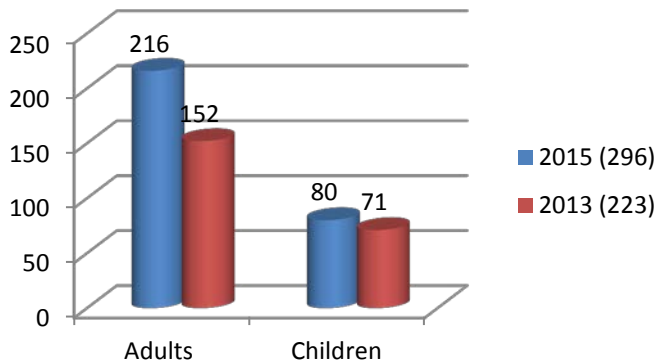


Homeless Point in Time Count 2015 A Snapshot of Homelessness in Douglas County

Beginning at midnight on January 28, 2015, a survey document was dispersed in Lawrence and Douglas County that attempted to gather a point-in-time count for those defined as “literally homeless” individuals and families, which are those persons living in emergency shelters, transitional housing or in places not meant for human habitation such as in cars or on the streets. The survey was designed to gather information for one 24-hour period, and the data was collected for that specific 24-hour time period over the course of three days. The surveys were administered and the data was gathered as a result of a collaborative effort by various area agency staff members and case managers who primarily work with the Lawrence/Douglas County homeless population. In Douglas County, 296 “literally homeless” adults and children were identified. While it is likely that this number is less than the true number of homeless in the city and in the county, these findings are a valuable planning tool to improve the response to homelessness in Douglas County and are collected biennially.

Homeless in Lawrence/Douglas County 2013 and 2015 Comparison



KEY POINTS

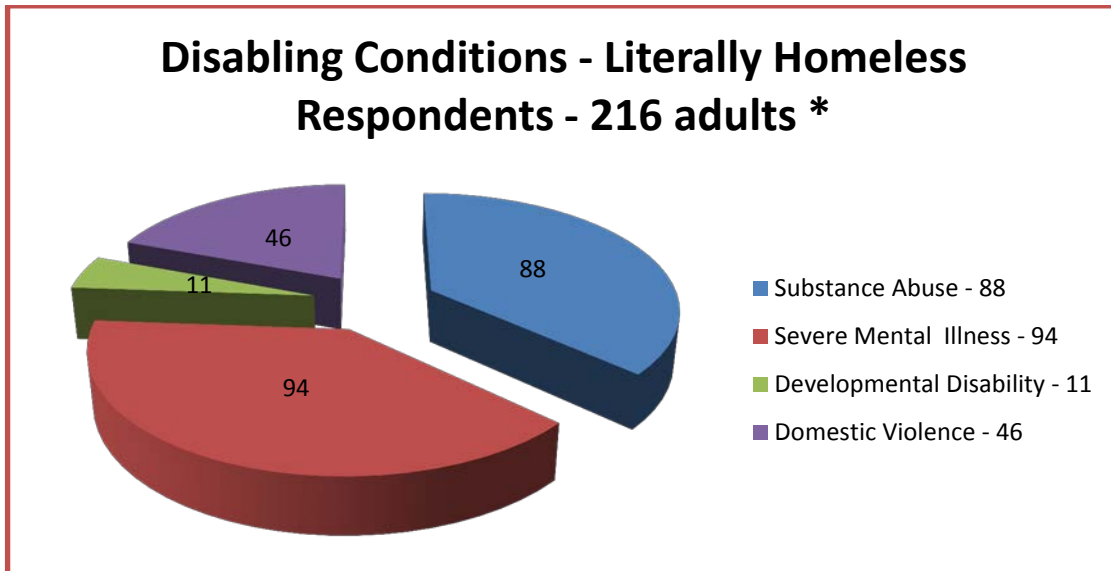
Changes in homelessness from the 2013 Point-In-Time count to the 2015 count:

- ✓ The number of literally homeless residents counted increased from 223 in 2013 to 296 in 2015. This is due to possibly an increase in households, but also better counting methodology and stronger data analysis.
- ✓ In 2013, 49% of the literally homeless adult respondents were female. In 2015, this number fell to 48%.

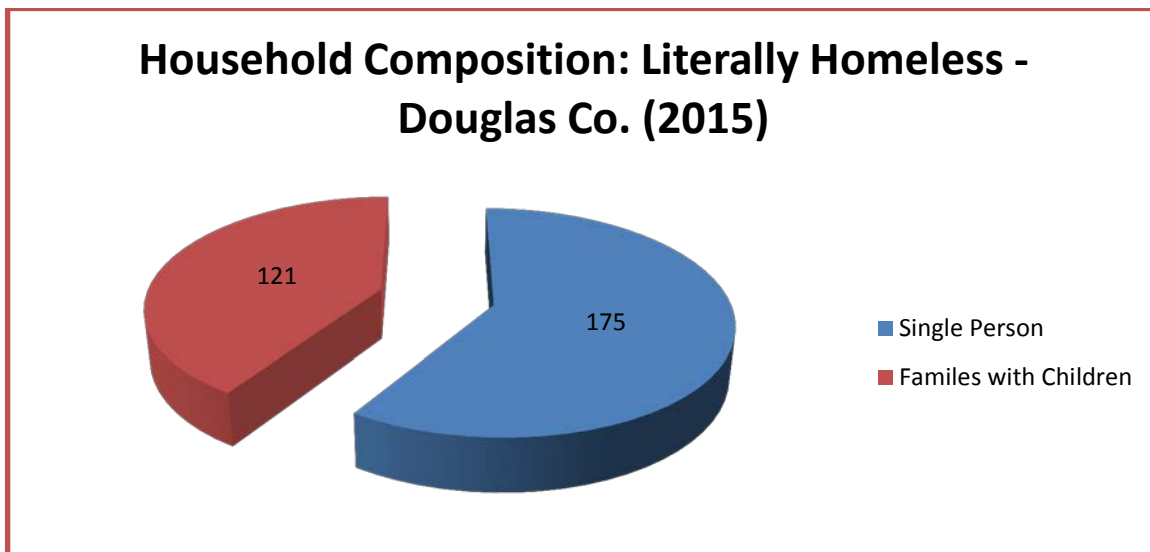
296 Lawrence/Douglas County Residents were homeless on January 28, 2015:

- 206 households containing 296 persons reported as being literally homeless, which is defined as living on the streets, in cars, or in emergency shelter/transitional housing.
- The count showed 216 adults (73%) and 80 children (27%) identified as literally homeless.
- Of the 296 literally homeless, 73 adults and three families (10 family members) met the definition of chronically homeless (having been homeless for one year or more, or having had four or more instances of homelessness in the past three years and having a disabling condition.)
- In 2015, HUD focused on the subcategory of “Homeless Youth”. A Homeless Youth is defined as any unaccompanied homeless youth, or single parent youth household, under the age of 25. There were 14 total homeless youth.
- Additionally in 2015, there was a focus on Homeless Veterans. There were 14 households in Lawrence/Douglas County that identified as a homeless veteran household. Two of those households were unsheltered households.

Other facts regarding homelessness in Lawrence/Douglas County:

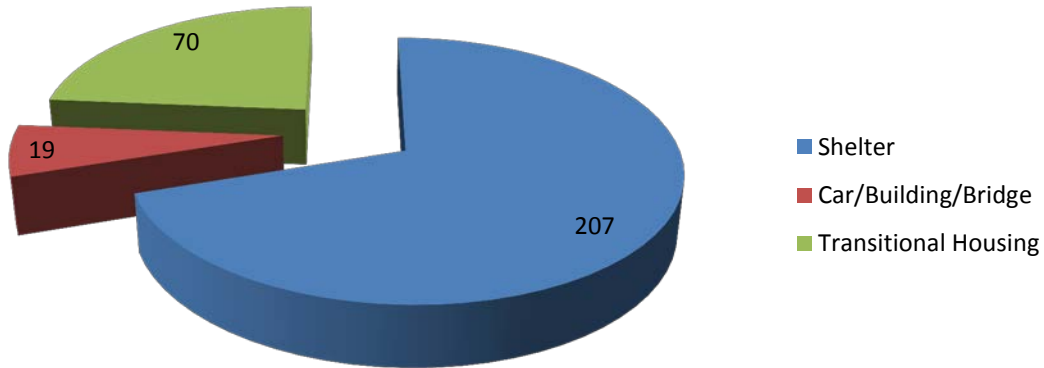


In Lawrence/Douglas County, out of the 216 adults that met the definition of literally homeless, 88 indicated they struggled with alcohol abuse or drug abuse, 94 had a severe mental illness, and 46 indicated that they were homeless based due to domestic violence. (*based on respondent response. Some conditions may overlap).



In Lawrence/Douglas County, there were 175 single individuals, and 121 in families with children (80 children, 41 adults).

Living Situation - Literally Homeless Respondents - Douglas County



In Lawrence/Douglas County, 277 were sheltered (70 in Transitional Housing, 207 in shelter settings **not** limited to LCS). Nineteen respondents were unsheltered (living in a car, abandoned building, bridge, or other place not meant for human habitation).

For the 2015 statewide count, the State of Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (101 counties including Douglas but NOT counting Shawnee, Johnson, Wyandotte, or Sedgwick) reported a total of 1222 literally homeless persons.

Challenges to understanding the picture of Homelessness in Lawrence and Douglas County:

- ✓ The point-in-time count is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) every two years. The point-in-time count is just that: A point-in-time snapshot. It should be acknowledged that while this presents a number going forward, it may not be indicative of the total extent of the problem as seen by local professionals and their agencies. This count was a partnership with many agencies and volunteers in Lawrence and Douglas County. The definition of homelessness, used for the purposes of this Point in Time count, was the HUD definition of sheltered and unsheltered homeless. HUD “sheltered” is defined as: persons residing in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing that originally came from shelter or streets. HUD “unsheltered” is defined as: persons residing in cars, abandoned buildings, alleyways, parking garages, under bridges, etc.
- ✓ The Lawrence Unified School District (USD 497) indicates that there are additional students in the district that qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act, which includes families that are doubled-up or staying with family or friends. For this point-in-time count, doubled up families were not able to be counted because they did not meet the HUD definition of homeless. With varying definitions of homelessness used by agencies, it is difficult to paint a true picture of the extent of the problem.