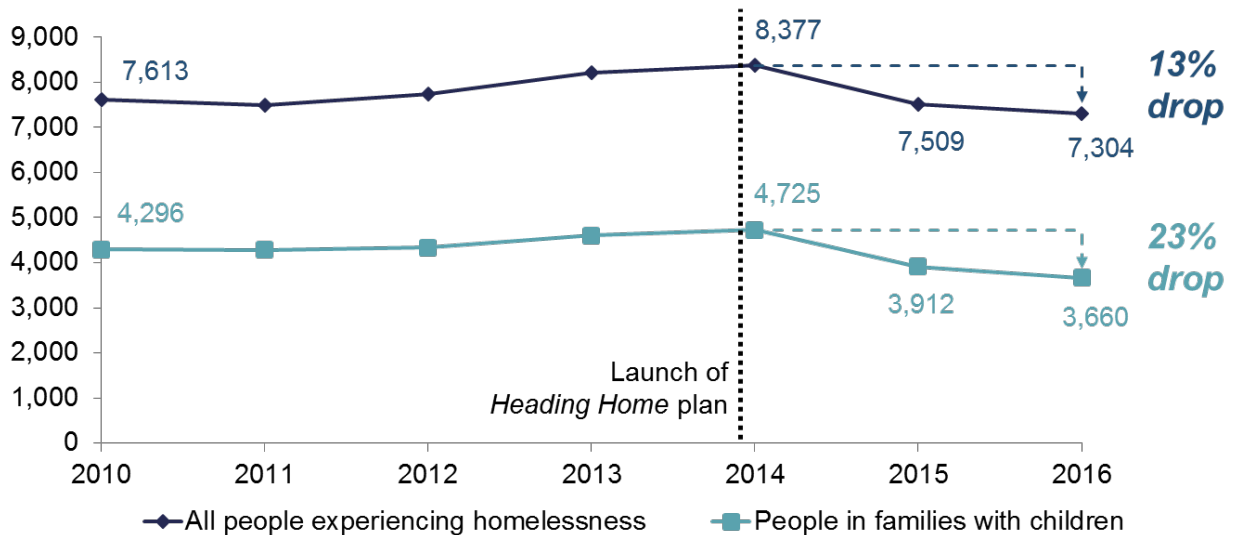




Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

2016 Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness



The 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) count identified 7,304 Minnesotans experiencing homelessness on January 28, 2016. **This represents a 13 percent decrease since *Heading Home: Minnesota's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* began.**

Families

Statewide, the decrease in people experiencing homelessness was largely driven by a decrease in homelessness among families with children. **Homelessness among families dropped by 23 percent since 2014, representing 1,065 fewer people in families experiencing homelessness.** This drop was led by Hennepin and Ramsey counties. However, there is still much work to be done, as five of Minnesota's 10 Continuum of Care (CoC) regions saw increases in families with children experiencing homelessness.

Youth Homelessness

For purposes of the PIT count, youth experiencing homelessness includes only people age 24 and younger who experience homelessness *without* a parent, guardian, or other adult. (Young people facing homelessness with their parents, guardians or other adults are included in the families count.) **A total of 944 youth experiencing homelessness were identified during the January 2016 PIT count, including 88 youth under age 18.**

While there was essentially no change in the total number of homeless youth in this year's count, the number of **unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness decreased by almost 40 percent.** Of the total youth population, 690 were homeless without children and 254 were parenting children of their own, including 9 homeless parenting minors. Parenting youth had a total of 377 children with them.

Chronic Homelessness

Chronic homelessness includes individuals or families diagnosed with a disability who have been living somewhere not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for at least one year or on four or more occasions in the last three years, where those occasions together total 12 months or more. **The count showed a 15 percent decrease in the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness since 2014**, down to 749 individuals in 2016. This decrease can be attributed to better data quality, increased training on the definition of chronic homelessness for the count, and efforts to target those experiencing chronic homelessness in specific areas across the state.

Veteran Homelessness

On the night of the count, 276 Veterans were identified experiencing homelessness statewide, **a 13 percent decrease since 2014**. The number of **unsheltered Veterans decreased by 43 percent** during that period. The [Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry](#) helps connect any Veteran experiencing homelessness with housing solutions. From January 2015 to May 2016, a total of **511 Veterans who joined the Registry have been housed**. An additional 298 homeless Veterans are currently working with service providers through the Registry to obtain housing. The monthly rate of housing outcomes for Veterans currently exceeds the rate that new Veterans are being identified, but this difference must increase for Minnesota to reach the goal of ending Veteran homelessness this year.

Unsheltered Homelessness

Unfortunately, not all areas of the count showed reductions in homelessness. In 2016, a total of 889 people were identified in unsheltered locations: living outdoors, in vehicles, or in places not meant for habitation. **Unsheltered homelessness increased statewide by 12 percent since 2014**. Better counting and identification of people in unsheltered situations has certainly contributed to the increase, but this represents troubling news. This year, all metro CoCs saw increases in their unsheltered homeless count, a 32 percent increase overall. Additionally, one third of the Suburban Metro Area Continuum's total homeless population is unsheltered. Two CoCs also found unsheltered children: 33 in the Central Minnesota CoC and 40 in the Suburban Metro Area Continuum.

Individuals and Adult Couples Experiencing Homelessness

Since 2014, there has been a minor decrease (1.4%) in individuals and adult couples without children experiencing homelessness, but between 2015 and 2016 there was a 2.5% increase, with the greatest increases in Ramsey and St. Louis counties.

Taken as a whole, these results show that ending homelessness is possible, and that Minnesota is making important progress. This should bolster additional efforts to prevent and end homelessness. The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness remains committed to its vision of achieving housing stability for all Minnesotans.

About the Point-in-Time Count

On a single night in January each year, Minnesota's 10 Continuum of Care (CoC) regions conduct the Point-in-Time (PIT) count of people experiencing homelessness. Volunteers and staff engage people experiencing homelessness in shelters, drop-in centers, transitional housing programs, and unsheltered locations to identify every person and family experiencing homelessness. The count does not include people living in overcrowded or "doubled-up" settings.