



## State of Homelessness in DC

- One-fifth of DC residents live in poverty, and more than 57,000 individuals live in extreme poverty, unable to meet even their basic needs, including purchasing food. ([DC Fiscal Policy Institute](#)).
- A lack of affordable housing and increasing rental prices are the two biggest obstacles to preventing and ending homelessness in the District. Since 2002, the District has lost 50% of its affordable housing while people pay \$3,000 more annually in rent than they did 14 years ago. ([Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#))
  - Working at \$10.50/hr, you would have to work 103 hours/week to afford a 1 bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rate in 2016.
  - DC has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest housing wage in the nation, beaten only by Hawaii ([National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)).
- On any given night, there are over 8,300 individuals without homes in the District of Columbia. Families make up 56% of our homeless community. ([The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness](#))
  - There were 984 more homeless people in families than by themselves. This is the first time DC has ever recorded family homelessness in greater numbers than individual homelessness ([PIT](#)).
  - The median age among adults in homeless families was 27 years old ([PIT](#)).
  - 17% of homeless adults reported a history of domestic violence. That's a 2% increase from last year, with 6% of homeless adults reporting that domestic violence was a direct cause of their homelessness ([PIT](#)).
- While DC General stays open, there are around 2,800 family units/single beds ([Mayor DC.Gov](#)).
  - There are around [5,000 beds in the Continuum of Care](#), which includes Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Rapid-ReHousing.
  - DC General has 270 beds. The plan proposed by the Mayor would include 8 new shelters built in all eight wards, and have a combined capacity of 313 family

units/beds for families and individuals ([Curbed DC](#)). Construction should be complete by 2018.

- 76% of Thrive DC clients report being homeless while 65% report sleeping in shelters or on the street. (2014 Thrive DC survey)
- 45% of our clients use our laundry services at least once a week, 42% take showers here at least once week, and 60% need our toiletries at least once a week (2014 Thrive DC survey).
- Nearly 80% of our female clients are living with chronic health problems—often without regular access to crucial medical care. (2014 Thrive DC survey)
- You can make a difference! ([Thrive DC](#))
  - Volunteer
    - Thrive DC needs over 1,000 volunteers a year, and 20 volunteers/day.
  - Donate Financially
    - It costs just \$1.80 to serve a meal to home client without a home.
  - Donate In-Kind
    - In 2015, Thrive DC gave away over 1,000 coats to cold men and women.
  - Advocate
    - No Affordable Housing and a lack of a Living Wage are two of the biggest obstacles facing people trying to escape homelessness. We need your voice to remove those obstacles!
  - Street Outreach
    - Clients hear about Thrive DC primarily through word of mouth. Pick up our business cards so you can hand them out to people you meet on your walk to work!