

2018 Homeless Point-in-Time Count Oahu Summary and FAQ's (revised 5/15/18)

Mayor Caldwell reacts to today's point in time count announcement (5/7/18)

Honolulu - "We're very pleased with today's news but there's still much to do. There's no doubt that in working with Governor Ige's administration, along with private sector partners, we're seeing a change in the right direction. It's important to acknowledge today's progress, but none of us will rest easy while so many people on O'ahu, and throughout the state, remain homeless."

Overview

- The Homeless Point-in-Time Count was conducted during the week of January 22, 2018, based on where people slept the night of January 22, 2018.
- The total homeless count on Oahu declined for the first time since 2009: 4,495 from 4,959 in 2017, 9.4% decrease (-464 persons).
 - Family homeless declined by 13.9% to 1,590 from 1,847 in 2017 (-257 persons).
 - On Oahu, the total number of homeless children declined by 14.8% to 899 from 1,055 in 2017. The number of unsheltered children on Oahu went down from 130 to 118.
- Veteran homelessness on Oahu declined by 9.4% to 407 from 449 (-42 persons).
- Unsheltered homelessness on Oahu declined for the first time since 2012 by 7.7% to 2,145 from 2,324 in 2017 (-179 persons).
 - The Downtown area (which includes Kakaako and the Nimitz underpass) went down (-20.3%; 130 persons) but East Honolulu (+7.8%; 24 persons), Ewa (+8.2%; 19 persons), and Waianae (+17.6%; 63 persons) went up.
- Chronic homelessness on Oahu declined by 3.6% to 1,117 from 1,159 in 2017 (42 persons).
 - Unsheltered chronically homeless persons declined by 8.4% to 920 from 1,004 (-84 persons).
 - Sheltered chronically homeless persons increased by 27.1% to 197 from 155 in 2017 (+42 persons).
- Youth homelessness (aged 24 and younger) on Oahu declined by 31.9% to 143 from 210 in 2017 (-67).

FAQ's

- What factors do you attribute for the decline in homelessness on Oahu?
 - Better coordination among State, City & County, and provider agencies, e.g., implementation of the housing-focused Coordinated Entry System (CES) in August 2017.
 - Increase in City Housing First vouchers being deployed (Increment 2) for the chronically homeless population; use of rapid re-housing funds to move people into stable housing more quickly.
 - Implementation of a data driven approach: integration of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) into City contracts and practice; we are tracking and measuring results.

- Increase in affordable housing, both units specifically targeting homeless populations (e.g., Kahauiki Village, Piikoi, and Kauhale Kamaile) and in general (1,095 affordable units in 2017, which is 295 more units (+37%) than Mayor Caldwell's target of 800 units annually.
- The decline in veteran homelessness is due to integration of VA into CES and HMIS, unified data for tracking and measuring targets and results, faster movement into permanent housing.
- You say the unsheltered homeless population declined but it doesn't feel that way?
 - The unsheltered population is still very high with 2,145 people on the streets. And they tend to concentrate in areas closer to where food and services are available, and where there are more opportunities for panhandling and collection of recyclables.
- What has helped to lower the unsheltered homeless population number?
 - While more vouchers, services, and housing have been made available, we have also increased enforcement of laws to ensure the public's access to public spaces. We do not believe that the streets and public parks, for example, are areas fit for human habitation, and we encourage our homeless population to take advantage of available shelter and services.
 - The significant increase in the sheltered chronically homeless population means that more of the most vulnerable are getting into shelter and closer to the opportunity for housing with needed services.
- Is this annual count really accurate?
 - It is only **one data point** and represents only **one snapshot** during the year. The use of HMIS and the specific "By Name Lists" of all homeless persons who have been assessed and have agreed to share their information for the purposes of housing and services are the critical everyday tools used to connect homeless persons with help. Much of this data is now public and available at Hawaii HMIS at <http://www.hawaiihmis.org/>
 - As noted above, not all areas of Oahu experienced a decline: East Honolulu, Ewa, and Waianae all experienced increases in unsheltered homelessness.
- What do we need to keep this momentum going?
 - More permanent supportive housing (aka Housing First), which includes both housing and supportive services for mental health and addiction treatment.
 - More affordable housing. The State Legislature's approval of an additional \$200 million to the rental housing revolving fund is a very positive action. The City's recent passage of new affordable housing requirements and incentives also will move the needle, as will the continued expansion of accessory dwelling units (ADU's).
 - Increase other housing subsidies, such as rapid re-housing funds, as well as, diversion programs and general support for mental health and addiction services.

