



# 2015 Annual Point-In-Time Report for the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

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## Winter Shelter Survey 2015

# 2015 Winter Point-in-Time Count & Shelter Survey Report

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Thank you to all the volunteers that made this data collection possible!



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# Introduction

Each year, every community that receives HUD funding for homeless service providers collects data for a Point-In-Time (PIT) Report. The PIT Report is just one direction in the communication process between federal (HUD) and local agencies. The flow of information goes from HUD to local resources and then from local resources back to HUD. For example, grant applications insure initiative and goal alignment between the local, state, and federal level agencies that address homelessness, and the Point-In-Time Reports indicate whether the initiatives and goals are successful or not. If the initiatives are successful, the data should indicate a reduction in the amount of homeless and the time spent homeless.

“HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.”<sup>1</sup> HUD has established goals in its 2014-2018 strategic plan regarding programs to end homelessness for veterans, people experiencing chronic homelessness, families, youth, and children; promote advancements in economic prosperity for residents of HUD-assisted housing; and to promote the health and housing stability of vulnerable populations.<sup>2</sup>

“In 2014, \$1.6 billion in HUD funding was awarded to support programs and services for the homeless population across the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The President's 2015 Budget seeks \$2.4 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, \$480 million above the 2012 enacted level. This level of funding maintains the approximately 224,000 HUD-funded beds that assist the homeless nationwide and expands rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing.”<sup>3</sup>

Of the \$1.6 billion in 2014, the state of Virginia was awarded \$21,690,375 to fund 133 programs serving the homeless population.<sup>2</sup> The Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) is a statewide nonprofit organization unifying the interests of all concerned with homelessness to bring the most effective and cost-effective policies, systems, and services into practice across the Commonwealth. VCEH currently has three primary initiatives: 1) Ending homelessness among Virginia's Veterans by the end of 2015, 2) Building local capacity to improve the response to homelessness, including transitioning to permanent solutions to homelessness, such as permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing, and 3) Advocating for better policy and increased resources to address all homelessness.<sup>4</sup>

The Point-In-Time Report is utilized at the local level to provide insights into successful strategies, while also providing knowledge about the experiences of the homeless. The Blue Ridge Continuum of Care (CoC) has continued to analyze, adjust and improve their processes pertaining to homelessness. The Blue Ridge CoC ensures strategies such as a providing a central intake; a community housing resource center; and utilizing rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing are combined within a framework of collective impact that maximizes the efforts of all service provider agencies. The members of the CoC actively participate in monthly meetings and strategic planning to ensure the alignment of federal goals and system performance measures with local goals and processes. The Blue Ridge CoC also participates in new initiatives aimed at reducing homelessness. This past year it successfully



<sup>1</sup> <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/about/mission>

<sup>2</sup> <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=hudstrategicplan2014-2018.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2014/HUDNo.14-032](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2014/HUDNo.14-032)

<sup>4</sup> <http://vceh.org>



housed 35 veterans through participation in the Veterans 100 Day Challenge. Currently the CoC is participating in the Zero 2016 initiative, an initiative to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015, and chronic homelessness by the end of 2016.

## Methodology

This 2015 Winter Point-In-Time and Shelter Survey report utilized data from three different sources: Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count), Point-In-Time Surveys (PIT Survey) and The Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) surveys. Each source of data has a different purpose, but data collection for all three occur on the same night to avoid duplicated data. January 29, 2015 was the night selected to gather data for the 2015 Winter Point-In-Time Report.

The purpose of the PIT Count is to obtain an accurate, unduplicated count of all those residing in a shelter. The PIT Count is completed by shelter directors and staff, and the only descriptive frequencies are: under age 18; 18-24; over age 24; street count; and veteran status.



The Point-In-Time Survey (PIT Survey) is administered at least every year and sometimes twice a year for the purpose of detailing information and characteristics about people experiencing homelessness. This is a more comprehensive survey that contains questions about: the reasons homeless; children's descriptive questions; cash and non-cash benefits and health needs. The 2015 survey instrument consisted of 26 closed response questions; "other" and N/A responses for appropriate questions and 2 follow up or open-ended questions. People who were homeless the night of January 29<sup>th</sup> were allowed to refuse the PIT survey, which is why the PIT Count (N=390) is so important for

understanding the actual numbers homeless and the PIT survey for understanding characteristics of a sample (N= 191, 49%) of those homeless.

Street Counts (N=12), the number of homeless not residing in a shelter, are provided by the number of VI-SPDAT surveys that are returned. VI-SPDAT is an assessment tool that indicates the level of vulnerability for a homeless person or family. This assessment tool is a survey that consists of 50 YES/NO or N/A questions. There are 4 categories within this survey that calculate a combined score between 1-4, 5-9, and 10 and above. A score of 10 or above would indicate that an individual/family is more vulnerable. People who are homeless and on the street have the right to refuse the VI-SPDAT just like those in the shelter can refuse the PIT survey. If a person chooses not to complete the VI-SPDAT then the survey is coded as refused although the individual is still counted in the numbers of those on the street.

Volunteers to administer the surveys were recruited utilizing the Council of Community Services' Hands on Blue Ridge volunteer services and Jefferson College of Health Sciences students. Each agency also provided staff to administer surveys at the shelters.



# Key Findings for 2015 Point-In-Time Count

The total number of homeless individuals in this year's count is 390\*. The number of adults age 24 and older experiencing homelessness totaled 265 and the number of children under age 18 experiencing homelessness totaled 80. The numbers have been trending downward since 2012.

PEOPLE COUNTED	Children < 18	Children 18-24	Adults > 24	2015 TOTAL	VETERANS	CH*	FEMALE	MALE
Family Promise TRUST	7	3	4	14	0	0	9	5
Safe Home Systems (Covington)	2	2	22	26	17	2	9	17
Turning Point Red Shield Lodge	1	1	5	7	0	4	6	1
Rescue Mission Singles	9	1	8	18	0	0	13	5
Rescue Mission Family Shelter	0	1	52	53	9	0	0	53
Street Count	0	15	158	173	21	20	68	105
TOTAL	61	22	4	87	3	20	48	39
			12	12	0	1	3	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>234</b>

\*CH refers to chronically homeless

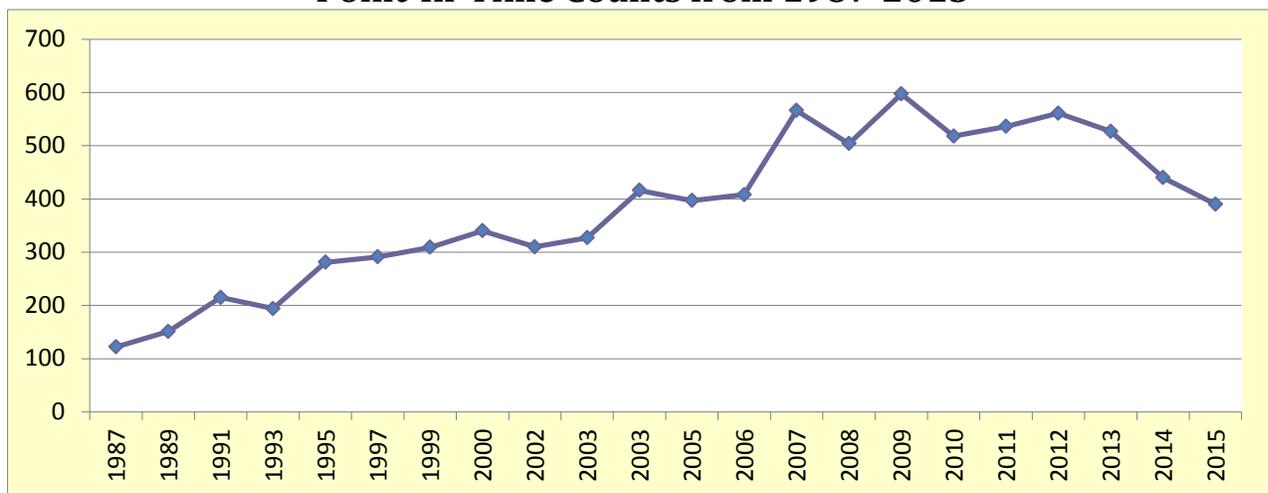
The number of veterans this year decreased by 21% from last year's total of 63 in 2014.

Females make up 40% of the total population and males are 60% of the total population.

Children under the age of 18 are 20.5% of the total population

The 390 total does not include the possible homeless individuals incarcerated.

**Point-In-Time Counts from 1987-2015**



Point-In-Time Count in 2015 decreased by 11.3% (390 compared to 440 in 2014 and 527 in 2013)



# Key Findings for the PIT Survey Results

- 191 (49%) shelter respondents (adults 18 and over) completed the survey. This is a 9% decrease in the number of respondents compared to 2014 (58%).
- 60.5% of respondents were living in the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care catchment area when they became homeless compared to 57.6% in 2014 and 51.2% in 2013
- The top 5 challenges faced by homeless include:
  - Affordable housing (#1 in 2014)
  - Cannot find work (# 2 in 2014)
  - Medical problems (#3 in 2014)
  - Dental problems (#4 in 2014)
  - Past incarceration (#5 in 2014)
- The oldest respondent is 76 and the youngest is 19.
- 96 men (50.3%) and 95 women (49.7%) completed the survey
- 54.8% (103) of those surveyed identified themselves as white and 35.6% (67) identified themselves as African-American
- 13% (25) of respondents are Veterans as compared to 19% in 2014
- 44% (83) of respondents report having received mental health services in the past
- 23% (44) of respondents report having received treatment for problems related to alcohol
- 16.8% (32) of respondents report having been treated for drug dependency
- 83.7% (159) report having a high school/GED education or more. Educational attainment has been trending upward since 2011 (73.4%, 77.9%, 79.9%, 81.2%)
- 32.1% (59) of respondents are employed either “on” or “off” the books. This is a 2.6% decrease from 2014
- 31.4% of survey respondents indicate unemployment as the primary reason for being homeless
- 32.6% (60) report receiving food stamps
- 54.5% (104) of respondents report looking for work compared to 57.4% in 2014
- 67.6% of respondents report they have never heard of the Community Housing Resource Center as compared to 76.9% in 2014. 15.1% of respondents have received services from the CHRC compared to 6.3% in 2014.



# 2015 Point-In-Time Shelter Survey Results

## General Demographic Statistics

Gender	Response Count	Response Percent
Male	96	50.3%
Female	95	49.7%
Transgender	0	0.0%
Declined to state	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

Fewer and fewer men are completing the surveys each year 2012 (67.5%), 2013 (51%, 2014 (58.4%).

What racial/ethnic group do you identify with the most (choose only one)?	Response Count	Response Percent
White/Caucasian	103	53.9%
Black/African American	67	35.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native and White	1	0.5%
Asian and White	0	0.0%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1	0.5%
Hispanic/Latino	6	3.1%
Mixed Race	10	5.2%
Declined to state	0	0.0%
Other (please specify)*	3	1.5%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

The racial groups have ranged between 53/35% and 58/36% for White/Caucasian and Black/African American respectively.

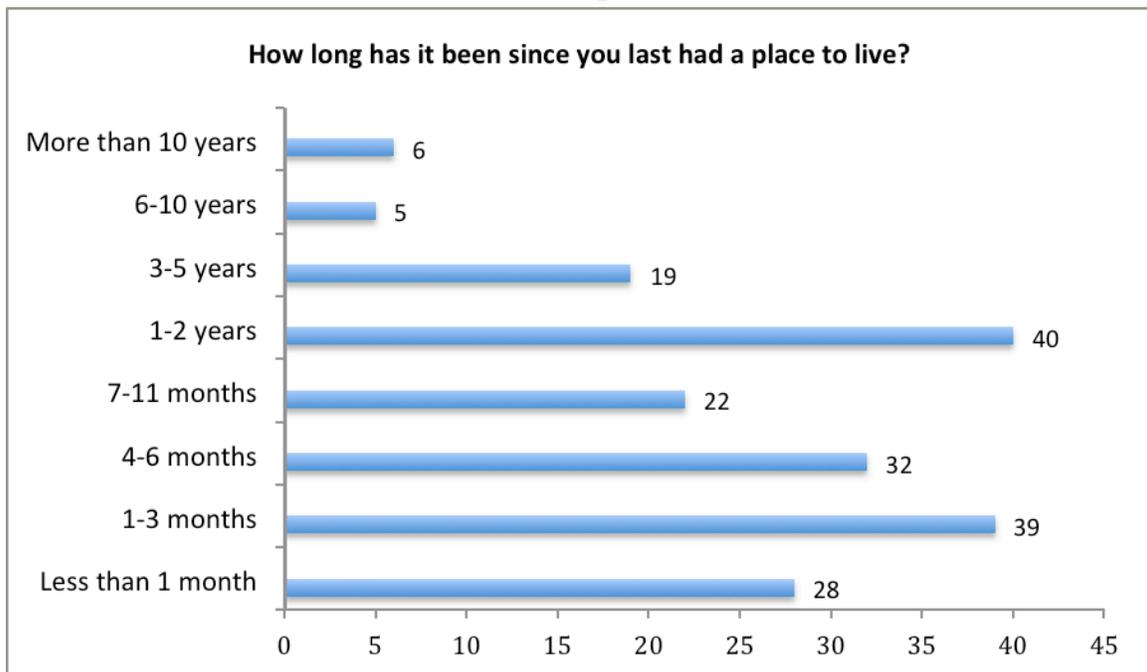
\*3 respondents who indicated "other" identified as Other (2) and Iraqi (1)



Agency Survey Response	Response Count	Response Percent
Family Promise	7	3.7%
Safe Homes (Covington)	6	3.1%
HAT	0	0.0%
Rescue Mission – Family Shelter	66	34.6%
Rescue Mission – Men’s Shelter	21	11.0%
Rescue Mission – Respite	5	2.6%
Rescue Mission – Tabitha Project	17	8.9%
Red Shield Lodge	39	20.4%
Turning Point	7	3.7%
TRUST House	23	12.0%
Street Canvassing	0	0.0%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

The Rescue Mission-Family Shelter and Red Shield Lodge are the two agencies with the most survey respondents.

### Historical Descriptive Statistics



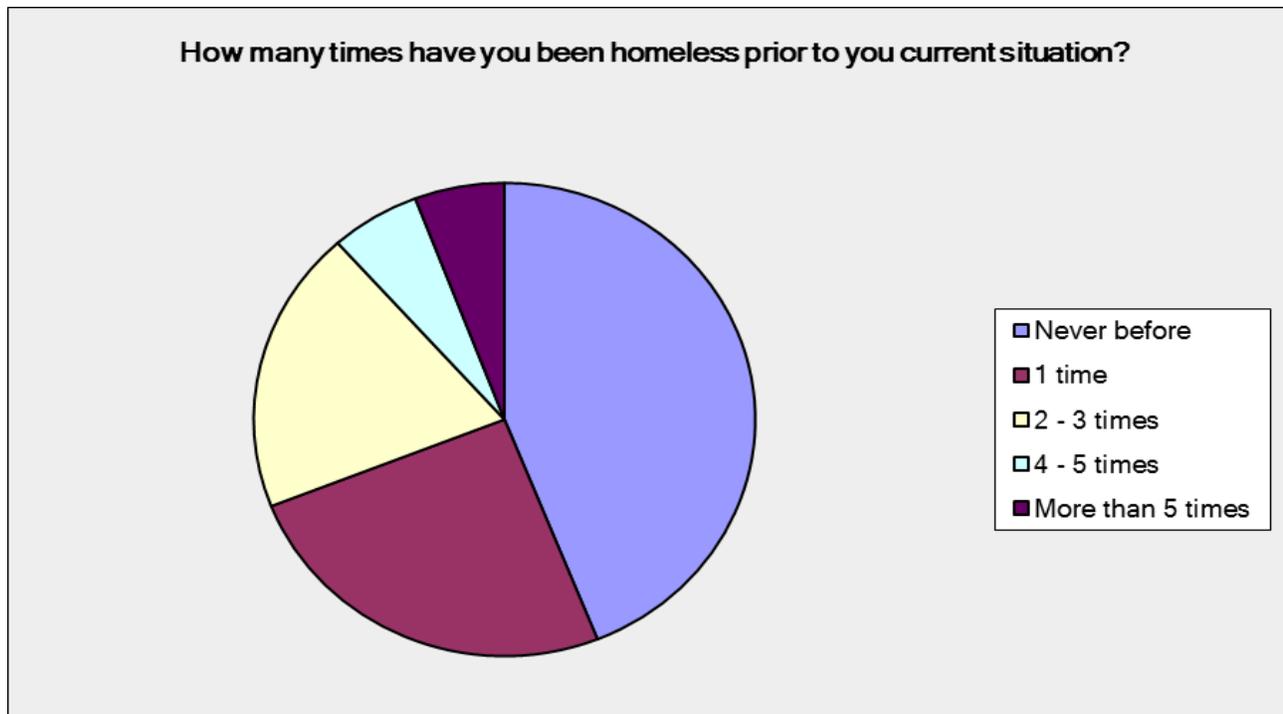
The category 1-2 years has been the most reported length of time homeless other than in 2014. In 2014 1-2 years was the third most reported following 4.6 months and 1-3 months.



Please tell us the primary reason you are currently homeless:	Response Count	Response Percent
Unemployed	60	31.4%
Evicted from home, unrelated to payment	19	9.9%
Victim of domestic violence	18	9.4%
Mental health	5	2.6%
Substance abuse	11	5.7%
Fire/other disaster	0	0.00%
Family problems	28	14.6%
Bad credit	0	0.00%
Criminal history	10	5.2%
Lack of affordable housing	11	5.7%
Discharged from an institution	0	0.00%
Other (please specify)*	29	15.1%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

Unemployed ranks number 1 as the primary reason for homelessness on every report from 2012-2015.

\*29 respondents who indicated "Other" specified as: behind on rent/evicted (3); divorce (2); medical (3); loss of services (3); illness of self or family member (2); house condemned; water pipe busted; lack of proper identification to work; released from prison (3); legal blindness; death of mother; lack of family support; came here to go in program; to stop selling drugs; poor living conditions (2); physical health; caretaker; place he was renting was sold.



In 2015 the majority of people (44%) reported never being homeless before. This statistic has ranged from 42-44% since 2012.



Where were you residing when you became homeless?	Response Count	Response Percent
<b>Roanoke City</b>	96	50.2%
<b>Salem</b>	3	1.5%
<b>Roanoke County/Vinton</b>	11	5.7%
Botetourt County	1	0.5%
Clifton Forge	0	0.0%
Alleghany County	4	2.0%
Other (please specify)*	75	39.2%
Answered question	190	
Skipped question	1	

57.4% of the homeless people were in the Roanoke area compared to 54.9% in 2014 and 48.7% in 2013.

\*Of those who came to Roanoke from some other place, 51 were from other jurisdictions in Virginia and 24 came from other states.

If you became homeless somewhere other than Roanoke, why did you come to Roanoke? (Choose one main reason)	Response Count	Response Percent
Not applicable	110	57.5%
Find a job	12	6.2%
Friends/family are here	10	5.2%
Domestic violence program	3	1.5%
To obtain healthcare	0	0.0%
Ran out of money	0	0.0%
Personal reasons	3	1.5%
Probation/Parole officer	7	3.6%
Veterans Administration	5	2.6%
Substance abuse program	5	2.6%
Shelter only	17	8.9%
Other/Referred by: (please specify)*	18	9.4%
Answered question	172	
Skipped question	19	

\*If someone came to Roanoke after becoming homeless, the main reasons continue to be Other and Shelter only. Of the 18 respondents who identified with “Other/Referred by” (3) listed names, (1) was referred from Blacksburg, (1) was referred by Immigration Services, (2) answered medical/hospital, (2) answered randomly got dropped off, (1) found online, and (8) listed for services such as: United Way, Rescue Mission, and Goodwill



Where did you sleep last night?	Response Count	Response Percent
Emergency shelter	146	76.4%
Transitional shelter	30	15.7%
Psychiatric facility	0	0.0%
Hospital (non-psychiatric)	0	0.0%
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention	0	0.0%
Rented housing unit	0	0.0%
Owned housing unit	0	0.0%
Staying with family	3	1.5%
Hotel or motel (no voucher)	1	0.5%
Foster care home	0	0.0%
Domestic violence shelter	9	4.7%
Permanent supportive housing	0	0.0%
Substance abuse treatment center or detox	0	0.0%
Place not meant for human habitation	0	0.0%
Other (please specify)*	2	1.0%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

Emergency and Transitional shelters have remained the top 2 responses since 2012.

\*Other responses included the “Campsite” and “Stayed with friend”

Have you been denied a bed at a local shelter in the last 12 months because it was full?	Response Count	Response Percent
Yes	22	11.5%
No	169	88.5%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

The number of people denied a bed due to capacity of the shelter was 6-6.7% each year until 2015. This year had the highest report of 11.5%.

### Familial Descriptive Statistics

How many children under the age of 18 do you have with you?	Response Count	Response Percent
0 Children	157	82.2%
1 Child	6	3.1%
2 Children	14	7.3%
3 Children	8	4.2%
4 Children	3	1.6%
5+ Children	3	1.6%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

56 school age children are attending school, 4 are not attending school.



How do you handle child care?	Response Count	Response Percent
Not applicable	157	82.1%
I do not need child care	11	5.7%
Friends/family	6	3.1%
I take care of my children myself	11	5.7%
Child care center	3	1.5%
Other (please specify)*	3	1.5%
Answered question	188	
Skipped question	0	

\*Other responses include social services, work while they are in school, and hired babysitter

Are you a veteran of the US military?	Response Count	Response Percent
Yes	25	13.1%
No	166	86.9%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

What is the highest level of education that you completed?	Response Count	Response Percent
K - 8	4	2.1%
Some high school	26	13.7%
High school graduate	54	28.4%
GED	35	18.4%
Some college	53	27.9%
College graduate	11	5.8%
Post graduate	6	3.2%
Declined to state	1	0.5%
Answered question	190	
Skipped question	1	

83.7% or 159 respondents report having a high school/GED education or more. This is trending upward since 2011.

### Work and Income Statistics

Are you actively looking for work?	Response Count	Response Percent
Not applicable	23	12.0%
Yes	104	54.5%
No	64	33.5%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

In 2015 54.5% are actively looking for work. This is slightly down from 2014 and 57.4% actively looking for work.



How do you make money? (Check all that apply)	Response Count	Response Percent
Work, on the books	50	27.1%
Work, off the books	9	4.8%
Drug trade	1	0.5%
Sex trade	0	0.0%
SSI	12	6.5%
SSDI	15	8.1%
Pension/Retirement	3	1.6%
Veterans Administration	8	4.3%
Public assistance	4	2.1%
Food stamps	60	32.6%
Recycling	4	2.1%
Panhandling	1	0.5%
No income	68	36.9%
Other (please specify)*	16	8.6%
Answered question	184	
Skipped question	7	

36.9% report not having any income. 32.6% report food stamps and 27.1% report working (on the books).

\*Other responses include: child support (6); odd jobs/temp. work/day labor/part-time employment (6); TANF; Study at Carilion; friends/family (3); owns business

How do you mainly get around? (Check all that apply)	Response Count	Response Percent
Licensed motorized vehicle	22	11.7%
Valley Metro bus	101	53.7%
Walk	100	53.1%
Scooter/Bicycle	2	1.0%
Ride with family/friends	28	14.8%
Other (please specify)	7	3.7%
Answered question	188	
Skipped question	3	

Valley Metro bus and walking have been the top 2 responses each year since 2012. 7 “Other” responses include: Social Worker/Case Worker (2), Rescue Mission Transport (3), Salvation Army Transportation (1), and Trolley (1)



## Health (Physical and Mental) Statistics

If you get sick, where do you go for medical attention?	Response Count	Response Percent
Emergency room	69	36.5%
Urgent Care	9	4.7%
Rescue Mission Healthcare Center	40	21.1%
New Horizons	4	2.1%
Private doctor	20	10.5%
VA Medical Center	21	11.1%
Health Department	1	0.5%
Bradley Free Clinic	12	6.3%
Other (please specify)*	13	6.8%
Answered question	189	
Skipped question	2	

\*Emergency room has been the number 1 response each year and continues to be the place to go for medical attention

\*Other responses include: any free clinic (3); nowhere (3); hospital (1); Free Riverside Circle (1); Fralin Clinic (1); Primary Care at Carilion (1); Primary Care Doctor (1); Carilion Primary Care (1); and Carilion Family Practice (1)

Do you take medications?	Response Count	Response Percent
Yes	104	54.5%
No	87	45.5%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

Each year from 2012-2015 between 50-59.3% report taking medications. In 2015 54.5% reported taking medications.

If yes how do you obtain your medication? (Check primary source)	Response Count	Response Percent
I purchase them from a drug store	37	32.4%
I get them from a service provider	39	34.2%
I cannot afford my medications	7	6.1%
Other (please specify)	31	27.1%
Answered question	114	
Skipped question	77	

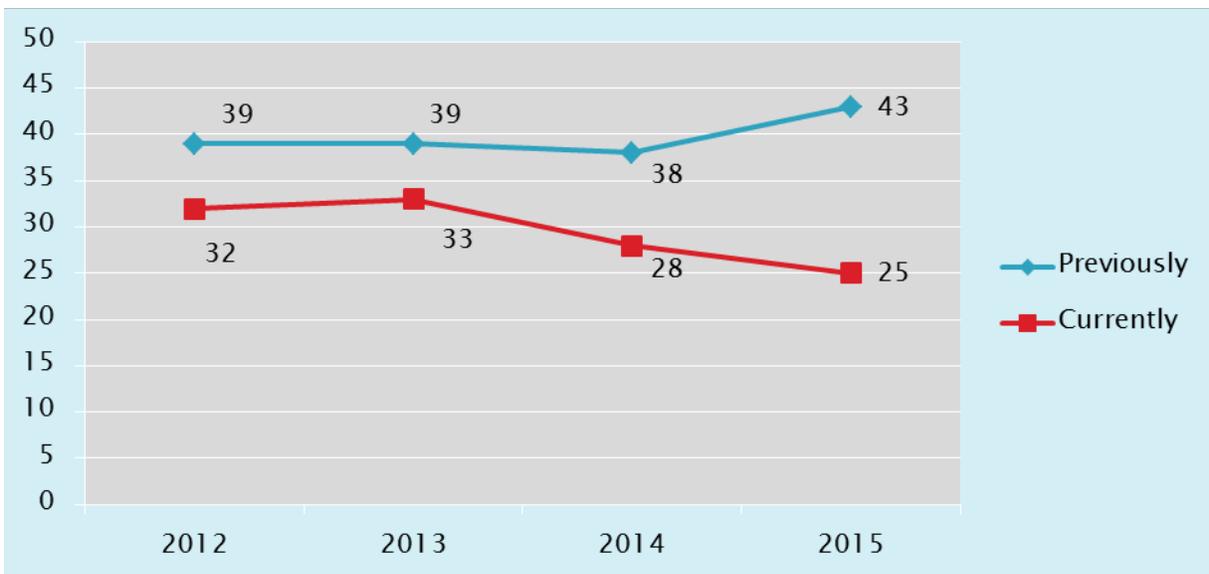
Of those who are taking medications, the majority purchase from a drug store, get the medications from a service provider or the 31 “other” responses include: VA. Medical Center (16), Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare (2), Insurance (4), CMAP, Walmart, Free Clinic, Bradley Free Clinic, Mental Health, Glenco (Blue Ridge), and has a supply from before he was homeless



How do you pay for medical care?	Response Count	Response Percent
Medicaid	40	21.4%
Medicare	9	4.8%
Private insurance	11	5.9%
Out of pocket	29	15.5%
Other	98	52.4%
Answered question	187	
Skipped question	4	

Other continues to be the highest category for how people pay for medical care at 52.4%. In the past the other responses included VA Premier, Veterans Administration Medical Care and charity care.

Are you CURRENTLY receiving mental health services?	Response Count	Response Percent	Have you PREVIOUSLY received mental health services?	Response Count	Response Percent
Yes	49	25.8%	Yes	83	43.5%
No	141	74.2%	No	108	56.5%
Answered question	190		Answered question	191	
Skipped question	1		Skipped question	0	



Over the last four years the number of people reporting previously receiving mental health services is increasing and those individuals currently receiving mental health services are decreasing.



Have you ever received treatment for problems related to alcohol?	Response Count	Response Percent
Yes	44	23.0%
No	147	77.0%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

Fewer people reported received treatment for problems related to alcohol in 2014 (20.6%) and 2015 (23.0%) than in previous years 2013 (30.7%) and 2012 (32.9%).

Have you ever been treated for drug dependency?	Response Count	Response Percent
Yes	32	16.8%
No	159	83.2%
Answered question	191	
Skipped question	0	

More and more people are reporting they haven't ever been treated for drug dependency each year. 2015 (83.2%), 2014 (82.0%), 2013 (71.4%), 2012 (72.9%).

### Common Characteristics and Challenges

Of the following common characteristics and challenges faced by those without a home, please indicate which affect you. (Choose all that apply)	Response Count	Response Percent
Cannot find work	96	53.0%
Cannot find affordable housing	112	61.9%
Victim of domestic violence	36	19.9%
Dental Problems	57	31.5%
Legal problems/Problems with police	31	17.1%
Challenges with substance abuse	29	16.0%
I cannot afford my medications	35	19.3%
Previous foster care	9	5.0%
Divorce	39	21.5%
Physical disability	45	24.9%
Medical problems	64	35.4%
Past incarceration	47	26.0%
Child custody disputes	12	6.6%
Other (please specify)*	16	8.8%
Answered question	181	
Skipped question	10	

Affordable housing, cannot find work, and medical problems are the top 3 challenges faced by those homeless.

\*Other responses include: not enough hours at work, family problems, still working to get green card/permanent residence, cannot receive income due to switching payees from NY to here, can't speak English well (Spanish speaker), debt/money issues, cannot work





- I am working towards housing and want it fast. I want as much help and information for me to be able to get out on my own.
- It's very hard.
- Very depressing.
- It sucks really bad. It's not the place it's the people.
- Not good time without housing.
- I would like to have a home of my own.
- I will like to get a house as soon as possible because it's more like a goal. Want to get a job and live with my mom...we are like a team.
- It sucks, I do not like being without a house. I do not know how many hoops you have to jump through for someone to help you.
- Your own privacy. Doing what you want to do. Kids don't have their own rooms. Missing my grandkids...older kids cannot come visit and have Sunday dinners. Miss going to places with my brothers and sisters.
- Never be homeless again I guess I don't know.
- Feel like a gypsy or vagabond and out of sorts.
- It's hard when you are so used to having your own. It's so hard for the homeless...it's taking a toll on me.
- I just want to find my own place.
- Wants help for housing
- Today, best news, Section 8 1 bedroom housing.
- I'm good. I'm hoping to find housing.
- I am a caretaker.
- It is a pain in the butt
- Bankers
- It sucks
- He is grateful the mission is here.
- There are a lot of resources that aren't being given out in Roanoke and he doesn't understand why
- Can't do what he wants to do...no freedom.
- Wants to get out of here as soon as possible because he doesn't like the other people here and how comfortable they are staying here (not the staff...he thinks the staff is great!)
- Wants to know how long you have to stay in this shelter before getting housing assistance
- Trying to get my own place--I'm working on it.
- Doesn't like it much. Trying to find housing less than \$500/month
- Very grateful to God that he is alive and for the Rescue Mission because the last 4 years he has been here. Everybody here has been like family to him. Been sick twice and almost died and the clinic helped him through all of that.
- It's been hard trying to find a job.
- I have a case manager through Blue Ridge and she has been very helpful. I also receive services through Professional Payee Partners Incorporated and they are helping me switch my payee services to Roanoke.
- I'm just finding out there are programs out there...I had thought they were for women and children.
- It bothers me. I'd like to get back into a house.



- Need a job so afford it!
- "I'm trying to get stable, find work and stay in aftercare."
- depressing
- It is the most depressing thing I have ever been through in my life.
- You can dwell in your situation ...put best foot forward and seek available agencies
- It's the hardest thing I've ever dealt with
- "Close the gap between what government gives and actual cost.
- Causes other behaviors.
- "No transportation to get around to find work."
- "Your privacy is an issue. Community living is hard."
- I need a job on the books so that I can get an apartment.
- I have to depend on walking or someone here to take me and it sets your schedule behind a lot.
- Would like a better plan to end homelessness.
- It's no fun!
- Coming from prison, being at the RSL provided the structure and safety that I need at this time.
- I wish the process of getting housed was simpler.
- Shocked about how fast this (being homeless) could happen.
- Unable to obtain employment because of criminal background, unable to afford housing, feels like there is no place for him, feels that past incarceration will hold him back.
- Would like for children to be able to visit him. Feels he should be established at his age. Persistent medical concerns make being without housing very difficult.
- "Dislikes the lack of privacy, but likes meeting new people in the shelter."
- "It sucks and makes life hard."
- "It sucks."
- "Don't have my own place to have personal belongings and privacy."
- "Rent is too high, utilities are too much, and pay is not enough."
- "It sucks and I don't want to go through it again."
- "Not good."
- "You don't have privacy and have to share common living areas when you are homeless."
- "Nobody in the US should not be homeless."
- Accept the condition that I am in and working for the way to move forward
- You adjust to the Mission and become comfortable and welcome.
- No bath tub.
- "I feel depressed, sad, feel hopeless!"
- "Time is winding down, I need 30 days."
- I feel there are lots of resources within the area. The hard is finding them. It would be easier if there was more under one roof. However, Turning Point has offered many. Thank you for your support.
- Very depressing.
- It is very difficult, he sometimes gets very depressed.
- Would like to have apartment or house of his own, not to have it is devastating to him.
- Due to his health declining it has been very difficult, he hopes to find housing eventually.



# Conclusion

In 2014 the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care continued to provide needed services, analyze and improve their already successful processes; and the results of this can be seen in the data. This year, January 2015, is the third consecutive year in which the Roanoke area has seen a decline in the number of homeless people and a decrease in the length of time spent homeless. Reductions in length of time were notable

regarding those homeless between 4-6 months and between 3-5 years.

Year after year the top 4 challenges reported remain the same with 1) affordable housing 2) cannot find work 3) medical problems and 4) dental problems. Affordable housing consistently being reported year after year is one reason the conversation quickly turns from the situation of homeless to lack of affordable housing in this area. The Roanoke area CoC concentrates on prevention with a focus on rapid rehousing and programs such as the Community Housing Resource Center that works with landlords to provide affordable housing. New Horizons Health Care facility is currently expanding its' physical health and dental capacities to serve more people with low/no income. Education continues to hover around 80-85% of those homeless having a high school diploma or greater. Addressing the barriers to obtaining and maintaining a livable income through employment is a necessity. Continued utilization of the workforce development and other community resources should improve the challenge of not being able to find work.



Trend data regarding the number of people reporting previously received mental health services and currently receiving mental health services continues to show a divergent pattern between the two indicators. More people year after year are reporting previously received rather than currently receiving.

In regard to gender, the number of survey respondents year after year has increased for women. Further investigation into the data would inquire about the actual numbers of women as a total for the homeless population comparable to the survey sample over time.

Although the Roanoke area continues to see declines in the amount of people homeless, the fact still remains that in January 2015, there were 390 people homeless. As a community, the human service providers in the Roanoke and surrounding areas will continue to serve those in need.



# Appendices

## VI-SPDAT Survey of Street Homeless

Roanoke is one of the original twelve sites<sup>5</sup> in the Commonwealth that continues to survey individuals living on the streets with the following goals:

- Identify the most vulnerable using a tool called the VI SPDAT [Appendix XX].
- Rank their vulnerability by severity
- Systematically house them before their homelessness causes them to die.

Physician Assistant students from Jefferson College of Health Sciences collected data from on Thursday, January 27th. Students worked in teams of four with a team leader to canvas all known locations previously identified by Roanoke Homeless Assistance Team where street homeless were known to spend the night. These locations included parks, bridges, parking garages, an elevated walkway, bus station and the Market area. Teams began the survey at 5 AM in order to increase the likelihood of finding vulnerable individuals before they dispersed for the day. Ten people experiencing homelessness on the streets were identified. Five of those agreed to be surveyed.

Those surveyed reported 5 emergency room visits in the previous three months and 1 inpatient hospitalization in the past year.

### Medical Vulnerability

Heart conditions	1
COPD	1
Heat stroke/exhaustion	2
Reported mental health treatment	2
Mental health hospitalization	1
Reported drug/alcohol use/treatment	4
Brain injury/head trauma	1

### Social Vulnerability

Unlike previous years, none of the five participants reported having been incarcerated or in foster care. None of the five reported having served in the military. All were US citizens.

### Length of time homeless

1-2 years	1
3-5 years	2
6+ years	2

### Demographic Information

Male	5
Female	0
Age*	39 to 57 years [Average 52 years]

\*The average age of persons living on the street increased by three years from the 2014 average.

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<sup>5</sup>Richmond, Arlington, Roanoke, Hampton, Newport News, Williamsburg, York County, James City County, Martinsville, Norfolk, VA Beach, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Isle of Wight County, Franklin and Southampton County, Prince William County, Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.



## Volunteers Conducting the Survey and Vulnerability Index

### Point-in-Time

Amanda	Anderson
Dominic	Austin
Blanca	Baker
Heather	Brush
Lis	Chacon Morales
Matt	Crookshank
Debbie	Davis
Tim	Dayton
Katherine	Donaldson
Stephanie	Floyd
Leah	Hatcher
Millie	Hobgood
Will	Kain
William	Kain
Jennie	King
Samantha	Lukasiewicz
Katrina	McMillian-Zapf
Khea	Morton
Michael	Patterson
Elizabeth	Pentecost
Paul	Powell
Kolleen	Rose
Ken	Russell
Kolicia	Shifflett
Melissa	Steinke
Laura	White
Alan	Woodrow
Officer	J. Johnson
Officer	K. Johnson
Officer	B. Tinsley
Officer	R. Brady
Officer	C. Curry
Sgt.	Collins

### Vulnerability Street Count

Will	Bader
Ashlyn	Baird
Anna	Bayer
Judy	Blake
Alexandra	Brumfield
Brian	Buccola
Kaitie	Castagna
Mara	Cate
Judy	Cusumano
Kate	Donaldson
Kodi	Ethridge
Emma	Fauser
Bill	Ferrell
Courtney	Grocholski
Andrea	Hall
Kathryn	Hoyt
Alex	Huelskamp
Machele	Huff
Allison	Loy
Max	Mello
Kristen	Murphy
James	Norris
Lexi	Ornell
Michelle	Pettis-Tibbs
Katie	Poulos
Sam	Robbins
Aly	Schroeder
Teri	Semones
Kathryn	Sistare
Shannon	Snyder
Maddie	Stark
Kyle	Vaughn
Monica	Veney
Anne	Weinhold
Laura	White



**Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)**  
*Prescreen for Single Adults*

**GENERAL INFORMATION/CONSENT**

Interviewer's Name		Agency <input type="checkbox"/> TEAM <input type="checkbox"/> STAFF <input type="checkbox"/> VOLUNTEER	
Date	Time	Location	
In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?			
First Name		Last Name	
Nickname		Social Security Number	
How old are you?	What's your date of birth?	Has Consented to Participate <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If 60 years or older, then score 1.			Prescreen Score
<b>PRE-SCREEN GENERAL INFORMATION SUBTOTAL</b>			

**A. HISTORY OF HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS**

QUESTIONS			
If the person has experienced two or more cumulative years of homelessness, and/or 4+ episodes of homelessness, then score 1.	RESPONSE	REFUSED	Prescreen Score
1. What is the total length of time you have lived on the streets or in shelters?		<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. In the past three years, how many times have you been housed and then homeless again?		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PRE-SCREEN HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SUBTOTAL</b>			

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**Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)**  
**Prescreen for Single Adults**

**B. RISKS**

**SCRIPT:** I am going to ask you some questions about your interactions with health and emergency services. If you need any help figuring out when six months ago was, just let me know.

QUESTIONS				RESPONSE	REFUSED	Prescreen Score	
If the total number of interactions across questions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 is equal to or greater than 4, then score 1.							
3. In the past six months, how many times have you been to the emergency department/room?					<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. In the past six months, how many times have you had an interaction with the police?					<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. In the past six months, how many times have you been taken to the hospital in an ambulance?					<input type="checkbox"/>		
6. In the past six months, how many times have you used a crisis service, including distress centers or suicide prevention hotlines?					<input type="checkbox"/>		
7. In the past six months, how many times have you been hospitalized as an in-patient, including hospitalizations in a mental health hospital?					<input type="checkbox"/>		
If YES to questions 8 or 9, then score 1.				YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score
8. Have you been attacked or beaten up since becoming homeless?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Threatened to or tried to harm yourself or anyone else in the last year?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If YES to question 10, then score 1.				YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score
10. Do you have any legal stuff going on right now that may result in you being locked up or having to pay fines?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If YES to questions 11 or 12; OR if respondent provides any answer OTHER THAN "Shelter" in question 13, then score 1.				YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score
11. Does anybody force or trick you to do things that you do not want to do?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Ever do things that may be considered to be risky like exchange sex for money, run drugs for someone, have unprotected sex with someone you don't really know, share a needle, or anything like that?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. I am going to read types of places people sleep. Please tell me which one that you sleep at most often. (Check only one.)				<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Street, Sidewalk or Doorway <input type="checkbox"/> Car, Van or RV <input type="checkbox"/> Bus or Subway <input type="checkbox"/> Beach, Riverbed or Park <input type="checkbox"/> Other (SPECIFY):			
<b>PRE-SCREEN RISKS SUBTOTAL</b>							



**Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)**  
**Prescreen for Single Adults**

**C. SOCIALIZATION & DAILY FUNCTIONS**

QUESTIONS				
	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score
<b>If YES to question 14 or NO to questions 15 or 16, score 1.</b>				
14. Is there anybody that thinks you owe them money?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Do you have any money coming in on a regular basis, like a job or government benefit or even working under the table, binning or bottle collecting, sex work, odd jobs, day labor, or anything like that?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Do you have enough money to meet all of your expenses on a monthly basis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>If NO to question 17, score 1.</b>	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score
17. Do you have planned activities each day other than just surviving that bring you happiness and fulfillment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>If YES to questions 18 or 19, score 1.</b>	YES	NO	REFUSED	Prescreen Score
18. Do you have any friends, family or other people in your life out of convenience or necessity, but you do not like their company?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Do any friends, family or other people in your life ever take your money, borrow cigarettes, use your drugs, drink your alcohol, or get you to do things you really don't want to do?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OBSERVE ONLY. DO NOT ASK! If YES, score 1.</b>	YES	NO		Prescreen Score
20. Surveyor, do you detect signs of poor hygiene or daily living skills?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PRE-SCREEN SOCIALIZATION &amp; DAILY FUNCTIONS SUBTOTAL</b>				



**Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)**  
 Prescreen for Single Adults

**D. WELLNESS**

QUESTIONS				
If Does Not Go For Care, score 1.	RESPONSE			Prescreen Score
21. Where do you usually go for healthcare or when you're not feeling well?	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Clinic <input type="checkbox"/> VA <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not go for care			
<b>For EACH YES response in questions 22 through 25 (Medical Conditions), score 1.</b>				
<b>Do you have now, have you ever had, or has a healthcare provider ever told you that you have any of the following medical conditions:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>REFUSED</b>	<b>Medical Conditions</b>
22. Kidney disease/End Stage Renal Disease or Dialysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. History of frostbite, Hypothermia, or Immersion Foot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Liver disease, Cirrhosis, or End-Stage Liver Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
25. HIV+/AIDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>If YES to any of the conditions in questions 26 to 34, then mark "X" in Other Medical Condition column.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>REFUSED</b>	<b>Other Medical Conditions</b>
26. History of Heat Stroke/Heat Exhaustion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
27. Heart disease, Arrhythmia, or Irregular Heartbeat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
28. Emphysema	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
29. Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
30. Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
31. Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
32. Hepatitis C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
33. Tuberculosis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OBSERVATION ONLY – DO NOT ASK:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
34. Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms of a serious health condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>If any response is YES in questions 35 through 41, score 1 in the Substance Use column.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>REFUSED</b>	<b>Substance Use</b>
35. Have you ever had problematic drug or alcohol use, abused drugs or alcohol, or told you do?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
36. Have you consumed alcohol and/or drugs almost every day or every day for the past month?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
37. Have you ever used injection drugs or shots in the last six months?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
38. Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol problems and returned to drinking or using drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
39. Have you used non-beverage alcohol like cough syrup, mouthwash, rubbing alcohol, cooking wine, or anything like that in the past six months?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
40. Have you blacked out because of your alcohol or drug use in the past month?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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Prescreen for Single Adults

<b>OBSERVATION ONLY – DO NOT ASK:</b> 41. Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms or problematic alcohol or drug abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>If any response is YES in questions 42 through 48, score 1 in the Mental Health Column.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>REFUSED</b>	<b>Mental Health</b>
42. Ever been taken to a hospital against your will for a mental health reason?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
43. Gone to the emergency room because you weren't feeling 100% well emotionally or because of your nerves?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
44. Spoken with a psychiatrist, psychologist or other mental health professional in the last six months because of your mental health – whether that was voluntary or because someone insisted that you do so?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
45. Had a serious brain injury or head trauma?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
46. Ever been told you have a learning disability or developmental disability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
47. Do you have any problems concentrating and/or remembering things?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OBSERVATION ONLY – DO NOT ASK:</b> 48. Surveyor, do you detect signs or symptoms of severe, persistent mental illness or severely compromised cognitive functioning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>If the Substance Use score is 1 AND the Mental Health score is 1 AND the Medical Condition score is at least a 1 OR an X, then score 1 additional point for tri-morbidity.</b>				<b>Tri-Morbidity</b>
<b>If YES to question 49, score 1.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>REFUSED</b>	<b>Prescreen Score</b>
49. Have you had any medicines prescribed to you by a doctor that you do not take, sell, had stolen, misplaced, or where the prescriptions were never filled?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>If YES to question 50, score 1.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>REFUSED</b>	<b>Prescreen Score</b>
50. Yes or No – Have you experienced any emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other type of abuse or trauma in your life which you have not sought help for, and/or which has caused your homelessness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PRE-SCREEN WELLNESS SUBTOTAL</b>				

**SCORING SUMMARY**

DOMAIN	SUBTOTAL	
GENERAL INFORMATION		<p><b>If the Pre-Screen Total is equal to or greater than 10, the individual is recommended for a Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>If the Pre-Screen Total is 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9, the individual is recommended for a Rapid Re-Housing Assessment.</b></p> <p><b>If the Pre-Screen Total is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, the individual is not recommended for a Housing and Support Assessment at this time.</b></p>
A. HISTORY OF HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS		
B. RISKS		
C. SOCIALIZATION AND DAILY FUNCTIONS		
D. WELLNESS		
<b>PRE-SCREEN TOTAL</b>		

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**Prescreen for Single Adults**

Finally I'd like to ask you some questions to help us better understand homelessness and improve housing and support services.

What is your gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to State
Have you ever served in the US Military?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<i>If yes, which war/war era did you serve in?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean War (June 1950-January 1955) <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam Era (August 1964-April 1975) <input type="checkbox"/> Post Vietnam (May 1975-July 1991) <input type="checkbox"/> Persian Gulf Era (August 1991-Present) <input type="checkbox"/> Afghanistan (2001-Present) <input type="checkbox"/> Iraq (2003-Present) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<i>If yes, what was the character of your discharge?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable <input type="checkbox"/> Other than Honorable <input type="checkbox"/> Bad Conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Dishonorable <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
What is your citizenship status?	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Undocumented <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
Where did you live prior to becoming homeless?	<input type="checkbox"/> This city <input type="checkbox"/> This region <input type="checkbox"/> Other part of the State <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhere else (specify) _____
Have you ever been in foster care?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
Have you ever been in jail?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
Have you ever been in prison?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
Do you have a permanent physical disability that limits your mobility? [i.e., wheelchair, amputation, unable to climb stairs]?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
What kind of health insurance do you have, if any? (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare <input type="checkbox"/> VA <input type="checkbox"/> Private Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
On a regular day, where is it easiest to find you and what time of day is easiest to do so?	
Is there a phone number and/or email where someone can get in touch with you or leave you a message?	
Ok, now I'd like to take your picture. May I do so?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused



# 2015 Homeless Survey Guide

## Point In Time Count

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
<input type="checkbox"/> Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Declined to State	
DOB: <input type="text"/> Month <input type="text"/> Year	
Agency <input type="text"/>	
Survey Number <input type="text"/>	

1. **How long has it been since you last had a place to live?**
  1. Less than 1 month
  2. 1-3 months
  3. 4-6 months
  4. 7-11 months
  5. 1-2 years
  6. 3-5 years
  7. 6-10 years
  8. More than 10 years
  
2. **Please tell us the primary reason you are currently homeless?**
  1. Unemployed
  2. Evicted from home, unrelated to payment
  3. Victim of Domestic Violence
  4. Mental Health
  5. Substance Abuse
  6. Fire/other disaster
  7. Family problems
  8. Bad Credit
  9. Criminal History
  10. Lack of Affordable Housing
  11. Discharged from an institution, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
  12. Other, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. **How many times have you been homeless prior to your current situation?**
  1. Never before
  2. 1 time
  3. 2-3 times
  4. 4-5 times
  5. More than 5 times
  
4. **What racial/ethnic group do you identify with the most? (Circle only one)**
  1. White/Caucasian
  2. Black/African American
  3. Asian
  4. American Indian/Alaskan Native
  5. Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
  6. American Indian/Alaska Native & White
  7. Asian & White
  8. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino
  9. Hispanic/Latino
  10. Mixed Race
  11. Decline to State
  12. Other



# 2015 Homeless Survey Guide

## Point In Time Count

5. What year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where were you residing when you became homeless?
1. Roanoke City
  2. Salem
  3. Roanoke County/Vinton
  4. Botetourt County
  5. Clifton Forge
  6. Alleghany County
  7. Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. If you became homeless somewhere other than Roanoke, why did you come to Roanoke?  
(Circle **one** main reason.)
1. Not applicable
  2. Find a job
  3. Friends/family are here
  4. Domestic Violence Program
  5. To obtain healthcare
  6. Ran out of money
  7. Personal reasons
  8. Probation/Parole Officer
  9. Veterans Administration
  10. Substance Abuse Program
  11. Shelter Only
  12. Referred (told to) by \_\_\_\_\_
  13. Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where did you sleep last night?
1. Emergency Shelter
  2. Transitional Shelter
  3. Psychiatric facility
  4. Hospital (non-psychiatric)
  5. Jail, prison, or juvenile detention
  6. Rented housing unit
  7. Owned housing unit
  8. Staying with family
  9. Hotel or motel (no voucher)
  10. Foster care home
  11. Domestic Violence Shelter
  12. Permanent Supportive Housing (Shelter Plus Care, etc)
  13. Substance abuse treatment center or detox
  14. Place not meant for human habitation (outdoors, abandoned building, under bridge, or vehicle)
  15. Other living arrangement, specify \_\_\_\_\_



# 2015 Homeless Survey Guide

## Point In Time Count

9. **Have you been denied a bed at a local shelter in the past 12 months because it was full?**
  1. Yes
  2. No
  
10. **How many children under the age of 18 do you have with you? (Any child who is physically under the respondent's care at this point in time should be included.)**
  1. 0 children
  2. 1 child
  3. 2 children
  4. 3 children
  5. 4 children
  6. 5 or more children
  
11. **How many school age children (5-18 yrs) with you are attending school?**
  1. Not applicable
  2. # attending \_\_\_\_\_
  3. # not attending \_\_\_\_\_
  
12. **How do you handle child care?**
  1. Not applicable
  2. I do not need child care
  3. Friends/family
  4. I take care of my children myself
  5. Child care center
  6. Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
  
13. **Are you a veteran of the U.S. Military?**
  1. Yes
  2. No
  
14. **What is the highest level of education that you completed?**
  1. K-8
  2. Some High School
  3. High School Graduate
  4. GED
  5. Some College
  6. College Graduate
  7. Post Graduate
  8. Declined to state



# 2015 Homeless Survey Guide

## Point In Time Count

15. **How do you make money?** (Circle all that apply)
1. Work, on the books
  2. Work, off-the-books
  3. Drug Trade
  4. Sex Trade
  5. Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI)
  6. Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
  7. Pension/Retirement
  8. Veterans Administration
  9. Public Assistance
  10. Food Stamps
  11. Recycling
  12. Panhandling
  13. No Income
  14. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
16. **Are you actively looking for work?**
1. Not applicable
  2. Yes
  3. No
17. **How do you mainly get around?** (Check all that apply.)
1. Licensed Motorized Vehicle
  2. Valley Metro Bus
  3. Walk
  4. Scooter/Bicycle
  5. Ride with friends/family
  6. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
18. **If you get sick, where do you go for medical treatment?**
1. Emergency Room
  2. Urgent Care
  3. Rescue Mission Healthcare Center
  4. New Horizons
  5. Private Doctor
  6. VA Medical Center
  7. Health Department
  8. Bradley Free Clinic
  9. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
19. **Do you take medications?**
1. Yes
  2. No



# 2015 Homeless Survey Guide

## Point In Time Count

If yes, how do you obtain your medications? (Circle primary source)

1. I purchase them from a drug store
2. I get them from a service provider (RAM, Rescue Mission, HAT)
3. I cannot afford my medications
4. Other \_\_\_\_\_

20. How do you pay for medical care?

1. Medicaid
2. Medicare
3. Private Insurance
4. Out of Pocket
5. Other

21. Are you currently receiving mental health services?

1. Yes
2. No

22. Have you previously received mental health services?

1. Yes
2. No

23. Have you ever received treatment for problems related to alcohol?

1. Yes
2. No

24. Have you ever been treated for drug dependency?

1. Yes
2. No

25. I will read a list of common characteristics and challenges experienced by those without a home. Please indicate which ones affect you: (Circle all that apply).

1. Cannot find work
2. Cannot find affordable housing
3. Victim of Domestic Violence
4. Dental Problems
5. Legal Problems/Problems with police
6. Challenges with Substance Abuse
7. I cannot afford my medications
8. Previous Foster Care
9. Divorce
10. Physical Disability
11. Medical Problems
12. Past Incarceration
13. Child custody disputes
14. Other \_\_\_\_\_





# Blue Ridge Continuum of Care Localities

