San Bernardino County 2017 Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey: Preliminary Report
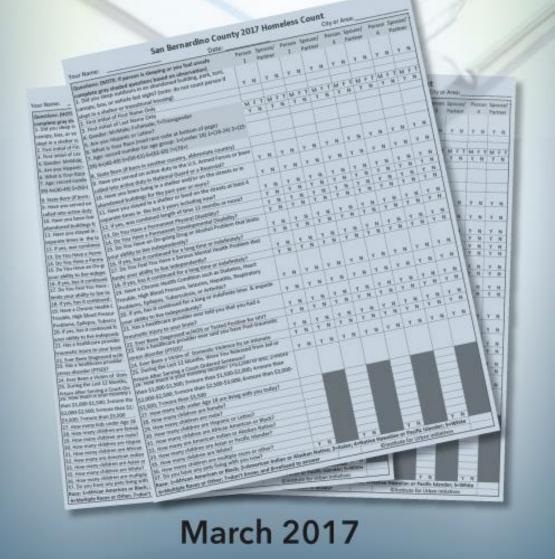
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I. Findings for Unsheltered and Sheltered Persons

There were 1,866 persons who were homeless on January 26, 2017 according to the San Bernardino 2017 Homeless Count and Survey Final Report. The previous homeless count and subpopulation survey was completed in 2016 during which 1,887 persons were counted. A comparison of the last two counts reveals that 21 fewer persons were counted in 2017, which represents a decrease of 1.1%.

Table 1. Comparison of 2016 and 2017 Homeless Counts

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
2016 Homeless Count	696	1,191	1,887
2017 Homeless Count	687	1,179	1,866
Difference:	-9 (-1.3%)	-12 (+1.0%)	-21 (-1.1%)

The following table provides a breakdown of the total number of sheltered and unsheltered persons counted in 2017 by jurisdiction.

Table 2. Total Number of Sheltered and Unsheltered Persons by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Shelter	Transitional Hg		
Adelanto	0	31	0	31
Apple Valley	0	5	23	28
Barstow	18	10	40	68
Big Bear	3	0	2	5
Bloomington	0	0	7	7
Chino	0	0	26	26
Chino Hills	0	0	3	3
Colton	0	0	41	41
Crestline	0	0	24	24
Fontana	0	0	78	78
Grand Terrace	0	0	0	0
Hesperia	15	25	5	45
Highland	0	0	35	35
Joshua Tree	0	0	24	24

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Jurisdiction	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Shelter	Transitional Hg		
Lenwood	0	0	0	0
Loma Linda	25	0	7	32
Lytle Creek	0	0	0	0
Montclair	0	0	16	16
Morongo Valley	0	0	0	0
Muscoy	0	0	3	3
Needles	0	0	6	6
Ontario	24	8	59	91
Rancho Cucamonga	0	0	29	29
Redlands	28	0	136	164
Rialto	0	0	91	91
Running Springs	0	0	3	3
San Bernardino	108	156	227	491
Twenty Nine Palms	0	0	38	38
Upland	0	33	94	127
Victorville	39	12	81	132
West Cajon Valley	0	0	5	5
Yucaipa	0	0	8	8
Yucca Valley	0	12	42	54
County-wide	135	0	26	161
Total:	**395**	**292**	**1,179**	**1,866**

Table 3 notes that more than half (58.7%) or 1,096 homeless adults and children were counted within six cities that include Ontario, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino, Upland, and Victorville, Also, these six cities accounted for 58.4% of the total unsheltered population as well as 59.4% of persons counted in shelters and transitional housing.

Table 3. Jurisdictions with Largest Number of Homeless Persons

Jurisdiction	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Shelter	**Transitional Hg**		
County	395	292	1,179	1,866
Ontario	24	8	59	91
Redlands	28	0	136	164
Rialto	0	0	91	91
San Bernardino	108	156	227	491
Upland	0	33	94	127
Victorville	39	12	81	132
Total:	**199**	**209**	**688**	**1,096**

II. Findings for Unsheltered Persons

Of the 1,866 persons counted in 2017, 1,179 or 63.2% 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."

HUD also requires that the total number of unsheltered and sheltered adults be broken down by various subpopulations. Of the 1,179 unsheltered persons counted, 1,139 were adults, 14 were unaccompanied youth under age 18, and 26 were children under age 18 in families.

It is also important to note that HUD requires that

> "CoCs must collect and report on the age, gender, race, and ethnicity of persons included under each household category. The total number of people reported for each demographic characteristic must equal the total number of persons reported in the household category overall."

and that

"CoCs must use a statistically reliable method for estimating the demographic characteristics of people for whom data are missing to ensure a complete count. CoCs should consult the PIT Count Methodology Guide for additional guidance."[1]

Thus, in the tables regarding gender, ethnicity, race, and age below, extrapolation was the process used to produce estimates for missing data.

Gender

The following table provides a breakdown by gender for adults, unaccompanied youth under age 18, and children in families under age 18. HUD requires the summary to consist of men, women, and transgender individuals.

Table 4. Breakdown by Gender*

Gender	Adults		Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18		Children in Families Under Age 18	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	834	73.2	9	64.3	13	50
Female	299	26.2	5	26.7	13	50
Transgender	3	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Don't Identify as M, F, or T	3	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total:	1,139	100	14	100	26	100

*Gender was not recorded for 25 of the 1,139 adults, 0 of the 18 unaccompanied youth under age 18, and two of the 26 children in families under age 18. Extrapolation was the process used to produce estimates for missing data.

Ethnicity

Table 5 offers a breakdown by ethnicity. HUD requires the summary to consist of Hispanics or Latino only.

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[1] 2016 Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons: Data Submission Guidance, February, 2016.

Table 5. Breakdown by Ethnicity*

Ethnicity	Adults		Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18		Children in Families Under Age 18	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Hispanic or Latino	279	24.5	7	50.0	12	46.1
Non-Hispanic or Latino	860	75.5	7	50.0	14	53.9
Total:	1,139	100	14	100	26	100

*Ethnicity was not recorded for 218 of the 1,139 adults, 0 of the 18 unaccompanied youth under age 18, and 3 of the 26 children in families under age 18. Extrapolation was the process used to produce estimates for missing data.

Race

Table 6 provides a breakdown by race. It is important to note that instructions from HUD were not to include Hispanics or Latinos in the race categories listed below because the designation "Hispanic or Latino" does not denote race.

Table 6. Breakdown by Race*

Race	Adults		Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18		Children in Families Under Age 18	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
American Indian or Alaska Native	23	2.0	2	14.3	1	3.9
Asian	11	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Black or African American	195	17.1	2	14.3	5	19.2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	11	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
White	761	66.8	6	42.8	13	50.0
Multiple Races	138	12.1	4	28.6	7	26.9
Total:	1,139	100	14	100	26	100

*Race was not recorded for 301 of the 1,139 adults, seven of the 18 unaccompanied youth under age 18, and 12 of the 26 children in families under age 18. Extrapolation was the process used to produce estimates for missing data.

Age

The next table offers a breakdown by age for adults.

Table 7. Breakdown by Age for Adults*

	2017	
	#	**%**
Youth Ages 18 - 24	108	9.5
Adults Age 25 - 61	919	80.7
Seniors Age 62+	112	9.8
Total:	**1,139**	**100**

*Age was not recorded for 62 of the 1,139 adults. Extrapolation was the process used to produce estimates for missing data.

Other Subpopulations

Table 8 provides a breakdown of other subpopulations for adults.

Table 8. Breakdown by Subpopulations

	2017	
	#	**%**
Chronically Homeless Adults	427	37.0
Families including Chronically Homeless Families*	15	2.4**
Persons w/HIV/AIDS	36	3.1
Persons w/ Mental Health Problems	257	22.3
Substance Users	298	25.8
Veterans***	111	9.6
Victims of Domestic Violence	219	19.0
Persons Released from Prisons & Jails	307	26.6
Persons w/ Chronic Health Conditions	362	31.4
Seniors Age 62+	106	9.2
Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18	14	1.2

*Of the 15 families, five (5) were chronically homeless.

**The total number of adults in the 15 families was 18 and represent 1.6% of the total adult population of 1,139.

*** 41.4% or 46 veterans were Chronically Homeless Individuals.

III. Findings for Sheltered Persons

Of the 1,866 persons counted in 2017, 687 persons or 36.8% were sheltered. Of these 687 persons, 395 were counted in shelters or received a motel voucher and 292 were counted in 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.

As required by HUD, the sheltered count included the number of persons and households sleeping in emergency shelters (including seasonal shelters), transitional housing, and Safe Haven programs (of which the County has none) that were listed on the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). In addition, any persons staying in hotels or motels as a result of receiving a voucher from a social service agency were included in the sheltered count per HUD's instructions if the voucher program was listed on the HIC.

HUD also requires that the total number of sheltered persons be broken down by pre-designated subpopulations. The total number of sheltered persons by the pre-designated subpopulations for 2017 are listed in the table below.

The HIC was submitted by the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) staff to HUD in May, 2016. Prior to the homeless count, the HIC was specifically undated to include any new programs or exclude any programs no longer operational by OHS staff and Key Person Task Force members. A few changes were made to the HIC prior to the count.

HUD encourages the use of Homeless Management Information Services (HMIS) data to generate sheltered counts and subpopulation data for programs with 100% of beds participating in HMIS. Thus, HMIS was used to gather the total number of occupied beds and the number of persons for each subpopulation. A "Data Collection Instrument" was used to collect the total number of occupied beds and the number of persons for each subpopulation for non-participating HMIS programs and for HMIS participating agencies that do not have their HMIS data complete and correct. The same questions used to collect subpopulation data through HMIS were used for the data collection instrument. Thus, sheltered count data for all sheltered programs was gathered either through a data collection sheet or HMIS.

The following table provides a breakdown of the sheltered population (687 adults and children) by the subpopulations required by HUD.

Table 9. Sheltered Population by Subpopulations

Subpopulation	Number	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	8	1%
Asian	13	2%
Black/African American	234	34%
Chronically Homeless Families (# of families)	2	0%
Chronically Homeless Families (total persons)	5	1%
Chronically Homeless Individuals	9	1%
Chronically Homeless Veteran Individuals	0	0%
Female	356	52%
Hispanic/Latino	261	38%
Households (total number)	430	63%
Male	331	48%
Multiple Races	37	5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	1%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	426	62%
Number of Persons in Households	687*	100%
Persons Over Age 24	380	55%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	7	1%
Persons with Mental Health Problems	50	7%
Persons with Substance Abuse Problems	66	10%
Transgender	0	0%
Veterans	50	7%
Victims of Domestic Violence	81	12%
White	391	57%
Youth Ages 18 - 24	61	9%
Youth Under Age 18-Households w/only children	8	1%

*There were 430 households that made up the total number of sheltered persons, which was 687.

B. Next Steps: Implementing Recommendations to End Homelessness for Pre-identified Subpopulations

This section outlines next eight (8) steps that the San Bernardino County Continuum of Care should take to end homelessness. These steps are aligned with the County of San Bernardino 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness and are also aligned with several evidence-based and best practices that have helped achieve unprecedented decreases in the total number of

homeless persons, particularly among families, chronic homeless persons, and veterans, across the country since 2005.

The eight (8) steps include:

1. **Align the current homeless services delivery system thoroughly with the national goals of ending homelessness for the following subpopulations by 2020:**

   - Chronically homeless individuals and families;
   - Families with children under age 18;
   - Unaccompanied youth under age 18;
   - Veterans;
   - Youth ages 18 – 24.

Thoroughly aligning the current homeless services delivery system with the national goals of ending homelessness for the subpopulations listed above, should continue the building of the current system upon the evidence-based and best practices that are outlined in steps four (4) and five (5) below.

2. **Add unaccompanied women to the list of subpopulations in step 1 above and align the current homeless services delivery system with a goal of ending homelessness among women by 2020.**

Adding unaccompanied women to the list of subpopulations is important due to the nature of assistance and services they need. Programs and housing services for women should be delivered through a gender lens and by applying a trauma informed care approach. The implementation of these factors facilitate adherence to services, housing retention, and housing stability.

3. **Set a path for ending homelessness among all homeless persons by 2020.**

Pre-identifying the subpopulations in steps 1 and 2 includes homeless persons who have physical disabilities, mental health problems, substance use issues, seniors, and others. However, not all others may be included.

4. **Align thoroughly with a Housing First model and low barrier approach for chronically homeless individuals and families.**

Aligning a coordinated system with a Housing First and low barrier approach will help chronically homeless households obtain and maintain permanent affordable housing regardless of their service needs or challenges by removing barriers that hinder them from obtaining and maintaining permanent affordable housing.

Chronically homeless persons can achieve stability in permanent housing, regardless of their service needs or challenges, if provided with appropriate levels of services. Removing barriers that have hindered homeless persons from obtaining housing such as too little income or no income; active or history of substance use; criminal record, with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions, and history of having been or currently a victim of domestic violence (e.g., lack of a protective order, period of separation from abuser, or law enforcement involvement) is key. Equally important is to remove barriers that have hindered homeless persons from maintaining housing and that prevent them from failing to participate in supportive services; failing to make progress on a service plan; loss or failure to improve income; and fleeing domestic violence.

5. **Align thoroughly with a rapid rehousing and low barrier approach for non-chronically homeless individuals and families.**

Aligning a coordinated system with a rapid rehousing and low barrier approach will help non-chronically homeless households obtain and maintain permanent affordable housing regardless of their service needs or challenges by removing barriers that hinder them from obtaining and maintaining permanent affordable housing.

Rapid re-housing assistance helps individuals and families quickly exit homelessness to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety), and the resources and services provided are typically tailored to the unique needs of the household. The core components of a rapid re-housing program include housing identification services, financial assistance for rent and move-in, and accompanying case management and supportive services. While the program has all three-core components available, it is not required that a household utilize them all.

6. **Encourage each city to adopt their unsheltered count numbers as baseline numbers.**

Each city should be encouraged to adopt the results of the unsheltered homeless count in their jurisdiction as noted in the following table. After adopting their numbers, each city should be encouraged to implement steps 1 – 5 above in order to end homelessness among veterans, chronically homeless individuals and families, youth ages 18 – 24, unaccompanied youth under age 18, and unaccompanied women within their jurisdiction.

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Table 10. Jurisdictions by pre-determined unsheltered subpopulations.

Jurisdiction	Chronically Homeless Persons	Families	Unaccompanied Women	Unaccompanied Youth: Under Age 18	Veterans	Youth: Ages 18-24
San Bernardino County	427	15	284	14	111	108
Adelanto	0	0	0	0	0	0
Apple Valley	7	0	6	1	0	4
Barstow	15	1	9	0	7	2
Big Bear	2	0	2	0	0	0
Bloomington	1	0	1	0	0	0
Chino	8	1	9	0	2	2
Chino Hills	0	0	1	0	0	1
Colton	13	0	12	0	4	3
Crestline	14	0	9	0	1	2
Fontana	23	0	24	4	9	5
Grand Terrace	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hesperia	0	0	1	0	0	0
Highland	4	2	6	0	4	1
Joshua Tree	11	1	3	0	1	0
Lenwood	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loma Linda	2	0	2	0	2	0
Lytle Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montclair	6	0	1	0	2	0
Morongo Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muscoy	1	0	1	0	0	0
Needles	1	0	3	0	1	0
Ontario	13	1	19	0	6	4
Rancho Cucamonga	13	1	8	4	8	5
Redlands	50	0	23	3	9	41
Rialto	33	2	17	1	8	5
Running Springs	3	0	1	0	0	0
San Bernardino	71	2	53	0	17	20
Twenty Nine Palms	16	2	10	0	8	1
Upland	47	0	27	0	10	1
Victorville	35	2	18	0	7	2
West Cajon Valley	0	0	1	0	0	0
Yucaipa	4	0	1	0	0	1
Yucca Valley	32	0	16	1	5	2
Unknown (missing data)	2	0	0	0	0	6
Total:	**427**	**15**	**284**	**14**	**111**	**108**

7. Increase the Number of Permanent Supportive Housing Units.

Each jurisdiction should consider increasing its number of permanent supportive housing units in order to meet the needs of homeless persons with disabling conditions who were counted within their neighborhoods. These persons are noted by jurisdiction in Table 10 and include persons with mental illness, substance abuse, and physical disabilities. Jurisdictions with significant numbers of chronic homeless persons, veterans, and persons recently released from correctional institutions after serving a court-mandated sentence should also consider increasing their number of permanent supportive housing units. Increases in units should be based on evidence-based practices to ensure success.

Permanent Supportive Housing provides long-term affordable rental housing and a broad range of on-site and/or off-site wrap-around supportive services. The goal is to increase independent living skills of residents who pay no more than 30% of their monthly income for rent so that they are able to maintain their housing. Those persons without permanent disabling conditions may ultimately become self-sufficient while living in affordable housing and may eventually pay 100% of their rent and may or may not need supportive services.

Particular attention should be given to persons recently released from correctional institutions since realignment has resulted in thousands of prisoners being released or transferred to county jails. As noted in Table 8, 27% of male and female adults counted answered "yes" when asked if they were released from a correctional institution such as a jail or prison during the past 12 months after serving a court-ordered sentence. When looking at the numbers by gender, 30% of men answered "yes" to being released from a correctional institution such as a jail or prison during the past 12 months after serving a court-ordered sentence.

Permanent supportive housing for ex-offenders should be based on evidence-based practices for homeless ex-offenders reentering communities to ensure better outcomes. These practices include the provision of housing with appropriate wrap-around services such as substance use counseling and treatment and life coping skills that help ex-offenders successfully transition into local communities. These practices also include a clear path to career development and/or employment and reunification with family members including children.

Better outcomes include reductions in recidivism and recurrence of homelessness. The chances of recidivism significantly lessen when offenders are reengaged with family members and in particular with their children. The chances of recidivism also significantly lessen when offenders develop marketable skills that lead to on-going employment. Employment also encourages offenders to take the initial steps to reunite with family members. The chances of offenders becoming homeless again also significantly lessen with on-going employment and efforts to foster relationships with family members after reunification.

8. **Other Recommendations**

The recommendations described above are included in the San Bernardino County 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. The other recommendations in the plan should also be considered by each jurisdiction to help reach its benchmarks.

The recommendation concerning homeless prevention, however, should be adopted by all jurisdictions since San Bernardino County has a sizable number of households that are at-risk of becoming homeless. Approximately 100,000 households were living below poverty level as reported in the 2011 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau. Despite the fact that many households live below poverty level, no more than 10% of them become homeless over the course of a year according to recent national research.[2] However, this means that up 10,000 households living below poverty level may experience homelessness every year.

The local 10-Year Strategy recommends that the short-term assistance delivery model as outlined by HUD through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) be implemented by homeless service providers. This delivery model as outlined by HUD "targeted households with the highest likelihood of becoming homeless, and programs should provide just enough assistance to prevent or end an episode of homelessness - stretching resources as far as possible." Financial resources for this model should be for rental and utility assistance to households that are most likely to become homeless if not for this assistance. In other words, efforts should be made to ensure that these resources are provided to households that are facing eviction and who otherwise would become homeless without this help.

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[2] "Strategies for Preventing Homelessness," U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/Office of Policy Development and Research, May, 2005: p. xii.