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## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .................................................................................................................. 6  
2019 KnoxHMIS Percentage Change ...................................................................................... 6  
Five-Year Comparison of Total Active Clients ........................................................................ 6  
Additional Facts ....................................................................................................................... 6  

2019 New Clients ..................................................................................................................... 7  
Year-to-year Comparison of New Clients in KnoxHMIS ....................................................... 7  
2019 Housing Status of New Clients ...................................................................................... 8  

2019 Active Clients .................................................................................................................. 9  
2019 Housing Status of Active Clients .................................................................................. 9  
Count of Active Clients (2007-2019) by Subset .................................................................... 10  
2019 Causes of Homelessness as Reported by Head of Household ........................................ 11  
2019 Residence Prior as Reported by Adults .......................................................................... 12  

Demographics of Active Clients in KnoxHMIS in 2019 ........................................................... 13  
Ethnicity .................................................................................................................................. 13  
Race ........................................................................................................................................ 13  
Ages ......................................................................................................................................... 13  

Age Distribution of Active Clients in KnoxHMIS in 2019 ....................................................... 14  
Disability Types of Active Clients in KnoxHMIS in 2019 ........................................................ 15  
Health Insurance Types of Active Clients in 2019 ................................................................. 16  

2019 Subpopulations of Active Clients .................................................................................... 17  
Summary — Subpopulations of Active Clients in KnoxHMIS in 2019 ................................. 18  
Subpopulations of Active Clients 2019 ................................................................................. 18  

Homeless Subpopulations ....................................................................................................... 19  
Family Characteristics ............................................................................................................. 19  
Unaccompanied Youth Characteristics .................................................................................. 21  
Veteran Characteristics ........................................................................................................... 23  
Chronic Homelessness Characteristics .................................................................................. 25  
Street Homelessness Characteristics ...................................................................................... 27
The Knox Homeless Management Information System (KnoxHMIS) Annual Report has been completed every year since 2007. This report provides information on persons who accessed a service from one of 20 KnoxHMIS partner agencies for the 2019 calendar year. It should be noted that individuals included in this report represent all four types of homelessness as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This includes both literal homelessness and individuals at imminent risk of losing housing.

KnoxHMIS partners recorded 9,892 active clients in 2019, an increase of 8% from the 9,183 reported in 2018. The number of new clients increased by 12%. The reasons for these percentage change in overall clients reported as well as both new and continuing clients are examined in the body of this report.

This report is divided into 4 sections that include:

1. an executive summary,
2. new clients to KnoxHMIS partners,
3. active clients (including new persons and those continuing engagement from previous year),
4. subpopulations of active clients (i.e., families, unaccompanied youth, veterans, persons experiencing chronic homelessness as defined by HUD, street homeless, and seniors)

This report is meant to provide a clearer picture of homelessness in Knoxville so our community can continue to develop and implement an informed community response.

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Executive Summary

2019 KnoxHMIS Percentage Change

+8% increase in total clients (N=9,892).
+12% increase of new clients (n=4,115).
+4% increase in continuing clients (n=5,777).

Source: KnoxHMIS Annual Report 2019

Five-Year Comparison of Total Active Clients

Additional Facts

- 46% of new households reported lack of affordable housing as their primary reason for homelessness
- One in four (25%) were members of homeless families
- African Americans made up 9% of the Knox County population
  - but 30% of all active clients in KnoxHMIS
  - and 40% of unaccompanied youth.
- Street homelessness increased by 27%
- 42% of all clients were new to KnoxHMIS in 2019
- 28% of heads of household had experienced domestic violence
- 5% fewer veterans were active in KnoxHMIS
- 85% of heads of households were female
- 64% of chronically homeless were male
2019 New Clients

“New clients” are individuals either receiving services from KnoxHMIS partner agencies or having an entry/exit into a partner agency program in the year 2019 who have not previously accessed resources in years prior.

Year-to-year Comparison of New Clients in KnoxHMIS
2019 Housing Status of New Clients illustrates the housing status of clients new to homeless services in 2019 (n=4115). Forty-two percent of all individuals accessing services were new to KnoxHMIS in 2019, of whom 94% were literally homeless. Additionally, 6% (n=257) of new clients were individuals at risk of homelessness and accessed homeless prevention and/or supportive services.
2019 Active Clients

2019 Housing Status of Active Clients

9,892 active clients accessed services from KnoxHMIS Partners

- 8,684 Homeless
  - 775 Chronically homeless
  - 5,025 Non-chronically homeless
- 1,208 Housed
  - 805 Housed but at risk
  - 403 Stably housed

"Active clients" are individuals either receiving services from KnoxHMIS partner agencies or having an entry/exit into a partner agency program in the year 2019. This includes "new clients" and clients continuing to be engaged in services from the prior year.
Count of Active Clients (2007-2019) by Subset

Count of Active Clients (2007-2019) by Subset represents the total number of active clients, those that are new to KnoxHMIS and those who are continuing to receive services, each year since 2007. The count of active clients is the sum of new and continuing clients. It is important to note that the increase in active clients since 2007 is potentially indicative of improvements in agency data quality, increased utilization of KnoxHMIS, and the additional new partner agencies since 2013 – not necessarily an increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness.
### 2019 Causes of Homelessness as Reported by Head of Household

The table below details the causes of homelessness as reported by heads of household, both those new to homeless services and all active clients (including new). Overall, the top three reasons reported for homelessness by all heads of household (n=3,846) were: cannot find affordable housing (25%), eviction (12%), and loss of job (9%). Variables labeled as “YOUTH SPECIFIC” reflect data from youth only programming (such as runaway homeless youth or youth street outreach). “NULLS” reflect data not captured at program intake. Nulls are not included as “reported.” Null results for all clients are n=357. It should be noted that this variable is based on the client's perception of his or her primary reason for homelessness and is self-reported at program intake. Therefore, this variable is subject to the social desirability bias in which individuals tend to respond in ways that will be viewed favorably by others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>New Head of Household</th>
<th>All Heads of Household</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannot find affordable housing</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eviction</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of job</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underemployment/low income</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleeing domestic violence</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-violent family confrontation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal activity in past</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term medical condition</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge from jail</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsafe housing/substandard housing</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility shutoff</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data not collected</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge from hospital</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health/safety</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Parent relationship</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Runaway</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Aged out of foster care</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of public assistance</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of transportation</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage foreclosure</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Youth specific (n=3,846)

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2019 Causes of Homelessness as Reported by Head of Household delineates the causes of homelessness (or primary reason for homelessness) among active head of household clients, both those new to homeless services and all active clients (including new). Overall, the top three reasons reported for homelessness by all heads of household (n=3,846) were: cannot find affordable housing (25%), eviction (12%), and loss of job (9%). Variables labeled as “YOUTH SPECIFIC” reflect data from youth only programming (such as runaway homeless youth or youth street outreach). “NULLS” reflect data not captured at program intake. Nulls are not included as “reported.” Null results for all clients are n=357. It should be noted that this variable is based on the client's perception of his or her primary reason for homelessness and is self-reported at program intake. Therefore, this variable is subject to the social desirability bias in which individuals tend to respond in ways that will be viewed favorably by others.
# 2019 Residence Prior as Reported by Adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Place not meant for habitation</td>
<td>1,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency shelter</td>
<td>1,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying with family or friends</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data not collected, client refused, client doesn’t know</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Staying or living in a friend’s room, apartment or house</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Transitional housing for homeless persons (including youth)</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Other</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Permanent housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Client doesn’t know</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Safe haven</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence situation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Interim housing</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Data not collected</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Foster care home or foster care group home</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Rental by client, with GPD TIP housing subsidy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Staying or living with friends, temporary tenure</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidized housing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Client refused</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Staying or living with family, temporary tenure</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*HUD category (n=4,203)

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**2019 Residence Prior** as Reported by Adults delineates the most recent living situation prior to program entry among adult (ages 18 and older) clients.

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2. Residence prior is *not* the residence where the client was staying prior to the current episode of homelessness. Rather, it is where they were staying prior to entering the program for which they are seeking services.
Demographics of Active Clients in KnoxHMIS in 2019

### Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Male* (n=5,320)</th>
<th>Female* (n=4,116)</th>
<th>Transgender/Non-conforming (n=16)</th>
<th>Null Gender (n=138)</th>
<th>Active Clients (n and percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino</td>
<td>4,745</td>
<td>3,995</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8,754 (88%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>304 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Null</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>834 (8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Male* (n=5,320)</th>
<th>Female* (n=4,116)</th>
<th>Transgender/Non-conforming (n=16)</th>
<th>Null Gender (n=138)</th>
<th>Active Clients (n and percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>3,309</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6,041 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>1,538</td>
<td>1,389</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,933 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>147 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Null</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>771 (8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages (Percentages are of clients who reported their age)</th>
<th>Active Clients (n and percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>1,417 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>789 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-55</td>
<td>5,449 (56%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-61</td>
<td>1,034 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62+</td>
<td>1,060 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Null age</td>
<td>141/9,892 (1% total)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The tables represent demographic information on active clients in 2019. The tables present the percentage of all active clients and delineates age, race, and ethnicity demographics into gender categories. KnoxHMIS data reflects that 30% of active clients are African American. Notably, Knox County’s population is comprised of 9% African American individuals. Approximately 17% of Tennessee’s total population identifies as African American. Therefore, a disproportionate percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness in both Knox County and the state of Tennessee are African American.


In 2019, the **average** age for all clients was 39 (37 for females and 41 for males). The average age of transgender/gender nonconforming individuals active in KnoxHMIS in 2019 was 34 (n=18).
Disability Types of Active Clients in KnoxHMIS in 2019

14% of active clients report having a long-term disability

The chart above shows the number of active clients with a reported disability. In 2019, 14% (n=1,380). This percentage is likely underreported due to updates in the 2014 HUD Data Standards that determine disability based on a series of assessment questions that indicate an “expected long-continued and indefinite duration” of the disability. HUD also provides guidance that disability data is to be captured on all clients participating in HMIS, both adults and children under 18. It is likely that disability is further underreported because parents may be less likely to share the disability of children in the household. Further, disability data is typically captured during the client intake, when the client may not feel comfortable sharing disability information. It should be noted that a person can report more than one disability type, so disability counts will be greater than the total number of persons who reported a disability.
Health Insurance  Types of Active Clients in 2019

27% of persons receiving homeless services in 2019 had insurance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Insurance</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State children’s health insurance</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State health insurance for adults</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran administrative medical</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private pay health insurance</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer-provided health insurance</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health insurance through COBRA</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2019, 27% of persons receiving homeless services had insurance. 80% of insured clients reported either Medicaid or Medicare, up from 72% in 2018.
2019 Subpopulations of Active Clients

Six subpopulations (families, youth, veterans, chronically homeless, street homeless, and seniors) are included in the KnoxHMIS Annual Report because they are either a national or a local priority initiative. Addressing Street and Senior homelessness are local partner priorities. Ending family, youth, veteran, and chronic homelessness are national initiatives issued by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, *Revising and Strengthening the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*\(^5\) (2017).

According to *This section looks at both changes in subpopulations year to year (both active and continuing) and details characteristics of the subpopulations in comparison to the overall number of active clients served in KnoxHMIS in 2019*. Various factors affect changes in the subpopulations such as the amount of funding designated to services, mandated data reporting and input, and data quality can increase or decrease the number included in a subpopulation.

\(^{5}\)For more information, see the full United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, *Home, Together* at [http://www.usich.gov/home-together](http://www.usich.gov/home-together)
Summary — Subpopulations\textsuperscript{6} of Active Clients in KnoxHMIS in 2019

The following summary highlights the number of active KnoxHMIS clients per subpopulation in 2019, as compared with 2018.

**Subpopulations of Active Clients 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subpopulation</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>% of Active Clients</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>% of Active Clients</th>
<th>Year to Year % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals in Families</td>
<td>2,246</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2,502</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(716 families)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(808 families)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronically Homeless</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Homeless</td>
<td>1,899</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>2,415</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>1,060</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{6}Subpopulations were determined by priority initiatives as designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veteran Affairs, Family and Youth Services Bureau, Knoxville City government, Knox County government, and KnoxHMIS partner agencies.
Homeless Subpopulations

**Family Characteristics**

**Families** are defined by KnoxHMIS as: households consisting of a minimum of two individuals, at least one must be under age 18.

**808 total households**

- **Leading reported causes of homelessness**
  - 31% Could not find affordable housing
  - 15% Evicted
  - 13% Fled from domestic violence

**Most are literally homeless**

- 72% Literally homeless
- 4% Stably housed
- 12% At risk of losing housing
- 12% Not reporting status at intake

**Who headed households?**

- 85% Women
- 15% Men

**Engagement with agencies**

- **Continued** 51%
- **New** 49%

46% of all families engaged with family-specific agencies.

*Agencies include Helen Ross McNabb Center, Youth UNC; Hot, Home Prevention: Youth Street Outreach; Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee Youth WINS; and KARM Family Emergency Services.*
Family Characteristics

This data is a summary of individuals in families.

2,502 individuals in families
(25% of all active KnoxHMIS clients served in 2019)

More were white and not Hispanic

Most identified as female

Race

Gender

Other Race: <1% American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Ethnicity: 6% Hispanic/Latino

Families 5-year comparison

Learn more at www.knoxxmis.org | December 2020
Unaccompanied Youth Characteristics

Unaccompanied Youth are defined as: persons ages 12 through 24 on their own without a parent or guardian (as per federal HEARTH Act and Runaway Homeless Youth Act guidance.)

789 / 9,892
(8% of all active KnoxHMIS clients served in 2019)

Leading reported causes of homelessness
30% Could not find affordable housing
15% Parent relationship
10% Non-violent family confrontation

Housing status

- 4% Stably housed
- 26% Not reporting status at intake
- 10% At risk of losing housing
- 60% Literally homeless

Duration in KnoxHMIS

- < 1 year: 398
- 2-5 years: 279
- 6-10 years: 57
- 11+ years: 55

Engagement with Agencies

46% of all youth engaged with youth-specific agencies.

Institutional living

- Juvenile detention: 52
- Foster care: 80
- Either foster care or juvenile detention: 99

Youth-specific programs accessed by youth include CAC’s Youth WINS program as well as the following McNabb programs: Runaway Host Homes, Runaway Prevention, Youth UNC Supportive Community Living, Youth UNC Transitional Living, and Youth Street Outreach.

Learn more at www.knoxxmis.org | December 2020
Unaccompanied Youth Characteristics

More were white and not Hispanic

Race

- 40% Black
- 51% White
- <1% Other

Other Race: <1% American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Other; or Other Multi-racial; 8% NULL

Ethnicity: 88% Non-Hispanic/Latino; 4% Hispanic/Latino; 8% NULL

Most identified as female

Gender

- 59% Female
- 40% Male
- <1% Transgender
- <1% NULL

Average age

21

LGBTQ+

21%

Unaccompanied youth 5-year comparison

- 2015: 691
- 2016: 642
- 2017: 747
- 2018: 815
- 2019: 789

Learn more at www.knoxhmis.org | December 2020
Veteran Characteristics

Veterans are defined by KnoxHMIS as: any person who self-reports they were enrolled in or actively serve in the United States Armed forces. Veteran status is not dependent on a person’s military discharge status. A dishonorable discharges limits eligibility for certain Veteran Affairs benefits and programs, but a person is still a veteran in KnoxHMIS.

739 / 9,892
(7% of all active KnoxHMIS clients served in 2019)

Leading reported causes of homelessness
- 16% Could not find affordable housing
- 14% Lost job
- 14% Substance abuse
- 13% Evicted

Housing status
- 79% living in places not meant for habitation or staying in emergency shelter
- 15% at risk of losing their housing
- 7% stably housed

"Stably housed" typically refers to those with recent history of homelessness. Many are now in permanent supportive housing due to support from community providers. Percentages based on clients with reported housing status (null = 189). Percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounded subtotals.

Most were white and not Hispanic
- 72% White
- 26% Black
- 2% Other

Other Race: 2% American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or Other Multi-racial
Ethnicity: 1% Hispanic/Latino; 98% not Hispanic/Latino; 1% NULL

Age
Average 54
Veteran Characteristics

Most identified as male

- Gender
  - 88% Male
  - 12% Female

Engagement with agencies

43% of all veterans engaged with veteran-specific agencies.

Services assessed: STEPS House, Knoxville Community Development Corporation HUD-VASH, Volunteers of America, and Helen Ross McNabb Center (Cedar Crossing, Middlebrook Pike and Washington Oaks).

Veterans 5-year comparison

- 2015: 1,062
- 2016: 1,053
- 2017: 799
- 2018: 774
- 2019: 739

Learn more at www.knoxhmis.org | December 2020
Chronic Homelessness Characteristics

Chronic Homelessness is a characteristic of an individual’s homelessness experience and is defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as an individual or family who has been living in a place not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or emergency shelter continually for at least a year or has had at least four separate occasions of homelessness in the last three years and is the head of household in a family or the individual has a diagnosable disabling condition.

739 / 9,892
(7% of all active KnoxHMIS clients served in 2019)

Leading reported causes of homelessness
- 38% Could not find affordable housing
- 13% Mental health
- 9% Substance abuse

Housing status
- 84% Living in places not meant for human habitation or staying in emergency shelter
- 7% Stably housed
- 7% Indeterminate
- 1% At risk of losing housing

Most were white and not Hispanic
- 75% White
- 23% Black
- 1% Other

Other Race: 1% American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Ethnicity: 1% Hispanic/Latino

Age
- Mode: 40
- Average: 46
- Standard deviation: 12
Chronic Homelessness Characteristics

Most identified as male

Gender

| 64% Male | 36% Female |

Engagement with agencies

- Continued: 62%
- New: 38%

Chronic homelessness 5-year comparison

- 2015: 303
- 2016: 440
- 2017: 461
- 2018: 627
- 2019: 775

Learn more at www.knoxhmis.org | December 2020
Street Homelessness Characteristics

Street Homelessness is a characteristic of an individual’s homelessness experience and is defined by KnoxHMIS as: any individual who lives in a place not meant for human habitation such as sleeping in a public space, car, abandoned building, and/or camping outdoors.

739 / 9,892
(7% of all active KnoxHMIS clients served in 2019)

Leading reported causes of homelessness
- 33% Could not find affordable housing
- 13% Eviction
- 6% Substance abuse
- 6% Underemployment/low income

Engagement with agencies
- Continued: 46%
- New: 35%

Most were white and not Hispanic
- 67% White
- 32% Black
- 1% Other

Other Race: 1% American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, or Other Multi-racial
Ethnicity: 3% Hispanic/Latino
Street Homelessness Characteristics

Most identified as male

- Gender: 56% Male, 44% Female

Age
- Average: 41
- Mode: 63

Street homelessness 5-year comparison

- 2015: 928
- 2016: 1,143
- 2017: 1,421
- 2018: 1,899
- 2019: 2,415
Senior Characteristics

Seniors are defined by KnoxHMIS as: any person who is equal to or older than 62 years of age.

1,060 / 9,892
(11% of all active KnoxHMIS clients served in 2019)

Leading reported causes of homelessness

- 26% Could not find affordable housing
- 19% Eviction
- 8% Loss of job

Housing status

- 69% living in places not meant for habitation or staying in emergency shelter
- 19% at risk of losing their housing
- 12% stably housed

Most were white and not Hispanic

- 73% White
- 26% Black
- 2% Other

Other Race: 1% American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, or Other Multi-racial
Ethnicity: 1% Hispanic/Latino

Average age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td>68</td>
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Senior Characteristics

Engagement with Agencies

Continued 75%
New 25%

28% of all seniors engaged with senior-specific agencies.

Senior-Specific Programs included the Knoxville-Knox County’s Community Action Committee (Office on Aging; High Risk Case Management, and Project LIVE), as well as Catholic Charities’ Samaritan Place (Emergency Shelter; Permanent Supportive Housing, and Transitional Housing).

Most identified as male

Gender

63% Male
37% Female

Seniors 5-year comparison

2015 753
2016 792
2017 881
2018 995
2019 1,060

Learn more at www.knoxhmis.org | December 2020
Additional Resources featuring KnoxHMIS Partner Data

Community Dashboard on Homelessness
http://knoxhmis.org/dashboard/

An interactive, public-facing website that has homelessness counts, length of stay, time to exit, return to homelessness, housing placement status, point in time counts, bed-utilization rates, and subpopulation data (e.g. youth, families, veterans, and seniors). The dashboard is based on the calendar year and is updated quarterly.

Knox Housing Help
http://knoxhousinghelp.com/

A public-facing directory of services provided by community partner agencies for those experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis.

National Alliance to End Homelessness: State of Homelessness Report 2020

The *State of Homelessness in America* is a public-facing website that charts progress in ending homelessness in the United States. Features include national, state, and county level data filters. Using the most recently available national data, the website is intended to serve as a reference for policymakers, journalists, advocates, and the public on trends in homelessness, homeless assistance, and at-risk populations at the national and state levels.

CoC Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Reports

A community’s inventory of housing that is conducted annually during the last ten days of January. Inventories are available at the national and state level, as well as for each CoC. The reports tally the number of beds and units available on the night designated for the count by program type and include beds dedicated to serve persons who are homeless as well as persons in Permanent Supportive Housing. New for this year, the reports also include data on beds dedicated to serve specific subpopulations.

CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports
A report that provides counts for sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons by household type and subpopulation, available at the national and state level and for each Continuum of Care.

**National Summary System Performance Measures 2015 – 2018**


An Excel workbook that contains HMIS system performance measure information by Continuum of Care since FY 2015, for use in local analysis.
Thank you to our community partners for your relentless efforts to serve our most vulnerable neighbors.