

2016 Point-in-Time Count Report

Homelessness in Chester County

March 24, 2016

Overview

On the night of January 27, 2016, and into the early morning hours of January 28, 2016, the Chester County Department of Community Development (DCD) facilitated the 2016 Point-in-Time Count, a national effort sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of this initiative is to determine the number of people currently experiencing homelessness on a given night, better understand homelessness in Chester County and across the nation, and to support Decade to Doorways, our community's plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Data from the count is included in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), which is presented annually to Congress.

From 2016, there were 5 unsheltered and 677 sheltered for a total of 682 experiencing homelessness counted.

Unsheltered Count

DCD verifies how the unsheltered homeless population are identified in the count, as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule:

"An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground." Youth under age 18 and ages 18 to 24 who meet this definition are categorized as homeless.

Unsheltered Count Findings

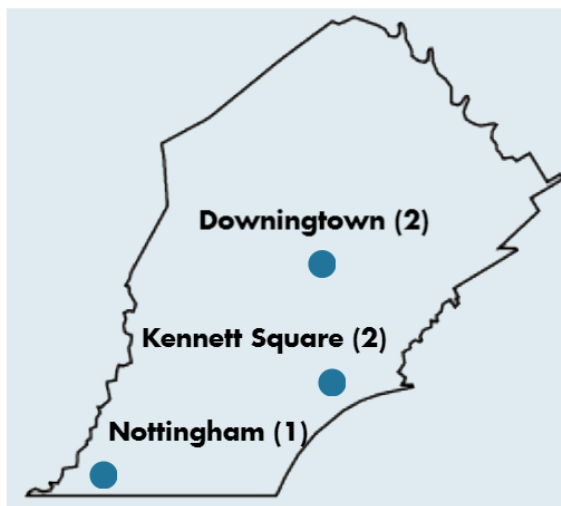


Figure 1. This map displays the number of unsheltered individual who were counted. A blizzard the weekend before the PIT Count may have impacted the unsheltered count numbers.

Unsheltered Count Methodology

DCD staff distributed a "One-Night Survey Reporting Form" and "Youth Count Survey" to 56 places including but not limited to hospitals, supermarkets, convenience stores, and youth focused non-profits.



DCD received information about where teams should canvass by contacting and/or receiving information from places such as police stations, hospitals, 24-hour stores, drug and alcohol facilities, libraries, and mental health facilities.



20 Teams canvassed predetermined locations in the county. Teams surveyed individuals they encountered and offered access to available services. The count took place in two shifts: 10:00PM-12:00AM and 12:30AM-2:30AM.

Highlights

- Over 100 people contributed to the PIT Count in some of the following but not limited ways: volunteering as a team member or team leader, making a donation, and helping to fill care bags for the homeless.
- DCD established a relationship with coordinators from the Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH).
- DCD built a webpage for the Youth Count.

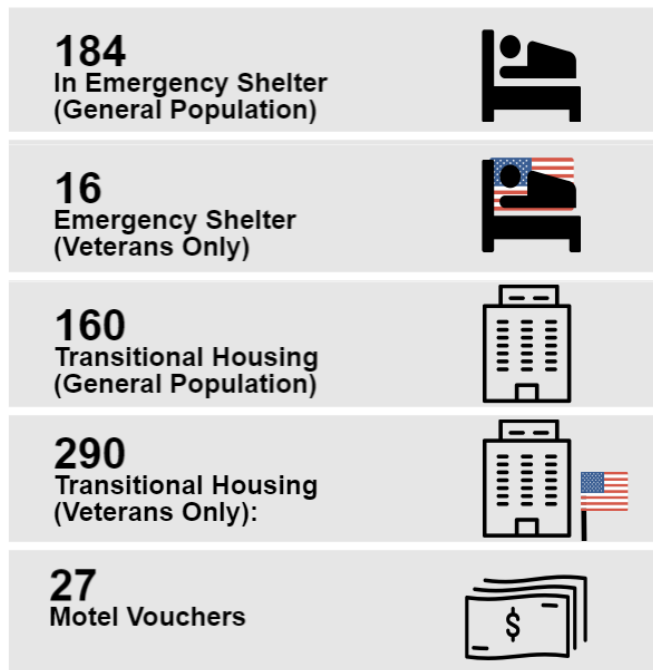
Sheltered Count

DCD verifies how the sheltered homeless population identified in the count, as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 of the Homeless Definition Final Rule:

“An individual or family 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).” Youth under age 18 and ages 18 to 24 who meet this definition are categorized as homeless.

Sheltered Count Findings

677 People Counted



For more information on the Point-in-Time Count, please visit the following websites: www.decadetodoorways.org and www.facebook.com/chescopit/

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Sheltered Count Methodology

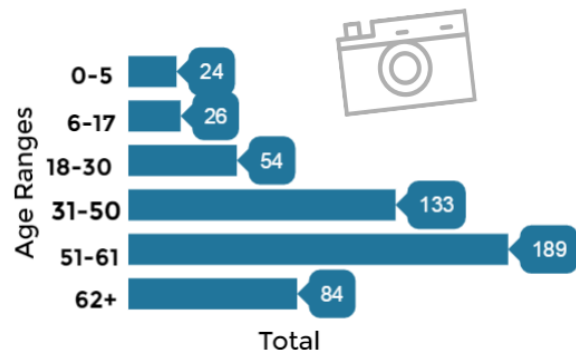
DCD staff generated a report from their Chester County Client Information Management System (CCCIMS).

For provider agencies that do not collect data using CCCIMS, a one night reporting spreadsheet is collected to determine the correct count of individuals sheltered at their programs.

DCD staff confirmed their numbers reported in the system with the emergency shelters and transitional housing providers.

Snapshot of Age

Age Breakdown of the Sheltered and Unsheltered Population Experiencing Homelessness



The following providers are included in the overall count total; however, are not included in the age breakdown:

- City Gate Mission
- Domestic Violence Center of Chester County
- Kennett Area Community Services (Motel Subsidies)
- Open Hearth (Gateway- Motel Subsidy Program)
- The House (Transitional Housing for Single Women)
- Veteran Affairs-Domiciliary