

HOMELESSNESS IN COLUMBIA/BOONE COUNTY

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*Columbia/Boone County
Public Health & Human Services*

WHO IS HOMELESS?

**Picture a person
experiencing
homelessness...**

WHO IS HOMELESS?



WHO IS HOMELESS?

- **Single Adults**
- **Families with Children**
- **Unaccompanied Youth**

WHO IS HOMELESS?

Overrepresented Sub-Populations

- Veterans
- LGBTQ+ persons
- People with disabilities
- People of color
- Youth in foster care

TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS

- **Transitional**
- **Episodic**
- **Chronic**

TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS

- **Literally homeless**

- Sheltered
- Unsheltered

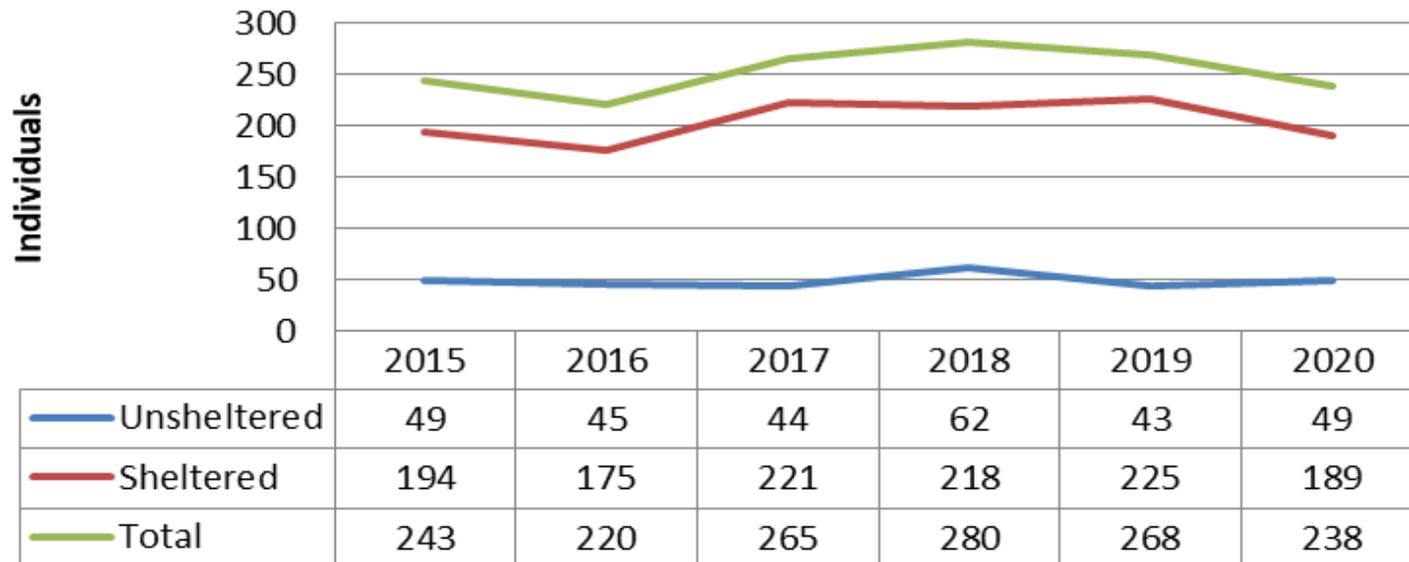
- **Housing unstable**

- Doubled up (couch surfing)
- Hotel/Motel
- Eviction pending

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS?

Homeless Individuals

Boone County



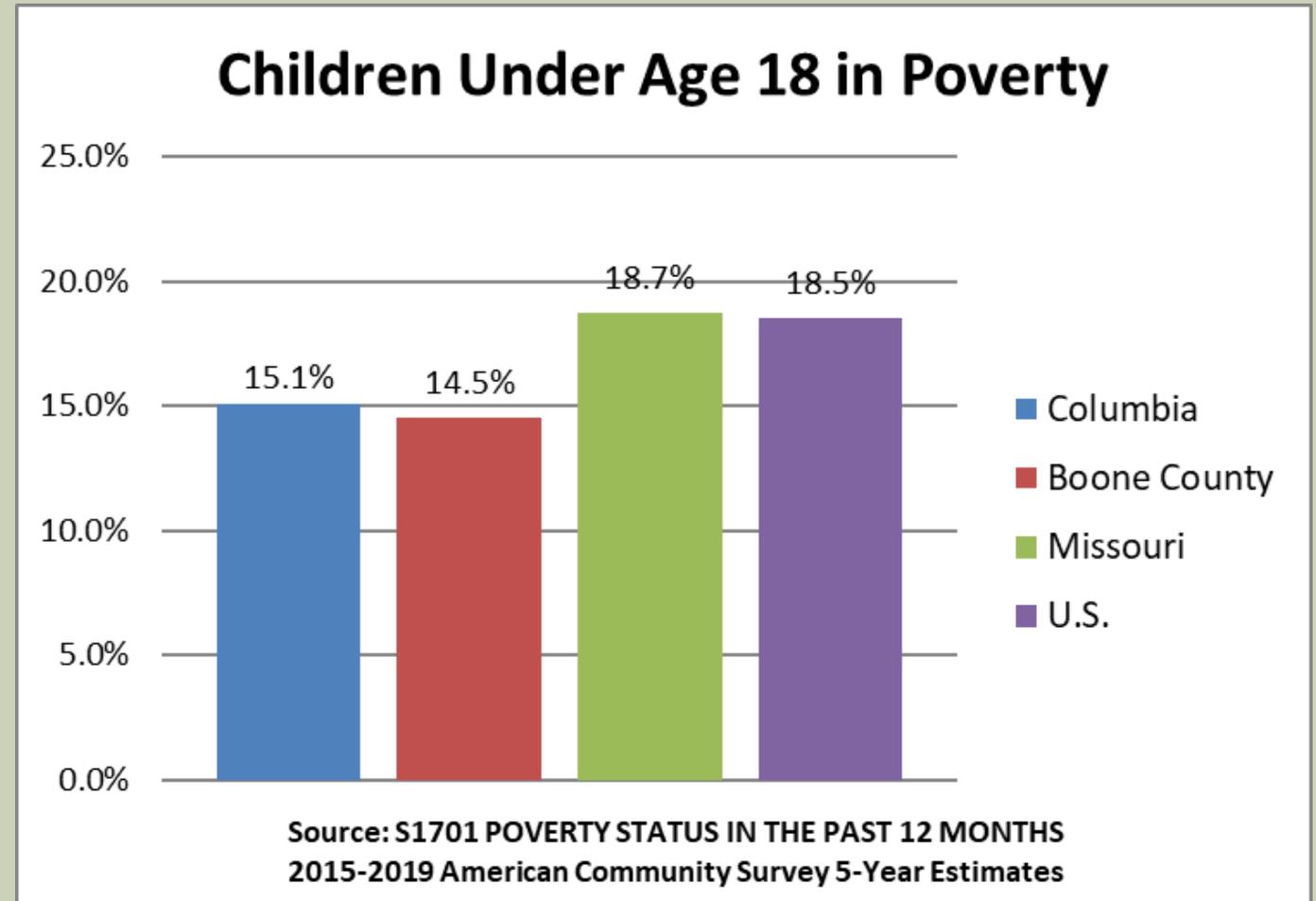
Source: Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care

Point in Time Count Reports

<https://www.moboscoc.org/point-in-time-count>

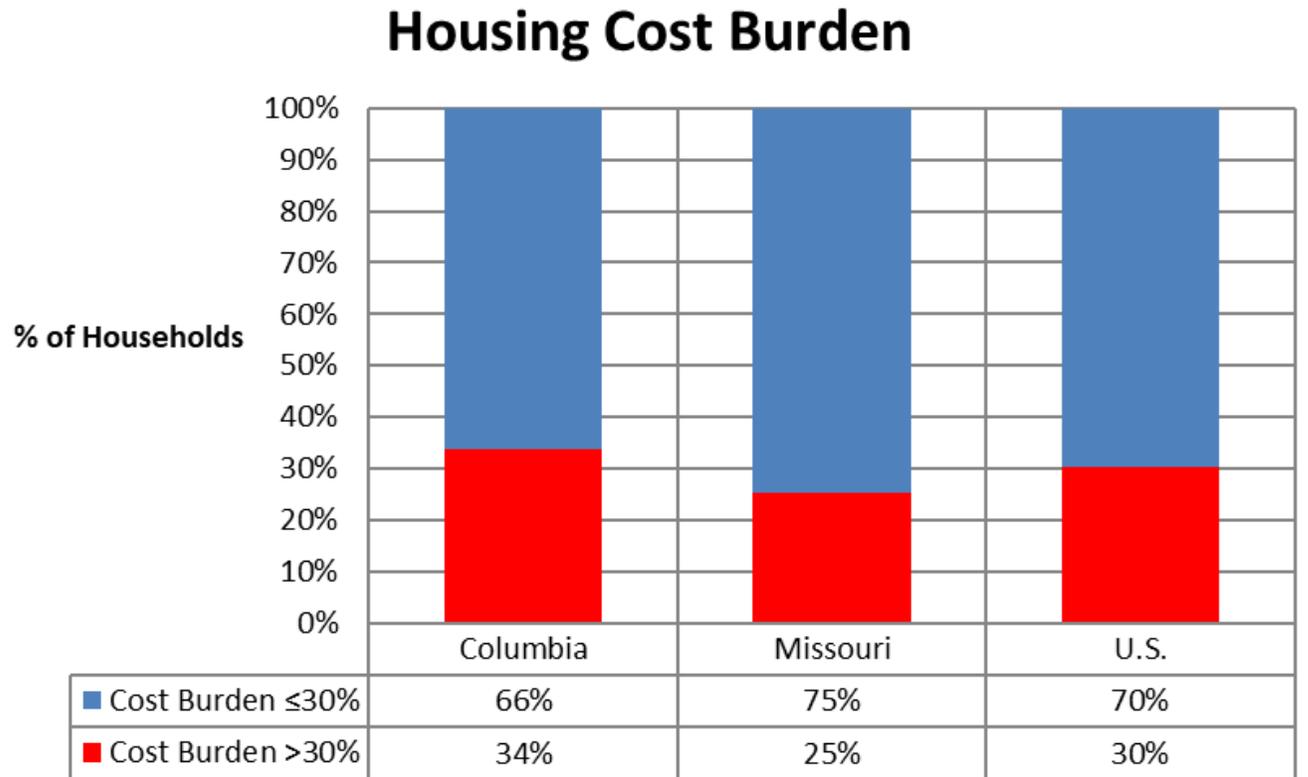
CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Poverty



CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Lack of
affordable
housing



Source: 2013-2018 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
CHAS Data Query Tool

CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

- **Lack of access to affordable health care**
- **Other factors:**
 - **Mental illness and substance use disorders**
 - **Domestic violence**
 - **Disability**
 - **Incarceration and Institutionalization (e.g. foster care)**

HOW DO WE FIX IT?

**What is the solution
to homelessness?**

HOW DO WE FIX IT?

What is the solution to homelessness?

A home!



HOME, TOGETHER

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Home, Together.

Home. Because we know that the only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home.

Together. Because the causes of homelessness are complex, and the solutions are going to take all of us working together, doing our parts, strengthening our communities.

HOME, TOGETHER

VISION

Every community must have a systemic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and one-time experience.

HOME, TOGETHER

This requires that every community must have the capacity to:

- Quickly identify and engage people at risk of and experiencing homelessness.
- Intervene to prevent people from losing their housing and divert people from entering the homelessness services system.
- Provide people with immediate access to shelter and crisis services without barriers to entry if homelessness does occur.
- Quickly connect people experiencing homelessness to housing assistance and services tailored to their unique needs and strengths to help them achieve and maintain stable housing.

HOME, TOGETHER

Objective #1:

Ensure Homelessness is a Rare Experience

- **1.1: Collaboratively Build Lasting Systems that End Homelessness**
- **1.2: Increase Capacity and Strengthen Practices to Prevent Housing Crises and Homelessness**

HOME, TOGETHER

Objective #2:

Ensure Homelessness is a Brief Experience

- **2.1: Identify and Engage All People Experiencing Homelessness as Quickly as Possible**
- **2.2: Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter or other Temporary Accommodations to All Who Need it**
- **2.3: Implement Coordinated Entry to Standardize Assessment and Prioritization Processes and Streamline Connections to Housing and Services**
- **2.4: Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services**

HOME, TOGETHER

Objective #3:

Ensure Homelessness is a One-Time Experience

- **3.1: Prevent Returns to Homelessness through Connections to Adequate Services and Opportunities**

HOME, TOGETHER

Objective #4:

Sustain an End to Homelessness

- **4.1: Sustain Practices and Systems at a Scale Necessary to Respond to Future Needs**

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Coordinated Entry

Systematic approach to ending homelessness:

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- By name (prioritization) list
- Common assessment tool to determine risk
- Prioritize resources for the most vulnerable homeless
- Case conferencing
- Continuous Improvement

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Functional Zero Task Force

Local homeless coalition dedicated to ending homelessness using a housing first and coordinated entry approach.

- Large coalition of human services, housing, and healthcare providers
- Meet every two weeks for collaboration and case conferencing
- Utilize a continuous improvement approach to solving issues

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing

- Utility Assistance
 - Central Missouri Community Action
 - Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing

■ Rent Assistance

- Voluntary Action Center
- Love Columbia
- Phoenix Programs
- True North
- Central Missouri Community Action (pandemic)
- Rock the Community (pandemic)

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Public Housing and Housing Choice Vouchers

Provide decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income people and play a critical role in reducing homelessness.

- **Housing Choice Voucher Program** (formerly known as “**Section 8**”) Provides vouchers to low-income households to help them pay for housing in the private market, has been found to sharply reduce homelessness.
- **Public housing** is federally-funded housing that is rented at subsidized rates to eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Permanent Supportive Housing

Long-term rental assistance and supportive services. It is targeted to individuals and families with chronic illnesses, disabilities, mental health issues, or substance use disorders, who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness. Includes:

- Subsidized housing to help people who are low income maintain stable housing
- Intensive case management to help clients maintain their housing

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Emergency and Transitional Shelter

- **Salvation Army Harbor House**
- **Welcome Home**
- **Room at the Inn**
- **True North**
- **Flourish**

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Hotel/Motel Vouchers

- Voluntary Action Center
- Love Columbia
- Phoenix Programs

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Harm Reduction Services

- Turning Point drop-in center
- Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen
- City warming & cooling centers
- City overnight warming center

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Columbia Homeless Outreach Team (CHOT) CHOTs a coordinated effort to outreach to people who are unsheltered. The outreach team is comprised of staff from:

- New Horizons
- Phoenix Programs
- VA
- Burrell Behavioral Health

Street outreach to:

- Camps
- Overpasses and bridges
- Bus stations and truck stops
- Downtown
- Parking garages
- Parks
- Turning Point
- Room at the Inn

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Project Homeless Connect

- **One stop shop for access to services twice a year (July and January)**

WHAT'S BEING DONE LOCALLY?

Mental Health and Justice Collaborative

- **Treatment Courts**
- **Municipal Court Community Support Docket**
- **Jail brief mental health screener**
- **Jail case conferencing**
- **Community mental health crisis response**

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Medicaid expansion
- Flourish youth shelter
- Homelessness Coordinator
- Funding for:
 - Mental health crisis response team
 - 24/7/365 mental health access center

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

COVID-19 Pandemic

- Close consultation, guidance, and support for homeless shelters and service providers
- Coordination of human services
- Coordinated CoMoHelps
 - Funded over \$1.6 million (\$3.5 million in requests)

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

City of Columbia COVID-19 Funding

- Health, human services, and housing
- Rent and utility assistance
- Drop-in center and winter shelter capacity
- Comprehensive homeless services center planning

WHAT IS STILL NEEDED?

Shelter Capacity

- 24/7/365, low-barrier drop-in center and emergency shelter
- Family shelter

WHAT IS STILL NEEDED?

More Affordable Housing

(not just home-owner occupied!)

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Public Housing
- Housing Choice Vouchers

WHAT IS STILL NEEDED?

Ongoing Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Funding

- Rent assistance
- Utility assistance
- Rental incentives

WHO PAYS FOR ALL OF THIS?

- Federal programs and funding
- State programs and funding
- Local government programs and funding
- Philanthropic and support orgs
- Faith groups
- Private donations and volunteerism

WHAT DOES THE CITY OF COLUMBIA DO?

- **Contract with local providers for human services, healthcare, and housing**
- **Direct services/programs**
- **Coordination of providers and funders**
- **Leverage state and federal resources**

WHAT CAN I DO?

Giving

- Volunteer (e.g. soup kitchen and RATI)
- Make a donation to your favorite organization or cause

Advocacy

- Make your voice heard on issues that are important to you

QUESTIONS?

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