

## San Bernardino 2016 Homeless Count and Survey Executive Summary

**12% overall decrease in homelessness San Bernardino County from 2015 – 2016.  
31% decrease in Veteran homelessness recorded, with 6% cut in unsheltered numbers.**

*The San Bernardino 2016 Homeless Count and Survey was conducted on the streets during the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on January 28, 2015. The count was also conducted on the same day in shelters and transitional housing programs throughout the county.*

**253 fewer people were counted in 2016, a decrease of 12% from 2015: 1,887 persons** who were homeless were counted on January 28, 2016 according to the San Bernardino 2016 Homeless Count and Survey Final Report (see <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dbh/sbchp/>). The 2015 homeless count and subpopulation survey found **2,140** persons.

**Table 1. Comparison of 2015 and 2016 Homeless Counts**

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
<b>2016 Homeless Count</b>	696	1,191	1,887
<b>2015 Homeless Count</b>	838	1,302	2,140
<b>Variance:</b>	<b>142 (-17%)</b>	<b>111 (-8.5%)</b>	<b>253 (-12%)</b>

Of the 1,887 persons counted in 2016, 1,191 or **65% were unsheltered**, which is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as

“An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:  
(i) 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.”<sup>1</sup>

Of the 1,887 persons counted in 2016, 696 persons or **36.9% were sheltered**. Of these 696 persons, 318 were counted in shelters or received a motel voucher and 378 were counted in

<sup>1</sup> Per HUD’s instructions, a person was not considered homeless if the person resided in one of the following places Medical facilities, such as hospitals, psychiatric facilities, and nursing homes; Jails, prisons or juvenile detention facilities; Chemical dependency facilities, such as substance abuse treatment facilities and detox centers; and Foster care homes or foster care group homes.

Also, per HUD’s instructions, children identified by McKinney-Vento Homeless Coordinators at schools as homeless should not be counted. Children may be counted during the count if they live in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program, or if they are unsheltered.

In addition, HUD does not consider the following persons to be homeless—persons who are “doubled up,” or persons who are “near homelessness”—but considers them to be at risk of becoming homeless. Thus, such persons were not included in the homeless count. The County of San Bernardino has a substantial number of households that are at risk of becoming homeless. The Census Bureau noted that 19 percent or nearly 133,000 households consisting of about 400,000 residents in San Bernardino County were living below poverty level as reported in the 2014 American Community Survey.

transitional housing programs. HUD states that persons living in shelters or transitional housing programs on the night of the count must be included in the homeless count and subpopulation survey.

A 31% decrease in Veteran homelessness was recorded in the 2016 count, with a 6% cut in unsheltered numbers, as a result of the County’s 401 => 0 initiative to end veteran homelessness as noted in the table below.

**Table 2. Comparison of Homeless Veterans: 2015 and 2016**

	Unsheltered		Sheltered		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>2016</b>	92	76.0	29	24.0	121	100
<b>2015</b>	145	82.4	31	17.6	176	100
<b>Variance (+/-)</b>	<b>-53</b>	<b>-36.6%</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>-31.3%</b>

On July 21, 2015, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors convened a Special Study Session on homelessness during which they voted unanimously (4-0) to implement the County CEO’s proposal for a new strategy to end veterans' homelessness in the County by mobilizing political and civic will and aligning key resources. This commitment – called 401 => 0 - included a comprehensive and coordinated approach with a focus on performance and outcomes to place the county's 401 identified homeless veterans [the “Take-Down” number] into permanent housing by the end of 2015.

The commitment called for the creation of an “Advisory Board” chaired by the County CEO to meet once per month for a year and including key County, civic, faith, housing, and employment entities. The Board would assess the scope of the homeless veteran population, establish benchmarks for progress, identify key impediments, remove obstacles, ensure that performance and results/outcomes were prioritized in implementation of an upgraded response, and create a template of strategic approaches that will serve all homeless populations in SBC. The Board would support the frontline work of the Homeless Veterans Community Planning Group, which formed in November at the VA Medical Center in Loma Linda to address the task of ending veterans’ homelessness in San Bernardino County.

The San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership would like to thank the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, the County’s Chief Executive Officer, departmental staff, and all community and faith-based organizations that contributed the resources needed to significantly decrease the number of homeless adults and children.

For a complete copy of the final report please go to <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dbh/sbchp>.