

Highlights of 2015 Homeless Census Point-in-Time Count for Louisiana – Region 9 Northlake Homeless Coalition

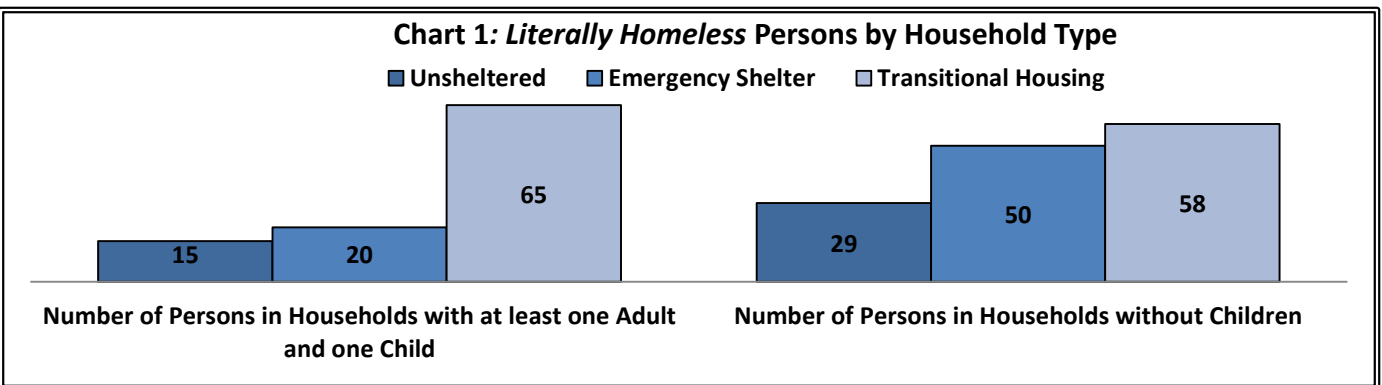
An annual count of the number of persons experiencing homelessness was conducted during the week of January 26th, 2015, wherein twenty-three partnering organizations of the Northlake Homeless Coalition surveyed persons within our community to identify those who are without permanent, stable housing on the night of Monday, January 26th. In conjunction with the 2015 statewide Homeless Census in Louisiana, Region Nine (9) counted two hundred forty-three (243) men, women, and children who were *literally homeless* in the parishes of Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a person as literally homeless only when he/she resides in:

- A place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, etc.
- An emergency shelter,
- Or a transitional housing program for persons who were unsheltered or residing in an emergency shelter prior to entering the program.

Table 1: 2015 Region 9 Homeless Census: Summary of *Literally Homeless* Adults and Children

Household Type	Unsheltered ¹	In Emergency Shelter ²	In Transitional Housing ³	Total Count
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	4	6	18	28 [17.0% of households]
Total Persons in Households	15	20	65	100 [41.2% of persons]
Number of Households without Children	29	50	58	137 [83.0% of households]
Total Persons in Households	35	50	58	143 [58.8% of persons]
Total Number of Households	33 [20.0%]	56 [33.9%]	76 [46.1%]	165 [100.0% of households]
Total Persons in Households	50 [20.6%]	70 [28.8%]	123 [50.6%]	243 [100.0% of persons]

Chart 1: *Literally Homeless* Persons by Household Type



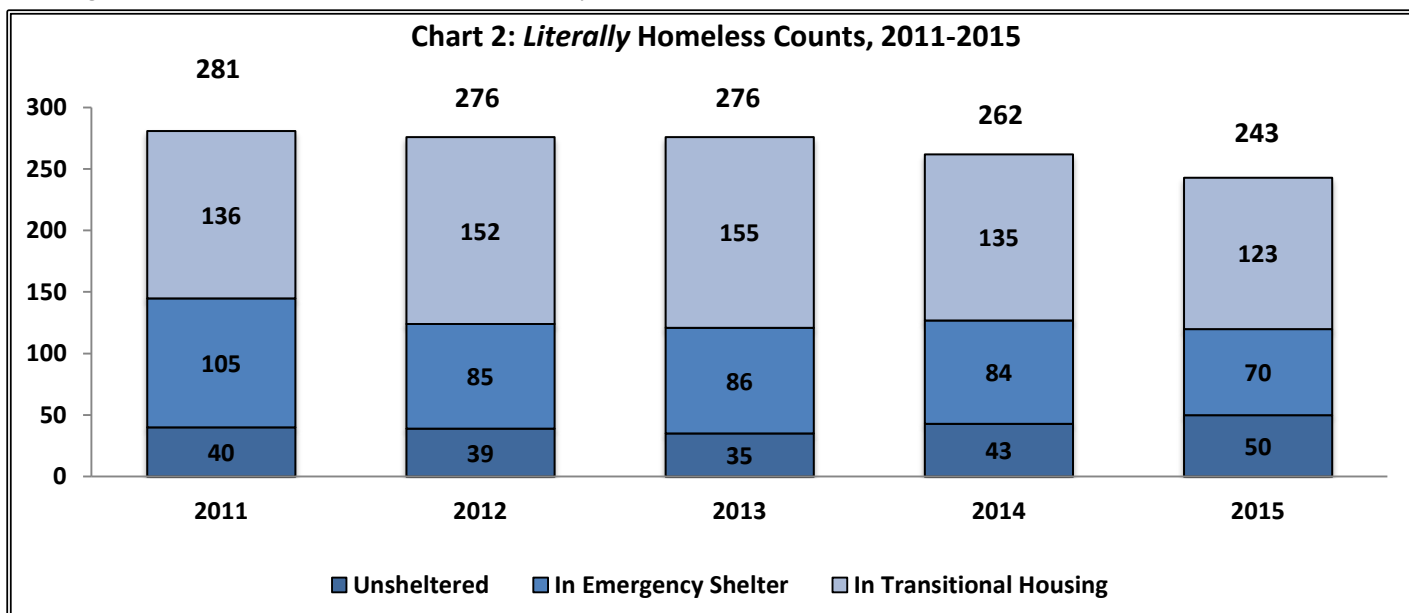
¹ Describes any location where a person may be residing that is not intended for human habitation; includes automobiles, wooded areas, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, barns, under bridges, etc.

² Emergency shelters provide a temporary places to stay for newcomers, travelers, people who are in crisis, or homeless individuals in the community

³ Transitional Housing for formerly homeless persons provide extended shelter stays and supportive services for homeless individuals and/or families with the goal of helping them live independently and transition into permanent housing; stays are generally longer than two weeks but typically 60 days or more and, in many cases, up to two years or more; may be configured for specialized groups within the homeless population such as people with substance abuse problems, homeless mentally ill, homeless domestic violence victims, veterans or homeless people with AIDS/HIV.

Why the Homeless Census Matters: Data derived from the Homeless Census provides the community partners of the Northlake Homeless Coalition with a critical “snapshot” of homelessness and the services that are in place to respond. This information is imperative to better understand how homelessness is changing, to inform the public at large, and to measure our progress towards preventing and ending homelessness. Single points in time also allow for communities to concentrate efforts for consistent data collection and integration from all service providers within the catchment area.

I. Populations Data: The total number of persons who were identified as literally homeless on the night of the 2015 Homeless Census was a slight decrease of seven percent (7%) from the 2014 count. Since 2011, we have seen a 14% decrease in the number of persons identified as experiencing literal homelessness. Of note, the reductions are visible in the number of persons in sheltered conditions, specifically with a 10% reduction in the number of persons in Transitional Housing for homeless persons and a 33% reduction in the number of persons in Emergency Shelters. Known factors in the most recent decreases are reflective of the temporary closure of a 13 bed emergency shelter and the change in program type for a Transitional Housing project. It is also important to recognize that the number of persons who were identified as residing in unsheltered conditions has increased by 25% since 2011.



II. Subpopulations Data: In addition to identifying the total number of persons who were experiencing literal homelessness on the night of January 26th, survey participants were asked questions that allowed for identifying the number of persons that can be defined as members of special populations, or sub-populations, as stated by HUD. Areas of interest include certain long-term disabling health conditions, chronic homelessness, Veterans of the United States Military, and persons fleeing domestic violence.

Specific findings of interest include,

- The number of chronically homeless individuals and families has remained relatively consistent over the past several counts, with approximately one out of every five adults being identified as chronically homeless.
- The number of veterans is approximately one-fourth of all adults identified as literally homeless, with all but one respondent residing in a sheltered condition.
- Twenty percent (20%) of adult participants identified as having experienced episodes of domestic violence, including seven of the respondents who were in unsheltered at the time of participation.
- Twenty-one adults and children were residing in Youth Only Households, wherein everyone in the household is under the age of 25. This includes unaccompanied young adults (18-24) and parenting youth. They comprised about 9% of the total population.
- Approximately 1 out of 3 participants self-identified as having a severe and persistent mental health condition, more than one quarter self-identified as having a substance use disorder, and four percent (4%) identified as having been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

Table 2: Counts of Literally Homeless Adults by Subpopulations - 2015

Subpopulation	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Subpopulation Count	Total Population	Percentage of Total Population
Chronically Homeless Individuals ⁴	8	24	32	143 Individual Adults	22.4%
Chronically Homeless (CH) Families	0	1	1	28 Families	3.6%
Persons in CH Families	0	4	4	100 Adults and Children in Families	4.0%
Individual Veterans	1	38	39	143 Individual Adults	27.5%
Veterans in Families	0	1	1	28 Families	3.6%
Persons in Veteran Families	0	5	5	100 Adults and Children in Families	5.0%
Victims of Domestic Violence	7	28	35	174 Adults	20.1%
Persons with Long-term Disabilities/Chronic Health Conditions					
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	17	44	61	174 Adults	35.1%
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	10	40	50	174 Adults	28.7%
Adults with HIV/AIDS	0	6	6	174 Adults	3.4%

Chart 3: Literally Homeless Persons by Subpopulation, 2011-2015

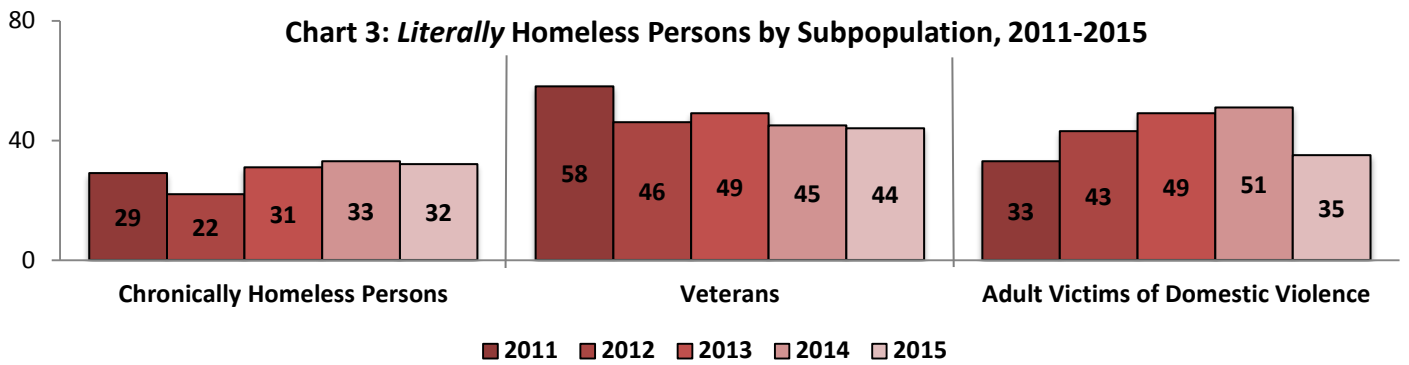
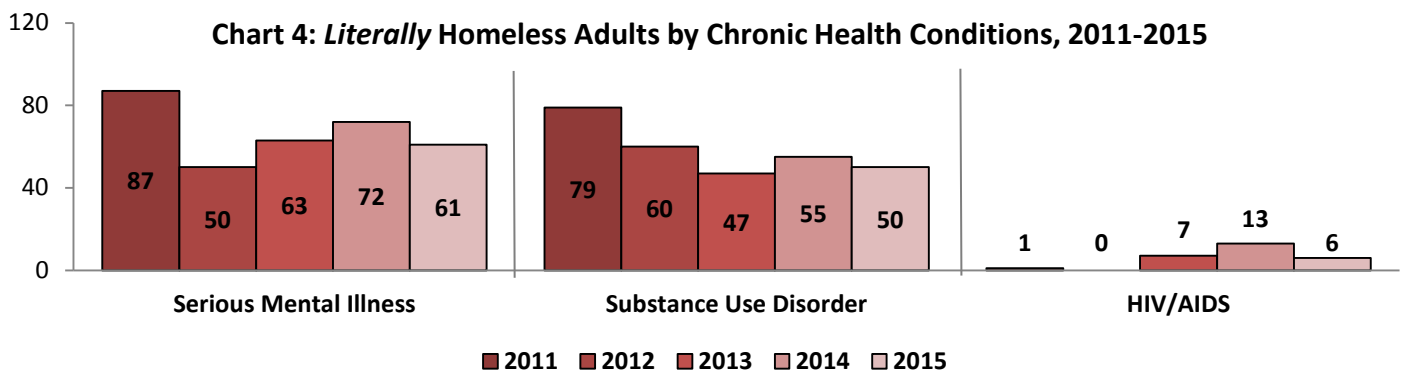


Chart 4: Literally Homeless Adults by Chronic Health Conditions, 2011-2015



⁴ An individual or adult family member who has a long-term disabling condition, and has been homeless in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation for more than one year or at least four times in the past three years.

III. Participating Organizations: Twenty-three human service agencies participated in the 2015 Census by directly surveying persons seeking/accessing their assistance, or welcoming volunteers to conduct interviews with their consumers, during the week of the Count. These service providers included emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, feeding programs, motel voucher programs, and Permanent Supportive Housing programs.

Table 3: 2015 Homeless Census Participating Organizations

Organization Name and Location	Parish of Survey Respondent				
	Livingston	St. Helena	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa	Washington
Catholic Charities Northshore, Covington			X		
Community Christian Concern, Slidell			X		
Covington Food Bank, Covington			X		
Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, Multiple			X	X	X
Freedom Worship Ministry, Slidell			X		
Good Samaritan Ministry, Slidell			X		
HP Serve, Baton Rouge				X	
House of Serenity, Ponchatoula				X	
Louisiana Housing Corporation – S+C	X		X	X	X
Miramonte Center (CCC), Slidell			X		
Mount Olive Feeding Ministry			X		
NAMI St. Tammany			X		
Quad VETS, Hammond				X	
Inspirations, Our Brother’s Keeper				X	
Safe Harbor, Mandeville			X		
Samaritan Center, Mandeville			X		
SAFE, Hammond	X			X	X
Southeastern Louisiana University			X	X	
St. Tammany Parish CAA, Slidell			X		
Successful Transitions Program, Hammond				X	
Trumpet of Truth, Slidell			X		
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Multiple			X	X	
Volunteers of America GNO, Multiple	X		X	X	X

IV. Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Utilization on Night of Homeless Census: A component of the Homeless Census is the enumeration of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing stock by provider and the number of beds being utilized on the night of January 26th, 2015. The following table details the number of beds and units of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing that comprise the housing inventory for the region, as of the Census date, and the respective rates of occupancy.

Table 4: 2015 Housing Inventory of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Beds

Housing/Program Type	Parish	Populations Served	Households with Children		Households without Children # of Beds	Total # of Beds	# of Beds Occupied	Utilization Rate
			# of Units	# of Beds				
Emergency Shelter Beds and Units: Total			8	33	64	97	70	72.2%
House of Serenity	Tangipahoa	W, M, FAM	1	3	28	31	24	77.4%
SAFE (formerly SSAP)— Emergency Shelter for DV	Tangipahoa	W+C / DV	2	7	0	7	2	28.6%
Safe Harbor – Emergency Shelter for DV	St. Tammany	W, W+C / DV	3	18	2	20	8	40.0%
Samaritan Center – Motel Vouchers	St. Tammany	W, M, FAM	2	5	0	5	5	100.0%
Timothy Trumpet of Truth	St. Tammany	M / SA	0	0	34	34	31	91.2%
Transitional Housing Beds & Units: Total			27	98	67	167	123	73.7%
Hammond Housing Authority— Successful Transitions Program	Tangipahoa	W+C, M+C, FAM	11	44	0	44	39	88.6%
Miramonte Center – Community Christian Concern	St. Tammany	M	0	0	12	12	9	75.0%
NAMI — Wren Way Group Home	St. Tammany	W, M / SMI	0	0	12	12	9	75.0%
Quad Area CAA--Dorm- Quad VETS	Tangipahoa	M / VET	0	0	27	27	25	92.6%
Quad Area CAA--House - Quad VETS	Tangipahoa	M / VET	0	0	7	7	7	100.0%
SAFE --Transitional Housing for DV	Livingston	W+C / DV	6	21	2	23	16	70.0%
SAFE -- Transitional Housing for DV	Tangipahoa	W+C / DV	7	23	2	25	2	8.0%
SAFE -- Transitional Housing for DV	Washington	W+C / DV	2	7	0	7	6	85.7%
Freedom Worship Ministry	St. Tammany	M	0	0	4	4	4	100.0%
Volunteers of America, GNO— Transitional Housing for HIV/AIDS	Livingston	M, W, FAM / HIV	0	0	1	1	1	100.0%
Volunteers of America, GNO— Transitional Housing for HIV/AIDS	Tangipahoa	M, W, FAM / HIV	1	3	2	5	5	100.0%
Grand Total of All Beds & Units			35	131	133	264	193	73.1%
<p>Populations Served Key = W: Adult Women; M: Adult Men; C: Children; FAM: Families; Subpopulations Served Key = DV: Domestic Violence Victims; VET: US Military Veterans; SMI = Severe Mental Illness; SA = Substance Abuse; HIV: HIV/AIDS Diagnoses</p>								

V. Counts by Parish: The following series of charts exhibits the number of persons identified as literally homeless, with the counts organized by the parishes where respondents resided during the night of the 2015 Homeless Census. The five parishes that comprise the NHC's Continuum of Care are Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington. Please note that no persons were identified as literally homeless in St. Helena Parish during the Count.

Household Type	In Emergency		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	0	0	5	5
Total Persons in Households	0	0	15	15
Number of Households without Children	0	0	2	2
Total Persons in Households	0	0	2	2
Total Number of Households	0	0	7	7
Total Persons in Households	0	0	17	17

Household Type	In Emergency		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	0	0	0	0
Total Persons in Households	0	0	0	0
Number of Households without Children	0	0	0	0
Total Persons in Households	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Households	0	0	0	0
Total Persons in Households	0	0	0	0

Household Type	In Emergency		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	4	3	0	7
Total Persons in Households	15	11	0	26
Number of Households without Children	13	33	22	68
Total Persons in Households	18	33	22	73
Total Number of Households	17	36	22	75
Total Persons in Households	33	44	22	99

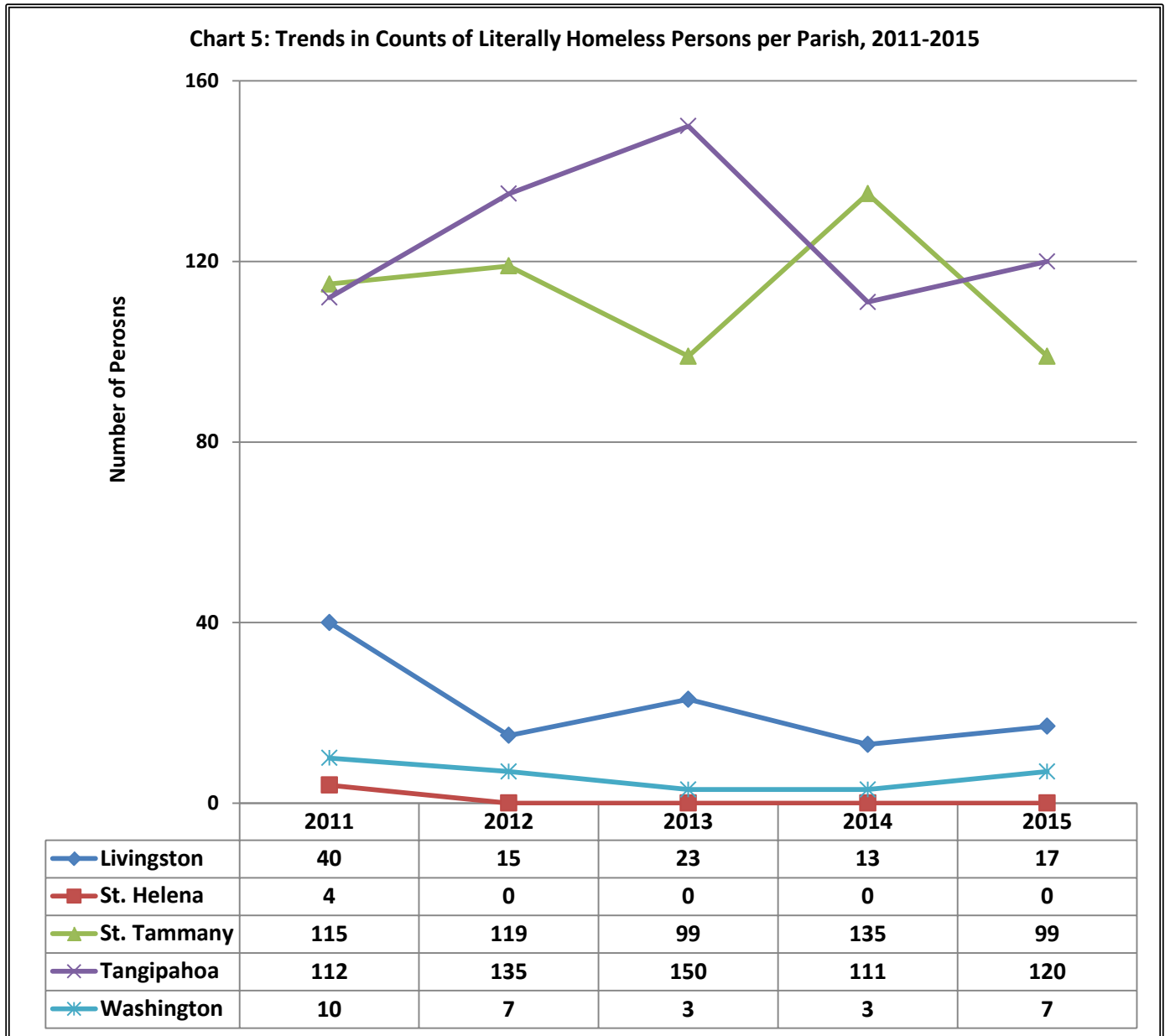
Household Type	In Emergency		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	0	3	12	15
Total Persons in Households	0	9	44	53
Number of Households without Children	15	17	34	66
Total Persons in Households	16	17	34	67
Total Number of Households	15	20	46	81
Total Persons in Households	16	26	78	120

Household Type	In Emergency		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	0	0	1	1
Total Persons in Households	0	0	6	6
Number of Households without Children	1	0	0	1
Total Persons in Households	1	0	0	1
Total Number of Households	1	0	1	2
Total Persons in Households	1	0	6	7

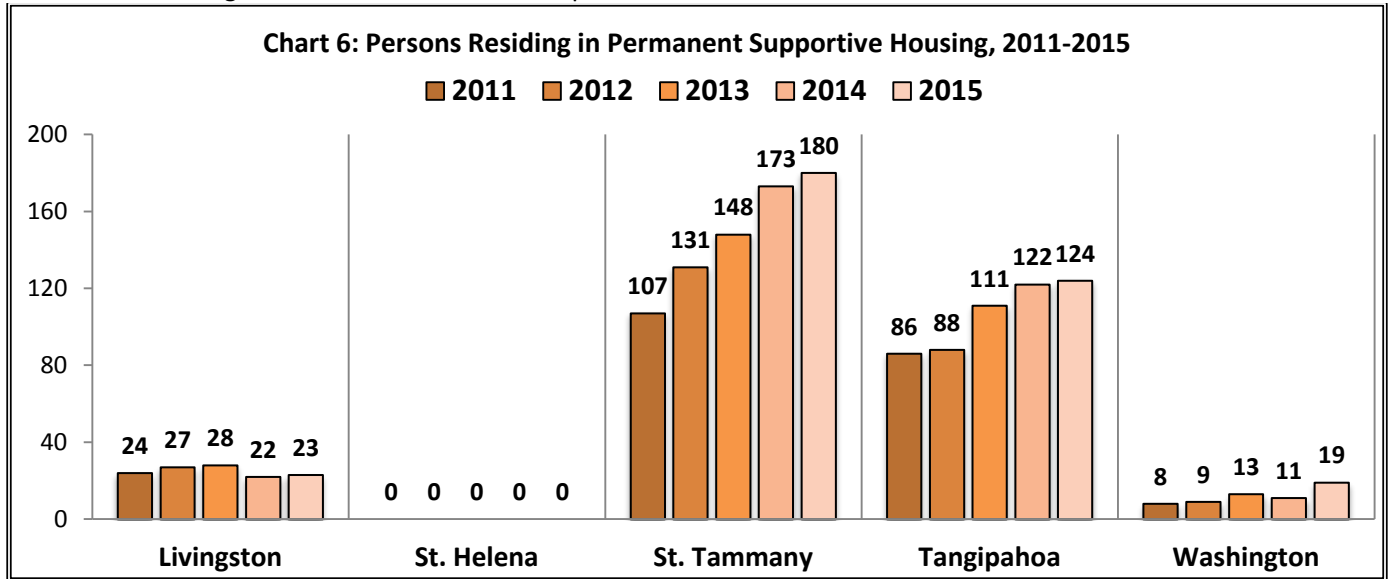
The largest decrease was found in St. Tammany Parish, where the total number of literally homeless persons decreased by 36 persons. This can be primarily attributed to the temporary closure of an emergency shelter in the city of Slidell and the reconfiguration of a transitional housing program that has been designated as a permanent housing project. It should be noted that the greatest number of unsheltered persons were identified in St. Tammany Parish, approximately two-thirds of all persons residing in places not intended for human habitation. Other findings from the 2015 census include,

- In Livingston Parish, all 17 persons were in transitional housing programs.
- In Tangipahoa parish, almost 90% of identified persons were in sheltered conditions.
- In Washington, 6 out of the 7 persons identified were in transitional housing, and one person was without shelter.

Chart 5 provides a temporal comparison of total population counts residing in unsheltered and sheltered conditions for 2011-2015. In looking at the number of persons identified as experiencing literal homeless per parish, persons were identified in 4 of the 5 parishes, with the greatest numbers in St. Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes, which is where there is also have the greatest concentration of service providers. This has remained the case throughout the previous counts.



VI. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Data Comparison: In addition to identifying persons who are experiencing literal homelessness, during the same data collection period, 346 persons were identified as living in permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless persons who have disabling conditions. This is an increase of 15 persons, or a six percent (6%) growth in the the number of persons residing in Permanent Supportive Housing from the previous census, and increase of 121 beds (54%) since 2011. Permanent Supportive Housing programs provide affordable, community-based housing for individuals and families who have been diagnosed with a physical or developmental disability, a severe mental illness, substance abuse problems or HIV/AIDS. Many persons who are in Permanent Supportive Housing programs have experienced long-term or chronic homelessness. PSH housing models include apartments, group homes or single-room occupancy housing. In addition to housing, these programs also provide the necessary supportive services, including case management, that help keep persons stabilized. The units of PSH in Region 9 are funded through HUD, as well as the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



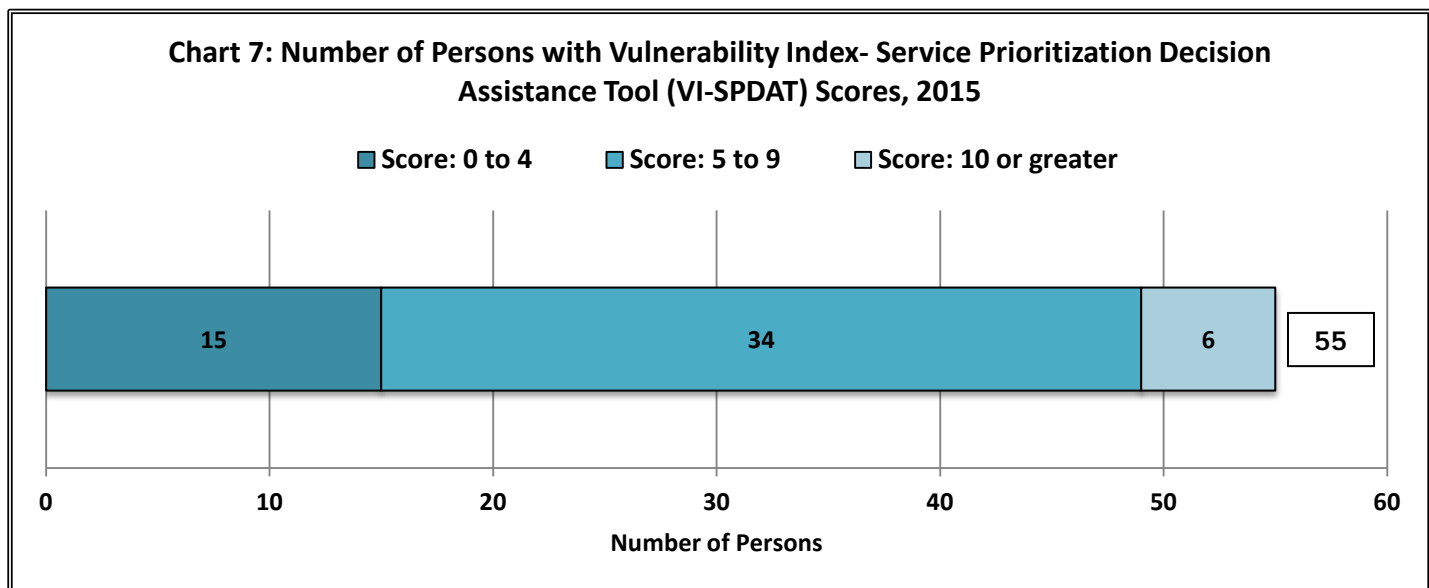
Counts of persons residing in Permanent Supportive Housing by Parish: The following chart details the number of persons that were residing in Permanent Supportive Housing during the 2015 Homeless Census. Fifty-four percent (54%) of residents were in St. Tammany Parish, thirty-seven percent (37%) were in Tangipahoa, five percent (5%) in Livingston, and four percent (4%) in Washington. There were no formerly homeless persons residing in PSH units in St. Helena Parish during the 2015 Count.

Table 6: Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing by Parish in 2015

Household Type	Livingston	St. Helena	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa	Washington	Total
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	3	0	20	15	4	42 [19.7% of households]
Total Persons in Households	14	0	73	47	15	149 [43.1% of persons]
Number of Households without Children	8	0	95	64	4	171 [80.3% of households]
Total Persons in Households	9	0	107	77	4	197 [46.9% of persons]
Total Number of Households	11 [5.2% of households]	0 [0.0% of households]	115 [53.9% of households]	79 [37.1% of households]	8 [3.8% of households]	213 [100.0% of households]
Total Persons in Households	23 [6.7% of persons]	0 [0.0% of persons]	180 [52.0% of persons]	124 [35.8% of persons]	19 [5.5% of persons]	346 [100.0% of persons]

VII. Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT): The 2015 Homeless Census also incorporated questions that allowed for respondents to be assessed for health and social needs that could be used for matching them with the most appropriate support and housing interventions that are available. These questions are part of the tool called the VI-SPDAT, which allows homeless service providers to similarly assess and help inform prioritization of persons for appropriate housing interventions based upon their acuity, not first come, first served. Using the VI-SPDAT, providers can move beyond only assisting those who present at their particular agency and begin to work together to prioritize all homeless people in the community, regardless of where they are assessed, in a consistent and transparent manner. Areas of evaluation criteria include histories of housing and homelessness, behavioral and health risks, socialization and daily functioning, and overall wellness. The Northlake Homeless Coalition has recently adopted the VI-SPDAT as the primary assessment tool for coordinated entry, the system-wide process by which housing project referrals are made and managed. The integration of the VI-SPDAT into the 2015 homeless census was the first wide-scale implementation of the tool.

Scores from the VI-SPDAT help inform decision-makers about the most appropriate housing interventions, wherein scores of ten or greater identify persons as needing Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First services, scores five to nine warrant Rapid Rehousing, and scores zero to four suggest that participants will need neither Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First nor Rapid Rehousing to solve their housing crises.



Of the fifty-five (55) persons who were administered the VI-SPDAT, about two-thirds (62%) were determined to be best served by Rapid Rehousing programs, while about eleven percent (11%) should be recommended for Permanent Supportive Housing. Fifteen of the participants, about 27%, were assessed scores that indicated they would not be appropriate for either type of housing interventions. The majority of respondents (36 persons or 65%) were residing in shelters, while fewer were residing in unsheltered conditions (9 persons or 16%). An additional 10 persons were determined to not be experiencing literal homelessness as of the night of the census. All respondents were also residing in St. Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes.