



# 2014 Point-in-Time Count

## Overview

On the night of January 29, 2014, and into the early morning hours of January 30, 2014, the Chester County Department of Community Development (DCD) facilitated the **2014 Point-in-Time Count**, a national and statewide 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 in Chester County on a given night. This includes people who are *sheltered* in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as *unsheltered* individuals on the street or in places not meant for human habitation. Data from the count is included in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), which is presented annually to Congress. The Point-in-Time Count is one component of understanding homelessness in Chester County and part of the proactive strategy in ***Decade to Doorways: The Community's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in Chester County***.

## Unsheltered & Sheltered Count

To collect *unsheltered data*, volunteer teams canvas the County, visiting locations where people who are experiencing homelessness may seek shelter. These teams reach out to individuals they find, offering access to available services. This year built on the successes of previous years by increasing the number of volunteers and geographic coverage efforts. The count took place in two shifts from 10:00PM-12:00AM and 12:30AM-2:30AM with volunteers participating on one of 21 regional teams disbursed across Chester County.

As another method of collecting *unsheltered data*, DCD staff handed out a "One Night Survey Reporting Form" to many agencies that serve this population, but may not report into DCD's data system. Agencies were asked to fill out whether or not they saw or interacted with anyone experiencing homelessness on the night of January 29.

As part of the effort to obtain accurate *sheltered data* on the night of January 29, 2014, the DCD pulled reports from our Chester County Client Information Management System (CCCIMS) and then confirmed with the emergency shelters and transitional housing providers the number reported in the system.

## What We Found

On the night of January 29, 2014, there were 684 people experiencing homelessness in Chester County. This is an increase from the 2013 Point in Time Count, where 625 people were identified as homeless on January 30, 2013. This year we included those people utilizing Motel Subsidies, Unstably Housed, and Unaccompanied Youth.

To have an idea of how many youth are experiencing homelessness, we worked with three youth centers in Chester County to create and administer surveys to their program participants. Of the surveys, 14 youth self-identified as living unstably housed.

Below shows a breakout of the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Chester County on January 29, 2014.

## 2014 Sheltered Count

	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Motel Subsidy	Unstably Housed	Unaccompanied Youth	Total
Total Individuals	237	345	38	11	14	645

## 2014 Unsheltered Count

Regions	Coatesville/ Downingtown	Kennett Square	Phoenixville	West Chester	Paoli/ Malvern	Total
Total Individuals	2	11	5	20	1	39

**Total number of people experiencing homelessness on the night of January 29, 2014:**

**684**

### Definitions of Homelessness

- (1) Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;
- (2) Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
- (3) Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition;
- (4) individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

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### Legend

**Emergency Shelter:** Provides a temporary or transitional place to stay for newcomers, people who are in crisis, or homeless individuals in the community.

**Transitional Housing:** Provides extended shelter and supportive services for homeless individuals and/or families with the goal of helping them live independently and transition into permanent housing.

**Motel Subsidy:** Provides homeless people with a temporary place to stay (usually one to three nights), generally utilizing a hotel or motel with which the referring agency has a prior agreement, but in some cases, temporary lodging selected by the individual.

**Unstably Housed:** Individual or family have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance; or the individual or family have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance.

**Unaccompanied Youth:** Individuals under the age of 25 who meet one of the definitions of homelessness and/or are unstably housed, and will continue in that status for an extended period of time due to physical or mental disabilities.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers and community agencies who assisted with this community effort. The Point in Time Count is not possible without your help and dedication to the cause.

**Thank you!**



For more information on Decade to Doorways visit our website at [www.decadetodoorways.org](http://www.decadetodoorways.org)

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