

2017 COMMUNITY BRIEFING
ON HOMELESSNESS REPORT



Amended: April 10, 2017

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I Executive Summary

COUNTS AND TRENDS

The 2017 point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Tarrant and Parker counties is 1,924—a decrease of 14 people, or .70%. The homeless population continues to shrink as a percentage of the overall population and remains below one percent.

	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Total	Annual Change
2017	390	1,294	20	220	1,924	-0.70%
2016	423	1,088	20	407	1,938	+1.25%
2015	217	1,245	20	432	1,914	-21.07%
2014	184	1,273	20	948	2,425	+1.46%
2013	281	1,126	18	965	2,390	+10.19%
2011	136	1,193	20	927	2,169	<-1%
2009	195	1,148	20	818	2,181	--

Homelessness on the western side of the metroplex continues to be concentrated in Fort Worth, however, decreases were identified this year in both Arlington and North East Tarrant County.

Location	UN	ES	SH	TH	Percent of Total	2017 Total	2016 Total	Annual Change
Fort Worth	342	1132	20	100	82.85%	1,594	1,484	7.34%
Arlington	29	162	0	61	13.1%	252	333	-24.32%
Parker County	12	0	0	0	0.62%	12	6	100.00%
NE Tarrant	7	0	0	59	3.43%	66	115	-45.61%
Total	390	1,294	20	220	100%	1,924	1,938	-1.81%

The people enumerated on “Count Night” were predominately single (70%) and male (62%). While a majority (75%) were over age of 24, a significant portion (20%) were **under the age of 18**.

UNSHeltered HOMELESSNESS

On the night of January 26, 2017, more than 480 volunteers and around 100 members of law enforcement canvassed Tarrant and Parker Counties, counting 390 people who were sleeping in places not intended for human habitation.

	Fort Worth	Arlington	Parker County	NE Tarrant	Total	Annual Change
2017	342	29	12	7	390	-0.92%
2016	341	61	6	15	423	+95%
2015	166	34	1	16	217	+18%
2014	161	16	1	6	184	-35%
2013	247	28	1	5	281	--

REASONS PEOPLE BECAME HOMELESS

Shortages of affordable child care, public transportation, and background-friendly employers certainly hinder the ability of low-income households to thrive. Reasons cited for becoming homeless included:

	2016		2017	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1.	Unemployment	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage	Unemployment	Unemployment
2.	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage	Unemployment	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage
3.	Addictions / Substance Abuse	Family / Personal Illness	Physical/Mental Disabilities	Divorce/Separation

DISCUSSION

A Home For All

A *Home For All* is a bold goal, but it simply must be done. TCHC is committed to ending homelessness in Tarrant and Parker counties and will reach this goal through two primary strategies: *Embracing and Driving Change* and *Starting with Yes*. Interwoven throughout these strategies are urgent actions our community must embark upon to appropriately focus and scale our response to homelessness.

How we'll get there:

Embracing and Driving Change

Our community must create a fundamental shift in the way we address homelessness. From streamlined efficiencies within our service delivery system, to leveraging financial resources and political will in new ways, to ensuring that everyone in the community is moving in the same direction to make lasting change. TCHC is committed to embracing and driving change to implement long-lasting and sustainable solutions addressing and preventing homelessness.

Starting with Yes

What CAN we do as a community? Our community will make impactful change in homelessness when we start by saying yes. Yes to new ideas. Yes to working together. Yes to nontraditional

partners. Yes to innovative programs. Yes to more of what is working. Yes to taking a second chance on people. Yes to using resources in the most efficient and effective way possible. Yes to ending homelessness.

Everyone in our community deserves a place to call home. When we end homelessness, everyone benefits. Homelessness is not good for anyone- it hinders the potential and progress of individuals, neighborhoods, and communities. When we move the needle on homelessness and start making considerable gains toward our goal of ending homelessness, everyone in the community will see the impact. Whether it is improved neighborhoods, better school outcomes, or less burden on our criminal justice system - everyone wins.

2 Introduction

A Home for All.

That is what it means to end homelessness, and this is the vision of Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (TCHC). Everyone in our community deserves a place to call home. When we end homelessness, everyone benefits. Homelessness is not good for anyone- it hinders the potential and progress of individuals, neighborhoods, and communities. When we move the needle on homelessness and start making considerable gains toward our goal of ending homelessness, everyone in the community will see the impact. Whether it is improved neighborhoods, better school outcomes, or less burden on our criminal justice system - everyone wins.

A home for all is a bold goal, but it simply must be done. TCHC is committed to ending homelessness in Tarrant and Parker counties and will reach this goal through two primary strategies: *Embracing and Driving Change* and *Starting with Yes*. Interwoven throughout these strategies are urgent actions our community must embark upon to appropriately focus and scale our response to homelessness.

Outlined Strategies:

- **Embracing and Driving Change**
Our community must create a fundamental shift in the way we address homelessness. From streamlined efficiencies within our service delivery system, to leveraging financial resources and political will in new ways, to ensuring that everyone in the community is moving in the same direction to make lasting change. TCHC is committed to embracing and driving change to implement long-lasting and sustainable solutions addressing and preventing homelessness.
- **Starting with Yes**
What CAN we do as a community? Our community will make impactful change in homelessness when we start by saying yes. Yes to new ideas. Yes to working together (even if that is not how it has been done in the past). Yes to nontraditional partners. Yes to innovative programs. Yes to more of what is working. Yes to taking a second chance on people. Yes to using resources in the most efficient and effective way possible. Yes to ending homelessness.

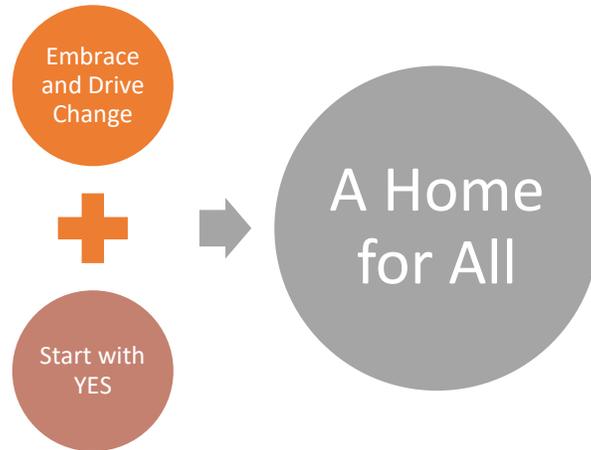
This report articulates a vision for addressing how our community can END HOMELESSNESS. Included in the report are specific actions TCHC is taking, in partnership with the community, to make change, along with data from the 2017 point-in-time count, which gives the reader a snapshot of what homelessness looks like on a particular night in Tarrant and Parker Counties. We have an extreme sense of urgency behind the following recommendations, and we are moving forward. It is our hope that these recommendations, data and analysis will serve to inform and inspire the best work of our great community.

3 Our Vision

A HOME FOR ALL

Why should anyone care about ending homelessness? Because homelessness is suffering, and it is not good for anyone. It is not good for people living without a place to call home; it is not good for neighborhoods that are hindered by the social and economic impacts of homelessness; and it is not good for communities that will only thrive when residents can do more than simply survive.

Homelessness is a complex problem with complex solutions. Simply put, the solution to homelessness is housing, but it is so much more than that, and will take all of us moving forward in one direction to benefit the entire community.



EMBRACE AND DRIVE CHANGE

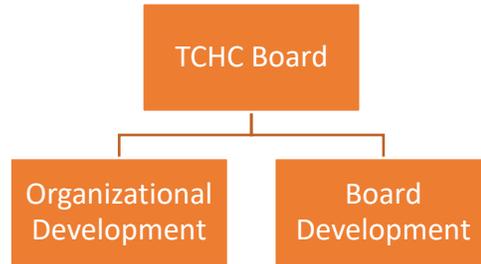
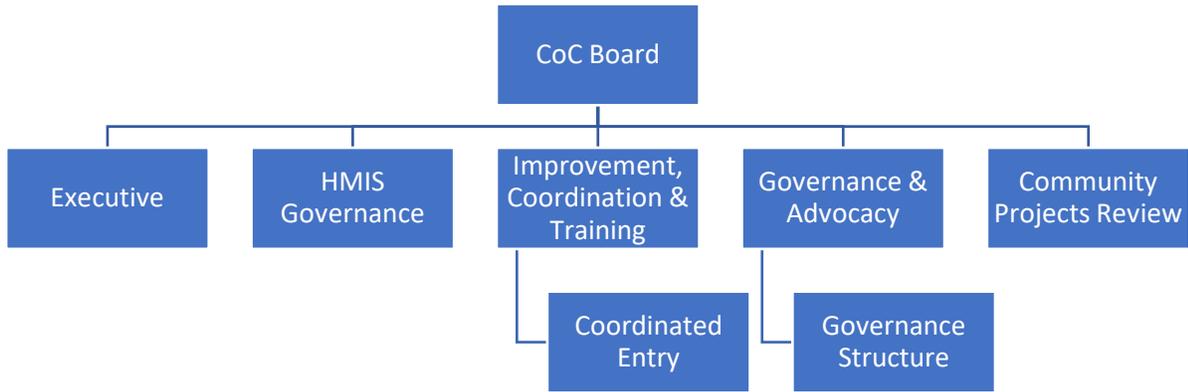
Creating sustainable and long-lasting change is a difficult task, but it is one that TCHC is tackling head on. Stakes are high for families, individuals, neighborhoods, and communities. The cost to act is high, the cost of inaction is higher. As a community we can do great things, and ending homelessness is not beyond the capacity or means of our community. Embracing and driving change will impact numerous focus areas and systems addressing the issue of homelessness.

Leveraging Current Assets in New Ways

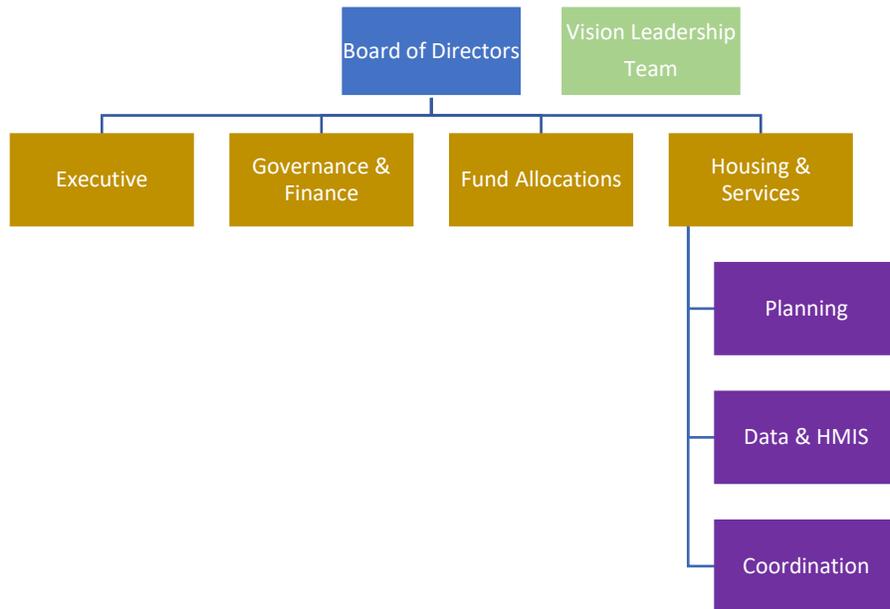
Currently there are two related, yet independent entities that provide leadership and staffing for the homeless services system in Parker and Tarrant Counties: the TCHC Board of Directors and the Continuum of Care Board of Directors. Both play an important role, but having multiple boards has become cumbersome and extremely confusing. Thus, these two boards are in agreement that our community will be better positioned to end homelessness by merging and reorganizing these two entities into one high functioning board that can truly drive change.

To leverage the financial resources and political will necessary to end homelessness, our community must engage the right leaders at the right table at the right time. Our community will benefit from senior elected officials and community leaders taking prominent roles in planning and monitoring progress toward achieving our vision of *A Home For All*.

Current Structure



Proposed Structure



Shared Goals Lead to Lasting Change

The most significant impediment to ending homelessness in our community is the extreme shortage of housing that is affordable for the lowest income members of our community.

At the community level, ending homelessness is about having a system in place that can resolve housing crises in 30 days or less. The inflow of people into homelessness may never stop entirely, but we must ensure that households do not get stuck in situations that last for months or years. At the household level, the reliable remedy to homelessness is a quick return to permanent housing. Affordability and linkage to appropriate social, health, and employment services are critical to sustain success.

The cost of addressing the housing shortage is high.¹ The cost of not addressing it is higher.²

Fully 39% of Tarrant County Households rent.³ In February 2017, apartment rents are up 5.7% in the greater Fort Worth area over 2016 levels and the occupancy rate, at 93.5%, is higher than Dallas (91.2%), Austin (90.8%), San Antonio (88.9%), and Houston (87.6%).⁴

The average apartment rent in the greater Fort Worth area is over \$960 per month.⁵ Fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$718 per month: a price tag that is out of reach for many, and especially the aged, blind, and disabled individuals who live on a \$733 per month SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefit. In fact, fair market rent only becomes affordable for a minimum wage employee when they can work more than 75 hours per week.⁶

Across the Metroplex, there are only 19 affordable and available housing units for every 100 households in poverty.⁷ In this context, very-low income renters struggle to compete with higher income renters for a small number of units. For example, 23,567 Fort Worth households are below 30% of the Area Median Income (\$20,900 for a family of four). These families compete with households that could afford to pay more in rent for only 5,245 rental units that are in their price range.⁸ Thus, it is not surprising that more than 77% of these extremely low-income households across DFW are paying more than 50% of their income for rent.

The housing math for extremely low-income families in our community simply does not work. With only 19 housing units for 100 households, we will continue to incur the extraordinary costs of

¹ A rudimentary approximation puts the price tag at more than \$650M, assuming 35% of 7,441 homeless in 2016 self-resolved, 20% needed PSH at \$10,696 per year, 45% needed RRH at \$7,948 per year, and the housing stock deficit was 81% and could be resolved at just under \$104k per door.

² Numerous studies have illustrated the financial savings of ending homelessness; an interactive map of cost studies conducted on permanent supportive housing is available online:

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/permanent-supportive-housing-cost-study-map>.

³ Out of Reach 2016, National Low-income Housing Coalition, <http://nlihc.org/oor/texas>, Tarrant County data accessed on March 16, 2017.

⁴ Greater Fort Worth Monthly Review, February 2017, Apartment Locator Network, <http://public.alndata.com/marketreview/FW507e1faf7c.pdf>, accessed on March 16, 2017.

⁵ Greater Fort Worth Monthly Review, February 2017, Apartment Locator Network, <http://public.alndata.com/marketreview/FW507e1faf7c.pdf>, accessed on March 16, 2017.

⁶ Out of Reach 2016, National Low-income Housing Coalition, <http://nlihc.org/oor/texas>, Tarrant County data accessed on March 16, 2017.

⁷ The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes, March 2017, National Low-income Housing Coalition, p.9, http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Gap-Report_2017.pdf, accessed on March 16, 2017.

⁸ Neighborhood Services Department Presentation of HUD data to Pre-Council on January 12, 2016.

homelessness (economic, social, and individual) if we do not focus and go to scale on increasing the supply of affordable housing. Worse, the longer we wait, the more the cost of the solution will grow.

There is not a consensus number of additional units of housing that are needed to end homelessness in our community. One recent study placed the number just below 5,000 units and estimated that 2,700 units were urgently needed just to maintain the status quo.⁹ Our community needs a shared housing unit goal and plans for:

- ✓ Aligning capital and incentives
- ✓ Addressing NIMBY (Not In My Backyard)
- ✓ Funding services that sustain tenancy

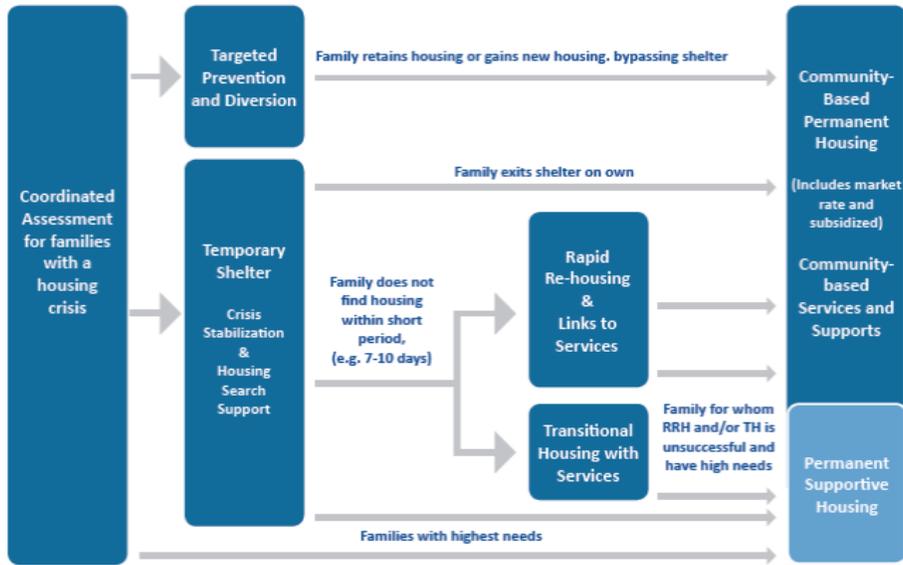
START WITH YES

Starting with yes means an entirely different way to approach the delivery of services and the way we partner with one another as agencies, as neighbors, as jurisdictions, and as leaders. A focus on excellent customer services and looking to what we CAN do instead of what we cannot do is an important shift that will move us away from a scarcity mentality and to an asset-based approach which will greatly benefit the community as a whole.

Yes to Working Together

Inefficiencies in our services delivery system compound and extend homelessness. Our community is taking steps toward the creation of a “no wrong door” system, designed to ensure anyone experiencing homelessness has fair and equal access to the community’s housing resources. Through the implementation of a Coordinated Entry System, households are quickly identified, assessed, and rapidly served with the most appropriate housing solution.

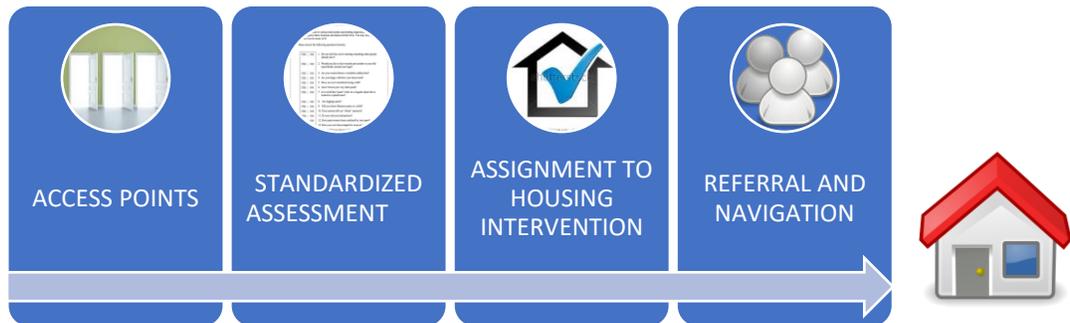
⁹ Housing Needs Forecast for Affordable Housing in Tarrant County, Texas 2017-2026, OrgCode Consulting, Inc, p.11.



10

Over the years, housing programs in our community have developed unique intake guidelines, needs assessments, and waiting lists. While these tools often supported efficiencies *within organizations*, they created a maze of confusing and time consuming steps for clients and their case managers to navigate. More notably, all of these unique aspects did not support collaborations *across organizations*.

Coordinated Entry benefits the community, agencies, and households experiencing homelessness. It takes a fragmented system of back doors, side steps, and restricted entries, and creates one streamlined system where all who need housing have fair and equal access. Coordinated Entry also utilizes standardized forms and assessments throughout the system, which will ensure participants receive the same assistance and access to housing regardless of when or where they initially request assistance. Finally, housing resources will be determined on need, allowing the most vulnerable households to receive housing first.



¹⁰ Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, p2, https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Final_Family_Connection.pdf

Coordinated entry is a keystone, system-wide strategy for ending homelessness. Addressing the inefficiencies in the services delivery system will not overcome our community's shortage of affordable housing; however, significant progress can be realized both for those in the midst of a housing crisis and in the capacity of our community to successfully implement other systems-level strategies.

Yes to New Ideas

To make lasting change, we must develop programs and systems that can change as the needs of our community change. Each year homelessness in Tarrant and Parker Counties looks a little bit different, with some small and some big changes in the population, reasons for becoming homeless.

New programs and innovative use of current resources have the potential to address homelessness from a perspective outside of solely doing what HUD mandates our community to do. To engage with nontraditional partners and help community members understand that by taking a chance on one person, one property, or one agency, they have the potential to discover something tailored to our community that really works and can be taken to scale.

4 Homelessness Definitions

There are several different ways to define and enumerate people who are experiencing homelessness. The Federal Government has five definitions of homelessness that approach living situations in different ways. For example, a family living in a motel would be considered homeless under category 1 of HUD's definition of homelessness only if their room rent was being paid by a charitable organization, or by a federal, state, or local government program. The same family would be considered homeless by the Department of Education without regard to how their room rent was paid.

A catalog of homelessness definitions is included in Appendix 9.2.2 and 9.3. This report uses Categories 1 and 4 of the HEARTH Act definition of homelessness. Included in these definitions are families living in places not intended for human habitation, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

While households who are at imminent risk of homelessness (Category 2 definition) are most certainly in a precarious position, it is not inevitable that they will wind up on the streets or in an emergency shelter. This category is difficult to count and massive: Tarrant County projected more than 30,000 evictions would be filed in FY16¹¹.

Category 3 of the HEARTH Act definition of homelessness incorporates other Federal Definitions of Homelessness. The most notable difference in these definitions is the inclusion by the Department of Education of children who are living in doubled-up situations. Of the 113,063 Texas students who were identified in Texas Education Agency statistics as homeless, 79% were living in housing that was being shared with others.^[1] Locally, with 7,548 students identified by area schools as homeless, this translates to over 5,900 children in doubled-up situations. TCHC supports recent efforts to improve the availability of affordable housing and day care, and increase access to job training for these families that will help them get a job.

¹¹ Data Source: Tarrant County Budget and Risk Management for FY16

^[1] Annual Report Infographic 2015, Texas Homeless Education Office, <http://www.theotx.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Infographic-Annual-Report-2015-16.pdf>, accessed on March 21, 2017.

5 Housing Types

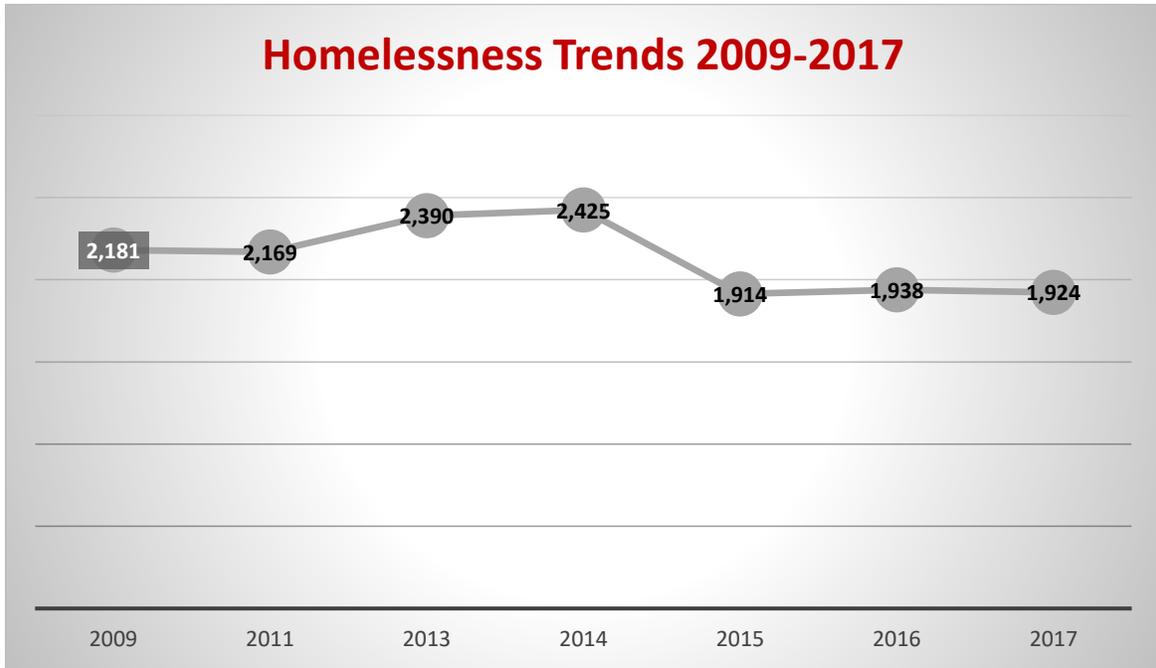
This report employs HUD terminology to describe where people were sleeping on the night of the count. A distinction is drawn between persons sleeping in permanent housing that is operated by the Continuum of Care—where the tenant typically has a lease in their name—and other places people sleep that fit the definition of homelessness. The housing types include:

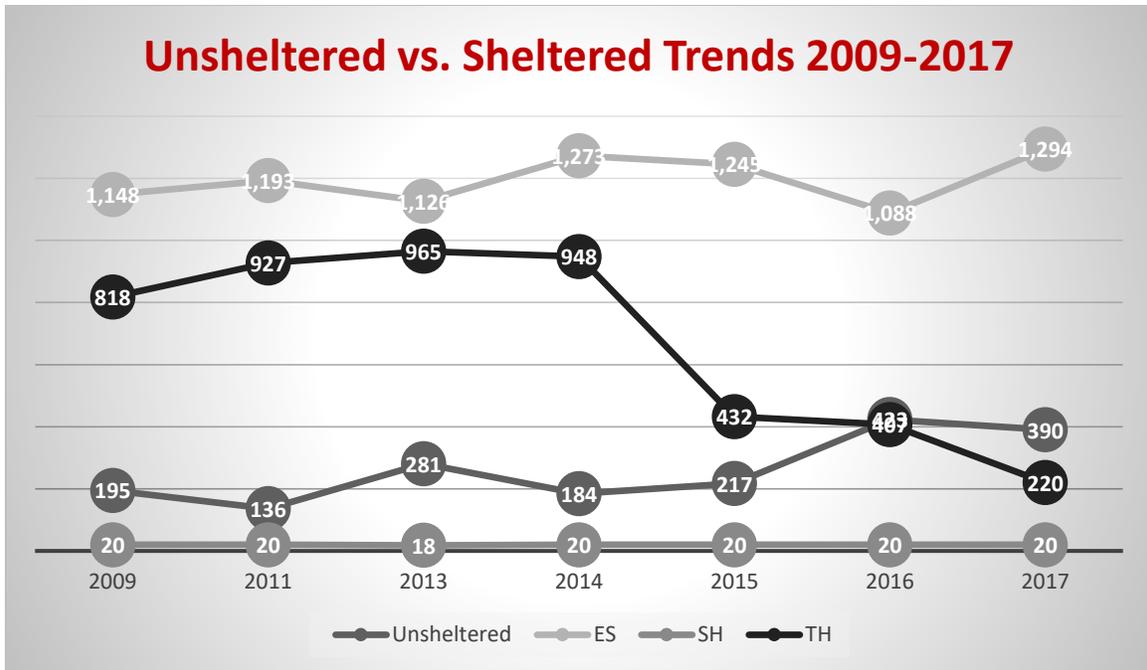
Housing Type	Description	Homeless or Permanent Housing
Unsheltered (UN)	Includes people living in places not intended for human habitation, such as in cars, vacant lots/buildings, under bridges, or in the woods	Homeless
Emergency Shelter (ES)	Are intended for short-term lodging and crisis relief; TX-601 ES include: ACH Child & Family Services, Arlington Life Shelter, Center for Transforming Lives, Presbyterian Night Shelter, SafeHaven of Tarrant County, The Salvation Army – Arlington, The Salvation Army Mabee Center, Union Gospel Mission	Homeless
Transitional Housing (TH)	Programs provide time-limited rental assistance (≤ 2-years) and supportive services geared toward self-sufficiency and independence	Homeless
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	PSH combines rental assistance and a package of robust supportive services tailored to the needs of tenants with complex and often compound barriers to getting and keeping housing	Permanent Housing
Rapid Re-housing (RRH)	RRH provides short- and mid-term rental assistance intervention to help people quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing	Permanent Housing
Safe Havens (SH)	Safe Havens are small facilities that provide permanent housing for persons with severe and persistent mental illness. Locally, the only Safe Haven facility is operated by the Presbyterian Night Shelter—and should not be confused with the organization, SafeHaven of Tarrant County which provides ES for victims of domestic violence.	Permanent Housing

6 Counts and Trends

6.1 Total Population

	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Total	Annual Change
2017	390	1,294	20	220	1,924	-0.70%
2016	423	1,088	20	407	1,938	+1.25%
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2011	136	1,193	20	927	2,169	<-1%
2009	195	1,148	20	818	2,181	--





6.2 Geographic Distribution

Location	UN	ES	SH	TH	Percent of Total	2017 Total	2016 Total	Annual Change
Fort Worth	342	1,132	20	100	82.85%	1,594	1,484	7.34%
Arlington	29	162	0	61	13.1%	252	333	-24.32%
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NE Tarrant	7	0	0	59	3.43%	66	115	-45.61%
Total	390	1,294	20	220	100%	1,924	1,938	-1.81%

6.3 Demographics

Gender	UN	ES	TH	SH	2017 Total	Percent of Total
Male	301	746	137	10	893	62.06%
Female	89	548	83	10	641	37.94%
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0%

Age	UN	ES	TH	SH	2017 Total	Percent of Total
Children under 18	20	295	80	0	395	20.53%
18-24	20	79	3	0	102	5.3%
25 and over	350	920	137	20	1,427	74.17%

Ethnicity	UN	ES	TH	SH	2017 Total	Percent of Total
Hispanic	44	149	52	3	248	12.89%
Non-Hispanic	346	1,145	168	17	1,676	87.11%

Race	UN	ES	TH	SH	2017 Total	Rate
White	232	571	10	104	917	47.66%
Black/African-American	144	677	6	111	938	48.75%
Asian	2	8	4	0	14	0.73%
American Indian / Alaska Native	9	11	0	3	23	1.20%
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	1	6	0	1	8	0.42%

7 Best Practices

Our community deserves a response to homelessness that is both efficient and effective. Tarrant County Homeless Coalition promotes the adoption of strategies and services that have demonstrated success locally and in other communities. The following are some of the key, “best practices” that TCHC and our partners are pursuing.

7.1 Coordinated Entry

Coordinated entry processes help communities prioritize assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner. Coordinated entry processes also provide information about service needs and gaps to help communities plan their assistance and identify needed resources.

Coordinated Entry is already in process in Tarrant and Parker Counties. In July 2016, more than 20 partner agencies convened to redesign how you enter the service system in our community, that is, they came up with a Coordinated Entry process that is tailored to our specific community. Robust participation from street outreach teams, emergency shelters, and housing providers has resulted in new standardized processes and shared performance measures.

The path a household takes to get from homelessness to housing starts with access to the Coordinated Entry System. Households can access the system from multiple locations within the CoC, which includes outreach teams, the TCHC helpline, and partner agencies. Once at the access point the household receives an assessment, and gathered information is to assign the most appropriate housing solution to meet their needs.

7.2 Housing First

Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements and then providing voluntary supportive services as needed.

7.3 Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing is a combination of housing and services designed for people with serious mental illnesses or other disabilities who need support to live stably in their communities. These services can include case management, substance abuse or mental health counseling, advocacy, and assistance in locating and maintaining employment. Permanent Supportive Housing is a proven solution for people who have experienced chronic homelessness as well as other people with disabilities, including people leaving institutional and restrictive settings.

7.4 Rapid Re-housing

Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. The program rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing and provides a tailored package of assistance to help resolve immediate challenges and barriers. Rapid re-housing is an important component of a community's response to homelessness and a fundamental goal of rapid re-housing is to reduce the amount of time a person is homeless.

7.5 Employment, Income and Access to Mainstream Benefits

Having a stable source of income is necessary to secure housing and prevent a return back into homelessness. Employment programs and mainstream benefits are critical components for individuals striving to climb out of homelessness, a virtually impossible feat for those without some form of income. Federal, state, and local programs like TANF, Medicaid, and Housing Choice Vouchers, as well as traditional employment opportunities, are vital in the effort to end homelessness.

8 Analysis and Discussion

8.1 Causes & Impediments

Many different aspects of a person's life could lead to homelessness. A belief that often surrounds homelessness is that everyone living on the streets has mental health or substance abuse issues, but this is simply not true. One of the largest trends in TCHC's data shows that the cause of homelessness for local individuals and families experiencing homelessness is the inability to afford rent and unemployment. While behavioral health issues, if left untreated, could be the cause of someone's unemployment, and subsequently their inability to afford rent, most of the 10,200 adults that receive treatment each month from MHMR Tarrant do not become homeless. Shortages of affordable housing, low-cost child care,

public transportation, and background-friendly employers hinder the ability of low-income households to thrive.

LEADING CAUSES OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

2016		2017	
Men	Women	Men	Women
1. Unemployment	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage	Unemployment	Unemployment
2. Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage	Unemployment	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage
3. Addictions / Substance Abuse	Family / Personal Illness	Physical/Mental Disabilities	Divorce/Separation

8.1.1 Employment and Poverty

Homelessness is a symptom of poverty. Poverty in the United States continues to grow despite many efforts across the country. The U.S. government defines poverty through the Federal Poverty Guidelines¹², located below. Earning an income above these guidelines does not ensure that someone will not struggle or become homeless. The living wage calculator gives a better understanding of the income needed to live in Tarrant County. Dr. Amy K. Glasmeier at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has defined the living wage as the wage needed to cover basic family expenses (basic needs budget) plus all relevant taxes exclusive of publicly provided income or housing assistance.

2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines								
Persons in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	\$12,060	\$16,240	\$20,420	\$24,600	\$28,780	\$32,960	\$37,140	\$41,320

LIVING WAGE CALCULATIONS¹³

The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support their family, if they are the sole provider and are working full-time (2080 hours per year). All values are **per adult in a family** unless otherwise noted. The state minimum wage is the same for all individuals, regardless of how many dependents they may have. The poverty rate is typically quoted as gross annual income. We have converted it to an hourly wage for the sake of comparison. Expenses are based on living wage data in Tarrant County.

Hourly Wages	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	2 Adults	2 Adults 1 Child	2 Adults 2 Children	2 Adults 3 Children
Living Wage	\$10.13	\$21.61	\$25.19	\$8.51	\$11.93	\$13.81	\$16.04
Poverty Wage	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$6.00
Minimum Wage	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25	\$7.25

¹² Federal Poverty Guidelines Retrieved from <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/31/2017-02076/annual-update-of-the-hhs-poverty-guidelines>

¹³ Terms and charts on the living wage were retrieved from the MIT Living Wage Calculator: <http://livingwage.mit.edu/pages/about>

Hourly Wages	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	2 Adults	2 Adults 1 Child	2 Adults 2 Children	2 Adults 3 Children
Annual Expenses	1 Adult	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	2 Adults	2 Adults 1 Child	2 Adults 2 Children	2 Adults 3 Children
Food	\$3,011	\$4,431	\$6,652	\$5,521	\$6,864	\$8,844	\$10,776
Child Care	\$0	\$5,206	\$7,859	\$0	\$5,206	\$7,859	\$10,512
Medical	\$2,119	\$7,074	\$6,875	\$5,177	\$6,875	\$6,843	\$6,958
Housing	\$7,080	\$10,716	\$10,716	\$8,280	\$10,716	\$10,716	\$14,376
Transportation	\$4,290	\$8,467	\$9,593	\$8,467	\$9,593	\$11,299	\$11,405
Other	\$2,146	\$3,894	\$4,682	\$3,894	\$4,682	\$5,290	\$5,013
Required annual income after taxes	\$18,646	\$39,788	\$46,377	\$31,338	\$43,937	\$50,852	\$59,041
Annual taxes	\$2,422	\$5,168	\$6,024	\$4,071	\$5,707	\$6,606	\$7,669
Required annual income before taxes	\$21,068	\$44,957	\$52,401	\$35,409	\$49,644	\$57,458	\$66,711

As of December 2016, Tarrant County’s unemployment rate was at 3.8% which was lower than the 4.5% of Texans and 5.6% of individuals across the nation who were unemployed¹⁴. Employment in the metroplex remains strong in comparison to other major employment centers across the United States. The Center for American Progress reminds us that employment does not necessarily pull someone out of poverty. This is made evident by the number 4,255,517 of Texans living in poverty in 2016¹⁵. This number represents 15.9% of the total population of Texas.

8.1.2 Domestic Violence

The prevalence of domestic violence can be seen in every community. It affects all people regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or socioeconomic status. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence defines domestic violence as “the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as a part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse.”¹⁶

Domestic violence can result in physical and psychological injuries and for many women, becomes the immediate cause of homelessness. Abusers often isolate their victims from support networks and financial resources. Many individuals experiencing domestic violence fall well below the federal poverty line, putting them at greater risk of becoming homeless upon leaving. Survivors of domestic violence fall into Category 4 of homelessness as defined by HUD and are included in the Point in Time Count.

8.2 What Does it Look Like to End Homelessness

The way ending homelessness is often measured is through a concept called “Functional Zero”. Functional Zero is achieved when, at any point in time, the number of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness will be no greater than the current monthly housing placement rate.¹⁷ **In other words, in any given month more people will exit homelessness than fall into**

¹⁴ Unemployment rates retrieved from <http://unemployment-rates.careertrends.com//408/Tarrant-County-TX> and <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/tarrant-county-tx/#economy>

¹⁵ Poverty numbers for Texas retrieved from <https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/texas-2016-report/>

¹⁶ Terms and definitions used for Domestic Violence Retrieved from: <http://ncadv.org/learn-more/statistics>

¹⁷ Adapted from the Zero2016 campaign: <https://cmtysolutions.org/sites/default/files/zero2016glossary.pdf>

it. Operationalized in this way, the goal of ending homelessness acknowledges the reality that people will continue to experience housing crisis and focuses efforts on reducing the trauma and public expense of homelessness by decreasing the time anyone must suffer it.

8.3 Responding to Encampments and Panhandling

Unsheltered homelessness bedevils cities, large and small, across America. While the right of private property owners to have trespassers removed is well fixed, there are two tensions evident as the issue relates to public property. On the one hand, courts and the Department of Justice have said that communities cannot punish people for life-sustaining activities such as sleeping in the absence of sufficient shelter. On the other hand, it is reasonable for communities to maintain public facilities and spaces in ways that protect the natural environment and the property's utility, as well as the health and safety of the public.

Outreach teams and the broader network of housing and homeless services providers are always hopeful that people who are sleeping outdoors will opt for the safer choice of staying indoors. Motivational interviewing and engagement that is trauma-informed and housing-focused yield the best results, but progress can be as slow as human behavior is complex. It is not uncommon to encounter campers who struggle with significant behavioral health challenges such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and paranoid schizophrenia; others, do not wish to be separated from a spouse or child by single-sex shelters.

Unfortunately, increased engagement from police and code enforcement tends to relocate rather than resolve a housing crisis or addiction. Increasing discomfort by forcing people to relocate frequently simply does not achieve long-term behavior change.^[1] Jail time is costly to taxpayers (about 60% more expensive than permanent supportive housing^[2]) and more tickets make it more difficult to secure housing.

Reductions in the number of people sleeping on city streets is possible. There are many good examples of people moving from the streets to apartments and living successful and healthy lives. However, the small number of outreach workers and the extreme shortage of affordable housing makes this work more challenging to accomplish and much slower. The more difficult it is to find affordable housing, the more heightened engagement by law enforcement comes to resemble mashing on a water balloon.

TCHC agrees with law enforcement officials who say that we will not arrest our way out of homelessness, panhandling, or addiction. As a study by the University of North Texas Health Science Center documented, the high incidence of rape and assault among women experiencing homelessness is unconscionable.^[3] Increasing the supply of affordable, permanent housing improves public safety and deserves a response that is scaled to the crisis at hand.

^[1] Leaders of street outreach teams in Tarrant County note that around 95% of campers forced to relocate on short notice simply move to another camp. Meeting with TCHC, March 14, 2017.

^[2] Tarrant County Jail costs about \$82.00 per day compared to \$30.00 per day for permanent supportive housing. Jail data from County News Update, Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, March 2017, http://access.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/main/county-judge/Newsletters/Update_March_2017.pdf), accessed March 20, 2017.

^[3] Homeless Women's Health and Victimization Study, UNTHSC Department of Behavioral and Community Health and TCHC, July 16, 2013, <http://www.ahomewithhope.org/wp-content/uploads/HWHVS-Final-Report-to-the-Communityx.pdf>

As we work towards the goal of “A Home For All”, there are some proactive steps that TCHC encourages local governments to take to address unsheltered homelessness:

- Provide staffing or funding for professional street outreach services that are housing-focused and trauma-informed
- Coordinate encampment responses across Departments, including housing, parks, code, police, health, and human services
- Adopt neighborhood policing strategies that promote referrals and safety for persons without housing
- Communicate regularly with professional street outreach teams
- Provide public restrooms and resources for litter disposal
- Create employment opportunities for people with criminal backgrounds

9 Appendices

9.1 History, Scope, and Geography

The McKinney-Vento Act was signed into law by President Reagan in 1987 and was the first of its kind, on a national level, to address homelessness. Twenty-two years later, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 ([HEARTH Act](#)¹⁸) was signed into law in 2009 by President Obama to provide additional resources and opportunities for communities to address the issue of homelessness. The HEARTH Act expanded the definition of homelessness and combined several HUD (Housing and Urban Development) programs into a single Continuum of Care program.

The HEARTH Act mandates that communities quantify the level of need in their area and the effectiveness of community-wide interventions. The Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count) accomplishes both of these tasks.

Reports have been issued on the extent and characteristics of the homeless population in Tarrant County since 1994. Early reports were published by Tarrant County Homeless Coalition with staffing support provided by Tarrant County Community Development Division. These reports relied on counts conducted inside shelters, limited canvassing of the unsheltered by volunteers, and estimation methods.

Counts and surveys have been completed in:

1994	2006	2014
1997	2007	2015
2000	2009	2016
2002	2011	2017
2004	2013	

The 2007 count was the first to utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and include a robust “street count” in Arlington. Parker County has been included in the PIT count since 2014.

¹⁸ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessAssistanceActAmendedbyHEARTH.pdf>

The cities of Arlington and Fort Worth both utilized the 2007 count as baseline data for their respective ten-year plans. Subsequent PIT counts have utilized both HMIS to enumerate people sleeping inside shelters and volunteers to canvas areas within Tarrant and Parker Counties to count people who were sleeping unsheltered.

9.2 Terms Used in this Report

9.2.1 Continuum of Care

The work of ending homelessness in a community is carried out by a *Continuum of Care*—the collective networks, institutions, and organizations that provide housing and services to people who are experiencing homeless. Each Continuum of Care (or, “CoC”) serves a designated geography and is responsible for: operating the Continuum of Care, administering an HMIS (Homeless Management Information System); 3) planning for the CoC; and, 4) applying for competitive CoC Program funding from HUD.

Each Continuum of Care appoints an entity (or entities) to lead its strategic, administrative, and information technology efforts. Locally, the Fort Worth/ Arlington/ Tarrant County Continuum of Care (also known by its HUD designation, “TX-601”) has selected Tarrant County Homeless Coalition to serve as its “Lead Agency”, “HMIS Administrator”, and “Collaborative Applicant”. The service area of TX-601 includes Tarrant and Parker Counties.

9.2.2 Chronic Homelessness

HUD first used the term chronically homeless in 2002 to refer to unaccompanied adults who had a disabling condition and who had been homeless in a place not meant for human habitation or in an emergency shelter for either 12 months continuously or over at least four occasions in the prior three years. The current definition of chronically homeless is ¹⁹:

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS MEANS: (1) A “HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY,” AS DEFINED IN SECTION 401(9) OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), WHO: (I) LIVES IN A PLACE NOT MEANT FOR HUMAN HABITATION, A SAFE HAVEN, OR IN AN EMERGENCY SHELTER; AND (II) HAS BEEN HOMELESS AND LIVING AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS DEFINITION CONTINUOUSLY FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS OR ON AT LEAST 4 SEPARATE OCCASIONS IN THE LAST 3 YEARS, AS LONG AS THE COMBINED OCCASIONS EQUAL AT LEAST 12 MONTHS AND EACH BREAK IN HOMELESSNESS SEPARATING THE OCCASIONS INCLUDED AT LEAST 7 CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS OF NOT LIVING AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1)(I). STAYS IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE FACILITIES FOR FEWER THAN 90 DAYS WILL NOT CONSTITUTE AS A BREAK IN HOMELESSNESS, BUT RATHER SUCH STAYS ARE INCLUDED IN THE 12-MONTH TOTAL, AS LONG AS THE INDIVIDUAL WAS LIVING OR RESIDING IN A PLACE NOT MEANT FOR HUMAN HABITATION, A SAFE HAVEN, OR AN EMERGENCY SHELTER IMMEDIATELY BEFORE ENTERING THE INSTITUTIONAL CARE FACILITY; (2) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN RESIDING IN AN INSTITUTIONAL CARE FACILITY, INCLUDING A JAIL, SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FACILITY, HOSPITAL, OR OTHER SIMILAR FACILITY, FOR FEWER THAN 90 DAYS AND MET ALL OF THE CRITERIA IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS DEFINITION, BEFORE ENTERING THAT FACILITY; OR (3) A FAMILY WITH AN ADULT HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (OR IF THERE IS NO ADULT IN THE FAMILY, A MINOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD) WHO MEETS ALL OF THE CRITERIA IN PARAGRAPH (1) OR (2) OF THIS DEFINITION, INCLUDING A FAMILY WHOSE COMPOSITION HAS FLUCTUATED WHILE THE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD HAS BEEN HOMELESS.

¹⁹ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4847/hearth-defining-chronically-homeless-final-rule/>

9.3 Homeless Definitions by Other Federal Agencies

Tarrant Country Homeless Coalition strives to maintain and provide accurate information regarding local homelessness to homeless assistance organizations, governmental organizations, and the public. TCHC hopes to educate and inform people on the entire spectrum of homelessness in Tarrant County through the information provided in this report.

To fully understand homelessness, it is imperative to understand the differing definitions of homelessness. Typically, people consider persons to be homeless if they are living and sleeping on the street, outdoor encampment, or car, in a shelter for the homeless, or in government subsidized transitional housing. Although this is a valid understanding, it leaves out homeless persons who are “couch surfing” from house to house or living out of motels for an extended period. It also leaves out those who are incarcerated or fleeing from domestic violence. Like these public definitions of homelessness, federal agencies also have various definitions of homelessness to match the various missions. The definitions can be found in the table below. With the large amount of definitions surrounding homelessness, data and numbers are easily mismatched or incorrectly portrayed.

Federal Homelessness Definition & Count Table

Federal Agency	Definition	Count
<p>Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Hearth Act 2009²⁰</p>	<p><u>Category 1: Literally Homeless</u> - Individuals and families who lack a home or a permanent residence, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a nighttime residence that is on public or private property that is not meant for human habitation. EX. Parks, woods, highways, etc. • Is living in a public or privately owned shelter designated for to provide temporary living arrangements which include congregate shelters (multiple beds in one facility where those who are homeless can stay temporarily), Hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations, or by federal, state, and local government programs. • Is exiting an institution where a person has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution. This basically means that if a person was living in a place that is not meant for human habitation is habitually not having a stable living situation. <p><u>Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness</u> - Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence meaning that the individual or family is at risk of being homeless. This is provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; • No subsequent residence has been identified; and • The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing <p><u>Category 3: Homeless under other Federal statutes</u> - Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; • Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homes assistance application; • Have experience persistent instability as measured by two moves or move during in the preceding 60 days; and • Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers 	<p>**These numbers represent category 1 and 4 only **</p> <p>January 2016</p> <p>United States: 355,212</p> <p>Texas: 23,122</p> <p>TX601: 1938</p>

²⁰ Information on the Hearth Act retrieved from:
https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/S896_HEARTHAct.pdf

	<p>Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence - Any individual or family who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; • Has no other residence; and • Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing 	
<p>Department of Health and Human Services (Runaway and Homeless Youth Act) 2017</p>	<p>This statute defines homelessness as individuals who are, “not more than 21 years of age... for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement.” (RHYA). This definition ONLY includes youth who are unaccompanied by families or caregivers and not families, nor relatives.²¹</p>	<p>2015 HUD PIT nearly 47,000 unaccompanied and parenting youth.</p>
<p>Department of Health and Human Services Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act 2011</p>	<p>The term “homeless individual” means an individual who lacks housing (without regard to whether the individual is a member of a family), including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility that provides temporary living accommodations and an individual who is a resident in transitional housing.²² The department of Health and Human Services also utilizes the homeless definitions from the Hearth Act.</p>	
<p>Department of Health and Human Services/ Bureau of Primary Health Care Program Assistance Letter</p>	<p>An individual may be homeless if that person is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person who is “doubled up,” a term that refers to a situation where individual is unable to maintain their housing situation and are forced to stay with a series of friends and/or extended family members • Previously homeless individuals where are to be released from a prison or a hospital may be considered homeless if they do not have a stable housing situation to which they can return • Recognition of the instability of an individual’s living arrangements is critical to the definition of homelessness 	
<p>Department of Education Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act 2016</p>	<p>Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the Department of Education defines homeless children and youths as individuals who lack a fix, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youth who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up housing = multifamily homes); • living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; • living in emergency or transitional shelters; or • abandoned in hospitals; • have 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; 	<p>2014-2015 School Year: Nationally: 1,263,323</p> <p>State: 113,294</p> <p>Local (Region 11): 11,674²³</p> <p>Tarrant County: 7,548</p>

²¹ Definition for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act retrieved from: <http://youth.gov/youth-topics/runaway-and-homeless-youth/federal-definitions>

²² The Department of Health and Human Services definition can be found at <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/technicalassistance/taresources/hchfaq2011.pdf>

²³ State and Local numbers for Department of Education came from TEA: http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Issue_Briefs/3088_Homeless_Students.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and • Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above. 	
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9.4 Methods, Data Sources, and Limitations

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that local Continuums of Care conduct an annual point-in-time count of the homeless in the last ten days of the month of January. “PIT Count” requirements derive from the HEARTH Act and are described in the Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule ([CoC Interim Rule](https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule.pdf)²⁴). Further guidance for local Continuums is provided in HUD [Methodology Guides](#)²⁵ and [Notices](#)²⁶.

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition developed the 2017 PIT Count methods to conform with HUD requirements and align with best practices. The methods were approved by the Fort Worth/ Arlington/ Tarrant County Continuum of Care Board of Directors on January 11, 2017.

9.4.1 Point-in-time Count

The 2017 point-in-time count of the homeless was conducted by TX-601 on January 26, 2017. “Count Night” as the evening is called, entailed counting and surveying people who were sleeping in places not intended for human habitation (the “street count” or “unsheltered count”), and enumerating those who were sleeping in emergency shelters and transitional housing by use of the HMIS (the “sheltered PIT Count”).

9.4.1.1 Sheltered PIT Count Methods

The TX-601 Homeless Management Information System was used to conduct the sheltered PIT count of homeless individuals and families who were spending the night of January 26, 2017 in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. The data was reviewed to the client record level to ensure de-duplication with personal identifiers. Additionally, bed stays, enrollments, and exit data is reviewed for accuracy for the night of the PIT Count. HMIS data meets the required HUD data standards and produces comprehensive PIT Count data.

Organizations that are not “Contributing HMIS Organizations” (CHOs) are provided templates to gather all required PIT Count data. Each non-CHO has an HMIS-equivalent data systems that can provide universal data elements and de-duplication methods to ensure an accurate count. This methodology was selected due to its HUD compliance and reliability. HMIS staff review HUD guidance to ensure the data is at the highest quality and is compared against prior year data to ensure consistency and accuracy.

9.4.1.2 Unsheltered PIT Count Methods

During the night of the unsheltered PIT Count, TX-601 canvassed as much of the CoC geography as possible with the available volunteers. TX-601 produces PIT Count route-maps that are prioritized with the aid of reconnaissance from street outreach workers and law enforcement so that routes with

²⁴ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule.pdf>

²⁵ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4036/point-in-time-count-methodology-guide/>

²⁶ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5110/notice-cpd-16-060-2017-hic-and-pit-data-collection-for-coc-and-esg-programs/>

known and suspected encampments are covered before volunteers are dispatched to canvass routes with no known or suspected encampments. 480+ volunteers in teams of 2-5 persons participated in the blitz count, deploying at the same time from four locations after all shelters had ceased intake.

Duplicated data is prevented by utilizing personal identifying information, conducting the blitz count, and interviewing those who were willing to volunteer their information. All volunteers return their results on the night of the count which ended at approximately 2:00 am.

9.4.2 Limitations

While significant efforts were undertaken to ensure the 2017 PIT count was as comprehensive and accurate as possible, acknowledged limitations include but are not limited to concerns about the completeness, accuracy, and backward compatibility of the dataset. Tarrant and Parker Counties total 1,807 square miles (1.16M acres). Although the 480+ volunteers and nearly 100 police officers who assisted with the 2017 count were able to canvass a good portion of the CoC geography—including all of the highest priority count routes—geographic coverage was not 100%.

Data captured in the HMIS and in the street count relies on self-reports from the person being surveyed and has not necessarily been verified by an expert such as a clinician in the case of a mental illness or an official with the VA in the case of Veteran status. While training is provided to everyone who has access to HMIS and to the volunteers who conduct the surveys, implementation is not uniform. Participation in the street count is voluntary; therefore, not all data elements were captured for each person counted.

Periodic changes in regulations, programs, definitions, and HMIS software mitigate absolute year-to-year comparisons of some data. For example, as discussed above the definition of chronic homelessness changed in both 2010 and 2016; however, the data published, retained, and assessed by HUD and presented in this report reflect the definitions in place at the time that the counts were taken.

In the coming months, TCHC will work with HUD, HUD technical assistance consultants, and our HMIS software provider to finalize 2017 PIT Count data. Discrepancies are not anticipated; however, HUD will have the final say in the official numbers recorded for our CoC for 2017.

Lastly, point-in-time counts are a snapshot of a single, January night. Weather conditions alone can impact both volunteer turnout and the number of people sleeping outside in both positive and negative directions. While imperfect, the PIT count remains a requirement for federal funding and has utility as a national and local benchmark.

9.5 Additional Count Data

9.5.1 Unsheltered

On the night of January 26, 2017, more than 485 volunteers and around 100 members of law enforcement canvassed Tarrant and Parker Counties, counting 390 people who were sleeping in places not intended for human habitation.

9.5.1.1 Geographic Distribution

Nearly 88% of the unsheltered population in Tarrant and Parker County live in Fort Worth. This may be a result of the proximity to public transportation, shelter, and social services offered within the city. It is also significant that the total population of Fort Worth is notably greater than other towns in the county.

	Fort Worth	Arlington	Parker County	NE Tarrant	Total	Annual Change
2017	342	29	12	7	390	-0.92%
2016	341	61	6	15	423	+95%
2015	166	34	1	16	217	+18%
2014	161	16	1	6	184	-35%
2013	247	28	1	5	281	--

9.5.1.2 Demographics

Gender	Total	Rate
Male	301	77.18%
Female	29	22.82%
Transgender	0	0.00%

Age	Total	Percent of Total
Children under 18	20	5.13%
18-24	20	5.13%
25 and over	350	89.74%

Race	Total	Percent of Total
White	232	59.49%
Black/African American	144	36.92%
Asian	2	0.51%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	9	2.31%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	1	0.26%

Ethnicity	Total	Percent of Total
Hispanic	44	11.28%
Non-Hispanic	346	88.72%

9.5.1.3 Top Reasons Reported for Unsheltered Homelessness

2016		2017	
Men	Women	Men	Women
1. Unemployment	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage	Unemployment	Unemployment
2. Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage	Unemployment	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage	Unable to Pay Rent / Mortgage
3. Addictions / Substance Abuse	Family / Personal Illness	Physical/Mental Disabilities	Divorce/Separation

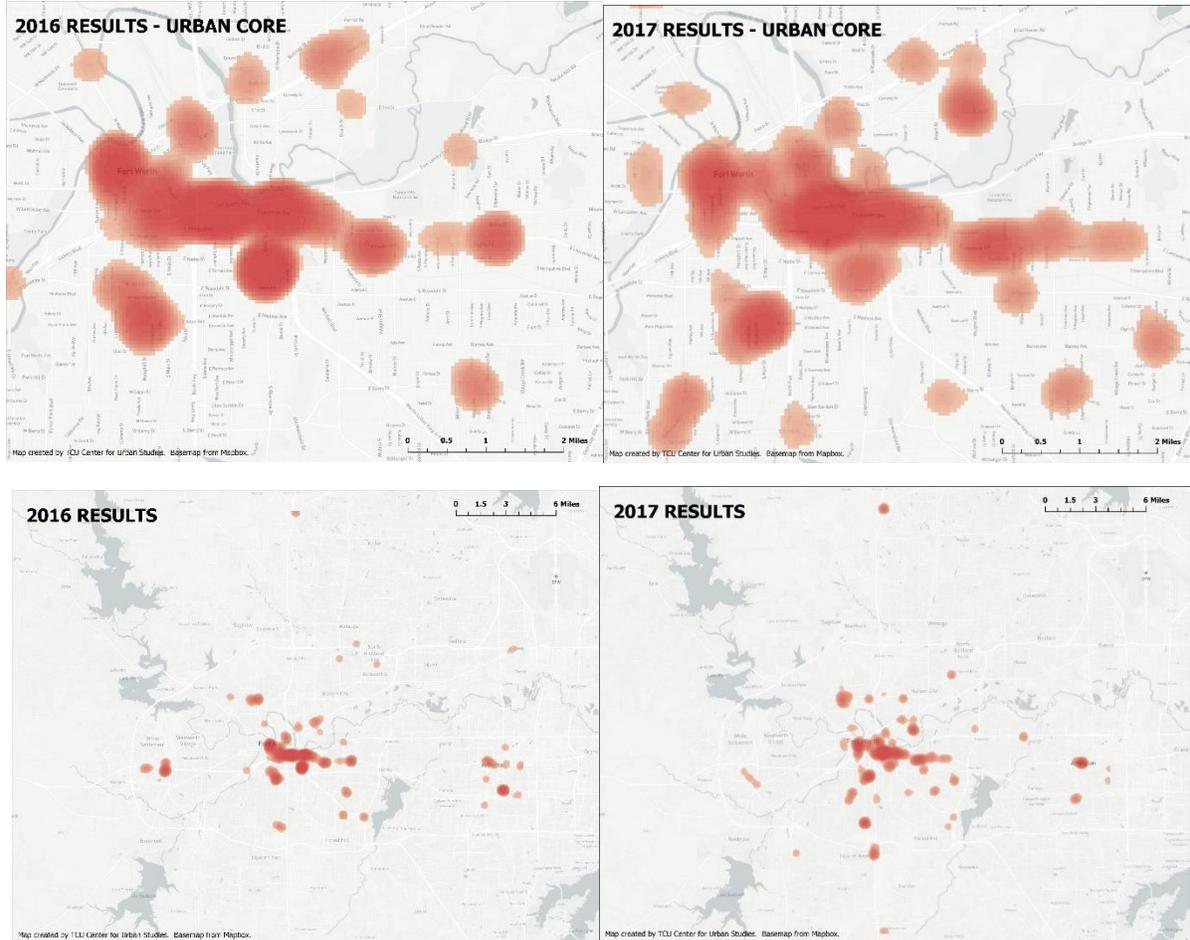
9.5.1.4 Residence Prior to Homelessness

Residences prior to homelessness can be seen in the table below. Despite popular belief that Dallas ordinances have pushed a large amount of individuals into Fort Worth, only 6.41% of those included in the “elsewhere in Texas” category originate from Dallas, and of those, there is no clear indication that they resided in a homeless campsite.

Residence Prior to Homelessness	Percentage Of total
Tarrant or Parker County	21.54%
Elsewhere in TX	15.90%
Out of State	14.87%

9.5.1.5 Density Maps

These density maps illustrate the change in the concentration and distribution of unsheltered homelessness between 2016 and 2017.



9.5.2 Emergency Shelter

9.5.2.1 Geographic Distribution

	Fort Worth	Arlington	Parker County	NE Tarrant	Total	Annual Change
2017	1132	162	0	0	1,294	1.19%
2016	950	138	0	0	1,088	-13%
2015	1,112	133	0	0	1,245	--

9.5.2.2 Demographics

Gender	Total	Percent of Total
Male	746	57.65%
Female	548	42.35%
Transgender	0	0

Age	Number	Percent of Total
Children under 18	295	15.33%
18-24	79	4.11%
25 and over	920	47.82%

Race	Number	Percent of Total
White	571	29.68%
Black/African American	677	35.19%
Asian	8	0.42%
American Indian/Alaska Native	11	0.57%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	6	0.31%

Ethnicity	Total	Percent of Total
Hispanic	149	11.51%
Non-Hispanic	1,145	88.49%

9.5.3 Transitional Housing

9.5.3.1 Geographic Distribution

	Fort Worth	Arlington	Parker County	NE Tarrant	Total	Annual Change
2017	100	61	0	59	220	-46.5%
2016	173	134	0	100	407	-6%
2015	187	112	0	133	432	--

In 2016, three Transitional Housing programs recategorized as Emergency Shelter. As a result, there is a 46% decrease in 2017 for individuals enrolled in Transitional Housing programs.

9.5.3.2 Demographics

Gender	Total	Percent of Total
Male	137	62.3%
Female	83	37.7%
Transgender	0	0%

Age	Total	Percent of Total
Children under 18	80	36.4%
18-24	3	1.3%
25 and over	137	62.3%

Race	Total	Percent of Total
White	104	47.3%
Black/African American	111	50.5%
Asian	0	0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	1.4%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1	.05%

Ethnicity	Total	Percent of Total
Hispanic	52	23.6%
Non-Hispanic	168	76.4%

9.5.4 Safe Haven

9.5.4.1 Geographic Distribution

	Fort Worth	Arlington	Parker County	NE Tarrant	Total	Annual Change
2017	20	0	0	0	20	0%
2016	20	0	0	0	20	0%
2015	20	0	0	0	20	0%
2014	20	0	0	0	20	0%
2013	18	0	0	0	18	+11%

9.5.4.2 Demographics

Gender	Total	Percent of Total
Male	10	50%
Female	10	50%
Transgender	0	0%

Age	Total	Percent of Total
Children under 18	0	0%
18-24	0	0%
25 and over	20	100%

Race	Total	Percent of Total
White	10	50%
Black/African American	6	30%
Asian	4	20%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0%

Ethnicity	Total	Percent of Total
Hispanic	3	15%
Non-Hispanic	17	85%

9.5.5 Families and Youth

Persons in Families	UN	ES	TH	SH	Total	Change
2017	28	431	121	0	580	3.76%
2016	25	291	243	0	559	-.7%
2015	0	302	261	0	563	-45.60%
2014	0	319	716	0	1035	-6.59%
2013	0	355	753	0	1,108	30.05%

Households by Type	UN	ES	TH	SH	Total
Family Households: Adult & Child	11	144	35	0	190
Households Adults Only	359	871	99	20	1,349
Households Parenting Youth: 18-24	0	9	2	0	11
Unaccompanied Youth: 18-21	20	35	0	0	55
Children Only: 18 & Under	3	12	0	0	15

Family Households	Total	Average Size	Annual Change
2017	190	3.05	3.8%
2016	183	4.21	.55%
2015	182	3.09	-43.3%
2014	321	3.22	-4.5%
2013	336	3.30	3.1%
2012	326	2.61	12.03%
2011	291	3.16	--

Children (<18)	2017 Total	2016 Total	Annual Change
Unsheltered	17	15	13.33%
Emergency Shelter	295	194	52.06%
Transitional Housing	80	152	-47.37%
Safe Haven	0	0	0%
Total	392	361	8.59%

9.5.6 Veterans

In March 2016, a 2 day Zero:2016 Workshop was held to establish community goals, targets and identify critical workgroups necessary to make progress on ending veteran homelessness. At that time, a community goal was set to house 75 veterans in 60 days. That goal was exceeded and completed ahead of schedule. The community repeated that goal in the summer of 2016 and once again exceeded the goal and housed 79 veterans in 75 days. TCHC continues to partner in the local SSVF Community Plan and to seek technical assistance in partnership with the local VA, SSVF and GPD providers. These initiatives and partnerships are believed to have assisted with the 9% decrease in Veteran homelessness.

	UN	TH	ES	SH	Rate	2017 Total	2016 Total	Annual Change
Veterans	40	87	58	1	9.67%	186	205	-9.27%

Selected characteristics of *unsheltered veterans*.

Branch	Total	Percent of Total
Army	15	50%
Marine Corps	6	20%
Navy	3	10%
Air Force	1	3%

Age	Total	Percent of Total
18-24	2	7%
25-64	22	81%
65 and Up	3	11%

Race	Total	Percent of Total
White	92	49.46%
Black/African American	90	48.39%
Asian	0	0%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	3	1.61%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	1	0.54%

Veteran Household	Total	Percent of Total
Veteran Only	180	97.30%
Veteran with Child	5	2.70%

Ethnicity	Total	Percent of Total
Hispanic	15	8.06%
Non-Hispanic	171	91.94%

Gender	Total	Percent of Total
Male	170	91.40%
Female	16	8.6%
Transgender	0	0%

9.5.7 Chronically Homeless

Although a significant increase in chronic homelessness has been seen over the past year, TCHC believes the community is still headed towards ending chronic homelessness. Possible reasons for this increase include low PSH turnover, leaving less affordable housing options for newly homeless individuals, the conversion of three transitional housing programs into emergency shelter, and more accurate reporting from HMIS.

	UN	TH	ES	SH	Rate	2017 Total	2016 Total	Annual Change
Chronically Homeless	103	0	103	14	11.43%	220	159	38.36%

9.5.8 Sub-populations

Significant decreases can be seen in all sub-populations. Persons counted as Severely Mentally Ill include persons with a diagnosis of depression, bipolar, and schizophrenia.

Sub-Population	UN	TH	ES	SH	Rate	2017 Total	2016 Total	Annual Change
Severely Mentally Ill	84	25	134	18	13.57%	261	376	-30.59%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	4	7	8	0	0.99%	19	26	-26.92%
Victims of Domestic Violence	14	62	175	3	13.20%	254	337	-24.63%
Chronic Substance Abuse	59	17	81	5	8.42%	162	213	-23.94%
Veterans	40	87	58	1	9.67%	186	205	-9.27%

9.5.9 Other Individuals in the Care of the Homeless Services System

Permanent Supportive Services and Rapid Re-housing programs are operated by continuum of care agencies and organizations and constitute a significant amount of work. Although individuals and families are not considered homeless while in permanent supportive housing or rapid re-housing programs, we include these numbers in our reporting to give us a better understanding of the overall system of care.

9.5.9.1 Individuals in Permanent Supportive Housing

January 26, 2017	Adults	Children	Total Persons
Total	1,112	230	1,342

Gender	Number	Percent of Total
Male	704	52.46%
Female	638	47.54%
Transgender	0	0%

Age	Total	Percent of Total
Under 18	230	17.14%
18-24	63	4.69%
25 and up	1049	78.17%

Race	Total	Percent of Total
White	562	41.88%
Black/African American	752	56.04%
Asian	4	0.30%

Ethnicity	Total	Percent of Total
Hispanic	94	7%
Non-Hispanic	1,256	93.59%

American Indian/ Alaska Native	8	0.60%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	1	0.07%
Multiple Races	8	.60%

Veteran Status	Total	Percent of Total
Veteran	74	6.65%
Non-Veteran	1038	93.35%

9.5.9.2 *Individuals in Rapid Re-housing*

January 26, 2017	Adults	Children	Total Persons
Total	432	397	829

Gender	Total	Percent of Total
Male	352	42.46%
Female	477	57.54%
Transgender	0	0%

Age	Total	Percent of Total
Under 18	397	47.89%
18-24	40	4.83%
25 and up	392	47.29%

Race	Total	Percent of Total
White	267	32.21%
Black/African American	552	66.59%
Asian	0	0%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1	0.12%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	1	0.12%
Multiple Races	8	0.97%

Ethnicity	Total	Percent of Total
Hispanic	115	13.87%
Non-Hispanic	714	86.13%

Veteran Status	Total	Percent of Total
Veteran	101	23.38%
Non-Veteran	331	76.62%

9.5.10 Annualized Count

In addition to the point-in-time count, the Homeless Management Information System provides a means to measure the number of people who experienced homelessness throughout the year.

The 2016 Annualized Count of Homeless individuals was 7,441.

9.5.11 Regional Analysis

This chart demonstrates the prevalence of the homeless population in relation to the total population for Tarrant County as other communities throughout Texas and the United States.

Geography	2016 Homeless Population	2015 Total Population	Rate of Homelessness
Harris County	4,031	4,538,028	0.09%
Tarrant County	1,938	1,982,498	0.10%
Franklin County, OH	1,724	1,251,722	0.14%
Bexar County	2,781	1,897,753	0.15%
Dallas County	3,810	2,553,385	0.15%
Travis County	2,138	1,176,558	0.18%
Mecklenburg County, NC	1,818	1,034,070	0.18%
King County, WA	10,730	2,117,125	0.50%

9.5.12 System Performance Metrics

	Permanent Supportive Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Transitional Housing	Emergency Shelter
Estimated Annual Unit Turnover	14.8%	50%	61.4%	39.5%
Average Length of Stay	43.5 months	8.9 months	7 months	696 days
Exits to Permanent Housing	70.4%	86.4%	37%	27%
Increased or Retained Employment Income at Exit	15.2%	49%	19%	23%
Increased or Retained Other Income at Exit	62.4%	36.1%	35%	26%

Performance Metric Definitions

Average Length of Stay: Length of Stay is measured to determine if clients are moving through the programs in an appropriate length of time and are efficiently moving towards a permanent and stable home. Rapid Rehousing, Transitional Housing & Permanent Supportive Housing projects are measured in months and Emergency Shelter stays are measured in days.

Exits to PH: Exits to Permanent Housing measures how successful homeless service providers are in transitioning clients out of their program and into a permanent housing situation including owning a home, renting a home, or staying or living with family.

Increased or Retained Income: Income is measured at the time a client exits a homeless service program to determine the financial stability of clients upon leaving. Measures evaluate income from employment, as well as from mainstream benefits, such as food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, etc

10 About TCHC

TCHC (Tarrant County Homeless Coalition) is a private, non-profit organization that leads, develops, and coordinates strategies and resources to end homelessness in Tarrant and Parker Counties. TCHC serves as the backbone organization of the communitywide effort to efficiently end homelessness.

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11 Acknowledgments

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480+ Count Night Volunteers	Hands of Hope
Arlington Life Shelter	Julie Hall, Arlington Housing Authority
Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams	Maggie Jones, TCCD
Arlington Police Department	PATH
Catholic Charities Street Outreach Services	Paula Robinson, Center of Hope
Center for Transforming Lives	Presbyterian Night Shelter
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