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Homelessness in Indianapolis: 2014 HUD Point-in -Time Count

INDIANAPOLIS – The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention has released the 2014 findings from the annual Indianapolis homeless Point-in-Time count. This annual count, required to be conducted within the last 10 days of January every year, took place on January 29, 2014, as the city had experienced several inches of snow and days of subzero temperatures.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires an annual count of sheltered individuals and a biennial count of unsheltered individuals in each Continuum of Care receiving federal funding to aid the homeless. The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) ensures both counts are done on an annual basis to provide the Indianapolis Continuum of Care data for planning, trends and local changes, and an additional research tool to aid in understanding of need.

January 29, 2014, the Indianapolis community counted 1,897 homeless individuals who were staying in a shelter, transitional housing, or unsheltered. This is a 19% increase as compared to the 2013 Point in Time count. "There was a marked increase in our 2014 numbers compared to the last three years we conducted the count", said Executive Director Christy Shepard. "The outreach teams and shelter providers had been doing an amazing job, prior to the count, moving individuals in from the elements due to the extreme weather and polar vortex. Individuals who had not sought services in 5-10 years made the journey into services during this past winter, and some are still engaged with services and housed. The state of Indiana reported an overall decrease in its Point-in-Time count that covers all 92 counties so as a whole Indiana is doing much better. Because all of the data collected is generally self-reported by clients and individuals, we are still analyzing the data to better understand the nature of the increase and if this year was an anomaly in data or the trend." Indianapolis also had an increase in 100 transitional housing beds between 2013 and 2014.

Other report findings:
- Nearly twice as many males (1,219) as females (676) were counted.
- There were a total of 1,543 adults (over 18 years of age) and 354 children experiencing homelessness on the night of the count.
- The total number of families (households with at least one adult and one child) experiencing homelessness increased six percent, from 151 in 2013 to 161 in 2014. All of the 161 households with children were in shelters.
- Distribution of age (under 18, 18-62, over 62) has remained consistent with slight fluctuations, similar to the distribution of race and gender.
- 370 of the adults identified as veterans, a nominal decrease from 2013.

- While job loss continues to be the top reason for homelessness as it has since 2009, incarceration and domestic violence have increased as reasons for homelessness relative to last year.
- Less than half of adults receive SNAP (540). Indiana does not allow felons to receive SNAP and almost 30% of homeless adults counted in 2014 had a previous felony conviction.

Sponsors
A portion of financial support for the 2014 Point-In-Time Count was provided by IUPUI Solution Center and Christ Church Cathedral. The Lilly Endowment, Inc., and the Indianapolis Foundation, an affiliate of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, provide significant annual support CHIP and community's programs.

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About the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention
CHIP Indy mobilizes, advocates, and empowers community collaboration towards ending homelessness and fosters an effective system of homelessness intervention and prevention in the greater Indianapolis area.