



BrainGain@PEC

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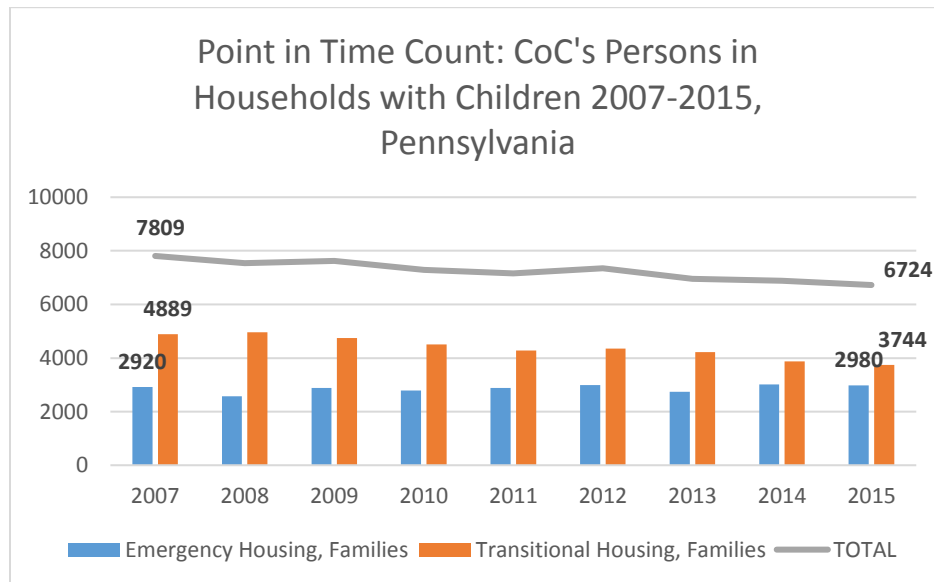
BrainGain@PEC provides brief summaries of research or publications on family homelessness and related issues. Previous issues of BrainGain@PEC can be found at <http://bit.ly/PECPub1>.

Point in Time summaries of families who experience homelessness in Pennsylvania FY 2007 to FY 2015

The chart below shows numbers of homeless persons who are with their family while either in shelter or living outdoors as shown on the HUD website.¹ The term “persons in households with children” is the U.S. HUD’s term for families to distinguish from individual persons who are not accompanied by family members.

Please note that this data comes from what HUD posts onto their web site and may be different at the local Continuum of Care database for a variety of valid reasons.

Also, please note that these numbers represent what the CoC regions reported as the total number of homeless persons in families identified in a single day/night in January and does not represent the total people who experience homelessness in Pennsylvania.



EMERGENCY HOUSING (EH)

This chart suggests:

- Eight of the regions reported identify more “persons in families” in emergency housing since 2012. Five regions reported identifying fewer.
- Overall, since 2012, this counting system identified 16 family members.
- 2,920 persons in families were identified in 2007, and 2,980 persons in families were identified in 2015, suggesting that there is practically no difference in the past nine years.
- Many people use the PIT to suggest efforts to end homelessness are successful, but from the below chart it can be inferred that Pennsylvania has had no success in ending family homelessness. PEC suggests that Pennsylvania’s policy makers not rely on the PIT to define success but to use other methods¹.

Summary of Pennsylvania’s Point in Time Count for “Persons in Households with Children, or Family Members,” in EMERGENCY HOUSING, FY 2007-2015											
CoC region	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	# Change '12-'15	% Change '12-'15
<i>Beaver Co.</i>	3	3	34	40	29	17	17	29	38	21	123.5%
<i>Berks Co.</i>	272	56	48	42	32	29	55	64	61	32	110.3%
<i>Bucks Co.</i>	67	73	81	61	57	68	50	45	44	-24	-35.3%
<i>Central Pa</i>	160	173	228	247	247	236	228	247	N/A	?	
<i>Chester Co.</i>	45	37	33	24	39	37	39	60	71	34	91.9%
<i>Delaware Co.</i>	151	127	216	200	181	193	127	111	118	-75	-38.9%
<i>Erie Co.</i>	52	72	109	26	121	104	61	58	33	-71	-68.3%
<i>Eastern Pa*</i>									470	N/A	N/A
<i>Dauphin</i>	59	87	84	69	69	60	64	63	75	15	25.0%
<i>Lackawanna Co.</i>	23	38	25	18	28	27	25	39	13	12	44.4%
<i>Lancaster Co.</i>	31	67	69	86	87	72	73	95	61	-11	-15.3%
<i>Luzerne Co.</i>	24	11	13	42	15	16	23	24	26	10	62.5%
<i>Montgomery Co.</i>	99	88	103	96	91	106	77	90	90	-16	-15.1%
<i>Northeast Pa</i>	139	145	91	109	103	173	155	164	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Northwest Pa</i>	60	66	52	97	80	98	56	57	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Philadelphia</i>	1,570	1,384	1,504	1,462	1,386	1,467	1,394	1,512	1,512	45	3.1%
<i>Pittsburgh/Allegheny</i>	74	78	100	75	138	107	116	183	132	25	23.4%
<i>Southwest Pa</i>	91	74	97	89	135	109	109	101	N/A	N/A	
<i>Western Pa *</i>									145	N/A	

¹ list methods or other research here

<i>York Co.</i>					45	77	67	70	91	14	18.2%
Pennsylvania	2,920	2,579	2,887	2,783	2,883	2,996	2,736	3,012	2,980	-16	-0.5%

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (TH)

This chart suggests:

- Since 2007, 1,145 fewer persons in families are being identified (served) in TH.
- HUD's policy of de-emphasizing transitional housing may have resulted in the CoC's declining utilization of this service-rich intervention for homeless families. 10 regions reported fewer persons in families being served in TH, while 4 showed it served more than in 2012.

Summary of Pennsylvania's Point in Time Count for "Persons in Households with Children or Family Members," in TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, FY 2007-2015											
CoC region	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Change '12-'15 (#)	Change '12-'15 (%)
<i>Beaver Co.</i>	18	18	47	21	25	26	24	22	32	6	23.1%
<i>Berks Co.</i>	170	153	114	128	94	86	137	157	115	29	33.7%
<i>Bucks Co.</i>	52	262	215	244	268	246	265	263	245	-1	-0.4%
<i>Central Pa</i>	326	336	424	401	304	340	357	335	N/A	N/A	
<i>Chester Co.</i>	156	119	138	139	166	178	104	113	113	-65	-36.5%
<i>Delaware Co.</i>	328	278	290	251	217	167	168	141	49	-118	-70.7%
<i>Erie Co.</i>	76	88	74	49	46	111	90	76	88	-23	-20.7%
<i>Eastern Pa*</i>									677	N/A	
<i>Dauphin</i>	83	97	96	81	100	89	97	96	123	34	38.2%
<i>Lackawanna Co.</i>	100	97	113	122	126	141	135	131	103	-38	-27.0%
<i>Lancaster Co.</i>	229	254	214	214	168	249	186	146	123	-126	-50.6%
<i>Luzerne Co.</i>	46	53	58	42	49	68	36	53	48	-20	-29.4%
<i>Montgomery Co.</i>	144	215	180	162	167	165	203	153	159	-6	-3.6%
<i>Northeast Pa</i>	268	312	366	362	390	326	306	288	N/A	N/A	
<i>Northwest Pa</i>	82	71	76	64	54	99	101	112	N/A	N/A	
<i>Southwest Pa</i>	207	205	179	217	174	196	219	222	N/A	N/A	
<i>Philadelphia</i>	2,201	2,008	1,746	1,545	1,466	1,337	1,181	1,117	1,140	-197	-14.7%
<i>Pittsburgh/Allegheny</i>	403	393	411	468	414	453	549	395	373	-80	-17.7%
<i>Western Pa *</i>									280	N/A	
<i>York Co.</i>					53	71	66	49	76	5	7.0%
Pennsylvania Totals	4,889	4,959	4,741	4,510	4,281	4,348	4,224	3,869	3,744	-604	-13.9%

Notes:

1. According to HUD, the Point in Time Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. See <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/> The twenty regions identified above have changed over time. “Northeast PA” and “Central PA” merged to become “Eastern PA.” “Northwest” and “Southwest” merged to become “Western PA.”
2. According to HUD, “These data are used to measure homelessness on a local and national level and are published annually on HUD’s Exchange website, which can be viewed by CoCs and the general public. PIT count data are also provided annually to Congress as part of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). The AHAR is used by Congress, HUD, other federal departments, and the general public to understand the nature and extent of homelessness. HUD’s PIT count data has become increasingly important as a measure of our local and national progress related to preventing and ending homelessness, especially with relation to our progress towards meeting the goals of Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Therefore, it has become necessary to ask for more detailed information and to ensure that the data submitted to HUD are as complete and accurate as practicable.” (source: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Methodology-Guide.pdf>)

¹ <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hdx/guides/pit-hic/>