

# 2013 Executive Summary

## Point-In-Time Count Overview

A coordinated Point-In-Time Count (PIT) of unsheltered and sheltered individuals and families was conducted on the night of January 22, 2013. The PIT is a comprehensive count and survey of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Chicago comparable to previous citywide counts conducted since 2005.<sup>1</sup>

The PIT provides the City with information to develop an increased understanding of the number of people, sheltered and unsheltered, on any given night in Chicago and their housing and service needs.

In addition, this data is used to:

- Estimate the resources needed to reduce the number of people who experience homelessness;
- Track Chicago's progress at reducing the number of people who experience homelessness in accordance with Chicago's Plan 2.0, a seven-year action plan that outlines strategic priorities to improve access to housing and services; and
- Fulfill a federal funding requirement of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

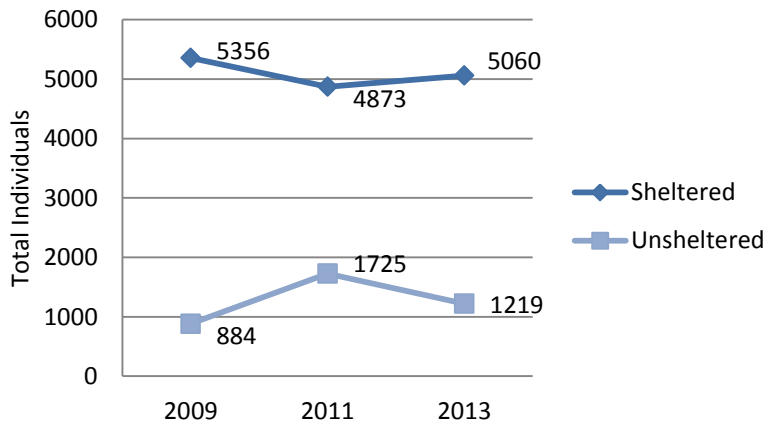
**Methodology:** Using tally and survey instruments, the 2013 PIT gathered information about homeless individuals and families living on the street, in abandoned buildings (including CHA properties), on CTA trains and buses, and in emergency shelters and transitional housing. The PIT also included individuals and families living in scattered-site, private market apartments supported by HUD's transitional housing subsidies. Outdoor citywide canvassing efforts were conducted to count and survey unsheltered individuals and families between approximately 10 PM and 2 AM. Individuals and families staying in shelters and transitional housing were also counted and a 10% sample was surveyed. Across Chicago, 99 shelters had a least one resident on the night of January 22, 2013. The current methodology does not include individuals or families doubled up in houses or apartments, formerly homeless people living in permanent housing units, those residing in treatment facilities, detention facilities, mental health facilities and/or chemical dependency facilities.

<sup>1</sup> Counts of sheltered individuals were conducted in 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014; counts of unsheltered individuals were conducted in 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2014.

## Overall Findings

**Overall Homeless Count:** There were an estimated 6,279 homeless people in Chicago on January 22, 2013, 5% fewer than the estimated 6,598 people found in 2011—the most recent year where *both* sheltered and unsheltered individuals were counted. Between 2011 and 2013, the number of unsheltered individuals decreased 29% (Table 1) from 1,725 to 1,219 individuals, and the number of sheltered individuals increased by 4%, from 4,873 to 5,060 individuals.

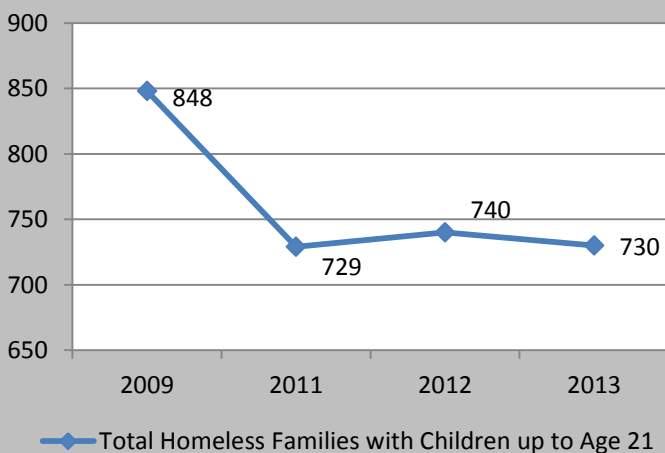
**City of Chicago-Homeless Count  
Total Count (Table 1)**



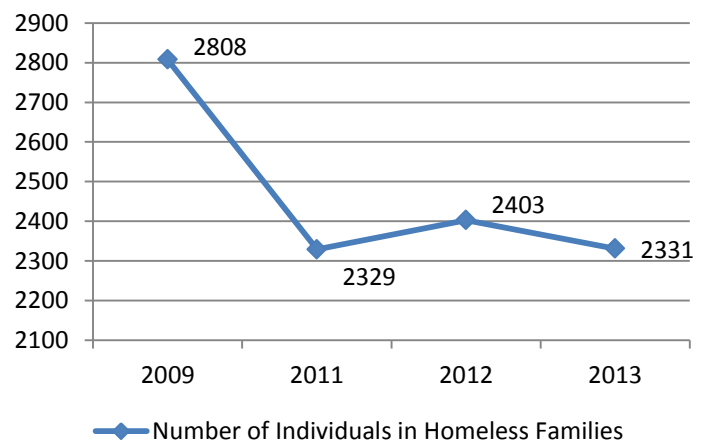
**Overall, the total number of people experiencing homelessness decreased 5% between 2011 and 2013.**

**Families Experiencing Homelessness:** The number of homeless families (adults with children up to age 21) in shelters decreased slightly by 1.4%. There were 5 *unsheltered* families with children in 2013 compared to 30 families in 2011. The number of individuals in sheltered families fell 3% in comparison to the 2012 count.

**City of Chicago-Sheltered Families with Children up to Age 21 (Table 2)**



**City of Chicago-Sheltered Individuals in Homeless Families (Table 3)**

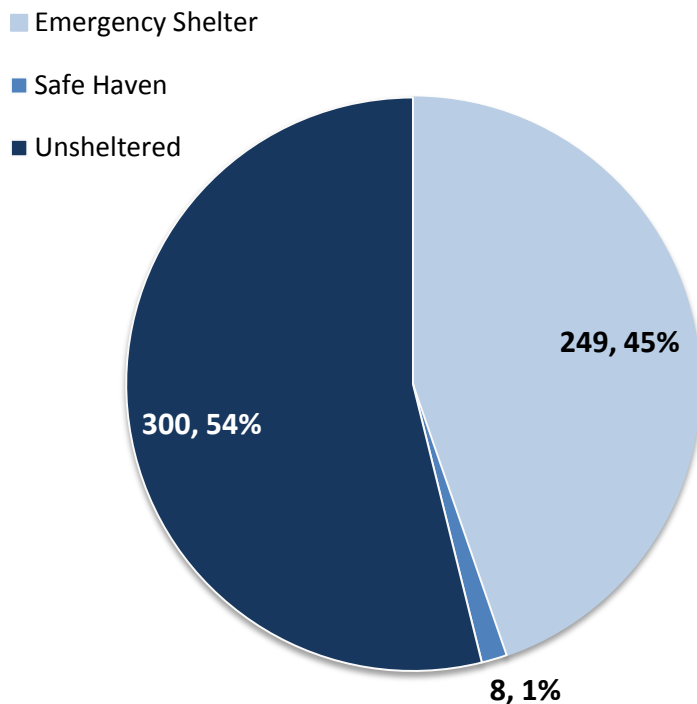


**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness:** The number of *sheltered* individuals (not in families) increased in 2013 by 5.6% (2,729 in 2013 compared to 2,585 in 2012).

Among unsheltered individuals not in families, the total decreased by 27%, from 1,634 in 2011 to 1,197 in 2013.

**Chronically Homeless:** In 2013, 557 individuals met the definition of chronically homeless. Of these, 257 resided in either emergency shelters or safe havens. The remaining 300 individuals were unsheltered (Table 5).

City of Chicago-% of Chronically Homeless by Living Situation (Table 5)



## Defining Chronic Homelessness

HUD defines **Chronically Homeless** as

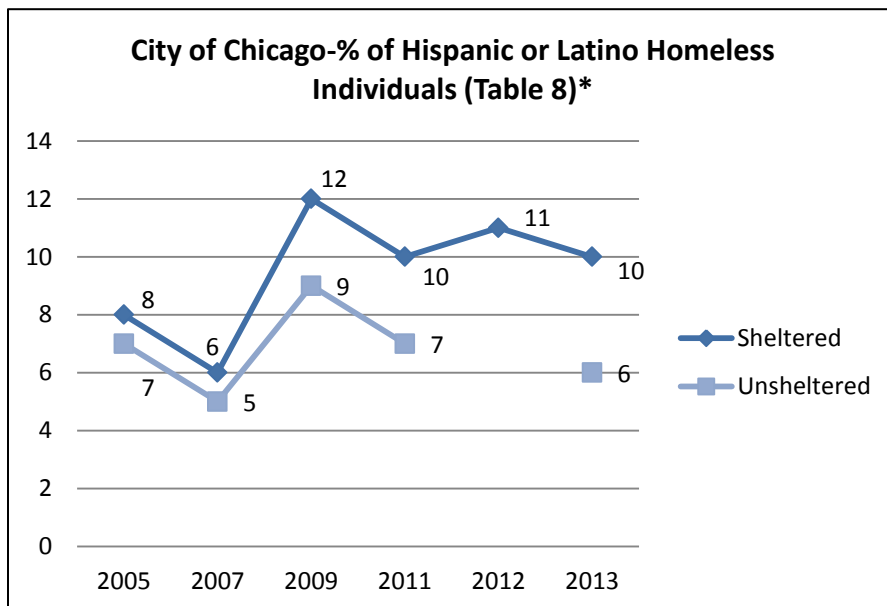
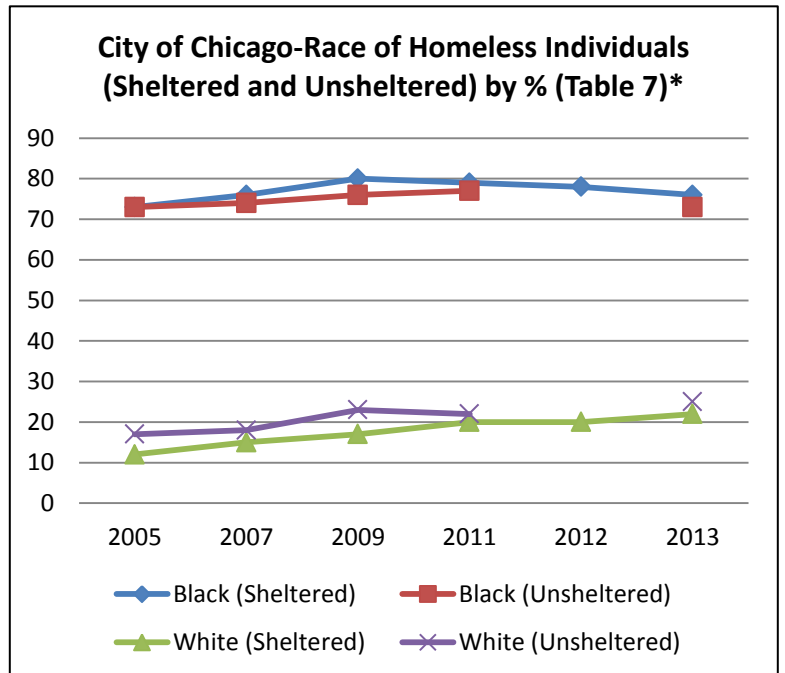
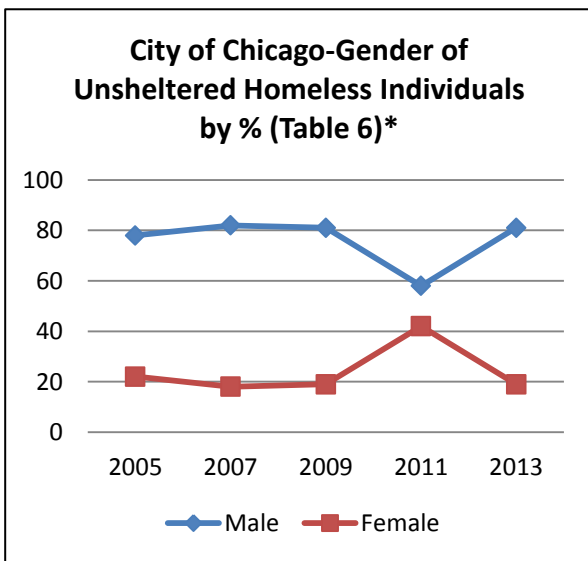
- (1) An individual who:
  - a. Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
  - b. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where each homeless occasion was at least 15 days; and
  - c. Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability;
- (2) An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that facility; or
- (3) A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

## Key Findings

**Gender:** Among individuals experiencing homelessness in shelters, there are more males (57.3%) than females (42.7%). This trend has not changed over time. In comparison to 2011, the percentage of unsheltered men was much higher in 2013 (81.5%) but similar to counts from 2005 to 2009 (Table 6).

**Age:** The largest portion of people experiencing homelessness are in the 41-60 year range (35.5%) followed by youth age 17 and under (29.7%) and then 25-40 year olds (19.5%). This distribution has remained stable since 2005.

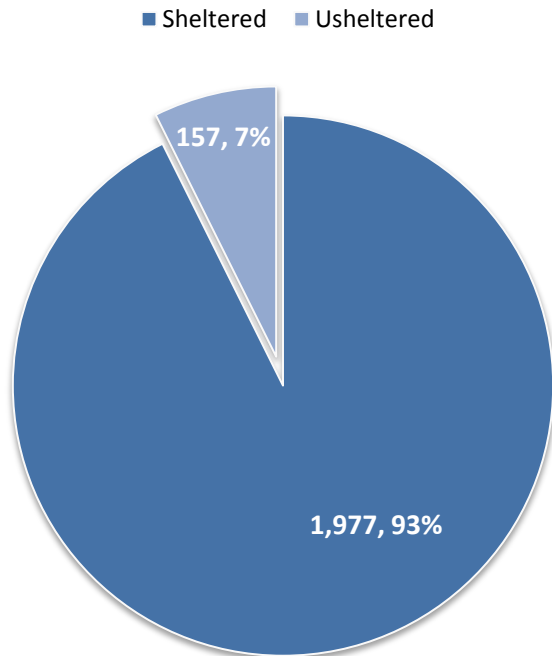
**Race/Ethnicity:** The majority of adults experiencing homelessness within shelters were African American/Black (76.3%), followed by white (21.6%) and Asian (1.4%) individuals. Among those who were unsheltered, the percentages were similar—73.3% were African American/Black (Table 7). Latino/a individuals comprised 10% of the total homeless population (Table 8).



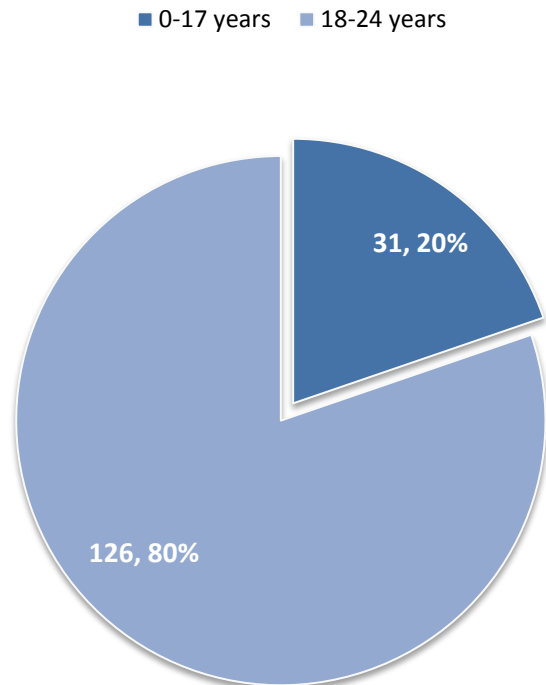
\*A 2012 PIT of Unsheltered Individuals was not conducted.

**Children & Youth:** Children and young people experiencing homelessness between the ages of 0 and 24 years of age totaled 2,134 and accounted for nearly 34% of Chicago’s entire homeless population. 1,977 were sheltered and 157 were unsheltered (Figure 1). Of those who were unsheltered, 31 were under the age of 18 and living outside with a family member. Five unsheltered families were counted in 2013, down from 30 families in 2011. The remaining 126 individuals were between the ages of 18 and 24 (Figure 2). Parenting individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 totaled 181 families. Of these, 178 were sheltered and 3 were unsheltered. During the night of the count, no parent under the age of 18 was counted.

**City of Chicago-Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Ages 0-24 (Figure 1)**



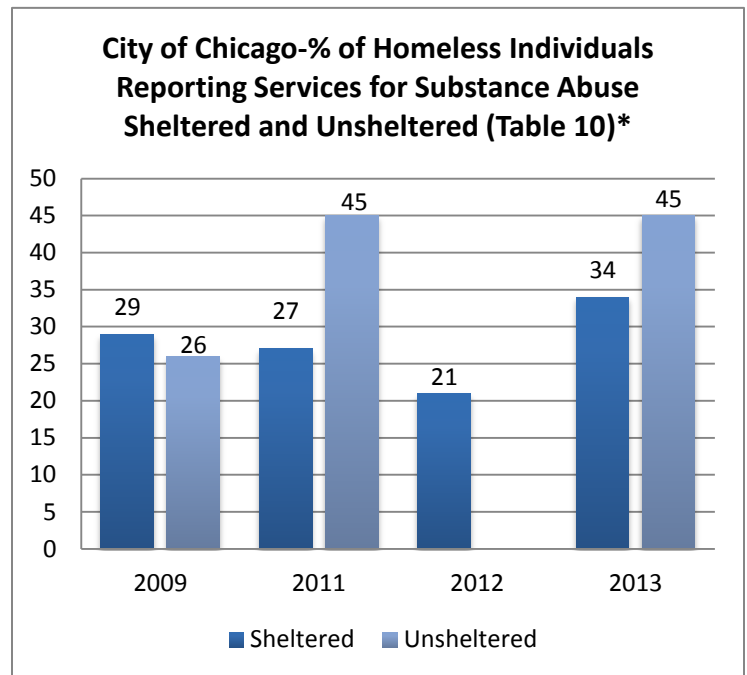
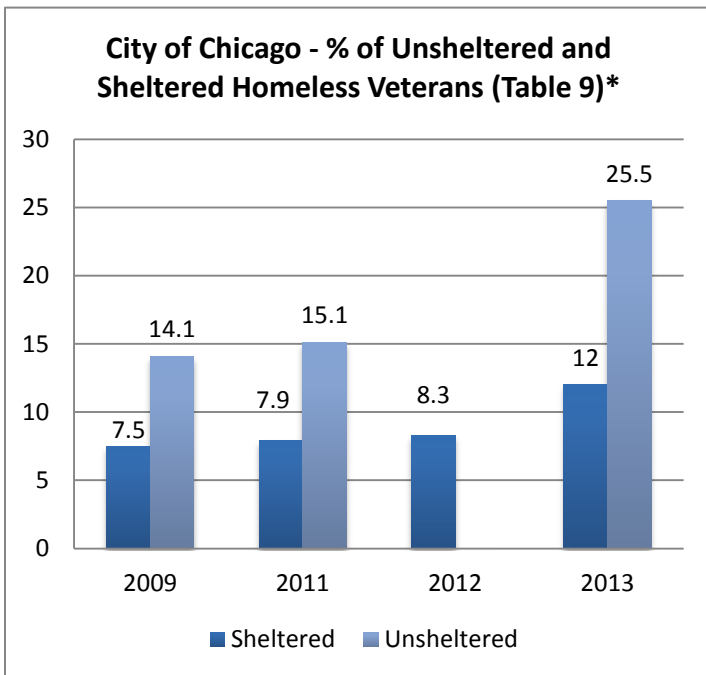
**City of Chicago-Unsheltered Children & Youth by Age (Figure 2)**



***Children and young people experiencing homelessness between the ages of 0 and 24 accounted for nearly 34% of all individuals counted in 2013.***

**Veterans:** In 2013, there was a 3.7% increase in the estimated number of veterans staying in shelters compared to 2012. There was a significant increase (10.4%) from 2011 to 2013 in veterans among the unsheltered population (Table 9). Of veterans identified, 55% of those living in shelters and 84% of those living outside were from the Vietnam War or Post-Vietnam War era. There were no Afghanistan or Iraq War veterans among those unsheltered; however, nearly 20% of veterans in shelters served in either Afghanistan or Iraq.

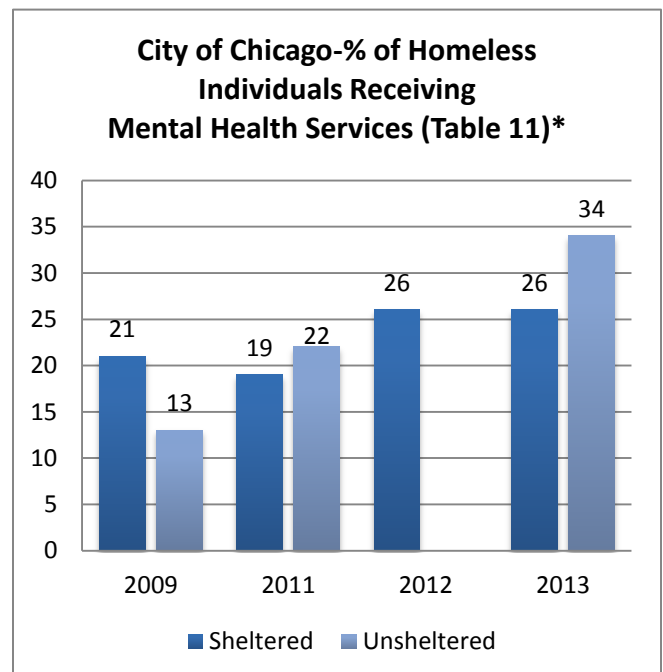
**Substance Abuse:** Among individuals in shelters, there was a 13% increase in those reporting use of substance abuse services between 2012 to 2013, from 21% to 34% respectively. Among those unsheltered, those who reported accessing substance abuse services was 45% in both 2011 and 2013 (Table 10).



**Mental Illness:** Trends in the percentage of sheltered individuals accessing mental health services remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013. Among unsheltered individuals, there was a 12% increase from 2011 to 2013 (Table 11).

**HIV Status:** Individuals self-disclosing as HIV-positive increased from 6.1% in 2012 to 7.5% in 2013 among those living in shelters and from 3% to 4.4% among those unsheltered.

**Intimate Partner Violence/Domestic Violence:** Individuals reported a decrease in the incidence of domestic violence in 2013 (28.9%). The reported incidence in 2012 was 33.3%. Among those unsheltered, the reporting rates stayed at 23% for both 2011 and 2013.



\*A 2012 PIT of Unsheltered Individuals was not conducted.

**Mainstream Resources:** Emergency food assistance (SNAP) was the most highly reported public benefit among sheltered and unsheltered individuals, 73.7% and 41.1% respectively.

Among those in shelters, there was a decrease in Medicaid or Medicare benefits in 2013 (18.6%) compared to 2012 (24.7%). This same decrease applied to those who were unsheltered—from 4.9% in 2011 to 3.3% in 2013.

**Incarceration:** For sheltered adults in the 2013 PIT, 60% of males and 27% of females reported previous jail or prison time. Among unsheltered clients, 74% of men and 38% of women reported experiences with jail or prison (Table 12).

**Employment:** Employment among sheltered homeless individuals increased from 13.7% in 2012 to 15.7% in 2013—the first increase between counts since 2007-2009. There was a slight decrease in employment among unsheltered individuals from 2011 (8.1%) to 2013 (7.4%).

#### CTA: Homelessness and Use of Public Transit

The number of unsheltered individuals counted on CTA buses and elevated train lines dropped significantly from 2011 to 2013. In 2013, the count dropped from an estimated 899 individuals in 2011 to 446 individuals riding CTA lines. This number reflects about a 50% drop in unsheltered individuals counted on CTA .

