

# Connecticut Counts 2015 – Fairfield County

This year’s Point in Time (PIT) Count was the first for the new Continuum of Care, Fairfield County, which unites Bridgeport-Stratford-Fairfield, Norwalk/Fairfield County, and Stamford-Greenwich. Comparisons with past years are based on summing the data from previous PIT reports from the three old Continua of Care (CoC). Note that due to rounding, the sum of extrapolated figures from this year’s PIT Count for the three sub-CoCs may not equal the numbers for Fairfield County.

On the night of February 18, 2015, Fairfield County counted 913 people experiencing homelessness, including 228 children. The larger populations are shaded in the table below.

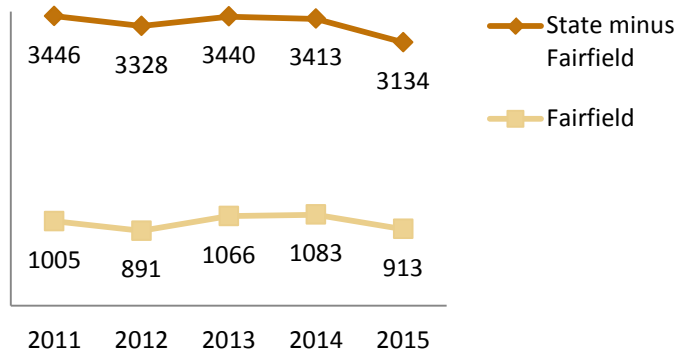
## CT PIT 2015 Fairfield County Sheltered and Unsheltered

Population	# of Persons in Fairfield County	% of Fairfield County's Grand Total	# of Persons in Fairfield County	# of Persons in State	Fairfield County's Share of State #s
Adults in Families	129	14%	129	503	26%
Children in Families	228	25%	228	816	28%
Single Adults	545	60%	545	2,717	20%
Unaccompanied Children	11	1%	11	11	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>4,047</b>	<b>23%</b>

Fairfield County’s total homeless count is 9% lower than in PIT 2011.

Since last year, total homelessness in the rest of the state fell 8%, in Fairfield County, 16%.

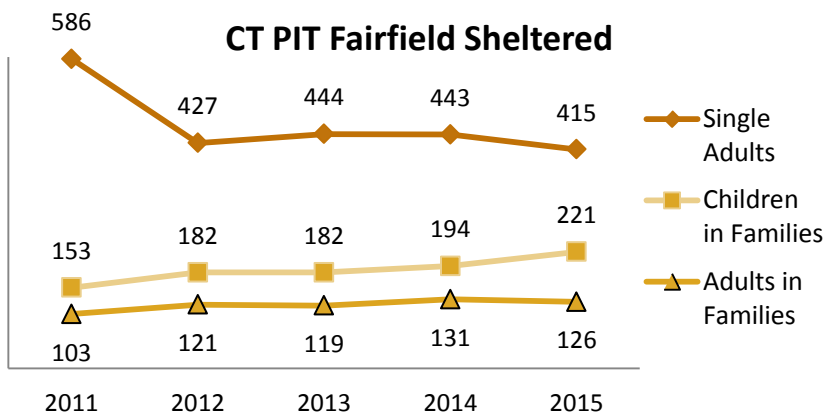
### Fairfield Totals vs Rest of State



### Sheltered Trends

After dropping 14% between 2011 and 2012, Fairfield’s sheltered population has gradually increased 6% since then. It is almost unchanged since PIT 2014.

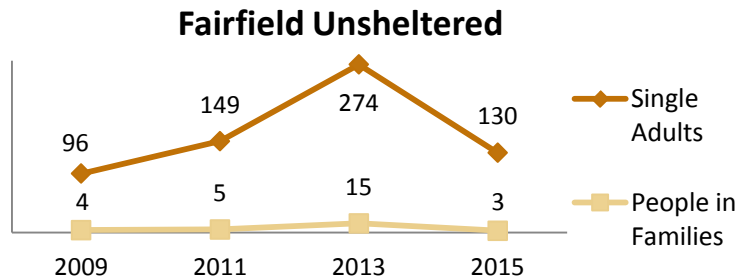
### CT PIT Fairfield Sheltered



## 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.

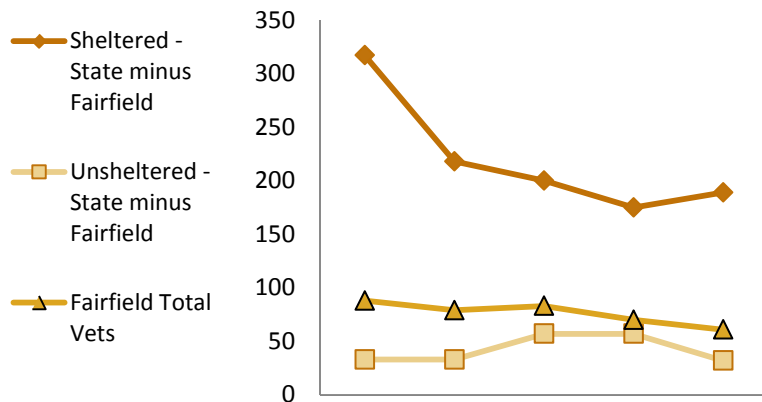


After rising for three successive PIT Counts, this year the number of men, women and children living in Fairfield County without shelter fell 54% from PIT 2013.

## Homeless Veterans

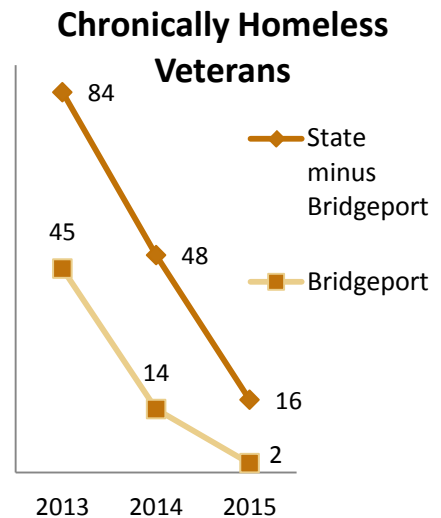
Thanks in part to a national commitment to end veteran homelessness, the number of Connecticut veterans experiencing homelessness has been trending down.

Fairfield County counted 61 veterans in *CT PIT 2015*, constituting 22% of the state’s homeless veterans and a 13% drop since last year’s PIT Count.



Chronic homelessness among veterans has dramatically declined. Fairfield County had two chronically homeless veterans in *CT PIT 2015*.

Region and Population	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sheltered – State minus Fairfield County	317	218	200	175	189
Unsheltered – State minus Fairfield County	33	33	57	57	32
Fairfield Co. Sheltered	74	65	66	53	52
Fairfield Co. Unsheltered	14	14	17	17	9
Fairfield Co. All Veterans	88	79	83	70	61



## 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](http://www.cceh.org).)

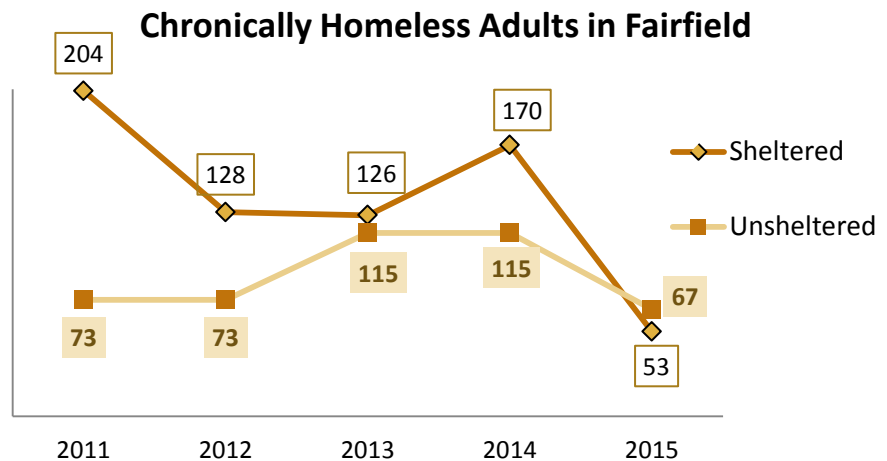
These new characteristics alone account for at least a 40% drop between last year’s chronic homelessness count and this year’s, making year-to-year comparisons problematic. The new measures do, however, lead to better estimates of those in need of long-term supportive services.

In *CT PIT 2015*, Fairfield County, like the state as a whole, saw a substantial drop in adults classified as chronically homeless. These 120 men and women comprised 22% 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 Fairfield Co.	204	2073	10%	234	473	49%	438	2,546	17%
Fairfield Co.	53	541	10%	67	133	50%	120	675	18%

Total chronic homelessness in Fairfield County dropped 58% since PIT 2014. In the rest of the state, it dropped 47%.



## 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 Fairfield County, for example, the number of people recording a serious mental illness declined by 65%. The drop in adults reporting chronic substance abuse was even greater: 81%.

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. In fact, Fairfield County showed an 11% increase since last year.

### **CT PIT 2015 Adults with Serious Health or Safety Issues**

Fairfield County	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	541	79	15%	33	6%	20	4%	103	19%
Unsheltered	133	36	27%	56	42%	1	1%	23	17%
Total	674	115	17%	89	13%	21	3%	126	19%

\* 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 (541) as the denominator.

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