

2017 COLLIN COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS



JANUARY 26, 2017



Table of contents

Executive Summary.....	Page 2
Highlights of homeless census results.....	Page 2
Census photos.....	Page 3
Top 6 reported needs of unsheltered persons.....	Page 4
What can you do?.....	Page 4
Historical Analysis.....	Page 5
Census Results.....	Page 6
Age - Adults and Children.....	Page 6
Gender.....	Page 7
Race.....	Page 8
Ethnicity.....	Page 9
Military Service.....	Page 9
Health Care.....	Page 10
Source of Income.....	Page 11
Employment Status.....	Page 11
Top 6 Reasons for Homelessness.....	Page 12
Where Unsheltered Slept on the Night of the Survey.....	Page 13
School District Data.....	Page 14
Methodology.....	Page 15
Acknowledgments.....	Page 16
Collin County Homeless Coalition.....	Page 19

Executive Summary

The Annual Point-In-Time Homeless Census event sponsored by the Collin County Homeless Coalition (CCHC) was conducted on Thursday, January 26, 2017. The Census took place with the help of volunteer teams and police departments in Plano, Fairview, Frisco, McKinney, Allen and Wylie. This year, a rural team was organized and searched smaller Collin County towns with assistance from the Collin County Sheriff's Department. After receiving training, volunteers searched assigned areas in teams of 4-6 people. When they find someone who identified as experiencing homelessness, they conducted a survey with them and provided a care package with a list of social service agencies and shelters, along with food, hygiene and survival items. A total of 259 volunteers and 10 homeless service providers participated in the Census, which resulted in counting a total of **443 persons experiencing homelessness** in Collin County, Texas.

Why do we conduct a Homeless Census?

Between \$350,000 and \$600,000 in annual grant funds are awarded to Collin County service providers by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness. The implementation of the Annual Homeless Census is a requirement of the grant awards, but it also helps us understand the needs of our homeless population and how they can better be served.

What is the definition of a person experiencing homelessness?

For the purposes of this survey, the HUD definition of homelessness was used. The abbreviated definition is as follows:

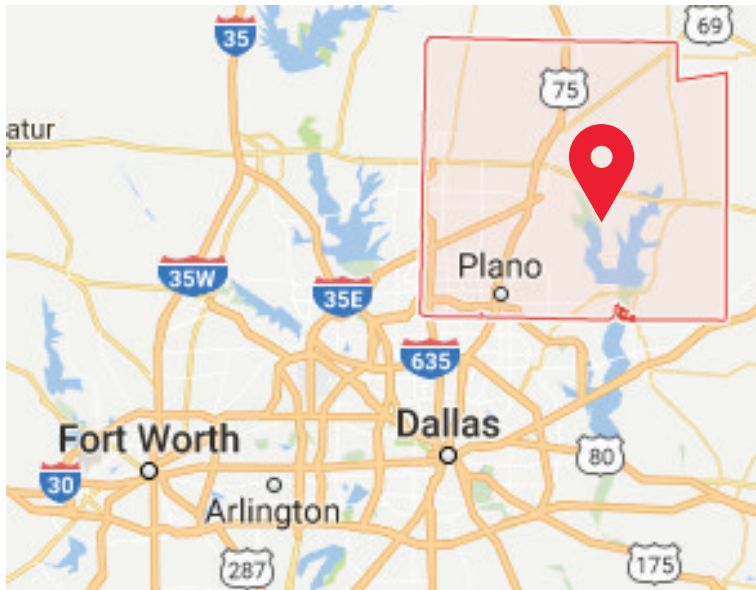
Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including (1) unaccompanied youth; (2) Families with children and youth; (3) Individuals and families who are fleeing domestic violence.

What were the results of the Homeless Census?

The number of persons in Collin County represented by the Annual Homeless Census event on January 26, 2017 was 443 persons; 160 unsheltered and 283 temporarily sheltered persons. The Annual Homeless Census Report details the lives of persons experiencing homelessness on January 26, 2017. A few of the results include:

- 443 persons were identified as experiencing homelessness. 131 were children.
- In comparison to last year, there was a 12% decrease in the total number of those experiencing homelessness, but a 55% increase in the unsheltered population
- 62% of unsheltered persons reported working full-time, part-time, temporary or seasonal positions

Census Night



Volunteers assemble care packages in McKinney



A volunteer team in Plano gets ready to start the count



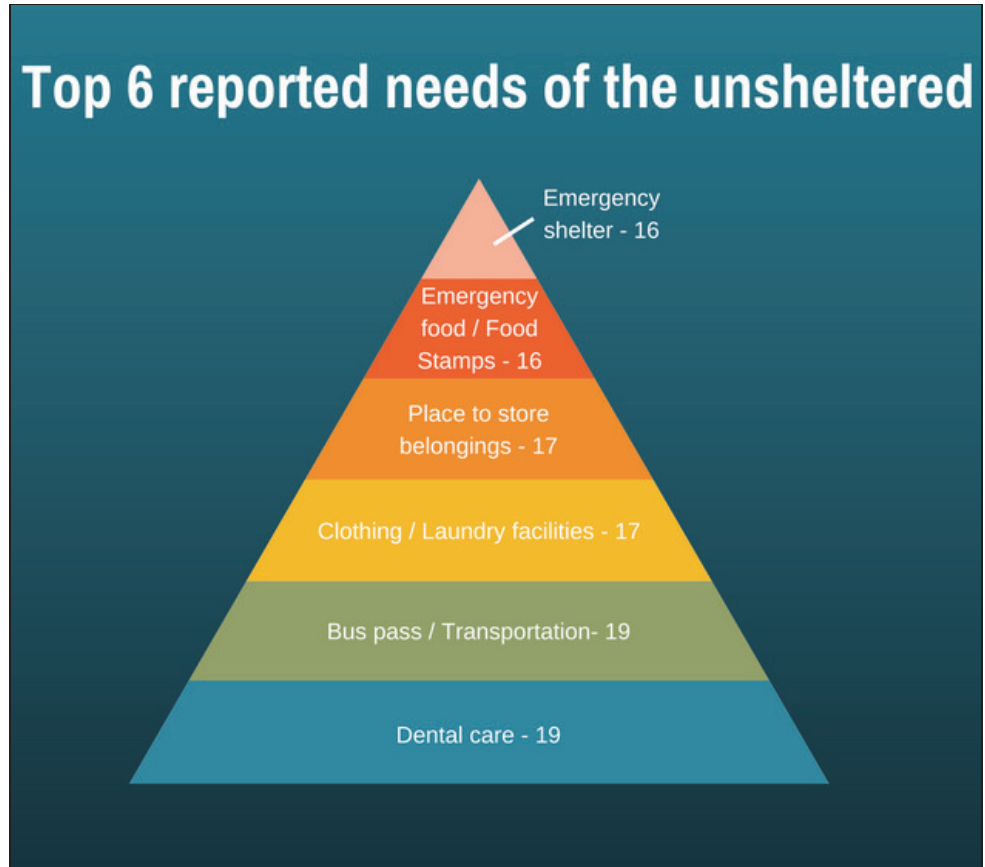
Plano Police Officers accompany count teams in Plano



The rural team explores smaller towns in Collin County with a local sheriff

Top 6 Reported Needs of Unsheltered Persons

The chart below shows the top six reported needs of unsheltered persons that completed the survey. Dental care and transportation were the top needs with 19 persons reporting each of those needs. The other top reported needs include: clothing/laundry facilities (17); place to store belongings (17); emergency food/food stamps (16); and emergency shelter (16).



The data provided in the Annual Homeless Census Report 2017 will be used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, local cities, social service providers, faith communities, school districts, Collin College and businesses to enhance the lives of those experiencing homelessness in Collin County by addressing their needs and the barriers they face to housing stability.

What can you do?

Join the Collin County Homeless Coalition and learn of ways to partner with organizations to make a difference in lives of persons experiencing homelessness. You can also volunteer or donate to any of the organizations listed on page 18 of this report, all of whom serve persons experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness.

The Collin County Homeless Coalition  www.facebook/collinhomeless

Meeting are on the first Thursday of every month, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
City of Plano, 1520 K Avenue, Training Room A, Plano, Texas 75074.

Historical Analysis

The table below represents the number of persons experiencing homelessness who completed a survey or were residing in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs on one-night in January during the past seven years. There was a 12% decrease in the overall amount of persons experiencing homelessness in the Collin County in 2017 compared to 2016, a difference of 58 persons.

The number of persons represented in the Annual Homeless Census fluctuates due to weather conditions, the number of cities participating and the time of the event. Mild weather results in the most surveys being completed while severe (cold – below 32 degrees, snowy, rainy, sleeting) weather limits finding persons experiencing homelessness and thus fewer surveys are completed. The weather for this year's census was more mild compared to the last several years.



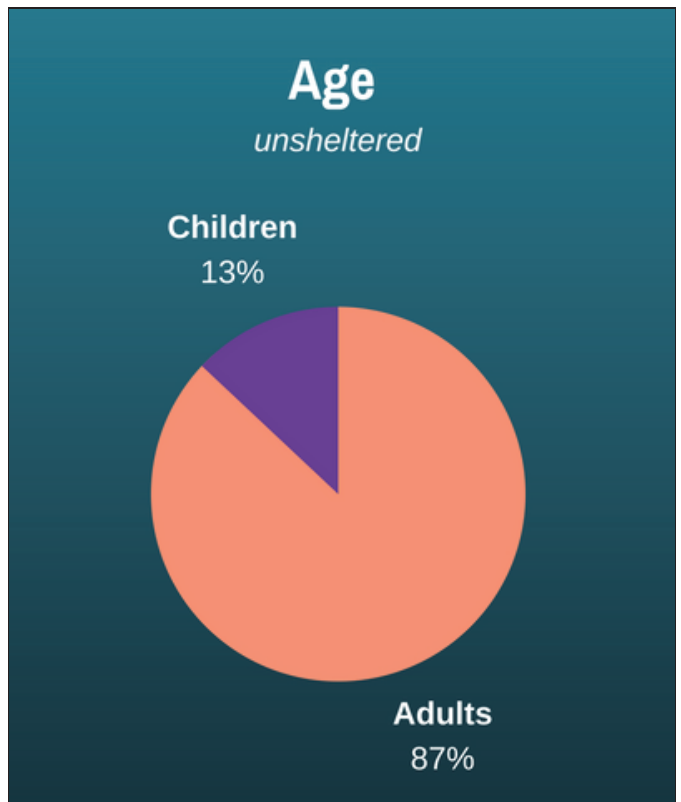
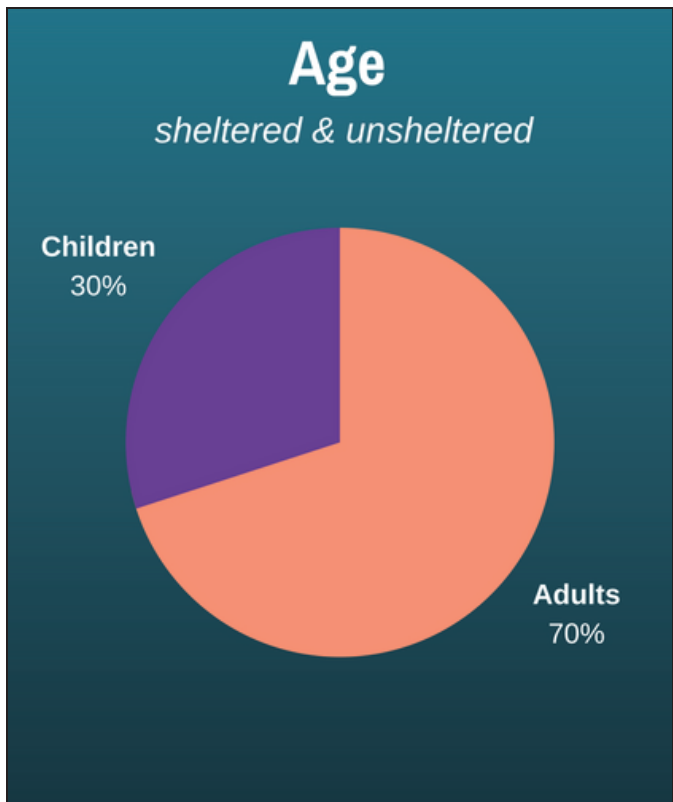
Census Results

The results will be presented by charts and graphs and will depict one of the following groups:

- (1) Unsheltered Persons
- (2) Sheltered Persons (residing in emergency shelters or transitional housing)
- (3) Combined Unsheltered and Sheltered Persons

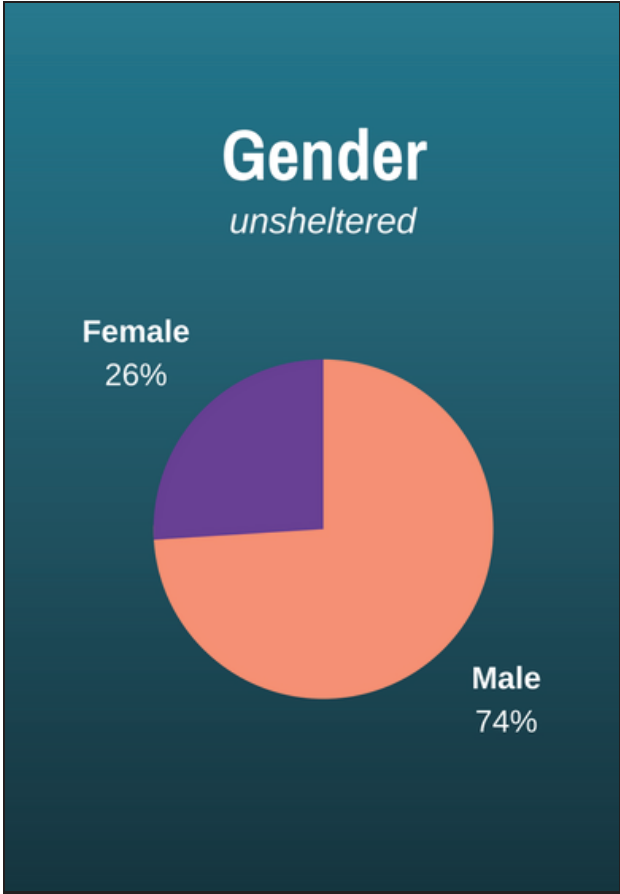
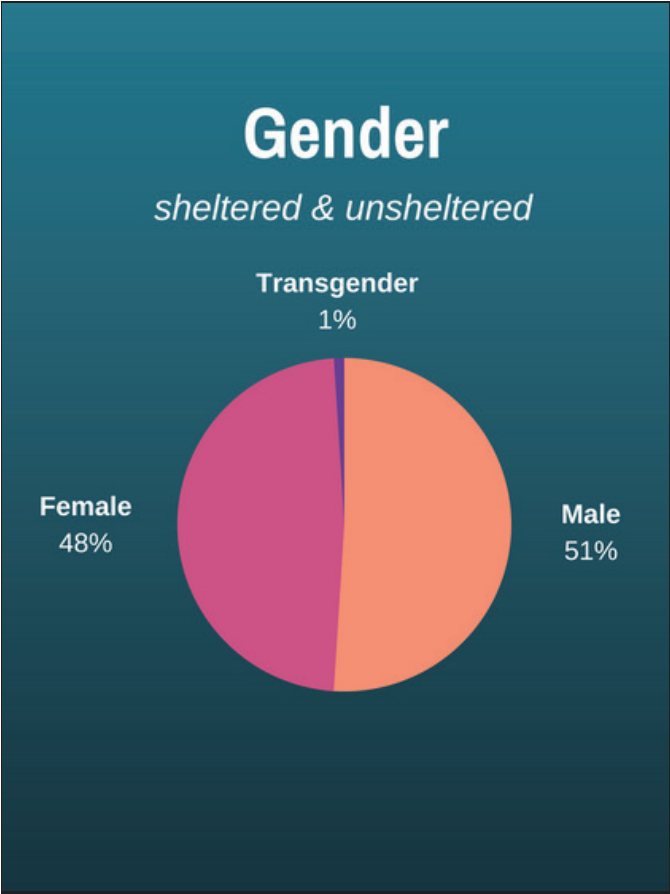
Age

The age of persons represented by the surveys and shelter data are depicted in the charts below for 1) total homeless population, including both unsheltered and those residing in emergency shelters or transitional housing, and 2) the unsheltered population. The definition of child is a person from birth to 17 years old, and the definition of adult is a person 18 years of age or older. Adults account for 70% of the overall homeless population, while children account for 30%. Last year, children made up 33% of the overall homeless population. When looking at the subset of the unsheltered population, children only account for 13% and adults account for 87%.

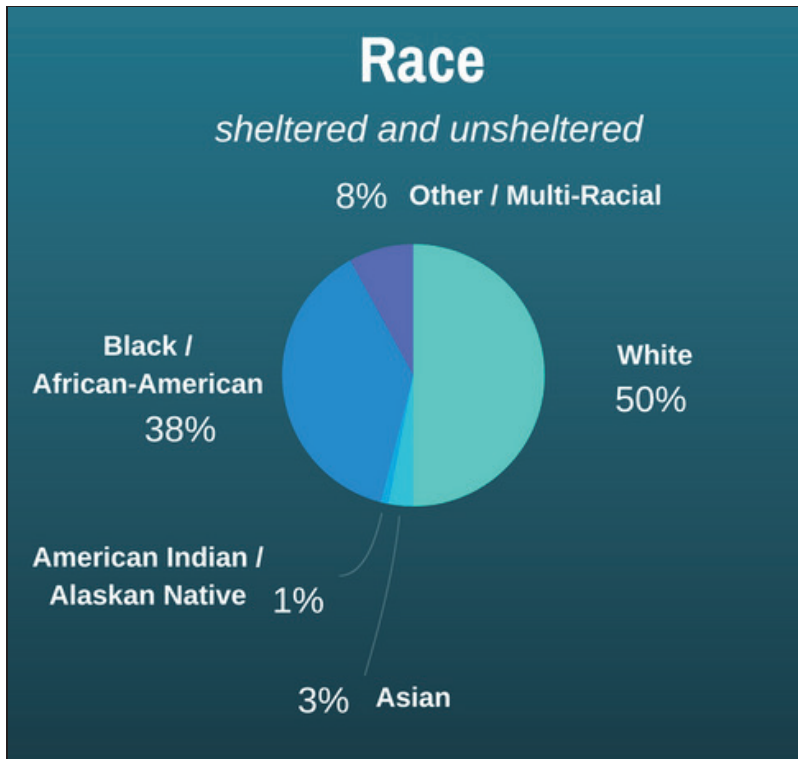


Gender

The chart on the left shows the gender of persons represented in the combined data. Females comprise 48% of the homeless population, down five percentage points from last year. Males comprise 51%, and transgender persons comprise 1%. Males are the largest percentage of the unsheltered population at 74%, while females comprise 26%. This year, the unsheltered female population is the same percentage as last year, while males comprised 73% and transgender persons comprised 1% last year.

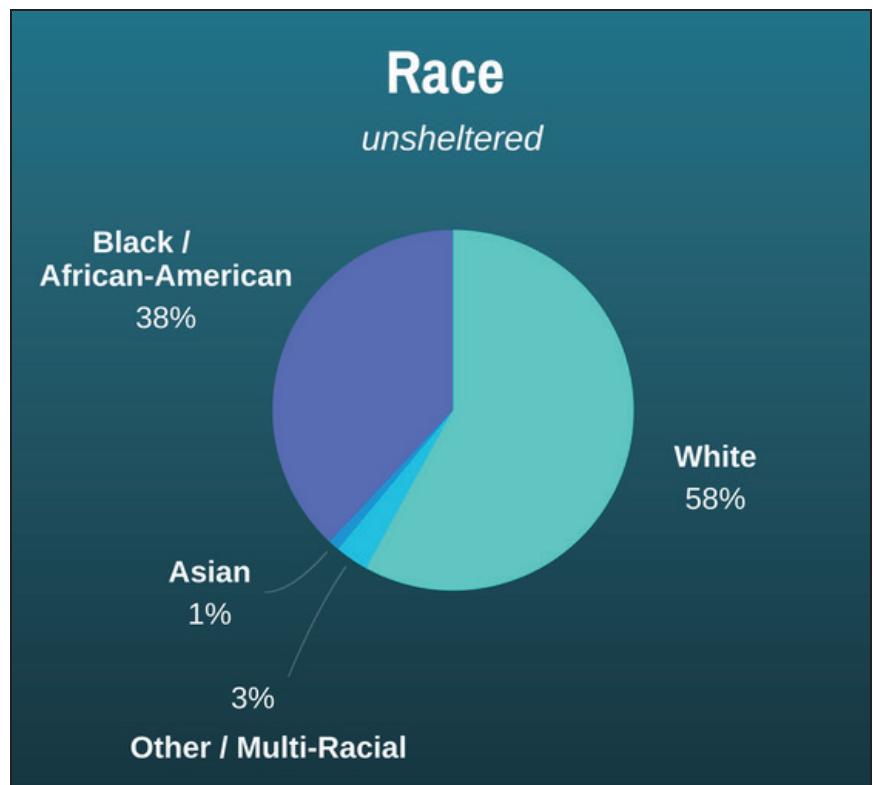


Race

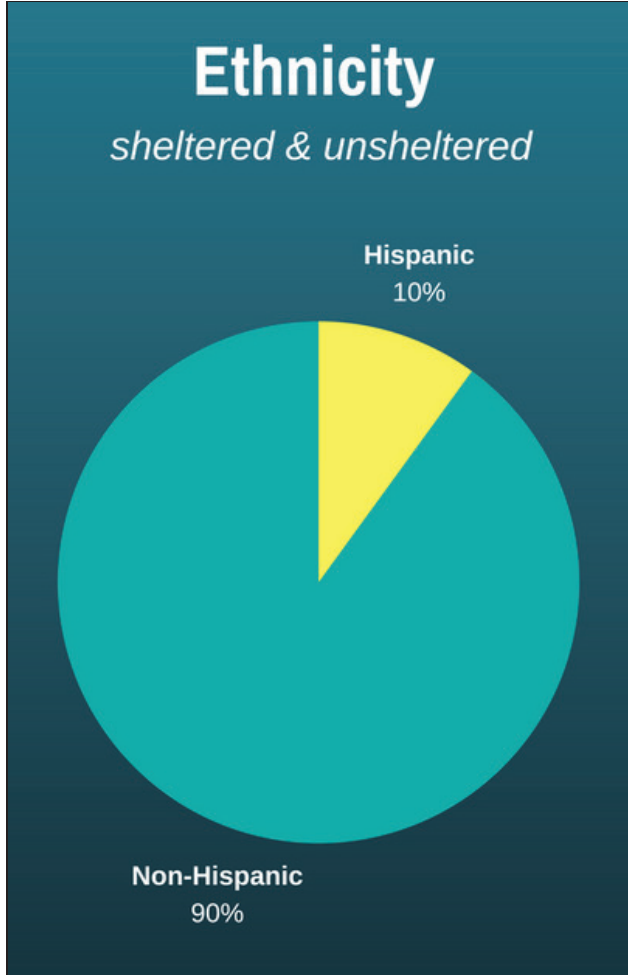


The chart on the left shows the racial data of both sheltered and unsheltered persons. In comparison to last year, the number of white persons increased by 14 percentage points, Black/African-American persons decreased by 4 percentage points, Other/Multi-Racial decreased by 3 percentage points and Asian decreased by 1 percentage point. No persons in the Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander category were reported this year, though they comprised 6% of total persons counted last year.

The chart on the right shows the racial data of unsheltered persons only. In comparison to last year, the number of white persons increased by 8 percentage points, Black or African-American persons increased by 6 percentage points, Asian persons increased by 1 percentage point and Other/Multi-Racial decreased by 12 percentage points. No persons in the American Indian or Alaskan Native category were reported this year, though they comprised 3% of the unsheltered persons counted last year.



Ethnicity

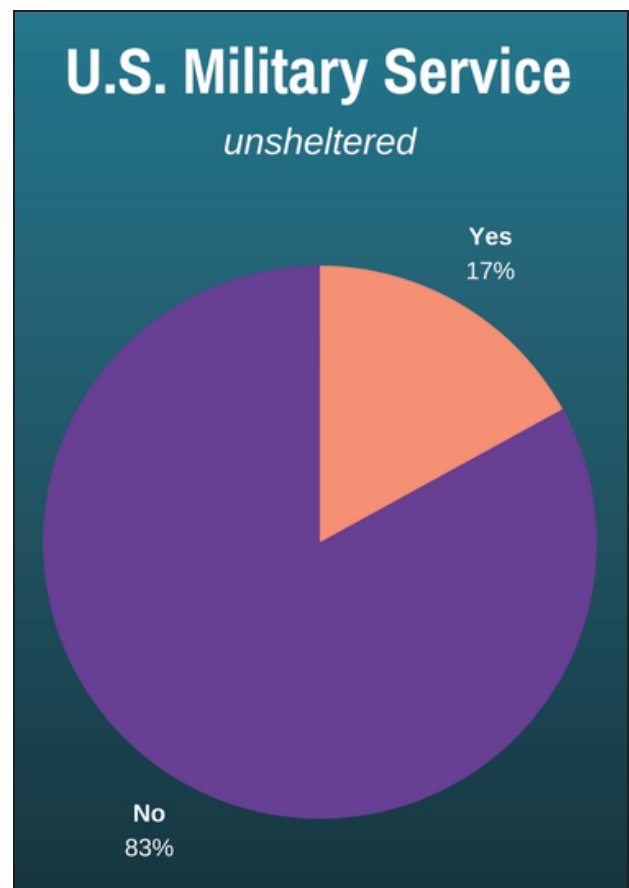


The chart to the left shows the ethnicity of both sheltered and unsheltered persons. 10% were Hispanic or Latino and 90% were not Hispanic or Latino. These percentages remain the same when looking at the sheltered and unsheltered populations separately. Last year, Hispanic or Latino persons comprised 15% of the overall homeless population, while they comprised 9% of sheltered persons.

U.S. Military Service

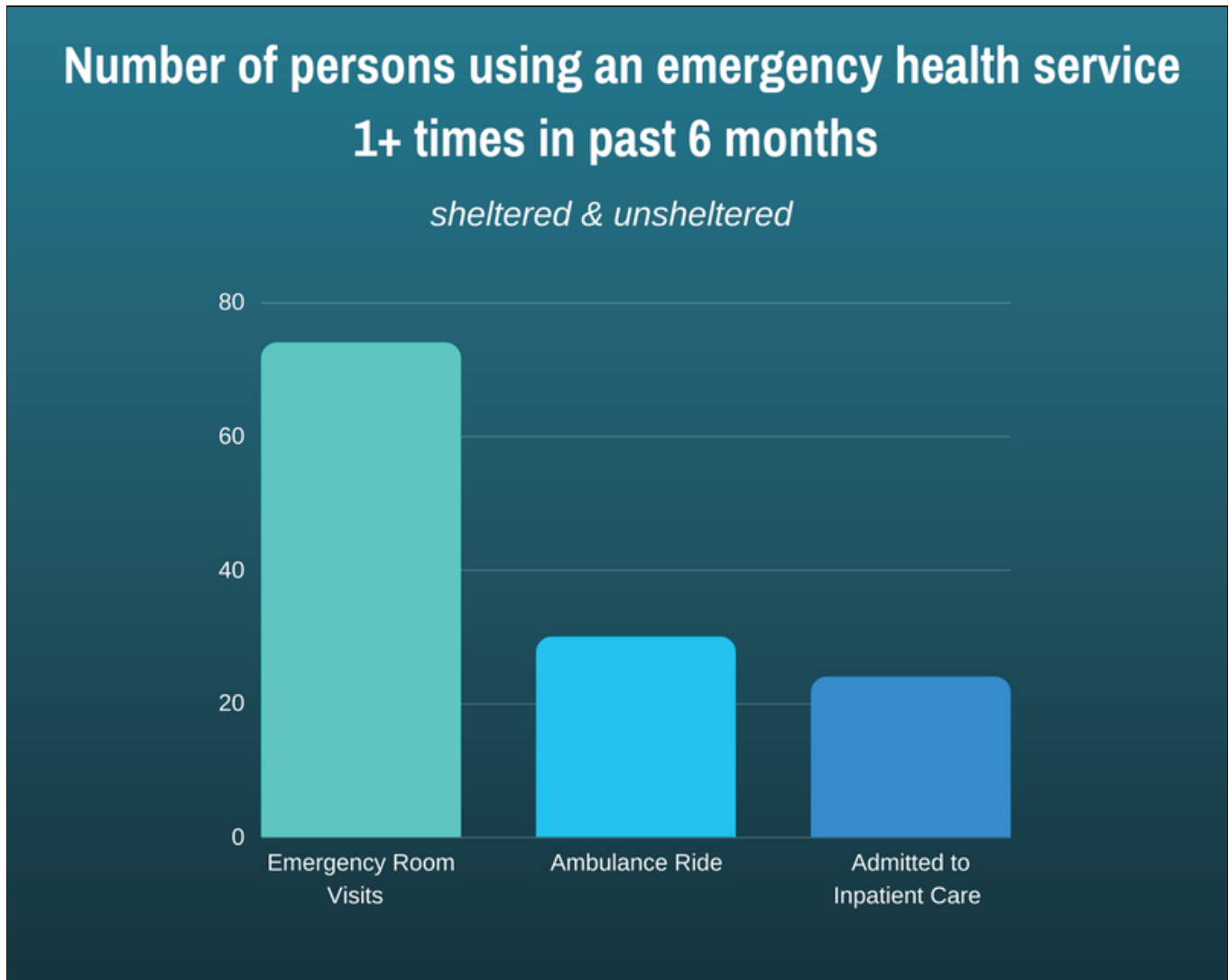
The chart to the right shows the number of unsheltered persons who reported serving in the U.S. military (17%), while 83% did not serve.

The number of "yes" responses has increased by 5 percentage points from last year, though this year, surveys with no responses for this answer were not counted in this data point.



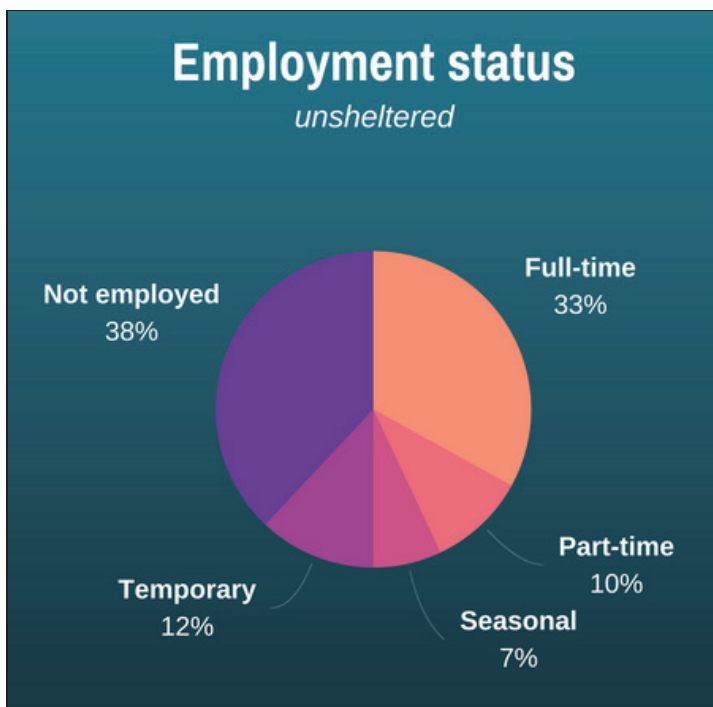
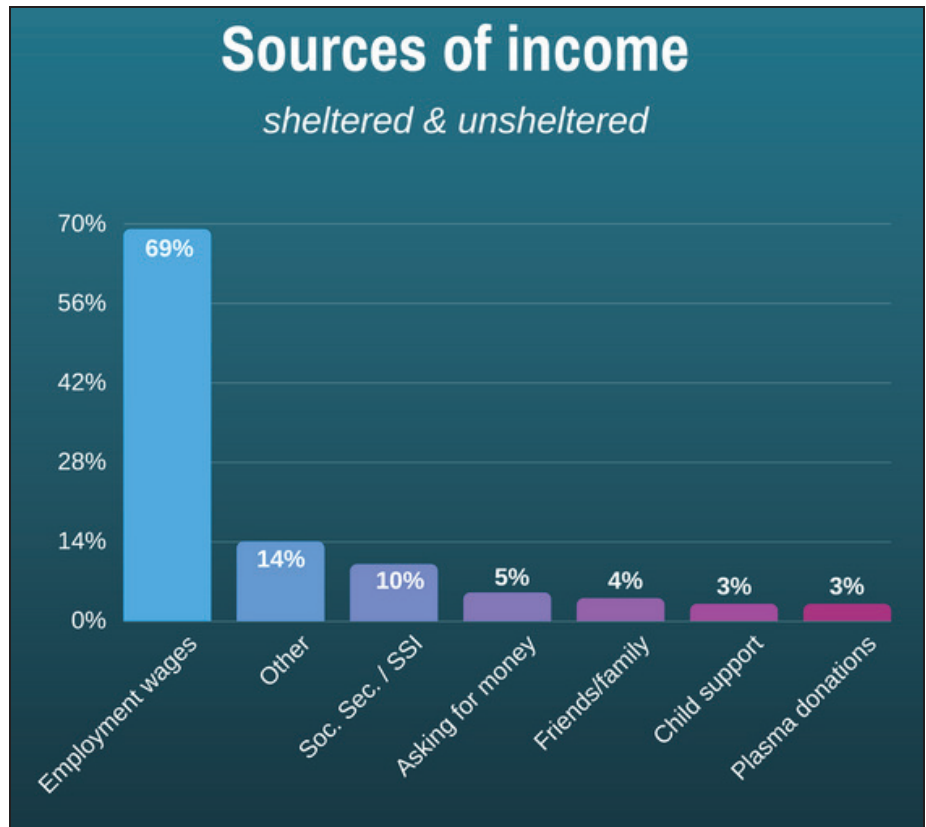
Health Care

The chart below depicts the number of persons, both sheltered and unsheltered, who reported using one of the following health services at least once in the past 6 months: Emergency room (74), ambulance ride (30), inpatient care (24).



Source of Income & Employment Status

The chart on the right shows the top 7 sources of income reported by both sheltered and unsheltered persons who responded to this question on the survey. Multiple responses were allowed. Therefore, the percentages represent the total number of people who selected each answer. 69% had income from a job, 10% had Social Security, SSI or SSDI (disability), 5% asked for money on the street, 4% received income from friends/family, 3% received child support, 3% donate blood or plasma and 14% had other income sources.

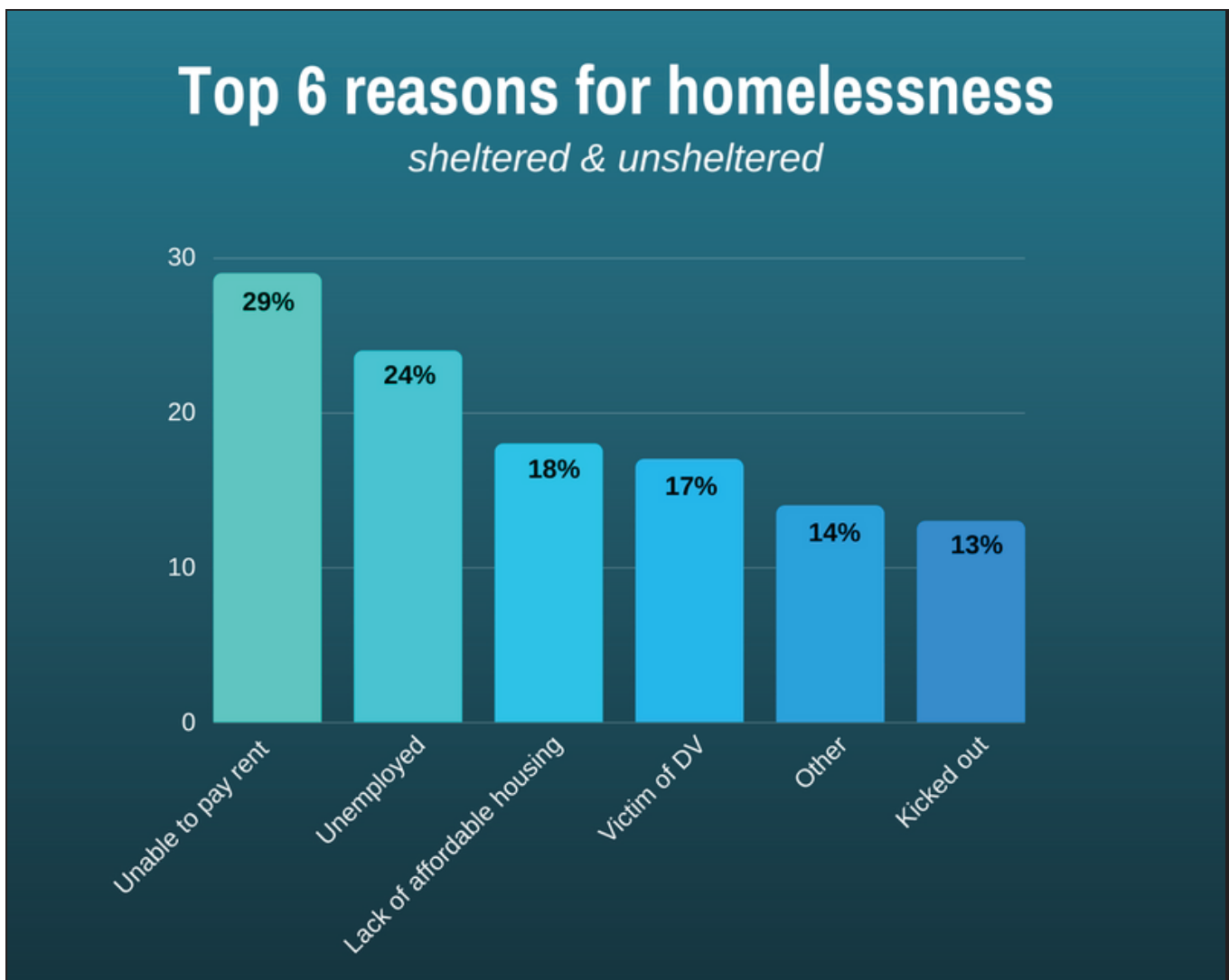


The chart on the left shows employment status of unsheltered persons. 38% reported they were not employed and 33% reported working full-time. The other responses regarding employment status were temporary (12%), part-time (10%) and seasonal (7%). This data reveals the majority (62%) of unsheltered persons surveyed are employed.

Top 6 Reasons for Homelessness

The chart below represents those who provided the underlying reason(s) for their homelessness on the survey. Multiple answers could be given on this question. Therefore, the percentages below represent the percentage of people who chose each individual answer. 29% of persons who answered this survey question selected unable to pay rent, followed by: unemployed (24%), lack of affordable housing (18%), victim of domestic violence (17%), other (14%), and kicked out of the house (13%).

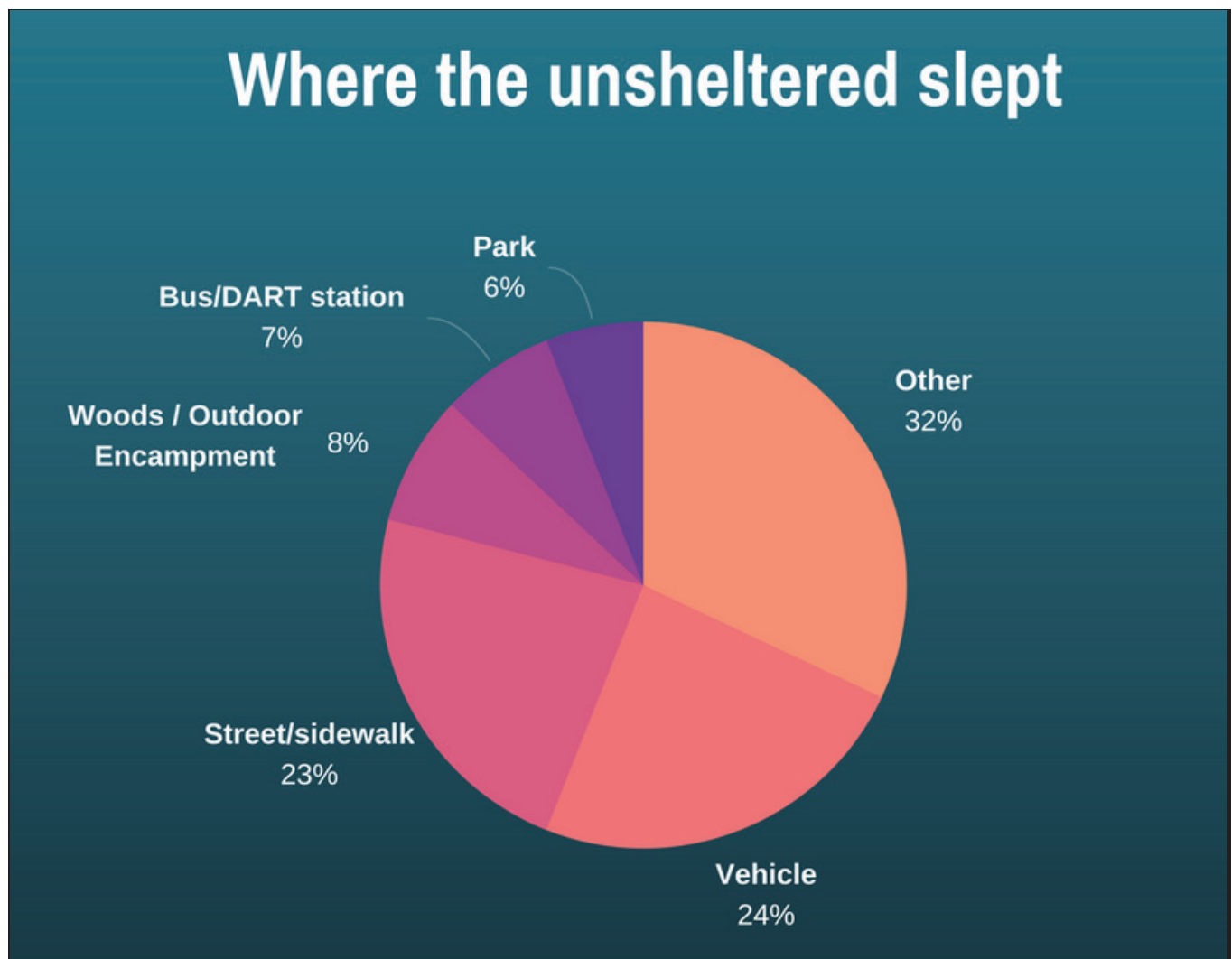
It is difficult to make accurate comparisons to last year's data for this question because the answer options on the survey were different. The top response last year was "Not enough money" which was not a choice this year's survey.



Where Unsheltered Persons Slept on the Night of the Survey

The chart below shows where unsheltered persons slept on the night of the survey. The top response was "other" (32%), followed by: vehicle (24%), street/sidewalk (23%), woods/outdoor encampment (8%), bus/DART station (7%) and park (6%). This year, hotel/motel was not a choice listed as an option for this category. Therefore, those that were living in a hotel/motel paid for by a church or agency are represented in the "other" category and make up the majority of that category.

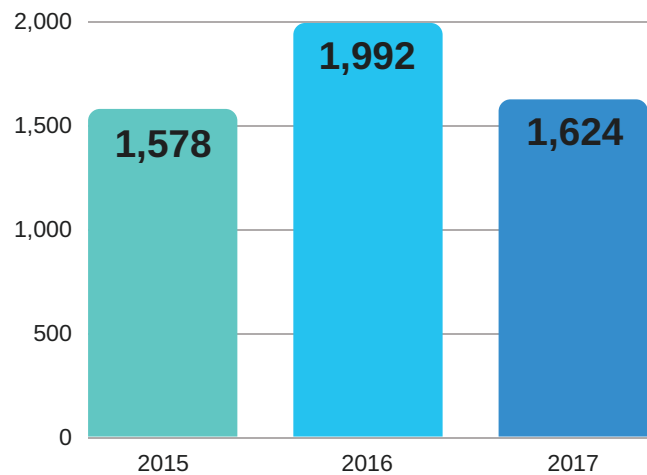
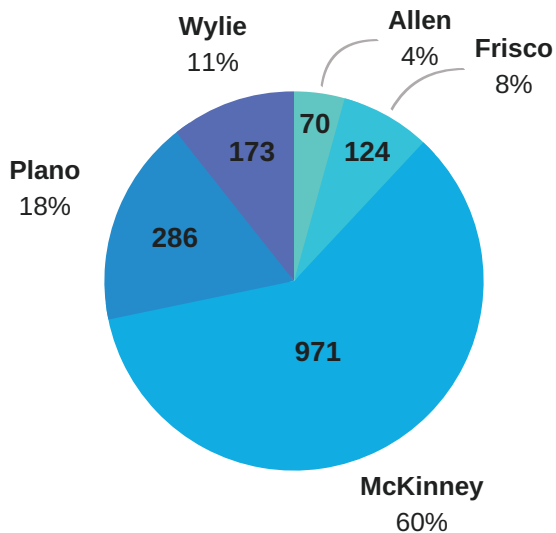
The most notable changes from 2016 to 2017 were as follows: The number of persons sleeping in their vehicle increased by 14 percentage points, the number of persons sleeping on the street or sidewalk increased by 8 percentage points, and the numbers of persons sleeping in the woods or outdoor encampments decreased by 5 percentage points.



Note: Though they are sheltered on the night of the survey, persons staying in a hotel/motel paid for by a church or agency are reported in the unsheltered category to maintain consistency with previous year's reports.

School District Data

The total number of students identified as experiencing homelessness in five Collin County school districts on January 26, 2017 was **1,624**. The five independent school districts include: Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie. When comparing the four school districts that reported last year (Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie), the total number of students identified as experiencing homelessness decreased by 438 students or 22%. With the addition of Allen, the total number of students identified decreased by 368 students or 18% when compared to last year. McKinney and Plano saw decreases in the number of homeless students this year, while Frisco and Wylie saw increases. The chart on the left shows the number of students from each ISD identified as experiencing homelessness. The chart on the right shows the total number of students identified over the last 3 years.



As noted in the Executive Summary, the school districts use the following U.S. Department of Education definition of students experiencing homelessness as worded in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, Section 725:



"...individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and (B) includes —
 (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
 (ii) children and youths who 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 (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
 (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii)."

Methodology

Similar to the ten-year federal government census, the Annual Homeless Census gathers current detailed and situational information on persons experiencing homelessness.

This year the Homeless Census was conducted using two methods:

- (1) Survey - All unsheltered persons and the most shelter residents completed a survey
- (2) Secondary Data - Demographic data only was submitted for selected shelter and transitional housing programs

Survey of Unsheltered Persons

Community volunteers, through the organizational efforts of city staff, local churches and nonprofits, assisted a total of one hundred sixty (160) persons in completing the surveys. Searches were conducted in the following cities: Allen, Fairview, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie. This also the first year that a rural team searched other areas of Collin County which resulted in one survey conducted in Anna, TX.

The surveys were completed by persons residing in a number of places including: outside, in homeless shelters and transitional living homes, in hotels paid for by faith communities and vehicles. The survey data was then entered into the software program Access by volunteers, analyzed by staff, and made available in report form.

Data of Sheltered Persons

Surveys were submitted on the lives of 240 persons experiencing homelessness that were sheltered in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs. Additionally, some programs provided demographic data only on another 43 persons residing in their programs. The organizations providing this information include:

- Agape Resource & Assistance Center
- The Bella House
- City House
- Emily's Place
- Family Promise of Collin County
- Hope's Door
- The Samaritan Inn
- Shiloh Place
- Texas Muslim Women's Foundation

Acknowledgments

The Collin County Homeless Coalition would like to acknowledge the following participants and supporters of the 2017 Homeless Census including service providers, Collin College, cities, school districts, civic groups, advocates, businesses and faith communities.

Service Provider Participants

Agape Resource & Assistance Center: www.hope4agape.org

Assistance Center of Collin County: www.assistancecenter.org

The Bella House: www.bellahouse.org

City House: www.cityhouse.org

Collin County Community Health Center: www.collincountyadultclinic.org

Emily's Place: www.emilysplacetx.org

Family Promise of Collin County: www.familypromiseofcollincounty.org

Hope's Door New Beginning Center: www.hdnbc.org

The Salvation Army: www.salvationarmydfw.org

The Samaritan Inn: www.thesamaritaninn.org

Shiloh Place: www.shilohplacemckinney.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society: www.svdpdallas.org

Texas Muslim Women's Foundation: www.tmwf.org

Veteran's Center of North Texas: www.vcont.org

School Districts

Allen Independent School District

Frisco Independent School District

McKinney Independent School District

Plano Independent School District

Wylie Independent School District

City of Allen

Erin Jones, City of Allen, Senior Planner

Allen Police Department

Chuck Williams, Veterans Center of North Texas

Patti Whynot, Junior League of Collin County

Town of Fairview

Paul Hendricks, Town of Fairview Council Member

Fairview Police Department

City of Frisco

Rebecca Barton, City of Frisco, Housing Coordinator
Jennifer Hundt, City of Frisco, Assistant Finance Director
Terri Brown, City of Frisco, Rehabilitation Specialist
Frisco Police Department and Citizens on Patrol
Junior League of Collin County
Preston Trail Community Church
Grace Avenue United Methodist Church
Community Volunteers

City of McKinney

Becky Salinas, City of McKinney, Housing Services Coordinator
Dana Riley, Volunteer McKinney, Executive Director
Jim Smith, 3E McKinney, Executive Director
City of McKinney Police Department- Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) Unit
City of McKinney Fire Department- Community Healthcare Program
Vintage Church
Collin College
Independent Bank
Community Volunteers

City of Plano

Natalie Evans, City of Plano, Grants Analyst
Richard Grady, City of Plano Council Member
Cara Mendelsohn, Community Advocate
City of Plano Police Department
City of Plano Citizens Academy
City of Plano Day Labor Center
City of Plano Jail
Custer Road United Methodist Church Junior
League of Collin County
Preston Meadow Lutheran Church
Texas Health Resources
Community Volunteers

City of Wylie

Ginger Shocklee, The Bridge Connection
Mary Warkentine, Wylie Christian Care Center
Jon Bailey, First Baptist Church Wylie

Angie McIntosh, Wylie Police Department
First Baptist Church Benevolence
Wylie Evening Lions Club
Wylie Christian Care
Wylie Police Department
St. Anthony Catholic Church

Rural Count

Collin County Sheriff's Department

Report Volunteers

Ron Johnson, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Rich Holmer, St. Vincent de Paul Society


Leadership Team – Collin County Homeless Coalition

Stacy Brown, City of Frisco, Housing and Grants Manager
Shanette Brown, City of Plano, Housing and Community Services Manager
Terry Hockenbrough, Collin College, Director for the Center of Scholarly and Civic Engagement
Luisa Melgarejo, City of Allen, Community Integrity Planner
Ronni Fetzer, St. Vincent de Paul Society
LaShon Ross, Community Advocate
James Thomas, Plano Independent School District, Homeless Liaison
Mary Alice Garza, First United Methodist Church of Plano
Christopher Green, The Point, Executive Director
PJ Holland-Rasor, Community Advocate
Rebecca Salinas, City of McKinney, Housing Services Coordinator
Shirletta Best, City of McKinney, Community Services Administrator
Christine Ortega, Preston Trail Community Church, Community Outreach Director

Collin County Homeless Coalition

The Collin County Homeless Coalition founded in 2004 is a community organization consisting of cities (Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie), School Districts, Collin College, Homeless Service Providers, Businesses, Advocates, and Faith Communities working together to provide solutions to homelessness in Collin County through:

1. Increasing Awareness of Homelessness
2. Coordinating Advocacy for the Homeless Issue
3. Facilitating Information to the Community
4. Empowering Collaborative Programs and Services

 www.facebook/collinhomeless

