Homelessness in Tulsa

Single Year Data 2018
Single Night Data 01.24.19

Community Service Council
Improving Oklahomans' Lives Through Research, Planning & Action
In 2018, Community Service Council produced the first Homelessness in Tulsa data report to illustrate the staggering number of Oklahomans facing homelessness in our community, to heighten sensitivity to the increasingly diverse and complex face of homelessness, and to ignite a momentum focused on affordable and available housing as the solution to ending homelessness. Now in our second year of researching, analyzing and publishing this data set, we have added an online element to its presentation, choosing to publish the printed report in an abbreviated format and directing the community to interactive dashboards now available at csctulsa.org/homelessness-data for a deeper, more detailed exploration of the data.

Despite Tulsa’s recent improved collaboration, data integration and use of evidence-based and innovative practices, and scaling up programming for rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing, this report shows we saw a 9.7% increase in homelessness in 2019 over 2018, and an approximate 7% increase in those experiencing homelessness over the last 10 years.

As we’ve learned through the Community Service Council’s homelessness programs and through the work of our tireless partners, who are also on the frontline helping those in need, homelessness is a multi-layer issue that is very difficult to solve. Even as we house people, other people become homeless. More individuals are entering the homeless system than exiting. We can only begin to reduce homelessness when the inflow of those experiencing homelessness is less than the outflow of those finding a safe and stable place to call home. Yet, with 48% of renters in Tulsa stating it is difficult or very difficult to find affordable housing,\(^1\) and the fact that Tulsa has the 11th highest eviction rate in the nation at nearly 8% of renters,\(^2\) we know the issue is more than a shelter problem - it’s a housing problem. This understanding is a start, but there is more to it than housing - there are underlying systemic issues that will take a community working together to solve.

That is why in 2019, the Community Service Council, through the guidance and support of The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, engaged a national consultant to lead Tulsa through a community-wide strategic planning process to reduce and stabilize vulnerable populations already, or in danger of, experiencing homelessness. This work will build a system that prevents homelessness, responds to crises compassionately and with high-quality services, and dramatically reduces the length of time anyone in Tulsa experiences homelessness. The plan will align with and build on existing local and state efforts, drawing on Tulsa’s unique qualities and values.

We know there is much work ahead of us, and in the spirit of transparency, it is our hope that this data set serves as a guide to increase awareness of the scope of the issue in Tulsa, spark dialogue and mobilization around community-led solutions, and cultivate a shared vision that together as Tulsans, we can make homelessness rare, brief and non-reoccurring.
METHODOLOGY

Data presented in this report are based on aggregate information submitted by many of Tulsa’s homeless service providers. There are three sets of aggregate data highlighted in this report:

A SINGLE YEAR

Homelessness Management Information System data provide the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness at any time during the year based on services provided through emergency shelter, transitional housing and safe haven facilities.

A SINGLE NIGHT

“Point-in-time” or “PIT” data provide the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness and unsheltered homelessness on a single night during the year, in this case, January 24, 2019. This is completed as a mandate from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

YOUTH-SPECIFIC COUNT

The count utilized a survey conducted throughout March 2019 of homeless youth at youth provider sites, libraries, school focus-groups, other known locations for unsheltered youth, and more. The survey instrument contains basic demographics required for reporting to HUD as well as more in-depth questions.

THE DATA

A SINGLE YEAR DATA

People in Tulsa experiencing sheltered homelessness in 2018.

- 30% reporting physical disability
- 3% Transgender
- 1% Unknown
- 65% Male
- 29% African American
- 55% Caucasian
- 12% Native American
- 1% Pacific Islander
- 1% Other or Multi-Racial
- 0% Transgender
- 1% Unknown
- 65% Male
- 34% Female
- 7% veterans

Number of individuals & families residing in Tulsa County emergency shelters & transitional housing programs between October 2017-September 2018.

Age

More at csctulsa.org/homelessness-data
The Tulsa Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness on a single night - January 24, 2019. The following PIT data are based upon self-report gathered from 987 out of 1,188 individuals who agreed to be surveyed on this night. Throughout Oklahoma on a single night in 2018, 3,871 people were identified as experiencing homelessness. In Tulsa on a single night in 2019, 1,188 people were identified as experiencing homelessness.

**Total number survey respondents on January 24, 2019**

987

**Housing Situation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Individuals Surveyed</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Haven</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Housing</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**20% employed**

47% of those employed had full-time jobs

**6% Hispanic/Latinx**

**11% veterans**

**Race**

- 49%
- 21%
- 10%
- 6%
- 6%
- <1%
- 1%
- 14%
- 14%
- Multi-Racial
- Native American
- Caucasian
- Asian
- African American
- Pacific Islander
- Unknown

More at csctulsa.org/homelessness-data
Gender
- Male: 62%
- Female: 28%
- Transgender: 9%
- Gender Non-Conforming: 5%
- Unknown: <1%

Age
- 16 & Under: 131
- 17 - 24: 84
- 25 - 39: 188
- 40 - 50: 190
- 51 - 65: 263
- 66+: 38
- Unknown: 91

57% first became homeless in Tulsa County; 18% became homeless in Oklahoma outside of Tulsa County.

Of those reporting domestic violence, we asked: “Did domestic violence contribute to your current homelessness?”
- 24% reported domestic violence
- 62% Yes
- 31% No
- Unknown: 7%

Health Care Use & Cost
- Total Emergency Room Visits: 2,123
- Total Emergency Room Visits Cost: $2,250,380.00
- Total Hospital Admissions: 1,117
- Total Hospital Admissions Cost: $2,008,366.00

45% reported mental illness
33% reported physical disability
27% reported substance abuse

More at csctulsa.org/homelessness-data
In March 2019, A Way Home for Tulsa, coordinated by the Community Service Council, partnered with multiple local organizations to complete our first youth-specific count to help create strategies to serve youth experiencing a housing crisis in Tulsa.

**Housing Situation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Situation</th>
<th>Individuals Surveyed</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstably Housed</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housed</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Race**

- African American: 142 (60%)
- Asian: 6 (3%)
- Native American: 73 (31%)
- Caucasian: 17 (7%)
- Multi-Racial: 1 (1%)
- Unknown: 1 (1%)

**Sexual Orientation**

- Bisexual: 1 (1%)
- Gay or Lesbian: 7 (7%)
- Pansexual: 1 (1%)
- Questioning/I don't know: 2 (2%)
- Something else: 1 (1%)
- Straight (not gay or lesbian): 68 (68%)
- Unknown: 1 (1%)

**Sexual Identity**

- Boy/man: 1 (1%)
- Girl/woman: 7 (7%)
- Transgender, identify as a boy/man: 9 (9%)
- Transgender, identify as a girl/woman: 2 (2%)
- Genderqueer, Gender nonconforming: 1 (1%)
- Transgender and identify in some other way: 1 (1%)
- Unknown: 1 (1%)

**Number of Placements in the Last Three Months**

- Homeless: 1 (1%)
- Housed: 1 (1%)

More at csctulsa.org/homelessness-data
**Services Needed**

- Housing: 44%
- Transportation: 40%
- Food Services: 36%
- Employment: 30%
- Health Care: 24%
- Job Training: 23%
- Life Skills Training: 20%
- Mental Health Treatment: 16%
- Dental Services: 15%
- Optical Services: 12%
- Child Care: 12%
- Legal Services: 10%
- Payee Services: 8%
- Substance Abuse Treatment: 8%
- Education: 6%
- Prenatal Care: 5%
- LGBTQ+ Services: 4%
- Family Reunification: 4%
- Clothing: 3%
- Church: 3%
- Temporary/Seasonal: 2%
- Unknown: 2%

**School Attendance at time of survey**

- Yes: 63%
- No: 35%
- Unknown: 2%

**Last Grade Completed**

- 6th: 3%
- 7th: 6%
- 8th: 12%
- 9th: 16%
- 10th: 18%
- 11th: 39%
- 12th or Equivalent: 39%
- Associate’s: 1%
- Votec: 0%
- Unknown: 4%

**Employment**

- 31% employed
- Full-time: 42%
- Part-time: 53%
- Temporary/Seasonal: 5%

**Parenting or Pregnant**

- Individuals Surveyed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**History in juvenile detention or jail**

- No: 59%
- Yes: 39%
- Unknown: 2%

**Additional Statistics**

- 50% reported mental illness
- 13% reported physical disability
- 18% reported substance abuse
- 24% reported domestic violence
- 32% foster care involvement

More at csctulsa.org/homelessness-data
Thank you to the following for their partnership and commitment to helping those facing homelessness in Tulsa:

12 & 12  
City of Tulsa  
City Lights Foundation  
Counseling & Recovery Services  
DaySpring Villa  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Domestic Violence Intervention Services  
Family & Children’s Services  
Family Promise Tulsa County  
INCOG  
Iron Gate

John 3:16 Mission  
Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma  
Mental Health Association of Oklahoma  
Morton Comprehensive Health Services  
National Resource Center for Youth Services  
Oklahoma Department of Human Services  
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services  
Participant Advisory Group  
Restore Hope

Salvation Army Tulsa  
Surayya Anne Foundation  
Tulsa CARES  
Tulsa County Social Services  
Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless  
Tulsa Housing Authority  
Tulsa Police Department  
Volunteers of America  
Youth Action Board  
Youth Services of Tulsa