



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.

O'ahu's 2019 Point in Time Count results show positive trends for homelessness

For Immediate Release

May 15, 2019

HONOLULU — Partners in Care (PIC) released the remainder of its 2019 O'ahu Point in Time Count numbers at a news conference held Wednesday at Punawai Rest Stop in Iwilei. Initial results – including sheltered and unsheltered homeless figures – were released in February. The news conference revealed key findings, including:

- **We are having more success in getting our most vulnerable populations (chronically homeless, mentally ill, substance users) off the streets**
- **The number of homeless family individuals has declined 42 percent since 2015**
- **There has been no significant shift in regional homeless numbers over the past 10 years, which largely means that homeless people are not moving from one region to another**
- **Veteran homelessness is down 5 percent compared with last year, and 18 percent since 2015**

In an effort to better understand the data, PIC focused on examining multi-year trends instead of year-over-year fluctuations. An analysis of the 2019 data showed that the unsheltered counts are declining, and sheltered counts are rising among several key subpopulations, including substance users, veterans, and those with mental illness.

This year's Point in Time Count was conducted during the week of Jan. 22, 2019, and included an estimated 700 volunteers who canvassed neighborhoods, beaches and urban centers around O'ahu to survey those who identified themselves as homeless.

“We are encouraged by the trends in this year's O'ahu Point in Time report, and they indicate that we are definitely headed in the right direction,” said Heather Lusk, the Vice Chair of Partners in Care, O'ahu's Continuum of Care. “We have so much more to do, yet data like this helps us examine and understand the trends, so that we know how to better support those affected by poverty and homelessness. There are still many people who need our help, and we need to be data-driven in our efforts to increase access to affordable housing and end homelessness in our community.”

PARTNERS IN CARE, OAHU'S CONTINUUM OF CARE

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Ultimately, the data collected from the Point in Time Count ensures that Hawai'i's Continua of Care – Partners in Care on O'ahu and Bridging the Gap on the Neighbor Islands – meet the national guidelines on tackling homelessness throughout the state set by the Continua's federal partner, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The data also plays an integral role in the local and national planning for the Continua of Care, acting in support of policy and resource allocations.

The Point in Time Count represents the best available data to estimate one-day homeless prevalence for the island of O'ahu. 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 by asking those encountered, "Where did you sleep Tuesday, January 22nd?" The data is then mined and analyzed for trends and patterns. Information gathered, along with other available data, is used to help inform policy, strategy and allocation of resources.

You can find the full Oahu report online at www.partnersincareoahu.org or www.partnersincareoahu.org/point-time-count-report. Interactive dashboards will be available on the website at a later date.

About Partners in Care

Partners in Care (PIC) is O'ahu's Continuum of Care (CoC). PIC is a coalition composed of homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders with a mission to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses. PIC is a planning, coordinating and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's Continuum of Care for homeless persons. For more information about PIC, please visit www.partnersincareoahu.org.

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