



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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Results of 2017 Annual Point in Time Homeless Count Released

April 18, 2017 (Barnstable, MA) – The Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness has released its 2017 findings from the [Annual Point in Time](#) count which took place on January 24, 2017 on Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket.

The total number of homeless persons (adults and children) on the night of the count was 324, a decrease of 70 persons from the 2016 count and significantly lower than the counts since 2012 (range of 356 to 395*).

However, the 2017 count documented that the number of families in shelter (69) is at the high end of the five-year range (55 to 69). During this period the number of children in sheltered families has increased steadily from 77 in 2012 to 100 in 2017.

Among unsheltered adults, males exceed females by a factor of at least 3:1. However among adults in transitional housing (42 in 2017; range of 41 to 95 between 2012 and 2017) females are more numerous and the ratio of males to females is lower at 1.5:1.

[Point in Time](#) (PIT) counts cover all people experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters, transitional housing, motels (if paid for by an agency), on the street, in cars, abandoned buildings, and in other places not meant for human habitation. Counts are conducted annually in every community in the United States during the last ten days of January, and are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The PIT does not count persons or families that are doubled-up and/or living with family and friends.

Volunteers from several agencies across the Cape and Islands assisted in collecting information during this year’s count. According to Paula Schnepf, Coordinator for the Regional Network, “The Point in Time is a snapshot of homelessness in our region on a given night. By collecting this data on an annual basis we have a better understanding of the number and demographics of the homeless population. The information helps us in planning and allocating scarce resources.” The

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The Mission of the Department of Human Services is to plan, develop, and implement programs which enhance the overall delivery of human services in Barnstable County and promote the health and social well-being of County residents through regional efforts that improve coordination of services.

count also collects information on age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity and veteran's status of the individuals and families included in the count.

Continuum of Care (CoC) funding to the region in 2016 was \$1,758,102.00 million dollars. A full breakdown of the data collected during the Point in Time count and a complete list of [CoC FY 16 funded projects](#) for the region are available on the Barnstable County Department of Human Services website at www.bchumanservices.net.

The [Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness](#) is a broad based public private partnership committed to identifying and implementing solutions to ending homelessness on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

* Data from the 2013 PIT count of unsheltered adults in Dukes County are an outlier and are therefore excluded from this range.

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