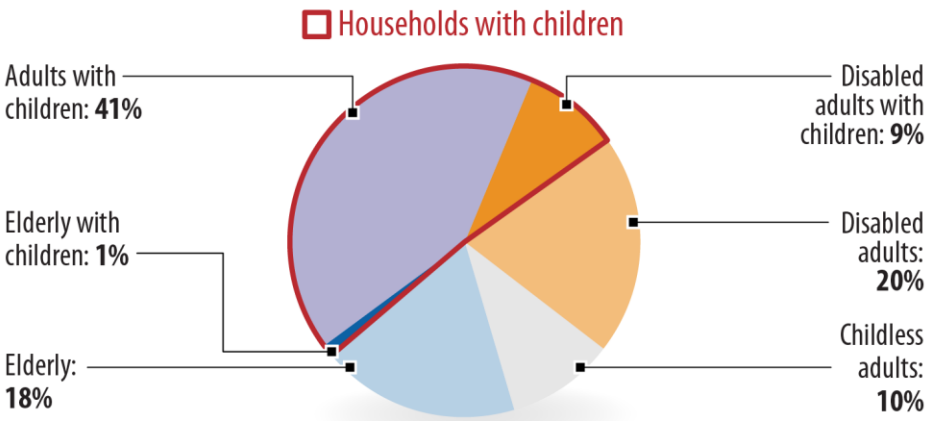


The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program is the nation's largest rental assistance program. More than 5 million people in 2.1 million low-income households use vouchers.

### Who Do Housing Choice Vouchers Help?

#### Nearly All Households Using Housing Choice Vouchers in the United States Include Children or People Who Are Elderly or Disabled



Note: Childless adults are households headed by a person under 62 without disabilities, and without children in the home. Disabled adults are younger than 62.  
Source: CBPP tabulation of 2010 HUD administrative data.

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### 2,161,468 low-income households used Housing Choice Vouchers

in the United States to afford decent, privately owned housing in safer neighborhoods in December 2012.

Housing vouchers help low-wage working families to make ends meet: in 2010, 65.6 percent of the non-elderly, non-disabled households using vouchers in the United States were working or had worked recently.

### Sequestration Sharply Cut Housing Choice Voucher Assistance in 2013

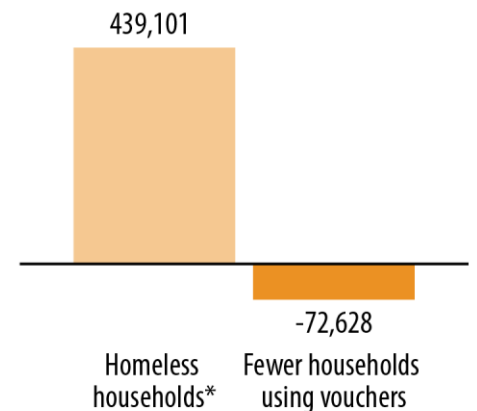
#### 72,628 fewer households were using Housing Choice Vouchers at the end of 2013

in the United States, compared to a year earlier, due to the sequestration cuts implemented in March.

1,694 of the 2,257 agencies administering housing vouchers reduced the number of households they served as a result of sequestration.

Congress increased HCV funding in 2014, but agencies will be able only to restore less than half of the housing vouchers lost due to sequestration.

#### Housing Choice Voucher Cuts Undermined Efforts to Address Homelessness in 2013



\*Point in time count in January 2013  
Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development  
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## Housing Costs Strain Family Budgets

**6,691,962** poor renter households in the United States pay more than half their monthly income for housing costs.

This is an increase of **1,473,232** households, or **28.2** percent, since 2007, the beginning of the Great Recession.

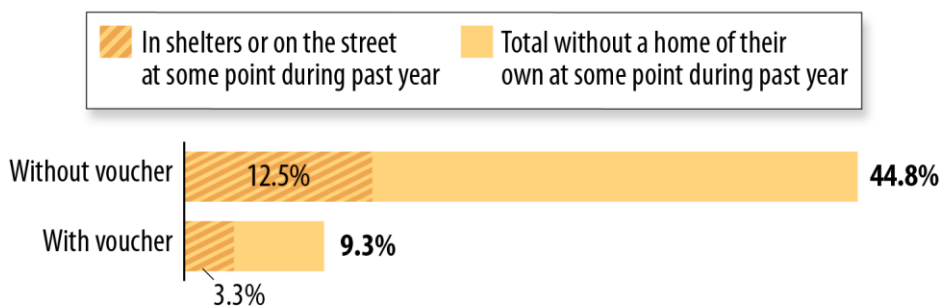
Across the United States, many households struggle to make ends meet.

**7.4%** of the labor force was unemployed in 2013.  
**15.9%** of the population lives below the poverty line.  
**22.6%** of children live below the poverty line.  
**14.7%** of households struggle to afford a nutritionally adequate diet.

### Housing Choice Vouchers Sharply Reduce Homelessness and Housing Instability Among Families with Children

On a single night nationwide in 2013, **610,042** people were homeless, including **138,149** children and **58,063** veterans.

Rigorous studies show that Housing Choice Vouchers are very effective at making housing affordable and reducing homelessness and instability.



Note: Chart compares housing status of low-income families who were randomly selected to receive a voucher and used a voucher during the year when families were surveyed about housing status to families in a control group who did not use vouchers.  
Source: Michelle Wood, Jennifer Turnham, and Gregory Mills, "Housing Affordability and Family Well-Being: Results from the Housing Voucher Evaluation," Housing Policy Debate, 2008.

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## Housing Choice Vouchers Benefit the Community

Private owners across the United States received \$16.6 billion in HCV assistance payments in 2013. This helped owners to pay property taxes and prevent blight by maintaining their properties in good condition, in addition to helping low-income families to afford housing.

In addition to improving the lives of vulnerable low-income people, vouchers can produce savings in healthcare, child welfare, corrections, and other program areas that offset part (in some circumstances all) of the cost of the rental assistance.

For more information on the Housing Choice Voucher program, including state-specific information, please see:

Sources and methods: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/3-6-14hou-sources.pdf>

Policy Basics on Housing Choice Vouchers: <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=279>

Paper on Benefits of Housing Vouchers: <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4098>

Local Data on Housing Choice Voucher Cuts Due to Sequestration: <http://www.houserscorner.org>