

2019 Homeless Point-in-Time Count Results – Preliminary Observations

1 March 2019

- This year’s count was conducted during the week of January 22, 2019.
- As long as one person remains homeless our work is not done. We are committed to ending homelessness which means we have a system in place to prevent homelessness whenever possible, and “if it can’t be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and onetime experience” (p. 9, *Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, 2018).
- The total number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons for 2019 is 4,311, which is a decline of 184 persons or 4%, over 2018 (total = 4,495). This is due in large part to the work of our providers and other agencies in moving people into permanent housing, especially from within our shelter system.
- We look forward to receiving additional point-in-time data on key subpopulations, including children, veterans, and those suffering from mental illness, addiction, and chronic homelessness.

Sheltered homeless population

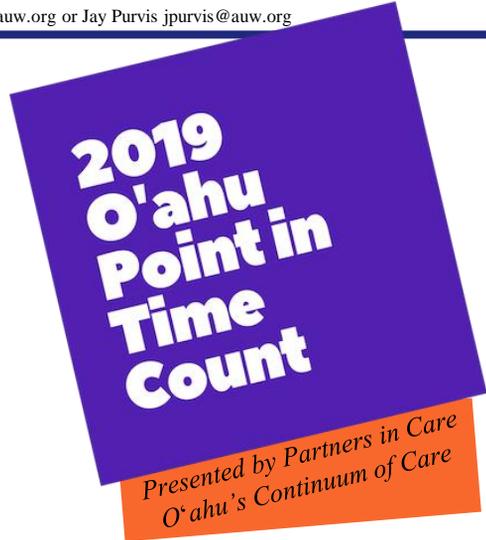
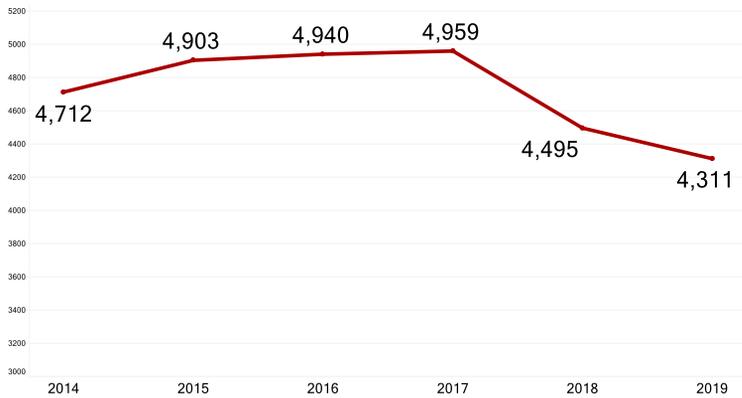
- The sheltered homeless population declined by 440 persons (19%) to 1,910 (2018 = 2,350).
- The drop in the number of sheltered homeless persons is likely due to the increased success in housing homeless persons, as well as, some loss in transitional shelter capacity for families.
- The Oahu system was able to move 4,349 people into permanent housing in 2018, an average of 362 clients per month. In 2017 the average for available data was 246 clients per month. Thus 2018 had a 47% increase in the number of clients moving monthly into permanent housing. It should be noted that very few clients are housed from an unsheltered setting. See www.honolulu.gov/dashboard for additional information.

Unsheltered homeless population

- Unsheltered homelessness increased by 256 persons (12%) to 2,401 (2018 = 2,145).
- We are not surprised by this increase. The City’s updated *2018 Action Plan Addressing Homelessness* specifically addressed this concern stating that additional collaboration with both the State Department of Health and the Honolulu Police Department are necessary (see, for example, pp. 5-6).
- Our recognition of the particular challenges with the unsheltered population has led the City to introduce recent projects specifically designed to reach the unsheltered population, e.g., Pūnāwai Rest Stop, the Revive + Refresh Mobile Hygiene trailer, the Joint Outreach Center, and H.E.L.P. interagency targeted outreach.
- The City has new programs being planned and implemented to address the unsheltered population, including health services and permanent housing above the Pūnāwai Rest Stop and our proposed Lift Mobile Navigation Center.
- We encourage community members to think twice before giving money to panhandlers, and providing food and supplies to unsheltered persons, without the presence of a professional provider. As Mayor Caldwell recently remarked, “It’s enabling them to stay on our streets where it’s not safe ... It may appear compassionate in the moment, but it is not compassionate in the long run.”
- Honolulu is also part of a national 10-city initiative, “Encampments and Unsheltered Homelessness Initiative: Learning Together and Creating Solutions for Encampments and Unsheltered Homelessness,” sponsored by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness. We will be learning and sharing with other cities together in order to better address unsheltered homelessness and encampments.



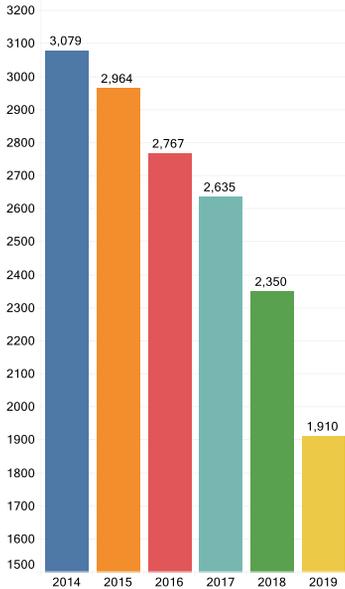
Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Individuals on O‘ahu 2014-2019



Total Number of Homeless Individuals Counted on O‘ahu: 4,311

The total number of homeless individuals on O‘ahu decreased by 184 (4%) over the past year.

Total Sheltered 2014-2019



Most of this year’s decrease comes from a drop in Sheltered Homeless Individuals from 2,350 in 2018 to 1,910 in 2019

The total number of sheltered homeless individuals on O‘ahu decreased by 440 (19%) over the past year.

However, the unsheltered count continues to grow, with 2,401 individuals counted

The unsheltered homeless population increased by 256 (12%) over the past year.

Total Unsheltered 2014-2019

