



2019 Point in Time Count

Results of the biennial Point in Time (PIT) Count of persons experiencing homelessness were released today. Conducted on January 24, 2019 by the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC), the Count is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and serves as a snapshot of homelessness in the county on a single night. The County and CoC provided oversight of the PIT Count, working closely with Northern Santa Barbara County United Way Home for Good, Applied Survey Research, Simtech Solutions and more than 500 volunteers.

Countywide, 1,803 persons were counted with the largest number counted in the city of Santa Barbara. The count includes 1,133 persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 670 persons living in emergency shelters or transitional housing. In 2017, the official PIT count was 1,860. There was a notable shift between sheltered and unsheltered persons between 2017 and 2019.

| Year | Sheltered | Unsheltered | Total |
|------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| 2017 | 967 | 893 | 1,860 |
| 2019 | 670 | 1,133 | 1,803 |

Highlights from the data include:

- 42 percent of the unsheltered count (1,133) was persons living in their vehicles (479)
- 115 households with 226 children under the age of 18 were literally homeless the night of the count (this does not include families doubled up, paying for a motel or at-risk of homelessness)
- 423 persons were experiencing chronic homelessness, an increase of 87 percent (226) from 2017

Home for Good recruited more than 500 volunteers to assist, including 449 people who showed up at 5 a.m. to canvas 89 census tracts across the county. A new methodology in alignment with national best practices relied on geographic coverage in place of staged events to more accurately reflect populations. The 2019 PIT Count will serve as a baseline for future data comparisons. Volunteers who were canvassing and surveying used a mobile application from Simtech to gather real-time data. Additionally, vehicle counts were conducted using guidance from Applied Survey Research with demographic information provided from the New Beginnings Safe Parking Program.

The chart below provides count data by city or area compared to the 2017 PIT homeless population estimates for combining both unsheltered and sheltered populations. The homeless population was distributed throughout the county: 1,074 (60%) persons in south county, 475 (26%) persons in north county and 254 (14%) in mid-county.

| City /Area | 2019 PIT Count | 2017 PIT Homeless Population Estimates |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Carpinteria | 21 | 20 |
| Summerland | 8 | not reported |
| Montecito | 6 | not reported |
| Goleta | 119 | 124 |
| Guadalupe | 4 | not reported |
| Isla Vista | 33 | 32 |
| Lompoc | 249 | 274 |
| Santa Barbara | 887 | 987 |
| Santa Maria | 464 | 422 |
| Orcutt | 7 | not reported |
| Buellton/Solvang/Santa Ynez Valley | 5 | 1 |
| New Cuyama | 0 | not reported |
| Total | 1803 | 1860 |

The survey included questions regarding last permanent residence and how long a person had lived in the county. The results below support data collected in the Homeless Management Information System that the population experiencing homelessness is largely part of the community and not those who have relocated from other regions.

- 76 percent became homeless while living in Santa Barbara County
- 60 percent have lived in Santa Barbara County for more than 10 years or the majority of their lives

A comprehensive report of the PIT data and Housing Inventory for homeless persons will be released later in the year.

The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care promotes community-wide planning and strategic use of resources and programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness. The County of Santa Barbara serves as the lead agency for the CoC. For more information, go to www.countyofsb.org/housing/continuumprogram.sbc.

The County is in the process of a regional homeless planning effort to address homelessness. To review the Phase 1 Community Plan to Address Homelessness, go to www.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/housing/Content/Homeless_Assistance/Documents/Phase_1_for_website.pdf. For information about the County's Housing and Community Development Division, go to www.countyofsb.org/housing.