

# Homeless Needs Assessment

Homelessness encompasses a population that is elusive, hidden, highly mobile, and characterized by a diverse and complex set of personal and social circumstances. In order to identify and ascertain the needs of persons who are homeless in Albuquerque, the City worked closely with local homeless services provider and their associations. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, which manages the Continuum of Care and HMIS for New Mexico, provided Point in Time data as well as annual performance data from the HMIS for 2011. The Albuquerque Strategic Collaborative to End Homelessness, staffed by the NMCEH, serves as the advisory body for both the Albuquerque Continuum of Care and for Albuquerque Heading Home, a nationally-funded demonstration project that identifies, assesses and houses the most medically fragile homeless persons in the city. City staff and consultants met twice with this group, initially to outline the process for developing the homeless needs assessment and later to present for review and comment the draft homeless needs assessment report.

The City of Albuquerque continues to face significant problems associated with homelessness and the prevention of homelessness. The homeless population in the area continues to increase in part because of continued high unemployment (6.8% in April 2012), rising rental housing costs, and the continuing effects of the recession. In response, new initiatives are underway to create comprehensive, coordinated systems that share a common vision of homelessness in Albuquerque that is “rare, of short duration, and non-recurring.”

## Extent of Homelessness

On January 22, 2012, the Albuquerque Point in Time count identified 1044 **sheltered** homeless persons (Table 1).<sup>1</sup> Of these, 37 percent (389 persons) were members of a household with at least one adult and one child. Another 26 unaccompanied youth were also identified in shelter. Among subpopulations of concern, veterans, persons with chronic substance abuse issues, and victims of domestic violence each accounted for approximately 10-11 percent of the sheltered homeless persons identified in 2012.

The January 2011 Albuquerque Point in Time count included **both sheltered and unsheltered** homeless persons (Table 2). A total of 1,639 homeless persons were identified, including 1,252 sheltered and 387 unsheltered persons. As in 2012, 36 percent (586 persons) were in households with at least one adult and one child. Of those in shelters, just over half (52%) were in emergency shelters, and just under half (48%) were in transitional housing. Most of those in emergency shelters (78%) were adults without children. Only 30 percent of family members with children were in emergency shelters, which may reflect the relative dearth of family shelter beds. Homeless subgroups of concern were more variably represented, with severely mentally ill accounting for 7 percent; persons with chronic substance abuse issues, 9 percent; veterans, 12 percent; and domestic violence victims, 15 percent. Over one-third (36%) of homeless veterans identified in the 2011 count were unsheltered.

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<sup>1</sup> Until 2012 HUD required a complete PIT count (sheltered and unsheltered) every other year. Beginning in 2012, HUD requires a sheltered PIT count every year and a full PIT Count (sheltered and unsheltered) every other year.

**Table 1**  
**Date of PIT Count: 1/22/2012**  
**Households and Persons: Sheltered-Only Count**

Type of Household	Type of Shelter		
	Emergency	Transitional	Total
<b>Households with at least one adult and one child</b>			
Number of Households	36	97	<b>133</b>
Number of Persons (Adults and Children))	121	268	<b>389</b>
<b>Households without children</b>			
Number of Households	474	151	<b>625</b>
Number of Persons (Adults)	474	155	<b>629</b>
<b>Unaccompanied Youth</b>			
Number of Households	26	0	26
Number of Persons (Age 17 or under)	26	0	26
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>784</b>
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1,044</b>

**Homeless Subpopulations**

Persons in emergency shelters, transitional housing and safe havens	No.
Veterans	<b>116</b>
Severely Mentally Ill	<b>117</b>
Persons with HIV/AIDS	<b>2</b>
Victims of Domestic Violence	<b>105</b>
Unaccompanied Youth (under 18)	<b>26</b>

**Table 2**  
**Date of PIT Count: 1/30/2011**  
**Households and Persons: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count**

Type of Household	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
<b>Households with at least one adult &amp; one child</b>				
Number of Households	37	120	9	<b>166</b>
Number of Persons (Adults and Children))	128	420	38	<b>586</b>
<b>Households without children</b>				
Number of Households	507	174	263	<b>944</b>
Number of Persons (Adults)	509	174	344	<b>1,027</b>
<b>Unaccompanied Youth</b>				
Number of Households	21	0	5	<b>26</b>
Number of Persons (Age 17 or under)	21	0	5	<b>26</b>
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>1,136</b>
<b>Total Persons</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>1,639</b>

### Other Homeless Subpopulations

Persons in emergency shelters, transitional housing and safe havens	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Veterans	127	71	198
Severely Mentally Ill	149	0	149
Persons with HIV/AIDS	0	0	0
Victims of Domestic Violence	244	0	244
Unaccompanied Youth (under 18)	21	5	26

### Characteristics of Homelessness

While minimal information is available from the Point in Time counts concerning the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness, the Annual Performance Report on the Albuquerque Continuum of Care agencies provides additional information about the 1,834 persons who received services throughout 2011 (Table 3). Just under half (49.0%) of those served were members of households with at least one adult and one child; slightly fewer (48.3%) were adults without children, and a small number were youth unaccompanied by adults.

**Table 3**  
**Persons Served by Household Type**  
**Albuquerque Continuum of Care 2011**

	No.	%
Adults without children	885	48.3%
Adults with children	340	18.5%
Children	560	30.5%
Unaccompanied Youth	13	0.7%
Household type unknown	36	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Household Type, Age and Gender.* Table 4 provides additional information on household type, age and gender for 1,783 persons served for whom complete data is available. Among adults with no children, a slight majority were male (56.7%). However, among adults in households with children, a very large majority (83.5%) were female. Children and youth were about equally divided among males and females.

**Table 4**  
**Household Type, Age and Gender of Persons Served**  
**Albuquerque Continuum of Care 2011**

Persons Served	No.	%
<b>Adults, no children</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>49.6%</b>
Males	502	28.3%
Females	378	21.3%
<b>Adults with children</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>19.1%</b>
Males	56	3.2%
Females	284	15.9%
<b>Children</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>30.6%</b>
Males	286	16.0%
Females	259	14.6%
<b>Youth</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Males	6	0.3%
Females	7	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1783</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

A further breakdown by age (Table 5) indicates two populations are over-represented among the homeless population receiving services. Children under 5 receiving homeless services are twice their proportion in the overall population. Persons between the ages of 35 and 54 are also over-represented among the homeless services population. Those over age 62 are much less likely to be among those served.

**Table 5**  
**Age of Persons Served**  
**Albuquerque Continuum of Care 2011**

Age	No.	%	% Pop
Under 5	260	14.6%	7.0%
5-17	300	16.8%	17.3%
18-34	437	24.5%	25.8%
35-54	631	35.4%	26.7%
55-61	124	6.9%	8.4%
62+	33	1.8%	14.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1785</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Ethnicity.* Persons of color were considerably over-represented among those served in 2011, including Hispanics and, even more so, American Indians and African Americans, who were represented at 3 to 3.5 times greater, respectively, than their proportion in the general population (Table 6).

**Table 6**  
**Household Type, Age and Gender of Persons Served**  
**Albuquerque Continuum of Care 2011**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>% of Pop</b>
Hispanic	940	52.3%	46.7%
<b>Race</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>% of Pop</b>
White	1,254	70.8%	69.7%
American Indian	250	14.1%	4.6%
African American	209	11.8%	3.3%
Asian	8	0.5%	2.6%
Other/Multiple	50	2.8%	4.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

*Subpopulations of Concern.* Table 7 provides information on services provided to subpopulations of concern. (Note that percentage calculations exclude records with missing information.) Victims of domestic violence are notable for their prevalence, reported by 40 percent of adults without children and nearly 60 percent (58.8%) of adults in households with children. This may reflect in part the preponderance of women, who are more likely to report domestic violence, heading households with children. Veterans represent a very small percentage of those served by Continuum of Care agencies, but these data do not reflect the services provided by the Veterans Administration, to whom Continuum of Care agencies may refer clients.

Over half (53.3%) of those served reported at least one known physical or mental health condition at the time of entry into services. One third (33.2%) reported two or more conditions. Of these conditions, the most prevalent was a mental health diagnosis, reported by nearly half (45.7%) of those served. Those with developmental disabilities or HIV/AIDS represented a very small proportion of those served.

**Table 7**  
**Subpopulations of Concern**  
**Albuquerque Continuum of Care 2011**

<b>Subpopulation</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><i>Domestic Violence Victims</i></b>	<b>327</b>	<b>40.2%</b>
Adults without Children	167	40.1%
Adults with Children	160	58.8%
<b>Veterans</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>5.01%</b>
Adults	46	6.51%
Adults with Children	4	1.40%
<b>Persons with Known Physical/Mental Health Conditions</b>		
No conditions	740	46.7%
1 condition	319	20.1%
2 conditions	317	20.0%
3 or more conditions	210	13.2%

Type of Disability	No. of Persons in HH	%
Mental Illness	782	45.7%
Drug Abuse	291	17.0%
Alcohol Abuse	281	16.4%
Physical Disability	223	13.0%
Chronic Health Condition	204	11.9%
Developmental Disability	30	1.8%
HIV/AIDS	4	0.2%

**Homeless Services Capacity.** The Albuquerque Continuum of Care provides an annual report on the capacity to serve homeless persons in the variety of housing programs offered by the CoC agencies (Table 8). These housing programs types include emergency shelter, housing prevention and rapid rehousing, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. The largest capacity is in permanent supportive housing, which accounts for 45.4 percent of available beds, followed by shelter beds at 31.7 percent and transitional housing at 21.5 percent. A small Housing Prevention and Rapid Rehousing program, funded by a federal stimulus grant, added a temporary addition of 32 beds, primarily those in households with children.

*Populations Served.* The largest allocation of housing resources benefitted households with children, who were eligible for 38 percent of the available beds. Another 30 percent of capacity was allocated to single adults (male or female). While another 11 percent of available beds were reserved for single males, an additional 4 percent of beds were reserved for single females.

*Emergency Shelter.* In 2012, the CoC emergency shelters had available a total of 700 beds, of which 315 were seasonal beds available from mid-November to mid-March. The January 2011 point in time count identified 658 persons in emergency shelters and 387 unsheltered for a total of 1,045 in need of emergency shelter, suggesting a shortfall of about 300 emergency shelter beds at this point in time. During the nine months of the year when the seasonal shelter is not in operation, the number of shelter beds available drops to 400, and it is likely that the numbers of unsheltered persons increases significantly during these months. Notably, the total number of persons served by the Continuum of Care agencies remains fairly constant throughout the year, from 902 on the last Wednesday in January 2011 to 820 on the last Wednesday in July 2011 (Table 9).

**Table 8**  
**Service Capacity by Client/Household and Housing Type**  
**Albuquerque Continuum of Care 2012**

	Emergency Shelter		HPRH		Transitional Housing		Permanent Supportive Hsg		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Single Females	20	2.9%	0	0.0%	25	5.3%	45	4.5%	90	4.1%
Single Males	181	25.9%	0	0.0%	64	13.4%	0	0.0%	245	11.1%
Single Females/Males	50	7.1%	5	15.6%	75	15.8%	543	54.1%	673	30.4%
HHs with Children	87	12.4%	27	84.4%	312	65.5%	416	41.4%	842	38.1%
Youth	32	4.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	32	1.4%
All Populations	330 <sup>1</sup>	47.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	330	14.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
		<b>31.7%</b>		<b>1.4%</b>		<b>21.5%</b>		<b>45.4%</b>		<b>45.4%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 315 seasonal beds, available from mid-November to mid-March

**Table 9**  
**Point-in-Time Count of Persons Served**

<b>Last Wednesday In</b>	<b>Without Children</b>	<b>With Children</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Total</b>
January	444	437	4	902
April	431	439	2	889
July	415	392	1	820
October	426	436	1	869

**Persons Threatened With Homelessness**

The optimal intervention to homelessness is prevention, which requires identification and intervention of those persons and families who are in danger of becoming homeless. The at-risk population is defined as individuals or family facing immediate eviction who cannot relocate to another residence or shelter.

This population lives on the edge of homelessness constantly. One minor emergency, an unexpected bill, or a temporary loss of employment can create a situation in which the mortgage or the rent cannot be paid, and eviction or foreclosure can occur.

Statistics on this population cannot be provided directly, but an examination of the data on overcrowding and upon cost burdened households provides some insight into the extent of the problem. Particular attention is accorded to those households with extremely low incomes, ranging from 0-30% of the area median income, as this represents the most stressed and vulnerable group.

The HUD CHAS 2009 data set indicate that there are 900 owner households in Albuquerque in this lowest income groups that have over one person per room, i.e., are overcrowded. However, there are 2,555 renter households in the lowest income groups living in overcrowded conditions. Of these, 1,005 households are in the extremely low-income group and 425 of these are severely overcrowded. The average household size is 2.4 persons, meaning that 1,020 persons are at risk.

There are 11,630 owner households in Albuquerque facing a severe cost burden, paying more than 50% of household income on housing costs. Of these, 41.0 percent are in the extremely low-income category. The number of severely cost burdened renters is 18,045, of whom 74.0 percent (13,635 households) are in the extremely low-income category. Averaging 2.4 persons per household, these extremely low-income renter households represent over 32,000 extremely low-income renter households that are, or could be, on the edge of homelessness.