



# City of Boston

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Homeless Census

*Emergency Shelter Commission – December 12, 2012*

On the night of December 12, 2012, Mayor Thomas M. Menino directed city and community leaders and 350 volunteers to undertake Boston's 33<sup>rd</sup> annual homeless Census. On the night of the census there were **6,992** homeless men, women and children in the City of Boston, a **5.2% increase** from **6,647** men, women and children counted the previous year. Key findings and a summary table follow below:

### Executive Summary of Findings:

- The number of homeless people living on the streets was **193**, an increase of **12** persons over the previous total of **181** the prior year.
- The number of individual homeless adults **increased 4.8%** from **3,412** last year to **3,577** this year.
- The number of adults in emergency shelter was **up 6.4%** from **1,285 last year** to **1,367** this year. This is very close to the 1,365 adults residing in emergency shelter two years ago in Boston.
- The number of homeless families in Boston **increased 7.8%** from **1,082** to **1,166 households** this year.
- The total number of persons in families, i.e., all homeless men, women and children, **increased by 5.6% percent from 3,235 to 3,415.**
- The number of homeless children **increased by 2.2%** from **1,928** to **1,971** this year.

### Highlights of the 2012-2013 Census include the following:

- Boston continues to see **low numbers of homeless adults living on the streets** compared to most major cities. A growing sub-population on the street appears to be youth and younger adults.
- Access to longer-term Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (Recovery Homes) improved, providing critical treatment and recovery support for homeless adults with addiction illnesses.

### Challenges

- **Family homelessness continues to grow.** Congregate shelter (+17.6%) and motel (+24.5%) placement by the State showed double-digit percentage increases, mirroring a state-wide trend. About one-third of all families in Boston motels and shelters had a community of origin outside of Boston.
- The number of **adults in emergency shelter increased by 6.4%**. Preliminary findings suggest that Boston's adult system is seeing both a seasonal and regional increase in need for emergency shelter. In the months of November-December, 2012, intake data showed that one-third of adults in Boston's emergency shelter system had a last permanent address outside of the city of Boston. Some 25% of all guests came from other communities in Massachusetts, with the rest coming from out of state.
- **Homeless Youth and Young Adults** – In addition to the standard one-night count, the Emergency Shelter Commission conducted a first-ever Youth Count which identified some 191 unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults across multiple service sites in Boston. Further information will be provided as this data is analyzed.

**City of Boston Annual Homeless Census - December 2012 compared to December 2011**

CATEGORY	December 12, 2011		December 12, 2012		% Change
<b>City of Boston Grand Total All Homeless</b>	<b>6,647</b>		<b>6,992</b>		<b>5.1%</b>
<b>Total Individual Adults (Street, Shelters, Transitional, Treatment &amp; Young Adults)</b>	<b>3,412</b>		<b>3,597</b>		<b>5.4%</b>
<b>Adult Homeless Breakdown</b>		<b># of Adults</b>		<b># of Adults</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Unsheltered Homeless/Street Count		181		193	6.6%
Emergency Shelter		1,285		1,367	6.4%
Transitional Housing Programs		761		762	<1%
Detox/Substance Abuse Program		653		694	6.3%
Hospitals and Medical Respite		216		218	< 1%
Mental Health Facilities		273		293	7.3%
Domestic Violence Shelter		16		14	-12.5%
Homeless/Runaway Youth		27		36	33%
<b>Total Individual Homeless Adults</b>		<b>3,412</b>		<b>3,577</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
	<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>Persons in Families</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>Persons in Families</b>	<b>% Change # of Families</b>
<b>Total All Homeless Families</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>3,235</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
<b>Family Homeless Breakdown</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>Persons in Families</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>Persons in Families</b>	<b>% Change # of Families</b>
Congregate Shelter	254	569	281	669	10.6%
Scattered Site Shelter	502	1,851	512	1,804	2%
Transitional Housing Programs	93	259	111	309	12.9%
Families in Motels in Boston	135	339	159	422	17.8%
Domestic Violence Programs	61	147	70	140	14.8%
Homeless Youth with children	7	15	5	10	-28.6%
Families in Hospitals	4	4	1	1	-75%
Detox/Other Substance Abuse	26	51	27	60	+23%
<b>Total All Homeless Families</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>3,235</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>+7.8%</b>

For more information on Boston's annual homeless census findings please contact the Emergency Shelter Commission as data from our more detailed annual Point-In-Time surveys continues to be analyzed. The ESC can be contacted at: [www.bphc.org/shelter](http://www.bphc.org/shelter)