

2019 Sacramento Homeless Point in Time Count Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count?

The PIT Count is conducted every two years within Sacramento County and provides the community with a snapshot of how many people may be experiencing homelessnessⁱ on any given night.

The 2019 PIT Count provides a more comprehensive and accurate snapshot of homelessness within Sacramento county and cities than in previous years. Improvements to this year's count included:

- Increased geographic coverage area
- Two-night count (first time ever that an extra night was added)
- Record number of volunteer and community partner participation (900 volunteers)
- Increased efforts to identify transition age youth and families
- Included nearly 550 individual surveys

When was the PIT Count survey conducted?

The count was conducted on January 30 and 31, 2019.

What does the PIT Count data tell us?

- 5,570 individuals experience homelessness countywide on any given night.
 - 1,670 individuals are sheltered
 - 3,900 individuals are unsheltered
- Approximately 10,000 to 11,000 individuals experience homelessness annually.
- Majority of individuals interviewed indicate they are from the Sacramento area (93%).
- Chronic homelessness slightly declined (30% down from 31% in 2017)
- Chronic homelessness among the unsheltered decreased (31% down from 39% in 2017)
- Majority of individuals experiencing homelessness are 35 years of age or older (61%).
- A disproportionate number of Black and American Indian/Alaska Native people are experiencing homelessness.
- 59% of persons interviewed have been experiencing homelessness over a year.
- Addressing the lack of affordable housing was the number one issue mentioned by the unsheltered population
- Half of unsheltered seniors became homeless in late life
- 20% of the homeless population were families with children; 33% of these families were living in vehicles

Is homelessness increasing in Sacramento County?

Yes, an increase was expected and the number of people experiencing homelessness effectively increased 19%* between 2017 and 2019.

- The majority of the increase is unsheltered.
- Rising homelessness reflects the continued challenges of housing affordability
- The increase is in line with statewide trends

**Due to increased coverage and accuracy of the 2019 count, raw numbers cannot be directly compared between 2017 and 2019. Statistical adjustments were made to allow for a real (adjusted) rate of increase.*

How does Sacramento County compare to other regions in California?

The rate of homelessness is consistent with other California communities. California's 2018 rate of homelessness per 10,000 population across the state was 33 per 10,000 and is expected to increase in 2019. Sacramento's 2019 count is 36 per 10,000 residents.

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Why is homelessness increasing?

Homelessness is a complex issue with no singular driver; however, California's extreme housing shortage and lack of affordability are significant contributors to the increase in housing instability and homelessness in California. From 2018 to 2019, Sacramento faced the highest rent increases among California cities. Across California 54 communities declared a homeless shelter crisis.

What is Sacramento doing to address this crisis?

Despite the elevated numbers, Sacramento localities and the Sacramento Continuum of Care have invested significantly in recent years and continue to invest and coordinate new resources to address the homelessness crisis including:

- 3,600 individuals were housed and exited homelessness in 2018
- Approximately 1,300 individuals are sheltered every night with over 300 new shelter beds added last year
- New rehousing programs have resulted in housing over 350 hardest to serve persons experiencing homelessness
- 600 housing choice vouchers prioritized to households experiencing homelessness
- Expanded mental health and healthcare resources dedicated to households experiencing homelessness

Increased local collaboration has led to development of additional responses including:

- Comprehensive December 2018 Sacramento County Homeless Plan
- \$19.9 million collaborative City/County/CoC state funding plan and \$17 million in City of Sacramento funding for increased rehousing and shelter capacity
- Collaborative programs designed to quickly flex up additional housing and shelter capacity for future State funding anticipated in 2020

What are next steps?

Sustained and collaborative leadership will be strengthened to:

- Implement the new Sacramento County Homeless Plan,
- Build on the community's strong commitment to combatting homelessness,
- Continue to efficiently invest State and local resources in expanded, rehousing and sheltering programs;
- Work across all communities to build new affordable housing for this population.

¹ The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness is used for the Point in Time count. This definition includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements including congregate shelters, transitional housing and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state or local government programs for low income individuals; or 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, including a car, park, abandoned building, streets, sidewalks and underpasses, bus or train station, airport or camping ground.