

Connecticut Counts 2015 – CT Balance of State (BOS)

In this year’s Point in Time (PIT) Count, the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) expanded to include Waterbury. Comparisons with past years are based on summing the PIT data from previous Balance of State structures with CoCs that have subsequently been added. Note that due to rounding, the data for the Balance of State do not always equal the sums of its subcontinua.

On the night of February 18, 2015, Balance of State counted 2,381 people experiencing homelessness, including 468 children. The larger populations are shaded in the table below.

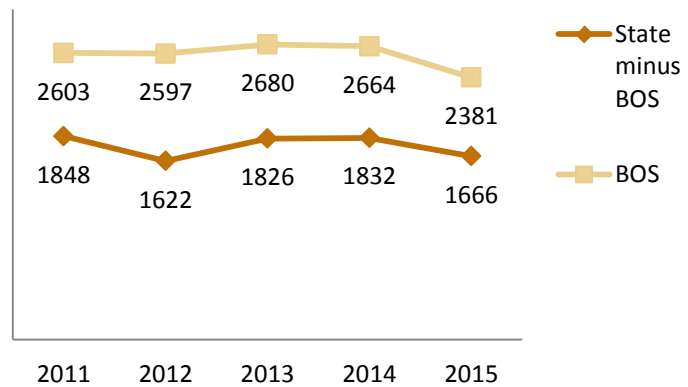
CT PIT 2015 BOS Sheltered and Unsheltered

Population	# of Persons in BOS	% of BOS's Grand Total	# of Persons in BOS	# of Persons in State	BOS's Share of State #s
Adults in Families	302	13%	302	503	60%
Children in Families	468	20%	468	816	57%
Single Adults	1,611	68%	1,611	2,717	59%
Unaccompanied Children	0	0%	0	11	0%
Total	2,381	100%	2,381	4,047	59%

BOS’s total homeless count is 9% lower than in *CT PIT 2011*.

Since last year, total homelessness in the rest of the state fell 9%, in BOS, 11%.

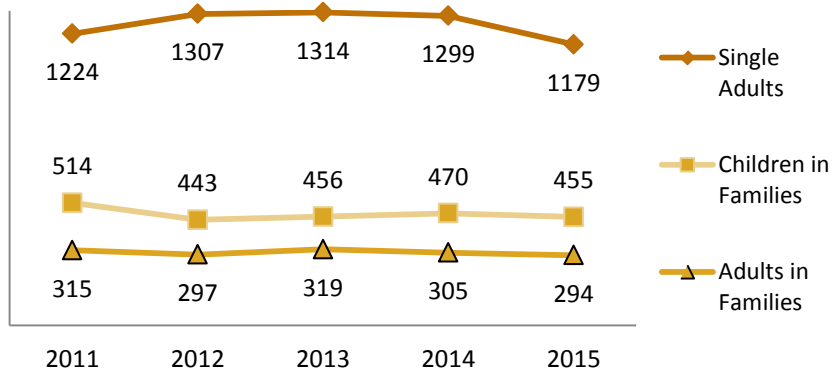
BOS Totals vs Rest of State



Sheltered Trends

BOS’s sheltered population is 6% lower than in 2011, and 7% lower than last year.

CT PIT Sheltered* in BOS



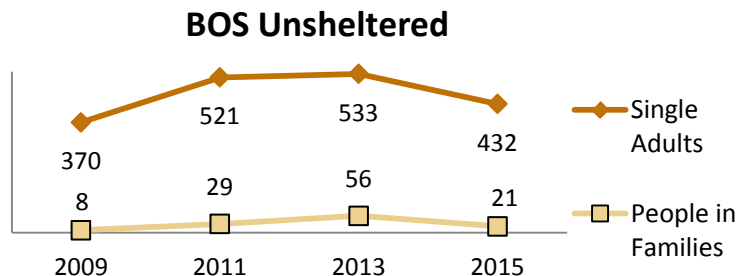
* There were also 2 unaccompanied children in 2013, 3 in 2014.



Unsheltered Trends

The unsheltered count is conducted only in odd-numbered years. Per HUD, in an even year the previous year’s unsheltered counts are applied.

This year, two events may have had a significant effect on the unsheltered count. First, the count took place during a week that was bitterly cold, which tends to reduce temporarily the number of people sleeping outdoors or in other places not meant for human habitation. Second, enhanced canvassing efforts helped volunteers connect with more people experiencing homelessness.

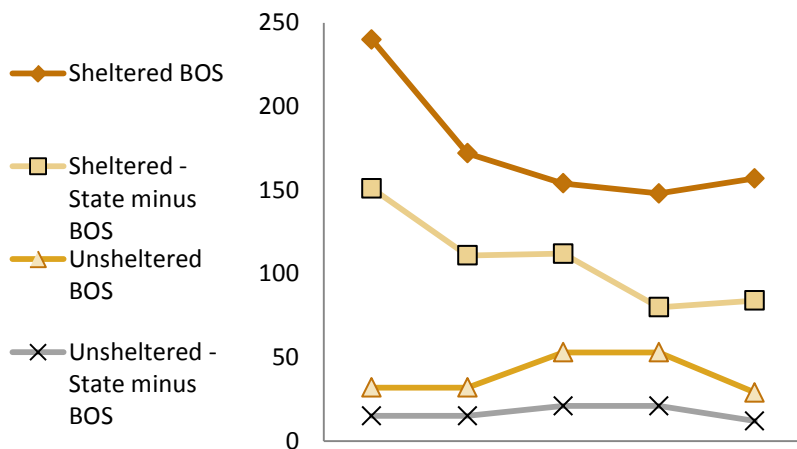


After rising for three successive PIT Counts, this year the number of men, women and children living in BOS without shelter fell 23% from PIT 2013.

Homeless Veterans

Thanks in part to a national commitment to end veteran homelessness, the number of Connecticut veterans experiencing homelessness has been trending down.

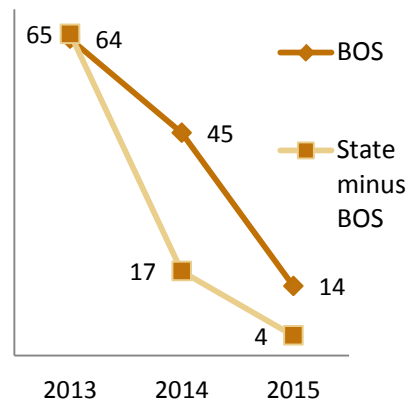
Two thirds of the state’s 282 veterans were counted in the Balance of State during *CT PIT 2015*. BOS had 7% fewer vets than last year, though vets in shelter increased 6%.



Chronic homelessness among veterans has dramatically declined.

BOS had four chronically homeless veterans in *CT PIT 2015*.

Chronically Homeless Veterans



Region and Population	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
BOS Sheltered	240	172	154	148	157
BOS Unsheltered	32	32	53	53	29
BOS All Veterans	272	204	207	201	186
Sheltered State minus BOS	151	111	112	80	84
Unsheltered State minus BOS	15	15	21	21	12

Chronically Homeless Adults

Chronic homelessness status is assigned to an adult who has long-term and/or numerous occasions of homelessness, with an accompanying disability. In 2014, HUD modified how to ascertain if a disability is qualifying by specifying that it is of indefinite duration, impairs the ability to live independently, and would be improved with stable housing. (For more information on federal data standard changes, please visit www.cceh.org.)

These new characteristics alone account for at least a 40% drop between last year’s chronic homelessness count and this year’s, making year-to-year comparisons problematic. The new measures do, however, lead to better estimates of those in need of long-term supportive services.

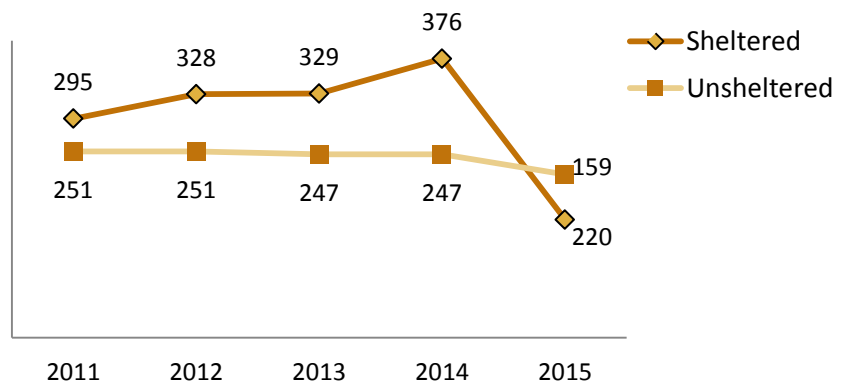
In *CT PIT 2015*, the Balance of State, like the state as a whole, saw a substantial drop in adults classified as chronically homeless. These 379 men and women comprised 68% of the state’s chronically homeless adults.

CT PIT 2015 Chronic Homelessness (CH)

Region	Sheltered			Unsheltered			Total		
	# of CH Adults	All Adults	% of All	# of CH Adults	All Adults	% of All	# of CH Adults	All Adults	% of All
State	257	2,614	10%	301	606	50%	558	3,220	17%
State minus BOS	98	1,141	9%	81	166	49%	179	1,307	14%
BOS	159	1,473	11%	220	440	50%	379	1,913	20%

Total chronic homelessness in BOS dropped 39% since *CT PIT 2014*.
In the rest of the state, it dropped 72%.

Chronically Homeless Adults in BOS



Health and Safety

CT PIT collects data on a number of common service needs that are shared by a large proportion of individuals facing homelessness. By drawing out information on these health needs, more targeted interventions that allow a focus on well-being in addition to housing can be developed.

The changes in the federal data standards have modified downward the numbers of those who are counted as having a disability. In the Balance of State, for example, the number of people recording a serious mental illness declined by 62%. The drop in adults reporting chronic substance abuse was even greater: 77%.

The question about survivors of domestic violence has actually broadened over time. It no longer applies only to those for whom domestic violence was the proximate cause of their homelessness, but to anyone who’s been a victim at any time in his or her life. Not surprisingly, therefore, this category does not show the decline in *CT PIT 2015* found in counts for severe and long-lasting disabilities. Balance of State showed a 1% increase from last year, which is not statistically significant.

CT PIT 2015 Adults with Serious Health or Safety Issues

Balance of State	All Adults*	Severe Mental Illness		Chronic Substance Abuse		HIV/ AIDS		Domestic Violence Survivors	
		Number	% of All Adults	Number	% of All Adults	Number	% of All Adults	Number	% of All Adults
Sheltered	1,473	228	15%	88	6%	50	3%	316	21%
Unsheltered	440	115	26%	178	40%	6	1%	82	19%
Total	1,913	343	18%	266	14%	56	3%	398	21%

* The denominator for each percentage is the total number of the region’s adults as displayed in the “All Adults” column. In the “Sheltered” row, for example, all the percentages use the total number of *sheltered* adults (1,473) as the denominator.

Please see <http://cceb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CT-Counts-v2-1.pdf> for detailed *CT PIT 2015* numbers.