

Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity

2015 Emergency Shelter One-Night Count

The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) conducts an annual survey of Vermont's publicly-funded homeless shelters and services providers. Known as the one-night shelter count, the survey provides a snapshot into shelter utilization and the demographics of people who are homeless in Vermont. Data are reported by all emergency shelters and transitional programs receiving funding through the Housing & Opportunity Grant Program (HOP), formerly the Emergency Solutions/Shelter Grant (ESG). This count is different from the national Point-in-Time (PIT) count because it captures only those people staying in publicly-funded shelters, and is not a population-wide census of homelessness.

The following tables provide summary demographic information on people who stayed in Emergency or Transitional Housing on that evening. The final page provides trends from the one-night shelter counts over the past five years.

Analysis: The total number of people housed in publicly-funded shelters and transitional housing was 722, which is 85 higher than last year. The biggest increase was among males in emergency housing (51 higher), and there were also 32 more people in families living in shelter. The number of children age 5 and younger was 103; higher than it has ever been.

Starting last year, the federal government tracked the number of transgender people and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. This year, grantees reported transgender guests for the first time (3). Unaccompanied youth was lower than last year, with 15 fewer people under the age of 24. There were 31 fewer people in domestic violence shelters than last year. There were 50 people who identified themselves as veterans, comparable to 2014.

There has been a steady increase in the total number of people in OEO-funded emergency shelter going back as far as 2002. During the height of the recession in 2008, there were 342 people, less than half of what we see today. This reflects not only the increased capacity of public shelters, but the ever-growing need. The 2015 data includes four new seasonal shelters and two new transitional programs. Additionally, there is one new grantee providing both emergency and transitional housing.

Emergency Shelter

On December 3, 2015 there were **486** people staying in HOP-funded homeless shelters.

Gender			Ages	
Female	Male	Transgender	Adults (18+)	Children
219	266	1	372	114

Age Breakdown				
0 - 5 years	6 – 17	18 - 24	25-61	62 or older
57	57	67	286	16

Household Type				
Single Person	1 Parent (Female)	1 Parent (Male)	2 Parent Household	Couple (No Children)
268	42	4	19	7

- **Almost half (42%) of all people staying in a homeless shelter were families with children**
 - 52% of these families received income from Reach-Up
 - 25% of these families were staying in a domestic violence shelter
- **5% (27)** of those in shelter were unaccompanied youth (24 years & younger)
- **One third (30%)** of shelter residents were identified as having a disability; 64 (19%) of households received disability income.
- **Nearly 80% (242)** of those age 25 years or older had only a high school degree or less.
- **92 (27%)** had income from employment.
- **15** identified themselves as veterans (4% of adults).
- **45 (9%)** were without health insurance.
- The average length of stay of people in shelter is: **36.8 Days***
- **93** had stayed at another shelter this year.

**Average length of stay data is taken from the 2015 Emergency Solutions Grant program annual report.*

Transitional Housing

On December 3, 2015, there were **236** people living in transitional programs run by OEO grantees.

Gender			Ages	
Female	Male	Transgender	Adults	Children
114	120	2	160	76

Age Breakdown				
0 - 5 years	6 – 17	18 – 24	25 - 61	62 or older
46	30	46	106	8

Household Type				
Single Person	1 Parent (Female)	1 Parent (Male)	2 Parent Household	Couple (No Children)
80	35	6	12	4

- **26% (61)** transitional housing participants were identified as having a disability.
- **10% (35)** identified themselves as veterans.
- **51% of households (69)** had income from employment.
- **55% (29) of families** with children received income from Reach Up.
- **81% (80)** of adults age 25 years or older had only a high school degree or less.
- **3** people were without health insurance.
- **30** people had previously stayed in another shelter this year.

Vermont One Night Emergency Shelter Counts - Five Year Trends

One-Night Counts - Emergency Shelter

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	438	344	368	425	486
Children	129	93	97	103	114
% children	29.5%	27.0%	26.4%	24.2%	23.4%
ages 0-5	70	52	50	56	57
ages 6-17	59	41	44	47	57
Adults	309	251	271	322	372
Male	228	159	186	215	266
Female	210	185	179	210	219
Transgender				0	1
Unaccompanied Youth <24				37	27

OEO One-Night Counts - Transitional Housing

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	202	233	265	212	236
Children	58	49	102	74	76
% children	28.7%	21.0%	38.5%	34.9%	32.2%
ages 0-5	28	23	47	38	46
ages 6-17	30	26	55	36	30
Adults	144	184	163	138	160
Male	114	122	141	115	120
Female	88	111	124	95	114
Transgender				0	2
Unaccompanied Youth <24				26	21

OEO One-Night Counts - Data Combined

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	640	577	633	637	722
Children	187	142	199	177	190
% children	29.2%	24.6%	31.4%	27.8%	26.3%
ages 0-5	98	75	97	94	103
ages 6-17	89	67	99	83	87
Adults	453	435	434	460	532
Male	342	281	327	330	386
Female	298	296	303	305	333
Transgender				0	3
Unaccompanied Youth <24				63	48