



PINELLAS COUNTY POINT IN TIME HOMELESS REPORT: 2016

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals in Pinellas County is reported according to criteria established by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. These data are then applied to a reporting format established by the Florida Department of Children and Families. Data reported to HUD and DCF are obtained from the Tampa Bay Information Network (TBIN), a survey of shelters not participating in TBIN, and a street survey of homeless individuals conducted by volunteers each year in the community. Additional data are gathered each year that go above and beyond HUD and DCF criteria, to provide additional insight on the extent of homelessness in our community. This year this supplemental data was obtained from the Pinellas County Jail, the Pinellas County School District and street surveys of people who were “couch surfing”, or homeless but spent the evening of January 27, 2016 in a hospital or in a hotel/motel.

The total number of homeless individuals reported to HUD this year was 2777. A majority of these were adults over the age of 24 (85.7%), male (73%), non-Hispanic (93.4%), and either White (63.2%) or Black (31.7%). There were 127 unaccompanied youth and 14 parenting youth households. There were 379 veteran households. There were 603 chronically homeless individuals, 98 of which were veteran individuals. There were 2 chronically homeless families. 23.2% of adults reported a serious mental illness, while 22.4% reported a substance use disorder and 1% reporting HIV/AIDS. 11.2% report having been a foster child.

Additional data reported to the Florida Department of Children and Families indicate 9.2% of individuals reporting no prior episode of homelessness. 16.9% report currently being homeless less than a week while 25.3% report being homeless one year or longer. Employment/financial reasons (61.8%) and family problems (19.9%) are the most often cited causes of homelessness. 26.6% report staying in the county one week or less prior to becoming homeless while 61.2% report having resided in the county one year or longer. Individuals responding to the street survey report mainly staying in either Saint Petersburg (61.6%) or Clearwater (21.2%).

There were an additional 239 individuals in the street survey, 478 in the jail data, and 2813 in the school data that do not meet the definition of homelessness established by HUD. These data are presented in addition to official HUD and DCF data to better understand the nature of homelessness in Pinellas County.

INTRODUCTION

Each year, each Continuum of Care (COC) is required to report the number of homeless persons within its community to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). The count includes both sheltered and unsheltered persons. Sheltered persons are those residing in Emergency Shelters (ES), Transitional Housing (TH) or Safe Havens (SH). Unsheltered persons (UN) are those residing in places not meant for human habitation. The two primary sources for these data are the Tampa Bay Information Network (TBIN) and a street survey of homeless persons which counted the number of homeless persons on the night of January 27, 2016 this year. These data are then combined to produce the counts reported to HUD and DCF. Additional data are obtained from the Pinellas County Jail, the Pinellas County School District and street surveys to report data relevant to the community that does not fit the criteria outlined by HUD. This report enumerates data from each of these sources for the 2016 reporting period.

METHOD

DATA

STREET SURVEY DATA

The street survey asks each respondent to identify where they slept on Wednesday night January 27th, 2016. Demographic and survey questions were asked in accord with HUD reporting requirements. Supplemental questions important to the community were also asked, the results of which are included in this report.

In previous years, in addition to the “official” PIT Count and Survey (generally the last Thursday in January), asking where “they slept on the night of _____”, the continuum has also conducted the count and survey at subsequent weekend meals sites. The *Planning Committee for the 2016 Count and Survey* made the decision to conduct the count and survey for only one day this year- beginning at 4:30 a.m. and concluding around 8:30 p.m. on January 28th, 2016.

The provider agency response to volunteering continued to improve this year, and with the exception of the volunteers deployed to the libraries, a provider agency staff member was assigned to each of the deployed teams as a team lead and/or data quality regulator. The deployment sub-committee developed a comprehensive spreadsheet to map out where volunteers were deployed. Volunteers were deployed to cover all main libraries, day labor sites, public parks, public feeding areas, major bus terminals, and major food banks. Volunteers were also deployed to canvas geographic areas where the homeless are known to congregate. The volunteer turnout for the 2016 Count and Survey was the best one to date, and the continuum was able to comprehensively canvas the full geographic area. On the day of the Count and Survey, a total of 89 teams (260 volunteers) were deployed from four deployment centers. The Sheriff and the Clearwater, Pinellas Park, Largo, St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs Police Departments deployed approximately 60 law enforcement officers to encampment sites and other areas that we do not typically send volunteers for safety reasons.

The planning committee made the decision to only deploy volunteers who had attended a 1.5 hour training several years ago, and developed a comprehensive PowerPoint and training manual. This year, the training sub-committee also produced a video clip which highlighted different scenarios which may arise during the survey, and appropriate ways for the volunteers to handle the situation. The training commenced on January 11th and continued through January 19th. There were a total of 27 training sessions conducted at various locations throughout the county (both day and evening sessions), with a special session for the law enforcement officers who participated in the survey. Every trained volunteer received a printed training curriculum, which provided step-by-step instructions for completing the surveys.

TAMPA BAY INFORMATION NETWORK (TBIN) DATA

TBIN is used to report data for individuals residing in emergency shelters, transitional shelters, and safe havens on the night of the PIT count. TBIN contains data necessary to report to HUD.

NON-TBIN SHELTERED DATA

For the shelters not participating in TBIN, a separate survey is administered to obtain data necessary for the HUD count and to answer separate DCF questions.

JAIL DATA

The jail count is comprised of individuals residing in the Pinellas County Jail on the night of January 27th, 2016 who either reported an address of “transient” at booking or were arrested while living on the street or in a place which falls under the definition of not being meant for human habitation prior to entering the facility. These individuals are not considered literally homeless according to HUD. As such, these data are provided separately in this report.

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS DATA

The school count consists of those students who were reported as homeless or “doubled up” (individuals or families who are sharing permanent housing) in a survey conducted by the Pinellas County School System in August 2015 near the beginning of the school year. Homeless students can also come to the attention of the school’s Homeless Emergency Assistance Team (H.E.A.T) specialists at any time during a school year.

ANALYSIS

To fulfill the requirement that Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point in Time (PIT) counts must match exactly, street survey respondents who reported living in shelters were cross-checked with the sheltered dataset. If they were not found in that dataset they were designated as living in a place not meant for habitation. Additionally, street survey respondents indicating that they were unsheltered were designated as being sheltered if they were found in the sheltered dataset. Similarly if an individual reported placement in jail but was not found in the jail dataset the person was designated as living in a place not meant for habitation.

Reporting data consistent with HUD and DCF requirements required combining data concerning demographics, chronicity, disability status, veteran status, foster care status, and domestic violence across street data, TBIN data, and non-TBIN shelter data. Street data are included in HUD and DCF counts if the individual reported residing in a place not meant for habitation. Non-HUD street data for those reporting couch surfing, as a hospital in-patient, placement in a hotel/motel, or jail are reported separately.

RESULTS

Table 1

Overall Homeless Data				
	Adult/Child	No children	Children Only	Total
Total with HUD data only				
Households	143	2338	37	2518
Persons	394	2343	40	2777
Total including non-HUD street survey data				
Households	143	2576	37	2756
Persons	394	2582	40	3016
Total including non-HUD street survey and jail data				
Households	143	3054	37	3234
Persons	394	3060	40	3494
Total including non-HUD street survey, jail and school data				
Households	143	3187	2717	6047
Persons	394	3193	2720	6307

- Final PIT results provided to HUD included 2518 households and 2777 persons.
- This number rises to 2756 households and 3016 persons when non-HUD street survey data are included.
- This number rises to 3234 households and 3494 persons when both non-HUD street survey data and jail data are included.
- This number rises to 6047 households and 6307 persons when non-HUD street survey, jail and school data are included.

Table 2

Non-HUD Responses to the Street Survey	
	N
Couch surfing	217
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	4
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	17
Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility	1
TOTAL	239

- 239 individuals who completed the street survey did not meet criteria for being counted as literally homeless.
- 217 of these reported couch surfing, 4 reported hospital placement, 1 reported jail placement, and 17 reported residing in a hotel/motel that they themselves paid for.

Table 3

Jail Data		
	N	%
Race		
Asian	2	0.4
Black	117	24.5
Hispanic	61	12.8
White	298	62.3
Gender		
Female	47	9.8
Male	431	90.2
Total	478	

- The jail data consisted of 478 individuals, 90.2% of whom were male.

Table 4

School Homeless Data						
	Age				Percent of Students	Percent of Students in Homeless Categories
	17 and Younger	18-24 Years Old	25 and Older	Total		
Awaiting Foster Care	33	0	0	33	0.03%	1.17%
Living in Hotels or Motels	434	11	0	445	0.39%	15.82%
Living in a public or private space not ordinarily used as a sleeping accommodation for human beings	68	9	0	77	0.07%	2.74%
Sharing the housing of other persons	2145	113	0	2258	1.99%	80.27%
Homeless Total	2680	133	0	2813	2.49%	
Living in Emergency or Transitional Shelters	472	13	0	485	0.43%	
Not Homeless	104076	5815	6	109897	97.09%	
Total	107228	5961	6	113195		

- The school data identified 2680 children and 113 adults who might be homeless or at risk of being homeless.
- These represent 2.49% of all students, 80.27% (2258) of whom report sharing the housing of other persons.
- These data are not gathered on the day of the PIT. As such they are not included in the tables that follow.
- The 485 individuals who were reported as living in an emergency or transitional shelter are not included in the homeless school count as any individuals residing in shelters on the day of the PIT would be identified in the data received from the shelters.

Table 5

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing; SH = Safe Haven; UN = Unsheltered

Demographic Data								
	ES	TH	SH	UN	Total N	Total %	Non-HUD Total	Total N (HUD + Non-HUD)
Total number of households	957	400	39	1122	2518		238	2756
Total number of persons	1118	481	39	1139	2777		239	3016
Number of children (under age 18)	161	95	0	10	266	9.6%	0	266
Number of young adults (age 18 to 24)	54	34	1	41	130	4.7%	17	147
Number of adults (over age 24)	903	352	38	1088	2381	85.7%	222	2603
Gender (adults and children)								
Female	361	173	8	204	746	26.9%	67	813
Male	756	307	31	933	2027	73.0%	172	2199
Transgender	1	1	0	2	4	0.1%	0	4
Ethnicity (adults and children)								
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1041	450	35	1069	2595	93.4%	231	2826
Hispanic/Latino	79	31	4	70	182	6.6%	8	192
Race								
White	724	280	29	723	1756	63.2%	127	1883
Black or African-American	341	181	8	350	880	31.7%	109	989
Asian	5	1	1	1	8	0.3%	0	8
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	3	0	23	31	1.1%	3	34
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0	0	8	9	0.3%	0	9
Multiple Races	42	16	1	34	93	3.3%	0	93

- HUD data included 2518 households with 2777 people total.
- 85.7% of these are adults over the age of 24.
- 73% are male.
- 93.4% are non-Hispanic
- 63.2% are White and 31.7% are Black.

Table 6

Unaccompanied Youth Households								
	ES	TH	SH	UN	Total N	Total %	Non-HUD Total	Total N (HUD + Non-HUD)
Total number of unaccompanied youth households	44	44	1	38	127		17	144
Total number of unaccompanied youth	44	44	1	38	127		17	144
Number of unaccompanied youth (under age 18)	13	21	0	0	34	26.8%	0	34
Number of unaccompanied youth (age 18 to 24)	31	23	1	38	93	73.2%	17	110
Gender (unaccompanied youth)								
Female	14	34	0	12	60	47.2%	5	65
Male	30	10	1	26	67	52.8%	12	79
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0
Ethnicity (unaccompanied youth)								
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	40	43	1	32	116	91.3%	17	133
Hispanic/Latino	4	1	0	6	11	8.7%	0	11
Race (unaccompanied youth)								
White	23	21	0	28	72	56.7%	6	78
Black or African-American	17	18	1	6	42	33.1%	11	53
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	2	2	1.6%	0	2
Multiple Races	4	5	0	2	11	8.7%	0	11

- HUD data included 127 unaccompanied youth.
- 34 of these were under age 18 while 93 were age 18 to 24.
- 52.8% were male, 91.3% were Non-Hispanic, 56.7% were White and 33.1% were Black.

Table 7

Parenting Youth Households						
	ES	TH	SH	UN	Total N	Total %
Total number of parenting youth households	7	6	0	1	14	
Total number of persons in parenting youth households	19	15	0	3	37	
Number of parenting youth (youth parents only)	7	6	0	1	14	
Number of parenting youth (under age 18)	0	3	0	0	3	21.4%
Number of parenting youth (age 18 to 24)	7	3	0	1	11	78.6%
Number of children with parenting youth	12	9	0	2	23	
Gender (youth parents only)						
Female	7	6	0	1	14	100%
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Ethnicity (youth parents only)						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	7	6	0	1	14	100%
Hispanic/Latino	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Race (youth parents only)						
White	4	2	0	1	7	50%
Black or African-American	3	4	0	0	7	50%
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Multiple Races	0	0	0	0	0	0%

- HUD data included 14 parenting youth who had 23 children.
- Parenting youth were 100% female, 100% non-Hispanic, 50% White and 50% Black.

Table 8

Veteran Households								
	ES	TH	SH	UN	Total N	Total %	Non-HUD Total	Total N (HUD + Non-HUD)
Total number of households	117	135	16	111	379		20	399
Total number of persons	127	139	16	112	394		20	414
Total number of veterans	118	135	16	111	380		20	400
Gender (veterans only)								
Female	11	11	0	3	25	6.6%	1	26
Male	107	123	16	108	354	93.2%	19	373
Transgender	0	1	0	0	1	0.3%	0	1
Ethnicity (veterans only)								
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	113	126	16	102	357	93.9%	20	377
Hispanic/Latino	5	9	0	9	23	6.1%	0	23
Race (veterans only)								
White	70	101	13	80	264	69.5%	17	281
Black or African-American	46	31	2	23	102	26.8%	3	105
Asian	0	1	0	0	1	0.3%	0	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0	0	3	4	1.1%	0	4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	2	2	0.5%	0	2
Multiple Races	1	2	1	3	7	2.1%	0	7

- HUD data included 379 veteran households containing 380 veterans and 394 total persons.
- Veterans were 93.2% male, 93.9% non-Hispanic, 69.5% White and 26.8% Black.

Table 9

Chronic Homelessness				
	ES	SH	UN	Total N
Chronically Homeless Individuals	111	30	462	603
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	2	2
Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	4	4
Chronically Homeless Veteran Individuals	24	12	62	98
Chronically Homeless Veteran Families	0	0	0	0
Persons in Chronically Homeless Veteran Families	0	0	0	0

- HUD data included 603 chronically homeless individuals and 2 chronically homeless families including 4 persons.
- 98 chronically homeless individuals were veterans.

Table 10

HUD Subpopulation Data								
	ES	TH	SH	UN	Total N	Total %	Non- HUD Total	Total N (HUD + Non- HUD)
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	149	74	36	324	583	23.2%	55	638
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	105	129	20	308	562	22.4%	50	612
Adults with HIV/AIDS	6	5	1	12	24	1.0%	5	29
Victims of Domestic Violence	100	32	6	50	188	7.5%	18	206

- HUD data included 583 adults with a serious mental illness, 562 adults with a substance use disorder and 24 adults reporting HIV/AIDS.
- 188 individuals were reported to be victims of domestic violence.

Table 11

Prior Episodes of Homelessness in last 3 years, number of separate times homeless		
No Prior Episode of Homelessness (First time homeless)	231	9.2%
One time	927	37.1%
2 - 3 times	712	28.5%
4 or more times	632	25.3%
TOTAL	2502	100.0%

- 9.2 of responses indicated no prior episode of homelessness.
- 25.3% of responses indicated experiencing homelessness 4 or more times.

Table 12

Length of Current Homeless Episode		
1 week or less	448	16.9%
More than 1 week, less than 1 month	547	20.6%
1 to 3 months	441	16.6%
More than 3 months, less than 12 months	549	20.7%
1 year or longer	672	25.3%
TOTAL	2657	100.0%

- 16.9% of responses indicated having been homeless one week or less.
- 25.3% of responses indicated being homeless one year or longer this time.

Table 13

Cause of Homelessness		
Employment/financial reasons	588	61.8%
Housing issues - Forced to relocate from home	79	8.3%
Medical/Disability problems	83	8.7%
Family problems	189	19.9%
Natural/other disasters	11	1.2%
Recent immigration	1	0.1%
TOTAL	951	100.0%

- 61.8% of responses cited employment/financial reasons as the cause of homelessness.
- 19.9% of responses cited family problems as the cause of homelessness.

Table 14

Length of Stay in the County Prior to Becoming Homeless		
1 week or less	304	26.6%
More than 1 week, less than 1 month	28	2.4%
1 to 3 months	39	3.4%
More than 3 months, less than 12 months	73	6.4%
1 year or longer	700	61.2%
TOTAL	1144	100.0%

- 26.6% of responses indicated having stayed one week or less in Pinellas County prior to becoming homeless.
- 61.2% of responses indicated having stayed one year or longer in Pinellas County prior to becoming homeless.

Table 15

Were you ever a foster care child?		
Yes	121	11.2%
No	955	88.8%
TOTAL	1076	100.0%

- 11.2% of responses indicate foster care history.

Table 16

What area do you mainly stay in?		
	N	%
Clearwater	246	21.2%
Dunedin	2	0.2%
Gulfport	3	0.3%
Kenneth City	2	0.2%
Largo	43	3.7%
Lealman	5	0.4%
Other	10	0.9%
Out of State	3	0.3%
Pasco County	4	0.3%
Pinellas Park	45	3.9%
Safety Harbor	1	0.1%
St. Pete	715	61.6%
St. Pete Beach	43	3.7%
Tampa	3	0.3%
Tarpon Springs	35	3.0%
TOTAL	1160	

- 61.6% of respondents indicate staying primarily in Saint Petersburg.
- 21.2% of respondents report primarily staying in Clearwater.

CONCLUSIONS

The total number of homeless individuals reported to HUD this year was 2777. A majority of these were adults over the age of 24 (85.7%), male (73%), non-Hispanic (93.4%), and either White (63.2%) or Black (31.7%). There were 127 unaccompanied youth and 14 parenting youth households. There were 379 veteran households. There were 603 chronically homeless individuals, 98 of which were veteran individuals. There were 2 chronically homeless families. 23.2% of adults reported a serious mental illness, while 22.4% reported a substance use disorder and 1% reporting HIV/AIDS. 11.2% report having been a foster child at some point.

Additional data reported to the Florida Department of Children and Families indicate 9.2% of individuals reporting no prior episode of homelessness. 16.9% report currently being homeless less than a week while 25.3% report being homeless one year or longer. Employment/financial reasons (61.8%) and family problems (19.9%) are the most often cited causes of homelessness. 26.6% report staying in the county one week or less prior to becoming homeless while 61.2% report having resided in the county one year or longer. Individuals responding to the street survey report mainly staying in either Saint Petersburg (61.6%) or Clearwater (21.2%).

There were an additional 239 individuals in the street survey, 478 in the jail data, and 2813 in the school data that did not meet HUD criteria. These data provide insight into the number of people who are couch surfing, living in a hotel/motel, hospitalized, in jail, or awaiting foster care who may be at risk of homelessness in the future.