

# THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS

## The 2016 Point in Time Enumeration



On January 28, 2016, The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) conducted the annual Point in Time (PIT) census and survey of persons experiencing homelessness in the District of Columbia.

PIT is used to identify unmet needs in the District's homeless services Continuum of Care (CoC) and informs plans for future housing and service investments to shape the CoC. TCP has conducted PIT on behalf of the District since 2001, and does so in accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's reporting standards.

### Point in Time Results

**8,350** persons experiencing homelessness were counted during PIT 2016 including:

- **318 persons who were unsheltered**, i.e. living on the street or places not meant for habitation (all persons were unaccompanied, no persons in families were found to be unsheltered at PIT);
- **6,259 persons in Emergency Shelters** (2,594 unaccompanied individuals and 3,665 people in 1,136 families); and
- **1,773 persons in Transitional Housing** (771 unaccompanied individuals and 1,002 people in 355 families).

The number of persons experiencing homelessness at PIT **increased by 14.4 percent** from the 2015 PIT count.

- The number of unaccompanied homeless individuals counted **decreased by 3.8 percent** from last year, but the number of families increased **by 31.8 percent**.

The increase is primarily due to housing affordability challenges in the District, and increased demand for stable housing assistance that is brought to bear on the homelessness system. Also impacting PIT was the District's implementation of year-round access to family shelter that began in 2015. In past years, family shelter placements had largely been limited to the District's Hypothermia season (November through March). From April to October 2015, 425 families were placed as a result of the new policy, as compared to 12 placements made from April to October 2014.

As a result of the move to year-round access, the District experienced higher family shelter occupancy during PIT 2016, though year round access to shelter allowed many families to receive the homeless services they needed before the Hypothermia season began. Although family shelter occupancy was higher throughout the winter, a new District-funded prevention program helped more than 1,100 families avoid homelessness during Hypothermia 2016 and led to an overall decrease in the number of families placed in District shelters *during* Hypothermia 2016 as compared to 2015.

| PIT COUNT BY CATEGORY        |       |       |          |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| Category                     | 2016  | 2015  | % Change |
| Total Number Counted         | 8,350 | 7,298 | +14.4%   |
| Total Number of Individuals  | 3,683 | 3,821 | -3.8%    |
| Total Number of Families     | 1,491 | 1,131 | +31.8%   |
| Total of Persons in Families | 4,667 | 3,477 | +34.2%   |

### Permanent Housing and the Formerly Homeless

On the night of PIT there were **4,901 individuals** and **7,516 people in 2,347 families** residing in Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, or other permanent housing for persons who had previously experienced homelessness. This is an **11 percent increase among formerly homeless individuals** and a **16 percent increase among formerly homeless families** from last year's Point-in-Time due to increased investments in the types of housing named above.

The 3.8 percent decrease in unaccompanied individuals experiencing homelessness is largely due to the further development of the District's Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) System, which is used by providers to determine the most appropriate housing intervention needed to help someone exit homelessness for permanent housing. CAHP is primarily responsible for the decreases in chronic homelessness and the number of veterans experiencing homelessness detailed in the Quick Facts section.

### Quick Facts from DC's 2016 Point-in-Time

- **1,501 unaccompanied individuals** and **42 families** counted met the federal definition of "chronic homelessness" – meaning that they were living with disabilities and had lengthy or repeated episodes of homelessness; these counts decreased from 2015 by **6 percent** and by **36 percent** respectively.
- Median age of unaccompanied homeless persons was **52 years** while median age among adults in homeless families was **27 years**
- **10 unaccompanied minors** were counted in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing as were **2,722 children in families**
- **No minor children or families with children were unsheltered during PIT.**
- **350 persons** surveyed reported having served in the United States Armed Forces, which is **down 14 percent** from the 2015 count.
- **57 percent** of unaccompanied homeless adults and **21 percent** of adults in families reported that they have no income, though **20 percent** of unaccompanied persons and **27 percent** of adults in families were employed at PIT.
- **11 percent** of all homeless adults reported living histories of substance abuse and mental illness concurrently; this was reported by **16 percent** of unaccompanied individuals but **less than 1 percent** of adults in families.
- **11 percent** of adult homeless persons reported a chronic health problem, and **17 percent** reported a physical disability.
- **17 percent** of homeless adults reported histories of domestic violence, with **6 percent** stating that domestic violence had directly caused their homelessness.