

2015 Spokane Regional Point-in-Time Count

Executive Summary

What is the Point-in-Time Count?

As a recipient of federal and state fund supporting homeless services, our community is required to conduct an annual point-in-time count of persons experiencing homelessness during the last 10 days in January. The 2015 Point-in-Time Count took place in Spokane (and across Washington State) on Thursday, January 29th 2015.

The Point-in-Time Count is a *snapshot* census of individuals and persons in families, including youth, who on the night of the count are:

- *Sheltered* (living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary housing, including congregate shelters, transitional housing, safe havens, and hotels/motels paid for with emergency shelter vouchers) or
- *Unsheltered* (with a primary nighttime residence that is out of doors or a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground).

How many were counted?

- 1033 persons (a person may be part of a family household, or an unaccompanied individual).
- 772 households (a household may include one or more persons).

Who were the people experiencing homelessness?

- 61 percent were in households without children.
- 37 percent were in households with adults and children.
- 2 percent were in households with only children.
- 57 percent were male.
- 42 percent were female.
- Less than 1 percent were transgender.
- 69 percent were over age 24.
- 7 percent were age 18-24.
- 24 percent were under age 18.

Sources of Shelter

- 87 percent (901 people) were sheltered in temporary lodging projects, including Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing
- 13 percent (132 people) were unsheltered and sleeping in places not designed for habitation including streets, parks, vehicles and abandoned buildings.

Reasons for Homelessness

People were asked to report reasons that caused their homelessness. Many reported multiple reasons. The ten most common reasons reported were:

- Lack of Income (249 households)
- Lost Job (151 households)
- Lack of Affordable Housing (142 households)
- Family Conflict (140 households)
- Evicted (107 households)
- Drug Abuse (70 households)
- Mental Health Problem (110 households)
- Physical Disability (96 households)
- Alcohol Abuse (72 households)
- Moved (89 households)

Veteran Homelessness

- 101 veterans were counted during the 2015 Point-in-Time Count.
- 98 percent were in households without children.
- 92 were male and 9 were female.
- 90 percent were sheltered in temporary lodging projects.
- 10 percent were unsheltered and sleeping in places not designed for habitation.

Chronic Homelessness

For purposes of the 2015 Point-in-Time Count, chronic homelessness is defined by the presence of a disabling condition *and* either a history of repeated episodes of homelessness or long duration of continuous homelessness (at least one year). Our community counted:

- 219 chronically homeless individuals who were either unsheltered or staying in Emergency Shelters.
- 7 chronically homeless families with adults and children (consisting of 21 people) who were staying in Emergency Shelters.

Other Homeless Subpopulations

- 262 adults counted are experiencing serious mental illness.
- 182 adults counted have a substance abuse condition.
- 222 people counted are survivors of domestic violence.

Important Point-in-Time Count Trends

- Total persons counted by the community in 2015 were 1033 a decrease of 10 percent from the 1149 counted in 2014 count
- Our community has counted fewer homeless families every year for the last four years. In 2015, we counted 121 homeless families, a 17 percent decrease from the 1149, counted in 2014, and a 56 percent decrease from the 274 counted in 2011.
- Our community counted 101 veterans in 2015, a 19 percent increase from the 85 counted in 2014.
- Our community counted 132 unsheltered persons in 2015, a 15 percent decrease from the 155 unsheltered persons counted in 2014.
- Our community has counted more persons experiencing severe mental illness every year since 2012. In 2015, we counted 262 persons with severe mental illness, a 2 percent increase over the 257 counted in 2014.
- Our community has counted more persons with a chronic substance abuse condition from 2012 – 2014. In 2015 this number remained constant at 182 persons counted with a chronic substance abuse condition.
- Our community continues to see an increased number of chronically homeless individuals counted. In 2014, our community counted 219 chronically homeless individuals, a 45 percent increase over the 151 chronically homeless individuals counted in 2014. The percentage of chronic homeless individuals accessing shelter on the night of the PIT has increased 11% since 2014.

2015 Point-in-Time Methodology

- 31 different agencies participated in the 2015 Point-in-Time Count including social service and housing providers, healthcare providers, faith-based organizations, outreach professionals and local governments.
- Point-in-Time Count Data was sourced from Spokane’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). 39 percent of the data used was entered into HMIS directly by HMIS-participating agencies. 61 percent of the data used was first collected on paper forms at meal and services sites and then entered into HMIS by City of Spokane CHHS staff.
- The 2015 Point-in-Time Count Data Collection Form was updated and revised for ease of use and consistency with data collection practices suggested by the Washington State Department of Commerce.
- For improved data control, sheltered persons were only counted at the Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing facilities they were staying at on the night of the Point-in-Time Count.
- For improved data control, separate color-coded forms were used to capture data on sheltered and unsheltered persons.
- The list of total persons included in the 2015 Point-in-Time Count was deduplicated across five identifying data points including HMIS client ID number, social security number, birth date, last name and first name.

Point-in-Time Count Trends – Selected Charts

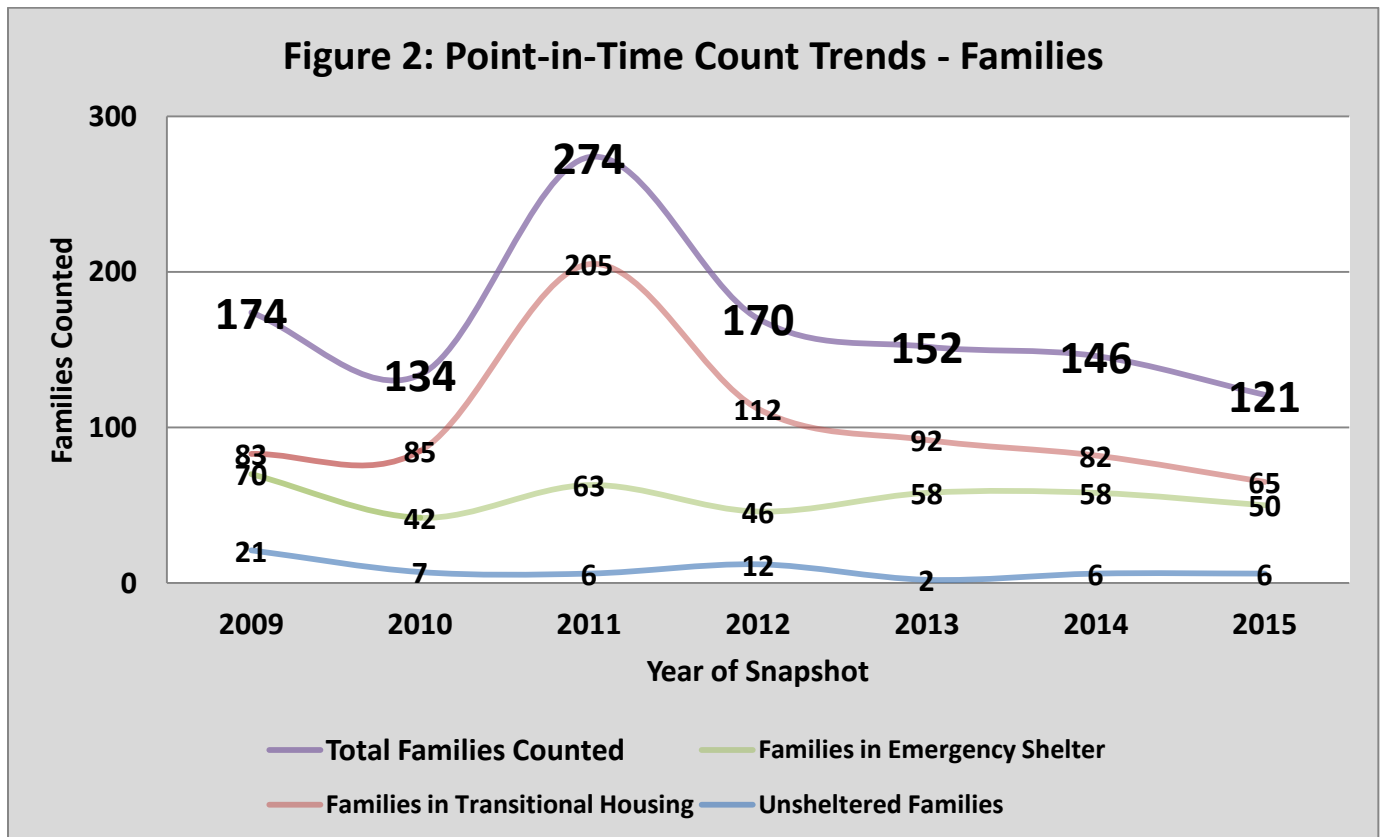
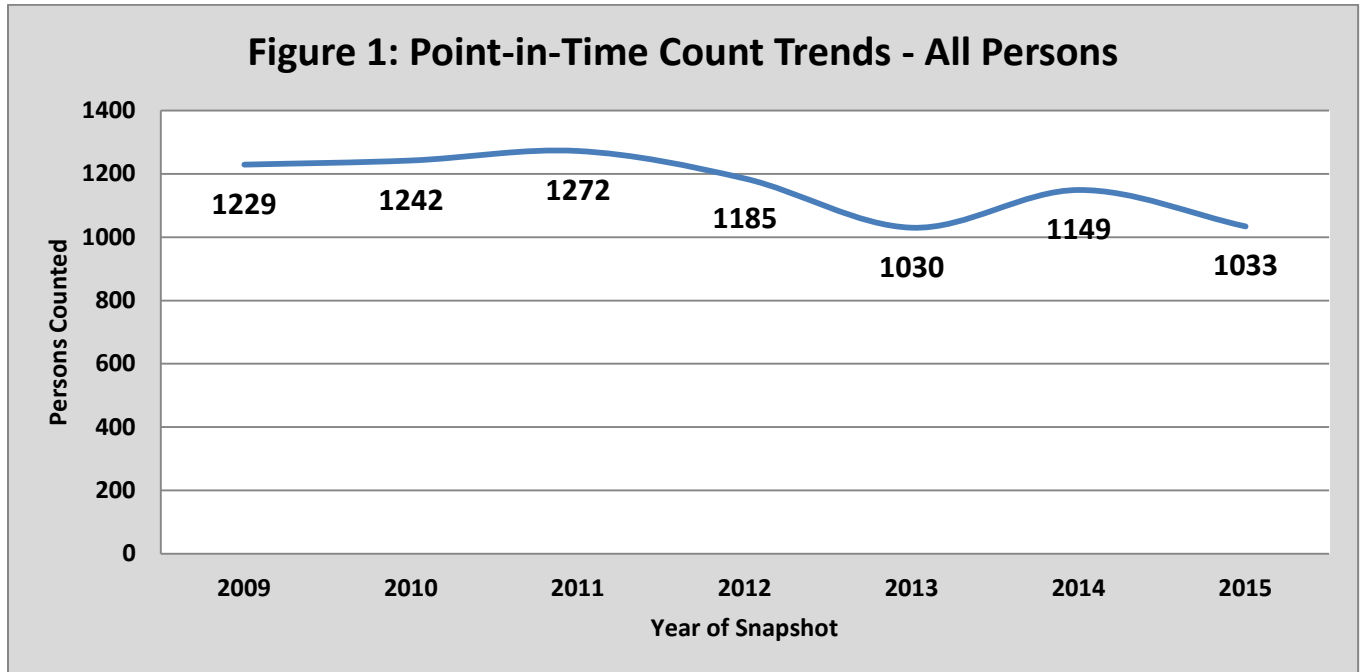


Figure 3: Point-in-Time Count Trends - Households without Children

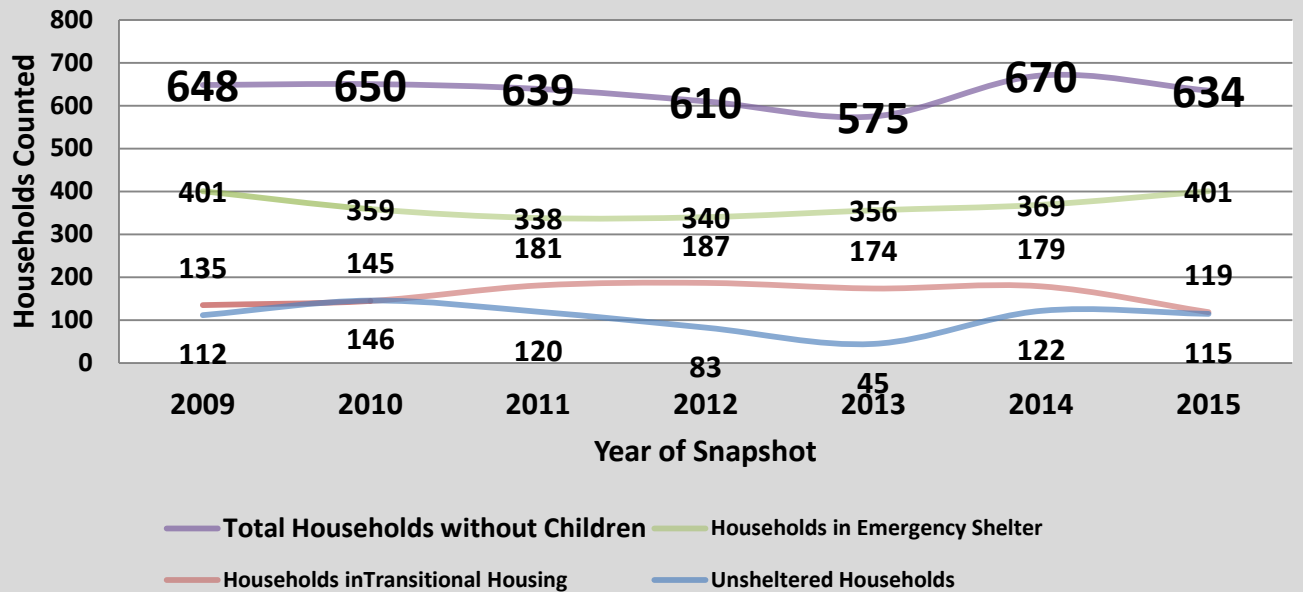


Figure 4: Point-in-Time Count Trends - Shelter Source

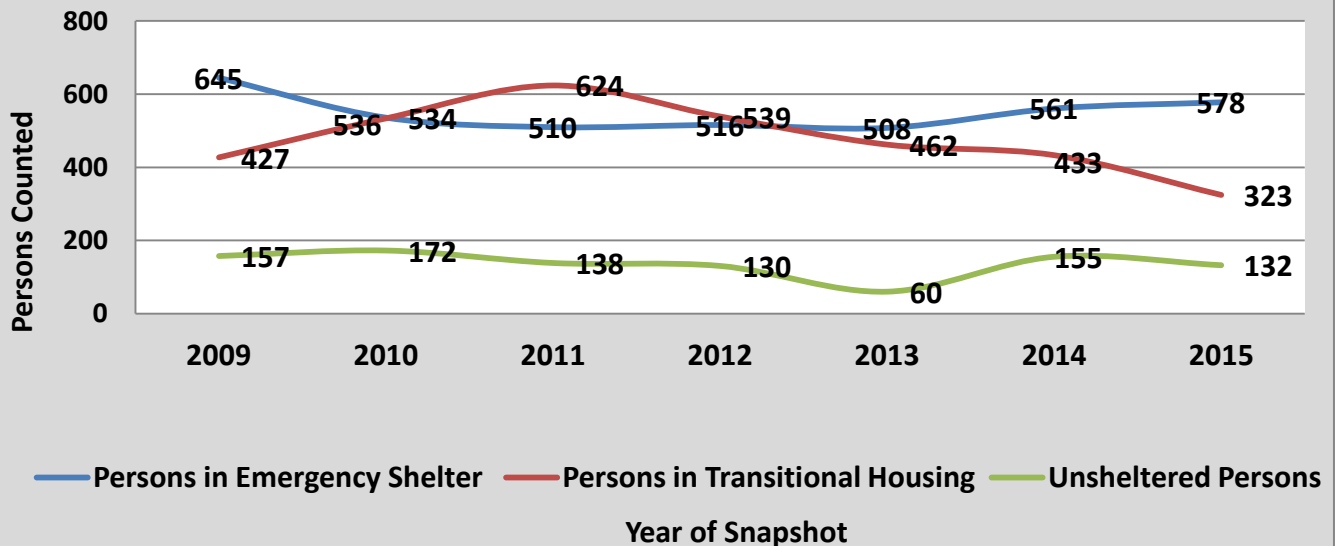


Figure 5: Point-in-Time Count Trends - Veterans

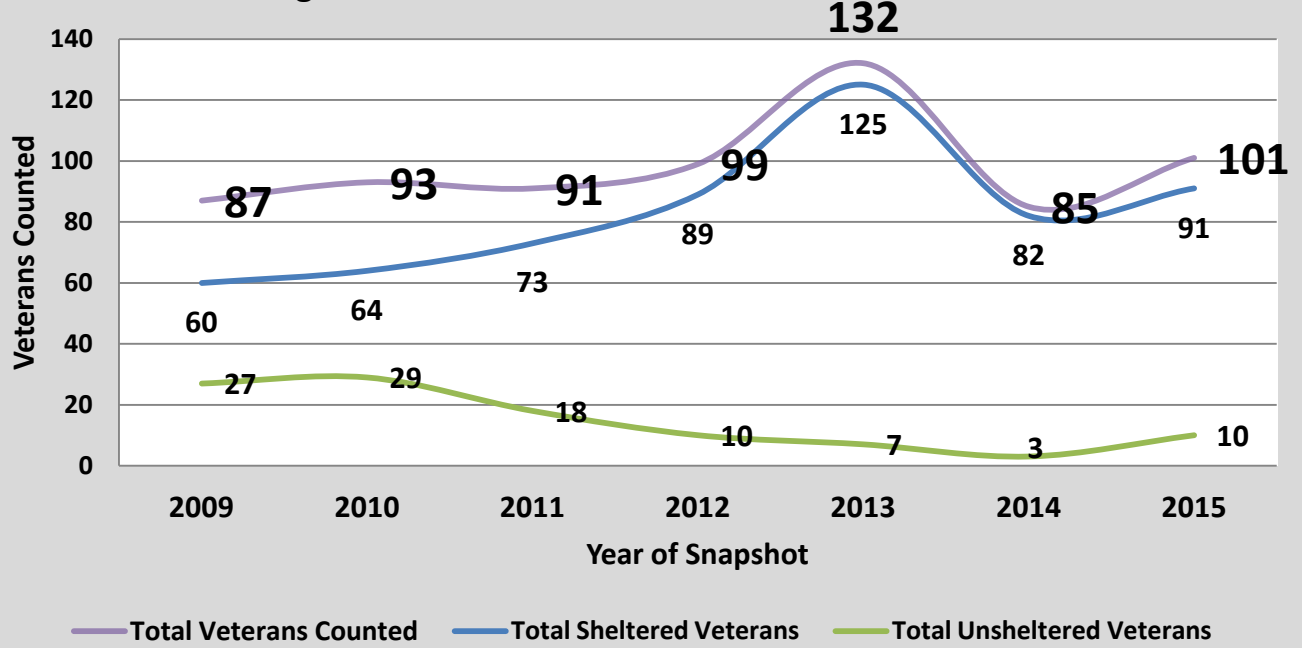


Figure 6: Point-in-Time Count Trends - Chronically Homeless

Individuals

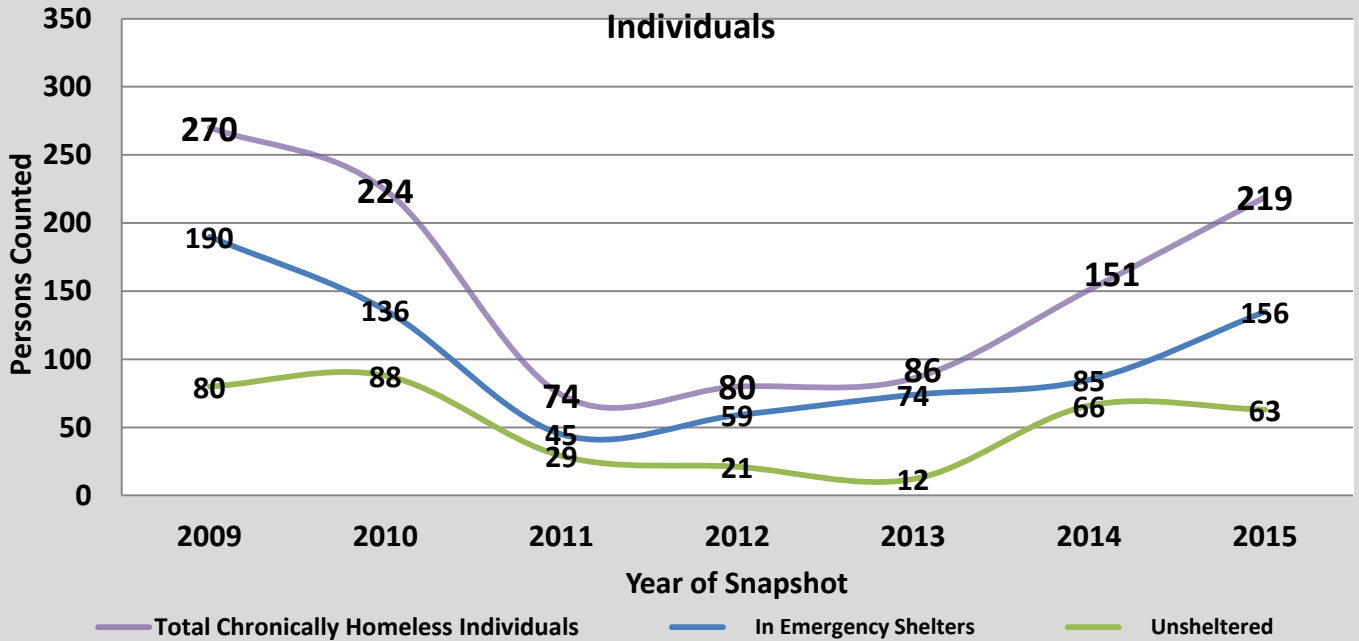


Figure 8: Point-in-Time Count Trends - Domestic Violence Survivors

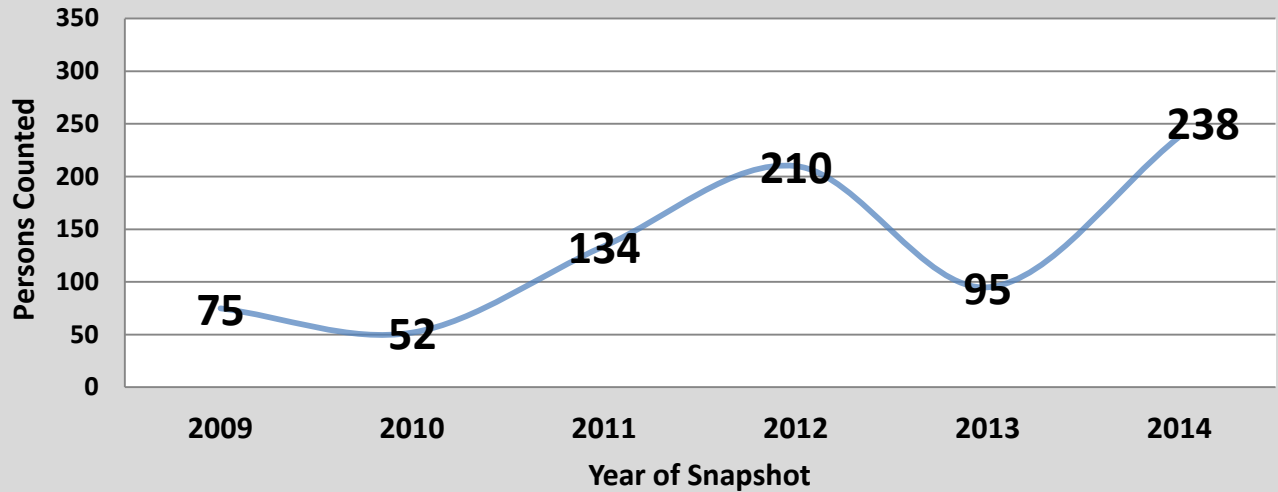


Figure 9: Point-in-Time Count Trends - Persons Experiencing Severe Mental Illness

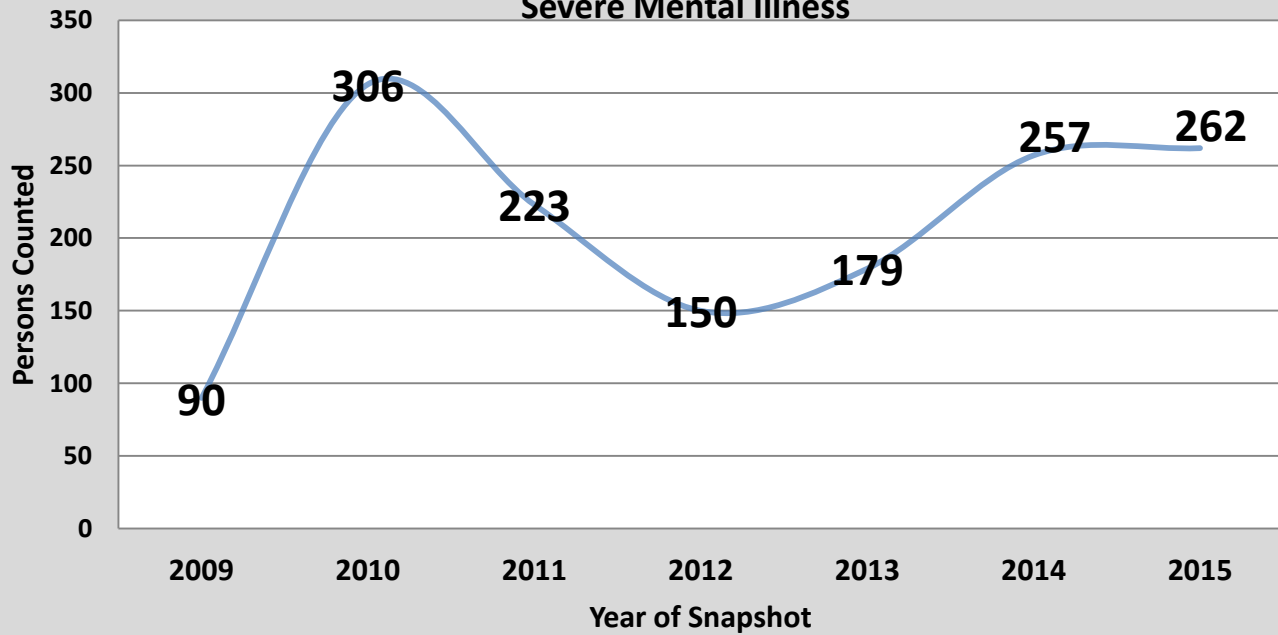


Figure 10: Point-in-Time Count Trends - Persons with Chronic Substance Abuse

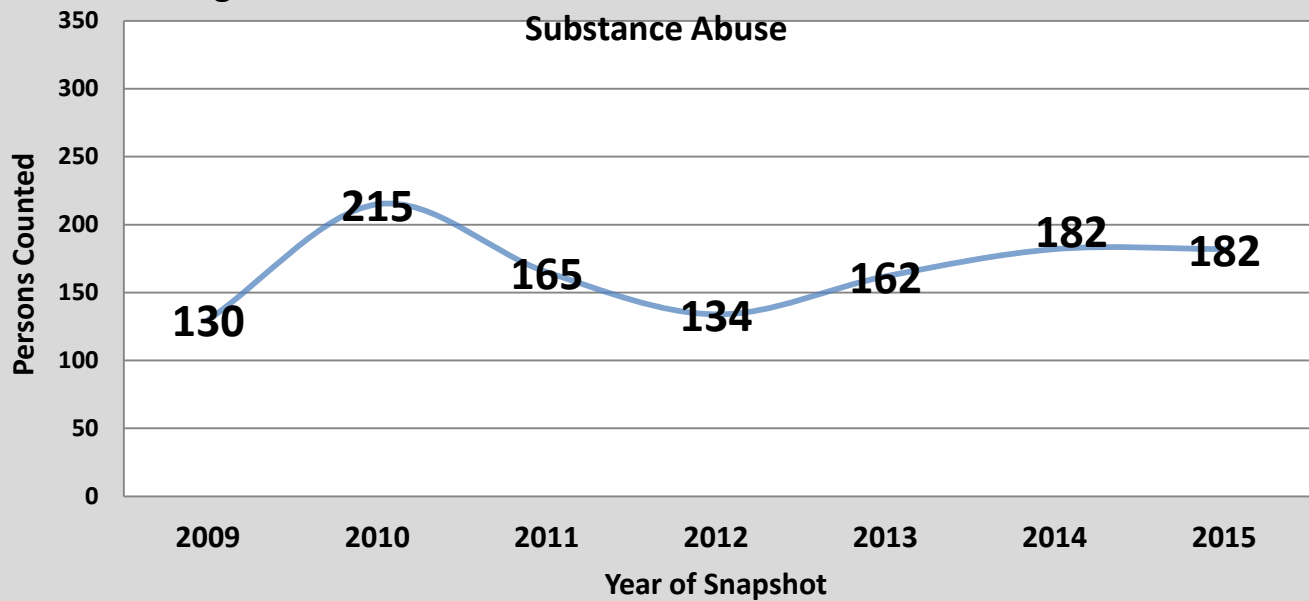
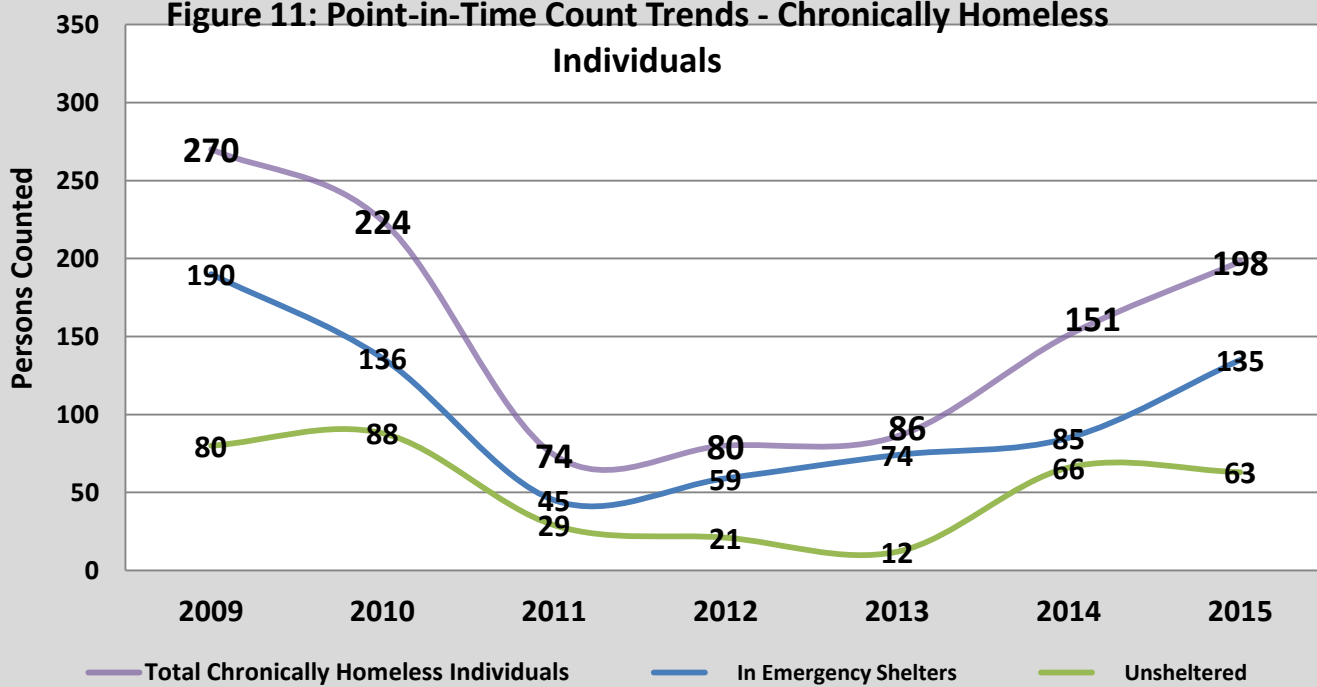


Figure 11: Point-in-Time Count Trends - Chronically Homeless Individuals



2015 PIT - Reasons For Homelessness

