



BRIDGING THE GAP & PARTNERS IN CARE 2018 HAWAII STATEWIDE POINT IN TIME COUNT TOPLINE REPORT

OVERVIEW

Results from the 2018 Hawaii statewide Point In Time (PIT) Count, conducted on January 22, 2018, revealed the following information:

- **A 9.6 percent overall decrease statewide in the numbers of homeless individuals, from 7,220 persons in 2017 to 6,530 persons in 2018.**
- **A 13.5 percent decrease in the total number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless veterans statewide compared with 2017, with a 9.4 percent decrease on Oahu and a 24.7 percent decrease on the Neighbor Islands.**
- **A 4.8 percent decrease statewide in the total number of chronic homeless individuals and families, compared with 2017.**
- **A 10.6 percent decrease in the total number of people in homeless families compared with 2017.**
- **A 12.5 percent decrease in the total number of children in homeless families compared with 2017.**

The statewide decrease featured overall decreases on Kauai (28.9 percent), Oahu (9.4 percent), Hawaii (8.8 percent) and Maui (2.6 percent).

The 2018 PIT overall decrease was fueled by an 8.6 percent decrease in unsheltered homeless to 3,475 persons, compared with 3,800 in 2017. Unsheltered homelessness declined on Oahu (7.7 percent), and the three rural counties, led by Kauai (37 percent), Maui (5.4 percent) and Hawaii (1.3 percent). This continues a two-year downward trend if looking back to 2016 as the baseline year. The count of homeless persons living in emergency or transitional shelters was 3,055 this year, a 10.7 percent decrease compared with last year, with reductions on Oahu, Hawaii island and Kauai, and a slight 1 percent increase on Maui.

The 2018 Point In Time Count represents the best available data to estimate a one-day homeless prevalence for the State of Hawaii. The primary objective of the count is to obtain a reliable estimate of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families at a specific point in time. PIT data collection is an integral part of local and national planning and acts in support of policy and resource

allocations. As count execution improves, the reporting more accurately reflects the actual state of homelessness during that point in time. The count is also an excellent opportunity to engage the general public, community leaders and private businesses in statewide homeless initiatives.

Partners in Care (PIC), which represents Oahu; and Bridging the Gap (BTG), which represents Hawaii County, Maui County and Kauai County, are Hawaii’s Continua of Care (CoC). A CoC is a local planning body designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.

STATEWIDE STATISTICS AND TRENDS

Island	Total 2017 Count	2018 Sheltered	2018 Unsheltered	Total 2018 Count	2018 % Change	2018 # of Persons
Oahu	4,959	2,350	2,145	4,495	-9.4%	-464
Hawaii	953	200	669	869	-8.8%	-84
Maui	896	399	474	873	-2.6%	-23
Kauai	412	106	187	293	-28.9%	-119
Statewide	7,220	3,055	3,475	6,530	-9.6%	-690

Oahu: The total homeless count on Oahu declined for the first time since 2009, largely because of sizable decreases in the sheltered and unsheltered counts. In 2018, Oahu also saw a decrease in family individuals experiencing homelessness, down 13.9 percent to 1,590 compared with 1,847 in 2017. The decrease in family homelessness corresponded with a decrease in the number of children in homeless families, which decreased from 1,055 in 2017 to 899 in 2018 – a decrease of 14.7 percent. The number of veterans experiencing homelessness on Oahu registered a 9.4 percent decrease from 449 in 2017 to 407 in 2018. Those persons who are unsheltered and chronically experiencing homelessness (defined below) decreased by 8.4 percent in 2018 with 920 individuals and family individuals censused compared with 1,004 in 2017. The total unsheltered component, also, decreased 7.7 percent compared with 2017 and is the first decline in six years. The sheltered component decreased 10.8 percent relative to 2017, marking the fifth consecutive year of decline.

The decrease in homelessness on Oahu may in part be attributable to increased housing resources for homeless individuals and families. In 2017, the City & County of Honolulu added new housing projects on Oahu prioritized for homeless individuals and families, and increased the capacity of the Hale Mauiola housing navigation center. During this same period, the Hawaii Department of Human Services added new resources for Rapid Re-Housing, which provides short-term rental subsidies for homeless individuals and families, as well as for those at imminent risk of homelessness.

Service providers on Oahu also implemented a Coordinated Entry System for single adults, families, and youth. The Coordinated Entry System has prioritized housing resources for homeless individuals based

on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner.

Regional Summary of Total Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness on Oahu:

Region	2018 Count	2017 Count	% Change
1: Downtown Honolulu	509	639	-20.3%
2: East Honolulu	333	309	7.8%
3: Ewa	250	231	8.2%
4: Kaneohe to Waimanalo	229	253	-9.5%
5: Wahiawa to North Shore	281	385	-27%
6: Upper Windward	122	149	-18.1%
7: Waianae Coast	421	358	17.6%
TOTAL	2,145	2,324	-7.7%

Hawaii County: The overall homeless count decreased by 8.8 percent compared with 2017, marking a decline for a second consecutive year. Several factors contributed to the decrease in homelessness in Hawaii County, including:

1. Implementation of the Coordinated Entry System, which organizes and prioritizes available housing resources and matches these resources with the most vulnerable households in the community;
2. Service agencies and the County government made a concerted effort to work together to implement programs that led to 234 individuals gaining permanent housing and ending their homelessness situation since the 2017 PIT count;
3. New affordable housing developments opened:
 - Mohouli Senior Residences - Phase 2 (30 units), with occupancy beginning in November 2017
 - Hale ‘Ohana (85 units), with occupancy beginning in November 2017
 - Hale Kupuna (85 units), with occupancy beginning in December 2017
 - Hale Kikaha (23 units), with occupancy beginning in January 2017
4. Increased state and federal funding for homeless prevention activities, Housing First, and Rapid Re-Housing programs. This included Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Rapid Re-Housing for households fleeing from domestic violence;
5. The increase in federal funding for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program, which led to an additional 45 homeless families securing affordable housing; and

6. Continued operationalizing of the Housing First strategies, including low-barrier shelters and no preconditions to shelter placement and housing programs.

NOTE: The regional characteristics for Hawaii County have changed relative to 2017, so there are no regional comparisons between the 2018 PIT count and the 2017 count.

Regional Summary of Total Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Hawaii County:

Region	2018 Count
1: North Kohala	8
2: Hamakua	26
3: North Hilo	3
4: South Hilo	168
5: Puna	88
6: Kau	133
7: South Kona	21
8: North Kona	174
9: South Kohala	48
TOTAL	669

Maui County: In 2018, Maui saw a 2.6 percent decrease, continuing a downward trend that began in 2017. This figure accounts for a slight uptick of 1 percent in sheltered homelessness and a 5.4 percent decrease in unsheltered homelessness. The overall decline was largely because of the following:

1. An infusion of state funding, especially the Housing First program and Rapid Re-Housing funds;
2. A continued slow release of Section 8 vouchers and changes in regulations that allowed for room rentals using a Section 8 voucher;
3. Continued focus and implementation of the Housing First approach, including organizational and cultural changes to reflect a harm reduction, low-barrier focus.
4. In total, service agencies and county government assisted 555 individuals in accessing permanent housing.

Regional Summary of Total Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Maui County:

Region	2018 Count	2017 Count	% Change
1: Central Maui	173	215	-19.5%
2: Lower Waiehu	19	4	375%
3: Up Country	48	48	0%
4: Lahaina	129	104	24%
5: Kihei	104	129	-19.4%
6: Hana	1	1	0%
TOTAL	474	501	-5.4%

Kauai County: This year, Kauai experienced a steep 28.8 percent decline compared with 2017, the third decrease in the past four years. Reasons for the decline include:

1. The Kaua‘i County Housing Agency Tenant Based Rental Assistance program, along with the HUD Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program contributed significantly to reducing family homelessness. In addition, agencies such as Family Life Center and Catholic Charities Hawai‘i provided rental deposit/utility deposits or related supplements to help families take advantage of the housing vouchers.
2. Local funding resources, including Kaua‘i United Way and Charity Walk, helped families otherwise not eligible for assistance to retain their housing and prevent evictions.
3. Kaua‘i County committed to reducing homelessness by adding a position as the Homeless Coordinator, keeping the focus on homeless services and coordinating with service providers. This focus on the Coordinated Entry System made referrals more transparent and saved money by focusing on the hardest to serve.
4. A program offered by Kaua‘i Economic Opportunity assisted several families in returning to the mainland and prevented homelessness or moved the families from homelessness to housing on the mainland.
5. The new Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing programs, including the Homeless Prevention Program and Emergency Solutions Grant, helped local families become or remain housed. Special recognition needs to go to local landlords who were willing to work with agency-referred clients for these programs.
6. County and service provider efforts assisted 157 individuals on Kauai to gain permanent housing in 2017.

Regional Summary of Total Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Kauai County:

Region	2018 Count	2017 Count	% Change
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1: West	20	72	-72.2%
2: South	6	9	-33.3%
3: South Central	95	109	-12.8%
4: East	56	58	-3.4%
5: North	10	49	-79.6%
TOTAL	187	297	-37%

SUBPOPULATIONS

Family Homelessness

In the 2018 Statewide PIT count, 2,399 individuals in families were counted as homeless, including 148 families living unsheltered. This represents a **10.6 percent decrease** in the total number of people in homeless families compared with 2017. In addition, 295 children were found living unsheltered within these families. Sheltered families totaled 475 households with 1,840 persons, including 1,060 children (393 in emergency shelters and 667 in transitional housing), which is down compared with 2017. The total number of children living in families totaled 1,355 compared to 1,549 the prior year – a 12.5 percent decrease.

Youth Homelessness

Youth are defined as individuals 24 years old or younger. The Statewide total is 189 unaccompanied youth with 139 (73.5 percent) living unsheltered, and 50 in emergency or transitional shelters. The 2018 total youth count declined dramatically compared with the 319 recorded in 2017. There were 11 unaccompanied youth under age 18 reported this year (10 on Oahu; 1 on the Neighbor Islands), which is less than half the number reported in 2017.

Parenting youth is defined as a household containing persons 24 or younger with one or more dependent children and without any accompanying adults 25 or older. The Statewide total of parenting youth tallied 44 households totaling 143 persons, including 76 children. The 2018 total increased slightly compared with the 2017 totals of 42 households with 139 persons, including 68 children.

Chronic Homelessness

Data from the 2018 reporting supported a decline in chronic homelessness with 1,529 individuals and 185 persons in families for a Statewide total of 1,714 persons in chronically homeless households. This represents a 4.8 percent decrease from the 1,800 found in 2017. The overall decrease represented a 3.7 percent downturn in single chronic homeless individuals, and a 12.7 percent decrease in family individuals. “Chronically homeless” is defined by 24 CFR Parts 91 and 570 of the *Consolidated Plan Revisions and Updates; Final Rule* as living in a place not meant for human habitation, in a safe haven or in an emergency shelter; can be diagnosed with a one or more conditions including substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, or chronic physical illness or disability; and living as described above continuously for at least 12 months, or on at least four separate occasions in the past 3 years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months. Each period separating the occasions

must include at least 7 nights of living in a situation other than a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe haven.

Veterans

The total number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless veterans Statewide **decreased 13.5 percent** to 532 veterans compared with the 2017 Statewide total of 615 veterans. While Oahu registered a 9.4 percent decrease in homeless veterans (from 449 in 2017, to 407 in 2018), the Neighbor Islands recorded a steep 24.7 percent decline (from 166 in 2017, to 125 in 2018). In this year's count, 292 unsheltered veterans were encountered Statewide, a 22.8 percent overall decrease compared with the 378 counted in 2017. In addition, 174 unsheltered chronically homeless veterans without children were tallied Statewide, which accounts for 60.4 percent of the total unsheltered homeless veteran household members without children.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

HOUSING FOCUSED COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM: Coordinated entry processes help communities prioritize assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner.

EXPAND SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAMS: Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families exit homelessness quickly and return to permanent housing by providing three core program components including housing identification, time limited financial assistance and housing based case management services. **According to the National Low Income and Housing Coalition, "Out of Reach 2017" study, Hawaii has the highest housing wage in the country where residents must earn \$35.20/hour to afford a two-bedroom unit.**

INCREASE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS: For chronically homeless individuals (those with a disability and long history of homelessness), stable housing and supportive services is the foundation for stability. Permanent supportive housing programs are project-based, clustered, or scattered site permanent housing linked with supportive services that help residents maintain housing. This housing program is the right intervention for persons with the deepest needs where they may stay in this program indefinitely with temporary or long-term rental assistance and/or supportive services.

BUILD AND ACQUIRE AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Hawaii can dedicate itself to increasing the supply of housing and creating new housing opportunities.

AVOID CRIMINALIZATION OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: The criminalization of homeless individuals results in the displacement and disruption of homeless communities. As an alternative to criminalization, the community should increase investment in programs like Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and Community Outreach Court, which divert homeless individuals from the criminal justice system and connect them to housing and supportive services.