



# 2 Homeless Individuals IN THE UNITED STATES

## POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)

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# HIGHLIGHTS

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On a single night in January 2012, 394,379 people were homeless as individuals in the United States. Over the last five years, the number of homeless individuals declined 6.8 percent (28,998 people). Declines occurred in those coming from both sheltered and unsheltered locations.

On a night in January 2012, the number of homeless individuals was evenly split between those living in sheltered and unsheltered locations.

In six states—Maine, Delaware, Rhode Island, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa—at least 90 percent of people homeless as individuals were in shelter rather than on the street on a night in January 2012.

More than half of all unsheltered individuals in the U.S. were in California (40.6%) and Florida (12.3%) on a night in January 2012.

## KEY TERM

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**AN INDIVIDUAL** refers to a person in a household that does not have both an adult and child. These households include people who are homeless alone, adult roommates, married or cohabiting couples without children, multiple children (e.g., parenting teens), an unaccompanied youth, or a pregnant woman. A person in a “family” is in a household with at least one adult and one child.

# One-Night Estimates OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

## PIT

This section presents the Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates of homeless individuals in the U.S. The PIT estimates are one-night counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide and occur during the last ten days in January. CoCs are required to conduct a point in time count in shelters every year and a street count every other year (on the odd numbered year), although many CoCs do the unsheltered count along with the sheltered count each year. The 2012 data reflect unsheltered counts in January 2012 from two-thirds of the CoCs (67.3%) and unsheltered counts in January 2011 from the remaining CoCs.

### On a Single Night in January 2012

- In the U.S., 394,379 people were homeless as individuals, representing 62.2 percent of the total homeless population.
- The individual homeless population is nearly evenly split between those living in sheltered (50.5%) and unsheltered (49.5%) locations.
- Homeless individuals comprise 80.1 percent of people living in unsheltered locations and 51 percent of those living in sheltered locations.

### Between January 2011 and January 2012

- The total number of people homeless as individuals declined by 1.4 percent (5,457 fewer people).
- The number of homeless individuals living in shelters declined by 6,675 people (a 3.2% drop).
- The number of unsheltered homeless individuals increased by 1,218 people (a 0.6% rise).

### Between January 2007 and January 2012:

- The number of homeless Individuals declined 6.8 percent (28,998 fewer people).
- The number of homeless individuals living in shelter on a single night decreased by 13,914 people (a 6.5% drop).
- The number of homeless individuals living in unsheltered locations decreased by 15,084 people (a 7.2% drop).

Data Source: PIT 2007–2012  
Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories

The number of homeless individuals declined 6.8% between January 2007 and 2012.

EXHIBIT 2.1: One-Night Counts of Homeless Individuals  
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2012

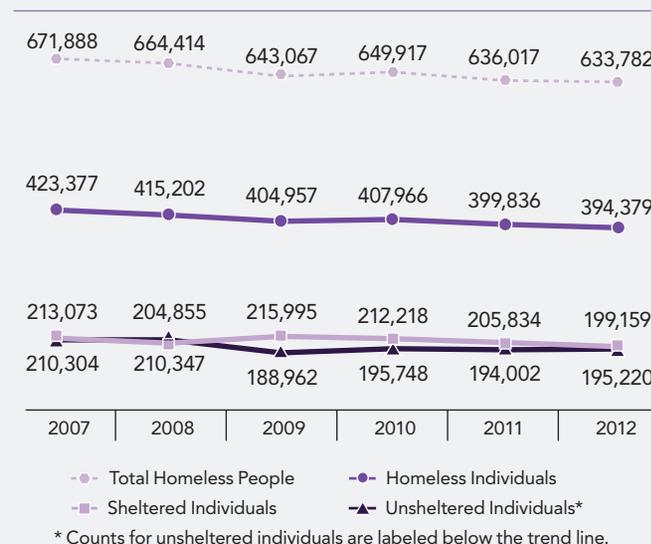


EXHIBIT 2.2: Change in Homeless Individuals  
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2012

Years	Total Homeless Individuals		Sheltered Individuals		Unsheltered Individuals	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
2011 to 2012	-5,457	-1.4	-6,675	-3.2	1,218	0.6
2010 to 2011	-8,130	-2.0	-6,384	-3.0	-1,746	-0.9
2009 to 2010	3,009	0.7	-3,777	-1.7	6,786	3.6
2008 to 2009	-10,245	-2.5	11,140	5.4	-21,385	-10.2
2007 to 2008	-8,175	-1.9	-8,218	-3.9	43	0.0
2007 to 2012	-28,998	-6.8	-13,914	-6.5	-15,084	-7.2

## By State

### On a Single Night in January 2012

- Four states have the highest proportion of homeless individuals (out of all homeless people): NV (89.8%), AR (81.4%), LA (81.3%), and CA (80.7%).

### Between January 2011 and January 2012

- The number of homeless individuals decreased in 24 states and D.C. (totaling 13,944 fewer people). Individual homelessness declined at least ten percent in seven states (in # of fewer people): TX (2,834), LA (1,619), KY (560), AL (500), IN (473), IA (182), and ID (135).
- In contrast, 26 states had an increase in the number of homeless individuals (totaling 8,375 more people). Individual homelessness increased at least ten percent in seven states (in # of additional people): NY (2,795), WY (982), AR (923), UT (207), RI (136), ND (89), and SD (52).

### Between January 2007 and January 2012

- Five states with the largest decreases in homeless individuals—CA, TX, AZ, NJ, and WA—accounted for 55 percent of the total decrease, while five states with the largest increases—FL, LA, GA, NY, and MO—accounted for 64 percent of the total increase.
- The number of homeless individuals decreased in 24 states (totaling 48,519 fewer people).
- In contrast, 26 states and D.C. had an increase in the number of homeless individuals (totaling 21,039 more people), with the largest percentage increase in Louisiana (3,349 more people).

EXHIBIT 2.3: Share of Homeless Individuals In the U.S. by State, 2012 (in %)

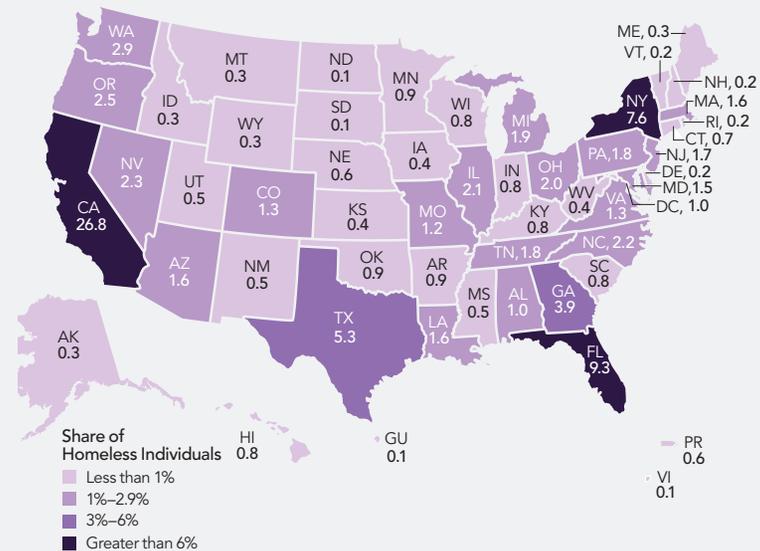


EXHIBIT 2.4: Total Homeless Individuals by State Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2012

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2011 to 2012</b>					
New York	2,795	10.2	California	-3,076	-2.8
Wyoming	982	306.9	Texas	-2,834	-12.0
Arkansas	923	36.8	Louisiana	-1,619	-20.4
Tennessee	430	6.6	Florida	-813	-2.2
Washington	405	3.7	Maryland	-626	-9.9
<b>2007 to 2012</b>					
Florida	3,731	11.3	California	-13,044	-11.0
Louisiana	3,349	112.6	Texas	-5,563	-21.1
Georgia	2,842	22.7	Arizona	-3,710	-37.0
New York	2,077	7.4	New Jersey	-2,369	-26.4
Missouri	1,519	45.5	Washington	-2,016	-15.2

Data Source: PIT 2007–2012  
Maps Include Puerto Rico and U.S. territories; tables do not

## By State and Sheltered Status

### On a Single Night in January 2012

- At least 90 percent of homeless individuals were in a shelter program in six states: ME, DE, RI, ND, SD, and IA.
- More than half of all unsheltered individuals in the U.S. were in California (40.6%) and Florida (12.3%).
- Unsheltered homeless individuals account for the majority of homeless individuals in 11 states, with California having 74.9 percent of its homeless individuals living in unsheltered locations.

### Between January 2011 and January 2012

- Among the 18 states with a decrease in unsheltered individuals (totaling 5,034 fewer people), five states—LA, TX, CA, AL, and AZ—accounted for 86 percent of the decline.
- Among the 26 states plus D.C. with increases in unsheltered individuals (totaling 6,305 additional people), five states—AR, WY, NC, NY, and TN—accounted for 58.1 percent of the increase.
- Twenty-three states had an increase in the number of homeless individuals in shelter (totaling 4,972 additional people), while 27 states and D.C. had a decrease (totaling 11,812 fewer people).

### Between January 2007 and January 2012

- The number of homeless individuals in shelter increased in 26 states (totaling 8,978 more people), while 24 states and D.C. had a decrease (totaling 22,708 fewer people).
- The number of unsheltered individuals increased in 20 states and D.C. (totaling 17,338 more people), while 30 states had a decrease (totaling 31,088 fewer people).

Data Source: PIT 2007–2012  
Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories

EXHIBIT 2.5: Sheltered Homeless Individuals by State  
Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2012

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2011 to 2012</b>					
New York	2,255	9.5	California	-2,534	-8.7
Missouri	268	8.2	Texas	-1,377	-13.2
Oregon	243	7.5	Florida	-1,133	-8.1
Louisiana	241	11.0	Kentucky	-615	-19.4
Washington	226	3.6	Indiana	-595	-18.3
<b>2007 to 2012</b>					
New York	3,190	13.9	Texas	-4,089	-31.2
Missouri	970	37.9	California	-4,003	-13.1
Ohio	840	15.0	Washington	-1,669	-20.6
Minnesota	612	28.1	New Jersey	-1,647	-23.4
Wisconsin	548	26.5	Massachusetts	-1,602	-22.3

EXHIBIT 2.6: Unsheltered Homeless Individuals by State  
Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2012

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2011 to 2012</b>					
Arkansas	1,052	88.8	Louisiana	-1,860	-32.4
Wyoming	817	423.3	Texas	-1,457	-11.1
North Carolina	751	33.1	California	-542	-0.7
New York	540	15.4	Alabama	-291	-18.9
Tennessee	501	22.4	Arizona	-195	-7.2
<b>2007 to 2012</b>					
Georgia	3,769	55.6	California	-9,041	-10.2
Florida	3,702	18.3	Arizona	-3,073	-54.9
Louisiana	3,066	374.8	Texas	-1,474	-11.2
Arkansas	1,016	83.2	New York	-1,113	-21.6
Maryland	763	50.2	Tennessee	-1,001	-26.8

# PROFILE

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A typical sheltered homeless individual in the United States in 2012 was:

- a man living alone in a one-person household
- 31 to 50 years old
- white and not Hispanic
- without a disability
- located in a city
- already homeless before entering shelter
- staying in emergency shelter for 19 nights

# HIGHLIGHTS

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An estimated 969,659 individuals used a shelter program in the United States in 2012. Over time, the number of homeless individuals in shelter declined—1.5 percent since 2011 and 13 percent since 2007.

Between 2011 and 2012, the share of elderly individuals in shelter increased at a faster rate than among all U.S. individuals (8.2% versus 3.1%).

Although individual minorities (i.e. Hispanics, African Americans, and other non-white races) in the U.S. poverty population increased substantially between 2007 and 2012, individual minorities among sheltered individuals declined 9.6 percent.

The proportion of disabled sheltered individuals increased an estimated 34.4 percent (100,835 more people) between 2007 and 2012.

Fewer individuals entered shelter from substance abuse treatment centers, correctional facilities, and hospitals in 2012 than in 2011, but more came from psychiatric facilities.

The number of sheltered individuals who entered shelter from foster care increased 22.4 percent (583 more people) over the past year.

Since 2007, the number of sheltered individuals increased 6.3 percent in suburban and rural areas and decreased 18.3 percent in cities.

# One-Year Estimates OF SHELTERED INDIVIDUALS

## HMIS

**969,659 individuals used a shelter program at some time during the 2012 reporting year.**

The one-year estimates account for all individuals who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at any time from October 1 through September 30 of the reporting year. The estimates are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data to HUD. The estimates statistically adjust for individuals who use shelter programs for homeless people that do not yet participate in its local HMIS—thus providing a complete enumeration of sheltered individuals in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. The one-year estimates do not include: (a) sheltered individuals in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) individuals served by victim service providers; and (c) individuals in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program for homeless people during the 12-month period.

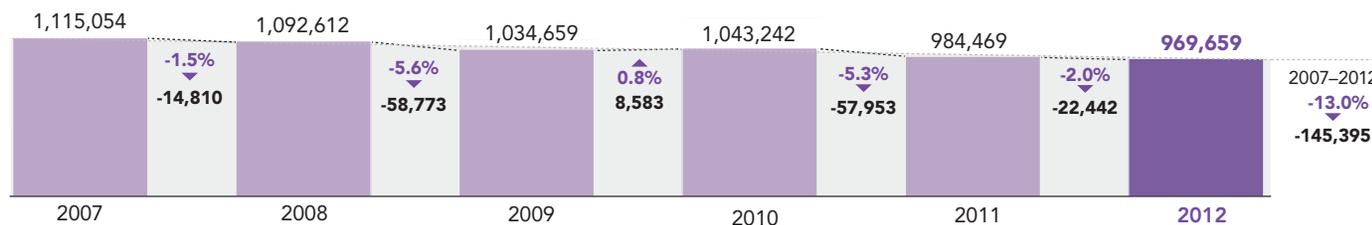
### 2012 Estimate of Sheltered Individuals

- An estimated 969,659 individuals used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at some time from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.
- In the U.S., 1 in 158 individuals was homeless in shelter.

### Changes Over Time

- The number of homeless individuals in shelter declined 1.5 percent (14,810 fewer people) between 2011 and 2012.
- Between 2007 and 2012, the number of homeless individuals in shelter declined 13 percent (145,395 fewer people).
- The number of sheltered homeless individuals declined every year except between 2009 and 2010, which saw a very small 0.8 percent increase (8,583 more individuals).

EXHIBIT 2.7: One-year Estimates of Sheltered Homeless Individuals, 2007–2012



Data Source: HMIS 2007–2012; ACS 2011

## Gender and Age

### In 2012

- Adults in shelter as individuals are 2.6 times more likely to be men as they are to be women (72.3% versus 27.7%). In contrast, less than half (46.8%) of individuals in poverty are men.
- Most (69.7%) individuals in shelter are ages 18 to 50.
- In contrast to the 31.5 percent and 23.8 percent of individuals in the U.S. and in poverty that were elderly (age 62 and older), only 4.9 percent of individuals in shelter were elderly.
- While children (under age 18) represent 0.2 percent of the U.S. poverty population of individuals, children represent 1.8 percent of the population in shelter as individuals. These are unaccompanied youth or children living together.

### Changes Over Time

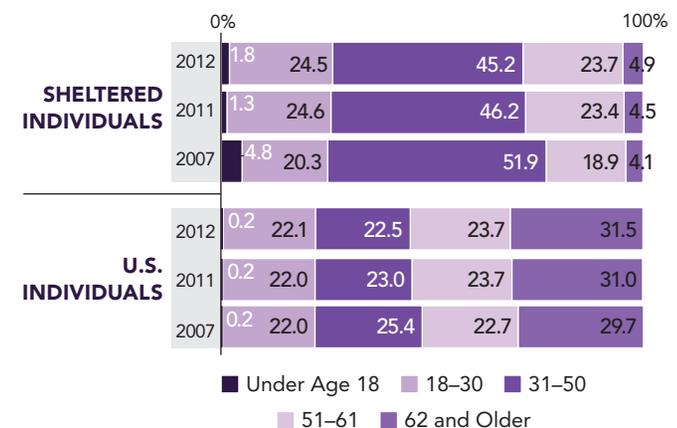
- The gender profile among adult individuals in shelter has remained stable over time, with women making up between 26 and 28 percent of the population in 2007, 2011, and 2012.
- Between 2011 and 2012, the number of children under age 18 in shelter without an adult increased by 27.9 percent (3,694 more children).
- The number of elderly (ages 62 and older) people in shelter as individuals increased by 8.2 percent (3,588 more people) between 2011 and 2012, exceeding the increase of elderly people in the total U.S. population (a 3.1% rise).

Since 2011, the number of **unaccompanied children** in shelter **increased by 28%.**

EXHIBIT 2.8: Gender  
Sheltered Adult Individuals and  
Total U.S. Adult Individuals, 2007–2012



EXHIBIT 2.9: Age  
Sheltered Individuals and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007–2012



Data Source: HMIS 2007–2012; ACS 2006, 2010, 2011

## Ethnicity and Race

### In 2012

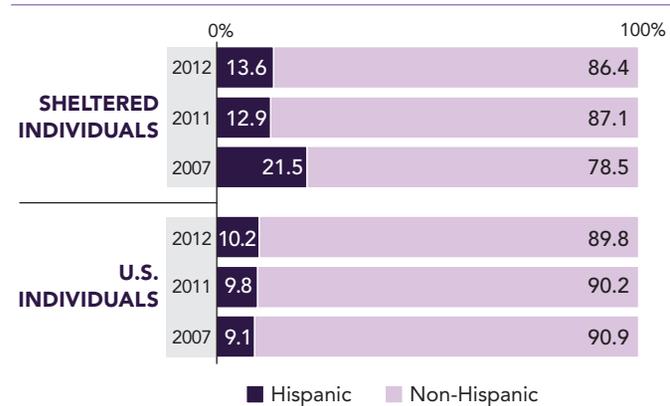
- People in shelter as individuals are 1.3 times more likely to be Hispanic as the U.S. population of individuals (13.6% versus 10.2%).
- More than half (54.8%) of people in shelter as individuals were in a minority group, comprised mostly of African Americans (36.1%). Other minority groups include: white Hispanic (8.6%), multiple races (5%), American Indian or Alaska Native (3.8%), Asian (0.8%), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.5%).
- Individuals in shelter are nearly 2 times more likely to belong to a minority group than individuals in the U.S. (54.8% versus 27.9%).
- Whites (non-Hispanic) were under-represented among sheltered homeless individuals compared to the U.S. population of individuals (45.2% versus 72.1%), while African Americans were over-represented (36.1% versus 11.5%).

### Changes Over Time

- The number of Hispanics in shelter as individuals increased 5 percent (6,252 more people) between 2011 and 2012.
- Despite a 15.4 percent increase in the number of African American individuals in the U.S. between 2007 and 2012, their number only increased 3.1 percent (10,217 more people) among individuals in shelter.
- While the number of minorities in the poverty and total populations of individuals in the U.S. increased by 32.2 percent and 17.8 percent between 2007 and 2012, their number in the sheltered population of individuals declined by 9.6 percent (55,231 fewer people).

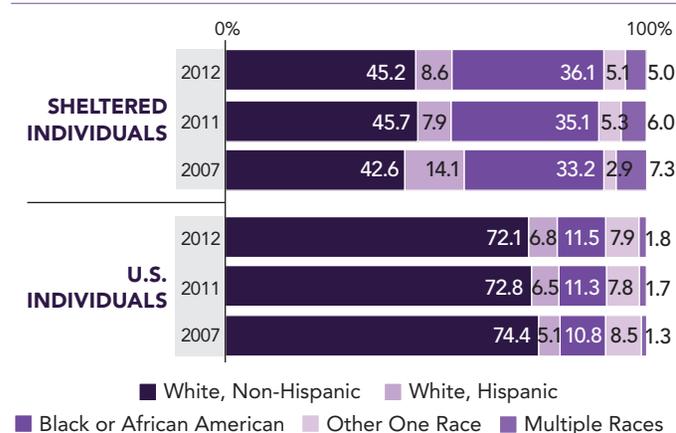
### EXHIBIT 2.10: Ethnicity

Sheltered Individuals and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007–2012



### EXHIBIT 2.11: Race

Sheltered Individuals and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007–2012



Data Source: HMIS 2007–2012; ACS 2006, 2010, 2011



## Household Size and Disability Status

In keeping with the definition of “individual” in this report, an individual is a person in a household that does not have both an adult and child; the resulting household size can range from one or more people. Households of individuals include people who are homeless alone, adult roommates, married or cohabiting couples without children, multiple children (e.g., parenting teens), an unaccompanied youth, or a pregnant woman.

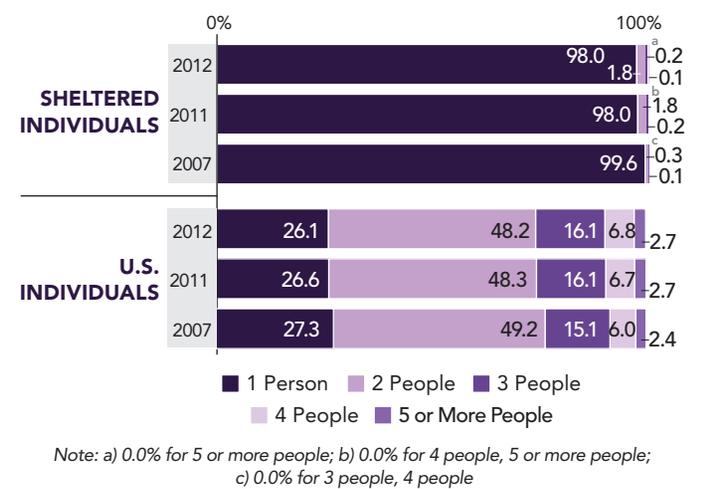
### In 2012

- The vast majority (98%) of sheltered individuals were in households composed of one person. Homeless individuals in shelter are 3.8 times more likely to be alone in a one-person household than are individuals in the U.S. (98% versus 26.1%).
- Individuals in shelter are 2.2 times more likely to be disabled than in the general population (43.1% versus 19.3%).

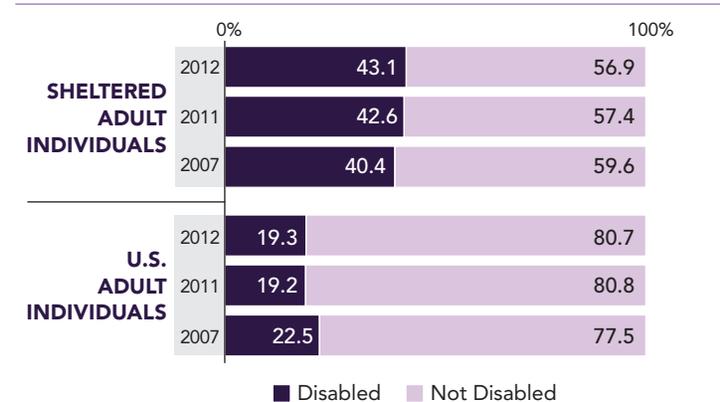
### Changes Over Time

- The household size among homeless individuals in shelter has been stable over time.
- Sheltered individuals with a disability increased 34.4 percent (100,835 more people) between 2007 and 2012, but only 0.5 percent (2,099 more people) between 2011 and 2012.

**EXHIBIT 2.12: Household Size**  
Sheltered Individuals and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007–2012



**EXHIBIT 2.13: Disability Status**  
Sheltered Adult Individuals and Total U.S. Adult Individuals, 2007–2012



Data Source: HMIS 2007–2012; ACS 2006, 2010, 2011

## Geographic Location

### In 2012

- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of people homeless as individuals were in shelters located in principal cities, with the remaining quarter (26%) in suburban and rural areas.
- The exact opposite geographic pattern was true of individuals in the U.S. About three-quarters (74.8%) of individuals in the U.S. lived in suburban and rural areas, with the remaining quarter (25.2%) in cities. Nearly two-thirds (64.6%) of individuals in poverty live in suburban and rural areas, while more than one-third (35.4%) lived in cities.

### Changes Over Time

- Since 2007, the number of sheltered individuals increased 6.3 percent (14,971 more people) in suburban and rural areas and decreased 18.3 percent (161,065 fewer people) in cities.
- This 5-year trend was reversed between 2011 and 2012 with a decline in the number of sheltered individuals located in suburban and rural areas (a 7.4% drop or 20,163 fewer people), and a slight increase of those in cities (a 0.8% rise or 5,915 more people).

EXHIBIT 2.14: Geographic Distribution Sheltered Individuals, U.S. Individuals in Poverty, and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007–2012

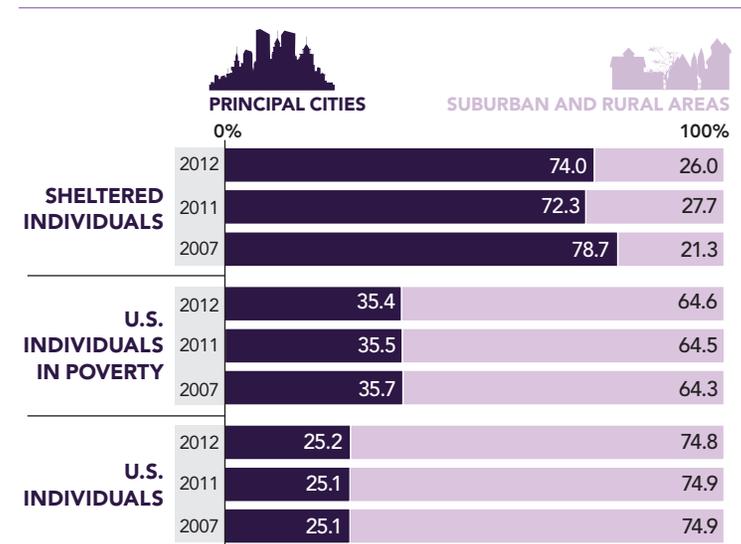


EXHIBIT 2.15: Percent Change by Geography Sheltered Individuals, U.S. Poverty Population, and Total U.S. Population, 2007–2012 (in %)

Population	2011 2012		2007 2012	
	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
Sheltered Individuals	-18.3	6.3	0.8	-7.4
U.S. Individuals in Poverty	20.1	21.7	4.7	5.4
U.S. Individuals	7.8	7.3	1.9	1.6

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2012

## Characteristics by Geography

### In 2012

- Sheltered homeless individuals in principal cities are less likely to be women than those in suburban and rural areas. About 1 in 4 (26.3%) sheltered individuals located in principal cities was a woman, while about 1 in 3 (31.7%) located in suburban and rural areas was a woman.
- Sheltered individuals located in cities were 1.7 times more likely to be Hispanic than those in suburban and rural areas (15.3% versus 8.9%).
- Sheltered individuals in principal cities were 1.4 times more likely to be in a minority group (i.e., Hispanic, African American, or other non-white race) than those in suburban and rural areas (59.4% versus 41.5%). Within principal cities, 39.1 percent were African American compared to 27.8 percent in suburban and rural areas.
- Sheltered individuals located in a suburban or rural area were 1.2 times more likely to have a disability than those in a principal city (50.3% versus 49.7%).

### Changes Over Time

- After 2007, the number of homeless women in suburban and rural areas increased 18.5 percent (12,228 more women), while they declined 14.8 percent (32,240 fewer women) in cities.
- The number of African American sheltered individuals declined by 2.1 percent (1,494 fewer people) in suburban and rural areas, and increased by 4.4 percent (11,650 more people) in cities between 2007 and 2012.
- After 2007, the number of sheltered individuals with a disability increased more in cities (a 47.5% rise or 87,892 more people) than in suburban and rural areas (an 11.8% rise or 12,749 more people).

EXHIBIT 2.16: Characteristics by Geography  
Homeless People, 2012 (in %)

Characteristic	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
Number of Sheltered Individuals	716,909	251,961
<b>Gender of Adults</b>		
Male	73.7	68.3
Female	26.3	31.7
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic	15.3	8.9
Non-Hispanic	84.8	91.2
<b>Race</b>		
White, Non-Hispanic	40.6	58.5
White, Hispanic	9.5	6.0
Black or African American	39.1	27.8
Other One Race	5.5	3.9
Multiple Races	5.3	3.7
<b>Age</b>		
Under Age 18	1.8	1.6
18–30	23.9	26.1
31–50	45.5	44.4
51–61	23.8	23.4
62 and Older	5.0	4.5
<b>Household Size</b>		
1 Person	97.9	98.2
2 People	1.9	1.5
3 People	0.2	0.1
4 People	0.1	0.1
5 or More People	0.0	0.1
<b>Disability Status of Adults</b>		
Disabled	40.5	50.3
Not Disabled	59.5	49.7

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2012; ACS 2006, 2010, 2011

## Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

Information on where individuals lived before entering shelter was asked only of adults.

### In 2012

- Just prior to their homeless experience covered in this report, 4 in 10 adults in shelter as individuals were already homeless (41.9%). Of these, 217,619 adult individuals (56%) stayed in shelter, and 171,331 adult individuals (44%) were on the street.
- Of adult individuals in shelter who were *not already homeless*, 61.7 percent entered from housing. Of these, 40 percent (132,969 adults) stayed with family, 34.7 percent (115,415 adults) with friends, 21.6 percent (71,591 adults) in rented housing, 2.8 percent (9,462 adults) in owned housing, and the remaining 2,706 adult individuals (0.8%) came from permanent supportive housing.

### Changes Over Time

- In 2012, 9,038 fewer adults (6.8%) in shelter as individuals came from institutions than in 2011 due to fewer adults entering from substance abuse treatment centers (5,542 adults), correctional facilities (4,817 adults), and hospitals (2,402 adults). However, those coming from psychiatric facilities increased 25.2 percent (3,723 more adults).
- The number of adults in shelter as individuals who entered from other settings increased 19.2 percent (14,853 more people) between 2011 and 2012, including those in shelter entering from foster care who increased 22.4 percent (583 more people).
- In 2012, 20,794 fewer individuals (a 5.6% drop) in shelter entered from a housed situation than in 2011.
- Between 2007 and 2012, the largest decline in places adults lived before entering shelter as individuals was from another homeless situation (57,985 fewer adults or a 12.5% drop). Of those *not already homeless*, the largest decline in places adults lived before entering shelter as individuals was from housing (10,220 fewer adults).

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2012

EXHIBIT 2.17: Places Individuals Stayed Before Entering Shelter and Change Over Time, 2007–2012

Place Stayed	2012		2011		2012		2007		2012	
	#	%	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change		
<b>Already Homeless</b>	<b>388,950</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-57,985</b>	<b>-12.5</b>				
Sheltered	217,619	56.0	-16,977	-6.9	-97,225	-30.2				
Unsheltered	171,331	44.0	17,146	10.6	36,736	25.9				
<b>Housing</b>	<b>332,143</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>-20,794</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-10,220</b>	<b>-2.8</b>				
Staying with family	132,969	40.0	-14,717	-9.5	-10,495	-7.0				
Staying with friends	115,415	34.7	-13,937	-10.4	33,473	38.4				
Rented housing unit	71,591	21.6	7,718	11.4	-23,391	-23.6				
Owned housing unit	9,462	2.8	-451	-4.4	-10,109	-50.7				
Permanent supportive housing (PSH)	2,706	0.8	593	26.7	302	12.0				
<b>Institutional Settings</b>	<b>117,841</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>-9,038</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>4,181</b>	<b>3.5</b>				
Substance abuse treatment center	36,425	30.9	-5,542	-12.7	1,363	3.7				
Correctional facility	47,636	40.4	-4,817	-8.8	-2,761	-5.3				
Hospital	15,900	13.5	-2,402	-12.5	2,460	17.2				
Psychiatric facility	17,880	15.2	3,723	25.2	3,119	20.3				
<b>Other Settings</b>	<b>88,571</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>14,853</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>0.1</b>				
Hotel or motel	26,759	30.2	2,323	9.0	4,010	16.7				
Foster care home	3,048	3.4	583	22.4	-2,603	-45.0				
Other living arrangement	58,764	66.3	11,947	24.3	-1,283	-2.1				

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2012 AHAR methodology document for more details.

EXHIBIT 2.18: Places Individuals Stayed Who Were Not Already Homeless Before Entering Shelter, 2007–2012 (in %)



## Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs are designed differently. Emergency shelters are high-volume, high-turnover programs; its primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for homeless people. In contrast, transitional housing programs offer homeless people shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months and intend for people to stay longer than they do in emergency shelters.

### In 2012

- During the 12-month reporting period, more than one-third of individuals in emergency shelter stayed one week or less (37.6%), 62.9 percent stayed one month or less, and 5.9 percent stayed more than six months.
- Within the reporting year, half of individuals (50.3%) in transitional housing programs stayed between one and six months, 20 percent stayed one month or less, and 29.7 percent stayed more than six months.
- The average length of stay for individuals in emergency shelter was 47 nights, with about 7.3 individuals served per available bed throughout the year. On an average night throughout the year, 91.6 percent of emergency shelter beds were occupied.
- The average length of stay for individuals during the 12-month reporting period within transitional housing programs is 135 nights (about 5 months), with 2.2 homeless individuals served per available bed throughout the year. Transitional housing programs occupied 83.5 percent of its beds on an average night throughout the reporting year.

### Changes Over Time

- Between 2007 and 2012, the median number of nights in emergency shelter increased from 14 to 19, and the average number increased from 38 to 47.
- Similarly, turnover rates decreased in emergency shelter; nearly 9 individuals were served per available bed throughout the reporting year in 2007 compared to 7.3 individuals in 2012.

Data Source: HMIS, HIC 2007–2012

**EXHIBIT 2.19: Length of Stay**  
Individuals in Emergency Shelter and  
Transitional Housing Programs, 2012

Length of Stay	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing	
	#	%	#	%
7 days or less	316,147	37.6	10,481	5.8
8 to 30 days	212,477	25.3	25,778	14.2
31 to 180 days	261,410	31.1	90,983	50.3
181 to 360 days	38,854	4.6	36,098	19.9
361 to 366 days	11,039	1.3	17,659	9.8

Note: Length of stay accounts for multiple program entries/exits by summing the total number of (cumulative) days in a homeless residential program during the 12-month reporting period. The maximum length of stay is 366 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

**EXHIBIT 2.20: Bed-Use Patterns**  
Individuals in Emergency Shelter and  
Transitional Housing Programs, 2007–2012

Bed Use Patterns	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing		
	2007	2011	2012	2007	2011	2012
Median number of nights	14	20	19	91	102	100
Average number of nights	38	49	47	130	139	135
Average occupancy rate (in %)	90.2	91.0	91.6	80.7	86.8	83.5
Turnover rate	8.9	7.1	7.3	2.1	2.3	2.2

Note 1: The average daily occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the average daily census during the 12-month reporting period by the total number of year-round equivalent beds in the inventory.

Note 2: The turnover rate measures the number of people served per available bed over the 12-month reporting period, and is calculated by dividing the total number of people served by the number of year-round equivalent beds.