

Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness
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Results of Annual Point in Time Count Virtually Unchanged from 2014

June 2, 2015 (Hyannis, MA) – After a month’s postponement due to extreme weather in January, the Regional Network on Homelessness counted **362** people as homeless on February 25, 2015 on the Cape and Islands. This number is a slight decrease from the **379** homeless individuals and families counted in January 2014. The most significant change from last year’s count was the drop in the number of unsheltered individuals (74 in 2014 and 38 in 2015). This decrease is not surprising given the harsh winter and doesn’t necessarily reflect an overall drop in homeless individuals in our region.

Point in Time (PIT) counts cover all people experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters, transitional housing, on the street, in cars, abandoned buildings, and in other places not meant for human habitation. Counts are conducted annually in every community, and are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The PIT does not count households living in motels nor those that are doubled-up and living with family and friends.

In an attempt to better understand the demographics of the homeless population, the PIT collects information on age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity and veteran’s status of the individuals and families included in the count. This information is available for review on the Barnstable County Department of Human Services website at www.bchumanservices.net.

For the second year in a row, the PIT count was conducted at the same time as the state’s unaccompanied homeless youth survey. A dedicated group of volunteers including youth ambassadors surveyed over 327 youth ages 13-24 to determine how many youth are homeless in our region. Official results from this survey will not be available until this fall, however preliminary results indicate that over 26% of respondents (85 respondents) had experienced an episode of homelessness sometime in their life.

The Regional Network on Homelessness plans to present these results and discuss implications for future programming at its next Policy Board meeting on June 22, 2015.

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