



2019 Lane County Annual Homeless Point in Time Count Methodology

Lane County Human Services, the anti-poverty program for the county, along with community partners, conducts a one-night count of people who are literally homeless in our community. Count locations include the streets, under bridges, in parks, and other places not meant for human habitation. The Point in Time Count also surveys food pantries, day access centers, schools, churches, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs. One-night counts are required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Oregon Housing and Community Services (State of Oregon) which provides funding for housing and services related to homelessness. The Point in Time Summary is used year-round by planning boards, and policy makers on local, state, and federal levels to inform their work to address poverty and homelessness. This year, Lane County will conduct a Point in Time Count, as well as a youth-specific Youth Count on the same day. The official Point in Time Count night will be January 30, 2019. The unsheltered count will take place during the day of January 31, 2019 and individuals will be asked about where they stayed on the night of the 30th.

The 2018 Count

In 2018, over 300 volunteers collected surveys, double the number of volunteers from 2017. This included 163 community volunteers, 97 staff or volunteers with community organizations, 32 Lane County staff volunteered their time, and 4 Poverty and Homelessness Board members. Organizers reached out to rural areas, veterans' services, rest stops, safe spots, Opportunity Village, and other locations.

Highlights of the 2018 Count:

Of the 1,642 people counted:

- 412 individuals were staying in Emergency Shelter
- 95 individuals were in Transitional Housing (up to 24 months) designated for people experiencing homelessness
- 1,135 men, women, and children were without shelter

Total 1,642 individuals

Characteristics:

- 251 family members in homeless households with children; 138 sheltered; 113 unsheltered
- 173 homeless veterans
- 713 chronically homeless people: 112 sheltered; 600 unsheltered

- 547 people self-reported a mental illness
- 412 people have chronic alcohol/substance abuse that prevents them from stable housing
- 25 unaccompanied homeless youth (under 18)

In 2017, over fifty-three thousand (53,131) people were served by agencies that track projects in ServicePoint, which is Lane County's Client/Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Of the 53,131 people served, over fifteen thousand (15,454) people were homeless for at least one point in 2017.

In addition:

- 1,625 unduplicated individuals were served at St. Vincent De Paul's Egan Warming Center during 22 nights of the winter season 2017-2018.
- 2,450 homeless students attended public school in Lane County during the 2016-2017 school year (Oregon Dept. of Education). This includes those doubled up with relatives or friends.
- 534 homeless youth were served at the Looking Glass New Roads Access Center (ages 16-21) during calendar year 2017.
- 144 runaway and homeless youth stayed at Station 7 (under age 18) during calendar year 2017
- 2,315 people stayed at the Eugene Mission during CY 2017; 2,241 adults and 74 children.

2019 Count Methodology

The Unsheltered Count will take place in metro and rural areas in Lane County. This includes streets, parks, encampments, food pantries, access centers, schools, and other places not meant for human habitation.

Mapping

Maps of Lane County cities and urban growth boundaries will be utilized for volunteers to survey specific geographic locations. Pairs of volunteers will be given a map with a geographic assignment of approximately .5 square miles. Known hotspot information and encampment locations based on input from law enforcement, parks and open spaces staff, homeless service providers, street outreach teams, community advocates, people with lived experience, advisory boards, and more will be utilized to ensure coverage of known hotspots. Large encampments and secluded areas will be assigned to trained professionals such as street outreach workers and homeless service providers.

Regional Leads

Regional hubs for volunteer check in/out and a regional lead point of contact will be organized by Lane County staff. Regional lead staff responsibilities include being a point of contact for Lane County during and leading up to the Count. Additional responsibilities of regional leads include: Recruiting volunteers who live/work in their region (all volunteers will be streamlined through one sign-up/training process, but can indicate the region they will volunteer in) and

operating a regional volunteer command center on the day of the Count (with maps, volunteer info etc) where volunteers check in and out.

Regional lead sites will include but are not limited to: Eugene, Springfield, Veneta, Westfir & Oakridge, Cottage Grove & Creswell & Lowell, Florence & Dunes City, Junction City & Coburg.

Timing of the PIT

This year's PIT will take place during a 2-3 hour window. This "burst" tactic will capitalize on full geographic coverage (geographic assignments for volunteers) and the high volunteer turnout projected. High volunteer projections are based on last year's volunteer turnout and significant community interest in addressing the issue of homelessness. The Count will take place during daylight hours for ease of finding individuals experiencing homelessness. All volunteers will be assigned to areas throughout the County and survey during the specified time window. This time window will be developed based on input from people with lived experience.

Volunteers

Robust volunteer outreach will be conducted via public meetings, social media, news stories, publication of event, and utilizing homeless service provider recruitment.

Building on the success of the last 2 years, the volunteer application and training will be available online. Additional in-person training and Point in Time Count orientations will be scheduled on different days of the week to accommodate many volunteer schedules. All surveyors will be trained on safety, survey question comprehension and completeness, and trauma-informed interview techniques. In order to remove barriers to volunteering, in particular to those in rural areas, the main method of training will entail an online video training followed by a short quiz to certify the surveyor for the Count. McKinney-Vento Homeless liaisons will also complete surveys with youth who attend school and are experiencing homelessness.

Some homeless service providers, such as day access centers, will be asked to designate staff or volunteers to collect surveys at their locations.

Survey Tool

To improve the "Unsheltered Count" data quality, the survey tool will be updated to make it more conversational in nature and clarify the intent of the questions. Additional questions will be added to the survey tool to meet the expressed needs of homeless service providers, advocates, and to help understand the population of individuals experiencing homelessness in Lane County. New questions in the survey this year will cover domestic violence experience, sexual orientation, presence of pets or companion animals, and pregnancy.

As in previous years, survey enumerators ask the respondent's name and birth date. All data is entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), de-duplicating sheltered and unsheltered individuals. HMIS generates a unique client identifier which aids in determining

possible duplicates. These are vetted by Lane County and providers to determine actual duplicates (which are merged) and non-duplicates. This methodology offers comprehensive, humane approaches, yielding less confusion and more accurate data.

The main method of survey collection will be electronic- using the Survey123 mobile application on tablets or smartphones. Some homeless service providers at day access centers will be able to enter data directly into ServicePoint. Electronic data entry is strongly encouraged. Paper surveys will be available upon request.

Youth-Specific Point in Time Count

Lane County and homeless service providers, in particular the Youth Homelessness Solutions Workgroup and Youth Action Council (subcommittees of the Poverty and Homelessness Board) have identified a need for a youth-specific point in time count. This year will be the first youth-specific point in time count. The Youth Count will be conducted on the same day as the regular PIT.

The Youth PIT will utilize youth survey enumerators, so the survey process is a peer-to-peer exchange. The Youth PIT will utilize magnet events to draw in youth for surveys. The survey tool for the Youth Count and the regular Point in Time Count will be the same. Youth surveyed during the regular PIT or Youth PIT will receive the same survey.