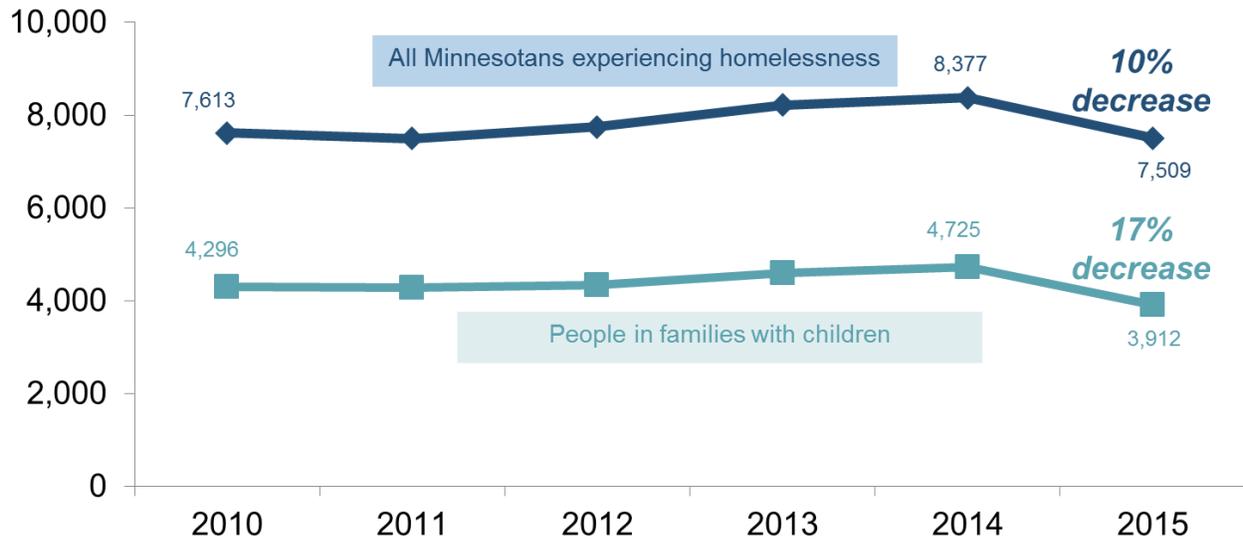




Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

2015 Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness



During the 2015 Point-in-Time (PIT) count, 7,509 Minnesotans experiencing homelessness were identified on January 22, 2015. **This represents a 10 percent decrease since January 2014 and the first decrease since 2011.**

Families

The overall decrease was largely driven by a decrease in homelessness among families with children. **Homelessness among families dropped by 17 percent** from 4,725 people in families in 2014 to 3,912 people in families in 2015.

Veteran Homelessness

Homelessness among Veterans also continues to decline, with a 50 percent decrease since 2010. Only 14 Veterans remained unsheltered in the Metro area on the night of the count, accounting for 7 percent of all Veterans experiencing homelessness, down from 13 percent. When identified through the Point-in-Time count, Veterans were connected with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs' Homeless Veteran Registry, which ensures appropriate follow-up for services and housing.

Unsheltered Homelessness

Unfortunately, not all areas of the count decreased. A total of 842 people were identified in unsheltered locations: living outdoors, in vehicles, or in places not meant for habitation. **Unsheltered homelessness increased by nearly 6 percent since 2014.** Better counting contributed to the increase, especially in Greater Minnesota through efforts to count people who could not be interviewed directly.

Youth Homelessness

For purposes of the PIT count, youth experiencing homelessness includes only people under age 25 who experience homelessness *without* a parent, guardian, or other adult age 25 or older. (Young people facing homelessness with their parents, guardians or other adults are included in the count of people in families experiencing homelessness.)

- **A total of 942 youth experiencing homelessness under age 25 were identified in this year's count, including 145 minors** (under age 18) who were homeless without a parent, guardian, or other adult.
- Of the total youth population, 676 were homeless without children and 266 were parenting children of their own, including 12 homeless parenting minors. Parenting youth had a total of 366 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.

The count identified an increase of 27 percent of people experiencing chronic homelessness in Minnesota, up from 885 people in 2014 to 1,124 people this year. People experiencing chronic homelessness typically need the highest level of support to successfully end their homelessness. In 2014, the legislature approved \$80 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds that will continue our effort and build an additional 689 affordable housing units, including 325 for long-term homeless households. The services attached to these housing opportunities also help reduce the social costs of homelessness by keeping residents out of emergency rooms, shelters and the corrections system.

These results over a single year show that ending homelessness is possible and 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.

The 2015 PIT count included many improvements designed to make the numbers more reliable and the methodology more consistent, including new statewide survey tools, improvements in how Veterans were identified, consistent training for volunteers, and using data from the Homeless Management Information System. These changes make the count more accurate and reliable, and helped identify people who would not have been counted in previous years.