

# Housing and Community Development

City Council Presentation

Citywide and Countywide Homelessness

May 21, 2019

## Annual Point in Time Homeless Count

The Annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Census was conducted on Thursday, January 24, 2019 in partnership with: Collin County Homeless Coalition (CCHC); Collin County city governments of Allen, Fairview, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie and; Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance.

The information contained in this presentation is based on a snapshot of homelessness in Collin County on one night, January 24, 2019. Where available statistics specific to McKinney are included.

## Identified Top Priority Needs

*BASED ON 2019 POINT IN TIME (PIT) SURVEY*

1. The most significant need identified in Collin County is the affordability of housing, either from a lack of **Affordable Housing** or the gap between wages and housing costs.

2. Another cause of homelessness is **Domestic Violence/Abuse**. While much needs to be done to reduce/eliminate this problem, we are fortunate that we have organizations in the county who are providing support and assistance for this population. Of the 75 females reporting domestic violence, 73 are being sheltered and receiving additional services.

3. Of the medical and related items, **Dental Care** is the most needed. 26% of respondents indicated that this was an unmet need. **Medical Care** was also included in the top ten needs.

4. It is clear that we have a shortage of **temporary housing/shelters** especially for **men**. 65% of males in the survey are unsheltered vs 17% for females.

5. The survey revealed that 38.4% of the respondents had one or more **substance abuse or behavioral health related issues**. While there is not direct link with homelessness, it's clear these are problems that homeless individuals have difficulties resolving and likely result in chronic homelessness.

## Homeless Statistics 2019

McKinney - Total		206
Samaritan Inn		133
Samaritan Inn – Gateway		18
Shiloh Place		13
McKinney - Unsheltered		42
Age – Collin County		Age - McKinney
Adults	66%	70%
Children	34%	30%
Gender – Collin County		Gender - McKinney
Male	45%	49%
Female	49%	49%
No Response	6%	2%



% Employed	
County	54%
McKinney	63%

2019 McKinney Point in Time Survey

## Top 8 Causes of Homelessness in McKinney

- Unable to Pay Rent/Mort 42%
- Lack of Affordable Housing 24%
- Divorce/Separation 15%
- Lack of Transportation 14%
- Being Kicked Out of House 14%
- Family/Personal Illness 10%
- Domestic Violence 7%
- Criminal History/Felony 5%

\* While not identified as a CAUSE of homelessness, 34.8% of respondents in Collin County stated that they had either a substance abuse or behavioral health issue

2019 Collin County Point in Time Survey

McKinney Independent School District:  
762 students. This number reflects one  
day only of *self-reporting* students in the  
ISDs

Students “...who lack a fixed,  
regular, and adequate  
nighttime residence...”



## Homeless Families: Potential Solutions

- For those families who do become homeless, ample evidence suggests that a permanent housing subsidy—provided through the [Housing Choice Voucher](#) program or another long-term rent subsidy—is the best way for homeless families to obtain and maintain stable housing.
- Families who exit emergency shelters with a long-term rent subsidy are significantly less likely to return to shelter or experience other forms of housing instability, such as multiple moves or crowding. While homeless families need a variety of services, residential programs with on-site supervision and services, such as transitional housing, appear to be unnecessary for most families who experience homelessness.

## Chronic Homelessness: Solutions



- **Chronic homelessness** as a relatively small and “solvable” problem that affects, on average, about [10 to 15 percent](#) of people who experience homelessness. This vulnerable population of people with disabilities is composed primarily of adults living on their own, who either experience homelessness for prolonged periods of time or have repeat episodes of homelessness. Chronic homelessness, in addition to being extremely debilitating to those who experience it, can be very expensive to homeless systems and public systems, including health care and criminal justice.
- Providing permanent supportive housing (permanent housing at a subsidized rate, along with supportive services) to individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness has also proven to [significantly reduce](#) use of expensive acute care services such as emergency shelters, hospital emergency rooms, and detoxification and sobering centers. As a result, PSH can lead to [substantial savings](#) and, among the heaviest service users, may even be a cost-neutral investment, with the cost of housing subsidies and services offset by reductions in other spending for public services.

National Association to End Homelessness  
June 30, 2015



## Potential Places to start:

*The number of people who experience homelessness is not so large as to be insurmountable.*

- Adding substantial resources for ending homelessness for **families with children** and for individuals without chronic patterns of homelessness could reduce the numbers for these populations, as it has for chronic individuals and for veterans.
- National and local policymakers should continue to focus resources on interventions that have been shown to be effective in addressing homelessness. Research has shown **correlations between homelessness and housing vacancy rates, rent levels**, and other housing market variables. Investment in mainstream rent assistance programs should be prioritized.
- Trends indicate that investment in permanent housing solutions to homelessness may decrease homelessness. National and local policymakers should continue to invest and encourage the adoption of these models.

## Homeless Outreach Street Team – Austin, Texas

### Street Outreach Team – Denton, Texas

- “Homeless Outreach Teams” address the needs of people living on the streets. These teams are modeled after similar successful programs that have taken root in other cities in the U.S.
- HOT is a proactive approach to addressing peoples’ needs using appropriate resources before they reach a state of crisis, begin to violate laws or ordinances that typically result in admission to an emergency room, emergency psychiatric facility or result in an arrest or citation.
- Teams typically consist of: two police officers, two behavioral health specialists, one paramedic and one outreach social worker

## Ordinances Prohibiting Homeless Behaviors

- Prohibited panhandling
  - McKinney currently has a “no soliciting” Ordinance
- Prohibited sitting/lying in certain public places
- Prohibited “camping” in particular public places
- Prohibited loitering and obstructing sidewalks
- Consequences of homeless behavior ordinances
  - Homeless can’t pay fines so they go to jail (\$94 per night)
  - Unaffordable bail means they stay in jail until trial or until they waive right to trial in exchange for guilty plea
  - Criminal records can keep them from accessing employment, public benefits or ability to vote
  - Possibly unconstitutional