



Homelessness in Knoxville/Knox County 2013-2014

Since 1985, the *Knoxville-Knox County Homeless Coalition* has sponsored studies designed to determine the extent of homelessness in Knoxville-Knox County. The current Biennial Study on Homelessness, the 28th Study since 1985, was conducted in January and February 2014 and included interviews with 236 homeless persons in shelters and outside locations.

CHARACTERISTICS OF KNOX COUNTY HOMELESSNESS 2012 AND 2014

Item	2012 (n=236)	2014 (n=236)
Age:		
Under 18	0%	0%
18-30	20%	16%
31-60	73%	77%
61+	5%	5%
	Mean = 42.3	Mean = 43.9
	Male = 46.4	Male = 45.2
	Female = 40.3	Female = 41.6
Gender:		
Male	62%	65%
Female	38%	35%
Race:		
White	81%	73%
Black	17%	18%
Other	1%	8%
Military Service:		
Veteran	20%	12%
Marital Status:		
Single/Never-Married	36%	42%
Married	10%	8%
Divorced/Separated	47%	46%
Widowed	6%	5%
Education:		
8 years or less	8%	9%
Some high school	31%	17%
High School Grad, Incl. GED	39%	42%
Post high school	22%	31%
*Due to rounding error, all totals may not equal 100		

QUICK FACTS:

- Since being homeless, respondents reported the following health problems: dental (40%); respiratory, ear, or throat (42%); blood pressure (37%)
- 37% reported having been hospitalized due to physical health since becoming homeless
- 62% reported treatment for mental illness
- 21% reported alcohol (14%) or drug (7%) addiction; 6% reported both alcohol and drug addiction; 20% reported being in recovery
- 37% have been victims of crime since becoming homeless
- 44% lived with both parents while growing up
- 14% reported having been in foster care at some time
- 12% indicated that they were veterans
- 25% indicated they were homeless due to loss of job
- Lack of funds was most frequently cited (48%) as a reason for not being able to get into housing
- 16% reported they were currently employed



KnoxHMIS 2013 Annual Report

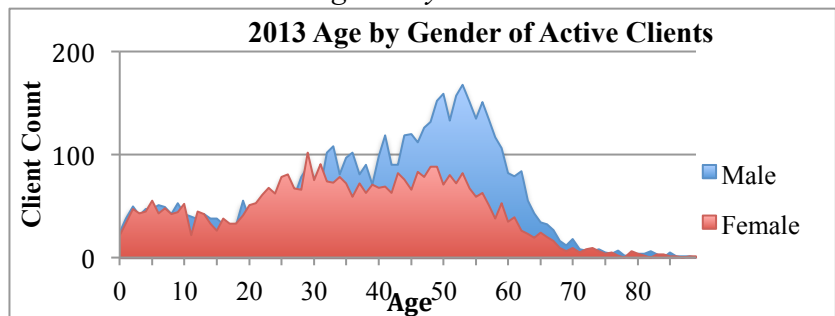
A total of 9,806 individuals accessed homeless services from the 16 KnoxHMIS partner agencies. Sixty-eight percent of active clients (6,666) were homeless. Thirty-two percent of active clients (3,140) were either “housed and at risk of homelessness” or “stably housed” and receiving services. Chronically homeless individuals represented 20% of all active clients. On average, 1,989 active clients sought services each month from KnoxHMIS partner agencies.

Percent of All Active Clients in Subpopulations	
All Active Clients	n=9,806
Chronically Homeless	20%
Children	16%
Veterans	11%
Street Homeless	8%
Female Single Parents	7%
Seniors	7%

The average age for male active clients was 40, and the average age for female active clients was 35 years old. The most common age (mode) for men was 53, while for women it was 29 years.

Active Clients Demographics Summary		
	N=	KnoxHMIS Percentage
Age		
0-17 years	1,461	16%
18-30 years	1,624	17%
31-61 years	5,677	61%
62+ years	611	7%
Gender		
Male	5,590	57%
Female	3,946	40%
Other or Null	270	3%
Race		
White	6,384	65%
Black or African American	2,714	28%
Other	699	7%
Ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	8,751	89.2%
Hispanic/Latino	238	2.4%
Null/Don't Know	817	8.3%

- 31% of all active clients were reported to have a disability
- 50% of those indicating a disability reported experiencing mental health problems
- 26% of men reported primary reason for homelessness as “loss of job”
- 15% of women reported primary reason for homelessness as “domestic violence victim”
- 77% of all active clients had a last permanent address in Knox or a surrounding county



Services and Outcomes

The capture in KnoxHMIS of services delivered by partner agencies facilitates the coordination of care, reduction of duplication of services, and measurement of resources delivery. In 2013, there was a 1% decrease in recorded services delivered.

- The average length of stay in emergency shelter was 30 days (SD=53.7)
- The average length of stay in transitional housing was 174 days (SD=199)
- Since July 2008, 5,522 individuals have been placed in housing