

# 2014 Homeless Point in Time Count

The annual homeless count is required to receive government funding for homeless programs. It helps us to determine how many people are homeless, what kind of people are homeless (single people, families with children, etc.), whether we have enough beds for each type of homeless person, and what to request from the government to assist us in helping people move into stable housing. This year, the homeless count was conducted on January 30, 2014.

## 249 total homeless individuals

Unsheltered: 87 (35%)

Sheltered: 162 (65%)

Chronically Homeless (HUD definition): 44 (18%)

Adults (≥18): 219 (88% of 250)

Children (<18): 30 (12%)

Adult Females: 101 (46%)

Adult Males: 118 (54%)

Adult Transgendered<sup>1</sup>: 0

## Where are people sheltered?

- Salvation Army: 40 (25% of 162)
- Bigger Vision: 37 (23%)
- Advantage Women's Services: 22 (13%)
- Project Safe: 18 (11%)
- Athens Area Homeless Shelter: 20 (12%)
- Interfaith: 9 (6%)
- AIDS Athens Hotel voucher: 16 (10%)

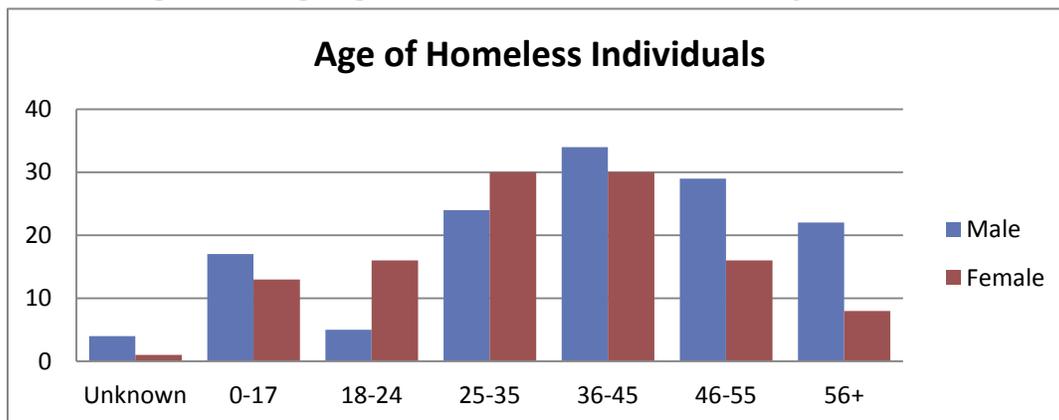
## Characteristics:

- Mentally Ill: 109 (44%)
- Substance Abuse: 79 (32%)
- Veterans: 15 (6%)
- Survivor of Domestic Violence: 69 (28%)
- Physical Disabilities: 97 (39%)
- Homeless persons with children: 15 (8%)
- Homeless individuals facing *at least one* identified or self-identified challenge of mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, or physical disability: 184 of 249 (74%)

## Where are unsheltered people living?

Campsites, on the streets, abandoned buildings, cars, trucks

### Age...Ranging from 1 month old – 71 years old



<sup>1</sup> There were no sheltered or unsheltered transgendered individuals counted in 2014. However there are transgendered individuals staying in Permanent Supportive Housing who will be counted in the annual Housing Inventory Chartt

## FAQ:

### Do we have a high rate of homelessness in Athens?

Our MSA has a pop of 120,266 of which 249 are homeless. That's a rate of 21 homeless people per 10,000.

According to the last national homeless report, this is equal to the national average of 21/10,000 and equal to the MSA average of 22/10,000. By comparison, Atlanta, with a population of 5,475,213 counted 7,175 homeless people during their count in 2012. That's a rate of 13/10,000.

### How does our chronic homelessness compare to the rest of the country?

18% of those experiencing homelessness in Athens are identified as chronically homeless by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition.

This rate is slightly higher than the most recent national rate (2012) which showed that 15.8 percent of all people experiencing homelessness nationwide were identified as chronically homeless by the HUD definition. A chronically homeless person is defined by HUD as "either an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years."

If the requirements to be unaccompanied and to have a disabling condition are removed from the definition, then 27% of those experiencing homeless in Athens are individuals who have been continuously homeless for a year or more or who have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

### How does this year's count compare with last year's count?

#### Total number of people

2013: 214

2014: 249

**16% more**

#### Unsheltered people

2013: 95

2014: 87

**8% less**

### What are some possible explanations for changes over the past year?

Weather played a big role in our count this year. The day before the count was the first "snowpocalypse" we experienced this year. It was the same storm that stranded Atlanta drivers on I-85 for hours and made national headlines. Weather that harsh could have forced people who would otherwise be on the street into the shelters, or away from usual locations and routines. Can you think of any other reasons why the count was as high for sheltered and as low for unsheltered this year?

### How can I get involved?

- To learn more about homelessness, visit: [nationalhomeless.org](http://nationalhomeless.org), [endhomeless.org](http://endhomeless.org), or [familyhomelessness.org](http://familyhomelessness.org)
- To volunteer, donate, and get involved, visit: [handsonnortheastgeorgia.org](http://handsonnortheastgeorgia.org)