

Researchers find homelessness is declining

October 31 2014, by Jill Disanto

Homelessness across the United States continues to decline, according to a new report to Congress co-authored by researchers from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice.

The 2014 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report shows a decline in the number of homeless people in the U.S. across all groups, including women and children, [veterans](#) and the chronically homeless.

The number of people experiencing homelessness dropped to 578,424 in 2014. This is down from 591,768 in 2013, a decline of more than 2 percent.

Homelessness among veterans is down 11 percent, and the number of persons in families experiencing homelessness fell 3 percent.

"The continuing decline in homelessness across subpopulations indicates that the new federal emphasis on moving people rapidly back into housing is working, especially among veterans, where there has been significant new investments by the Congress and President Obama," Dennis Culhane, the report's co-principal investigator, said. "Overall improvements in the labor market may also be helping people get out of homelessness more quickly."

The report derives data from the annual Point-in-Time Count, an unduplicated estimate of the number of both sheltered and unsheltered [homeless](#) populations. It is held in communities across the country on the last Wednesday in January.

Culhane is the Dana and Andrew Stone Professor of Social Policy and director of research at the [National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans](#), which is responsible for the annual report's chapter on veteran homelessness.

Other members of the research team from the Penn School of Social Policy & Practice are Toorjo Ghose, Irene Wong, Tom Byrne, Ann Elizabeth Montgomery, Vince Kane and John Kuhn.

The research group examines the demography and dynamics of veteran homelessness, developing and testing interventions to address the problem.

Provided by University of Pennsylvania

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