



A Snapshot of
Homelessness in Delaware

POINT IN TIME 2015



I. Introduction

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is a one night count of the people experiencing homelessness in our communities. The 2015 PIT Count in Delaware was conducted on January 29, 2015. As the Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency for Delaware, the Homeless Planning Council (HPC) has facilitated the coordination of the PIT Count for many years. Much of the heavy lifting is done by dedicated residents, volunteers, state service center staff, and homeless service providers in communities throughout the State. The 2015 PIT Count would not have been possible without the hard work of more than 100 thoughtful and dedicated Delawareans in our rural, suburban, and urban neighborhoods.

The PIT Count includes adults and children who are sheltered in weather related shelters (such as Code Purple sanctuaries¹), emergency shelters (including hotel/motel vouchers), transitional housing facilities, and people who are sleeping in unsheltered locations, such as the streets, in cars, or other places not meant for human habitation. The PIT Count does not include households who are at risk of homelessness. Many households in our communities are struggling to remain housed, and may experience housing instability, housing crises, or be at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The PIT Count provides us with information about people experiencing homelessness in Delaware on any given night, as well as a survey of their characteristics. This PIT Count is one of many tools that helps us better understand the housing and service needs of our homeless neighbors, and guides our collaborative work to create local solutions to homelessness.

II. Methodology

Two primary methodologies were utilized to capture information about sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on the PIT night. For sheltered persons, a census was taken using client-level data in the Community Management Information System (CMIS). Homeless service providers utilize CMIS to record and

track data about their clients and their programs. In shelters that do not utilize CMIS, such as Code Purple sanctuaries, interviews with clients were conducted using a paper survey tool. Christiana Care staff also conducted paper surveys with homeless clients in their emergency rooms. To capture information about unsheltered people, teams of volunteers canvassed their communities on the night of January 29, 2015. PIT teams canvassed areas in Wilmington, Newark, Dover, Milford, Georgetown, Rehoboth Beach, Lewes, and Seaford. These teams visited outdoor locations where people are known or believed to be sleeping and performed surveys with those they encountered.

In some cases there may have been unsheltered people that PIT teams were unable to locate on the PIT night. In other cases, people may have declined to participate in the survey or answer questions. In these cases, volunteers used an observation tool to record the people they encountered, and we were able to extrapolate basic demographic information for those individuals utilizing a HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) approved data extrapolation tool.

This report also includes information from the 2015 Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). The HIC provides information about the shelter beds and housing units available in Delaware's homeless response system to assist individuals and families who experience homelessness. This information is reported to HPC by homeless service provider agencies on an annual basis. HPC staff reached out to homeless service provider agencies to gather PIT and HIC information, confirm data, and resolve any identified discrepancies.

III. Homelessness in Delaware

On January 29, 2015, 950 people experienced homelessness in Delaware. This count includes adults and children sleeping in emergency shelters, weather-related shelters (such as Code Purple sanctuaries), transitional housing programs, on the streets, and other places not meant for human habitation. This count is very similar to the 2014 PIT Count of 965².

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- 1 Code Purple Sanctuaries in Delaware provide low/no barrier access to shelter for the purpose of saving lives when the temperature on winter nights drops below a locally determined level.
 - 2 A PIT Count of 901 was officially reported to HUD in 2014. In 2014, due to HUD data standards, HPC was unable to report more than 60 client records to HUD. However, those people were identified as homeless on that night, and so we count them locally for a total of 965 in 2014.

From January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, 2,278 unduplicated clients were recorded in CMIS as having been served by a homeless shelter, transitional housing facility, or homeless outreach team in Delaware.

A. POINT IN TIME DEMOGRAPHICS

On January 29, 2015 a total of 680 households experienced homelessness in Delaware. A household can be comprised of a single adult, multiple adults, or both adults and children. The following charts provide demographic information about people experiencing homelessness in Delaware on the 2015 PIT night.

Household Composition

On the PIT night 351 people experiencing homelessness were members of a household with adults and children, while 599 people were members of adult-only households.

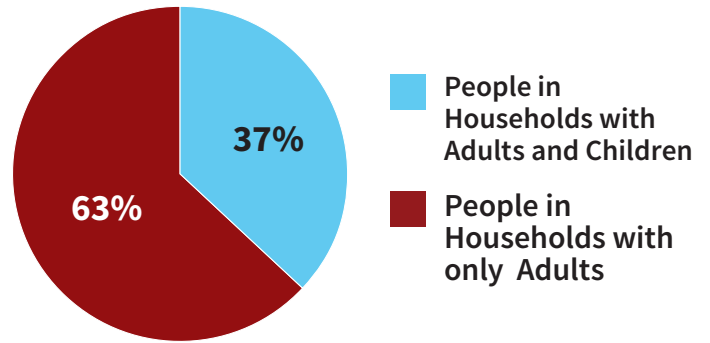
Age

On the PIT night, 227 children under the age of 18 experienced homelessness, along with 78 youth ages 18-24, and 645 adults above the age of 24.

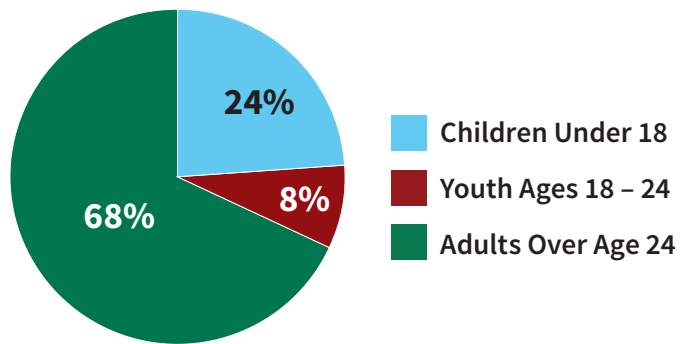
Gender

On the PIT night, 400 adults and children experiencing homelessness were female, while 553 were male. No transgendered men or women were identified on the PIT night.

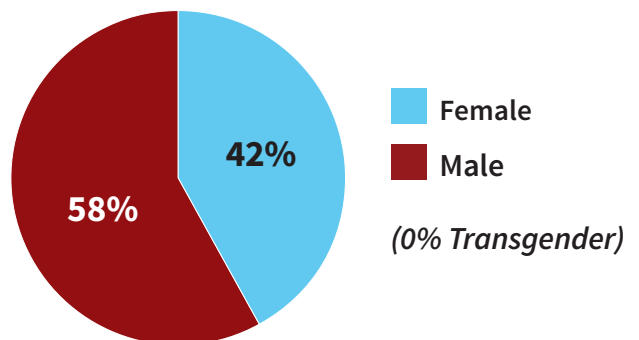
Household Composition



Age



Gender



Race

On the PIT night, 369 people experiencing homelessness identified as white, 513 as Black or African American, 3 as Asian, 11 as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 3 as Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 54 as multiple races. 54 people (6%) identified as being of Latino or Hispanic descent.

B. SHELTERED SITUATION

More than half (56%) of people experiencing homelessness on January 29, 2015 were sleeping in emergency shelters, 41% were sleeping in transitional housing facilities, and 37 people, or just under 4%, were found to be sleeping outdoors or in other places not meant for human habitation. All of the unsheltered people identified were adults over the age of 18.

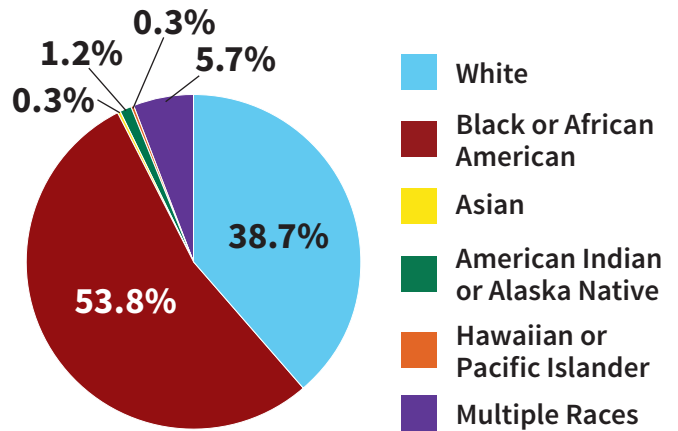
C. SUBPOPULATION DATA

Veteran Status

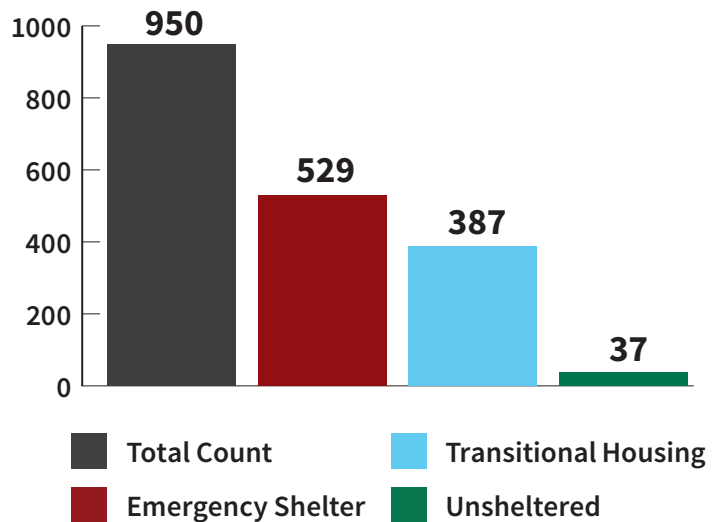
On the PIT night, 102³ people experiencing homelessness were identified as having served in the United States Armed Forces.

3 This number is higher than the number that was submitted to HUD. In order to capture as accurate a picture of veteran homelessness as possible, we expanded the types of veteran questions asked on the surveys this year to reflect best practice for capturing Veterans information. We also pulled from a variety of data elements in CMIS that indicate veteran status. We believe that this number is a more accurate reflection of veteran homelessness in Delaware.

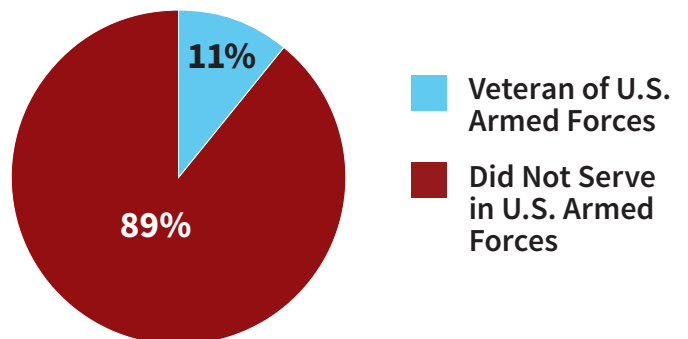
Race



Sheltered Situation



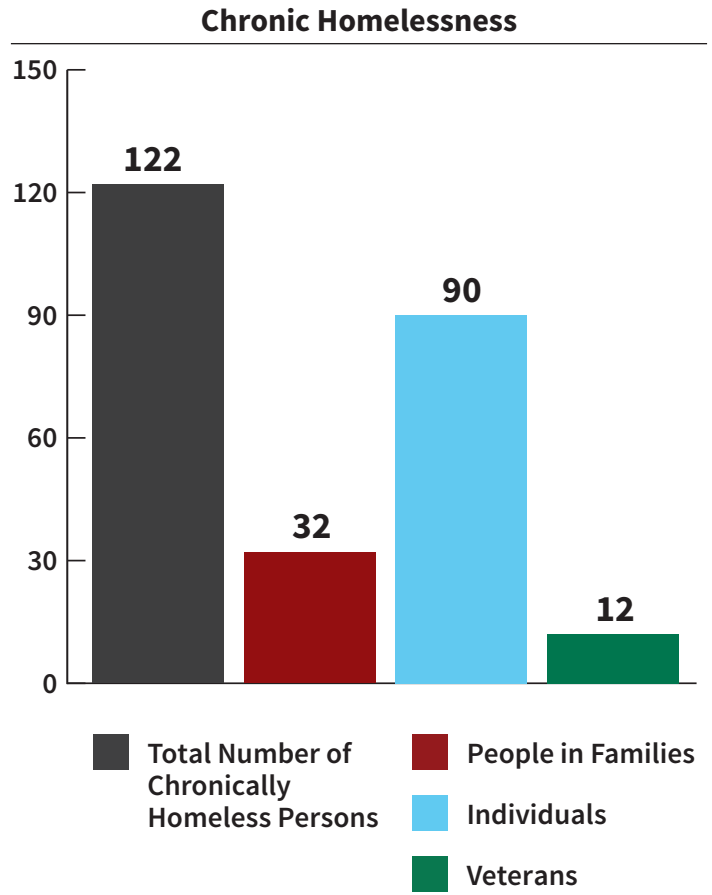
Veteran Status



Chronic Homelessness

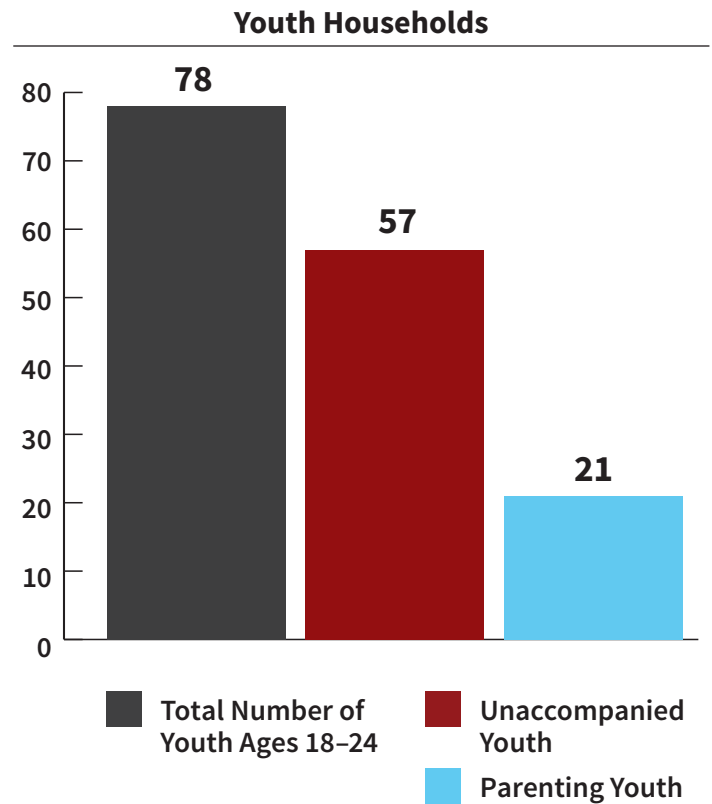
People who experience chronic homelessness are those who have been homeless (on the streets or in shelters) for more than 1 year continuously or 4 or more times in 3 years, and can be diagnosed with a disabling condition. People who experience chronic homelessness may be difficult to locate on the PIT night. They are more likely to sleep outdoors, and may be sleeping in places that are difficult for PIT volunteers to find. Furthermore, some individuals encountered sleeping outdoors on the PIT night did not provide comprehensive information, making their chronic homeless status unable to be determined.

A total of 122 people were identified as chronically homeless on the night of January 29, 2015, 13% of the total population. There were 11 chronically homeless families identified, made up of 32 people. There were 90 individual adults experiencing chronic homelessness, and 12 were veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.



Youth Households

Youth (under age 25) are referred to as “unaccompanied” when they are experiencing homelessness on their own, without other households members. Youth who experience homelessness with their children are referred to as “parenting youth” households. A total of 78 unaccompanied and parenting youth households were identified as homeless in Delaware on the PIT night. Unaccompanied youth ages 18-24 make up 73% of the youth population, and parenting youth ages 18-24 make up 27%.



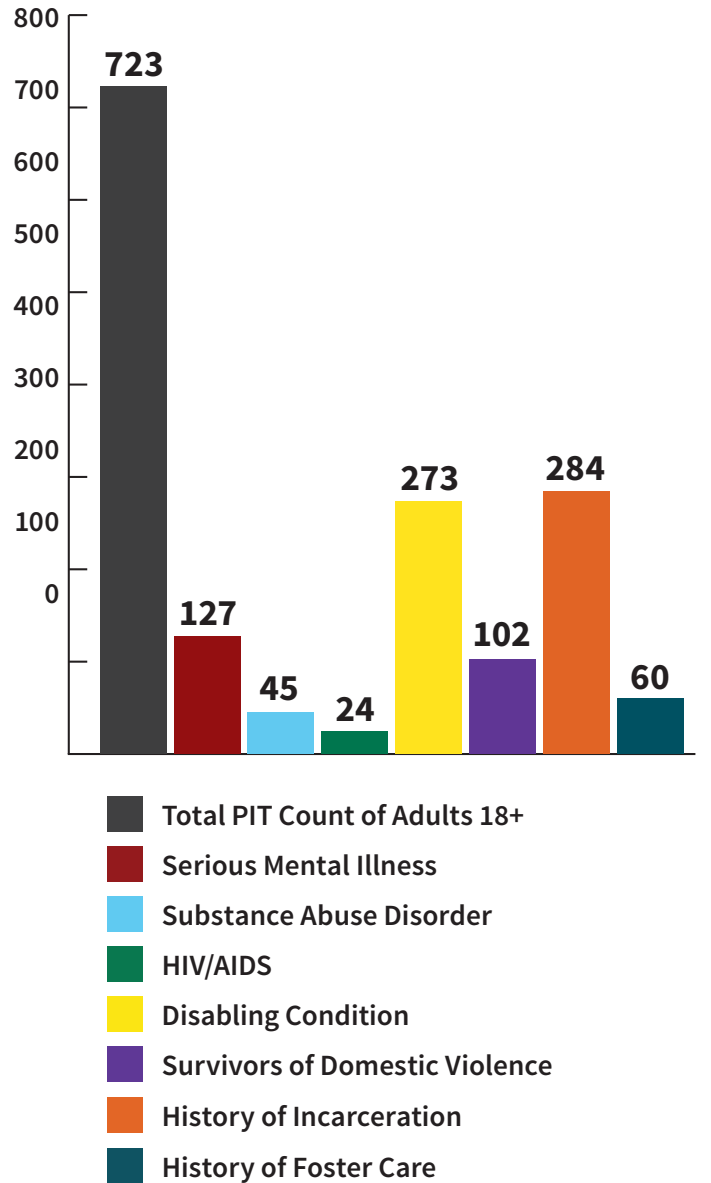
Other Characteristics

The experience of homelessness occurs as a result of complex individual circumstances coupled with economic insecurity, poverty, and lack of access to housing that is affordable. Individuals experiencing homelessness may have other experiences or circumstances that increase their likelihood of losing housing, or that may make access to housing more difficult. The “Other Characteristics” chart shows the prevalence of these characteristics in the PIT Count⁴. Most prevalent among the population is a history of incarceration, at 40% of the adult population. The second most prevalent characteristic is people with disabling conditions, at 37% of the adult population⁵.

D. HOMELESSNESS BY GEOGRAPHY

The rate of homelessness varies from one area of Delaware to the next. Northern Delaware is much more populated than the southern part of Delaware and has more homeless shelters. The rate of homelessness is consistently higher in New Castle County compared to Kent and Sussex Counties. On the PIT night, 685 people experienced homelessness in New Castle County, compare with 151 in Kent County, and 114 in Sussex County.

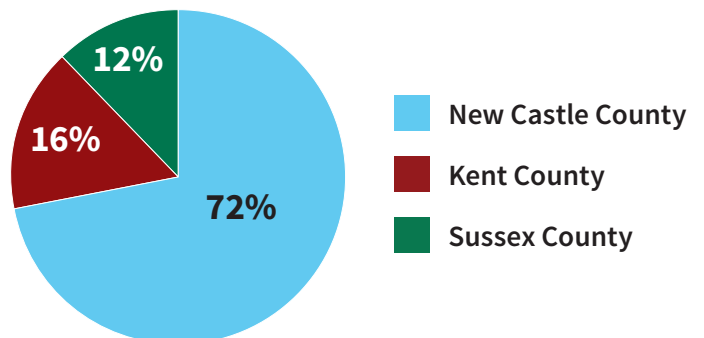
Other Characteristics



4 These characteristics are self-reported, meaning that the numbers for each characteristic represent the number of people who reported having these characteristics. Therefore some of these numbers may be a bit low.

5 The Substance Abuse Disorder characteristic is specific to persons for whom substance abuse is a qualifying disabling condition. This characteristic does not represent substance use more generally.

Homelessness by County



Chronic Homelessness

A little more than half of people experiencing chronic homelessness were located in New Castle County on the PIT night.

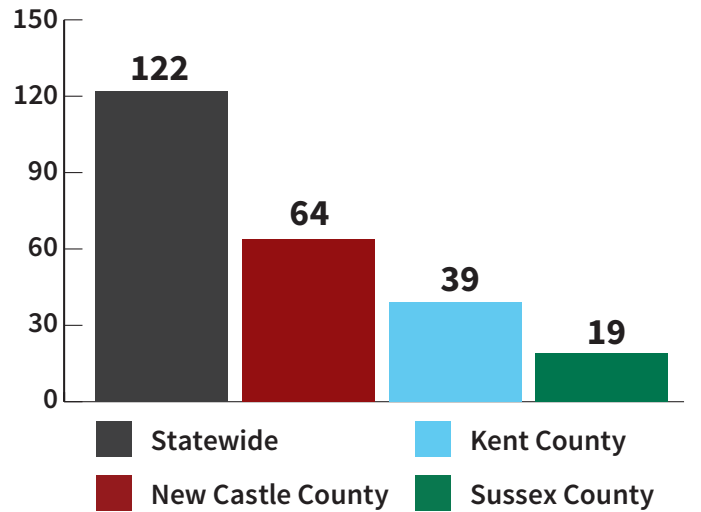
Veteran Homelessness

Veterans experiencing homelessness follow a similar geographic trend, with a majority of veterans located in New Castle County.

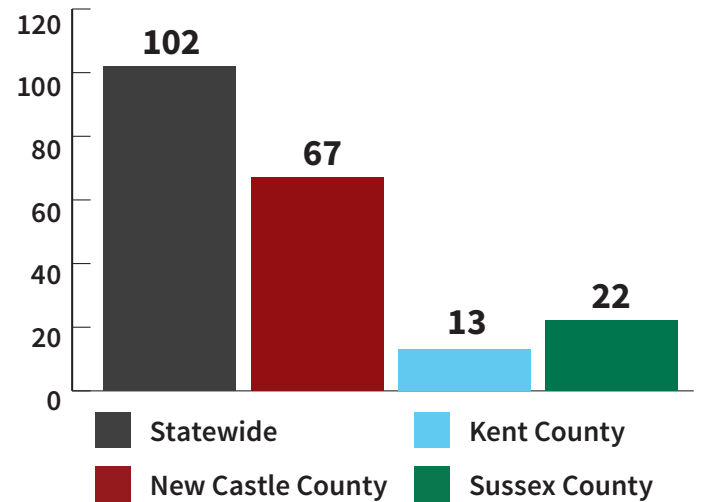
CMIS Unduplicated Client Count

From January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, 2,278 unduplicated clients were recorded in CMIS as having been served by a homeless shelter, transitional housing facility, or homeless outreach team in Delaware. The “2014 CMIS Client Count” chart represents the number of unduplicated clients served in each County during 2014.

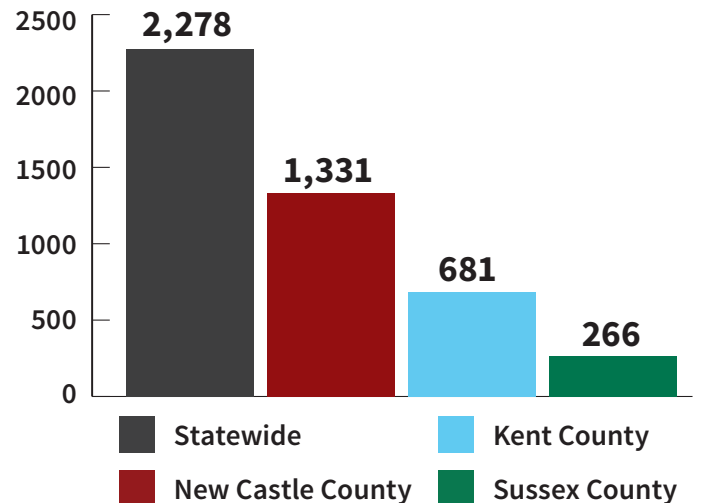
Chronic Homelessness



Veteran Homelessness



2014 CMIS Client Count



Housing Inventory Chart

The Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) is a comprehensive catalog of the shelter and housing resources available in Delaware for households experiencing homelessness. The HIC is important because it provides us with a systems-level understanding of our supply of homeless assistance beds in Delaware’s homeless response system. The HIC is updated annually and submitted to HUD alongside the Point in Time Count.

The beds and housing units reported on the HIC are those dedicated to serving persons who are experiencing homelessness. Beds in institutional settings that are not specifically dedicated for use by persons who are experiencing homelessness (such as detox facilities, treatment centers, emergency rooms, and Oxford houses for example) are not included on the HIC.

Project Types Included in the HIC		
Temporary Shelter	Emergency Shelter (ES)	ES provides temporary, short term sleeping accommodations to persons experiencing homelessness. This category includes year-round ES, weather-related or seasonal ES (such as Code Purple sanctuary), and vouchers for hotels and motels paid for by the state or local charitable organization.
	Transitional Housing (TH)	TH is a medium-term temporary accommodation where a person experiencing homelessness can typically stay for no more than 24 months.
Permanent Housing	Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	RRH is a permanent housing intervention for homeless households. RRH provides short to medium term financial assistance to help the household quickly access permanent rental housing (such as security deposit, utility assistance, rental assistance, etc.), and access to supportive services to help the household stabilize and retain housing.
	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	PSH is a long term housing intervention that includes a permanent housing subsidy and ongoing access to intensive supportive services. PSH is provided to homeless households with the highest needs, many of whom have disabling conditions and meet the HUD definition of chronically homeless ⁶ upon entry. PSH includes beds that are funded by the HUD-VASH program for Veterans.

⁶ An individual who (a) i. Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and ii. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years; and iii. Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability. (b) A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

Bed Counts

There are 2,213 beds in Delaware’s homeless response system. Of those beds, 1,263 (or 57%) are temporary shelter beds, such as emergency shelter, transitional housing, hotel/motel vouchers, or weather-related beds such as Code Purple sanctuary. There are 950 permanent housing beds (43%) for households experiencing homelessness through Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs.

There are 705 Emergency Shelter beds, 558 Transitional Housing beds, 176 Rapid Re-Housing beds, and 774 Permanent Supportive Housing beds in Delaware’s homeless response system. The “Homeless Assistance Bed Types in Delaware” chart represents the percentage of each bed type relative to the total bed inventory.

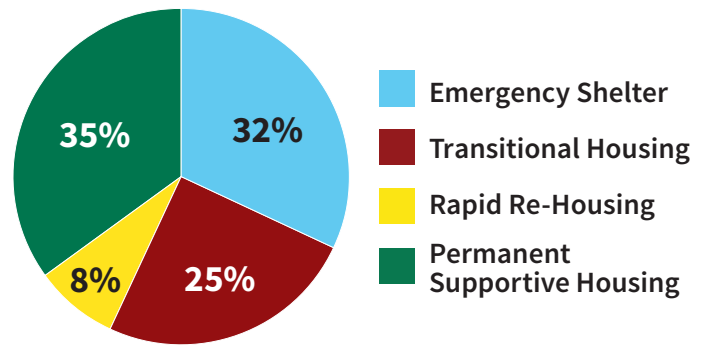
Beds by Household Type

Many beds in the homeless response system are dedicated for use by certain household types. The chart below indicates the percentage of each bed type in Delaware dedicated for use by certain household types in January 2015.

Bed Counts

Housing Type	Bed Count	Percent of Total Beds
Temporary Shelter	1,263	57%
Permanent Housing	950	43%
TOTAL	2,213	100%

Homeless Assistance Bed Types in Delaware



BED TYPE	ES	TH	RRH	PSH
Beds for Households with Children	30.7%	50.5%	83.5%	14.3%
Beds for Households without Children	53.3%	49.5%	16.5%	85.7%
Seasonal, Weather-Related, and Overflow Beds (not household specific)	16%	-	-	-



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