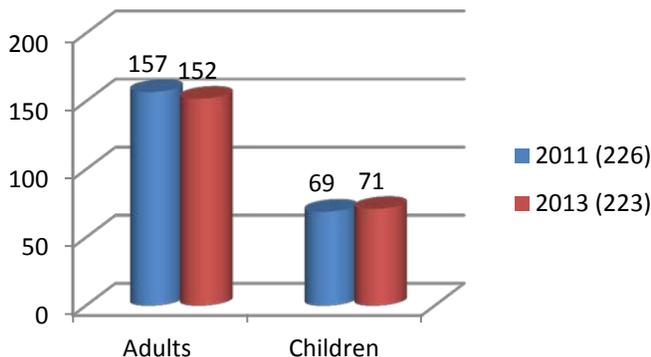


## Homeless Point in Time Count 2013

### A Snapshot of Homelessness in Douglas County

Beginning at midnight on January 23, 2013, a survey document was dispersed in Lawrence and Douglas County that attempted to gather a point-in-time count for those defined as “literally homeless” individuals and families, which are those persons living in emergency shelters, transitional housing or in places not meant for human habitation such as in cars or on the streets. The survey was designed to gather information for one 24-hour period, and the data was collected for that specific 24-hour time period over the course of seven days. The surveys were administered and the data was gathered as a result of a collaborative effort by various area agency staff members and case managers who primarily work with the Lawrence/Douglas County homeless population. In Douglas County, 223 “literally homeless” adults and children were identified. While it is likely that this number is less than the true number of homeless in the city and in the county, these findings are a valuable planning tool to improve the response to homelessness in Douglas County and are collected biennially.

### Homeless in Lawrence/Douglas County 2011 and 2013 Comparison



#### KEY POINTS

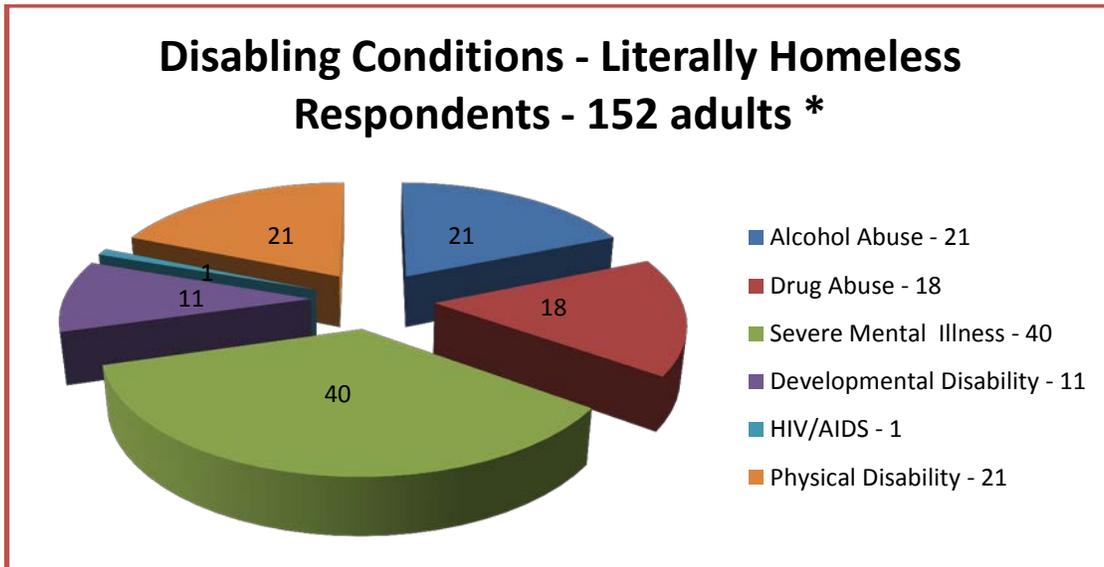
#### Changes in homelessness from the 2011 Point-In-Time count to the 2013 count:

- ✓ The number of literally homeless residents counted decreased from 226 in 2011 to 223 in 2013.
- ✓ In 2011, 44% of the literally homeless adult respondents were female. In 2013, this number rose to 49%
- ✓ In 2011, 8% of literally homeless respondents identified themselves as being veterans; in 2011 this fell to 7.5%.

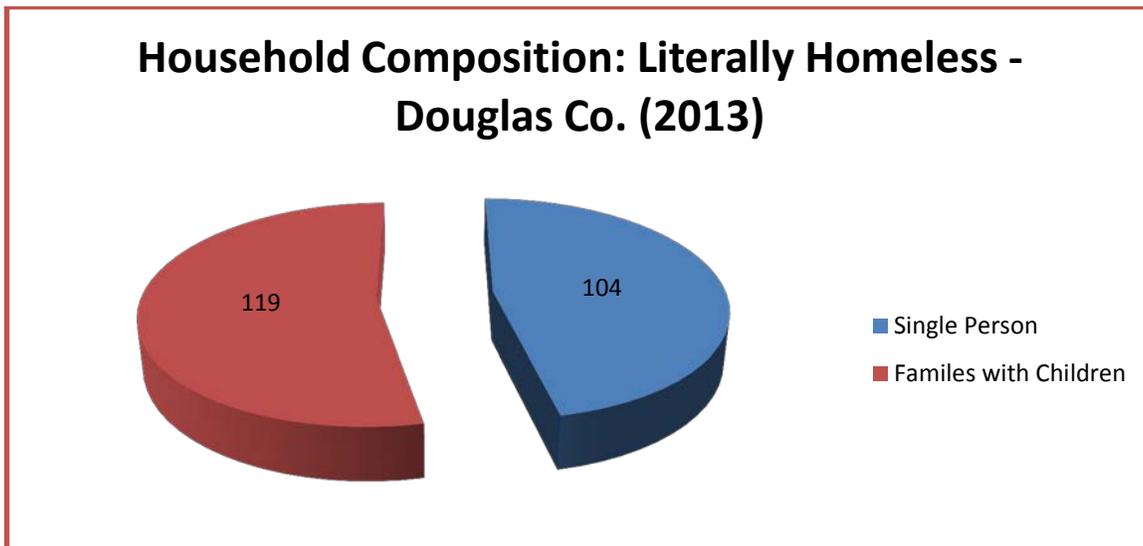
#### 223 Lawrence/Douglas County Residents were homeless on January 23, 2013:

- 133 households containing 223 persons reported as being literally homeless, which is defined as living on the streets, in cars, or in emergency shelter/transitional housing.
- Analysis was based on surveys of 152 households, 19 of which were not homeless, or were living with family and friends without paying (Doubled Up)
- 6 households were imminently (near) homeless, staying with others temporarily or doubled up, and 12 individuals reported as homeless who were currently incarcerated.
- The count showed 152 adults (68%) and 71 children (32%) identified as literally homeless.
- Of the 223 literally homeless, 30 adults and two families met the definition of chronically homeless (having been homeless for one year or more, or having had four or more instances of homelessness in the past three years and having a disabling condition.)

**Other facts regarding homelessness in Lawrence/Douglas County:**

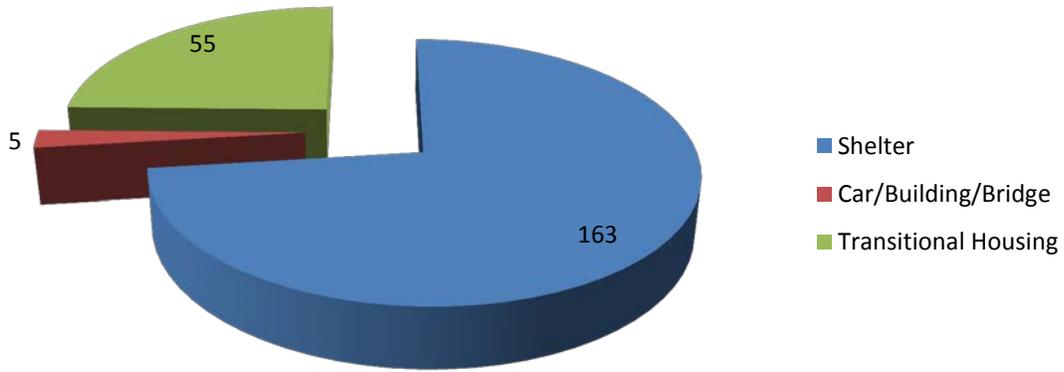


In Lawrence/Douglas County, out of the 152 adults that met the definition of literally homeless, 21 indicated they struggled with alcohol abuse, 18 reported having a drug abuse problem, 40 had a severe mental illness, 21 indicated that they had a physical disability or illness, 11 people identified themselves as having a developmental disability, and one person indicated they had HIV/AIDS. (\*based on respondent response. Some conditions may overlap)



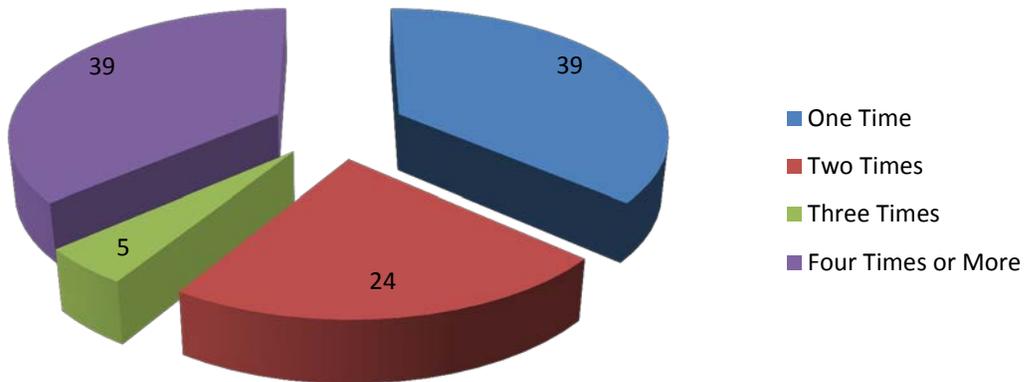
In Lawrence/Douglas County, there were 104 single individuals, and 119 in families with children (71 children, 48 adults).

### Living Situation - Literally Homeless Respondents - Douglas County



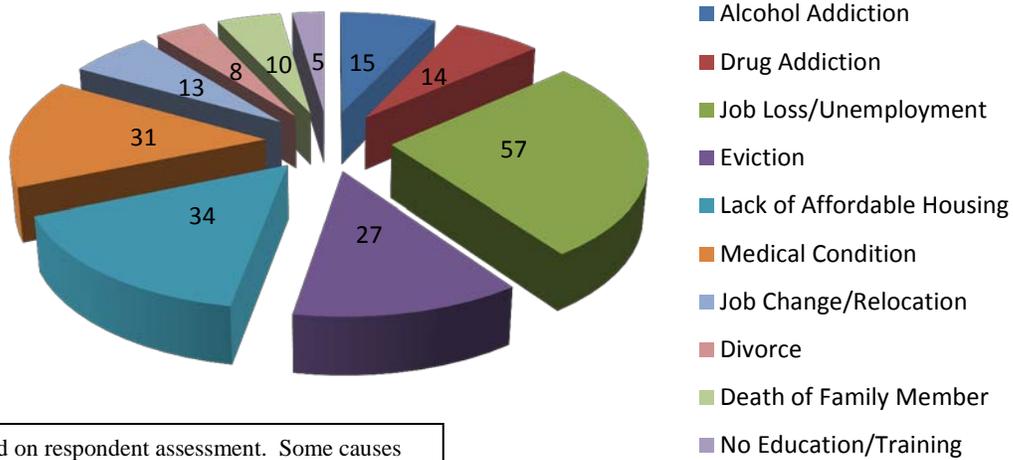
In Lawrence/Douglas County, 218 were sheltered (55 in Transitional Housing, 163 in shelter settings not limited to LCS). Five respondents were unsheltered (living in a car, abandoned building, bridge, or other place not meant for human habitation).

### Occurrences of Homelessness - Literally Homeless Respondents - Douglas County



In Lawrence/Douglas County, survey head of household respondents that answered the question indicated that 39 had been homeless one time, 24 had been homeless twice, 5 had been homeless three times, and 39 had been homeless four times or more.

## Causes of Homelessness \*



\*Based on respondent assessment. Some causes may overlap.

In 2013, The Balance of State Continuum of Care asked for a self-assessment of why a person felt that he or she became homeless. Job loss, eviction, medical condition, and lack of affordable housing were the largest contributors to a person’s perception of becoming homeless.

### ***Challenges to understanding the picture of Homelessness in Lawrence and Douglas County:***

- ✓ The point-in-time count is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) every two years. The point-in-time count is just that: A point-in-time snapshot. It should be acknowledged that while this presents a number going forward, it may not be indicative of the total extent of the problem as seen by local professionals and their agencies. This count was a partnership with many agencies and volunteers in Lawrence and Douglas County. The definition of homelessness, used for the purposes of this Point in Time count, was the HUD definition of sheltered and unsheltered homeless. HUD “sheltered” is defined as: persons residing in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing that originally came from shelter or streets. HUD “unsheltered” is defined as: persons residing in cars, abandoned buildings, alleyways, parking garages, under bridges, etc.
- ✓ The Lawrence Unified School District (USD 497) indicate that there are 46 students in the district that qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act, which includes families that are doubled-up or staying with family or friends. For this point-in-time count, doubled up families were not able to be counted because they did not meet the HUD definition of homeless. With varying definitions of homelessness used by agencies, it is difficult to paint a true picture of the extent of the problem.