2018 WEALLCOUNT ANNUAL REPORT San Diego County





WEALLCOUNT

San Diego's Annual Point-in-Time Count

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The Regional Task Force on the Homeless prepared this report to provide comprehensive data from the San Diego region's 2018 Point-in-Time Count, known locally as WeAllCount.

This report provides an in-depth look at the region's homelessness, including demographic information and city profiles where there were statistically significant sample sizes.

The goal of this report is to educate the community, elected officials, and community stakeholders on the San Diego homeless population in hopes of improving community awareness and to provide data for local decisions.

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Introduction

The Point-in-Time Count (PITC) takes place nationwide during the last 10 days of January. This year, in San Diego County, it took place on January 26, 2018 from 4:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Overview of the Point-in-Time Count

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires cities and counties to conduct a biennial PITC of unsheltered and sheltered persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. This year, 2018, was not a mandated year for communities to conduct an unsheltered count; however, the San Diego community continues to conduct an annual count. The PITC provides a one-day snapshot of unduplicated numbers of homeless families and individuals in sheltered and unsheltered locations in San Diego County. It is the most comprehensive source of national data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. The data collected through this effort is what HUD bases its annual funding on for Continuum of Care (CoC) programs across the nation. The funds allocated are used to provide services and housing for homeless individuals in their region. Last year, San Diego County received over \$18 million of funding from HUD. The count data and this annual report help to inform our local policy makers and community members by providing a guide to the best services needed to meet the challenges of San Diego's homeless community members.



Following the count, data was collected from homeless service providers to determine how many people spent the night in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens. This data is verified by the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and is administered by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH).

During the week following the count, an in-depth demographic survey was administered regionwide from January 26 to January 31, 2018. During this time period, 1,009 unique adult and 120 youth surveys were collected, which accounts for more than 20 percent of the unsheltered total.

A portion of the surveys collected included a supplemental count of youth under the age of 25 years old. This dedicated youth count is recommended by HUD with specific guidelines to help improve the understanding of youth homelessness nationwide. It included youth counters who had inside knowledge of areas where homeless youth can be found.

Federal Definitions of Homelessness for a Point-in-Time Count

HUD's definition of homelessness was utilized for this year's WeAllCount. According to HUD, a person/household is considered homeless only when they reside in one of the places described below at the time of the count.

- An unsheltered homeless person/household resides in: A place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, or on the street.
- A sheltered homeless person/household resides in: A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs).



Changes to WeAllCount 2018

Per HUD's definition, there were three significant changes to the 2018 Point-in-Time Count. For the enumeration part of the WeAllCount recreational vehicles (RVs) were counted separately from car, trucks and vans. The reason behind this change was to get a better overall picture of homelessness in the county. It cannot be assumed that every individual in a RV would consider themselves homeless.

Per HUD, persons living "in a place not meant for human habitation" and a "private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings" should be counted as homeless. To better understand if the occupants of RVs consider themselves housed or unstably housed, in the upcoming 2019 WeAllCount the RTFH intends to do an indepth outreach to those that live in RVs.

Another important change to the demographic survey was in regard to domestic violence. For 2018, HUD required that "the data reported on survivors of domestic violence should be limited to reporting on those who are *currently* experiencing homelessness because they are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as opposed to reporting on survivors who *have ever* experienced these circumstances."¹

Consistent with an update to the 2017 HMIS Data Dictionary, HUD changed the "Don't identify as male, female, or transgender" gender response option to "Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)."

Why WeAllCount is in January

Counting and interviewing people sleeping in unsheltered locations during the winter months can provide a more precise count of people who are unable or unwilling to access emergency shelter or other crisis response assistance. By conducting counts in January, it ensures that CoC's have sufficient time to compile data and report the information to HUD via the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) in advance of the annual CoC program competition. This time-frame also provides consistency with the data that HUD receives from CoC's nationwide. Conducting the count on a night when the shelters are most full provides the most accurate count. This is because it is easier to count people in a shelter than on the street or place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. HUD recognizes that a January count is not intended to represent the extent to which people may be unsheltered at other times during the year or over more than a one-night period.



The next Point-in-Time Count will occur on January 25th, 2019 – Save the date!

¹ HUD. 2018. "Notice CPD-17-08: 2018 HIC and PIT Data Collection for CoC and ESG Programs." Accessed May 2018. https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5611/notice-cpd-17-08-2018-hic-and-pit-data-collection-for-coc-and-esg-programs/

Regional Summary

Countywide, 8,576** homeless individuals were counted on January 26, 2018. This is a 6 percent decrease from the 2017 WeAllCount and a 9 percent decrease since 2011.

Sheltered			Unsheltered			
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Individual	Vehicle*	Hand-Built Structure/Tent*	
1,947	64	1,575	2,475 1,262		1,253	
3	3,586** 4,990					
8,576 Total Homeless Persons						

**Minor variations between actual and reported sheltered data may be present due to client data being entered after initial data pull. Totals are within +/-1%.

*Vehicles were multiplied by an occupancy factor of 2.03. Hand-built structures were multiplied by 1.75.



Household Breakdown

As part of the survey process for the Point-in-Time Count, HUD requires that respondents are asked if they are part of a household. Of the 1,129 interviewed, there were 990 unique households. Of those unique households 23 are households with at least one adult and one child, 143 are youth households and 146 are veteran households. Understanding the types of homeless households allows service providers to implement more specific programs and plan for the amount and size of housing needed in different communities.

After extrapolating the survey data, it's estimated there are 4,990 total unsheltered homeless persons and 4,406 homeless households in the San Diego region.

Breakdown	Households	Individuals
Households with at least 1 adult and 1 child	102	314
Households with no children	4,229	4601
Household with only children	75	75

Overall Household Types

The subset of most at risk households extrapolated show that 14% of households are youth only.

Subset of Household Types

Breakdown	Households	Individuals
Veteran Households without children	649	739
Unaccompanied Youth Household	619	637
Parenting Youth Household	18	40



COUNTY REGION				
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total	% by Region
City of San Diego	2,282	2,630	4,912	57.3%
North County Inland	490	663	1,153	13.4%
North County Coastal	255	567	822	9.6%
South County	140	462	602	7%
East County	419	668	1,087	12.7%
TOTAL	3,586	4,990	8,576	100%

Top 10 Census Tracts

2018 Point-in-Time Count

Census Tract	Location Description	Individuals	Vehicles*	Hand-built Structures**	TOTAL
51.00	SAN DIEGO – Area surrounding the 12 th & Imperial Transit Center southeast of Petco Park	253	10	172	435
53.00	SAN DIEGO – North end of the Gaslamp Quarter within the Westfield Horton Plaza shopping center and Civic Theatre	158	0	37	195
52.00	SAN DIEGO – Northern side of East Village with San Diego City College, west of the I-5 and north of Market St	96	8	54	158
54.00	San Diego – The downtown waterfront extending from Petco Park through the Gaslamp Quarter to Ash St	87	0	37	124
186.03	OCEANSIDE – Region along the 76 freeway east of the I-5 and north of Mission Ave	29	51	25	105
185.04	Oceanside – The area north of where the 78 meets the I-5. Extends to Oceanside Blvd and El Camino Real.	25	10	53	88
208.06	Ramona – West of where the 78 ends and turns into S 10 th St/San Vincente Rd. Extends to Ramona St.	18	2	58	78
202.14	Escondido – Once the 78 ends and turns into Lincoln Parkway and extends south to W 2 nd Ave.	69	2	0	71
32.04	National City – The area southeast of where the I-805 and SR 54 intersect. Encompasses Sweetwater Regional Park.	9	0	61	70
56.00	San Diego – All of Balboa Park and a portion of the City of San Diego from Date St. through Ash St.	44	2	23	69

Sheltered Data Summary

Data is collected on individuals who are staying in a shelter or institution in order to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily housed throughout San Diego County. This data is vital to gaining an accurate overall count of the homeless population and to understand where homeless people are receiving shelter. The Homeless Management Information System database was utilized to conduct the shelter count on the night of the Point-in-Time Count, January 26^{th,} 2018. The number reported to HUD does not include homeless individuals in hospitals, residential rehabilitation facilities, and jails.

Throughout San Diego County, shelters and facilities report the number of homeless individuals and families who occupied their facilities on the same day of the WeAllCount unsheltered enumeration effort, January 26^{th,} 2018. This helps ensure individuals are not duplicated in the count.

Sheltered Data Summary

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

In addition to the annual Point-in-Time Count, information is collected throughout the year from those seeking services from San Diego's Homeless System of Care. San Diego's HMIS is the data collection tool used by the majority of homeless-dedicated service providers in San Diego County to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness

The HMIS is integral in coordinating case management, tracking service progress, referring individuals and families to critical resources, measuring results, and producing accurate and timely reporting. As the system administrators, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless supports agencies and users with technical training, support, and analysis. Our region relies on data from the HMIS to make effective data driven decisions, measure program goals and coordinate services.

An important change regarding the sheltered homeless was made in October of 2017 when the Regional Task Force on the Homeless opened up the HMIS system. This change to the system provides clients with the opportunity to share their information with all homeless serving providers within our system for an improved, more streamlined case management effort. To prepare for this change, our Data Analysts merged upwards of 200,000 duplicative client profiles created over the past several decades. An open system improves the ability to work with clients, reduces the time spent tracking clients and introduces the ability for participating agencies to see a more complete client record. Our goal is to efficiently match clients to housing resources within the system by improving our coordinated efforts for client case management and streamlining the data entry process.

San Diego's Homeless System of Care

Over 60 agencies, 250 individual projects and 700 HMIS users enter homeless service data into the HMIS on an ongoing basis. These projects include but are not limited to[:]

57 Permanent Supportive Housing	48 Transitional Housing	35 Emergency Shelters	33 Rapid Rehousing	30 Street Outreach
20 Services Only	14 Homeless Prevention	15 Other Permanent Housing	4 Safe Haven	2 Day Shelter

Components of San Diego County's Homeless Response System

San Diego communities manage a broad system to meet the needs of those experiincing homelessness. There are programs in place to help reach out to people and guide them to the best services to meet their needs.

Day Services provide a stable and safe place for homeless individuals to pick up their mail, attend to hygenic needs, do laundry, get a meal and receive case management services.

Street Outreach programs help to reach the homeless that do not seek services and connect them to programs that can help them obtain housing.

Emergency Shelters are facilities designed to provide a place to sleep for the night. By providing a short term crisis option it is often the first step to finding a permanent housing solution.

Rapid Re-Housing reconnects families and individuals to a housing option as quickly as possible using housing vouchers and rental assistance. It is a more stable and cost effective way to house people than using Emergency Shelters.

Transitional Housing is a temporary housing option that can last up to 24 months and includes supportive services such as case management.

Permanent Supportive Housing is long-term housing with wraparound services that is meant to support the stability and health of homeless individuals. It is offered to those that are considered chronically homeless and has proven to greatly reduce the public cost for homelessness.

Affordable Housing is the goal for San Diego Communities to reduce homelessness. In California, economic trends and an overal shortage of housing has made this difficult. Most homeless individuals are not employed and if they receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), it is often not enough to afford rent. Issues with credit history and involvement in the criminal justice system also further limits housing options for the homeless.

HUD requires that communties report their bed inventory and utilization of those beds the night of the count. The data is taken from the HMIS and then validated by the different organizations in the County that have the beds. In 2018, there was an 85 percent utilization rate out of the total 9,996 beds available.



Utilization Rates						
Year	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Permanent Supportive Housing	Rapid Re- Housing	Other Permanent Housing
2015	85%	85%	83%	87%	100%	52%
2016	71%	89%	80%	87%	100%	45%
2017	90%	100%	82%	87%	100%	32%
2018	89%	70%	87%	85%	100%	91%
Acceptable Utilization Rates*	75%-105%		80%-105%	85%-105%		

*As determined by HUD's recommended methodology.

Unsheltered Survey Results

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the 2018 San Diego Homeless Survey. Surveys were administered to homeless individuals between January 26 and January 31, 2018. This effort resulted in 1,009 unique adult surveys. Based on the Point-in-Time Count of 4,990 unsheltered homeless individuals, with a cluster survey sampling process, these 1,009 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 3 percent with a 95 percent confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in San Diego.

To ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Missing values are listed as "nonresponse." WeAllCount 2018 includes a representative sample, garnering information from subpopulations that are often hidden or hard to reach. Efforts were made to target respondents based on age and geographic location.

Interview participants were given a pair of socks and a \$10 Subway gift card for their time in answering the questions.





Survey results found that 54 percent of respondents were between the ages of 25 and 54; 8 percent were under the age of 25; and 1 percent were over 75 years old.





GENDER IDENTITY

Consistent with the previous year's data, respondents were predominantly male.





RACE & ETHNICITY

Respondents were asked to self-identify their race and ethnicity. White represented the largest category with 65%. Black or African-American represents the second biggest racial demographic.





SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS

Survey results found that half of all those surveys slept on the streets or sidewalks the previous evening. Vehicles such as cars, vans, and trucks were the second largest location.



ORIGIN OF HOMELESSNESS

Surveyors asked if the respondents' episode of homelessness originated in San Diego County. Twenty-one percent responded that they did not become homeless in San Diego.



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HAND-BUILT STRUCTURES/TENTS

This year, WeAllCount identified a sizeable decrease (24 percent) in the number of tents and hand-built structures in the region. The biggest decrease (52 percent) was in downtown San Diego.



	Tents and Hand-Built Structures Region-Wide								
Area	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change Last Year			
Region-Wide	365	380	593	937	716	-24%			
City of San Diego	221	248	411	674	372	-45%			
Downtown	115	134	204	418	199	-52%			

HEALTH

One of the biggest challenges facing unsheltered homeless individuals is to avoid illness. A significant part of the survey process was to ask respondents health benchmark questions. All responses were self-reported by those that agreed to take the survey.

Notably we found that 43 percent of the unsheltered respondents suffer from a physical disability, chronic health condition and/or mental health issue.



*HUD changed this question to ask, "Are you currently experiencing domestic violence?" For further clarification refer to page 4 of this report.



PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

Choosing a "primary" cause of homelessness can be difficult for survey respondents, as instances of homeless are often the result of compounding factors. The most common response provided was "loss of job," but respondents also indicated that many of the other options from the survey in addition to losing their job led to their homelessness.



ASSIST SECURE STABLE HOUSING

Respondents were asked - "What services would assist you in finding stable housing?"





EMPLOYMENT

Seeking and maintaining employment is a major challenge for homeless individuals. This challenge is reflected in the high number of respondents saying that they are currently not working or attending school. Over one-third of respondents stated they have not been employed in over five years.







ONSET, DURATION, & RECURRENCE

In an effort to better understand the background of those experiencing homelessness, respondents were asked how old they were the first time they became homeless. Notably most people become homeless from ages 25-54.





Once individuals become homeless, more than half, 59 percent, remain homeless for longer than a year.



The survey also touched on the recurrence of homelessness. 16 percent have been homeless four or more times in the past three years. This is a marker for becoming chronically homeless. This question asked – *"How many time have you been homeless in the past three years?"*



RECONNECTING WITH FAMILY/SUPPORT

To better understand ways to reduce homelessness, respondents are asked if they need help reconnecting with family or a support system. Only 14 percent report that they require this service.



PREVENTING A SHELTER STAY



Notably, the response for "other" is 25 percent of the overall total responses. Other reasons people had for not wanting to stay in a shelter were:

- Phobias
- Worried about health risk
- Need I.D.
- Discrimination
- Location is inaccessible
- So mother and children can go
- Wants own space
- Bipolar
- Embarrassment
- Don't know anything about them

SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESING

Begninning in 2017, the survey incoorporated local questions such as "What services are you currently accessing?" When asked the question again for 2018 responses were similar, with 60 percent stating that "Free Meals" is the number one service they use and "Immigration" is the least used service that is offered.



Chronic Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years and also has a diagnosed disability that prevents them from maintaining work or housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as household members. The chronic homeless population represents one of the most vulnerable populations on the street and some of the hardest to house.

Chronic Homelessness

The mortality rate for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness is four to nine times higher than the general population.¹ Research indicates that people experiencing chronic homelessness consume a disproportionate amount of public resources through repeated use of publically funded services such as shelters, jails, emergency rooms, and psychiatric centers. Ending chronic homelessness means enabling people who are currently experiencing chronic homelessness to move into permanent housing with access to necessary services. ²

Definition Change

HUD changed the definition of who is considered chronically homeless in January of 2016. This new definition means it is possible that some who were considered chronically homeless before 2015 are not included this year. The technical definition is in *Appendix A* of this report.



In 2018, San Diego saw an increase of chronically homeless sheltered individuals of 98%.

Chronic Homelessness in San Diego County

According to the 2018 PITC data, 25 percent of San Diego County's homeless population are considered chronically homeless. This is a 1 percent increase from the 2017 report. What is significant is the 98 percent increase in sheltered chronic homeless. This correlates with the opening of the three bridge shelters and 27 percent increase in Emergency Shelter beds that prioritized individuals who are considered chronically homeless.



¹ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2015) Annual Update 2014 ² United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2016) Annual Update 2016



Chronic Homelessness Breakdown							
Breakdown	2017	2018	% Change				
Unsheltered*	1,787	1,400	-22%				
Sheltered	389	771	+98%				
Total	2,176	2,171	-0.23%				

*Minor variations between actual and reported sheltered data may be present due to client data being entered after initial data pull. Totals are within +/-1%.

Veterans

Veterans are more likely than civilians to experience homelessness. Like the general homeless population, veterans are at a significantly increased risk of homelessness if they are of low socioeconomic status, have a mental health disorder, and/or a history of substance abuse. Additionally, veterans experience a higher prevalence of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), both of which have been found to be among the most substantial risk factors for homelessness. Veterans face the same shortage of affordable housing options and living wage jobs as all Americans, and these factors—combined with the increased likelihood that veterans will exhibit symptoms of PTSD, substance abuse, or mental illness — can compound to put veterans at a greater risk of homelessness than the general population.

National Alliance to End Homelessness (2015). Fact Sheet: Veteran Homelessness. Retrieved 2017 from http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/fact-sheet-veteran-homelessness

Veterans

San Diego has historically had a large population of unsheltered veterans. The 2018 count identified an overall increase of 24 percent in veteran homelessness from 2017 and an increase in unsheltered homeless veterans of 45 percent.



Total Homeless Veterans Over-Time							
	2011	2017	2018	% Change Since Last Year	% Change Since 2011		
Unsheltered	893	454	659	+45%	-26%		
Sheltered*	756	600	653	+9%	-14%		
Total Homeless	1,649	1,054	1,312	+24%	-20%		

*Minor variations between actual and reported sheltered data may be present due to client data being entered after initial data pull. Totals are within +/-1%.

	Trends in Veteran Healthcare Services			
	Breakdown	2018	% of Unsheltered Veterans	
Chro	onically Homeless Veterans	305	46%	
١	VA Medical/Health Care Services	221	34%	
Rec	eives VA Compensation or Pension	124	19%	

. . .

There was a 45% increase in unsheltered homeless veterans and a 10% decrease in chronically homeless veterans from 2017 to 2018.



Veteran Era

Approximately 43 percent of unsheltered veterans entered military service from 1976-1990. 35 percent of unsheltered veterans were discharged from military service from 1976-1990. Notably over half, 58 percent, of unsheltered veterans were honorable discharged.

YEAR ENTERED MILITARY SERVICE

1950-1963 (Korean War)	5%
1964-1975 (Vietnam War)	23%
1976-1990 (Post-Vietnam)	43%
1991-2001 (Persian Gulf)	12%
2002-2003 (Afghanistan)	3%
2004-present (Iraq)	6%
Did Not Know/Refused	8%



YEAR DISCHARGED FROM MILITARY SERVICE

1950-1963 (Korean War)	1%
1964-1975 (Vietnam War)	16%
1976-1990 (Post-Vietnam)	35%
1991-2001 (Persian Gulf)	19%
2002-2003 (Afghanistan)	2%
2004-present (Iraq)	16%
Did Not Know/Refused	6%



NATURE OF DISCHARGE

Honorable	58%
General	13%
Medical	1%
Other than Honorable	9%
Dishonorable	5%
Bad Conduct	2%
Uncharacterized	2%
Non-Response	11%



Homelessness & Families

Families that experience homelessness are generally of a low socioeconomic status and struggle with incomes that are too low to afford housing. A lost job or unanticipated bill can lead to loss of housing.

Homelessness is traumatizing for a child and may impact them the rest of their lives. Children who experience homelessness fall behind their peers in health, education, and economic achievement. Being without a home is hard on their families, too, and makes it difficult for parents to stay employed, and sometimes even to hold the family together.

Fortunately, homelessness among families is not common on the streets, and homeless families tend to find resources in shelters and other service provider networks.
Homelessness & Families

Characteristics of Homeless Families with Children

Of the families surveyed for the 2018 PITC, 51% of respondents are female. This figure is much higher than the 27% of the general population that identifies as female. It was also found that families have a lower percentage of chronic homelessness, 15% compared to 25% of the general survey respondents.





Since 2014, there has been a 23% decrease in family homelessness in San Diego County.

Of the families identified during 2018 WeAllCount, 79% were staying in shelters or residential facilities. Overall there was a 3% decrease in homeless families since last year's count and a 12% increase in the number of families that were unsheltered.

	2	017	2018		
Breakdown	Families	Individuals in Families	Families	Individuals in Families	% Change
Unsheltered	91	293	102	314	+12%
Sheltered*	422	1,291	393	1,231	-7%
Total:	513	1,584	495	1,545	

Youth and Homelessness

Beginning in 2015, San Diego began making a concentrated effort to improve the quality of data surrounding youth homelessness.

While youth under the age of 25 have always been included in the general count effort, many speculate that traditional outreach efforts tend to undercount unsheltered homeless youth. To help bridge this gap, RTFH partners with various homelessness providers throughout San Diego County to assist with coordinated outreach efforts in targeting unaccompanied children and transitional aged youth.

Teams of youth service providers scan San Diego County throughout the week of the Pointin-Time Count hoping to find unaccompanied children and transitional aged youth who are residing on the street. A unique element of our targeted youth count methodology is the inclusion of youth who are unstably housed in addition to those who meet the strict HUD definition of homelessness.

Youth and Homelessness

A significant barrier in understanding the national scope and scale of youth homelessness is the lack of historical data available on children and transitional-age-youth experiencing homelessness. Homeless youth are traditionally understood to be a 'hidden' population that experience a difficult time accessing services related to education, medical care, employment, and housing. In working to bridge this gap, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and its federal partners have decided that the Point-in-Time Count for 2017 will serve as the baseline year for measuring future trends in youth homelessness throughout the United States.

Beginning in 2015, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless has conducted a Youth Count that was separate from the general Point-in-Time Count endeavor. This Youth Count was intended to begin the process of understanding youth as a distinct sub-population of the homeless that face a unique set of barriers to obtaining permanent housing. In continuing our efforts to understand youth homelessness, in 2017 unstably housed youth were included in our survey.

With an increased emphasis on collecting data on youth homelessness, San Diego is moving forward better equipped to address the challenges faced by homeless youth.



54% of the youth surveyed reported having some engagement with the criminal justice system.

Methodology

The Regional Task Force on the Homeless began making efforts to collect data on youth homelessness in 2015 by conducting an event-based surveying approach. Growing from this, 2016 focused on a team of dedicated outreach workers searching for youth on the streets of San Diego. The 2017 Youth Count was able to build upon the Voices of Youth Count study conducted by the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall. This approach utilized homeless youth service providers to conduct both event-based and street outreach based on information provided by current and formerly homeless youth. The 2018 Youth Count continued this methodological approach and began planning for the 2018 Youth Count in September 2017.

All Youth (Unstably Housed + Unsheltered)

The following data points are pulled from all youth surveys, including those that indicated they were staying in an unstable location.

During the WeAllCount, 46 unstably housed youth were under the age of 18 and 69 transitional aged youth were in unstable locations.

48% of the youth that were surveyed slept in an unstable location, 14% were on the street or sidewalk, and 14% were staying in a vehicle.

Breakdown	Under 18	18-24	Total	% Change
Unsheltered	75	584	659	-25%
Sheltered*	17	137	154	-42%
HUD Totals**	92	721	813	-29%
Unstably Housed	46	69	115	
Total***	138	790	928	

*Minor variations between actual and reported sheltered data may be present due to client data being entered after initial data pull. Totals are within +/-1%. **HUD totals include the total of unsheltered and sheltered youth homeless

***Total includes the summation of unsheltered, sheltered, and unstably housed youth

Homeless Youth Unsheltered Survey Results

For 2018, there was one additional youth specific question and unlike the general survey, no identified information was asked of the youth. The additional question included this year asked "Have you ever been diagnosed with an STI?" A total of 11% of youth reported that they had, 3% were unsure, and 85% reported no.

The survey results in this section are based from the surveys of both unstably housed and unsheltered youth. 235 youth were surveyed during the Youth Point-in-Time Count period (January 26th – February 2nd). Of those surveyed 115 were unstably housed the night of the count and 44 youth were couch surfing, 35 were under 18 years of age and 52 were female.

The 2018 Youth Count found a large decrease in homeless youth populations overall. This year found a 25% decrease in unsheltered youth and a 42% decrease in sheltered youth. It was reported by some of our youth service providers that known locations that homeless youth congregate were found empty during the Youth Count.

Of the 235 youth interviewed, 52 percent were unsheltered the night of WeAllCount and 48 percent were unstably housed.



Of the 115 unstably housed youth interviewed, 39 percent were couch surfing, 36 percent were in transitional housing and 16 percent were in an emergency shelter on the night of the WeAllCount.



Because many youth are homeless due to circumstances outside of their control, many are unaware of the cause of their homelessness, with 29 percent reporting they were unsure.



Youth are less likely than the general population to report having a mental health issue, with 30 percent experiencing a mental health issue compared to 43% from the general survey.



This year saw an 8 percent increase in the number of homeless youth who reported engagement with the juvenile justice system. Approximately a quarter of all homeless youth have been in juvenile hall.



More homeless youth reported to be attending school this year, with 28 percent indicating that they were currently attending school, an 8 percent increase from last year.



Incarceration and Homelessness

Beginning in 2017, the RTFH began collaborating with the County jail system to begin collecting data on the relationship between incarceration and homelessness with individuals who are incarcerated during the night of the Point-in-Time Count.

Many members of the community and service providers have shared anecdotal evidence suggesting a high correlation of engagement with the criminal justice system and homelessness in San Diego County. It is speculated that a significant segment of the homeless are individuals who recently exited the criminal justice system. A macro understanding of this phenomena has been largely nonexistent on an empirical level. Through collecting data on a local level, the RTFH hopes to better serve the community by connecting the dots between the cycles of incarceration and homelessness.

Incarceration and Homelessness

Individuals recently released from the criminal justice system often face housing challenges that may contribute to their homelessness.

In San Diego County, 13% of unsheltered survey respondents reported they were on probation or parole at the time of the survey. Almost two-thirds of the unsheltered population surveyed had been to jail, prison, or juvenile hall. Of those, 19% had been in a combination of jail, prison, and/or juvenile hall.

PROBATION	% of the Unsheltered	Total Persons	PA
Yes	13%	643	Yes
No	66%	3,289	No
Non-Response	21%	1,058	Non-R

PAROLE	% of the Unsheltered	Total Persons
Yes	3%	138
No	76%	3,789
Non-Response	21%	1,063



Have you ever been in jail, prison, or juvenile hall?



Incarceration and Homelessness

For the WeAllCount jail survey it was reported that 27% of those interviewed were unsheltered before being arrested, 60% were housed in a house or apartment and 3% indicated that they were couch surfing.

Survey Method

The County jails created a representative sample of 18 percent of the jail population on the night of January 26, 2018 and 1,026 inmates were asked "Where did you sleep the night before you were arrested".

The following facilities made up the representative sample:

San Diego Central Jail - Capacity: 946 beds

- > The primary point of intake for male prisoners in San Diego County.
- ▶ In 2017 there were approximately 43,500 new bookings initiated at SDCJ.

Vista Detention Facility - Capacity: 807 beds

- > The primary point of intake for male and female arrestees in northern San Diego County.
- The inmate population consists of those with medical challenges, those under psychiatric care, an administrative segregation unit, as well as defendants facing high-publicity trials.
- ▶ In 2017 there were approximately 21,800 new bookings initiated at Vista Detention Facility.

Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility - Capacity: 1,216 beds

- > The primary point of intake for women prisoners in San Diego County. Located in Santee.
- ▶ In 2017 there were approximately 13,000 new bookings initiated at SDCJ.

George F. Bailey Detention Facility - Capacity: 1,380 beds

The largest of all the facilities operated under the San Diego County Sheriff's jurisdiction. A maximum security facility.

East Mesa Reentry Facility - Capacity: 760 beds

A Type II medium security facility. EMRF rests on eight acres in south San Diego County near the Otay Mesa border crossing.

South Bay Detention Facility - Capacity: 386 beds

Located in the City of Chula Vista four stories beneath the South Bay Regional Justice Center and opened for service to the community in 1982. It is a non-booking facility consisting of two detention levels.

County Parole and Alternative Custody

Maximizes jail bed space through alternative custody programs designed to socially reintegrate offenders through evidence-based practices and proactive supervision methods.

Location Slept Before Incarceration

Of those who agreed to be surveyed, their location slept before incarceration is below. The total jail population the night of the WeAllCount was 5,581. The overall takeaway is that 27% of those in jail, or 1,507 people, would have been counted as unsheltered during the Point-in-Time Count this year if not incarcerated.



Break Down of "Unsheltered" Responses







City Profiles on Homelessness

San Diego County includes over 600 census tracts and over 3.2 million residents. The following section breaks down the WeAllCount data into different cities in the region in order to take a closer look at trends on a smaller scale.

These cities were profiled because of their homeless population and statistically significant survey sample size. For cities not profiled, census tracts with enumeration data are located on our website: rtfhsd.org.

Disclaimer: Minor variations between actual and reported sheltered data may be present due to client data being entered after initial data pull. Totals are within +/-1%.

Regional Community Totals

		Shelt	ered	**	Unsheltered		red			
City	ES	тн	SH	Subtotal	Indiv	V *	Н*	Subtotal	Total	% of Total
San Diego City	1,467	759	56	2,282	1,474	505	651	2,630	4,912	57.3%
Carlsbad	58	0	0	58	71	65	16	152	210	2.4%
Chula Vista	34	74	0	108	76	87	66	229	337	4.0%
Coronado	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	6	0.1%
Del Mar	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	3	0.0%
El Cajon	118	273	0	391	189	43	56	288	679	7.9%
Encinitas	24	15	0	39	21	51	14	86	125	1.5%
Escondido	87	53	8	148	154	51	58	263	411	4.8%
Imperial Beach	0	0	0	0	7	10	3	20	20	0.2%
La Mesa	29	0	0	29	10	2	0	12	41	0.5%
Lemon Grove	0	0	0	0	10	37	5	52	52	0.6%
National City	21	11	0	32	51	59	91	201	233	2.7%
Oceanside	56	101	0	157	116	93	117	326	483	5.6%
Poway	0	0	0	0	5	10	0	15	15	0.2%
San Marcos	0	0	0	0	15	45	2	62	62	0.7%
Santee	0	0	0	0	18	2	26	46	46	0.5%
Solana Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Vista	48	288	0	336	73	49	32	154	490	5.7%
TOTAL	1,942	1,574	64	3,580				4,545	8,125	94.7%
Total including uninc	corporated	area		3,586		1	1	4,990	8,576	

*For the 'Total' columns, vehicles and HBS/tents were multiplied by an occupancy factor of 2.03 and 1.75, respectively. **Minor variations between actual and reported sheltered data may be present due to client data being entered after initial data pull. Totals are within +/-1%.

ES - Emergency Shelter

Indiv - Individual

SH - Safe Haven

TH - Transitional Housing

- V Cars/Trucks/Vans
- H Hand-Built Structures / Tents

Unincorporated Area Totals

	Sheltered**	Unsheltered				
Unincorporated	Subtotal	Indiv	V *	Н*	Total	% of Total
Alpine	0	0	0	16	16	0.2%
Bonita	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Bonsall	0	2	18	0	20	0.2%
Casa de Oro	0	23	8	7	38	0.4%
Crest-Dehesa	0	0	8	0	8	0.1%
Fallbrook	6	15	10	0	25	0.4%
Hidden Meadows	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Jamul/Dulzura	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Lakeside	0	47	16	11	74	0.9%
North County Metro	0	6	14	5	25	0.3%
Otay	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Ramona	0	28	8	61	97	1.1%
San Dieguito	0	0	2	0	2	0.0%
Spring Valley	0	59	59	16	134	1.5%
Sweetwater	0	4	2	0	6	0.1%
TOTAL	6	184	145	116	445	5.2%

ES - Emergency Shelter

SH - Safe Haven

TH - Transitional Housing

Indiv - Individual

V - Cars/Trucks/Vans

H - Hand-Built Structures / Tents





Sheltered						
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing				
1,467	56	759				
Total: 2,282						

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	1,620	91%
Safe Haven	79	71%
Transitional Housing	888	85%
Permanent Supportive Housing	2,948	81%
Rapid Re-Housing	982	100%
Other Permanent Housing	500	88%

4,912

Total homeless persons counted in San Diego in 2018

The City of San Diego saw a 19% decrease in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents 57% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered					
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent			
1,474	505	651			
Total: 2,630					

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	27%	708
Veteran	14%	367
On Probation or Parole	14%	367
Female	26%	682
Families	9%	236
Youth	12%	315



Sheltered						
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing				
58	0	0				
Total: 58						

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	60	91%
Safe Haven	0	n/a
Transitional Housing	0	n/a
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	n/a
Rapid Re-Housing	0	n/a
Other Permanent Housing	50	122%

Total homeless persons counted in Carlsbad in 2018 The City of Carlsbad saw a 50% increase in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents 2% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered			
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent	
71	65	16	
Total: 152			

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	50%	78
Veteran	0%	0
On Probation or Parole	0%	0
Female	40%	62
Families	0	0%
Youth	5%	8



Sheltered			
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	
34	74	0	
Total: 108			

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	42	81%
Safe Haven	0	n/a
Transitional Housing	110	67%
Permanent Supportive Housing	11	91%
Rapid Re-Housing	41	100%
Other Permanent Housing	0	n/a

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	26%	60
Veteran	11%	25
On Probation or Parole	7%	16
Female	35%	80
Families	3%	7
Youth	15%	34

Total homeless persons counted in Chula Vista in 2018 The City of Chula Vista saw a 13% decrease in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents 4% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered			
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent	
76	87	66	
Total: 229			



Sheltered			
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	
118	273	0	
Total: 391*			

Total homeless persons counted in El Cajon in 2018 The city of El Cajon saw an 11% decrease in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents 8% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered			
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent	
189	43	56	
Total: 288			

* El Cajon experienced an increase in their sheltered population due to the inclusion of the East County Transitional Living Center, which did not participate in the Housing Inventory County last year.

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	153	77%
Safe Haven	0	n/a
Transitional Housing	252	108%
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	n/a
Rapid Re-Housing	216	100%
Other Permanent Housing	0	n/a

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	33%	95
Veteran	11%	32
On Probation or Parole	23%	66
Female	39%	112
Families	9%	26
Youth	19%	55



Sheltered			
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	
24	0	15	
Total: 39			

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	28	86%
Safe Haven	0	n/a
Transitional Housing	15	100%
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	n/a
Rapid Re-Housing	8	100%
Other Permanent Housing	0	n/a

Total homeless persons counted in Encinitas in 2018 The city of Encinitas saw a 2% increase in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents 1% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered			
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent	
21	51	14	
Total: 86			

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	18%	15
Veteran	0%	0
On Probation or Parole	9%	8
Female	18%	15
Families	0%	0
Youth	9%	8



Sheltered			
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	
87	8	53	
Total: 148			

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	104	84%
Safe Haven	12	67%
Transitional Housing	119	45%
Permanent Supportive Housing	146	95%
Rapid Re-Housing	33	100%
Other Permanent Housing	0	n/a

Total homeless persons counted in Escondido in 2018 The city of Escondido saw a 4% increase in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents 5% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered			
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent	
154	51	58	
Total: 263			

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	37%	97
Veteran	18%	47
On Probation or Parole	19%	50
Female	29%	67
Families	7%	18
Youth	10%	26



Sheltered			
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	
29	0	0	
Total: 29			

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	41	71%
Safe Haven	0	0%
Transitional Housing	0	0%
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0%
Rapid Re-Housing	0	0%
Other Permanent Housing	0	0%

Total homeless persons counted in La Mesa in 2018 The City of La Mesa saw a 52% decrease in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents <1% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered			
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent	
10	2	0	
Total: 12			

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	0%	0
Veteran	0%	0
On Probation or Parole	0%	0
Female	0%	0
Families	0%	0
Youth	0%	0



Sheltered			
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	
21	0	11	
Total: 32			

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	21	100%
Safe Haven	0	n/a
Transitional Housing	32	34%
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	n/a
Rapid Re-Housing	13	100%
Other Permanent Housing	0	n/a

Total homeless persons counted in National City in 2018 The City of National City saw a 27% decrease in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents 3% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered			
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent	
51	59	91	
Total: 201			

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	40%	80
Veteran	0%	0
On Probation or Parole	20%	40
Female	0%	0
Families	0%	0
Youth	0%	0



Sheltered			
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	
56	0	101	
Total: 157			

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	78	72%
Safe Haven	0	n/a
Transitional Housing	148	68%
Permanent Supportive Housing	142	47%
Rapid Re-Housing	0	n/a
Other Permanent Housing	0	n/a

Total homeless persons counted in Oceanside in 2018 The City of Oceanside saw an 10% decrease in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents 6% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered			
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent	
116	93	117	
Total: 326			

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	23%	75
Veteran	10%	33
On Probation or Parole	1%	3
Female	22%	72
Families	11%	36
Youth	19%	62



Sheltered				
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing		
0	0	0		
Total: 0				

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	0	n/a
Safe Haven	0	n/a
Transitional Housing	0	n/a
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	n/a
Rapid Re-Housing	0	n/a
Other Permanent Housing	0	n/a

62 Total homeless persons counted in San Marcos in 2018 The City of San Marcos saw a 19% increase in unsheltered homeless individuals. This total figure represents 1% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered			
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent	
15	45	2	
Total: 62			

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	67%	42
Veteran	0%	0
On Probation or Parole	0%	0
Female	33%	20
Families	0%	0
Youth	0%	0



Sheltered			
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	
48	0	288	
Total: 336			

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	57	84%
Safe Haven	0	n/a
Transitional Housing	254	113%
Permanent Supportive Housing	25	56%
Rapid Re-Housing	0	n/a
Other Permanent Housing	222	104%

Total homeless persons counted in Vista in 2018 The City of Vista saw a 25% decrease in unsheltered homeless individuals.

This total figure represents 6% of the total homeless count.



Unsheltered				
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent		
73	49	32		
Total: 154				

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	40%	62
Veteran	30%	46
On Probation or Parole	30%	46
Female	30%	46
Families	0%	0
Youth	10%	15

Unincorporated Area Community	Sheltered Count	Unsheltered Count
Alpine	0	16
Bonita	0	0
Bonsall	0	20
Casa de Oro	0	38
Crest-Dehesa	0	8
Fallbrook	6	25
Hidden Meadows	0	0
Jamul/Dulzura	0	0
Lakeside	0	74
NC Metro	0	25
Otay	0	0
Ramona	0	97
San Dieguito	0	2
Spring Valley	0	134
Sweetwater	0	6
TOTAL	6	445



	181	123	220			520		
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	

Sheltered				
Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing		
6	0	0		
Total: 6				

Housing Inventory	Beds	Utilization
Emergency Shelter	0	n/a
Safe Haven	0	n/a
Transitional Housing	0	n/a
Permanent Supportive Housing	1,131	100%
Rapid Re-Housing	79	100%
Other Permanent Housing	85	59%

Unsheltered				
Individual	Vehicle	Hand-Built Structure/Tent		
185	145	115		
Total: 445				

Homeless Profile	% of Unsheltered Homeless	Total Homeless Persons
Chronically Homeless	36%	162
Veteran	6%	27
On Probation or Parole	14%	63
Female	33%	148
Families	11%	49
Youth	36%	162

Moving Forward



San Diego and the RTFH work under a housing focused model to reduce and end homelessness. This Housing First philosophy offers an assistance program for homeless individuals and families that prioritizes housing without barriers. Instead of moving individuals through different levels of shelter or treatment, it places them into a permanent residence and provides different services depending on the level of need the individual may require to maintain their residence.

As 2018 continues we will maintain our person centered model by engaging our clients with coordinated outreach throughout the region and other appropriate alternatives like incorporating diversion into our homeless system of care.

RTFH has sought to increase the amount of technical assistance we give to local HUD funded providers by regularly visiting their offices and monitoring their housing performance. This guarantees that clients are served with the most efficient use of resources while providers are rated and ranked to demonstrate the need for increased federal funding to appropriately address the needs of San Diego's homeless population.

This past year we opened our HMIS system. This change provides clients with the opportunity to share their information with all homeless serving providers within our system allowing for improved, more streamlined communication amongst providers while maintaining client privacy. We will continue to improve our HMIS system by updating the software in fall 2018 to make for a more user friendly Coordinated Entry System module. This will ensure that clients are moved through the homeless system into permanent housing as efficiently as possible.

In order to more efficiently use our resources at RTFH we recently reevaluated and redesigned the roles and responsibilities of our CES department. This allows staff the ability to implement knowledge and skills to serve our region's homeless neighbors.

The data presented in the 2018 PITC report will be used by the City, County and other individual municipalities of San Diego to inform leadership and help make data driven decision to best allocate local and national resources as we continue to address homelessness in our community.

Appendix A: Definitions and Abbreviations

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

HUD's annual report to Congress on the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. The report details yearly homelessness counts, demographics, trends, and service usage; reports are compared and contrasted to data collected for previous years, helping to determine if homelessness is increasing or decreasing.

Bed Utilization

An indicator of whether shelter beds are occupied on a particular night or over a period of time.

Chronically Homeless Individual

An unaccompanied homeless adult individual (persons 18 years or older) with a disability who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four separate occasions of homelessness in the past three years where the combined total length of time is at least 12 months. Each period separating the occasions must include at least seven nights of living in a situation other than a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe haven. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter/safe haven during that time. For purposes of the PIT, persons living in transitional housing at the time of the PIT count should not be included in this subpopulation category.

Continuum of Care (CoC)

The primary decision-making entity defined in the funding application to HUD as the official body representing a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency.

Coordinated Entry System

A centralized or coordinated process designed to coordinate program participant intake assessment and provision of referrals. A centralized or coordinated assessment system covers the geographic area, is easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, is well advertised, and includes a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool.

Disabling Condition

For the purposes of this study, a disabling condition is defined as physical disability, mental illness, depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or a developmental disability that impacts a person's ability to getting housing and/or remaining housed.

Emergency Shelter (ES)

A homeless program that is intended to provide short-term support and emergency housing to homeless individuals. Individuals who are staying in an Emergency Shelter are still considered literally homeless. Emergency shelter may take the form of a congregate shelter, motel voucher, or domestic violence shelter.

Family

Defined as a household with at least one adult and one child under 18.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

The information system designated by the CoC to process Protected Personal Information (PPI) and other data in order to create an unduplicated accounting of homelessness within the CoC. An HMIS may provide other functions beyond unduplicated accounting.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

The Point-in-Time inventory of provider programs within the CoC that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons who are homeless. It should reflect the number of beds and units available on the night designated for the count that are dedicated to serve persons who are homeless, per the HUD homeless definition.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

A federal organization aiming to increase homeownership, support community development, and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Long-term, community-based housing that has supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. This type of supportive housing enables the special-needs populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. Permanent housing can be provided in one structure or in several structures and at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Point-in-Time (PIT)

A snapshot of the homeless population taken on a given day. Since 2005, HUD requires all CoC applicants to complete this count every other year in the last week of January. This count includes a street count in addition to a count of all clients in emergency and transitional beds.

Rapid Re-Housing

Housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help individuals or families living in shelters or in places not meant for human habitation move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Eligible costs also include utilities, rental application fees, security deposits and last month's rent.

Sheltered Homeless

Sheltered homeless individuals are those who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

Single Individual

Refers to an unaccompanied adult or youth.

Transitional Age Youth

Also known as TAY, refers to an unaccompanied youth aged 18-24 years.

Unaccompanied Children

Refers to children under the age of 18 who do not have a parent or guardian present.

Unsheltered Homeless

Homeless individuals unaccompanied by a child under the age of 18 who are living on the streets or in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.

Appendix B: Methodology

Purpose

The purpose of the 2018 San Diego Homeless Point-in-Time Count & Survey, known as WeAllCount, was to produce a point-in-time estimate of people who experience homelessness in San Diego County during one night in January. San Diego County is a region that covers approximately 4,500 square miles. The results of the street count were combined with the results from the shelter count to produce the total estimated number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the county on a given night. The subsequent, in-depth qualitative survey was used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences and demographics of those counted among the unsheltered.

Components of the WeAllCount

The Point-in-Time Count methodology has four primary components:

- ► The general street count between the hours of 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. an enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals on the streets, in tents and hand-built structures, and in vehicles.
- The shelter count for the night of the street count an enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals. The unsheltered and sheltered homeless counts were coordinated to occur within the same time period to minimize potential duplicate counting of homeless persons.
- Demographic Survey
- Youth Count

The methodology used for the 2018 homeless count is described by HUD as a "blitz count" in that it is conducted by numerous people over a very short period of time in an effort to avoid duplicate enumeration. The result is an observation-based count of individuals (including those in vehicles and tents) who appear to be homeless. Due to geographic restraints and limited accessibility, certain census tracts are uncounted, as determined in the planning phase. The count is followed by a face-to-face representative survey. The survey sample is then used to profile and estimate the condition and characteristics of San Diego's homeless population and subpopulations for the purposes of HUD reporting and local service delivery and strategic planning.

Community Involvement

Local homeless service providers and advocates have been active and valued partners in the planning and implementation of this and previous homeless counts. The planning team invited public input on a number of aspects of the count, such as deployment sites, survey wording, and volunteer recruitment.

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Department was invited to comment on the survey and suggest any changes to be made.

General Street Count Methodology

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless persons was used:

An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

Methodological Improvements

For the 2018 WeAllCount based on the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless, as persons living "in a place not meant for human habitation" and a "private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings", the RTFH had our volunteers count RVs separately from cars, trucks and vans. This change was made to get a better understanding of the needs of the homeless in San Diego County. In the upcoming 2019 WeAllCount we will do an in depth outreach to those living in RVs to learn if the occupants of RVs consider themselves housed, unstably housed or unsheltered.

The 2018 street count followed a mature, HUD approved methodology used in previous counts, with the continuation of a dedicated youth outreach that began in 2015. Until 2017, all areas of San Diego were fully canvassed by community volunteers and service providers, with no additional outreach to youth. In 2017, the dedicated youth outreach helped to develop a clearer picture of the extent of youth homelessness. Changes were made to the youth count in 2018 to improve these efforts and those changes are detailed in the youth count section.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Many individuals who live and/or work in San Diego turned out to support San Diego's effort to count the local homeless population. More than 1000 community volunteers and county staff registered to participate in the 2018 count. Volunteers signed up using the online platform Volunteer HUB to give coordinators the ability to track registrations and disseminate information. To participate in the count, all volunteers were required to view a brief online training video in the weeks preceding the count. Survey volunteers were required to attend either a webinar or in-person training in the weeks preceding the survey process. Count and interview site coordinators were given training materials to ensure volunteers had the training information. Volunteers also received printed instructions detailing how to count unsheltered homeless persons, and the survey had built-in reminders to the surveyors, such as a script on how to approach someone on the street.

Overview Safety Precautions

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations for volunteers involved in the count. Parks considered too big or too densely wooded to inspect safely and accurately in the dark were visited by teams with a later start time. However, the majority of census tracts were deemed safe and were counted by volunteers on the early morning of the count. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. Additional safety measures for the volunteers included the deployment of experienced Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) outreach workers, with teams counting in high-density or risky areas, such as riverbeds. Volunteers were briefed on safety in the training and encouraged to bring flashlights for the early hours. There were no official reports received in regard to unsafe or at-risk situations occurring during the street count in any area of San Diego County.

Street Count Deployment "Count" Sites

To achieve complete coverage of San Diego County within the 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. time frame, the coordinators identified deployment sites in all five regions of the county: City of San Diego Central, North County Coastal, North County Inland, East County, and South County (Bay). Volunteers selected their count site at the time of

registration, based on familiarity with the area or convenience - until the site was at capacity. Capacity was determined based on the number of census tracts to be covered. To facilitate the timely deployment of volunteers, the planning team divided up the census tracts and assigned them to the count site closest or most central to the coverage area.

Logistics of Counting

Volunteers canvassed routes of approximately six to 30 blocks (or one census tract) in teams of at least two volunteers. Walking teams canvassed routes in commercial areas and other locations known to include sizable homeless populations, while driving teams counted more sparsely populated and residential areas by a combination of driving and walking. Each team received a map, which identified the area to be canvassed and clearly showed the boundaries of the counting area. Count site volunteers provided each team with tally sheets to record the number of homeless persons observed. Count site volunteers also verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for use during the count and recorded the number on the volunteer deployment log sheet. In certain high-density neighborhoods, HOT teams accompanied volunteers as they counted.

Analyzing Count Data

The count data was verified with the volunteer teams by count site coordinators, and submitted the same day to the project coordinators. The coordinators, through a series of checks, inputted this data into a database of individuals, vehicles, and hand-built structures by census tract.

Shelter and Institution Count Methodology

Purpose

The purpose of the shelter and institution count was to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across San Diego County. This data is vital to gaining an accurate overall count of the homeless population and understanding where homeless persons received shelter. The Homeless Management Information System database is used to conduct the shelter count on the night of the Point-in-Time Count - January 26, 2018.

For the sheltered count HUD's definition of a sheltered homeless individual was used. An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals

HUD does not include counts of homeless individuals in hospitals, residential rehabilitation facilities, and jails in the reportable numbers for the Point-in-Time Count.

Planning Challenges

There are many challenges in any homeless count, especially when implemented by volunteers in a community as large and diverse as San Diego. Point-in-Time Counts are "snapshots" that quantify the size of the homeless population at a given point during the year. Hence, the count may not be representative of fluctuations and compositional changes in the homeless population seasonally or over time. While the risk of an undercount is much greater, it is also important to recognize that the count is conducted over the span of a few hours and people may be counted twice as they travel from one location of the city to another.

Point-in-Time Undercount

The Point-in-Time Count is meant to be a snapshot of homelessness in San Diego County. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers, the county methodology cannot guarantee 100 percent accuracy. Many factors may contribute to missed count opportunities, for example:

- It is difficult to identify homeless persons who may be sleeping in vans, cars, recreational vehicles, abandoned buildings or structures unfit for human habitation.
- Homeless families with children often seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the streets, in vehicles, or makeshift shelters.

Survey Methodology

To ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Survey coordinators worked to ensure a representative sample of respondents, garnering information from subpopulations that are often hidden or hard to reach. Efforts were made to target respondents based on living accommodation, age, and neighborhood.

The survey was a collection of HUD required questions and local questions. The local questions came from community organizations that had specific questions - such as probation or parole.

Survey Administration Details

- The 2018 San Diego Homeless Survey was administered by trained volunteers between January 26 and January 31, 2018.
- ▶ In all, the surveyors collected 1,129 unique surveys.

This number meets the planning team's recommendation for approximately 1,000 surveys for 2018 based on the unsheltered population in 2017.

Data Collection

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that these responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any one individual.

Data Analysis

To avoid potential duplication of respondents, the survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth, so that de-duplication could be accomplished without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined respondents' dates of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, and length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey.

The survey data was input into a program using ServicePoint, the Homeless Management Information System database. This allowed coordinators to run reports and analyze the data for publication and HUD purposes.

2018 Youth Count Methodology

Overview

The 2018 youth count was structured more like the general Point-in-Time Count. Regional Champions were identified by the different youth services providers in the County. Use of the Regional Champions allowed

project coordinators to delegate site research and recruitment of additional volunteers to these individuals. The methodology in 2018 was a combination of event based and outreach efforts. This method has shown to reach the greatest number of youth.

Objectives

- Advertise the count: Posters were distributed to the Service Providers and Regional Champions. Youth were engaged in each region to identify hot spot areas.
- Test the survey: Youth at the Golden Hill Transitional-Age Youth Academy and North County Lifeline provided valuable input into the survey. The survey was kept as close to the HUD general population survey for data entry and analysis purposes. Youth provided input on how to train volunteers and wording.
- Find youth over a seven-day survey period: Survey volunteers departed from different locations on different days and times to canvass a wide area. This method helped to capture potential differences in patterns.

Outcomes

- Known hot spots for youth had posted eviction notices and youth were dispersed and harder to locate.
- There was some difficulty getting surveys for eligible youth due to strict HUD requirements.
- Future counts could benefit from more outreach volunteers next year.
- Increase efforts to engage more youth in the count next year. They may be aware of more hot spots than outreach workers.

2018 WeAllCount Sites

Conducting a Point-in-Time Count requires the support of churches, service providers, public agencies, and community organizations who all contribute their facilities as count and interview sites. This year, the WeAllCount employed 33 count sites and 33 interview sites. The following is a list of the 2018 sites.

CENTRAL

- o Balboa Park
- Community Christian Service Agency
- Copley-Price Family YMCA
- Dreams for Change
- Episcopal Church Center
- First Presbyterian Church 0
- Golden Hall 0
- Grace Church 0
- Harbor Church 0
- LGBT Community Center 0
- Mira Mesa Senior Center 0
- Pathfinders 0
- PB United Methodist
- o San Diego River Park Foundation
- o St. Vincent de Paul
- o United Way
- Veterans Village of San Diego

NORTH COUNTY

- o Brother Benno's
- City of Carlsbad 0
- o Community Resource Center
- Operation Hope
- Poway Public Library
- o Rancho Bernardo Library
- San Marcos Branch Library 0
- o Vista Public Library
- o Fallbrook Library
- o Interfaith Community Services
- o Encinitas Library
- El Corazon Senior Center

SOUTH COUNTY

- o Imperial Beach Library
- South Bay Community Services

EAST COUNTY

- o Back Country Land Trust
- o Casa de Oro Public Library
- o Crisis House
- o El Cajon Library
- Grace Community Church
- Lakeside Library 0
- La Mesa Branch Library 0
- La Mesa First United Methodist Church 0
- Lemon Grove Public Library 0
- Lemon Grove School District Office 0
- Old Spring Valley Elementary School
- Rise Church
- 0 San Diego Christian College
- Santee Library 0
- Spring Valley Library 0 0
 - St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Appendix C: Volunteerism

The Point-in-Time Count is a large-scale project, requiring a lot of community support in the form of coordinators, locations for deployment sites, and volunteers to count and interview.

The 2018 WeAllCount utilized 1,636 volunteers and 66 deployment sites.

While methodology and materials development occurs internally at the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, the volunteers are the backbone of the data collection.

Certain attributes define the ideal Point-in-Count volunteer: compassion for the homeless, punctuality to time commitments, and dependability to attend assigned shift(s). RTFH's age requirements allow anyone over 18 years old to interview and anyone at any age can count (those under 18 must sign a minor release of liability and have a guardian present during their shift).

Counter	Interviewer
Description Counter volunteers to help enumerate the homeless population in San Diego County. Counters will self-select a census tract area to survey and will be deployed in teams from a specific count site during the morning of WeAllCount. Counters are essential in capturing critical data that helps our region monitor our progress in solving homelessness while building awareness on the issue.	Description Interviewer volunteers to help survey the homeless population i San Diego County. Interviewers will self-select an interview site and work with teams to conduct in-person surveys to as many homeless individuals and families as time permits. Interviewers are essential in capturing critical data that helps our region recognize trends and patterns to identify solutions to preventing and ending homelessness.
 Key Responsibilities Count homeless individuals sleeping unsheltered during the night of WeAllCount in areas not ordinarily used as a place for human habitation, including sidewalks, parks, transit stations, commercial establishments, alleyways, bushes, vehicles, and hand-built structures. Complete a mandatory 15-minute online Counter Training prior to your shift. Follow counting protocols and guidelines to ensure safe, accurate, and timely data collection. Check in the morning of WeAllCount at an assigned Count Site. Work with teams to survey an assigned route within a specific census tract area. Submit completed counting materials to Count Site Coordinators at the end of your shift. 	 Key Responsibilities Interview homeless individuals who slept unsheltered during the night of WeAllCount in areas not ordinari used as a place for human habitation, including sidewalks, parks, transit stations, commercial establishments, alleyways, bushes, vehicles, and hand-built structures. Complete a mandatory 90-minute webinar or inperson Interview Training prior to your shift. Follow interviewing protocols and guidelines to ensure safe, accurate, and timely data collection. Check in at an assigned Interview Site during WeAllCount. Work with teams to survey homeless individuals and families within a specific census tract area. Distribute surveying incentives to compensate homeless participants for their time. Submit completed interviewing materials to Interview Site Coordinators at the end of your shift.

Site Coordinator Job Descriptions

Count Site Coordinator	Interview Site Coordinator
Description Count Site Coordinators manage Count Sites and check in volunteers during the morning of the count. Coordinators distribute materials and assign routes for volunteers. At the end of the count, Coordinators ensure all surveying materials are completed and collected.	Description Interview Site Coordinators oversee volunteers who will be conducting interviews between the designated time slots. Each interview site will have a unique interviewing schedule and number of volunteers based on availability and size of facilities.
 Key Responsibilities Secure donations. Attend meetings. Pick up and drop off supplies. Contact assignment volunteers. Hand out supplies, distribute maps and go over trainings. 	 Key Responsibilities Attend Coordinator Meetings. Pick up supplies from RTFH (surveys, volunteer list, socks, gift cards, sign-in sheets, confidentiality forms, waiver-release forms, etc.). Oversee volunteer surveying and ensure proper protocol is followed. Manage gift cards. Return all finished and unfinished surveys, gift cards, sign-in sheets, and additional supplies to RTFH.

Acknowledgements

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Regional Task Force on the Homeless

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SAVE THE DATE!



2019 WeAllCount

Friday, January 25, 2019







