

2013 POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS

MARCH 2013



New Mexico Coalition to
End Homelessness

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the Point-in-Time (PIT) count is to count the number of people who experienced homelessness in Albuquerque on one night. This provides a snapshot of how many people experience homelessness at a single point in time and an opportunity to collect some basic demographic information about who experiences homelessness in our community. We counted the number of people who experienced homelessness on January 28, 2013. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH) coordinated the 2013 PIT Count in collaboration with Albuquerque Heading Home.

Whether an individual or family is considered homeless depends on how homelessness is defined. For purposes of the Point-in-Time Count, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development considers a person to be homeless if he or she is staying in an emergency shelter, in a transitional housing program or if the person is sleeping outside or in a place not meant for human habitation. This report provides a count of the number of people experiencing homelessness according to HUD's definition.

Based on the results from the 2013 PIT Count, we estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness on January 28, 2013 to be 1170 people. This report also provides information about the age, veteran status and behavioral health of people experiencing homelessness on January 28, 2013.

Total number of homeless households

Household type	HUD Definition
Households without dependent children	781
Households with dependent children	122
Total	903

Total number of homeless people

Household type	HUD Definition*
People without dependent children	816
People in households with dependent children	354
Total	1170

While the PIT count provides very useful data, it is important to understand the limitations of the data. There are three main limitations to the data. First, the PIT count provides an estimate of the minimum number of people who experience homelessness in Albuquerque on one given night. In other words, we know that we undercounted the number of people who experienced homelessness in Albuquerque on January 28, 2013. Second, our PIT count does not include people in living situations that others (including the U.S. Department of Education), consider homeless situations, such as staying in a motel or doubled-up with family and friends. Third, the PIT count provides a snapshot of how many people are homeless at a single point in time. While we can use this number to get a sense of how many people might be homeless in Albuquerque on any night, the number does not tell us how many people become homeless over the course of the year.

Point-in-Time Count Overview

The purpose of the Point-in-Time (PIT) count is to count the number of people who experienced homelessness in Albuquerque on one night. This provides a snapshot of how many people experience homelessness at a single point in time and an opportunity to collect some basic demographic information about who experiences homelessness in our community. This information is a critical part of our Continuum of Care application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for federal funding for programs that serve people experiencing homelessness. This information also gives our local community some baseline data about the number of people who experience homelessness that we can use when designing policies and programs.

The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness coordinated the 2013 PIT Count in collaboration with Albuquerque Heading Home. Albuquerque Heading Home is an initiative to identify and house the most medically vulnerable chronically homeless people in Albuquerque. Albuquerque Heading Home uses a survey tool, called the Vulnerability Index Survey, to assess medical vulnerability. In 2013, the NM Coalition to End Homelessness and Albuquerque Heading Home decided to conduct a combined PIT Count/Vulnerability Index Survey in the days following the night of the PIT Count. We called this “Survey Week.”

For more information about the results of the Vulnerability Index portion of the survey, please visit the Albuquerque Heading Home website at www.abqheadinghome.org.

Definition of Homelessness

For purposes of the Point-in-Time Count, HUD considers a person to be homeless if he or she is staying in an emergency shelter, in a transitional housing program or if the household is sleeping outside or in a place not meant for human habitation. This report provides a count of the number of people experiencing homelessness according to HUD’s definition.

Methodology

The night of the 2013 PIT count was January 28, 2013. In other words, we counted the number of people who experienced homelessness on January 28, 2013.

The PIT count has two separate parts with two different methodologies. The first part involved counting the number of people who stayed in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. The second part involved counting those who stayed outside or in a place not meant for human habitation. These are discussed in more detail below.

Counting those who stayed in emergency shelters and transitional housings program

This part of the PIT count includes all individuals and families that were staying in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program on the night of January 28, 2013. In order to conduct this part of the count, the NMCEH either:

- 1) Obtained the number of people who were staying in the program, along with subpopulation data about those clients, through the Homeless Management Information System; OR
- 2) Emailed a survey to the provider asking the agency to report how many people stayed in the agency's program(s) on the night of January 28, 2013, along with subpopulation data for those clients.

For a list of agencies that completed the survey, please see Appendix A.

Counting those who slept someplace other than an emergency shelter or transitional housing program

This part of the PIT count includes individuals and families that were sleeping outside or in a place not meant for human habitation on the night of January 28, 2013. To conduct this part of the count, from January 29th to February 1st volunteers and service providers surveyed people experiencing homelessness to find out where they spend the night of January 28th. We used a joint PIT Count/Vulnerability Index Survey. Participants had the option of just doing the PIT count portion of the survey or the full survey which included the Vulnerability Index Survey. See Appendix B for a copy of the survey.

Agency staff and community volunteers conducted the survey with people as they accessed site-based services that people experiencing homelessness are likely to utilize. Site-based services are those services that are located in a set place that people have to travel to in order to access. Some agencies which conduct street outreach also conducted the survey with homeless people they met on their outreaches. See Appendix A for a complete list of service agencies where the survey was conducted.

Albuquerque Heading Home worked with APD's Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST) to identify places in Albuquerque where unsheltered homeless people are likely to sleep. Albuquerque Heading Home recruited volunteers and outreach providers, who went out in teams to these areas between 4:00am – 6:00am on Tuesday and Wednesday of Survey Week to conduct the survey.

All surveys were returned to the NMCEH or Albuquerque Heading Home. Staff and volunteers entered the surveys into a Quickbase database for analysis. We used information from the survey to create a unique identifier for each person surveyed. Duplicate records were eliminated if the unique identifier and the answer to where the person slept on January 28, 2013 were the same. Over 1,000 unduplicated surveys were collected.

Results

Table 1: Total number of homeless households

Household type	Number of households
Households without dependent children	781
Households with dependent children	122
Total	903

Table 2: Total number of homeless people

Household type	Number of people
People without dependent children	816
People in households with dependent children	354
Total	1170

Table 3: Number of homeless households by location

Household type	# staying in emergency shelter	# staying in transitional housing program	# sleeping outside or in place not meant for human habitation
Households without dependent children	497	173	111
Households with dependent children	40	81	1
Total	537	254	112

Table 4: Number of people in homeless households by location

Household type	# staying in emergency shelter	# staying in transitional housing	# sleeping outside or in place not meant for human habitation
Households without dependent children			
Adults	502	173	141
Households with dependent children			
Adults	42	92	1
Dependent Children	75	143	1
Total	619	408	144

For those homeless people we identified through the PIT Count/VI Survey, we only collected veteran status information on the person being surveyed and did not collect this information for their other household members. This means that we did not collect veteran information for every adult included in our PIT count, but we did collect this information from the vast majority.

Table 5: Veteran Status

	Number of homeless veterans	Percentage of all adults who were homeless on 1/28/13 who are veterans
Male Veterans	158	17%
Female Veterans	12	1%

We did collect information on the age of all household members.

Table 6: Age

Age	Number of people	Percentage of all people who were homeless on 1/28/13
Under 18	219	19%
Age 18 to 24	174	15%
Over age 24	769	66%
No response	8	1%
Total	1170	100%

Behavioral health information was only collected for homeless adults. In some cases, programs reported the number of people in their programs who had a behavioral health disability. In other cases, we collected this information through the PIT Count/VI Survey. For those homeless people we identified through the PIT Count/VI Survey, we only collected behavioral health information on the person being surveyed and did not collect this information for their other household members. This means that we did not collect this for every adult included in our PIT count, but we did collect this information from the vast majority.

Table 6: Behavioral Health Disabilities

Disability	Number of people	Percentage of adults who were homeless on 1/28/13
Significant mental illness	223	23%
Substance Abuse	290	30%

Limits to the data

While the PIT count provides very useful data, it is important to understand the limitations of the data. There are three main limitations to the data. First, the PIT count provides an estimate of the minimum number of people who experience homelessness in Albuquerque on one given night. In other words, we know that we undercounted the number of people who experienced homelessness in Albuquerque on January 28, 2013. Second, our PIT count does not include people in living situations that others (including the U.S. Department of Education), considers homeless situations, such as staying in a motel or doubled-up with family and friends. Third, the PIT count provides a snapshot of how many people are homeless at a single point in time. While can use this number to get a sense of how many people might be homeless in Albuquerque on any night, the number does not tell us how many people become homeless over the course of the year.

Comparing 2013 PIT Count results to 2011 PIT Count results

We did use a very similar methodology for our 2013 and 2011 PIT Counts. It is valid, therefore, to compare the two counts. Our 2013 PIT count counted 469 fewer people than our 2011 PIT count.

Table 8: 2011 PIT count vs. 2013 PIT count

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
2011 PIT Count	1252	387	1639
2013 PIT Count	1027	134	1170

This decrease suggests that our efforts to address homelessness over the last two years are having an impact. In particular, it is reasonable to assume that Albuquerque Heading Home's effort to help chronically homeless people obtain permanent supportive housing has reduced the overall number of people who are

experiencing homelessness in our community. However, it is important to consider other factors as well. In particular, we only counted one unsheltered homeless family and we also know there are limited sheltered beds in Albuquerque for homeless families with children. We also did not count any homeless youth. Therefore, we can assume that there was a significant undercount of these two populations. We know that homeless youth and homeless families with children are often doubled-up with family or friends, often in unsafe, overcrowded and unstable living situations. We also know that homeless families often stay in substandard motels. But people in these two situations were not included in our count; therefore we did not capture changes in homelessness rates among those living in motels or doubled-up. Finally, while we used very similar methodologies in our 2011 and 2013, our methodology was not exactly the same. The differences in methodology may have led to less people taking the survey in 2013, which would mean less people would be counted. It is impossible to know for sure which factor or factors contributed to the decrease in homelessness and is therefore important to keep all factors in mind when comparing the 2011 and 2013 results.

Appendix A

Emergency shelter and transitional housing program providers that provided data for sheltered PIT count

Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless	New Mexico VA Health Care System
Albuquerque Rescue Mission	New Mexico Veterans Integration Center
Barrett Foundation	S.A.F.E. House
Catholic Charities	Saranam
Good Shepherd Center	St. Martin's Hospitality Center
Family Promise of Albuquerque	Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico
Metropolitan Homelessness Project	Transitional Living Services
	YWCA, Henderson House

Agencies where the PIT Count/Vulnerability index Survey was conducted or whose outreach staff conducted the survey(s) with people they met during their outreaches.

Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless	Joy Junction
APD Coast Team	MATS
Albuquerque Rescue Mission	NM Department of Health
Barrett Foundation	Noon Day Ministries
Cuidando Los Ninos	St. Martin's Hospitality Center
Central United Methodist Church/Helping Hands	Veteran's Outreach Program
First Nations	Veterans Integration Center
Good Shepherd Center	Westside Shelter

Appendix B

HOUSING STATUS & VULNERABILITY INDEX SURVEY

Please read to the survey participant:

I am doing a survey today to learn more about your current housing situation. The survey is completely voluntary.

The survey has a short version and long version. If you choose to take the survey, you can choose to do just the short version or you can choose to do the long version.

The short survey is anonymous and takes about 3 minutes to complete.

The long survey asks for more detailed information about yourself and takes about 20 minutes to complete. The information you provide in the long survey may help us connect you to services and housing through Albuquerque Heading Home.

Would you like to take this survey?

(If yes): Would you like to take the short survey or the long survey? ___ Short Survey ___ Long Survey

If participant chooses to do either the Short OR Long survey fill in the boxes below and then proceed to the next page.

INTERVIEWER'S NAME		TEAM # <input type="checkbox"/> STAFF <input type="checkbox"/> VOLUNTEER
TIME	LOCATION	
Was this survey completed in a shelter? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

Where did you spend the night of Monday, January 28, 2013?

Column A

- Abandoned building
- Bosque
- Car
- Foothills/mountains
- Movie theater
- Park
- Public place
- Street or alley
- Tent (not in a campground)
- Under a bridge
- Don't know/remember
- Homeless, but won't say where

Column B

- Apartment, since then evicted
- Campground
- Emergency Shelter
- Friend/relative's house
- Motel/hotel, paid for by an agency
- Motel/hotel I paid for
- Hospital
- Jail/Prison
- Juvenile detention center
- Other _____

Column C

- Apartment/house I rent
- Apartment rented for me
- House I own

If participant gave an answer from <u>Column A or B</u> and is doing the...	
Short Survey only: CONTINUE ON TO PAGE 3	Long Survey: CONTINUE ON TO PAGE 3
If participant gave an answer from <u>Column C</u> and is doing the...	
Short Survey only: STOP HERE <i>Explain to the participant that the purpose of the survey is to learn more about people who were homeless on January 28th and that as a result he/she does not need to complete the rest of the survey.</i>	Long Survey: STOP HERE <i>Explain to the participant that because he/she currently has housing, he/she would not be eligible for housing or services through Albuquerque Heading Home and that as a result he/she does not need to complete the long survey.</i>

1. SHORT SURVEY ONLY

First two letters of first name: ____

Last two letters of last name: ____

Month you were born: _____

Year you were born: _____

1. LONG SURVEY

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

2)
Do
you
con

sider yourself: Male Female
Transgender

- 3) Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces? Yes No
- 4) Were you activated into active duty as a member of the National Guard or Reservist? Yes No
- 5) Did any other family or household members, such as your child, partner or spouse, stay with you the night of January 28, 2013? Yes No

5a) If YES:
 How many children under age 18 stayed with you? _____
 How many adults age 18 to 24 stayed with you? _____
 How many adults over age 24 stayed with you? _____

6) Where was the last place where you had stable housing?
 Albuquerque A community near ABQ Other part of NM Somewhere else (specify: _____)

7) Have you been living in an emergency shelter and/or on the streets for the past year or more?
 Yes No

8) How many different times have you been homeless in the last three years? _____

- 9) Do you currently have: (check all that apply)
- a) An issue with alcohol or drugs? Yes No
 - b) A serious mental health disability? Yes No
 - c) HIV/AIDS Yes No
 - d) A developmental disability, a chronic physical illness or other disability? Yes No

10) If YES to any of the above: Does this limit your ability to get or keep a job or take care of personal matters, such as taking care of yourself, going shopping or getting around in the community?
 Yes No

11) Has anyone else asked you these questions since the night of January 28, 2013? Yes No

If participant is doing...	
SHORT SURVEY: STOP HERE.	LONG SURVEY: CONTINUE ON PAGE 4

Vulnerability Index Survey Consent Form

Consent for Interview

By signing below, you give permission to Albuquerque Heading Home to provide your information to authorized agencies for the purpose of furthering services and housing in this community. The information that you tell us during the interview will be stored in a secure database and also be shared with outreach workers and case managers who will follow up with you for services. All of your information will be kept secure and individuals who will see it have signed confidentiality waivers and will not share your information. You can skip any questions you do not want to answer, or end the interview at any point. At anytime you can request that your information be removed from the database.

Before we can provide housing or services we may need to verify the information you provide today by contacting other agencies where you have received services. If that is the case, we will get your written permission before contacting any agencies.

SIGN BELOW IF AGREEING TO BE INTERVIEWED

Your signature (or mark) below indicates that you have read (or been read) the information provided above, have gotten answers to your questions, and have freely chosen to be interviewed. By agreeing to be interviewed, you are not giving up any of your legal rights.

Date

Signature (or Mark) of Participant

Printed Name of Participant

OK, first I'm going to ask you a few questions about your housing history...

Where do you sleep most frequently? (check one)

- Shelters Streets Car/Van/RV Subway/Bus Beach/Riverbed Other (specify)

What is the total length of time you have lived on the streets or in shelter? _____ #years _____ #months

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about your health...

Where do you usually go for healthcare or when you're not feeling well?

- University of New Mexico (UNMH) Presbyterian Hospital Lovelace Hospital
 VA Hospital Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless
 Other (Specify) _____ Does not go for care

How many times have you been to the emergency room in the past three months? _____

How many times have you been hospitalized as an inpatient in the past year? _____

Do you have now, have you ever had, or has a healthcare provider ever told you that you have any of the following medical conditions?

- a. Kidney disease/ End Stage Renal Disease or Dialysis..... Yes No Refused
- b. History of frostbite, Hypothermia, or Immersion Foot Yes No Refused
- c. History of Heat Stroke/Heat Exhaustion..... Yes No Refused
- d. Liver disease, Cirrhosis, or End-Stage Liver Disease Yes No Refused
- e. Heart disease, Arrhythmia, or Irregular Heartbeat..... Yes No Refused
- f. HIV+/AIDS..... Yes No Refused
- g. Emphysema Yes No Refused
- h. Diabetes Yes No Refused
- i. Asthma Yes No Refused
- j. Cancer Yes No Refused
- k. Hepatitis C..... Yes No Refused
- l. Tuberculosis..... Yes No Refused
- m. **DO NOT ASK:** Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms
of serious physical health conditions?..... Yes No

- n. Have you ever abused drug/alcohol, or been told you do? Yes No Refused
- o. Have you consumed alcohol everyday for the past month? Yes No Refused
- p. Have you ever used injection drugs or shots? Yes No Refused
- q. Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol abuse? Yes No Refused
- r. **DO NOT ASK:** Surveyor, do you observe signs of symptoms
of alcohol or drug abuse?..... Yes No

- s. Are you currently or have you ever received treatment for mental health issues?.. Yes No Refused
- t. Have you ever been taken to the hospital against your will for mental health reasons?
..... Yes No Refused
- u. **DO NOT ASK:** Surveyor, do you detect signs or symptoms
of severe, persistent mental illness?..... Yes No

- v. Have you been the victim of a violent attack since you've become homeless? Yes No Refused
- w. Do you have a permanent physical disability that limits your mobility? [i.e., wheelchair, amputation, unable to
climb stairs]?
..... Yes No Refused
- x. Have you had a serious brain injury or head trauma that required hospitalization or surgery?
..... Yes No Refused

What kind of health insurance do you have, if any? (check all that apply)

- Medicaid Medicare VA Private Insurance None Other (specify):

Alright, now I've just got a few more questions...

Have you ever served in the US Military?..... Yes No Refused

If yes, which war/war era did you serve in?..... Korean War (June 1950-January 1955)

Vietnam Era (August 1964-April 1975)

Post Vietnam (May 1975-July 1991)

Persian Gulf Era (August 1991-Present)

Afghanistan (2001-Present)

Iraq (2003-Present)

Other (Specify)

Refused

If yes, what was the character of your discharge?..... Honorable Other than Honorable

Bad Conduct

Dishonorable

Refused

Have you ever been in jail? Yes No Refused

Have you ever been in prison? Yes No Refused

Have you ever been in foster care? Yes No Refused

How do you make money? (choose as many as apply)

Work, on-the-books

Food Stamps

Pension/Retirement

Work, off-the-books

Sex Trade

Other (Specify)

SSI

Drug Trade

SSDI/SSA

Recycling

VA

Panhandling

Public Assistance

No Income

What is your ethnicity? (choose as many as apply)

African American/ Black

Mixed Race

Asian

Other

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

- Latino/a
- Native American
- White
- Decline to State
- Unknown

What is your citizenship status?

- Citizen Legal Resident Undocumented

What is your Social Security Number? _____

What is the highest grade in school you completed?

- K-8 Some high school High School Graduate GED Some College
- College Graduate Post Graduate Decline to State Other

OK, two final questions about your community:

Is there a person/outreach worker that you trust more than others? Yes No Refused

If yes, do you know what agency they work for?

Is there a way we can reach you (email, telephone)?

SURVEYOR: Include any additional information about the survey participant that you feel is important but that was not covered by the survey.