2019 Homeless Point-in-Time Count Results – Observations
22 May 2019

- The total number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons for 2019 is 4,453, which is a decline of 42 persons or 1%, over 2018 (total = 4,495). From 2017-2019 the overall homeless population declined by 10% (-506 persons), the first declines since 2009.
  - The sheltered population declined by 13% (-298 persons) to 2,052 from 2,350 in 2018.
  - The unsheltered population increased by 12% (+256 persons) to 2,401 from 2,145 in 2018. From 2012-2019 the unsheltered population increased by 82% (+1,083 persons).

- The homeless veteran population decreased by 5% (-22 persons) to 385 from 407 in 2018. Since 2015 the homeless veteran population decreased by 18% (-82 persons) coinciding with Honolulu joining the Mayors Challenge to end Veteran Homelessness. The decline from 2017-2019 alone was 14% (-64 persons).
The homeless family individuals population declined by 15% (-233 persons) to 1,357 from 1,590 in 2018. From 2015-2019 there has been a 42% decrease (-983 persons) in homeless family individuals, coinciding with the advent of HousingASAP, the city’s focus on affordable housing targeting homeless and formerly homeless persons, and the public-private partnership Kahauiki Village, targeting homeless families.

The highest number of unsheltered homeless persons live in Downtown Honolulu (the Chinatown area), followed by the Waianae Coast (from Koolina to Kaena Point). Analysis of regional differences from 2010-2019 suggest that “no detectable trends exist in long-term movement of unsheltered individuals from one region to another” (2019 report, p. 14).

The number of homeless children (under 18 years of age) declined by 12% (-106 children) to 793 from 899 in 2018. Children make up 18% of the total homeless population on Oahu. From 2015-2019 there has been a 40% decrease (-526 children) in the number of homeless children, from 1,319 in 2015.

There are 1,131 chronically homeless persons, of whom 80% are unsheltered. The majority of the chronically homeless live in the Downtown to East Honolulu areas, due most likely to the high availability of services, e.g., mental health services, doctors, and shelters.

A total of 1,060 homeless persons reported mental health issues, but an increasing number are living in shelters (45%) than previously, e.g., 37% in 2016.

Recent trends indicate that Oahu shelters are housing an increasing number of homeless individuals who report substance abuse issues, with 846 identified in 2019, compared with 933 in 2017.

The complete Homeless Point-in-Time Count Reports are available at http://www.honolulu.gov/housing/homelessness.html