



## **BRIDGING THE GAP & PARTNERS IN CARE**

### ***2017 HAWAII STATEWIDE POINT IN TIME COUNT***

#### ***Topline Overview of Full Report***

## **OVERVIEW**

Results from the 2017 Hawaii Statewide Homeless Point-In-Time (PIT) conducted on January 22, 2017 revealed the following information:

- **9% overall decrease in the numbers of homeless individuals from 7,921 persons in 2016 to 7,220 persons in 2017.**
- **8% decrease in the total number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless veterans statewide compared to 2016, with a 9% increase on Oahu and 35% decrease on the neighbor islands.**
- **8% decrease in the total number of chronic homeless individuals and families compared to 2016.**
- **19% decrease in the total number of homeless families compared to 2016.**

The statewide decrease was led by large overall decreases on Hawaii (32%), Maui (22%), and Kauai (7%). Oahu registered a very small, (0.4) percent overall increase.

The 2017 PIT overall decrease was fueled by a 12 percent decrease in unsheltered homelessness to 3,800 persons compared to 4,308 in 2016. Unsheltered homelessness declined on all three rural counties led by Hawaii (40%), Maui (24%), and Kauai (15%). The percent of homeless persons found to be unsheltered continued its pattern of growth on Oahu, with 61 percent of the state's total unsheltered homeless. This continues a five-year upward trend if looking back to 2012 as the baseline year.

The 2017 Point-In-Time Count (PIT) represents the best available data to estimate a one-day homeless prevalence for the State of Hawaii. The primary objective of the count is to obtain a reliable estimate of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families at a specific point in time. PIT data collection is an integral part of local and national planning and acts in support of policy and resource allocations. As count execution improves, the reporting more accurately reflects the actual state of homelessness during that point-in-time. The count is also an excellent opportunity to engage the general public, community leaders, and private businesses in statewide homeless initiatives.

Partners in Care (PIC) representing Oahu, and Bridging the Gap (BTG) representing Hawaii County, Maui County and Kauai County, are Hawaii’s Continua of Care (CoC.) A CoC is a local planning body designed to promote community wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.

**STATEWIDE STATISTICS AND TRENDS**

<b>Island</b>	<b>Total 2016 Count</b>	<b>2017 Sheltered</b>	<b>2017 Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total 2017 Count</b>	<b>2017 % change</b>	<b>2017 # of persons</b>
Oahu	4,940	2,635	2,324	4,959	+0.4%	19
Hawaii	1,394	275	678	953	-32%	- 441
Maui	1,145	395	501	896	-22%	- 249
Kauai	442	115	297	412	-7%	- 30
Statewide	7,921	3,420	3,800	7,220	-9%	- 701

**Hawaii County-** The overall homeless count decreased by 32% compared to 2016. The main factors that contributed to the decrease in homelessness in Hawaii County include: 1) Strong collaboration among service providers, businesses, community volunteers and the County government that improved the PIT count process; 2) A concerted effort was made by service agencies and the County government in working together to implement programs that led to permanently house 617 individuals since the 2016 PIT count and ended their homelessness situation; 3) Increased homeless prevention and rapid re-housing program State funding – this included Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI), Housing Placement Program (HPP), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and leveraging short term rent assistance programs with the County of Hawaii's medium term Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program to move 45 families off the streets and into homes; 4) The increase in federal funding for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program which led to an additional 58 homeless families secure affordable housing; and 5) Implementation of Housing First strategies including low barrier shelters, and no pre-conditions to shelter placement and housing programs.

**Maui County-** In 2016 Maui’s numbers were already on the decline with the total count registering less than one percent increase as compared to 2015. The 2017 numbers decreased by 22% largely due to the following: 1) Increased homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing funding – this included HPP-Housing Placement Program, ESG-Emergency Solutions Grant, State Shallow subsidy, and County of Maui RAP – Rental Assistance Program; 2)Release and Availability of Section 8 vouchers together with changes in regulations allowing for the use of a Section 8 voucher to rent rooms; 3) The implementation of the above programs led to permanently house 671 individuals since the 2016 PIT count and ended their homelessness

situation; 4) Implementation of the Housing First Approach.

**Kauai County-** The County of Kauai’s homeless count decreased by 7% compared to 2016. The decrease in homelessness can be attributed to the following: 1) the collaborative efforts of the local Continuum of Care participating agencies; 2) the increased number of volunteers, agencies and County agencies that participated in the Kauai County PIT count process; 3) the release and increased availability of Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) and Tenant Based Rental Assistance Vouchers (TBRA) contributed to the placement of 70 individuals into housing, and 4) support services provided to landlords accepting homeless tenants.

**Oahu-** The total count on Oahu registered a very small increase, less than one half of a percent. During the last three years, the numbers have remained relatively flat regarding the change in total homelessness. In 2017, Oahu did see a decrease in family individuals experiencing homelessness, down 14% to 1,847 compared to 2,143 in 2016. However, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness on Oahu registered a 9% increase from 413 in 2016 to 449 in 2017. Those persons who are unsheltered and chronically experiencing homelessness (defined below) increased by 3% in 2017 with 1,004 individuals and family individuals censused compared to 969 in 2016. The total unsheltered component, also, increased 7% compared to 2016 and has continued to rise in each of the last five years. The sheltered component decreased 5% relative to 2016, and has declined in each of the last five years. There was also a change in regional numbers of unsheltered homeless persons counted in 2017 compared to 2016 as indicated in the following table. All regions saw a significant increase in the number of volunteers helping to plan and implement the count. Furthermore, in Regions 5 and 6, a much more comprehensive count was conducted than years prior due to increased volunteerism, and improved community coordination and partnerships.

***Regional Summary of Total Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homeless on Oahu:***

<i>Region</i>	<i>2017 Count</i>	<i>2016 Count</i>	<i>% Change</i>
1: Downtown Honolulu	639	603	+6%
2: East Honolulu	309	435	-29%
3: Ewa	231	202	+14.4%
4: Kaneohe to Waimanalo	253	189	+33.9%
5: Wahiawa to North Shore	385	221	+74.2%
6: Upper Windward	149	67	+122.4%
7: Waianae Coast	358	456	-21.5%
TOTAL	2324	2173	+6.9%

**SUB POPULATIONS**

**Family Homelessness**

A total of 2,685 individuals in families were counted as homeless, including 127 families living unsheltered. This represents a **19 percent decrease** in the total number of homeless family individuals compared to 2016. A total of 299 children were found living unsheltered within these families. Sheltered families totaled 539 households with 2,162 persons including 1,250 children (354 in emergency shelters and 896 in transitional housing); down compared to 2016.

### **Youth Homelessness**

Youth are defined as individuals 24 years or younger. The Statewide total reported 319 unaccompanied youth with 263 (82 percent) living unsheltered. The 2017 total youth count is nearly identical to the 309 found in 2016. The total number of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 remained low at 26 (24 on Oahu; 2 on Neighbor Islands), and was identically reported in the 2016 count.

Parenting youth is defined as a household containing persons 24 or younger with one or more dependent children and without any accompanying adults 25 or older. The statewide total of parenting youth tallied 42 households totaling 139 persons including 68 children. The 2017 total decreased slightly from the 2016 total of 56 households with 177 persons including 85 children.

### **Chronic Homelessness**

Data from the 2017 reporting supported a decline in chronic homelessness with 1,588 individuals and 212 persons in families for a statewide total of 1,800 persons in chronically homeless households. This represents an 8 percent decrease from the 1,949 found in 2016. The overall decrease represented a 4 percent decrease in single chronic homeless individuals, and a 27 percent decrease in family individuals. “Chronically homeless” is defined by 24 CFR Parts 91 and 570 of the *Consolidated Plan Revisions and Updates; Final Rule* as living in a place not meant for human habitation, in a safe haven or in an emergency shelter; can be diagnosed with a one or more conditions including substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, or chronic physical illness or disability; and living as described above continuously for at least 12 months, or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months. Each period separating the occasions must include at least 7 nights of living in a situation other than a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe haven.

### **Veterans**

The statewide total number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless veterans **decreased 8 percent** to 615 veterans compared to the Statewide 2016 total of 670 veterans. While Oahu registered a 9 percent increase in homeless veterans from 413 to 449, the Neighbor Islands recorded a 35 percent decrease from 257 to 166. A total of 378 unsheltered veterans were encountered in the 2017 count, a 7 percent overall decrease compared to the 406 counted in 2016. 117 unsheltered chronically homeless veterans were tallied on Oahu and 69 on the Neighbor Islands for a statewide total of 186 chronic non-family vets, just over half of the total unsheltered homeless veterans without children.

## **COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS**

**HOUSING FOCUSED<sup>1</sup> COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM** - Coordinated entry processes help

communities prioritize assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner.

**EXPAND SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAMS** - Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families exit homelessness quickly and return to permanent housing by providing three core program components including housing identification, time limited financial assistance and housing based case management services. According to the National Low Income and Housing Coalition, “Out of Reach 2016” study, Hawaii has the highest housing wage in the country where residents must earn \$34.22/hour to afford a two bedroom unit.

**INCREASE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS** - For chronically homeless individuals (those with a disability and long history of homelessness), stable housing and supportive services is the foundation for stability. Permanent supportive housing programs are project-based, clustered, or scattered site permanent housing linked with supportive services that help residents maintain housing. This housing program is the right intervention for persons with the deepest needs where they may stay in this program indefinitely with temporary or long-term rental assistance and/or supportive services.

**BUILD AND ACQUIRE AFFORDABLE HOUSING** - Hawaii can dedicate itself to increasing the supply of housing and creating new housing opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> Housing Focused is an approach or philosophy and encompasses the Housing First program model.

To learn more about how you can help, please contact the local Continuum of Care in your county.

- For Oahu’s Partners in Care, contact Jen Stasch, Director, at [jstasch@auw.org](mailto:jstasch@auw.org) or (808) 543-2282, or visit Partners in Care’s website at [www.partnersincareoahu.org](http://www.partnersincareoahu.org).
- For the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, please contact the following members of Bridging the Gap, or visit <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/home/hp/>.
  - Hawaii - Brandee Menino at [bmenino@hopeserviceshawaii.org](mailto:bmenino@hopeserviceshawaii.org) or (808) 933-6013
  - Maui - Maude Cumming at [Maude@flcmaui.org](mailto:Maude@flcmaui.org) or (808) 877-0880
  - Kauai - Sharon Graham at [sgraham@kauai.gov](mailto:sgraham@kauai.gov) or (808) 241-4427