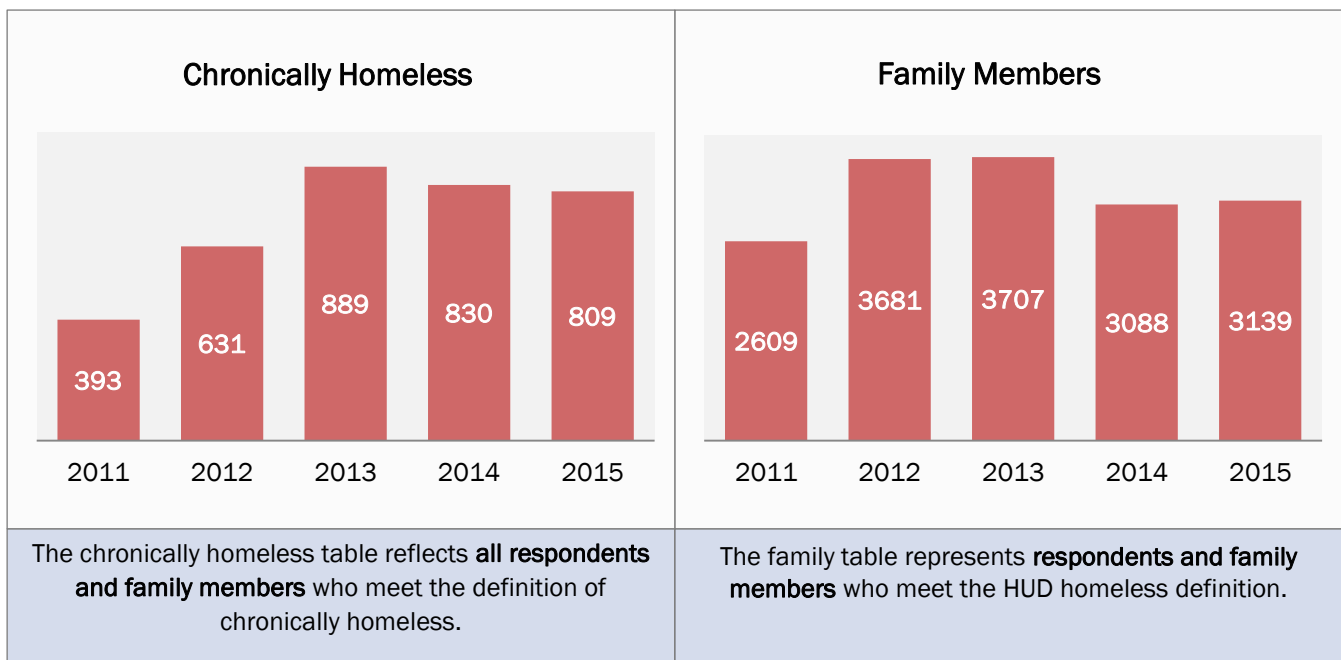
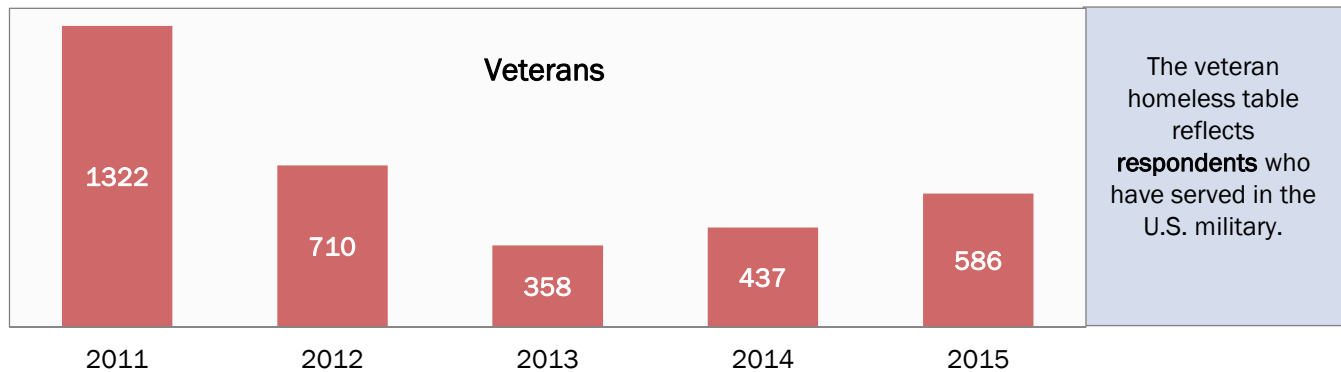
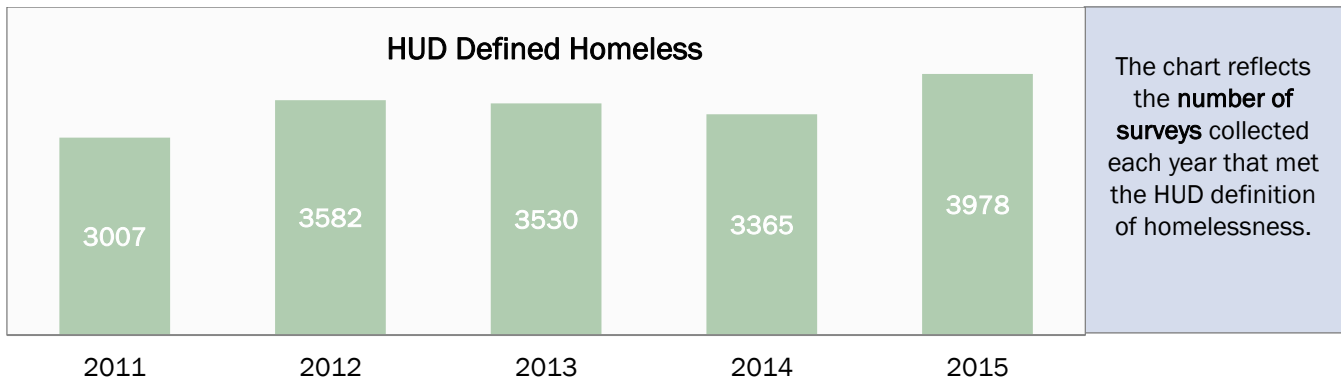
We would like to express our appreciation to all of the volunteers who administered the Point-in-Time survey and the participating agencies who supported this effort.

Finally we thank our sponsors who provided in-kind and financial support to develop this report including incentive items for those who took the survey and the VISPDAT. Thank you to Sock it To 'Em, The Denver Foundation, the Governor's Office, 4imprint, Homeless Gear, and Sam's Club.



## Overview of 2011–2015 Point-in-Time Results

Below are comparisons of data points across the previous five years. It is important to remember that the Point-In-Time survey is a snap shot and certainly an undercount of homeless and at-risk populations. The 2015 PIT survey data indicates upward trends among the homeless population overall, veterans and homeless persons in families – but readers should use caution in comparing data across years given the nature of the PIT snapshot, as well as well as changes in methodology across years.



## 2015 Key Findings

*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and as a result percentages may not equal 100%.*

**Homeless Incidence:** On Monday, January 26, 2015 there were **6,130 homeless men, women and children** counted in the seven county Metro Denver area. This number includes persons who filled out a survey and their family members, as well as individuals and family members staying in transitional housing programs that participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

**On the Street:** A total of **13.1 percent** or **805** people were unsheltered (living on the street, under a bridge, in an abandoned or public building, in a car, camping, etc.).

**Monday Night:** Of all persons, the greatest proportion stayed in transitional housing (55.2%), followed by emergency shelter (including a hotel/motel vouchers paid for by an organization) (28.8%) and on the street/in a car, etc. (13.8%).

**Newly Homeless: Nearly one-quarter (24.5%)** of all homeless – 1,500 persons – were considered newly homeless. People were considered newly homeless if they had been homeless for less than one year and this was their first episode of homelessness. Of the newly homeless, over half (52.6%) or 789 people were living in homelessness with their children, and an additional 67 (4.5%) were unaccompanied youth.

**Household Status:** The majority of all homeless were **households with children (47.8%)**, followed by **single adults (43%)**. **Families without children** represented **3.3%** of the all homeless population. Households with children included **318 youth** respondents under age 25 which were **youth headed families**.

**Domestic Violence:** **650 adults and children** reported being homeless due to domestic violence.

**Income:** Over **one-quarter (26.0%)** or 1,036 respondents reported that they or someone in their household had received money from working in the past month.

**Chronically Homeless:** A total of **750 respondents were chronically homeless**. Of these, close to three-quarters (73.3%) or 541 persons were male, 192 (26.0%) were female and five people identified as transgender. The great majority of chronically homeless respondents were single (623 persons or 83.1%). HUD defines chronic homelessness as (1) having a chronic debilitating condition and (2) sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation or in an emergency homeless shelter or in a safe haven, and (3) having been homeless continually for one year or more OR having four or more episodes of homelessness in three or more years. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, there were an additional 59 family members (35 of whom were children) living with chronically homeless individuals for a **total of 809 people experiencing homelessness**.

**Unaccompanied Youth:** There were **355 unaccompanied youth** less than age 25 in the 2015 PIT study, representing 5.8% of the total homeless population.

**Veterans:** A total of **586 individuals** identified as veterans. Over half (54.4%) of veterans were **staying in transitional housing**, and less than one in three (29.3%) were in an emergency shelter. This is a shift from 2014, when almost half of respondents reported staying in an emergency shelter and one-third reported staying in transitional housing. **Nearly all were male (93.3%)**. Almost two in five veterans (37.9%) reported that they have a medical or physical disability; over one-third (34.5%) have a serious mental illness, and close to one-third (31.2%) reported substance use. Over one-fifth (21.8%) or 128 veterans were identified as chronically homeless, which is a smaller proportion compared to last year.



## METHODOLOGY

MDHI volunteers throughout the Metro Denver counties collected PIT data in the last week in January, referencing the Point-in-Time as the night of Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The city and county of Broomfield did not participate in the 2015 PIT count.

### Survey Instrument

The survey instrument was developed by the Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI), in consultation with their research partner, OMNI institute. The survey was revised based on input from MDHI's PIT Committee, on PIT data from previous years, on Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements, and on the fact that HMIS<sup>1</sup> data would be used to complement PIT surveys. While the majority of the questions remained the same compared to prior years, the survey layout and question order was significantly revised in order to meet two primary goals: 1) to prioritize the collection of HUD required questions and focus data collection on individuals meeting the HUD definition of homelessness, and 2) to collect more accurate information on the family composition of homeless individuals. Briefly, these changes entailed:

- The survey was updated so that the first question asked where respondents stayed on the night of the PIT. Individuals who did not stay in a location that met HUD's criteria for homelessness did not complete the rest of the survey.
- A question was added at the start of the survey asking if the respondent had already completed a PIT survey during the administration time period. This question was added to help identify duplicate cases and minimize the data collection burden on individuals that may have had the opportunity to participate several times.
- Questions about the primary respondent (head of household) were moved from the start of the survey into a matrix which collected demographic information on both the primary respondent as well as any family members who stayed in the same place on the night of the PIT. The structure of family member questions was also collapsed into this matrix to more efficiently capture all required information on family members.
- Three questions were added about family members:
  - The first asked if any family members were spending the night of the PIT in the same place as the respondent. If yes, the respondent was asked to identify the relationship of those family members (partner/spouse, child, etc.) and then complete the family member matrix for those individuals.
  - Respondents were also asked if they had custody of children under the age of 18 that were sleeping in a different location than them on the night of the PIT.
  - If yes, participants were asked how many children they had, and where these children were sleeping.

The goal of these additional questions was to capture more complete information on family status among individuals experiencing homelessness in Denver.

- Questions were re-ordered such that HUD required questions, including those about family members, were asked on the first page of the survey and before any of the optional questions identified by the CoC.
- The 'reasons for homelessness' question was revised to match HMIS response options so that information could be more cleanly combined across datasets.
- Finally, several questions were removed from the survey to minimize the data collection burden on respondents. These questions included more detailed information on veteran benefits, information on government/public benefits, and information that pertained to being at-risk for homelessness.

Feedback from the MDHI PIT Committee suggested that many of these changes worked well for the PIT administration, particularly the matrix approach for collecting family member information. Interviewers also commented that having a more streamlined survey was helpful in conducting the PIT interviews. A copy of the survey instrument is provided in the Appendix (pg. 34).

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<sup>1</sup> A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons. Homeless assistance providers use HMIS to coordinate care, manage their operations, and better serve their clients.

## Data Entry and Cleaning

MDHI organized volunteers to enter all PIT survey data. HMIS data for transitional housing programs was utilized to complement the survey data, and all HMIS data was provided in a single data extract for individuals that were staying in transitional housing on the night of the PIT. The research team performed numerous procedures to ensure that data could be combined across PIT and HMIS datasets, and completed significant cleaning and checking procedures to identify data entry, data extract and logic errors. For example, researchers examined datasets for missing data patterns, out of range/incorrect values, and conducted logic checks on all variables included.

### **Duplicates:**

A unique PIN number was created for each individual using information provided on name, date of birth, and SSN (or the SSN of their head of household/primary respondent). PIT and HMIS data files were merged, and duplicate cases were identified using the unique PIN number. Several iterations of duplicate identification were then performed based on varying combinations of name, date of birth, and SSN to further identify duplicate cases that did not end up with the same PIN number due to different spelling of name or mis-typed information on any of the data fields used to create the PIN. Duplicates were also flagged based on respondents indicating that they had already completed a survey during this PIT administration.

### **Variable Creation:**

Several variables were created during the cleaning process. These included:

- Chronic homeless: based on having a disabling condition and meeting the length of time or frequency of homeless criteria (1 year or longer or experiencing homelessness four or more times in the past three years).
- Chronic Family: identified all members in a family with at least one or more chronically homeless family member
- Family status: develop family categories based on information provided about family members staying in the same place as the respondent, the relationship of those family members to the respondent, the number of family members who provided information in the family matrix, and the number of children that respondents indicated that they had custody of who were sleeping in another location.

### **Identifying County:**

This report includes analysis of results by county, as well as analysis of migration between counties. We used the following procedures to assign county if respondents did not indicate a county on the survey.

To identify where the respondent spent Monday night:

- If a respondent indicated the city that they spent Monday night, the corresponding county was assigned. For example, if the respondent said they spent the night in the city of Boulder, they were assigned Boulder County.
- If the respondent did not indicate a city or county, they were assigned the county that the survey was conducted in (the county in which the agency administering the survey was located).
- If either of the above scenarios resulted in a city that lies in more than one county, the county was applied proportionally based on respondents where the county was known. For example, the city of Aurora lies in three counties: Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties.

To identify county of last permanent residence:

- County was assigned based on designated city or county information provided by the respondent.
- If the city provided was a part of multiple counties, county was applied proportionally using the same methodology as above. If the respondent did not provide a last city or county, the county of last residence was marked as missing.

## Introduction

The Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) conducted a Point-In-Time (PIT) study of people experiencing homelessness in the seven-county Metropolitan area with the help of volunteers, service providers, staff, and outreach workers. MDHI is a coalition working with homeless assistance agencies across the Metro area to coordinate the delivery of housing and services to homeless families, individuals, youth, veterans and persons with disabilities. MDHI seeks to provide the leadership, support and structure necessary to develop and sustain this coordinated system of housing and services. Referred to as the Continuum of Care (CoC), this system encompasses Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties.

In order to be consistent with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), MDHI will report on homeless individuals and families using only the federal definition. In previous years, the MDHI Point-in-Time report combined the data for those experiencing homelessness (as defined by HUD) and those at-risk of homelessness. As a Continuum we understand the critical importance of continuing to provide information about persons who could fall into homelessness due to one unexpected bill, the loss of a job, an illness, a death, absence of social supports or countless other financial crises and life circumstances. However, based on data collected from the 2014 PIT effort, we feel that collecting information on both homeless (as defined by HUD) and those deemed “at-risk” did not give an accurate enough picture of either population given the amount of resources expended. Therefore the Continuum of Care’s Point-in-Time committee recommended that the 2015 PIT effort focus solely on the homeless population, and as a result we implemented changes in terms of the survey instrument (this year’s survey is about one-third shorter) and data collection (data for clients in transitional housing projects was extracted from the continuum’s Homeless Management Information System). As we move forward, we will continue to look at methods for collecting more accurate and useful data to inform our community’s decision making processes regarding the issue of homelessness.

## Report Overview

**Section I** includes an explanation for the purpose of the PIT, priorities for this year’s data collection effort, and definitions for homelessness.

**Section II** provides a history of MDHI and the PIT effort.

**Section III** reports the PIT findings for those experiencing homelessness.

**Section IV** reports the findings for those respondents who took the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) as a follow-up to the PIT survey.

**Section V** contains overviews for homeless data for each of the seven counties.

**Section VI** provides information about homeless subpopulations, including veterans, families, those experiencing chronic homelessness and youth.

A Point-in-Time count provides a snapshot of homelessness by interviewing those who are homeless at a particular time. Ongoing collection and analysis of data on the number, location and demographic characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness and who need access to emergency shelter, supportive housing, permanent housing and specialized services is critical to designing, implementing and maintaining a Continuum of Care homeless service delivery system. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the primary source of federal funding for housing support for homeless populations, requires that each Continuum of Care across the country conduct a Point-in-Time survey during the last ten days of January. HUD, MDHI, local governments and service providers use information collected by the Point-In-Time survey to assess, project and plan strategies and services to prevent and eliminate homelessness.

## Limitations of the PIT

It is difficult to count people who are experiencing homelessness; the one consistent finding in research on homelessness is that surveys undercount homeless populations. It is easy to “miss” individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness—as they might not receive services at the agencies where persons experiencing homelessness are counted on the night of the PIT. Additionally, people enter and leave homelessness frequently and may become homeless shortly after the Point-In-Time survey.

Certain subpopulations of people experiencing homelessness present particular difficulties to being counted. By definition, unsheltered individuals are not in places where they can easily be located, as compared to people staying in transitional housing and homeless shelters. Often, they simply cannot be found when they are staying in automobiles and other kinds of unsuitable living situations. This fact may have been particularly relevant during the 2015 PIT count as

the weather was unseasonably warm, meaning that homeless individuals may have been more likely to be unsheltered compared to prior years where colder weather resulted in additional shelter space opening and individuals presumably making the decision to stay sheltered.

Other groups who are difficult to include in the PIT count are unaccompanied youth, those who are experiencing domestic violence, as well as undocumented persons. Unaccompanied youth tend to avoid systems of care and do not often access “adult oriented” services due to concerns about detection and safety. They also tend to be more mobile throughout the day than are homeless adults. Victims of domestic violence are undercounted largely due to confidentiality and safety concerns, and may hesitate to complete surveys. Understandably, undocumented individuals and families are afraid of the repercussions of being identified.

The comprehensiveness of a sheltered homeless count is entirely dependent upon the level of participation of agencies and organizations that serve homeless individuals and families, another limitation of the PIT. Every year MDHI recruits as many service providers, volunteers and outreach workers as possible to conduct the count. It uses an extensive network of trained agency staff and volunteers to collect the survey data so that, where possible, volunteers and staff assist homeless (or assumed homeless) individuals to complete the two-sided survey. Nevertheless, participation in the process naturally varies from year to year. The 2015 PIT effort collected about 2.1 percent more surveys in 2015 than were collected in 2014 (6,334 versus 6,204). This information was augmented by an additional 2,182 records pulled from the CoC’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Given that the 2015 PIT count was focused on collecting information only on homeless individuals and at locations that primarily serve homeless individuals (as opposed to at-risk for homelessness), that fact that more surveys were collected this year may reflect a more comprehensive data collection effort. However, changes in the agencies that participate also have an impact on the number of surveys collected; and in 2015 the City and County of Broomfield did not participate.

Given these differences across years in participation and survey administration practices, changes in the numbers of homeless individuals counted from year to year should not be interpreted as true increases or decreases in the homeless population. Instead, these numbers should be used to look at aggregate trends, for example, shifts in the relative proportion of different homeless sub-populations.

Although certain populations of people who are experiencing

homelessness are difficult to find and count, and despite the difficulties of locating and engaging people who are experiencing homelessness, the PIT count is important as it is the only measure that captures the scope of people experiencing homelessness.

## Definition of Homelessness

For the 2015 PIT survey MDHI used the definition of homelessness in [24 CFR 91.5 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule](#). This includes individuals and families “living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals) on the night designated for the count. This includes persons residing in Safe Haven projects.

Specifically, persons are identified as homeless if they are staying in the following locations:

- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings
- Sleeping in an emergency shelter or safe haven
- Living in transitional housing
- Staying in a hotel or motel paid for by a voucher

Priorities in the 2015 PIT efforts included:

- Involvement of formerly homeless individuals to assist with planning, training and interviewing
- Strategic identification of touch points where the HUD defined homeless were most likely to be found
- Use of Homeless Management Information System data to count those living in Transitional Housing
- Emphasis on surveying unsheltered persons, veterans and unaccompanied youth
- Development of PIT Policies and Procedures
- Increase in resources to improve PIT efforts
- Simultaneous administration of the VI-SPDAT for veterans and chronically homeless populations

MDHI recognizes that the annual Point-In-Time count is only a snapshot of the overall picture of homelessness. We encourage stakeholders and others interested in homelessness to read this report with the understanding that homelessness is difficult to measure. While we may be challenged to measure it and determine the most effective priorities and interventions, we recognize that it is not acceptable for homelessness to occur in our neighborhoods, cities, state and country. Nationally, statewide and locally, ending homelessness is an unprecedented priority. Together, we can prevent homelessness for future generations.

## Point-in-Time Findings for 2015

This section presents the primary findings derived from the 2015 Point-in-Time (PIT) survey of homelessness in the Denver metropolitan area.

### Understanding the PIT Data

For the homeless data, we report the findings for **respondents** and **all homeless**. Respondents are those individuals who completed a survey or who are designated as the Head of Household (HoH) in HMIS. The “all homeless” category is the sum of respondents and their household members. Findings are reported in one or both of these two categories, depending on which category is most informative and whether the variable can logically be imputed to all homeless. For example, military status can be reported for respondents only, while it makes sense to report where people spent the night of the count for all homeless (respondents and their family members). Findings are also reported across counties for purposes of geographic comparison.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, some respondents did not answer every question. As a result, the *percentages represent only those people who answered the question and not the total number of respondents*. Unless otherwise noted, the percentages do not include missing responses. Therefore, when adding up responses in various categories, *the numbers typically do not sum to the total number of “respondents” or “all homeless” due to missing data elements*.

<sup>2</sup> The City and County of Broomfield declined to participate in the 2015 PIT effort, and therefore no data was collected.

As described earlier, the focus of the 2015 PIT effort was narrowed to more intentionally capture information only on individuals meeting the HUD criteria for homelessness, and not on individuals at-risk for homelessness. Despite this change the 2015 PIT effort collected about 2.1 percent more surveys in 2015 than were collected in 2014 (6,334 versus 6,204). This information was augmented by an additional 2,182 records pulled from the CoC’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). In 2014, of the total number of surveys completed, 46 percent were categorized as not homeless (this figure includes those who were categorized as at-risk); in 2015, 0.6 percent were identified as not homeless. This change is significant as it indicates that the CoC had a much more focused approach to the PIT survey administration this year and may have had a more comprehensive administration effort within the truly homeless population. This focused administration approach was guided by an analysis conducted after the 2014 PIT effort, to identify sites that primarily surveyed homeless individuals versus those that surveyed individuals at risk for homelessness. In 2015, sites that primarily surveyed those at risk were not included as primary data collection sites. Further, interviewers were instructed to only complete surveys for individuals that spent the night of the PIT in a location that met the criteria for HUD defined homeless. While the CoC made strides in focusing on the data collection effort to the homeless population, other challenges in the data collection process emerged. Notable issues from this year’s PIT effort to that need to be addressed for next year’s effort are the amount of duplication (which amounted to about 15 percent of the total surveys collected) as well as the high number of surveys submitted without data elements needed to create a unique PIN (which is essential for data integrity and deduplication efforts), which amounted to 8.5 percent of the total dataset.

Table 1 describes the number of surveys collected, the number removed, and the final number of homeless persons counted.



**Table 1. Survey collection and elimination**

Total surveys (PIT and HMIS)	8,516
Duplicate	1,234
Observation/Refusal	342
Not homeless	49
No Identifying Information/No PIN	727
Homeless status could not be determined	22
Outside metro area	8
Child respondent less than 15 years old	4
Total removed	2,386
Total kept in dataset	6,130

### Total Estimated Homeless Persons

The 2015 PIT survey was modified to ask questions related to family structure differently than in previous surveys. Additionally, data extracted from HMIS gave more complete information on family structure. Unlike years past, the 2015 PIT did not use multipliers to determine family size given the improved data quality around family members<sup>3</sup>.

Table 2 shows the total homeless count—which includes respondents or HMIS Head of Household (HoH) and family members.

**Table 2. Total homeless**

Respondents <sup>1</sup>	3,978
Family members	2,152
Total Homeless	6,130

<sup>1</sup> HMIS captures data differently that the point in time, therefore designated Head of Household was used in place of Respondent.

<sup>3</sup> Please see information provided in the Observation, Refusal and No ID for additional description of family members who may have been excluded from the total count of homeless individuals.

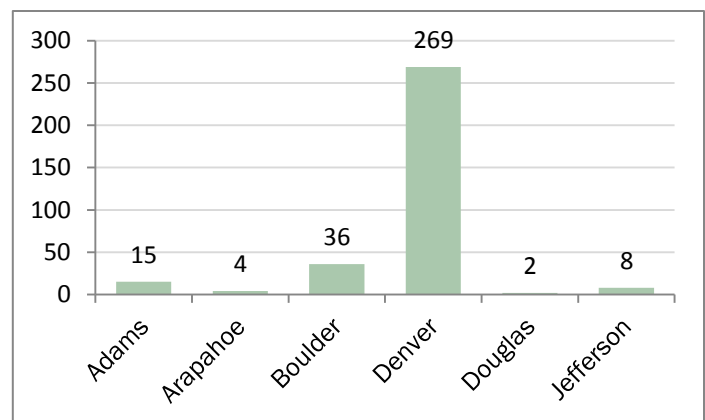
### Ages

Respondents range in age from 15 to 88 years. The average age of respondents is 42. Given known barriers to reaching the youth population, we can say with certainty that the 18 teens counted in the 2015 PIT represent only a portion of the unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in the region.

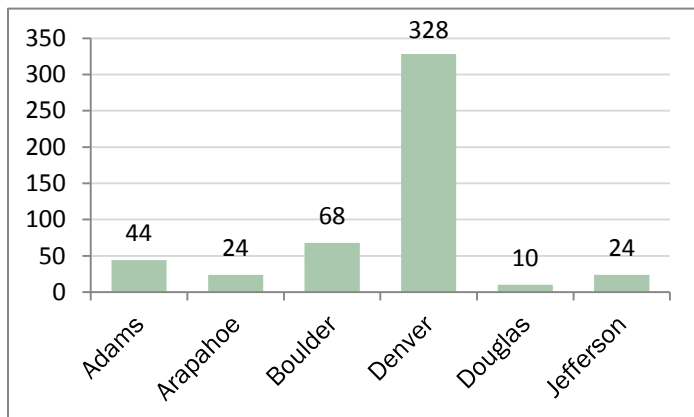
**Table 3. Ages—respondents**

	Frequency	Percent
Under 18	18	0.5%
18-24	499	13.0%
25+	3,332	86.6%
Missing	129	3.2%
Total	3,978	100.0%
Mean age	42 years old	
Median age	43 years old	

**Figure 1. Homeless respondents aged 60+ by county**



**Figure 2. Number of homeless respondents ages 18–24 by county**



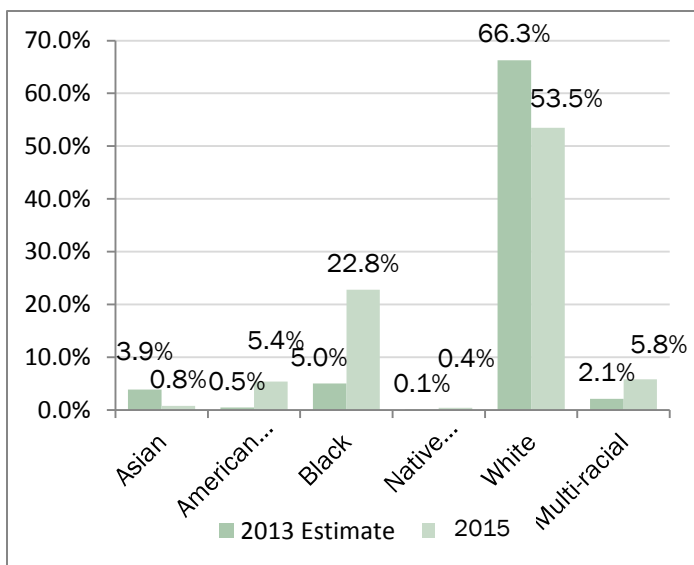
### Gender

Male respondents outnumber female respondents: 62.9 percent (2,454) to 36.9 percent (1,440). Ten people identified as transgender.

### Race/Ethnicity

Compared to the estimated general population of the seven county Denver Metro area in 2013, black people and American Indians/Alaskan Natives are substantially over-represented among the homeless population (see Figure 3).<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 3. Race of homeless respondents compared to 2013 estimated Denver metro area demographics**



\*Note: American... represents American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Native... represents Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.metrodenver.org/do-business/demographics/ethnicity/>

### Families

Family type is described by four different categories; single adults, unaccompanied (single) youth, households with children and households without children. Single adults are individuals age 25 and older who did not have any family members with them on the PIT night. Similarly, unaccompanied youth were individuals under age 25 without any family members (including partners/spouses, parents and children). People who identified themselves as a parent/guardian with children under the age of 18 were considered to be households with children.<sup>5</sup> Groups of adults that were part of the same family, such as adult siblings, families with adult children, or partners/spouses without children were considered to be households without children.

The majority (66.2% or 2,636) of the respondents are single and 867(21.8%) of respondents are in households with children. Of the respondents with children, the vast majority (689 or 79.5%) are single parents. Tables 4 and 5 below show the number of individuals by family type for both respondents and all homeless

**Table 4. Family type—respondents**

	Frequency	Percent
Single adult	2,636	66.3%
Unaccompanied Youth	355	8.9%
Family with children	867	21.8%
Family without children	115	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,973</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>5</sup> There are some exceptions to this rule. A single person or a couple without children may have reported having a child under 18 with them, such as a sibling, a nephew, etc. In these cases, they were counted as a household with children.

**Table 5. Family type—all homeless**

	Frequency	Respondent
Single adult	2,636	43.0%
Unaccompanied Youth	355	5.8%
Family with children	2932	47.8%
Family without children	201	3.3%
Total	6,124	100.0%

The Point-in-Time report reflects those who meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness.

Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, any displaced child or youth who is living in a shelter, motel, inadequate trailer or house, is staying temporarily with relatives or friends due to economic hardship or loss of housing, or is living in any other homeless situation is considered a homeless child or youth and has educational rights.

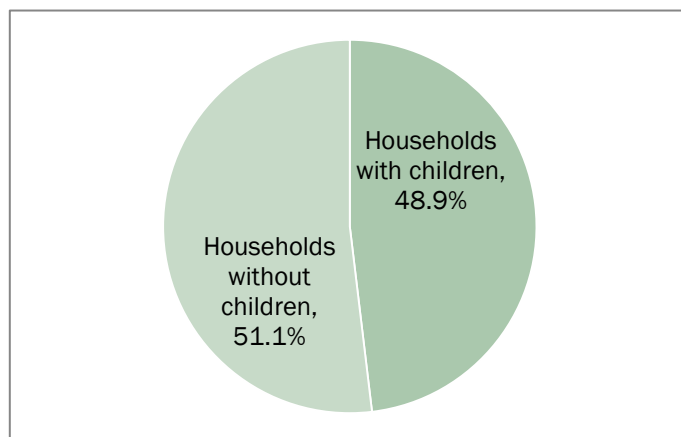
See the Colorado McKinney-Vento 2013-2014 data by school district for more information.

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless\\_data](http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_data)

## Homeless Persons in Households with and without Children

People experiencing homelessness are about as likely to be living in households with children as without.

**Figure 4. Homeless persons in households with and without children**



## Family Member Demographics

There were 2,152 family members counted in the PIT. Respondents reported their family members' relationship to them, as well as their ages, gender, ethnicity, and race.

A total of 84.2% of family members were children or grandchildren and over four-fifths (82.1%) of reported family members were under 18.

**Table 6. Ages—family members**

	Frequency	Percent
Under 18	1,687	82.1%
18-24	107	5.2%
25+	261	12.7%
Total	2,055	100.0%

**Table 7. Gender—family members**

	Frequency	Percent
Female	991	48.7%
Male	1,041	51.2%
Transgender	2	0.1%
Total	2,034	100.0%



**Table 8. Relationship to respondent—family members**

	Frequency	Percent
Spouse/partner	244	11.6%
Child/grandchild	1,776	84.2%
Sibling	13	0.6%
Parent	11	0.5%
Other relative	64	3.0%
Total	2,108	100.0%

**Table 9. Ethnicity—family members**

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic	789	39.5%
Not Hispanic	1,208	60.5%
Total	1,997	100.0%

**Table 10. Race—family members**

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian/Alaskan Native	98	4.6%
Asian	42	2.0%
Black/African American	700	33.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	12	0.6%
White	757	35.9%
Mixed Race	200	9.5%
Don't know/No response	299	14.2%
Total	2,108	100.0%

## Military Service

Ending veteran homelessness is a national priority. The federal government has increased resources toward this goal and many states and communities have developed strategies to reduce homelessness among the men and women who have served our country. The Metro Denver area is no exception to improving system response, and is streamlining access to housing and services as well as engaging veterans to aid their peers. Compared to last year, the 2015 PIT count included a larger number of veterans experiencing homelessness. Some of this increase can be attributed to a more robust data collection strategy among of veterans as well as the inclusion of HMIS data.

Of the all homeless population, a total of 586 individuals identified as veterans (9.6%). Over half (54.4%) of veterans were staying in transitional housing, and less than one in three (29.3%) were in an emergency shelter. This is a significant change from the 2014 PIT, where approximately half of the veteran population was in an emergency shelter, and represents an important shift in the housing options available to meet veteran needs. A total of 92 veterans (16%) reported staying in an unsheltered location. Nearly all were male (93.3%) and living in a household without children (93.7%). One in five (20.1%) are newly homeless. Almost two in five veterans (37.9%) reported that they have a medical or physical disability; and over one-third (34.5%) have a serious mental illness, and close to one-third (31.2%) reported substance use. Over one-fifth (21.8%) or 128 veterans were identified as chronically homeless.

## Employment/Income

Over one-quarter (26.0%) or 1,036 respondents reported someone in their household had received money from working in the past month. Many individuals did not provide information for this question; therefore this may under represent the true proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness who have an income.

## Duration and Episodes of Homelessness

Duration of homelessness refers to how long a particular episode of homelessness has lasted. Number of episodes refers to the number of separate times a household has experienced homelessness, regardless of how long each of the episodes lasted.

Over one third (38.1%) of respondents say their household has been homeless for less than one year, while 34.8 percent have been homeless for one year or more (see Table 12).

**Table 12. Duration of homelessness—respondents**

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 month	281	7.1%
More than 1 month but less than 1 year	1,234	31.0%
1 to 3 years	908	22.8%
More than 3 years	479	12.0%
Don't know	25	0.6%
I am not currently homeless	161	4.0%
No response/Bad data	890	22.4%
Total	3,978	100.0%

As shown in Table 13, the single largest group of respondents (50.8%) said their household was experiencing its first episode of homelessness in the last three years. More than one in five (21.2%) had been homeless twice in the last three years, and nearly 10 percent (13.9%) or 537 respondents had been homeless four or more times.

**Table 13. Episodes of homelessness—respondents**

	Frequency	Percent
Once in last 3 years	1,956	50.8%
Twice in last 3 years	817	21.2%
Three times in last 3 years	356	9.2%
Four or more times in last 3 years	537	13.9%
Have not been homeless at any time	187	4.9%
Total	3,853	100.0%

## Newly Homeless

For the purpose of this study, people were considered “newly homeless” if they had been homeless for less than one year and this was their first episode of homelessness. We report persons who are newly homeless for all homeless (respondents and their family members). On January 26, 2015, nearly one in four (24.5%) of all persons experiencing homelessness, or 1,500 people, were considered newly homeless. Of the newly homeless, over half (52.6%) or 789 people were in households with children, and an additional 67 (4.5%) were unaccompanied youth under the age of 25.

## Chronically Homeless—Respondents

In the 2015 PIT, 750 respondents or 18.8 percent are chronically homeless. The majority of respondents who are experiencing chronic homelessness are male (73.3%) and are single adults (83.1%). Over half (51.1%) spent Monday night, January 26, 2015 in an emergency shelter and 325 (44.6%) spent the night unsheltered – on the street, under a bridge, in a car, etc.

## Chronically Homeless—All Homeless

An additional 59 family members were living in a family with one or more chronically homeless individuals. Of all homeless persons, 13.1 percent or 809 people were experiencing chronic homelessness. Of the chronically homeless population, the great majority (85.3%) or 690 people are living in households without children. A total of 71 individuals (including 35 children) were chronically homeless families, and 45 chronically homeless individuals were unaccompanied youth.

## Where People Spent Monday Night

On January 26, 2015, people were predominantly staying in transitional housing, followed by emergency shelters including domestic violence and youth shelters and hotel or motel rooms paid for by a voucher or by an agency. A total 13.8% or 827 people were unsheltered (see Table 14).

**Table 14. Where spent Monday night—respondents and all homeless**

	Respondents	All homeless	Percent of all homeless
Emergency shelter <sup>1</sup>	1,356	1,732	28.8%
Domestic violence shelter	41	84	1.4%
Transitional housing	1,712	3,312	55.2%
Safe haven	49	49	0.8%
Unsheltered	723	827	13.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>6,004</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Including hotel/motel paid for by a voucher.

Table 15 shows that the majority of people spent Monday night, January 26, 2015 in the City and County of Denver, followed by Boulder, Jefferson, and Adams Counties.

**Table 15. County where spent Monday night—respondents and all homeless**

	Respondents	All homeless	Percent of all homeless
Adams	279	524	9.3%
Arapahoe	195	424	7.5%
Boulder	405	620	11.0%
Denver	2446	3456	61.5%
Douglas	25	55	1.0%
Jefferson	229	537	9.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>5,616</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## County Comparisons

Figure 5 shows the variation in gender of respondents by county. The data table embedded in the figure provides the actual percentages of males and females by county.

**Figure 5. Gender—proportion within each county—respondents**

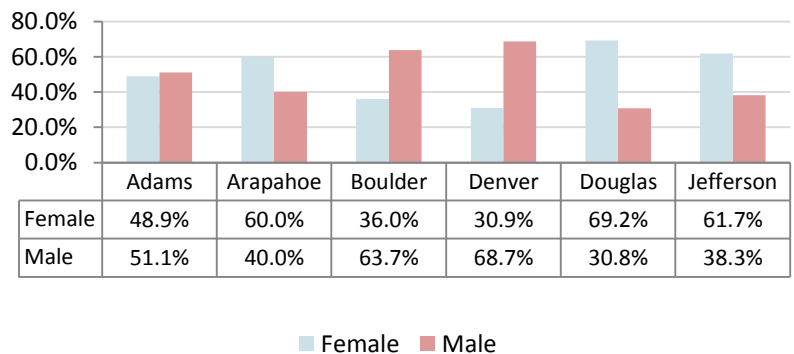


Table 16 shows that on average, respondents were slightly older in Denver and Douglas counties than in the other Metro area counties.

**Table 16. Age of respondents by county**

	Minimum	Maximum	Average
Adams	18	73	39
Arapahoe	17	67	38
Boulder	16	80	41
Denver	15	88	43
Douglas	18	61	43
Jefferson	17	73	40

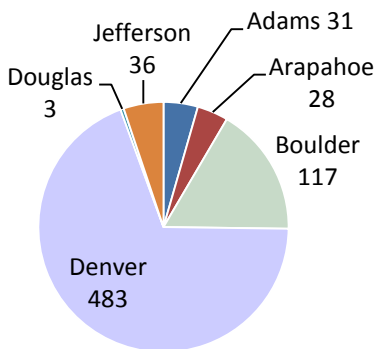
Table 17 illustrates the proportion of veterans within each county—not across counties. Adams and Denver show the highest proportion of veterans.

**Table 17. Proportion of veteran respondents within each county**

	Frequency	Percent
Adams	84	14.5%
Arapahoe	27	4.7%
Boulder	46	7.9%
Denver	400	69.0%
Douglas	2	0.3%
Jefferson	18	3.1%
Colorado (not specified)	3	0.5%

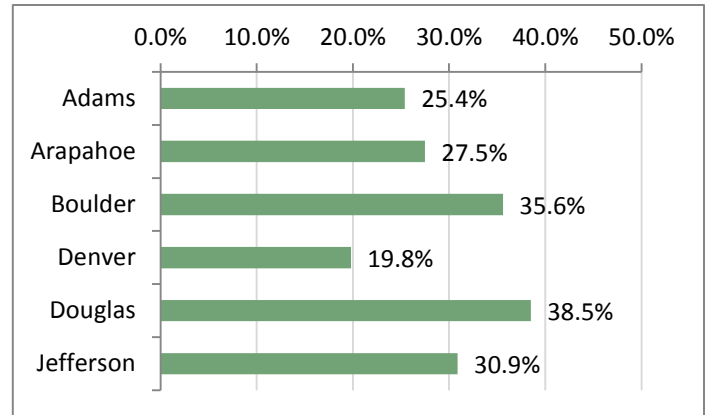
Figure 6 shows that the greatest number of chronically homeless respondents across the seven county area spent the night in Denver (69.2%), followed by Boulder (16.8%).

**Figure 6. Chronically homeless by county—respondents**



The greatest proportion of newly homeless persons spent the night in Douglas, followed by Boulder and Jefferson counties, as shown in Figure 7.

**Figure 7. Newly homeless proportion within each county—respondents**



### Location on Monday Night by County

Table 18 (see next page) is a comparison of where all homeless persons spent Monday night, January 26, 2015, by county. Comparing counties based on where persons spent Monday night may not be as useful as other comparisons, because the count of where persons spent the night is partially based on where each county collected surveys, although it may also reflect the types of services provided in a given county.

**Table 18. Where respondents spent Monday night by county**

County	Transitional Housing		Emergency Shelter		Unsheltered		DV Shelter	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adams	172	52.1	75	24.0	57	8.3	7	2.2
Arapahoe	104	52.8	33	16.8	50	25.4	9	4.6
Boulder	109	26.7	202	49.4	89	21.8	9	2.2
Denver	1180	44.9	975	37.1	423	16.1	5	0.2
Douglas	4	15.4	6	23.1	6	23.1	10	38.5
Jefferson	129	53.1	31	12.8	83	34.2	0	0

### Families by County

As shown in Table 19, Denver and Boulder counties have the highest proportion of single respondents.

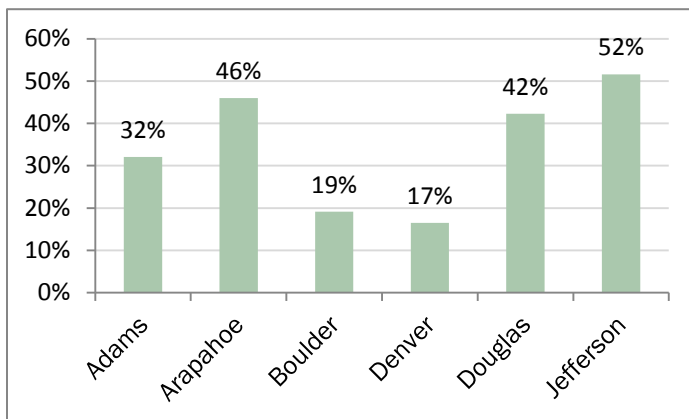
**Table 19. Family type by county—respondents**

	Family status	Respondents	Percent
Adams	Single adult	177	55.7%
	Unaccompanied youth	17	5.3%
	Family with children	102	32.1%
	Family without children	22	6.9%
	Total	319	100.0%
Arapahoe	Single adult	82	41.0%
	Unaccompanied youth	16	8.0%
	Family with children	92	46.0%
	Family without children	10	5.0%
	Total	200	100.0%
Boulder	Single adult	274	63.7%
	Unaccompanied youth	54	12.6%
	Family with children	82	19.1%
	Family without children	20	4.7%
	Total	430	100.0%
Denver	Single adult	1946	72.6%
	Unaccompanied youth	249	9.3%
	Family with children	443	16.5%
	Family without children	41	1.5%
	Total	2679	100.0%

	Family status	Respondents	Percent
Douglas	Single adult	11	42.3%
	Unaccompanied youth	1	3.8%
	Family with children	11	42.3%
	Family without children	3	11.5%
	Total	26	100.0%
Jefferson	Single adult	94	38.2%
	Unaccompanied youth	11	4.5%
	Family with children	127	51.6%
	Family without children	14	5.7%
	Total	246	100.0%

Figure 8 shows that Jefferson County has the highest proportion of persons living in households with children, followed by Arapahoe, Douglas and Adams Counties. Denver and Boulder counties reported the lowest proportion of persons living in households with children.

**Figure 8. Households with children—proportion within each county—respondents**



### Migration and Last Permanent Residence

Respondents were asked to indicate the county where they last lived before they became homeless. Of those respondents who answered the question, 41.7 percent or 1,522 people indicated their last permanent residence was in the City and County of Denver. A small proportion (4.7%) considered their last permanent residence to be in a Colorado county outside of the Metro area. Nearly one in five (18.1%) or 659 people considered their last permanent residence either out of state or country.

The number of respondents in Table 20 reflects the number who provided information about both where they spent Monday night, January 26, 2015 and the county where they last had a permanent residence. **The table compares the county spent Monday night (columns) and the county of last permanent residence (rows).** For example, out of the 278 respondents who spent the night in Adams County and answered the question about their last permanent residence, 146 said that Adams County was their last permanent county of residence, 61 were from Denver and 39 were from out of state or country. Conversely, of the 375 respondents who said their last permanent residence was in Adams County, 146 were still in Adams County on the night of the PIT count, and 190 from Adams County spent Monday night in the City and County of Denver.

**Table 20. County where spent Monday night by county of last permanent residence—respondents**

County of last permanent residence	Where spent Monday night						TOTAL
	Adams	Arapahoe	Boulder	Denver	Douglas	Jefferson	
Adams	146	8	13	190	2	11	375
Arapahoe	12	96	3	191	1	14	325
Boulder	1	2	222	25	0	1	255
Denver	61	60	31	1282	5	54	1522
Douglas	0	2	0	5	5	0	21
Jefferson	9	8	3	154	3	116	296
In CO - other county	10	5	27	119	2	7	173
Other state/country	39	14	104	457	7	23	659
TOTAL	278	195	403	2432	25	226	3626

The data in Table 20 may provide some indication of the migration of respondents who are experiencing homelessness across the seven Metro area counties. However, while these data shed some light on migration across counties, the information has to be viewed with caution, given that we are making a number of assumptions. For example, “last permanent residence” is likely defined very differently across respondents. Further, the time frame is not articulated in these data, that is, we do not know whether a respondent’s last permanent residence occurred immediately prior to their current episode of homelessness. If it was not, the location of their “last permanent residence” and where they spent Monday night may not accurately reflect the migration from one county to another.

*\*Note that not all respondents answered the survey question and therefore table data will not equal the total number of respondents.*

### Observation/Refusal/Missing Information

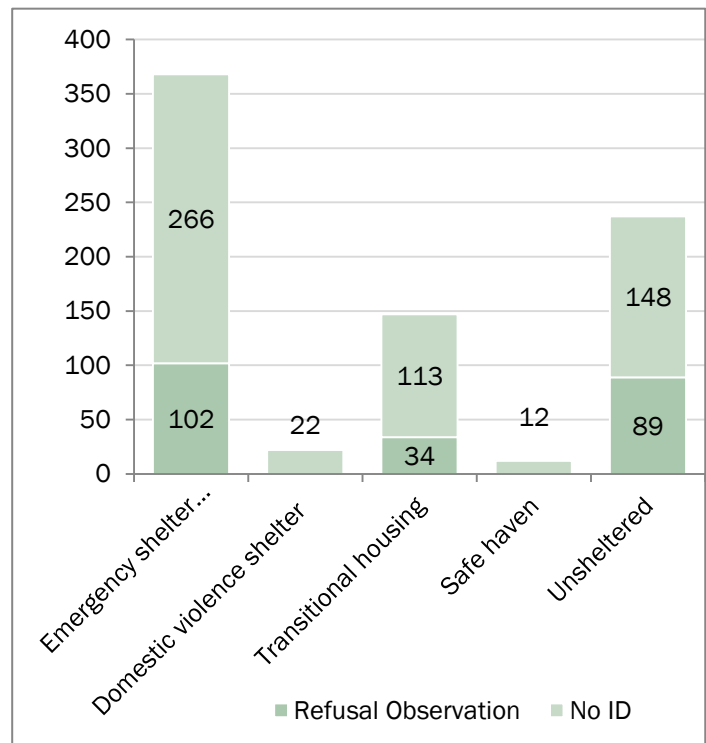
Based on anecdotal evidence gathered from agencies after the 2014 PIT effort, it was determined that the CoC was missing a portion of those experiencing homelessness due to their refusal to take the survey. Participation in the survey is not mandatory and refusal does not affect services or housing. In an attempt to balance individual choice with the need for data to help the community have a more complete understanding of the population they serve, the 2015 PIT survey included a refusal/observation section where volunteers had the ability to record observable data points without disturbing or directly engaging a potential respondent. The use of observational data gathering has limitations in what data can be captured, however it allows the ability to get partial data which would not have been recorded in previous PIT efforts. This section also includes surveys that were missing the data elements used to create a unique PIN for deduplication, making it difficult to tell whether the respondent had previously taken the survey.

Overall, an additional 982 individuals were counted. A total of 77 observations were documented, 265 individuals refused to participate, and 640 individuals did not provide any identifying information and therefore could not be deduplicated against other participants. It is unknown how many of these 982 individuals may have participated in the survey at another time or location. However, this number provides an estimate that can be used in conjunction with the total number of homeless participants to better understand the extent of homelessness during the PIT count.

Homeless individuals that were included in this category were most likely to be staying in an emergency shelter or in an unsheltered location, followed by transitional housing (See Figure 9). This is a different pattern than is seen for individuals who provided information for the PIT count, where a majority were staying in transitional housing. This may reflect the fact that individuals in emergency shelters or unsheltered locations were more likely to refuse participation or otherwise need to be observed given that the majority of information on individuals in transitional housing came from HMIS. It is also likely that it is harder to interview every person in shelters and unsheltered locations, and expected that these locations may have worse data quality results (as reflected by the No ID cases). The figures below provide information on where individuals in this category stayed, as well as how long and how frequently they have been homeless.

In addition to the observation, refusal and individuals without identifying information, some respondents also indicated that they had family members but did not provide any additional information about them. A total of 114 respondents indicated that someone else in their family (spouse, child, etc.) stayed in the same place as them on the night of the PIT but did not provide information about those people. In addition, some respondents indicated that they had children that stayed in a separate location from them on PIT night. The vast majority of these children (318 children from 184 different respondents) stayed with family or friends and therefore would not meet the HUD definition of homelessness. Although these children did not meet the criteria for homelessness on the night of the PIT, it is unknown how stable their living situation is, and provides important information on the housing situations for these vulnerable families. Additionally, 40 respondents, representing 62 additional children, reported that they had children who were staying at another shelter, or on the street. It is unknown if these children participated in the PIT at these other locations.

**Figure 9. Where spent Monday night – missing homeless information**





**Table 21. Duration of homelessness – no ID**

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 month	59	9.7%
More than 1 month but less than 1 year	229	37.7%
1 to 3 years	176	29.0%
More than 3 years	105	17.3%
Don't know	15	0.6%
I am not currently homeless	23	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 22. Episodes of homelessness – no ID**

	Frequency	Percent
Once in last 3 years	270	45.8%
Twice in last 3 years	123	20.8%
Three times in last 3 years	61	10.3%
Four or more times in last 3 years	90	15.3%
Have not been homeless at any time	46	7.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



# VI-SPDAT Data

## Incorporating Coordinated Access into the Point-in-Time Survey

As part of the 2015 Point-in-Time count, efforts were made to engage chronically homeless individuals and veterans beyond taking the PIT survey by incentivizing individuals to also take a Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT), and placing them in a centralized housing queue ordered by VI-SPDAT score. The score is determined by their length of time homeless, frequency of public service utilization and other factors related to a respondent’s mental, physical and social health. Administering the VI-SPDAT to some of our most vulnerable citizens allows the continuum of care and local providers to target resources for this high need population and track their service utilization. Often the Point-in-Time can’t differentiate between new respondents and those from previous years, making it difficult to reference housing placements. It is MDHI’s intention to measure the progress of these 258 individuals over the course of the year.

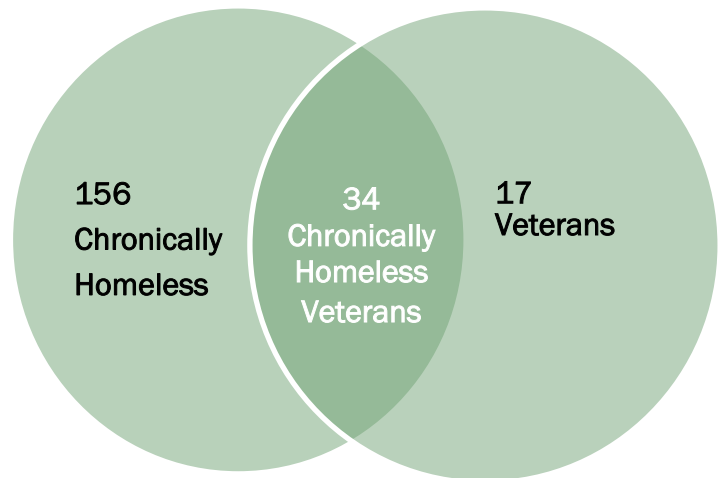
The Denver metropolitan area is part of the **25 Cities Initiative** which is aimed at helping participating communities to align housing and services through a community-oriented coordination effort known as **Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement System (CAHPS)**. Since launching as a pilot in the summer of 2014, the focus for Denver has been to coordinate entry and housing placement for chronically homeless individuals and veterans.

Special thanks to The Denver Foundation and the Governor’s Office for funding incentives to make this targeted effort possible. And to the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) team for administering the surveys.


## Results


A total of 262 VI-SPDATs were conducted at various locations throughout the Denver metropolitan region. After duplicates were removed, the total amount of surveys within the dataset was 258.


### Homeless & housing history





## Emergency service utilization in the past 6 months


- 


2.1 avg trips to the emergency room
- 

3.4 avg interactions with law enforcement
- 

32% have taken an ambulance to the ER
- 


13% have accessed crisis services
- 


30% have been hospitalized
- 

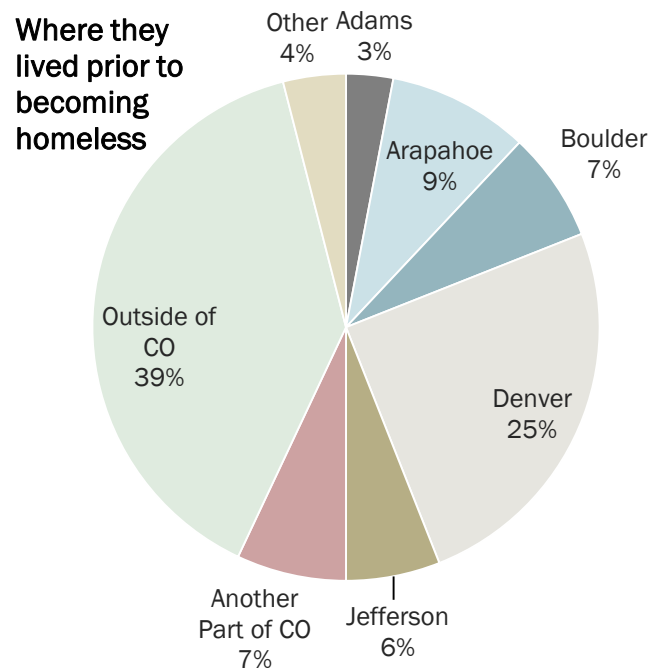
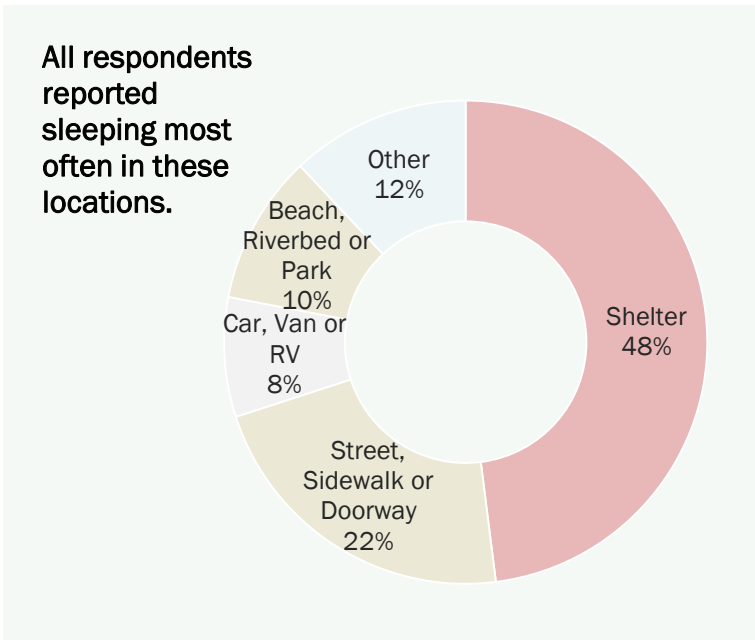
38% report being victims of violence since becoming homeless
- 

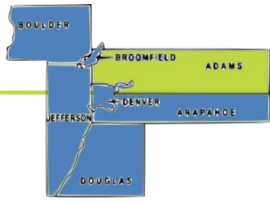
23.3% have been in jail or prison

**22% report having been in foster care.**


 36.8% report having had a serious brain injury or head trauma


 57% have (or have been told) they have problematic drug or alcohol use





# Adams County 2015 PIT Summary

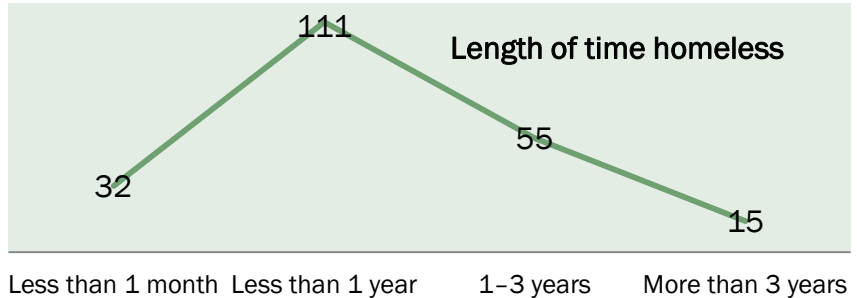
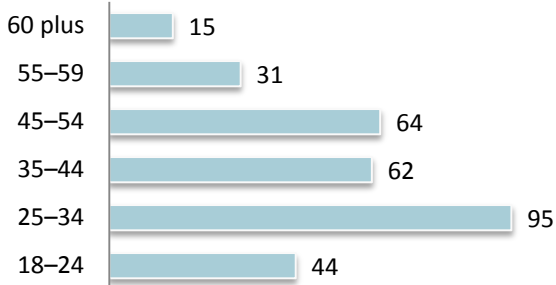


A Point-In-Time (PIT) survey was conducted during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by MDHI and Metro stakeholders. This overview provides results of data collected from Transitional Housing programs in HMIS as well as from the survey itself.

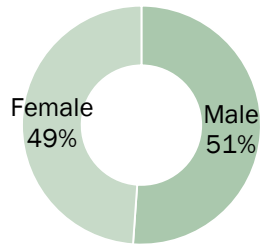
**Of the 6130 individuals who were counted metro-wide, 572 were in Adams County.**

*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and chart data may not equal the total numbers for the county.*

## Respondents age

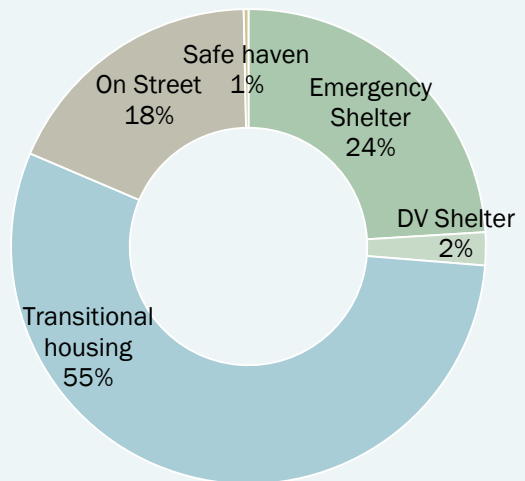


**Males and females were represented almost equally among respondents.**

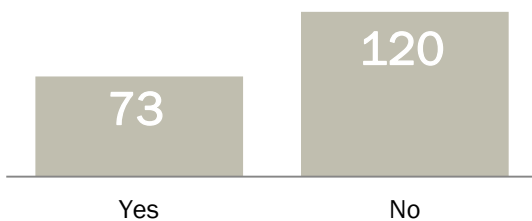


**\*25%** of respondents were newly homeless which is defined as a first incident of homelessness the duration of which has been less than one year.

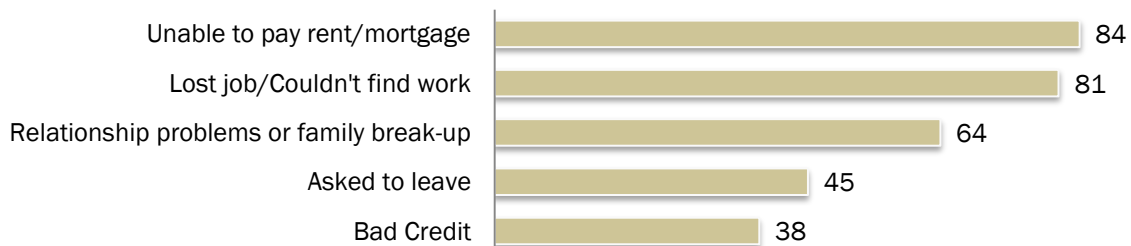
## Where respondents slept on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**About 23% of respondents reported that their households had received money from working in the preceding month**



## Respondents contributing factors

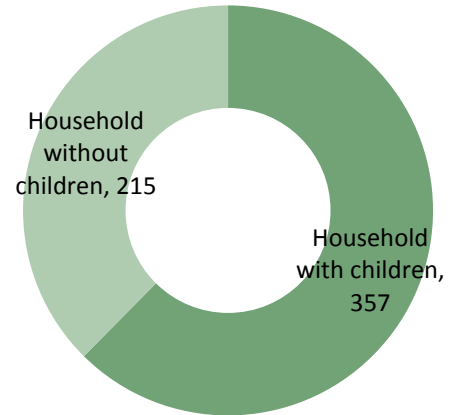


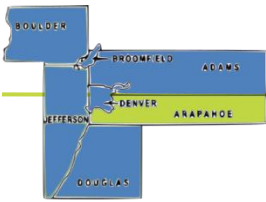
### Survey Locations

Sites were identified by the county PIT coordinator to best capture information from homeless individuals.

Agency	Program	City
Westminster City, of		Westminster
Work force And business department of Adams county	Brighton Work Force	Brighton
Access Housing	ThV97	Commerce City
Access Housing	SHP95	Commerce City
Access Housing	Call-ins	Commerce City
Access Housing	ESG-Rapid Rehousing	Commerce City
Access Housing	SHP Demo Transitional housing	Commerce City
Access Housing	Access Housing Family Shelter	Commerce City
Almost Home, Inc	Shelter Program	Brighton
Cold Weather Care	Rotating Shelter at Crossroads Church	Thornton
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	Breadline	Northglenn
A alternatives to family violence	Undisclosed location-DV shelter	
Human Services Building	Adams County Housing Authority	Commerce City
Community Reach Center	8931 Humboldt Street	Thornton
Growing Home	Shelter - Locations Change	Westminster

### Households with children - all homeless





# Arapahoe County 2015 PIT Summary

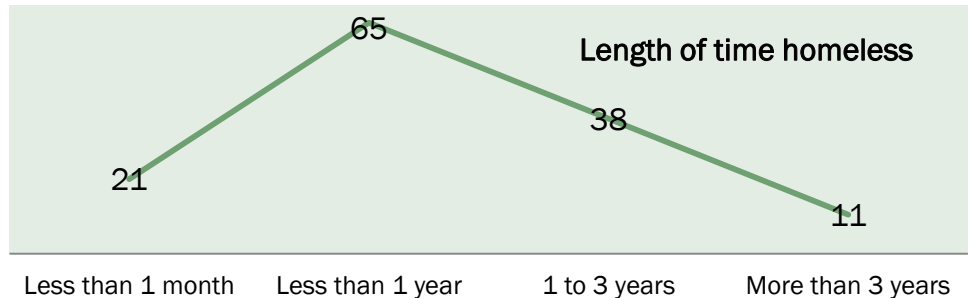
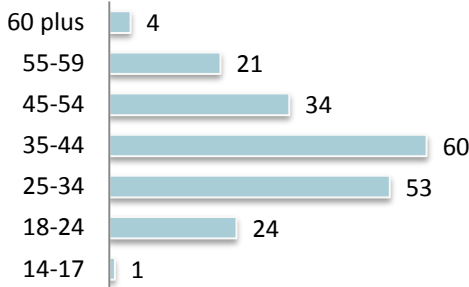


Of the 6130 individuals who were counted metro-wide, 440 were in Arapahoe County.

A Point-In-Time (PIT) survey was conducted during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by MDHI and Metro stakeholders. This overview provides results of data collected from Transitional Housing programs in HMIS as well as from the survey itself.

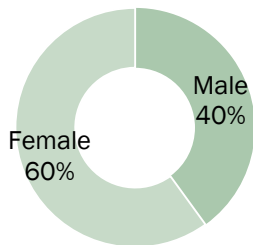
*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and chart data may not equal the total numbers for the county.*

## Respondents age



**\*28%** of respondents were newly homeless which is defined as a first episode of homelessness the duration of which has been less than one year.

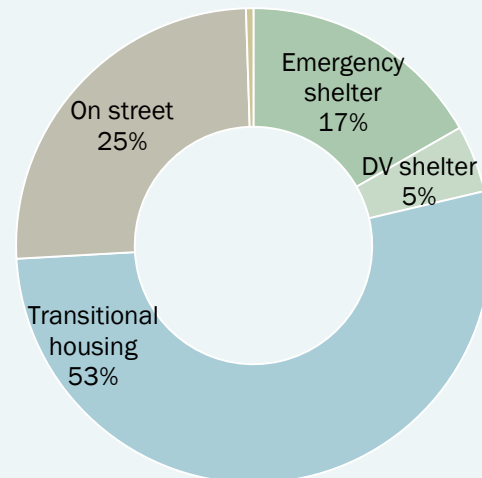
Nearly three-fifths of respondents were female



About 30% of respondents reported that their households had received money from working in the preceding month



## Where respondents slept on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015



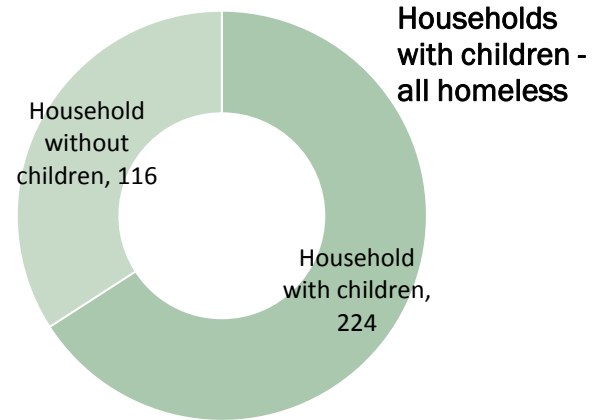
## Respondents contributing factors

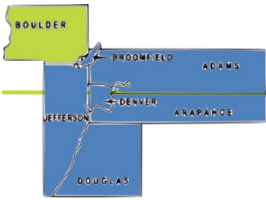


### Survey Locations

Sites were identified by the county PIT coordinator to best capture information from homeless individuals.

Agency	Program	City
Family Tree	House of Hope	Englewood
Arapahoe/Douglass Mental Health Network	Outpatient- Littleton CO	Littleton
Mile High Behavioral Healthcare and Comitis Family Services	Comitis overnights (Nexus Program)	
Mile High Behavioral Healthcare and Comitis Family Services	Comitis Time Limited Transitional Shelter	
Mile High Behavioral Healthcare and Comitis Family Services	Comitis Youth Outreach- Aurora	
Mile High Behavioral Healthcare and Comitis Family Services	Comitis Youth Outreach- Praxis-Denver	
Mile High Behavioral Healthcare and Comitis Family Services	Comitis Youth Outreach- Denver	
Martin Luther King Jr Library	Lobby outreach	
Friends of St. Andrews	Hot Meals Soup Kitchen	
Aurora Mental health Center Program	PATH	
Gateway Domestic Violence Shelter	Aurora and Englewood	
Restoration outreach	Food Bank in Aurora	
Catholic Charities- Little Flower	Food Bank in Aurora	





# Boulder County 2015 PIT Summary

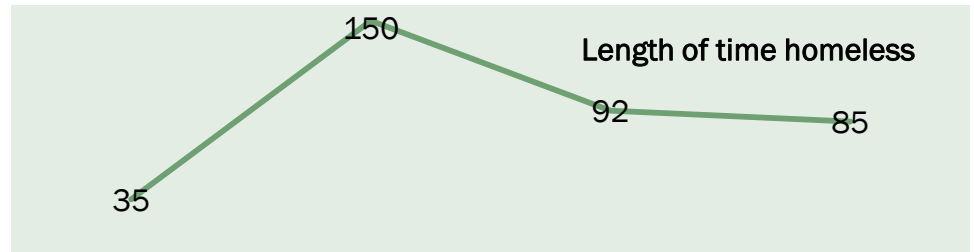
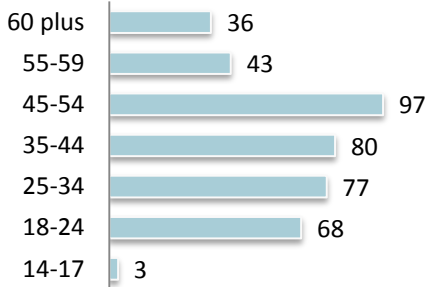


A Point-In-Time (PIT) survey was conducted during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by MDHI and Metro stakeholders. This overview provides results of data collected from Transitional Housing programs in HMIS as well as from the survey itself.

**Of the 6,130 individuals who were counted metro-wide, 658 were in Boulder County.**

*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and chart data may not equal the total numbers for the county.*

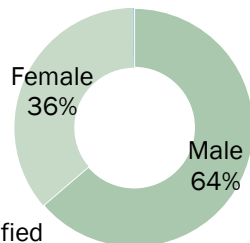
## Respondents age



Less than 1 month    Less than 1 year    1-3 years    More than 3 years

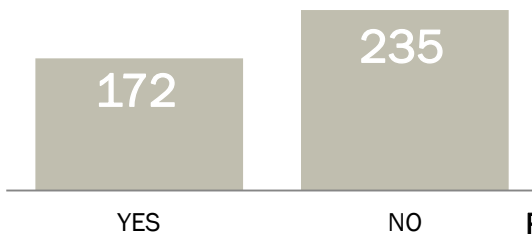
**\*36%** of respondents were newly homeless which is defined as a first episode of homelessness the duration of which has been less than one year.

**Female respondents accounted for more than a third of those counted**

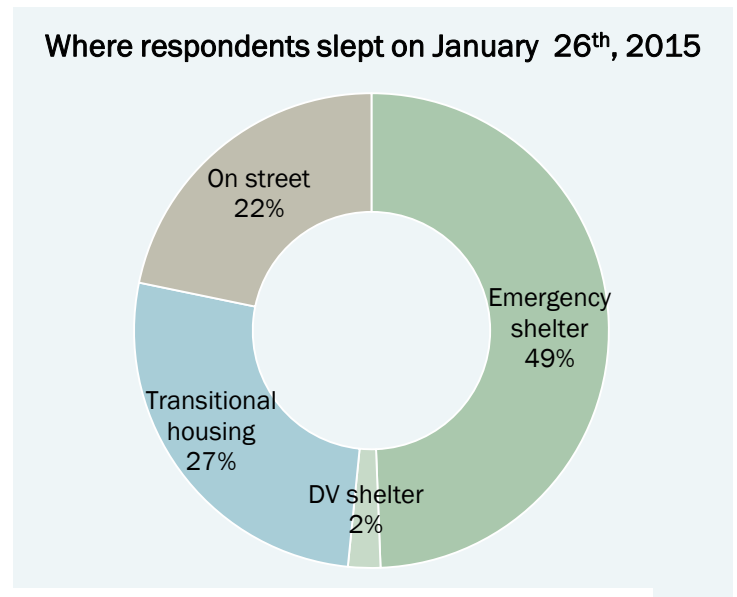


*\*1 respondent identified as transgender*

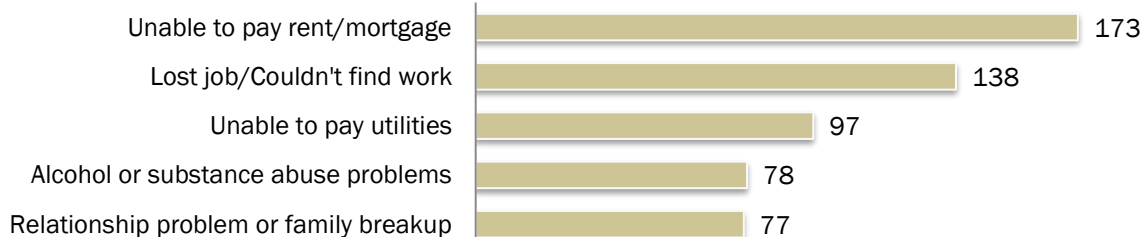
**About 42% of respondents reported that their households had received money from working in the preceding month**



## Where respondents slept on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015



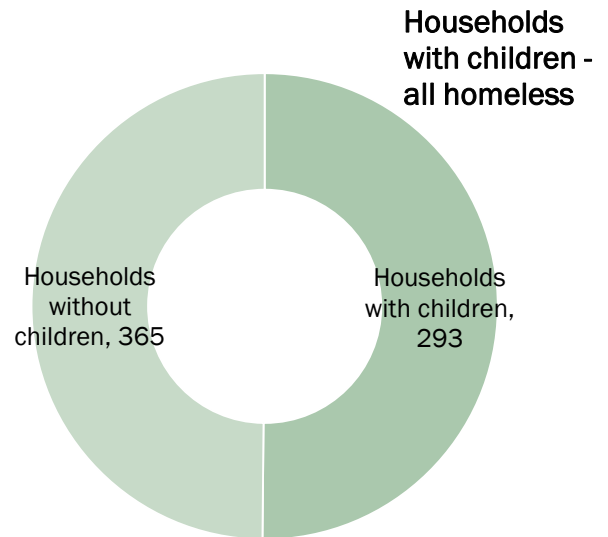
## Respondents contributing factors



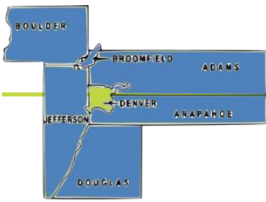
### Survey Locations

Sites were identified by the County Coordinator to best capture information from homeless individuals.

Agency	Program	City
Mental Health Partners	Housing	Longmont
Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement	Outreach EDIC	Longmont
Agape Family Services Shelter	Agape Shelter @ FRCF Annex	Longmont
Bridge House	Behind 1st Congregational Church	Boulder
Bridge House	Bridge House	Boulder
Safe House Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN)	SPAN Shelter Program	Boulder
Bridge House	Deacon's Closet	Boulder
Attention Homes	Outreach	Boulder
Veteran Affairs	HUD VASH Boulder	Boulder
Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow	Emergency Warming Centers (3)	Boulder
Boulder Shelter for the Homeless	Sheltering Program	Boulder
Mental Health Partners	Housing	Boulder
The Inn Between	250 Kimbark Street	Longmont
Boulder County Sheriff	Jail Division	Boulder
Sister Carmen Community Center	Food Bank	Lafayette
Our Center	Intake	Longmont
Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley	Safe House	Longmont
Lafayette Police Department	451 N 111th Street	Lafayette
Emergency Family Assistance Association	Short Term Housing	Boulder







# Denver County 2015 PIT Summary

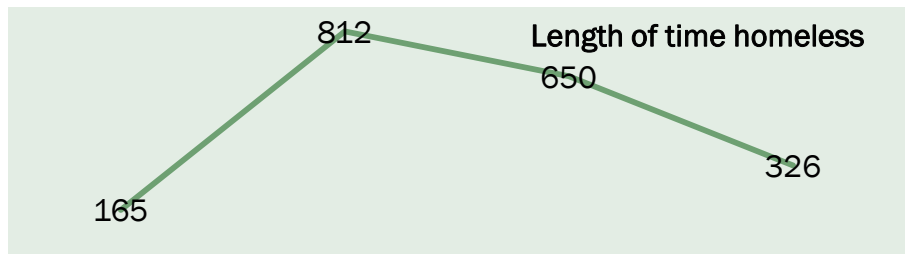
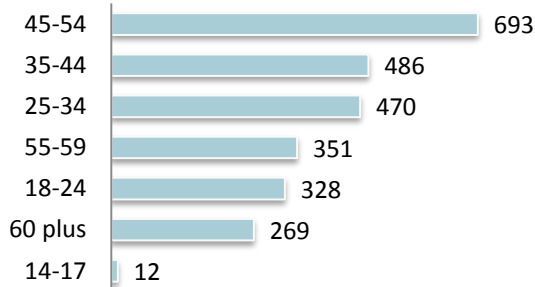


A Point-In-Time (PIT) survey was conducted during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by MDHI and Metro stakeholders. This overview provides results of data collected from Transitional Housing programs in HMIS as well as from the survey itself.

**Of the 6130 individuals who were counted metro-wide, 3737 were in Denver County.**

*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and chart data may not equal the total numbers for the county.*

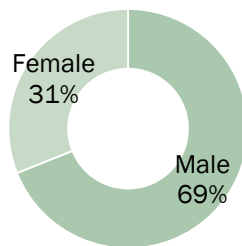
## Respondents age



Less than 1 month    Less than 1 year    1 to 3 years    More than 3 years

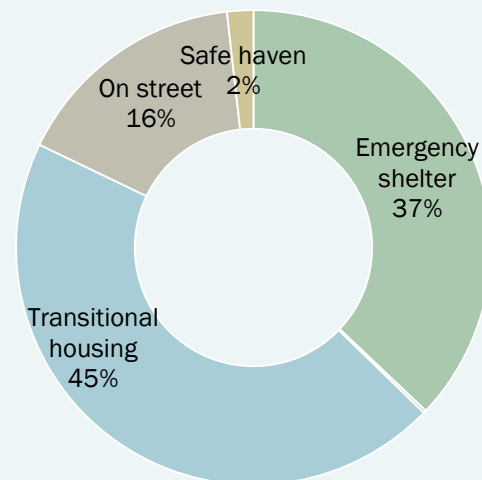
**\*20%** of respondents were newly homeless which is defined as a first episode of homelessness the duration of which has been less than one year.

**Female respondents accounted for more than a third of those counted**

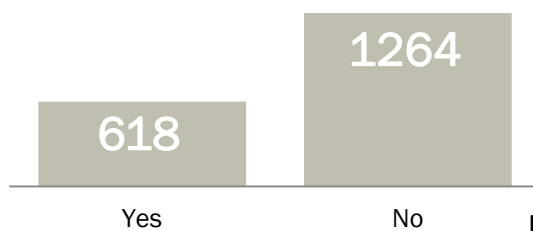


\*9 respondents identified as transgender

## Where respondents slept on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**About 23% of respondents reported that their households had received money from working in the preceding month**



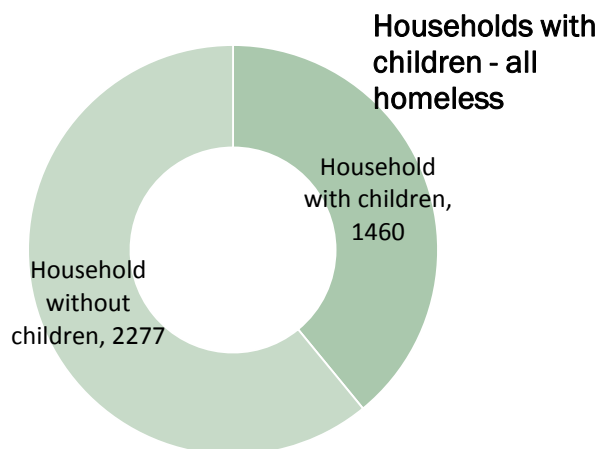
## Respondents contributing factors

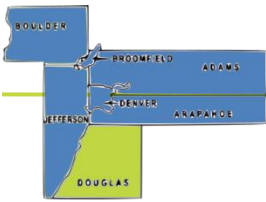


### Survey Locations

Sites were identified by the county PIT coordinator to best capture information from homeless individuals.

Agency	Program
Denver Rescue Mission	Jesus Saves
Sox's Place	Sox's Place
Denver Rescue Mission	Jesus Saves
Bridging the Gap	Mile High United Way
Mile High United Way	211
Catholic Charities	Samaritan House
New Genesis	1680 Sherman Street
Family Homestead	EHP/ Transitional Housing
Sacred Heart House of Denver	In-House Stabilization Program
Father Woodys Home of Hope	Day Shelter 1101 West 7th Ave
Christ's Body	850 Lincoln St
The Gathering place	1535 High Street
Senior Support Services	846 E 18th Ave
Salvation Army	Denver Harbor Light
Salvation Army	Woman's Shelter 2915 High St
Salvation Army	Lambuth Family Center
Salvation Army	Crossroads
The Delores Project	Denver, Colorado
Urban Peak	Shelter and Outreach team
Saint Francis Center	Curtis and 24th
Warren Village	1323 Gilpin St
Warren Village	First Step
Volunteers of America	Family Motel
Volunteers of America	Brandon Center
Mile High Ministries	Joshua Station
Sacred Heart House of Denver	In-House Stabilization Program
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	DSOC Outreach
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Bridges
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Housing First (unhoused)
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Ruth Goebel Residential Treatment
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Respite
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Residential Services Home Vouchers
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Transition In Place Scattered Site
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Housing First HOME Vouchers
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Native American Services
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Victory House
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Outreach & Community Resources
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Community Resources ESG
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Beacon Place
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	PATH
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Family Supportive Services Programs
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	VA GPD Programs
Colorado Coalition For the homeless	Stout Street Health Center
Denver VA	CRRC
Denver VA	VA Hospital
Mental Health Center of Denver	Adult Recovery Services
City Square	Family Tree
Catholic Charities	Father Ed Judy house
Safe House Denver INC	Emergency Shelter
Volunteers of America	Irving Street Woman's Residence
Denver Rescue Mission	Star @ the Crossing
Denver Rescue Mission	Champa House
Family Promise	Homeless Shelter





# Douglas County 2015 PIT Summary

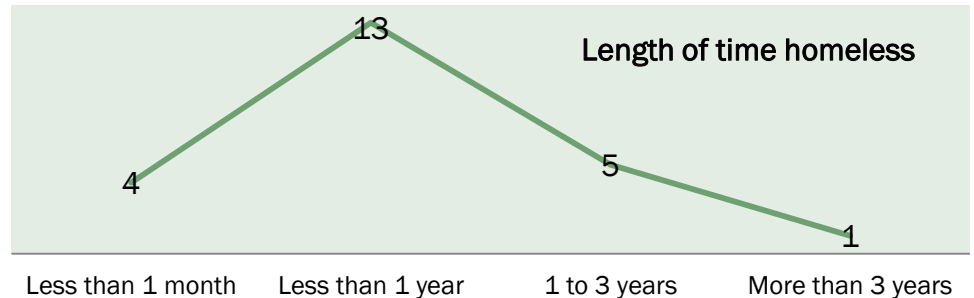
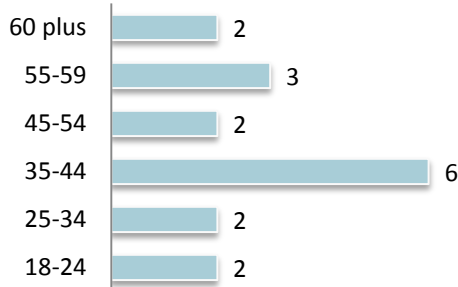


Of the 6130 individuals who were counted metro-wide, 56 were in Douglas County.

A Point-In-Time (PIT) survey was conducted during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by MDHI and Metro stakeholders. This overview provides results of data collected from Transitional Housing programs in HMIS as well as from the survey itself.

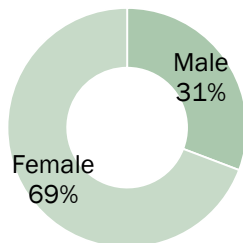
*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and chart data may not equal the total numbers for the county.*

## Respondents age

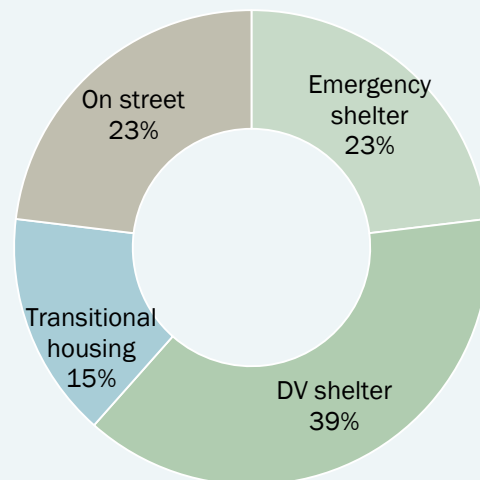


**\*39%** of respondents were newly homeless which is defined as a first episode of homelessness the duration of which has been less than one year.

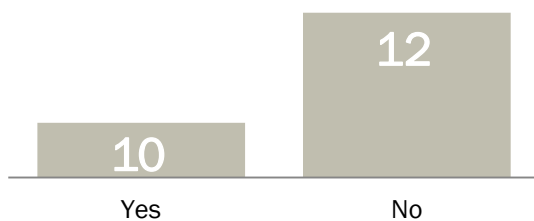
Female respondents accounted for more than two thirds of those counted.



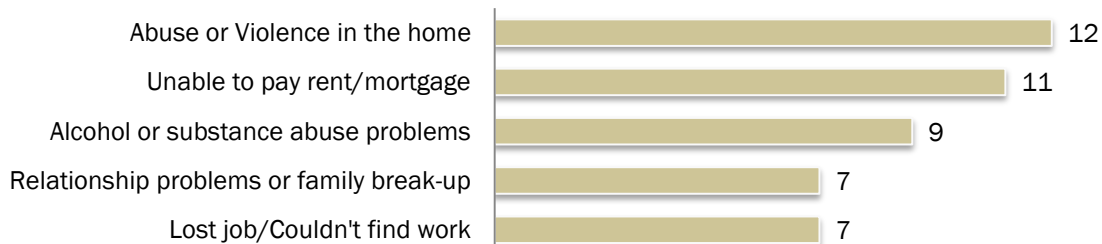
## Where respondents slept on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015



About 39% of respondents reported that their households had received money from working in the preceding month



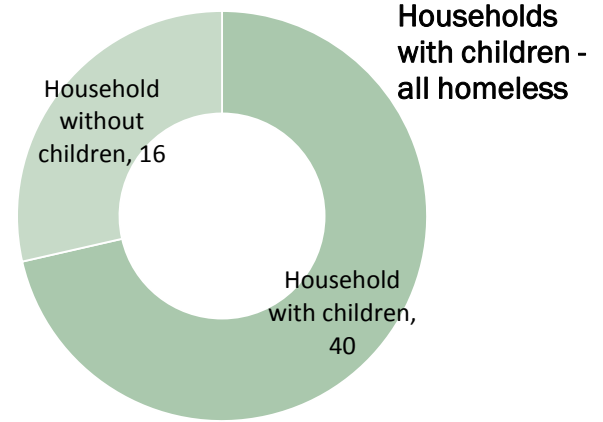
## Respondents contributing factors

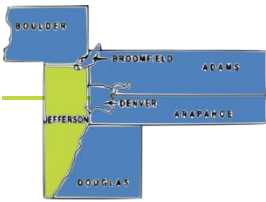


### Survey Locations

Sites were identified by the county PIT coordinator to best capture information from homeless individuals.

Agency	Program	City
Parker Task Force		Parker
Crisis Center	Crisis Center/Douglas County	Castle Rock
Douglas Elbert Task Force	1638 Park St	Castle Rock
Douglas County Community Development	Community of Care	Castle Rock
Douglas County Human Services		Castle Rock





# Jefferson County 2015 PIT Summary

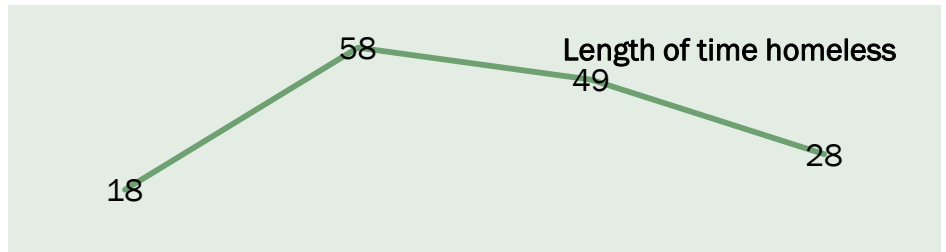
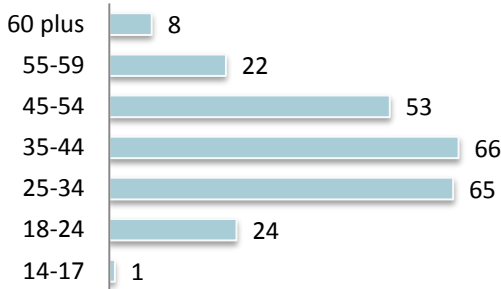


A Point-In-Time (PIT) survey was conducted during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by MDHI and Metro stakeholders. This overview provides results of data collected from Transitional Housing programs in HMIS as well as from the survey itself.

**Of the 6130 individuals who were counted metro-wide, 564 were in Jefferson County.**

*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and chart data may not equal the total numbers for the county.*

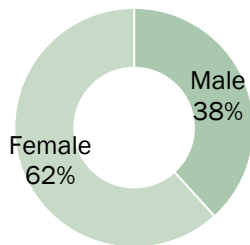
## Respondents age



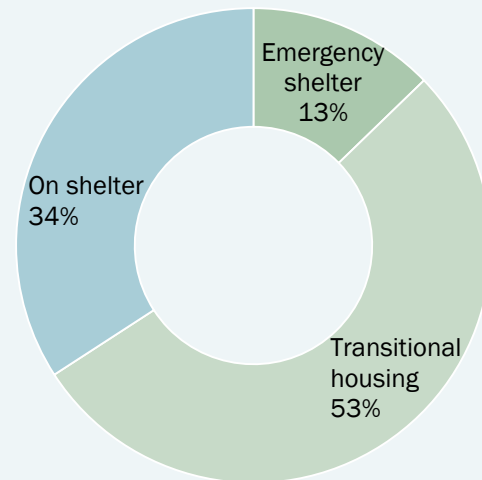
Less than 1 month    More than 1 year    1 to 3 years    More than 3 years

**\*31%** of respondents were newly homeless which is defined as a first episode of homelessness the duration of which has been less than one year.

**Female respondents accounted for almost two thirds of those counted**



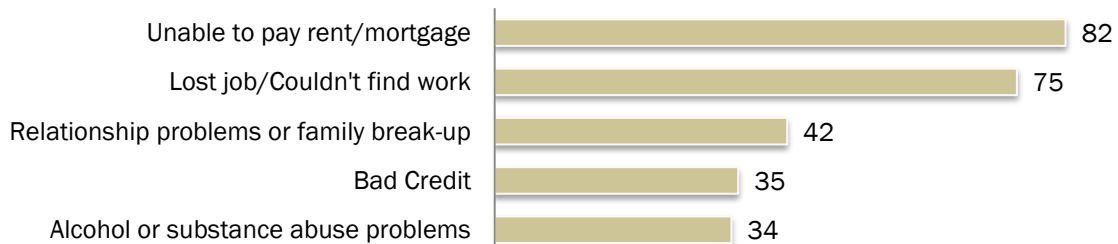
## Where respondents slept on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**Almost 35% of respondents reported that their households had received money from working in the preceding month**



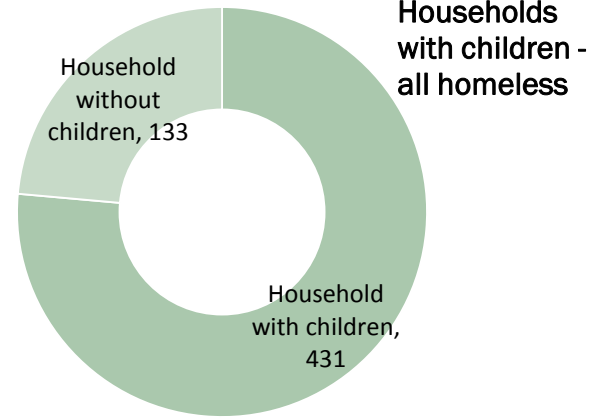
## Respondents contributing factors



### Survey Locations

Sites were identified by the county PIT coordinator to best capture information from homeless individuals.

Agency	Program	City
Mean Street Ministry	1380 Ammons	Lakewood
Family Tree	Outreach	Wheat Ridge
The Action Center	The Action Center Shelter Program	Lakewood
Evergreen Christian Outreach	Evergreen Christian Outreach	Evergreen
Family Tree	The Table 20th & Wadsworth	Wheat Ridge
Jefferson Center for Mental Health	Criminal Justice/Mental Health	Wheat Ridge
Family Tree	Jeffco Workforce	Golden
Family Tree	Homelessness West Pines	Wheat Ridge
Stride	CAP	Lakewood
City of Arvada	Arvada Housing Authority	Arvada
Mountain Resource Center	11030 Kitty Drive	Conifer
Jefferson County Public Library	Belmar Library	Lakewood
Family Promise	Holy Shepard Homeless Shelter	Lakewood
Colorado Homless Families	Agency Prop. Intake Phone Call	
Family Tree Homeless Program	JHS 110	Golden
Family Tree	Women in Crisis	Arvada





# Veteran Profile

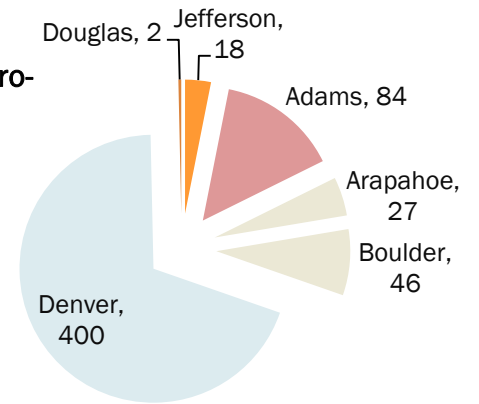
## 2015 PIT Summary



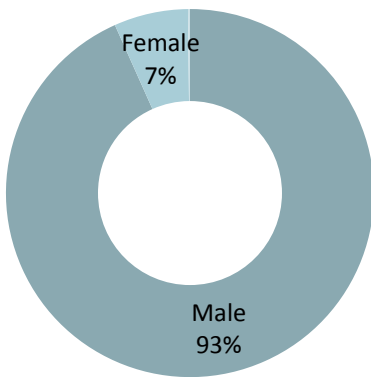
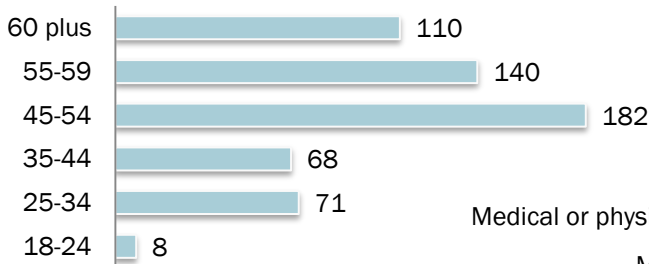
A Point-In-Time (PIT) survey was conducted during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by MDHI and Metro stakeholders. This overview provides results of data collected from Transitional Housing programs in HMIS as well as from the survey itself.

*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and chart data may not equal the total numbers for the county.*

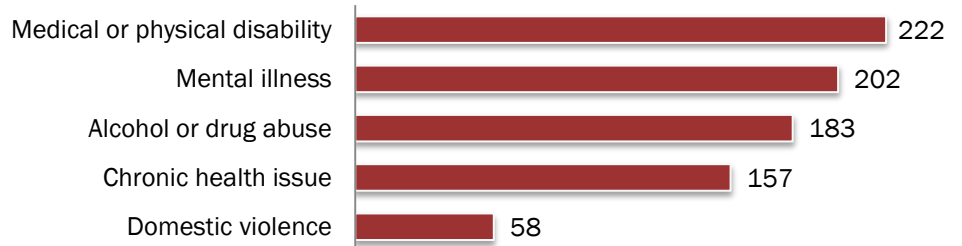
**Of the 3,978 respondents surveyed metro-wide, 586 respondents (15%) were veterans.**



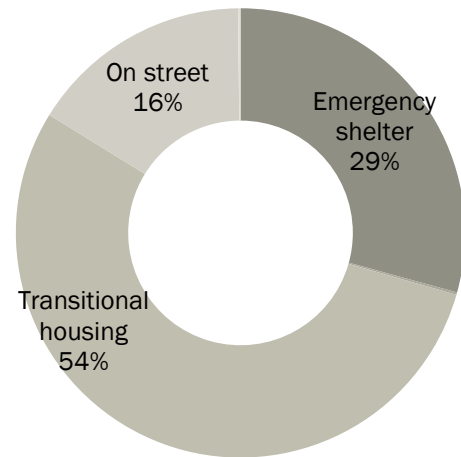
### Respondents Age



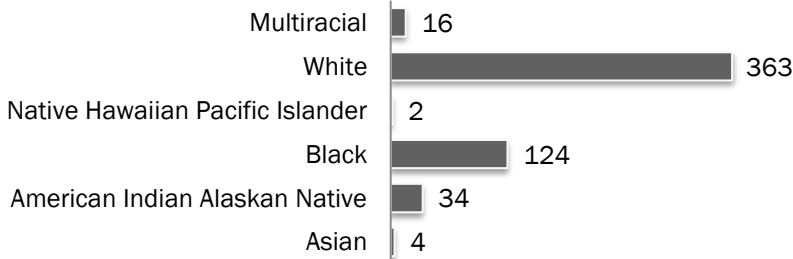
### Disabling conditions



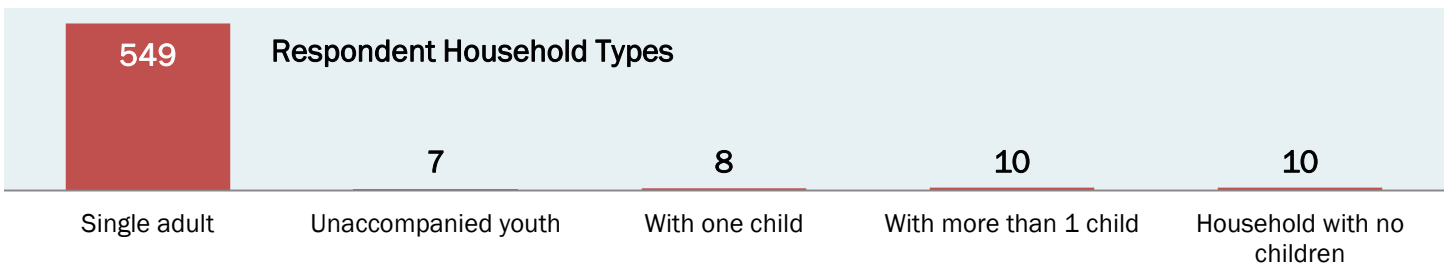
### Where respondents slept on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015



### Race



### Respondent Household Types





# Chronically Homeless Profile

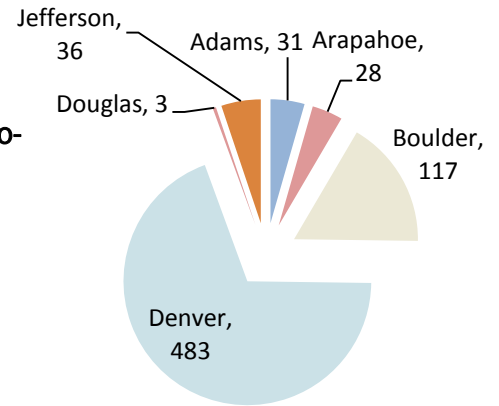


## 2015 PIT Summary

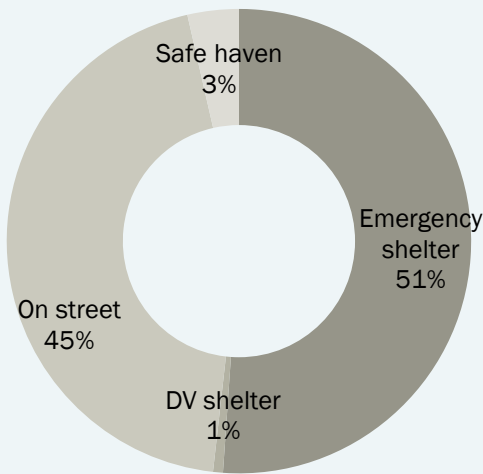
A Point-In-Time (PIT) survey was conducted during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by MDHI and Metro stakeholders. This overview provides results of data collected from Transitional Housing programs in HMIS as well as from the survey itself.

*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and chart data may not equal the total numbers for the county.*

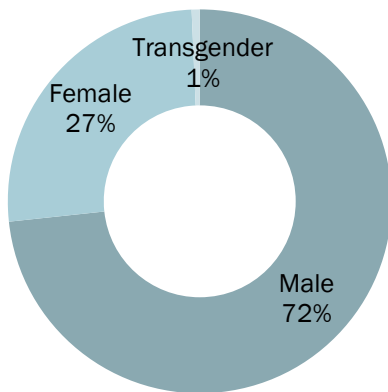
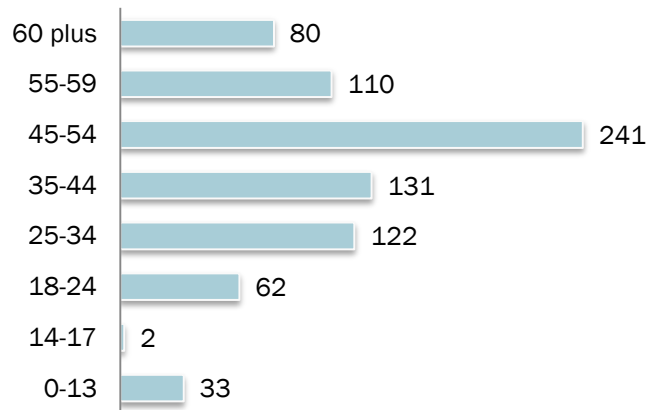
**Of the 3,978 respondents surveyed metro-wide, 750 respondents (19%) were chronically homeless.**



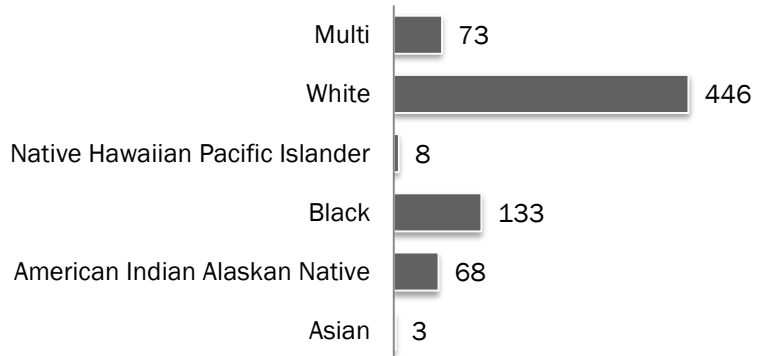
### Where respondents slept on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015



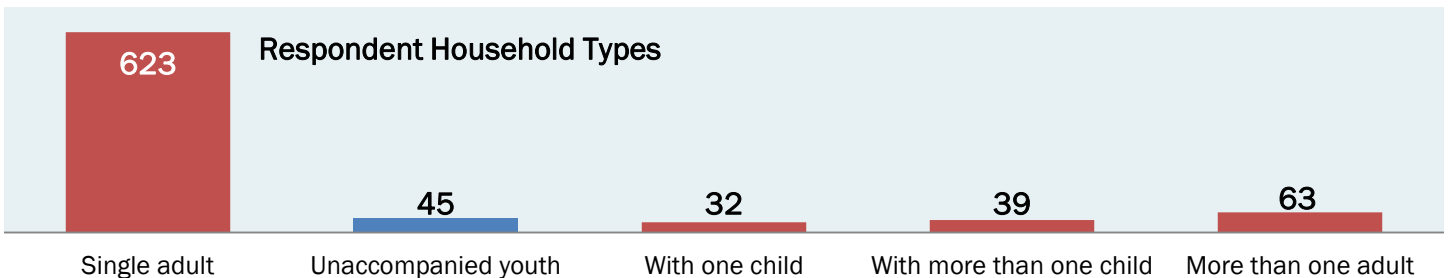
### Ages of all homeless



### Race



### Respondent Household Types







# Youth Profile

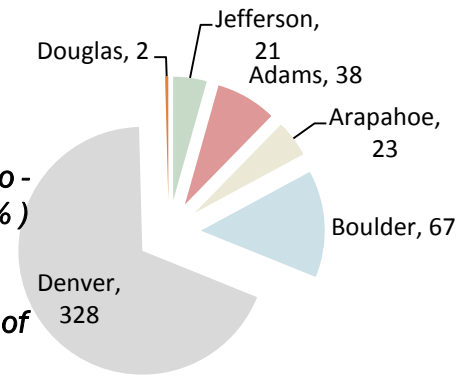
## 2015 PIT Summary



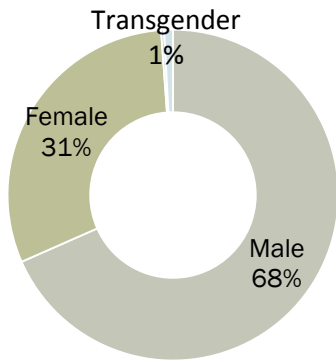
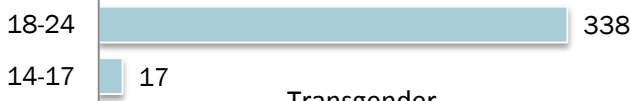
A Point-In-Time (PIT) survey was conducted during the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by MDHI and Metro stakeholders. This overview provides results of data collected from Transitional Housing programs in HMIS as well as from the survey itself.

*\*Note that not all survey questions received responses and chart data may not equal the total numbers for the county.*

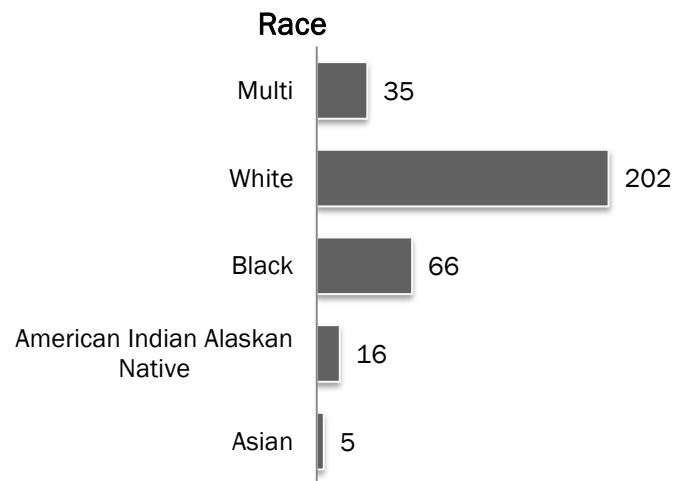
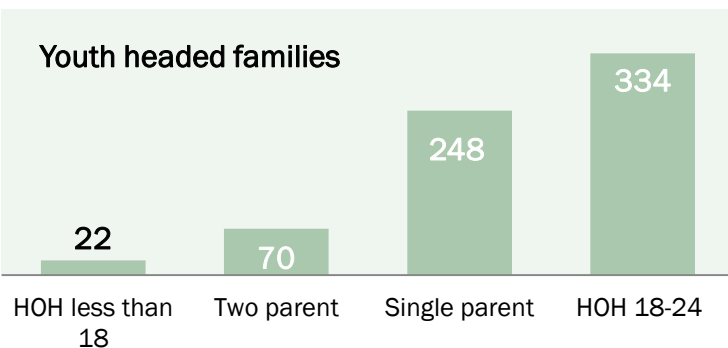
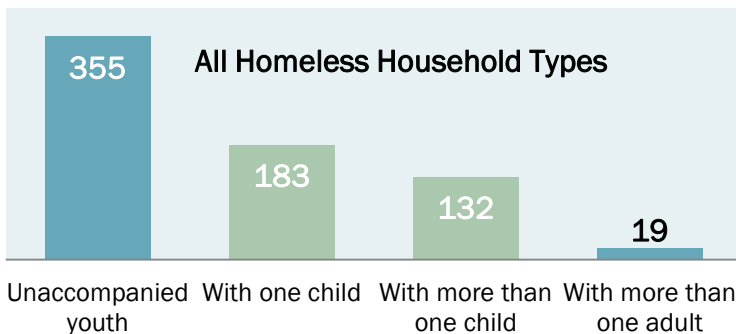
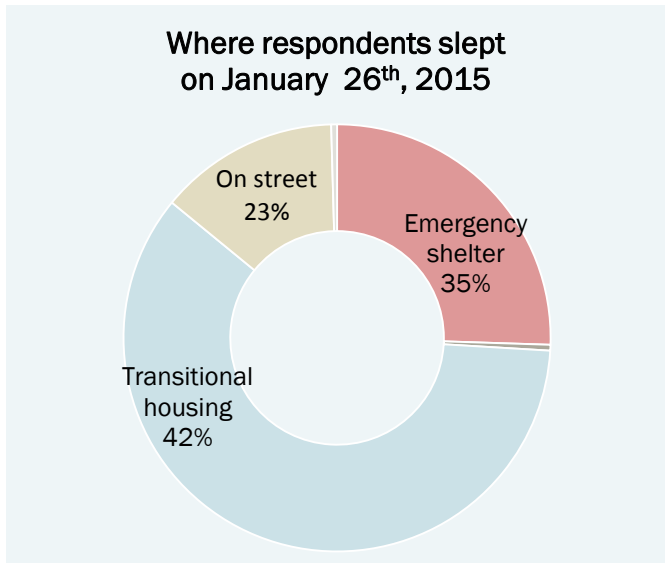
**Of the 3,978 respondents surveyed metro-wide 488 (12%) respondents were youth under the age of 25.**



### Respondents Age



The charts below reflect both unaccompanied youth and youth headed households.





# Families Profile

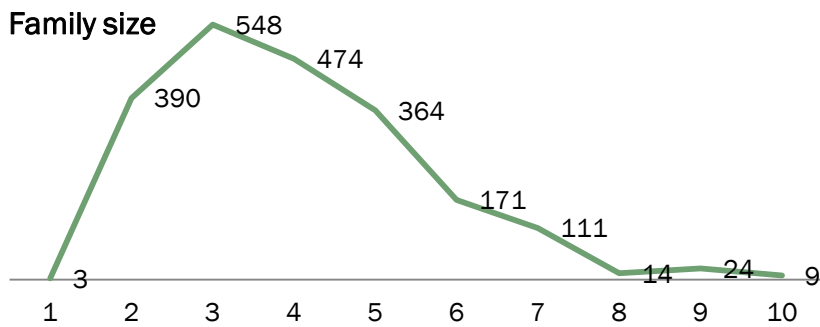
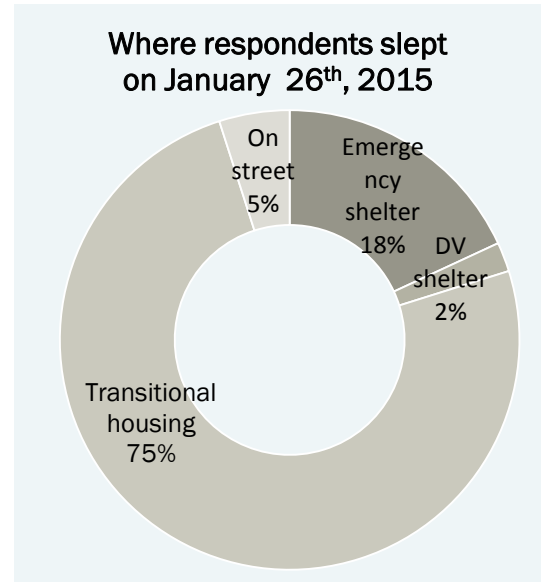
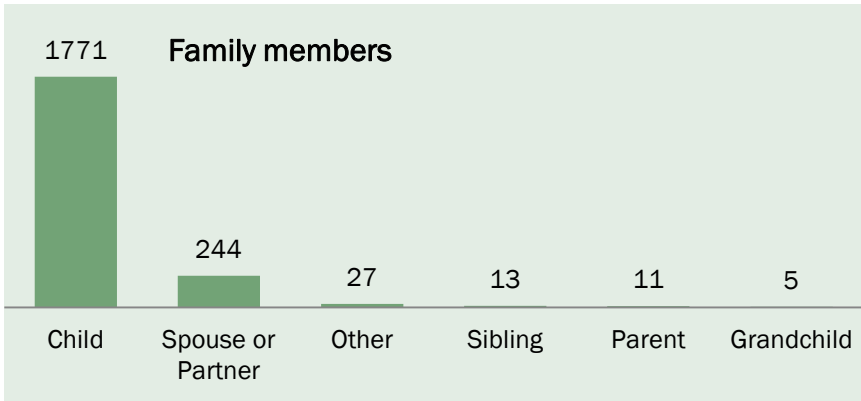
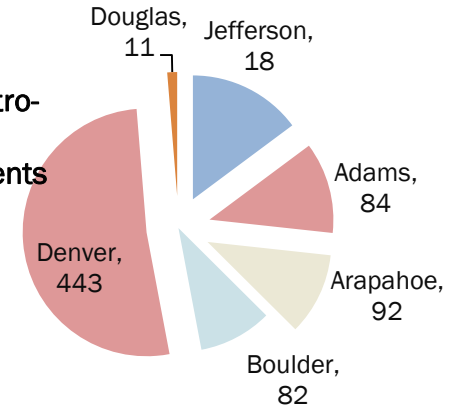
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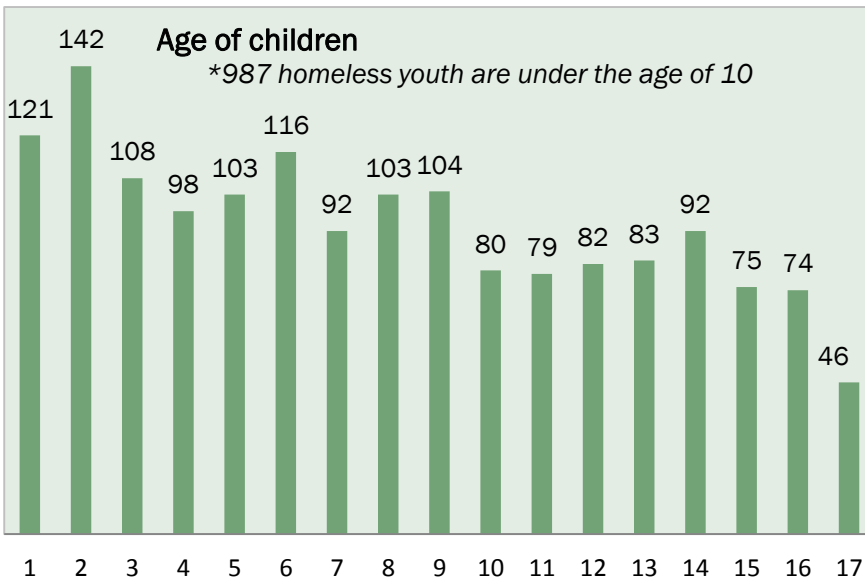
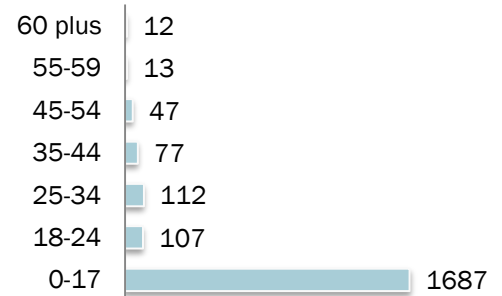
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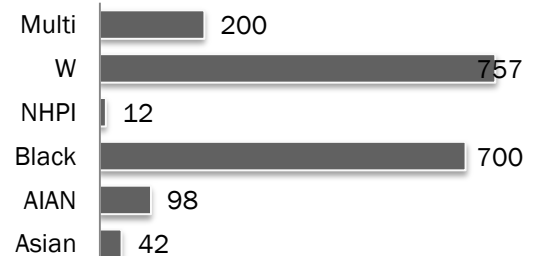
Of the 3,978 respondents surveyed metro-wide, 867 respondents (22%) were families.

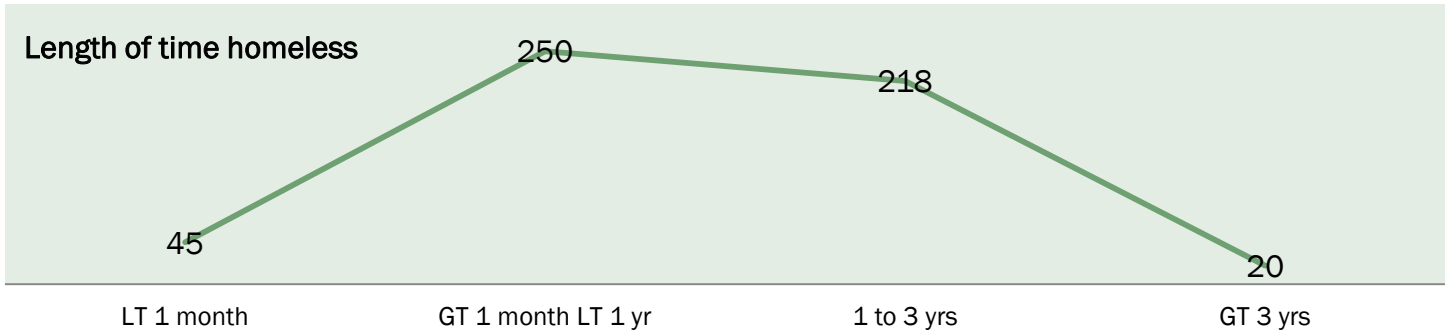


### Age of family members



### Race



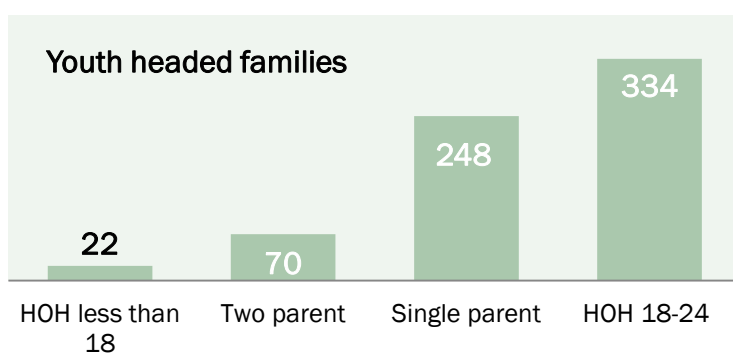
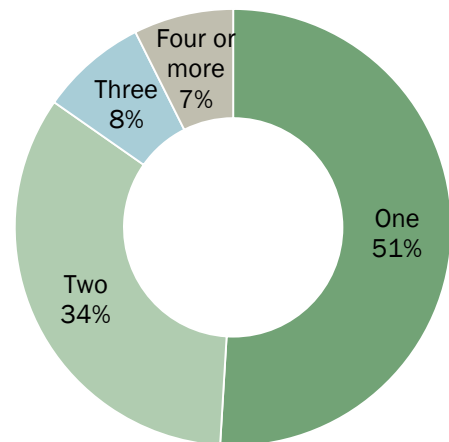


Any displaced child or youth who is living in a shelter, motel, inadequate trailer or house, is staying temporarily with relatives or friends due to economic hardship or loss of housing, or is living in any other homeless situation is considered a homeless youth and has educational rights under the McKinney-Vento Act.

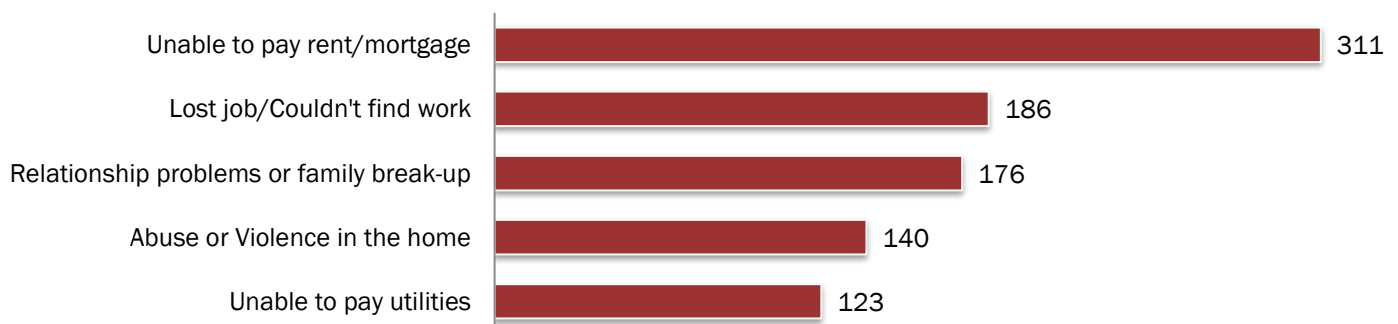
See the McKinney-Vento data for more information.

**\*36%** of respondents were newly homeless which is defined as a first episode of homelessness the duration of which has been less than one year.

Number of times homeless



Contributing factors





children \_\_\_\_\_)  No  
 the street  Not sure  
 No

**housing instability? (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)**  
 work

benefits  
 y sexual orientation  
 s or family break-up  
 s  
 ortgage

**se only on night/day of Point In Time.**

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**in profit**  
 or any other place not meant for human habitation

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
 r person) \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Do you have custody of children under age 18 who are not sleeping with you tonight?  Yes (Num)  No  
 9a. If yes, where did they stay on Monday Jan 26th?  Family/friend house  At another shelter

10. In the past month, have you or anyone in your household received any money from working?  Yes  No

11. What are the reasons/contributing factors as to why you are homeless now or that you are experiencing housing instability?  
 Abuse or violence in the home  
 Alcohol or substance abuse problems  
 Asked to leave  
 Bad Credit  
 Discharged from foster care  
 Discharged from jail  
 Discharged from prison  
 Family member or personal illness  
 Legal Problems  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**REFUSAL/OBSERVATION SECTION- ONLY COMPLETE IF YOU CANNOT COMPLETE AN INTERVIEW**

Refusal: Reason for Refusal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Observation  Unable to enter site  Do not wish to disturb people sleeping  Language barrier

Location of Observation (please be specific!) \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Where is the individual spending the night of January 26<sup>th</sup>?**  
 Emergency shelter or Cold Weather Shelter  
 Name of shelter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth shelter  
 Name of shelter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Domestic violence shelter  
 Hotel/motel paid for by a voucher  
 Transitional housing (time-limited)  
 On the street, under a bridge, in a tent, or other place not meant for human habitation  
 Safe Haven (Denver Program Only)

2. **What is the gender of this person?**  Male  Female  Don't Know

3. **What age is this person?**  Under 18  18 to 24  25+  Don't Know

4. **Is this person Hispanic?**  Yes  No  Don't Know

5. **What is this person's race?**  American Indian/Alaskan Native  Asian  Black  Other  
 Multi-Racial  Don't Know

6. **Does this person have family members with them?** Total Number of People in Household (including person) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes, Children (Number of children \_\_\_\_\_)  Yes, Adults (Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_)  
 No  Don't Know

This fact sheet was developed as an outreach tool prior to Point-in-Time to better engage the community.

## Point in Time Homelessness Count Facts

- Point in Time data is used to fund homeless services.
- Responses to all survey questions ARE OPTIONAL.
- Personal information is ONLY used to prevent surveying the same person multiple times.
- Law Enforcement does NOT have access to survey information.
- Surveys are NOT used to move or relocate homeless people.
- Participation will NOT lead to deportation.
- Pictures will NOT be taken without consent.



## Tiempo Puntual Numeracion de los destuidos DATOS

- Datos de tiempos puntual es usado para fondos economicos para servicios a los destuidos.
- Respuestas a toda las preguntas medidas seran opcional.
- Las preguntas personales se aplican para evitar el hacer las mismas preguntas a las mismas personas varias veces.
- Agencias de policias NO tienen acceso a este medida.
- Estas medidas NO seran usado con el proposito de mover o relocalar cualquier persona destituido.
- Este medida NO sera usado para deportacion.
- Fotos NO se puede tomar sin permiso.



## MDHI Staff & Board of Directors

**Gary Sanford – Executive Director**

**Rebecca Mayer – Program Coordinator**

**Joe Baker – Data Coordinator**

**Hana Lewis – Americorps VISTA**

**Amanda Trujillo – Employment Subcommittee Intern**

<p><b>Bennie L. Milliner – President</b> Executive Director Denver’s Road Home</p>	<p><b>Debra Eakin – Treasurer</b> Wealth Management Advisor US Bank</p>
<p><b>Artie Lehl – Secretary</b> Programs Manager Douglas County Housing Partnership</p>	<p><b>Annie Bacci</b> Homeless Programs Manager Colorado Department of Local Affairs</p>
<p><b>Maryjane Carr</b> Community Representative</p>	<p><b>Wendy Schwartz</b> City of Boulder Human Services Department</p>
<p><b>Kim Easton</b> CEO Urban Peak</p>	<p><b>Robert Froug</b> Aurora Mental Health Center</p>
<p><b>Lu Horner</b> Community Representative Colorado Department of Human Services Aging and Adult Services (Retired)</p>	<p><b>Leanne Wheeler</b> Community Representative U.S. Air Force Veteran Wheeler Advisory Group LLC</p>
<p><b>Michelle Lapidow</b> Deputy Chief, Homeless and Vocational Programs Eastern Colorado Healthcare System</p>	<p><b>Melanie Lewis Dickerson</b> Improvement Advisor Community Solutions, Inc</p>
<p><b>Alejandro Martinez</b> Community Representative</p>	<p><b>Signy Mikita</b> Community Development Planner City of Aurora, Comm. Dev. Division</p>
<p><b>Bob Munroe</b> Solvera Advisors</p>	<p><b>John Parvensky</b> President and CEO Colorado Coalition for the Homeless</p>
<p><b>Glen Carney</b> Community Representative</p>	<p><b>John Kelly</b> Community Representative</p>



## Background

Efforts have been made throughout the Point-in-Time to maintain consistent methodology while continuously reviewing the process to enhance the effectiveness of the endeavor.

### National history of Point-in-Time

<b>1984</b>	First national count study conducted by Westat for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The study sampled a group of service providers and asked them to estimate the size of the homeless population in their geographic area.
<b>1986</b>	USDA funded study conducted by the Urban Institute and Research Triangle Institute yielded the first nationally representative dataset including demographic information, such as household composition, race, age, and income sources.
<b>1988</b>	Second HUD national count study sampling service providers.
<b>1990</b>	Census Bureau "Shelter and Street Enumeration (S-Night)" undertaken in March as part of the Decennial Census.
<b>1996</b>	USICH funded National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients conducted by the Census Bureau
<b>1999</b>	HUD directed to develop a representative sample of jurisdictions to analyze service data by Congress.
<b>2000</b>	Emergency and Transitional Shelter Population report published by the Census Bureau.
<b>2001</b>	HMIS created to collect service level data.
<b>2010</b>	National goal set to end veteran homelessness by 2015, chronic homelessness by 2016, and family, youth, and child homelessness by 2020.
<b>2013</b>	Federal change of subpopulations to include families.

### Regional history of Point-in-Time

<b>1988</b>	Denver Metropolitan Homeless Survey conducted by University of Colorado at Denver students and Dr. Franklin James.
<b>1998</b>	Surveys conducted over a span of days asking where they stayed on a specific night.
<b>2000</b>	Early questions were about education level, whether someone ate last night, what their income level was, whether they had a valid Colorado ID.
<b>2001</b>	The survey questions were refined to capture more targeted information and reduce the amount of time it took to respond to the survey.
<b>2004</b>	Researcher decisions made to verify homeless status in the survey to reduce the number of surveys discarded due to incomplete data.
<b>2005</b>	Efforts made to begin counting chronically homeless people.
<b>2006</b>	Statewide count in January and August homeless definition. Definition of homelessness expanded to include hotel/motel vouchers and doubled up-1st statewide winter count in 17 years 1/5 newly homeless.
<b>2007</b>	Expanded definition of chronic homelessness.
<b>2008</b>	Denver only count because PIT was not required by HUD that year.
<b>2009</b>	HMIS data pulled to incorporate into the report.
<b>2011</b>	If the respondent reported having children in the table identifying household members but did not state their children's ages, and the respondent was age 32 or younger, the respondent was counted as having a child under 18.
<b>2012</b>	Efforts made to capture ages of children more accurately.
<b>2013</b>	Youth questions added. Veteran questions added. Chronic homeless families added.
<b>2015</b>	Data pulled from HMIS. Surveys more accurately targeted. VISPDAT. At-risk not counted for the first time.