



# 2017 Point-In-Time Report

## Seven-County Metro Denver Region



Copyright © 2017 All Rights Reserved. Permission to use, copy, and distribute this document without fee is hereby granted for any educational or non-profit purpose provided that this copyright notice appears in all copies, the text is not modified in any way, and the document is applied to non-commercial use only.

# Contents

Letter from the Executive Director .....	1
Acknowledgements.....	2
Overview of 2012–2017 Point-In-Time (PIT) Results .....	3
Key Findings.....	4
Demographics .....	5
Total Estimated Homeless Persons .....	5
Age .....	5
Gender .....	6
Race.....	6
Families .....	7
Employment / Income .....	7
Homelessness History .....	8
Migration and Last Permanent Residence .....	9
Where People Spent Monday Night.....	10
Veterans .....	11
Veterans: Age/Gender .....	11
Veterans: Race/Ethnicity.....	11
Figure 1. Veterans: Where they stayed on January 30, 2017.....	12
Figure 2. Veterans: Disabling conditions.....	12
Figure 3. Veterans: County location.....	12
Chronically Homeless .....	13
Chronically homeless: Age/Gender.....	13
Chronically homeless: Race/Ethnicity .....	13
Figure 4. Chronically homeless: Where they stayed on January 30, 2017 .....	14
Figure 5. Chronically homeless: Disabling conditions .....	14
Figure 6. Chronically homeless: County location .....	15
Appendix.....	16
About the Point-In-Time .....	16
Understanding the PIT Findings .....	17
Methodology.....	17

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In the following pages, you will find detailed descriptions of the results and methodology of the 2017 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count for the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Continuum of Care (CoC). These results are the product of hundreds of hours of volunteer support from concerned, generous citizens and people who work to end homelessness every day. The MDHI staff and board extend sincere appreciation to all who participated in 2017 and to those who continue to seek out ways to improve the PIT for future years.

While the PIT is a mere snapshot of homelessness in the Metro Denver region, the process of enumerating how many people are experiencing “literal” homelessness (sleeping on the streets, in vehicles, and in emergency shelters) provides critical information to help identify the scope of homelessness. Without the PIT and important data collected by the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), it would be impossible to determine the overall need and the resources required to meet that urgent need.

Limiting the PIT to people experiencing literal homelessness (and not children, youth, and adults sleeping in motels, people sleeping on couches, people in institutions, etc.) is a conscious, deliberate position to take, and it is one that has come with much confusion and criticism. However, HUD made this decision intentionally, and I support HUD’s position with a clear conscience. Here’s why: there are people (babies and children, even) who are sleeping in cars and in campsites, and there are youth, families, and single adults who have been living in our shelter system for years. This is unacceptable and acts as a clear call to action. We need to prioritize our funding and high-performing housing interventions to those children, youth, individuals, and families who are experiencing homelessness captured by HUD’s more narrow definition.

Communities around the nation that are significantly reducing homelessness are making incredibly tough decisions to prioritize limited resources to people sleeping outside and in shelter. The homelessness system does not have enough resources to solve poverty and to respond adequately to the trauma it brings. If we include everyone living in poverty in our definition of homelessness and try to solve their crisis with resources dedicated to people living outside and in emergency shelter, we will fail.

Through the thoughtful use and targeting of homelessness resources, we can provide an appropriate, affordable, and actionable housing opportunity to every person experiencing the crisis of homelessness. I look forward to working with you to improve the PIT for future years and to realize consistent reductions in homelessness year after year, even in this incredibly tough housing market.

Thank you for taking the time to pick up this report. We hope that it challenges all of us to discuss data more frequently and to collaborate more meaningfully to end homelessness in Colorado.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Connelly", written over a horizontal line.

Will Connelly  
Executive Director, MDHI

## Acknowledgements

This is the sixteenth Point-In-Time (PIT) study conducted by the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) since 1998, and we owe a debt of gratitude to all those who conducted PIT surveys and contributed to this report. We are glad to partner with the OMNI Institute who, in collaboration with MDHI, provided the data analysis and reporting for the 2017 Point-In-Time survey.

Every year this effort is made possible by the Point-In-Time Committee members who help modify the survey and coordinate the count for their city, county, or subpopulation. The members who contributed to the 2017 survey are as follows:

Ashley Norman, Denver Public Library

Keith Singer, Family Tree

Cameron Shropshire, Metro Community Provider Network

Liana Escott, County of Arapahoe

Cheryl Secorski, CO DOLA, Office of Homeless Initiatives

Linda Barringer, Family Tree

Cheryl St. Clair, City and County of Broomfield

Megan Nyce, CO DOLA, Office of Homeless Initiatives

Claire Clurman, Attention Homes

Rand Clark, Douglas County Housing Authority

Christopher N. Conner, Denver's Road Home

Scott Medina, Boulder Bridge House

Dave Riggs, Adams County Housing Authority

Shehila Rae Stephens, Denver Health

Jack Patterson, Adams County Housing Authority

Shelley McKittrick, City of Aurora

Elizabeth Murray, Denver's Road Home

Brian Garrett, MDHI Volunteer

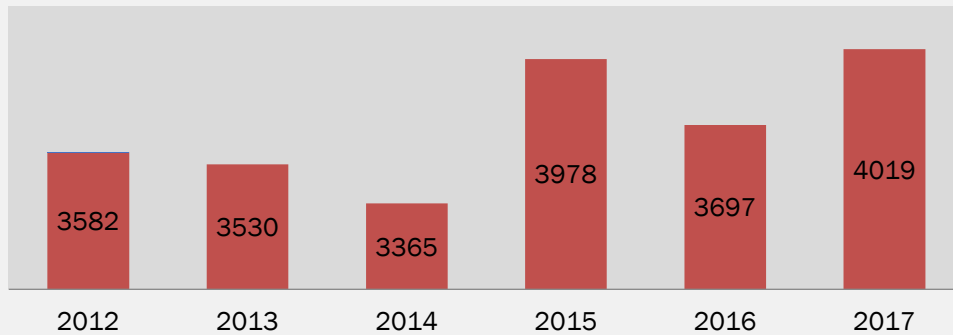
We would like to express our appreciation to all of the volunteers who administered the Point-In-Time survey and the participating agencies who supported this effort. Finally, we thank our sponsors who provided in-kind and financial support to develop this report, including incentive items for those who took the survey and the VI-SPDAT. Thank you to Sock It To 'Em, Illegal Pete's, Family Tree, Safeway, Omni, Natural Grocers, Wilderness Exchange Unlimited, Justin's, Trader Joe's, King Soopers, Target, and Big 5 Sporting Goods.



## Overview of 2012–2017 Point-In-Time (PIT) Results

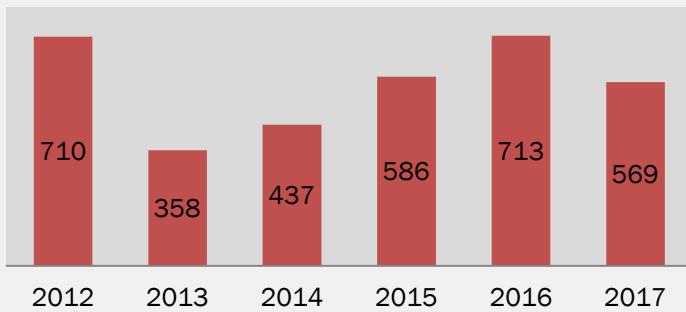
The charts below provide an overview of PIT respondents since 2012 (respondents are persons who complete a PIT survey, and unless otherwise indicated do not include family members living with the respondent). PIT surveys collect data on homeless persons found within the seven-county Denver Metro region<sup>1</sup> who meet the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s definition of homelessness](#). It is important to remember that the survey is a snapshot and an undercount of homeless and at-risk populations. Readers should be wary when citing data across years given the nature of the PIT snapshot as well as changes in methodology.

### Total Homeless Respondents

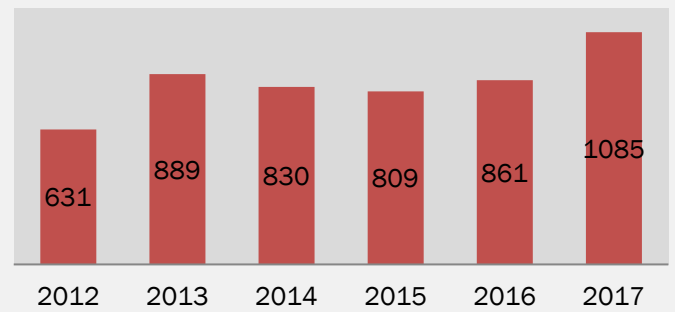


A snapshot of those experiencing homelessness on a **single night** in January. Data is **self-reported** and given on a voluntary basis.

### Veterans



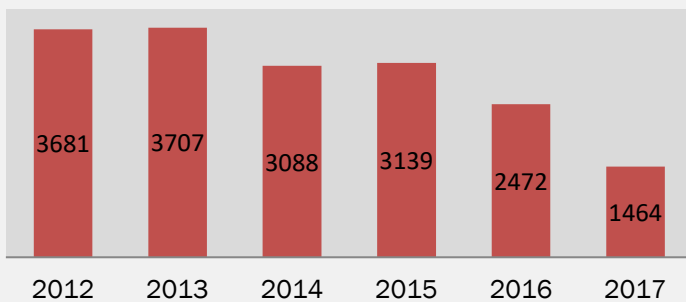
### Chronically Homeless



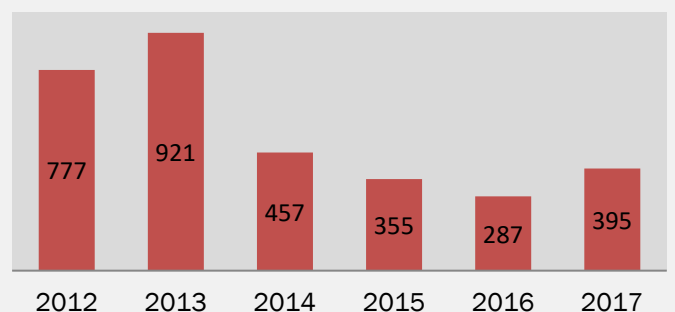
The veteran homeless table reflects respondents who have served in the U.S. military.

This chart includes all respondents **and family members** who met the definition of chronically homeless.

### Families with Children



### Unaccompanied Youth



This chart includes all respondents **with family members** currently in their household or custody.

This chart includes all respondents **with family members** currently in their household or custody.

<sup>1</sup> Denver Metro region includes the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson.

## Key Findings

The data below reflect those who participated in the 2017 PIT survey and fell within the [HUD definition of homelessness](#). Please note that these data do not include families, youth, or singles who are doubled/tripled up; families, youth, or singles in hotels/motels paid for by themselves; hidden families, youth, and singles; or those who refused to take the survey.

### Homeless Incidence:

- On Monday, January 30, 2017 there were 5,116 homeless individuals counted in the seven county Denver Metro area; this includes those who completed a survey as well as their family members.

### On the Street:

- A total of 18.1 percent or 924 people were unsheltered (living on the street, under a bridge, in an abandoned or public building, in a car, camping, etc.).

### Where They Slept on Monday Night:

- Transitional housing (42.5%)
- Emergency shelters (including hotels/motels using vouchers paid for by an organization) (38.4%)
- Unsheltered (18.1%)

### Newly Homeless:

- Nearly one-fifth (19.4%) of total respondents, or 779 persons, were considered newly homeless (that is, they had been homeless for less than one year and this was their first episode of homelessness).

### Domestic Violence:

- 507 respondents (12.6%) reported that domestic violence was a contributing factor to their homeless situation.

### Income:

- Over half (52.3%) of respondents—2,102 people—reported that they or someone in their household had received income in the past month.

### Chronically Homeless:

- 1,039 respondents were chronically homeless and there were an additional 46 family members living with these respondents, for a total of 1,085 individuals living in chronically homeless households.

### Veterans:

- A total of 569 individuals identified as veterans.

### Families:

- 439 families completed PIT surveys during the 2017 count; data for the 2014-2015 school year identified 14,969 children as homeless.

### Youth:

- 395 unaccompanied youth under age 25 completed PIT surveys during the 2017 count.

## Demographics

### Total Estimated Homeless Persons

Total estimated homeless persons includes PIT survey respondents and their reported family members, as well as household information from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). In the HMIS data, heads of households were counted in place of respondents. For more details, see the appendix.

- Of those surveyed, **5,116 people met the HUD definition of homelessness.**
- Approximately **21% of the counted homeless persons were family members** of the respondent who completed the PIT survey.

**Table 1. Total homeless**

Respondents	4,019
Family members	1,097
Total homeless	5,116

### Age

Given known barriers to reaching the youth population, it is certain that those under 25 years of age counted in the 2017 PIT represent only a portion of the unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in the region.

**Table 2. Ages—All homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
Under 18	287	5.6
18-24	440	8.6
25-34	775	15.1
35-44	828	16.2
45-54	1,017	19.9
55+	967	18.9
Data missing	802	15.7
Total	5,116	100.0

## Gender

- Males outnumbered females nearly 2 to 1 among the homeless persons counted.

**Table 3. Gender—All homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
Female	1,722	33.7
Male	3,309	64.7
Transgender	21	0.4
Don't identify	16	0.3
Data missing	48	0.9
Total	5,116	100.0

## Race

- Over half of those counted reported their race as White, and another 20 percent reported their race as Black/African American. Together these races make up close to 80 percent of those surveyed.

**Table 4. Race—All homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian/Alaskan Native	253	4.9
Asian	25	0.5
Black/African American	1,170	22.9
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	24	0.5
White	2,874	56.2
Mixed Race	398	7.8
Don't know/No response	372	7.3
Total	5,116	100.0

**Table 5. Ethnicity—All homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
Non-Hispanic/Latino	3,799	74.3
Hispanic/Latino	1,079	21.1
Data missing	238	4.7
Total	5,116	100.0



## Families

The PIT survey groups families into one of three “household types”: households without children (children are persons under the age of 18); households with at least one adult and one child; and households consisting only of children. Groups of adults that were part of the same family, such as adult siblings, families with adult children, or partners/spouses without children were considered to be households without children.

Although the majority of responding households did not include children, more than a quarter of them did. Table 6a groups all homeless persons counted by type of household, while Table 6b does the same for respondents only.

**Table 6a. Household type—All homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
Household without children	3,626	70.9
Household with at least 1 adult and 1 child	1,464	28.6
Household with only children under 18	26	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,116</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 6b. Household type—Respondents**

	Frequency	Percent
Household without children	3,554	88.4
Household with at least 1 adult and 1 child	439	10.9
Household with only children under 18	26	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,019</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Employment / Income

- Over half of respondents (52.3%) reported that someone in their household had received income in the past month. When asked about the nature of the income, 16 percent reported that it was from SSI/SSDI, while the greatest number of respondents (19.1%) said that it was income earned through employment.

## Homelessness History

Duration of homelessness refers to how long a particular episode of homelessness has lasted. Number of episodes refers to the number of separate times a household has experienced homelessness, regardless of how long each of the episodes lasted.

- Close to one-half (**45.8%**) of respondents reported that their household had been homeless for less than one year, while more than half (**51.4%**) said they had been homeless for a year or more (see Table 7).

**Table 7. Duration of homelessness—Respondents**

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 month	314	7.8
More than 1 month but less than 1 year	1,529	38.0
1 to 3 years	1,333	33.2
More than 3 years	733	18.2
Not currently homeless	20	0.5
No response/Bad data	90	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,019</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8. Episodes of homelessness—Respondents**

	Frequency	Percent
Once in last 3 years	1,601	39.8
Twice in last 3 years	613	15.3
Three times in last 3 years	366	9.1
Four or more times in last 3 years	141	3.5
Five or more times in last 3 years	399	9.9
Not homeless at any time in last 3 years	82	2.0
Data missing	817	20.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,019</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- As shown in Table 8, the single largest group of respondents (39.8%) said their household was experiencing its first episode of homelessness in the last three years. About one in six (15.3%) had been homeless twice in the last three years, and close to 10 percent (9.1%) or 366 respondents had been homeless three or more times in the last three years.

### Newly Homeless

For the purposes of this study, people were considered “newly homeless” if they had been homeless for less than one year and this was their first episode of homelessness.

- On January 30, 2017, nearly one in five (19.4%) respondents who were experiencing homelessness, or 779 households, were considered newly homeless.

### Chronically Homeless

- 1,039 respondents (20.3%) were considered chronically homeless.
- Nearly all respondents experiencing chronic homelessness were single adults (98.4%).
- More than half (54.2%) of chronically homeless respondents spent the night of Monday, January 30, 2017 in an emergency shelter and 444 (42.7%) spent the night unsheltered—on the street, under a bridge, in a car, etc.

## Migration and Last Permanent Residence

- Respondents were asked to indicate the county where they last lived before they became homeless. Of those respondents who answered the question, 32.9 percent or 1,323 people reported that their last permanent residence was in the City and County of Denver. A small proportion (4.8%) considered their last permanent residence to be in a Colorado county outside of the Denver Metro area. More than one in six (17.2%) or 693 people considered their last permanent residence either out of state or country. The respondents in Table 9 are those who provided information about both where they spent the night of Monday, January 30, 2017, and the county where they last had a permanent residence.<sup>2</sup>
- **The table relates the county where the respondent spent Monday night (columns) to the county containing the respondent's last permanent residence (rows).** For example, out of the 83 respondents who spent the night in Adams County, 42 said that their last permanent residence was in Adams County, 19 were from Denver, and 9 were from out of state or country. Conversely, of the 257 respondents who said their last permanent residence was in Adams County, 42 were still in Adams County on the night of the PIT count, and 163 spent the night in the City and County of Denver.

**Table 9. County where spent Monday night by county of last permanent residence—Respondents**

County of last permanent residence	Where spent Monday night							Total
	Adams	Arapahoe	Boulder	Broomfield	Denver	Douglas	Jefferson	
Adams	42	20	14	1	163	0	17	257
Arapahoe	7	214	9	1	237	0	10	478
Boulder	0	2	227	0	14	1	2	246
Broomfield	0	0	6	7	7	0	0	20
Denver	19	76	23	2	1172	1	30	1323
Douglas	0	5	1	0	46	11	1	64
Jefferson	3	3	8	1	167	3	92	277
In CO—other county	3	15	41	1	129	0	4	193
In CO—unknown/invalid	0	1	1	0	14	0	1	17
Other state/country	9	60	123	2	478	2	19	693
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2427</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>3568</b>

The data in Table 9 may shed some light on the migration of persons who are experiencing homelessness across the seven Metro area counties. However, this data has to be viewed with caution given the assumptions that are being made. For example, “last permanent residence” is likely defined very differently across respondents. Further, the time frame is not articulated in these data, that is, we do not know whether a respondent’s last permanent residence immediately preceded their current episode of homelessness. If it did not, their “last permanent residence” and where they spent Monday night may not accurately reflect their migration over time.

<sup>2</sup> Note that not all respondents answered these questions and therefore table data do not equal the total number of respondents.

## Where People Spent Monday Night

- On January 30, 2017, 42.5 percent of the homeless persons counted were staying in transitional housing, followed by 38.4 percent in emergency shelters (including youth shelters and hotel or motel rooms paid for by a voucher or agency). A total of 18.1 percent or 924 people were unsheltered (see Table 10).

**Table 10. Where spent Monday night—All homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
Emergency shelter <sup>1</sup>	1,965	38.4
Domestic violence shelter	24	0.5
Transitional housing	2,172	42.5
Safe haven	31	0.6
Unsheltered	924	18.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,116</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Including hotel/motel paid for by a voucher and youth shelters.

**Table 11. County where spent Monday night All homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
Adams	157	3.1
Arapahoe	562	11.0
Boulder	600	11.7
Broomfield	22	0.4
Denver	3,336	65.2
Douglas	45	0.9
Jefferson	394	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,116</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Veterans

Of the 4,019 respondents surveyed metro-wide, **564 (14.0%) were veterans**. There were 569 veterans within the total surveyed homeless population.

### Veterans: Age/Gender

**Table 12. Age—Veterans**

	Frequency	Percent
Under 18	0	0
18-24	7	1.2
25-34	50	8.8
35-44	59	10.4
45-54	155	27.2
55+	293	51.5
Missing	5	0.9
Total	569	100.0
Mean age	53	
Median age	55	

**Table 13. Gender—Veterans**

	Frequency	Percent
Female	44	7.7
Male	519	91.2
Transgender	2	0.4
Don't Identify	4	0.7
Missing	0	0
Total	569	100.0

**Table 14. Race—Veterans**

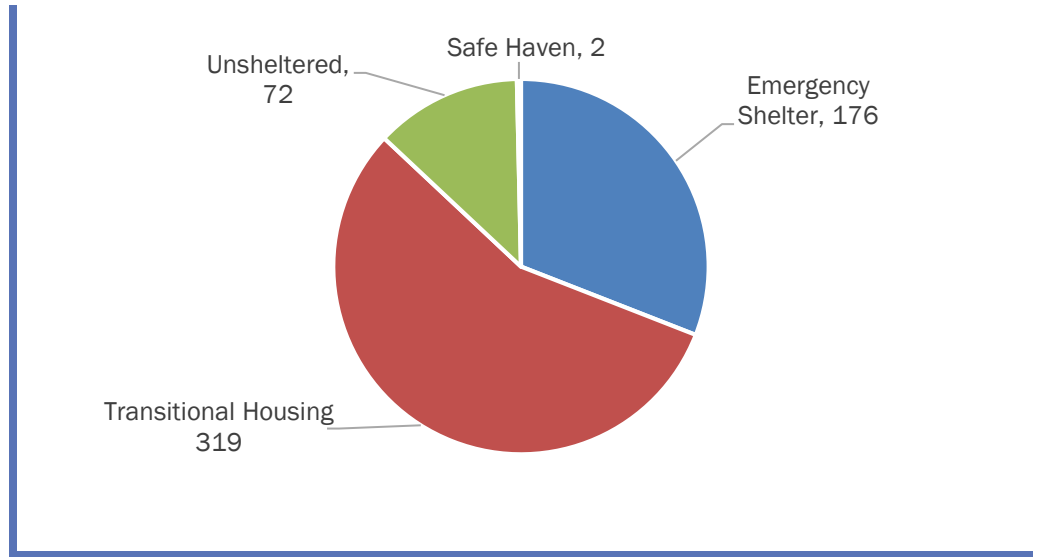
	Frequency	Percent
American Indian/Alaskan Native	32	5.6
Asian	2	0.4
Black/African American	153	26.9
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
White	334	58.7
Mixed Race	22	3.9
Don't know/No response	26	4.6
Total	569	100.0

**Table 15. Ethnicity—Veterans**

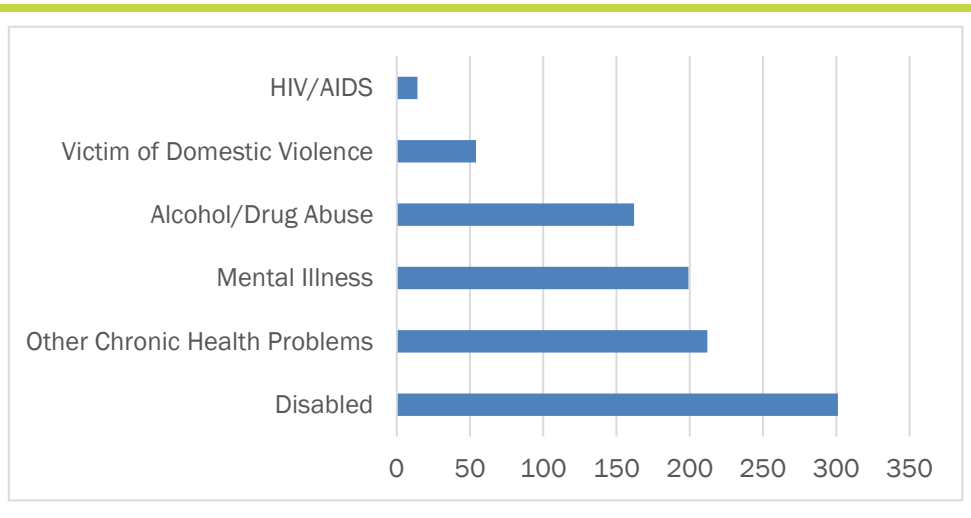
	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic	59	10.4
Non-Hispanic	486	85.4
Don't Know/No Response	24	4.2
Total	569	100.0

### Veterans: Race/ Ethnicity

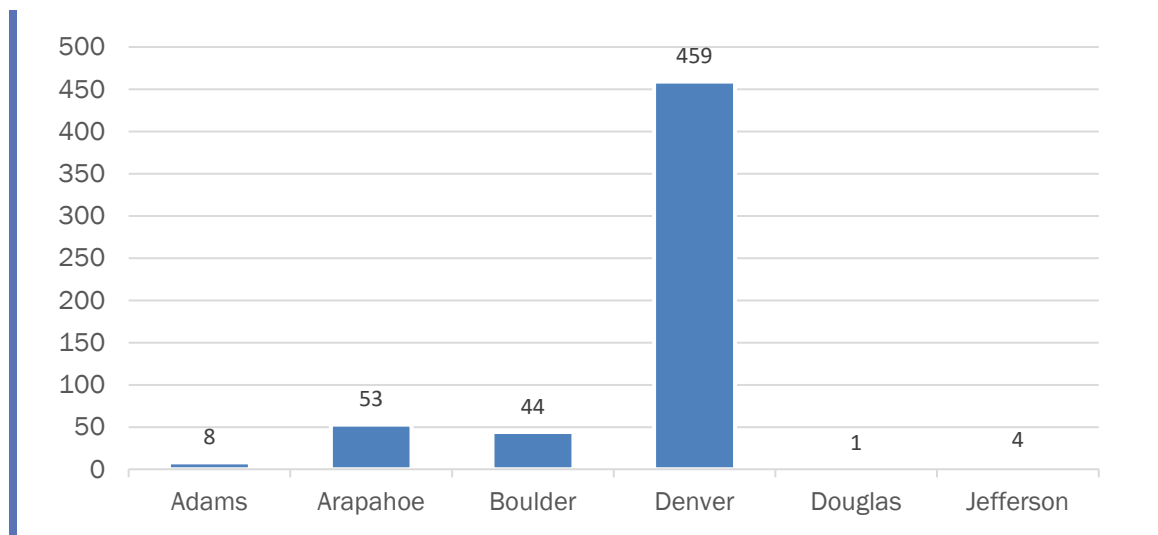
**Figure 1.  
Veterans:  
Where they stayed on  
January 30, 2017**



**Figure 2.  
Veterans:  
Disabling Conditions**



**Figure 3.  
Veterans:  
County  
Location**



## Chronically Homeless

Of the 4,019 respondents surveyed metro-wide, 1,039 (25.9%) respondents were chronically homeless. There were 1,085 chronically homeless within the total surveyed homeless population.

### Chronically Homeless: Age/Gender

**Table 16. Age—Chronically homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
Under 18	2	0.2
18-24	76	7.0
25-34	124	11.4
35-44	220	20.3
45-54	319	29.4
55+	298	27.5
Missing	46	4.2
Total	1,085	100.0
Mean age	46	
Median age	48	

**Table 17. Gender—Chronically homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
Female	303	27.9
Male	757	69.8
Transgender	11	1.0
Don't Identify	3	0.3
Missing	11	1.0
Total	1,085	100.0

**Table 18. Race—Chronically homeless**

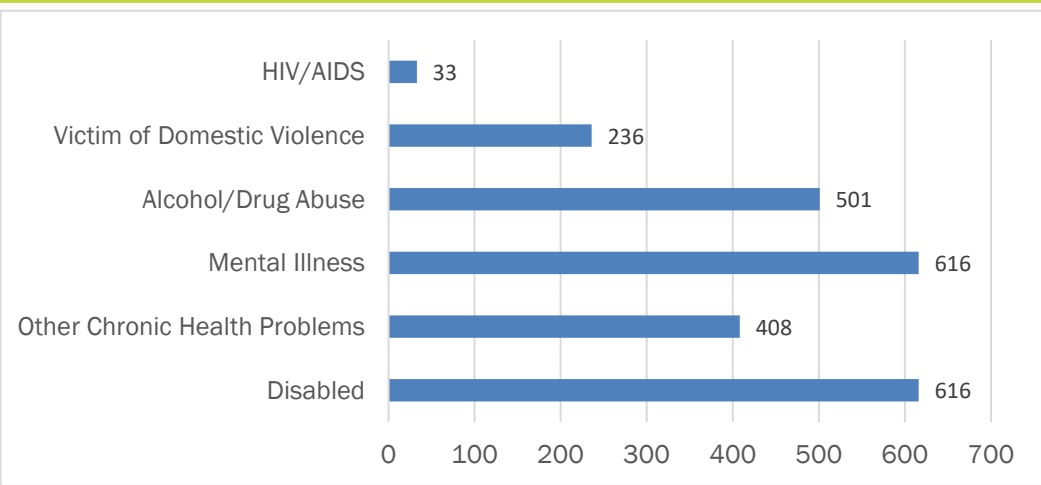
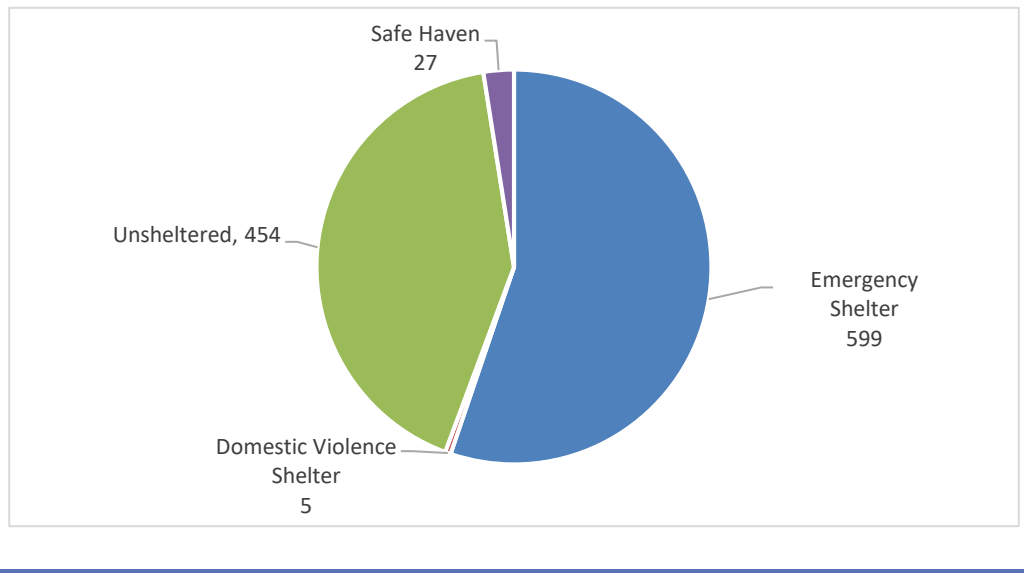
	Frequency	Percent
American Indian/Alaskan Native	92	8.5
Asian	4	0.4
Black/African American	207	19.1
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3	0.3
White	633	58.3
Mixed Race	69	6.4
Don't know/No response	77	7.1
Total	1,085	100.0

**Table 19. Ethnicity—Chronically homeless**

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic	211	19.4
Non-Hispanic	814	75.0
Don't Know/No Response	60	5.5
Total	1,085	100.0

### Chronically Homeless: Race/Ethnicity

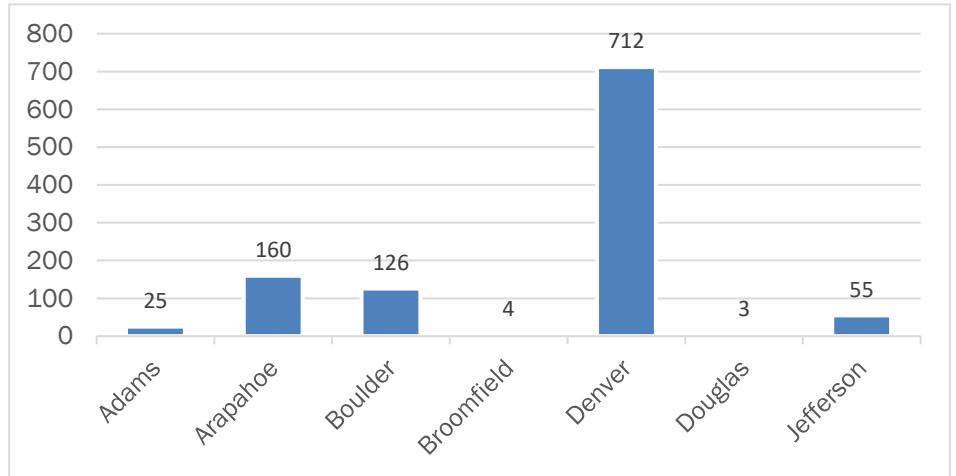
**Figure 4.  
Chronically Homeless:  
Where they stayed on  
January 30, 2017**



**Figure 5.  
Chronically Homeless:  
Disabling  
Conditions**



**Figure 6.**  
**Chronically Homeless:**  
**County Location**



## Appendix

### About the Point-In-Time

The Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) conducted a Point-In-Time (PIT) study of people experiencing homelessness in the seven-county Metropolitan area with the help of volunteers, service providers, staff, and outreach workers. MDHI is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide leadership in the development and coordination of strategies to prevent and end homelessness in the seven-county Metro Denver region. Referred to as the Continuum of Care (CoC), MDHI encompasses Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties.

A Point-In-Time count provides a snapshot of homelessness by interviewing those who are experiencing homelessness at a particular time. Ongoing collection and analysis of data on the number, location, and demographic characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness is critical to designing, implementing and sustaining a system to end homelessness. HUD, the primary source of federal funding for housing support for homeless populations, requires that each Continuum of Care across the country conduct a Point-In-Time survey during the last ten days of January. HUD, MDHI, local governments and service providers use information collected by the Point-In-Time survey to define the scope of the problem, assess the current effectiveness of the system, identify strategies for improvement, and monitor progress.

#### Limitations of the PIT

It is difficult to count people who are experiencing homelessness. It is easy to “miss” individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness—as they might not receive services at the agencies where persons experiencing homelessness are counted on the night of the PIT. Additionally, people enter and leave homelessness frequently and may experience homelessness shortly after the Point-In-Time survey. Certain subpopulations of people experiencing homelessness present particular difficulties to being counted. By definition, unsheltered individuals are not in places where they can easily be located, as compared to people staying in transitional housing and homeless shelters. Often, people sleeping outside or in vehicles simply cannot be found.

The comprehensiveness of a sheltered homeless count is entirely dependent upon the level of participation of agencies and organizations that serve youth, single adults, and families. Given the difference in participation across years in participation and survey administration practices, changes in the numbers of homeless individuals counted from year to year should not necessarily be interpreted as true increases or decreases in the homeless population. Although certain populations of people who are experiencing homelessness are difficult to find and count, the PIT count is important as it is the primary tool to measure the scope of people experiencing homelessness.

#### Definition of Homelessness

For the 2017 PIT survey MDHI used the definition of homelessness found in the [HUD Point in Time Count Methodology Guide](#). This includes individuals and families “living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals) on the night designated for the count. This includes persons residing in Safe Haven projects.

Specifically, persons are identified as homeless if they are staying in the following locations:

- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings
- Sleeping in an emergency shelter or safe haven
- Living in transitional housing
- Staying in a hotel or motel paid for by a voucher

Priorities in the 2017 PIT efforts included:

- Involvement of formerly homeless individuals to assist with planning, training and interviewing.
- Strategic identification of outdoor areas where people experiencing homelessness are known to be found.
- Use of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data to count those living in transitional housing.
- Emphasis on surveying unsheltered persons, veterans, families, and unaccompanied youth.
- Increase in resources to improve PIT efforts.

## Understanding the PIT Findings

For the PIT data, MDHI reports the findings for **respondents** and **all homeless**. Respondents are those individuals who completed a survey or who are designated as the Head of Household (HoH) in HMIS. The “all homeless” category is the sum of respondents and their household members. Findings are reported in one or both of these two categories, depending on which category is most informative and whether the variable can logically be imputed to all homeless. For example, military status can be reported for respondents only, while it makes sense to report where people spent the night of the count for all homeless (respondents and their family members). Findings are also reported across counties for purposes of geographic comparison.

Additionally, some respondents did not answer every question. As a result, the percentages represent only those people who answered the question and not the total number of respondents. Unless otherwise noted, the percentages do not include missing responses. Therefore, when adding up responses in various categories, the numbers typically do not sum to the total number of “respondents” or “all homeless” due to missing data elements.

As described earlier, the focus of the 2017 PIT effort was narrowed to more intentionally capture information only on individuals meeting the HUD criteria for homelessness, and not on individuals at-risk for homelessness. A notable issue from the 2017 PIT effort to that needs to be addressed for the 2018 PIT includes developing plans to utilize technology to produce a more comprehensive and accurate count, especially in the large shelters.

**Table 20. Summary of Excluded and Sampled Data**

<b>Total PIT surveys &amp; HMIS households</b>	<b>4,817</b>
<i>Surveys Removed and Reason:</i>	
Observation/Refusal	360
Duplicate	332
Not homeless	50
Homeless status could not be determined	158
Insufficient PIN/identifying information	300
Outside metro area	12
HOH less than 15 years old or invalid/missing DOB	48
Removed due to other data quality issues	15
<b>Total surveys/households removed</b>	<b>1,275</b>
<b>Total surveys/households added via sampling</b>	<b>477</b>
<b>Total surveys/households kept in dataset</b>	<b>4,019</b>

**Table 20 Notes**

Not homeless includes:

- 1) CCH\_Lowry Transitional Case Management
- 2) Selecting I am not currently homeless for Q5 AND I have not been homeless at any time in the last three years to Q6 on PIT Survey

Homeless status could not be determined includes the following:

- 1) No response to Q2, Where did respondent sleep on night of PIT count on PIT Survey.

Removed due other data quality issues includes:

Households that appear to be partial families (i.e., Household ID does not have an instance of "Self") in HMIS

**Table 21. Final household count breakout**

PIT	2,807
PIT – Denver Rescue Mission sample	378
PIT – Aurora unsheltered sample	99
HMIS	735
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,019</b>

## Methodology

Volunteers throughout the Metro Denver counties collected PIT data during the last week in January, referencing the Point-In-Time as the night of Monday, January 30, 2017.

### Survey Instrument

The survey instrument was developed by MDHI, in consultation with their research partner, OMNI Institute, and the PIT Committee. The survey was revised based on input from MDHI's PIT Committee, on PIT data from previous years, on Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements, and on the fact that HMIS<sup>3</sup> data would be used to complement PIT surveys. The majority of the questions remained the same compared to prior years with two primary goals: 1) to prioritize the collection of HUD required questions and focus data collection on individuals meeting the HUD definition of homelessness, and 2) to collect more accurate information on the family composition of people experiencing homelessness.

### Data Entry and Cleaning

MDHI subcontracted Network Exposure, a data entry consultant to enter all PIT survey data. HMIS data for transitional housing programs was utilized to complement the survey data, and all HMIS data was provided in a single data extract for individuals that were staying in transitional housing on the night of the PIT. The research team performed numerous procedures to ensure that data could be combined across PIT and HMIS datasets, and completed significant cleaning and checking procedures to identify data entry, data extract and logic errors. For example, researchers examined datasets for missing data patterns, out of range/incorrect values, and conducted logic checks on all variables included.

#### *Duplicates*

A unique PIN number was created for each household using information provided for name, date of birth, and SSN (or the SSN of their head of household/primary respondent). PIT and HMIS data files were merged, and duplicate cases were identified using the unique PIN number. Several iterations of duplicate identification were then performed based on varying combinations of name, date of birth, and SSN to further identify duplicate cases that did not end up with the same PIN number due to different spelling of name or mis-typed information on any of the data fields used to create the PIN. Duplicates were also flagged based on respondents indicating that they had already completed a survey during this PIT administration.

#### *Variable Creation*

Several variables were created during the cleaning process. These included:

- **Chronically Homeless Individual** - An individual who:
  - A) Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
  - B) 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 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and
  - C) Has a disability.
- **Chronic Family:** identified all members in a family with at least one or more chronically homeless family member
- **Family status:** develop family categories based on information provided about family members staying in the same place as the respondent, the relationship of those family members to the respondent, the number of family members who provided information in the family matrix, and the number of children that respondents indicated that they had custody of who were sleeping in another location.
- **Households without children:** Households with adults only. This includes households composed of unaccompanied adults (including unaccompanied youth age 18-24) and multiple adults (including households with multiple youth ages 18 to 24).
- **Households with at least one adult and one child:** Households with (at least) one adult (including youth ages 18 to 24) and one child.
- **Households with only children:** Households composed exclusively of persons under age 18, including one-child households, multi-child households or other household configurations composed only of children.

---

<sup>3</sup> A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons. Homeless assistance providers use HMIS to coordinate care, manage their operations, and better serve their clients.

### Identifying County

This report includes analysis of results by county, as well as analysis of migration between counties. We used the following procedures to assign county if respondents did not indicate a county on the survey.

To identify where the respondent spent Monday night:

- If a respondent indicated the city that they spent Monday night, the corresponding county was assigned. For example, if the respondent said they spent the night in the city of Boulder, they were assigned Boulder County.
- If the respondent did not indicate a city or county, they were assigned the county that the survey was conducted in (the county in which the agency administering the survey was located).
- If either of the above scenarios resulted in a city that lies in more than one county, the county was applied proportionally based on respondents where the county was known. For example, the city of Aurora lies in three counties: Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties.

To identify county of last permanent residence:

- County was assigned based on designated city or county information provided by the respondent.
- If the city provided was a part of multiple counties, county was applied proportionally using the same methodology as above. If the respondent did not provide a last city or county, the county of last residence was marked as missing.

### Sampling

In the 2017 Point in Time, we piloted use of a sampling methodology in two specific instances. Sampling involves obtaining survey information from a subset of the homeless population within a given geographic or service area. This subset is then used to extrapolate (estimate information) to the larger homeless population within that same geographic or service area. Sampling can be used to estimate the *total number* of homeless individuals in a given area based on the number of individuals who participate in the sample, or it can be used to estimate *information about* the total sample when information is available from a subset of individuals. Sampling may provide a more accurate count of the homeless population in situations where it is difficult to survey the entire population. In both instances, sampling was used to extrapolate information about the characteristics of homeless individuals, and was not used to estimate the number of additional people who may have been homeless on the night of the PIT but were not counted.

We used a *random sampling* approach at one of the largest emergency shelters in Denver. At this shelter, 50% of the population was asked to complete the PIT survey. Data from this subset of the population was used to extrapolate information to the total population at that shelter on the night of the PIT count. A total count of the number of people who stayed at the shelter on the night of the PIT was used to estimate the total number of people experiencing homelessness at that agency.

A *non-random* sampling approach was used to extrapolate information for the unsheltered population in one city in the Denver-Metro area. In this city, the population who receives motel vouchers is the same as the unsheltered population. The subset of homeless individuals who received motel vouchers was used to extrapolate information about the unsheltered population in this city. The total number of unsheltered individuals was documented using enumeration only (no surveys were administered), and this number was used to estimate the total number of unsheltered homeless individuals in the city.

All variables were created before extrapolation. Extrapolation was completed by taking a random set of cases from the sample. For example, if there was a surveyed sample of 75 people and the total known population was 100, a random set of 25 cases were selected and used to extrapolate. Frequencies of key demographic and descriptive variables (e.g. gender, chronic homelessness, veteran status, etc.) were taken before and after extrapolation to ensure that the extrapolated population was similar to the original sample.