

# K-Count

## Point-in-Time Count of Kentucky's Homeless

### What is the K-Count?

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires an annual count as a condition of funding for its homeless service programs. The K-Count allows Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) and other interested parties to better understand homelessness in Kentucky by monitoring trends and tracking progress, to make informed decisions for resource allocation.

The count is not meant to capture every person who will experience homelessness throughout the year in Kentucky. Rather, it is a "snapshot" of homelessness on any given night across the state.

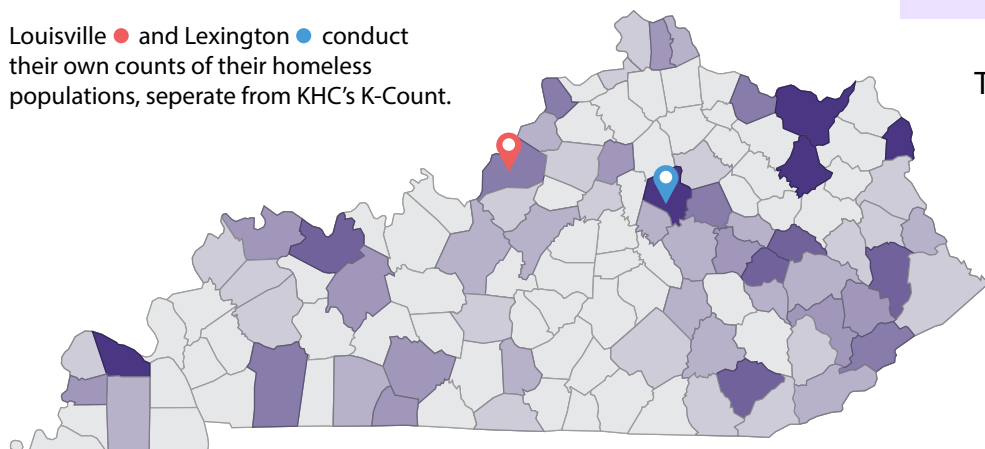
### Who is Counted?

Only persons who meet HUD's definition of literally homeless, as defined in paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3, are included. To be considered literally homeless for purposes of the K-Count, an individual or family must have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation (i.e., unsheltered); or is living in a publicly- or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, which includes congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels or motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, and local government programs (i.e., sheltered).

#### **Myths About Homelessness**

*Often, when people think about who is homeless, they imagine a person who suffers from substance abuse or mental illness. However, research suggests that hardship such as medical bills, car repairs, death of income provider, or loss of job can begin the trajectory towards becoming homeless. Also, a person may flee from domestic violence to protect themselves and their family, without an alternate residence.*

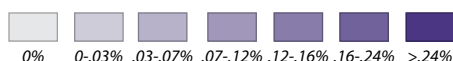
Louisville ● and Lexington ● conduct their own counts of their homeless populations, separate from KHC's K-Count.



**Total Homeless in Kentucky: 4,025**  
**Percentage of Population: .09%**

Largest Total Homeless Population:  
 Fayette - 1,051

Largest Percentage of Homeless:  
 Fayette/Lewis - 0.33%



Shading indicates percentage of population reported as homeless based on 2017 figures.

For counties showing zero percent homeless, no persons meeting HUD's definition of homelessness were identified on the night of the K-Count.



## Who is NOT Counted?

The K-Count does not include individuals or families who only meet the definition of homelessness under other federal statutes. Most notably, persons who are precariously housed, often referred to as “doubled-up” or “couch-surfing” — this includes persons who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. Persons in this situation, as well as others similar to those included by HUD, are used by the U.S. Department of Education when determining homeless status for their program purposes but not for the K-Count. Additionally, the K-Count is a one-night only collection of data on homeless persons in the state. Data reported by the Department of Education includes students counted one time in the state at any point during the year. As

a result, HUD’s Point-in-Time Count numbers (including the K-Count) are lower than those reported by other departments (including the Kentucky Department of Education).

## How is the K-Count Conducted?

The count must take place during a single 24-hour period the last 10 days in January. The count is organized and conducted by service providers and volunteers in local communities. For emergency shelters not receiving homeless federal funding, as well as those included in the unsheltered count, information is self-reported, including the length of time homeless and disability status.

## Why do the K-Count?

To best serve homeless Kentuckians, accurate numbers are needed so resources can be allocated appropriately. In addition, the K-Count is the only opportunity to collect information on unsheltered persons across the state in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. Individual communities may elect to do their own counts at any time throughout the year.

Local communities report results to KHC. KHC analyzes the data to ensure compliance with HUD requirements for quality control purposes and then submits the information to HUD.

The next count will take place Wednesday, January 24, 2018. More information will be added to the K-Count web page on KHC’s website as it becomes available.

### **Urban vs. Rural Homelessness**

*Both rural and urban areas have challenges locating every person who is homeless. It can be more difficult for rural communities to access remote areas of their communities because it is either impractical or unsafe to do so. Rural homelessness is often less visible than more dense and populated areas; therefore, many assume rural homelessness does not exist. Though the total numbers in rural areas might not be exact, the K-Count can still be useful in dispelling this myth.*

*As the state housing finance agency, KHC was created in 1972 by the Kentucky legislature as an independent, municipal corporation designed to meet the state’s unique affordable housing needs. KHC receives no state general funds but uses housing bonds, housing credits, and other federal resources to create and preserve affordable housing.*



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*KHC promotes fair housing practices in the state and prohibits discrimination based on race; color; religion; sex; national origin; sexual orientation; gender identity; ancestry; age; genetic information; disability; or marital, familial, or veteran status.*

