2017
Homelessness
IN THE UNITED STATES

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2017 Homelessness IN THE UNITED STATES

Did You Know?

PIT
On a single night in January 2017, 550,996 people were experiencing homelessness.

This is a 14.9% decline since 2007 but a slight increase over 2016.

More than 2 in 5 people experiencing homelessness are in CA or NY.

HMS
In 2017, 1.42 million people used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at some point during the year.

This is a 10.8% decline since 2007.

1 in 228 people in the U.S. experienced sheltered homelessness at some point in 2017.

African Americans comprised 43.0% of the sheltered homeless population.

1. People experiencing unsheltered & sheltered homelessness:
   - 34.5% unsheltered
   - 65.5% sheltered

2. People experiencing sheltered homelessness:
   - 4% increase in suburban & rural areas
   - 1.8% decrease in cities

KEY TERM
Homeless describes a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
2017 One-Night Estimates OF HOMELESSNESS

The Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates are one-night counts of people experiencing homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered locations. The one-night counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide and occur during the last ten days in January. CoCs are required to conduct a PIT count in shelters (emergency shelter and transitional housing programs) and a street (or “unsheltered”) count at least every other year. The unsheltered PIT count was required in 2017, and all 399 CoCs participating in the PIT reported unsheltered counts.

On a Single Night in January 2017
- 550,996 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States.
- About a third of people experiencing homelessness (34.5%) were in unsheltered locations, while about two-thirds (65.5%) were in sheltered locations.

Between January 2016 and January 2017
- The one-night estimate of homelessness increased 0.2 percent, or 1,068 more people. This was the first overall increase since 2010.
- The number of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations increased 7.8 percent (13,772 more people), the largest single-year increase in unsheltered homelessness observed since 2007. Meanwhile, the number of people experiencing homelessness in shelter declined 3.4 percent (12,704 fewer people) from 2016 to 2017. This is the second consecutive year, and only the second time since 2007, that the unsheltered population increased while the sheltered population decreased.

Between January 2007 and January 2017
- The one-night estimate of homelessness declined 14.9 percent, or 96,262 fewer people. Despite recent increases, this decline was driven mostly by reductions in the number of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations (65,728 fewer people; a 25.7% drop).
- Although the overall number of people in unsheltered locations declined between 2007 and 2017, the 190,129 people who experienced unsheltered homelessness on a single night in 2017 is the highest number reported since 2013.
- The 360,867 people experiencing sheltered homelessness on a single night in 2017 is the lowest number in any year since data collection began.

EXHIBIT 1.1: One-Night PIT Counts of Homelessness
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2017

EXHIBIT 1.2: Changes in Single-Night Estimates of Homelessness
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2017

Note: 2017 estimate differs from the 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report: Part 1 due to an adjustment made by Los Angeles to their unsheltered population. The total unsheltered population was reduced by 2,746.

Data Source: PIT 2007–2017
Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories
See the supporting PIT data tabulations posted on HUD’s Resource Exchange at www.hudexchange.info.
By State

On a Single Night in January 2017
- California (24.1%) and New York (16.4%) accounted for more than two-fifths of all people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. – up from one-third in 2016. The state with the next largest share was Florida, with 5.9 percent of the one-night estimate of total homelessness.
- Twenty-six states each accounted for less than one percent of the national homeless population.

Between January 2016 and January 2017
- Thirty states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the number of people experiencing homelessness, a total reduction of 18,579 people. Twenty states reported increases in the number of people experiencing homelessness, totaling 20,061 people. In California alone, there were 13,390 more people experiencing homelessness in 2017 than in 2016, an 11.3 percent increase.
- Georgia experienced the largest decrease in people experiencing homelessness: 2,735 fewer people in 2017 than in 2016 (a 21.2% decrease), followed by Massachusetts, with a decline of 2,043 people (a 10.4% decrease).

Between January 2007 and January 2017
- The number of people experiencing homelessness decreased in 36 states, totaling 131,593 fewer people. This outnumbered an increase of 35,494 people in 14 states and the District of Columbia.
- Texas had the largest overall decline in people experiencing homelessness, with 16,240 fewer people (a 40.8% drop). New York had the largest increase, with 26,902 more people experiencing homelessness counted in 2017 than in 2007, an increase of 43 percent.

Data Source: PIT 2007–2017
Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories
See Part 1 of the 2017 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state (www.hudexchange.info)
By State and Sheltered Status

On a Single Night in January 2017

- California had both the largest number and percent of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations, 88,896 and 67.6 percent of the total. Florida had the second largest number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (15,079 people), while Nevada had the second highest percentage of people experiencing homelessness who were found in unsheltered locations (58.4%).
- In four states—California, Nevada, Oregon, and Hawaii—more than half of the homeless population was unsheltered.
- In nine states, more than nine in ten people experiencing homelessness were in sheltered locations. The lowest rates of unsheltered homelessness were in Iowa and Nebraska, where fewer than five percent of people experiencing homelessness were in unsheltered locations.

Between January 2016 and January 2017

- Unsheltered homelessness increased in 28 states and the District of Columbia (by 18,359 more people) and decreased in 22 states (4,497 fewer people).
- Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia experienced decreases in sheltered homelessness (18,981 fewer people).
- California experienced the largest increases in both unsheltered and sheltered homelessness, with 10,506 more people counted in unsheltered locations (a 13.4% increase) and 2,884 more people in shelter (a 7.3% increase).
- Georgia experienced the largest decline in unsheltered homelessness (1,843 fewer people, a 34.3% decrease), while Massachusetts experienced the largest decline in sheltered homelessness (2,274 fewer people, a drop of 12.1%).

Between January 2007 and January 2017

- The overall decline in national homelessness between January 2007 and January 2017 was driven primarily by reductions in the unsheltered population in 35 states. Florida had the largest drop in unsheltered homelessness, 12,461 fewer people (a 45.2% decline).
- Sheltered homelessness decreased in 34 states over the ten year period. Texas had the largest drop in sheltered homelessness over this period, 7,827 fewer people (a 34.2% decline).
- Of the 16 states and the District of Columbia that experienced increases in the number of people in sheltered locations over this period, New York had the largest increase, with 27,667 more people counted on a single night in January 2017 than in 2007 (a 48.3% increase).
2017 PROFILE
A TYPICAL PERSON EXPERIENCING SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS WAS:

A Man by Himself
62.4% MEN / 64.9% 1-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

Aged 31-50
33.0%

Black or African American
43.0%

Not Disabled
55.6%

Living in a City
72.5%

Already Homeless
PRIOR TO USING A SHELTER* (47.8%)

Spending 27 Nights in Emergency Shelter

*Shelter refers to emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.
1,416,908 people in the U.S. experienced sheltered homelessness at some time during 2017, a 10.8% decrease since 2007.

**EXHIBIT 1.7a: Trend in One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Homelessness, 2007–2017**

**EXHIBIT 1.7b: One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Homelessness and Annual Change from the Prior Year, 2007-2017**

### Changes Over Time

- The number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness at some point during the year declined by 0.3 percent (4,288 fewer people). The one-year decline was more modest than the 4.3 percent decline in the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness on a single night between 2015 and 2016 (63,380 fewer people).
- Between 2007, the year HUD began tracking this information, and 2017, the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness dropped by 10.8 percent (171,687 fewer people).

...
Gender and Age

Starting in 2015, HUD collected age information for youth between the ages of 18 and 24 who were experiencing sheltered homelessness over the course of the one-year period. Information is collected separately for people between the ages of 25 and 30. For more detailed information on age categories, see the supporting HMIS data available for download (www.hudexchange.info).

In 2017
- In contrast to the U.S. adult population, where the proportion of men to women is roughly equal (51.4% men; 48.6% women), men noticeably outnumbered women among all adults experiencing sheltered homelessness (62.4% were men compared to 37.6% women).
- More than one of every five people experiencing sheltered homelessness (22.5%) was a child (that is, under age 18). More than one in ten (10.1%) was a young adult between the ages of 18 and 24.
- One-third of people experiencing homelessness were between the ages of 31 and 50, 1.3 times the percentage of 31 to 50-year olds in the total U.S. population (25.8%).
- While 18.8 percent of the U.S. population was age 62 or older, this demographic made up only 5.4 percent of people experiencing sheltered homelessness.

Changes Over Time
- While the age and gender distributions remained stable in recent years, between 2007 and 2017 the distribution of people experiencing homelessness over the course of a year became slightly older and slightly more female.
- The proportion of elderly people (ages 62 and over) in shelter increased from 2.9 percent in 2007 to 5.4 percent in 2017. This represents an increase of 29,845 more elderly people in shelter in 2017 than in 2007. A larger change occurred in the proportion of people in shelter ages 51 to 61, which increased from 13.6 percent in 2007 to 17.6 percent in 2017.
- The proportion of people between the ages of 31 and 50 experiencing sheltered homelessness declined between 2007 and 2017, from 41.2 percent to 33 percent.
- The proportion of people under age 18 experiencing sheltered homelessness remained relatively stable, at 21.8 percent in 2007 and 22.5 percent in 2017.
- The share of men experiencing sheltered homelessness was larger in 2007 (65.2% men and 34.8% women) than it was in 2017 (62.4% men and 37.6% women).

Note: Prior to 2015, data were collected on people age 18-30. Since then, information was collected separately for people age 18-24 and 25-30.
Ethnicity and Race

In 2017
- People who identify as Hispanic remained slightly underrepresented in the sheltered homeless population (17.2%) compared to the total U.S. population (17.8%). By contrast, people who identify as black or African American were present in the sheltered homeless population at roughly 3.4 times the rate as in the total U.S. population (43% vs. 12.7%).
- More than three in five people experiencing sheltered homelessness (63.5%) identified as either non-white or white and Hispanic. This was largely driven by the overrepresentation of African Americans in the sheltered homeless population compared to the U.S. population.
- White, non-Hispanic people were underrepresented in the sheltered homeless population compared to the total U.S. population, representing 36.5 percent of people experiencing sheltered homelessness, compared to 61.1 percent of the total U.S. population.

Changes Over Time
- The share of Hispanics experiencing sheltered homelessness increased from 16.9 percent in 2016 to 17.2 percent in 2017. This change mirrors a similar increase in the U.S. population where the share of Hispanics increased from 17.6 percent in 2016 to 17.8 percent in 2017.
- Over a longer timeframe, the share of people in the sheltered homeless population who identified as Hispanic declined from 21.6 percent in 2007 to 17.2 percent in 2017, while the share of Hispanics in the total U.S. population increased from 14.8 percent to 17.8 percent over the same period.
- As the proportion of people in the U.S. who identified themselves as not white or white and Hispanic grew from 33.8 percent in 2007 to 38.9 percent in 2017, their proportion in the sheltered homeless population remained about the same, 63.6 percent in 2007 and 63.5 percent in 2017.

African Americans were present in the sheltered homeless population at roughly 3.4 times the rate as in the total U.S. population (43% vs. 12.7%).

Household Size and Disability Status

In 2017

- People experiencing sheltered homelessness were 5.1 times more likely to be by themselves than people in the total U.S. population (64.9% versus 12.8% have a household size of one person).
- Adults with disabilities were overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness in 2017. Adults with disabilities account for 15.9 percent of the total U.S. adult population and 44.4 percent of all adults experiencing homelessness in shelter over the course of a year.

Changes Over Time

- Between 2007 and 2017, the percentage of people experiencing sheltered homelessness as part of a multi-person household increased from 29.7 percent to 35.1 percent. This reflected the growth in the proportion of people experiencing sheltered homelessness as part of family households, which rose from 29.8 percent of all people experiencing sheltered homelessness to 33.8 percent over the same period.
- The disability rate among adults experiencing sheltered homelessness continued to increase, from 37.1 percent in 2007 to 44.4 percent in 2017.

In 2017, people experiencing sheltered homelessness were 5.1 times more likely than people in the total U.S. population to be in a single-person household.

Geographic Location

In 2017
- Nearly 3 in 4 people (72.5%) experienced sheltered homelessness in principal cities rather than in suburban or rural areas. This degree of urban concentration is much higher than for the total U.S. population (32.5% of whom live in principal cities) and the U.S. population living in poverty (39.6%).
- Fewer than 3 in 10 people experiencing sheltered homelessness do so in suburban and rural areas (27.5%, or 389,569 people).

Changes Over Time
- While a considerable majority of people experiencing sheltered homelessness do so in principal cities, the percentage has been slowly shifting from principal cities toward suburban and rural areas. Between 2016 and 2017, sheltered homelessness declined 1.8 percent (19,140 fewer people) in principal cities, but increased 4 percent (14,851 more people) in suburban and rural areas.
- Over the 10-year period between 2007 and 2017, the number of people experiencing homelessness in suburban and rural areas rose by 6 percent (22,018 more people) and dropped by 15.9 percent 193,705 fewer people) in principal cities.

### EXHIBIT 1.14: Geographic Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Principal Cities</th>
<th>Suburban and Rural Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>73.6%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>U.S. Population Living in Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>U.S. Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In 2012, the ACS changed its approach to tabulating data by geographic area. This exhibit updates the estimates for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the U.S. population as a whole to account for this change. The revised estimates result in higher proportions of people in principal cities for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the total U.S. population than shown in past reports. For more information, see the 2017 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology (www.hudexchange.info).

### EXHIBIT 1.15: Percent Change by Geography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principal Cities</td>
<td>Suburban and Rural Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Sheltered People</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Population Living in Poverty</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Population</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In 2012, the ACS changed its approach to tabulating data by geographic area. This exhibit updates the estimates for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the U.S. population as a whole to account for this change. For more information, see the 2017 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology (www.hudexchange.info).
Characteristics by Geography

In 2017

- Characteristics of people experiencing sheltered homelessness differed by geography. About a quarter of people experiencing sheltered homelessness in suburban and rural areas (25.8%) were children, compared to about one-fifth (21.2%) in principal cities. The proportion of adult women experiencing sheltered homelessness in suburban and rural areas (41.6%) was also higher than in principal cities (36.2%).
- People experiencing sheltered homelessness in suburban and rural areas were less likely to identify as African American (34.3%) or to be by themselves (59.7%) than were those in principal cities (46.5% and 66.9%).
- People experiencing sheltered homelessness in principal cities were more likely to identify as Hispanic (18.3%) than were those in suburban and rural areas (14.2%).

Changes Over Time

- Between 2016 and 2017, the profile of homelessness by geography remained fairly stable with two exceptions. The proportion of disabled adults experiencing sheltered homelessness in principal cities grew, increasing from 42.1 percent in 2016 to 44.2 in 2017. The proportion of people experiencing sheltered homelessness in suburban or rural areas who were white (Hispanic or non-Hispanic) declined from 56.7 percent in 2016 to 54.6 percent in 2017.
- Larger changes in the characteristics of people experiencing sheltered homelessness occurred over the longer period. While the disability rate among adults experiencing sheltered homelessness in suburban and rural areas declined between 2007 and 2017 (from 52.9% to 45%), the rate rose in principal cities from 31.5 percent in 2007 to 44.2 percent in 2017.
- The proportion of people who are African American experiencing sheltered homelessness in principal cities grew from 39.7 percent in 2007 to 46.5 percent in 2017.
- The share of elderly people (ages 62 or older) experiencing sheltered homelessness in principal cities increased from 3.2 percent in 2007 to 5.6 percent in 2017 and from 2 percent to 4.7 percent in suburban and rural areas.
- Between 2007 and 2017, the proportion of multi-person households has increased in both principal cities (from 28.1% to 33.1%) and suburban and rural areas (from 34.9% to 40.3%).

EXHIBIT 1.16: Characteristics by Geography

Sheltered Homeless People, 2007-2017 (in %)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Homeless People</td>
<td>1,221,044</td>
<td>1,046,478</td>
<td>1,027,339</td>
<td>367,551</td>
<td>374,718</td>
<td>389,569</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender of Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>58.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>41.6</td>
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<td>Ethnicity</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>86.1</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>85.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race</td>
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<tr>
<td>White, Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>44.3</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>44.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>White, Hispanic</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>34.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other One Race</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiple Races</td>
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<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Under Age 18</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>25.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 - 30</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>22.1</td>
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<td>21.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 - 24</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>9.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 - 30</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>11.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 - 50</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>51 - 61</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>16.0</td>
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<td>62 and Older</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.7</td>
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<td>Household Size</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Person</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>65.1</td>
<td>59.3</td>
<td>59.7</td>
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<td>2 People</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 People</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 People</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 or More People</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Status of Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>45.3</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Disabled</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data were collected on people age 18-30 until 2015, when this information was collected separately for people age 18-24 and 25-30.
Living Situation Before Entering Shelter*

Information on where people experiencing sheltered homelessness lived before entering emergency shelter or transitional housing programs was asked of all adults in families and all individuals, including children in child-only households.

In 2017

- Prior to entering shelter, nearly half of people (47.8%) were already homeless, more than one-third (35.5%) were living in a housed situation, and the remaining were staying either in an institutional setting (11.4%) or some other setting (5.3%).
- Three-quarters of the people who were living in a housed situation prior to entering shelter had been staying with either family (43.7%) or friends (31.3%), while about a quarter were staying in housing they either rented (22.1%) or owned (2.1%). Less than one percent left permanent supportive housing to enter a shelter program.
- Among the people who were already homeless prior to entering an emergency shelter or transitional housing program during the reporting year, over half (52.6%) had been staying in unsheltered locations not meant for human habitation.
- Of those not already homeless at entry into emergency shelter or transitional housing programs, about 68 percent were housed, while 21.9 percent were in institutions, and 10.2 percent were in other settings.

Changes Over Time

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of people who were already homeless prior to entering shelter increased 14.1 percent (66,843 more people). This increase was the result of both a 16.7 percent increase in the number of people entering shelter from unsheltered locations (40,620 more people) and an 11.4 percent increase in the number entering from sheltered locations (26,223 more people). The increase from unsheltered locations parallels the one-night increase in the unsheltered population.
- In 2017, 39,546 fewer people came to emergency shelter or transitional housing programs from housing settings than had done so in 2016. Reductions in the number of people entering shelter after staying with friends or family accounted for 84.3 percent of this decline.
- Between 2007 and 2017, the number of people entering an emergency shelter or transitional housing programs from unsheltered locations increased 91.8 percent (135,891 more people).
- The number of people entering a shelter program from a housing unit they rented declined 27.8 percent (34,145 fewer people) over the same time period.

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. This change was applied beginning with the 2017 AHAR Report. See the 2017 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology.

* Shelter refers to emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2017
Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs were designed differently. Emergency shelters were designed as high-volume, high-turnover programs; their primary purpose was to provide temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness. In contrast, transitional housing programs were designed to offer people experiencing homelessness shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months, assuming people would stay longer than they do in emergency shelters.

In 2017
- The homeless services system nationwide had 277,537 year-round beds in emergency shelters and 120,249 beds in transitional housing programs. Of the 1,416,908 people experiencing sheltered homelessness at some point during the reporting year, 85.1 percent stayed only in emergency shelters, 11.6 percent stayed only in transitional housing programs, and 3.4 percent used both emergency shelter and transitional housing programs during the reporting year.
- The median length of stay over the course of the reporting year was 27 nights for emergency shelter clients and about 4 months (114 nights) for transitional housing clients.
- About a third (33.1%) of transitional housing clients stayed longer than six months, while 10.4 percent of emergency shelter clients did so.
- On average, 87.4 percent of emergency shelter beds were occupied per night, while 81.7 percent of transitional housing beds were occupied per night.

Changes Over Time
- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of year-round, emergency shelter beds increased (12,908 more beds), and the number of people using emergency shelters (either exclusively or in addition to transitional housing programs) increased by 17,370 people (1.4%).
- There were 24,500 fewer transitional housing beds available in 2017 than in 2016 (a 16.9% decrease), and the number of people using transitional housing (either exclusively or in addition to emergency shelters) declined by 36,052 people (14.6%) over the same period.
- Emergency shelter beds served fewer people per available bed in 2017 (4.9 people per bed) than in 2007 (7.3 people per bed) and for longer stays—the median length of stay was 18 nights in 2007 and 27 nights in 2017.
- The average occupancy rates changed slightly between 2007 and 2017, from 88.5 percent to 87.4 percent for emergency shelter beds. The average occupancy rate changed more obviously for transitional housing beds, from 76.9 percent in 2007 to 81.7 percent in 2017.

EXHIBIT 1.19: Length of Stay
People in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Stay</th>
<th>Emergency Shelter</th>
<th>Transitional Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 days or less</td>
<td>354,374</td>
<td>9,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 to 30 days</td>
<td>317,005</td>
<td>26,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 to 180 days</td>
<td>445,954</td>
<td>104,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>181 to 360 days</td>
<td>89,097</td>
<td>46,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>361 to 365 days</td>
<td>41,057</td>
<td>23,738</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 365 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

EXHIBIT 1.20: Bed-Use Patterns
People in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2007-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bed-Use Patterns</th>
<th>Emergency Shelter</th>
<th>Transitional Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median # nights</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average # nights</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average occupancy rate (in %)</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>87.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed count</td>
<td>211,451</td>
<td>264,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover rate</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note1: The average daily occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the average daily census during the 12-month reporting period by the total of year-round equivalent beds for that year.

Note2: The total bed count is based on the year-round beds determined at one point in time from the HIC.

Note3: 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 sheltered homeless people by the number of year-round equivalent beds available that year.
**EXHIBIT 1.21: Sheltered Homeless Population Compared to Other Populations**

**All People**
The number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness in the U.S. in 2017 was roughly equivalent to the total population of Hawaii.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number in sheltered population (2017)</th>
<th>Number in comparison population (2017)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,416,908</td>
<td>1,427,538</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children**
The number of children experiencing sheltered homelessness in the U.S. was more than twice the total number of children enrolled in the Dallas Independent School District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number in sheltered population (2017)</th>
<th>Number in comparison population (2017)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>317,546</td>
<td>156,832</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comparison Population:**
- Total population of Hawaii


2 Dallas ISD Facts Sheet. [https://www.dallasisd.org/Page/2609](https://www.dallasisd.org/Page/2609)
African Americans

The number of people in the U.S. experiencing sheltered homelessness identifying as black or African American in 2017 was larger than the total number of African Americans in Atlanta, GA (239,005) and Washington, DC (318,598) combined.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>590,965</td>
<td>557,603³</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Veterans

The number of veterans experiencing sheltered homelessness in the U.S. was more than the current total number of members in the Air National Guard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>118,380</td>
<td>105,887⁴</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Data Source: HMIS 2016; Census Bureau 2017; Dallas ISD 2017, ACS 2016; DoD 2016