

BrainGain@PEC

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This BrainGain@PEC continues a series of reports on data collected by the homeless services system with the intention of informing practitioners and policy makers. Read previous reports at <http://bit.ly/1JQKdYw>.

Date: April, 2015

2015 State of Homelessness in America and in Pennsylvania

Source: The State of Homelessness in America 2015: An examination of homelessness, economic, housing, and demographic trends at the national and state levels, by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2015.

This BrainGain@PEC summarizes [State of Homelessness in America 2015](#) and what it reports on Pennsylvania.

The State of Homelessness in America is a series of annual reports by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH). It discusses a variety of data sets focused on describing state and national trends in homelessness in conjunction with economic, housing, demographic, and household factors that affect people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

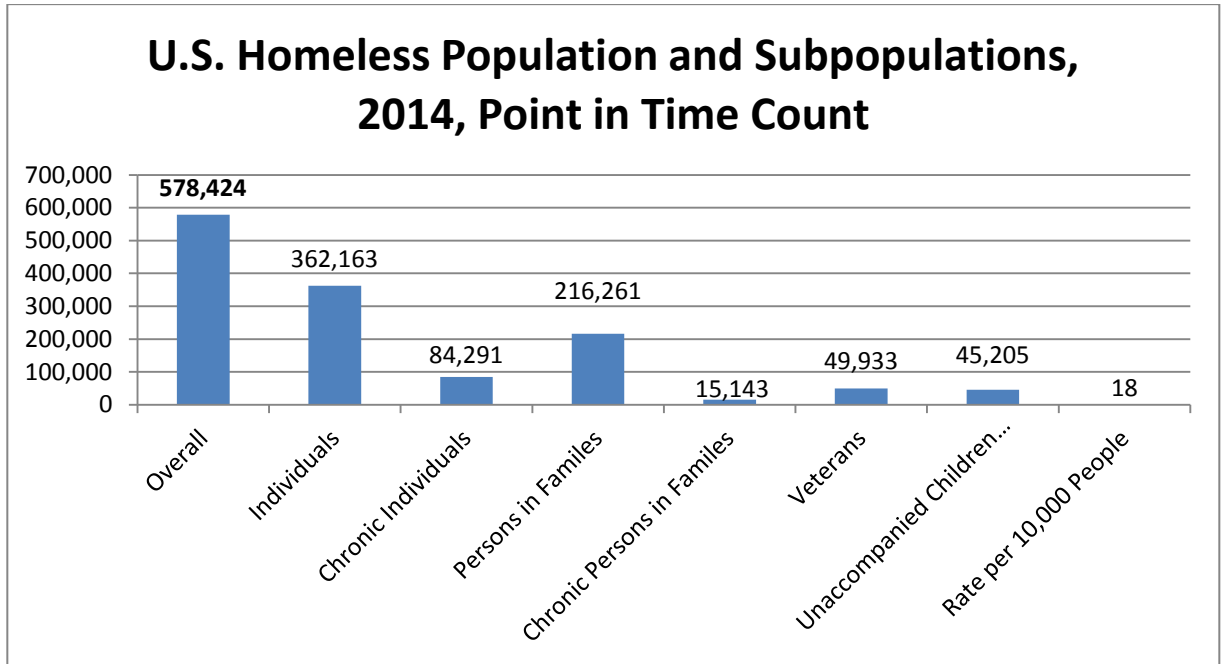
State of Homelessness in America 2015 uses available national data from a variety of sources: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data on homelessness is based on the Point In Time Count (PIT)ⁱ and Housing Inventory Chart estimates retrieved from HUD's www.onecpd.info.

PEC Commentary

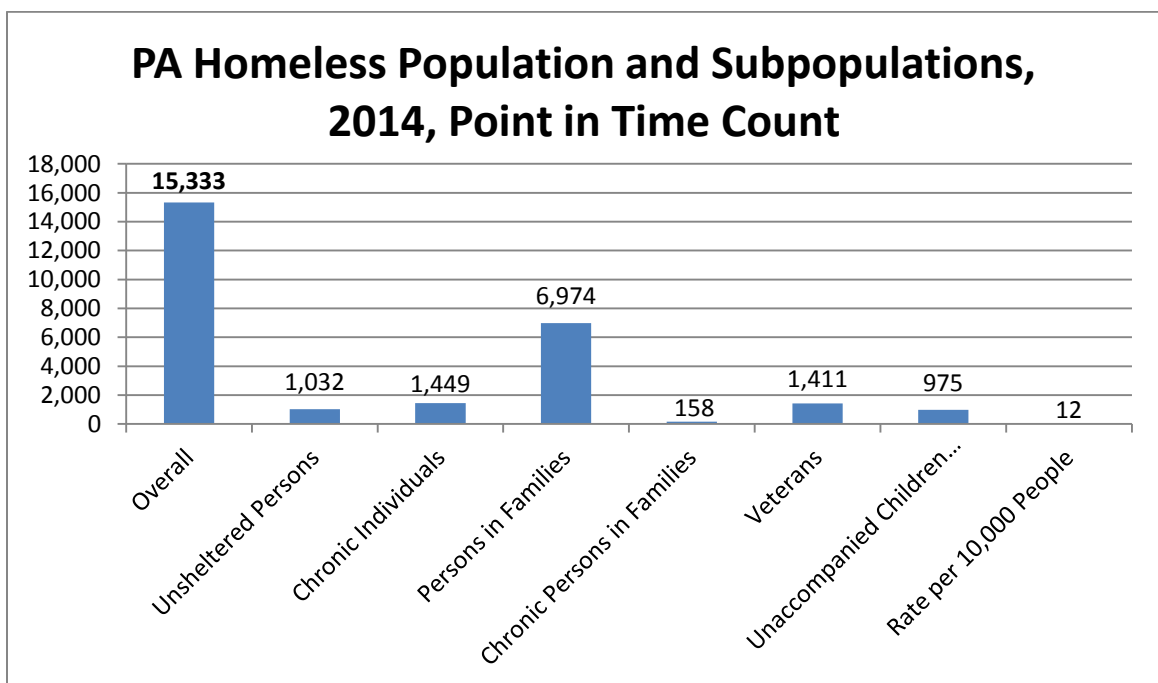
Is homeless increasing or decreasing? The answer is challenging to answer correctly, and there is debate about the Point-in-Time Count's reliability to do that. The PIT provides a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on one winter night, usually after 11 PM. Readers should be aware that, although statistically reliable, numerous factors affect the quality. Some of these factors are the weather, number of people turned away from shelter and not served, the number of counters, budget cuts that reduce housing availability, how fast people move of shelter, and more. Overall, readers are cautioned when using these descriptive statistics to consider if homelessness is increasing or decreasing.

Key U.S. Overall Findings:

- Nationally, on a single night in January 2014, **578,424** persons were counted as experiencing homelessness. This number includes people in shelter and on the street.



Key Pennsylvania Findings:



Populations At Risk of Homelessness

The NAEH report includes socio-economic characteristics of people that relate to influencing the prevalence of homelessness.

Changes Among Indicators Comparing United States and Pennsylvania, 2011-2013a						
	2011		2012		2013	
	U.S.	PA	U.S.	PA	U.S.	PA
Persons in Poverty	48.4M	1.6M	48.7M	1.6M	48.8M	1.6M
Unemployed Persons	13.8M	507,004	12.5M	513,171	11.4M	478,264
Poor households Experiencing Severe Housing Cost Burden[b]	6.5M	246,887	6.6M	243,689	6.4M	241,261
People in Poor Households Doubled Up	7.4M	235,882	7.4M	225,229	7.6M	244,446

[a] Source is from the 2014 and 2015 State of Homelessness report.

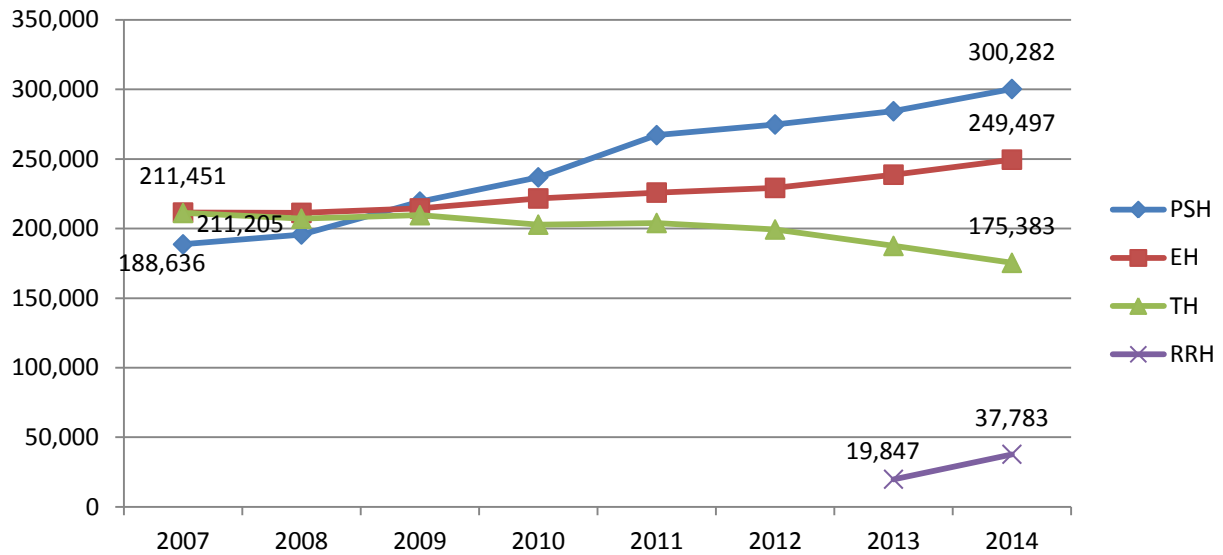
[b] Households spending 50 percent or more of their income on housing expenses are considered to be experiencing severe housing cost burden.

Capacity of the Homeless Assistance System:

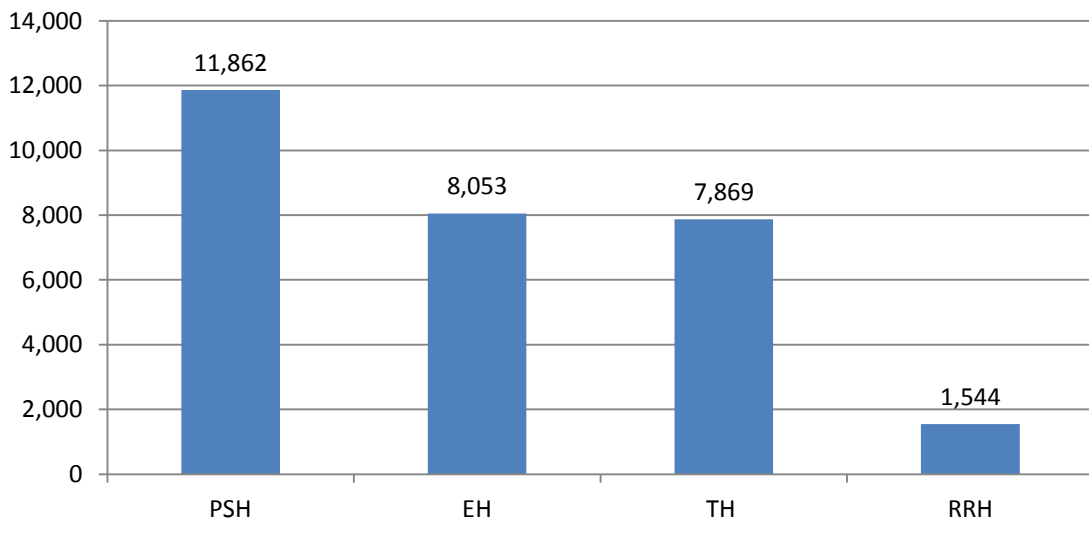
Communities report all beds dedicated to homeless persons to indicate the size of their capacity.

U.S. Homeless Assistance by Bed Type & Target Population, 2014				
	Beds for households with children	Beds for households without children	Beds for only children households	Total
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	113,487	186,623	172	300,282
Emergency Shelter (ES)	123,252	123,173	3,072	249,497
Transitional Housing (TH)	94,149	79,765	1,469	175,383
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	29,506	8,253	24	37,783
Overall	360,394	397,814	4,737	762,945

U.S. Homeless Assistance Housing Inventory, 2007-2014



Beds in PA Homeless Assistance Inventory, 2014



The **People's Emergency Center's** mission is to nurture families, strengthen neighborhoods and drive change in West Philadelphia. Through a community of more than 240 housing units and five educational centers offering job training, parenting and early childhood education, financial education and planning, lifeskills and technology coursework, PEC seeks to change the life trajectory for the women and children who seek its services and inspire them to aspire to new heights. All inquiries can be sent to policy@pec-cares.org.

ⁱ The Point in Time Count (PIT) and the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) are data collection methods used by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in partnership with county-based entities known as "Continuum of Care" programs. People were counted as homeless if they were living in emergency or transitional housing, on the street, or in such locations as cars and abandoned buildings. Although PIT has limitations, communities use the data as a guide to organize responses to homelessness and make decisions on allocating resources.