



Lane County 2018 Sheltered and Unsheltered Point in Time Count Full Report

May 2018

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Every year, on the last Wednesday of January, the Lane County Human Services Division conducts the annual one-night Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count. The PIT Count is a three part survey which includes a count of the unsheltered and sheltered population of people experiencing homelessness, as well as a Housing Inventory Count (HIC).

The 2018 PIT Count was conducted on January 31, 2018. Unsheltered count locations included the streets, under bridges, parks and other places not meant for human habitation, as well as food pantries, day access centers, schools, churches, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs.

The Point-In-Time Count provides a useful tool for understanding homelessness and year-over-year trends in our community. 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, nonprofits, community organizations, and policy makers on local, state and federal levels to inform their work on this issue.

Highlights of the Count:

The 2018 Count engaged an unprecedented number of community volunteers; double the number of volunteers from the previous year. A total of 300 volunteers, including 163 community members, 97 staff or volunteers with community organizations, and 32 County staff volunteered their time to conduct the unsheltered 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.
- 503 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.

Sheltered Count Methodology

The Continuum of Care conducts a full census count on people experiencing homelessness who access emergency shelter. All emergency shelter data is entered into the Homeless Management Information System, ServicePoint. Survey data is deduplicated by a comparison of personally identifying information such as name, birth date, and last four of social security number. There is also an interview survey screening question that asks if people have already completed a Count survey.

Unsheltered Count Methodology

The 2018 PIT Count saw an unprecedented level of community engagement, with over 300 volunteers assisting in the Unsheltered Count. This is twice the number of volunteers from the 2017 Unsheltered Count. This included: 167 Community volunteers, 97 staff or volunteers with community organizations, 32 Lane County staff, and 4 Poverty and Homelessness Board members. The County facilitated expanded partnerships with food pantries including those that reach students such as the Lane Community College food pantry. McKinney-Vento Liaisons collected surveys representing 4 school districts. Volunteers were sent to hotspots where people who are unsheltered congregate, including the streets, under bridges, parks, other places not meant for human habitation, as well as food pantries, day access centers, schools, churches, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs.

There was active coordination and participation in the unsheltered count with City of Eugene Parks and Open Spaces, as well as Willamalane Parks and Recreation District. Lane County Sheriff's Office, City of Eugene Police Department, and City of Springfield Police Department were abreast of the Count activities.

Volunteers were recruited using social media, targeted email lists, community presentations, and word of mouth. More than four television news segments highlighted the Count and two print articles promoted volunteering for the Count. This media also served to increase volunteers for the Count. Lane County staff conducted presentations about the Count at community meetings, including that of Food Pantry staff, and two presentations to approximately 245 students at the University of Oregon School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management. Volunteer sign-up was available online and using paper forms. The majority of volunteers signed up electronically.

There were two training options for Unsheltered Count volunteers, either in-person trainings or an online video. All volunteers needed to pass a competency quiz with a score of 100% in order to collect surveys on the day of the Count. The competency quiz was available online and on paper (available at the in-person training). There were 2 in-person trainings for community volunteers (1.5 hours each). There was a one-hour training for Lane County and City staff volunteers. The comprehensive online training which included safety protocol was 30 minutes long, posted on www.Youtube.com and received 590 views.

This year there were two ways to collect surveys: a paper form and a mobile app. The paper form was the most popular method among volunteers to collect surveys. The app had the same questions and had the

added benefit of being able to pinpoint locations where surveys were collected (GIS mapping). The app could be downloaded with internet access, and then utilized when not connected to the internet. Any volunteer who wanted to utilize the app needed to request the app log-in information. This ensured that only authorized users collected surveys with the app. There was a mobile app technical assistance hotline operating on the day of the Count.

All paper surveys were numbered to ensure confidentiality and data quality. Over 3,500 paper surveys were printed and distributed. All paper surveys were accounted for to and no survey with sensitive information was lost. Volunteers signed surveys and materials in/out when they checked in to the volunteer station, which was housed at a local nonprofit, Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC). At the volunteer check in/out station, food and all survey supplies were provided, including yellow identification name tags and lanyards, clipboards, pens, plastic sleeves to protect paper surveys from the rain, and a calendar printout to help people describe the times they had been homeless in the last three years. All volunteers signed a confidentiality statement.

Volunteers were scheduled in three shifts: Morning check-in (8-9 a.m.), Afternoon check-in (1 p.m.), and Evening check-in (4-5 p.m.). The official hours of the Count were from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Volunteers received their site location assignments when they checked in at CALC. The list of site locations was compiled using previous Count site data, input from law enforcement agencies, community providers, known hot-spot data, and parks department staff. Hotspots of known camp sites and potential sites were mapped using GIS technology. Volunteers were sent to locations in the metro and rural areas, depending on their preference. For safety, all volunteers traveled in pairs. Volunteer shifts spanned from 1-4 hours, depending on the volunteer preference.

Organizations that collected surveys at their locations either had PIT survey packets mailed to them or they picked them up from the Human Services Division office before the Count. Food for Lane County (the food bank) distributed survey packets to food pantries. Staff at homeless-serving non-profits were collecting surveys throughout the day of the Count, and some community volunteers were sent to specific non-profit and community locations to collect surveys. The St. Vincent de Paul Lindholm Center Service Station collected surveys using ServicePoint.

There was a PIT-Count hotline operating for one month prior to the Count and the day of the Count for immediate answers to volunteer and community questions regarding the Count. There was also a dedicated email account utilized to schedule volunteers and answer PIT-related questions.

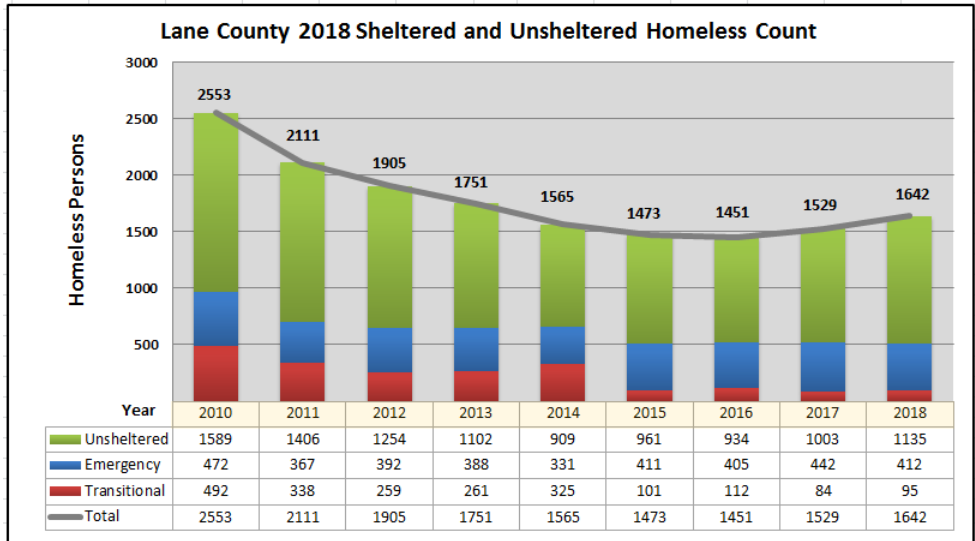
Once surveys were collected, Lane County Human Services Division data management staff worked to deduplicate the surveys. This ensures that people are not counted more than once and is tenable because Lane County conducts a full census survey. Survey data is deduplicated by a comparison of personally identifying information such as name, birth date, last four of social security number, and other data available in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), ServicePoint. This process takes approximately 3 weeks to complete and ensures a Count that is as accurate as possible, given the data available.

The Lane County 2018 Point in Time Count

1,642 people were counted in Lane County during the 2018 Homeless Point in Time Count, a 7% increase from last year and a 13% increase over the last two years (2016-2018). The sheltered assessments and the

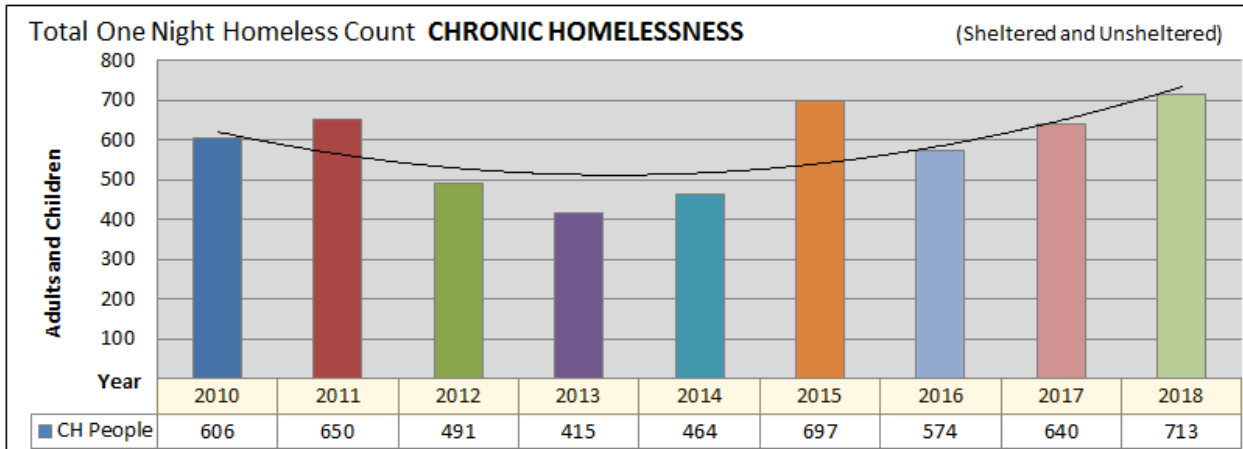
PIT surveys do not provide enough information to determine specific causes for the number of people experiencing homelessness or health issues, but they do illustrate trends.

Exhibit 1: Lane County Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Count Year over Year Comparison



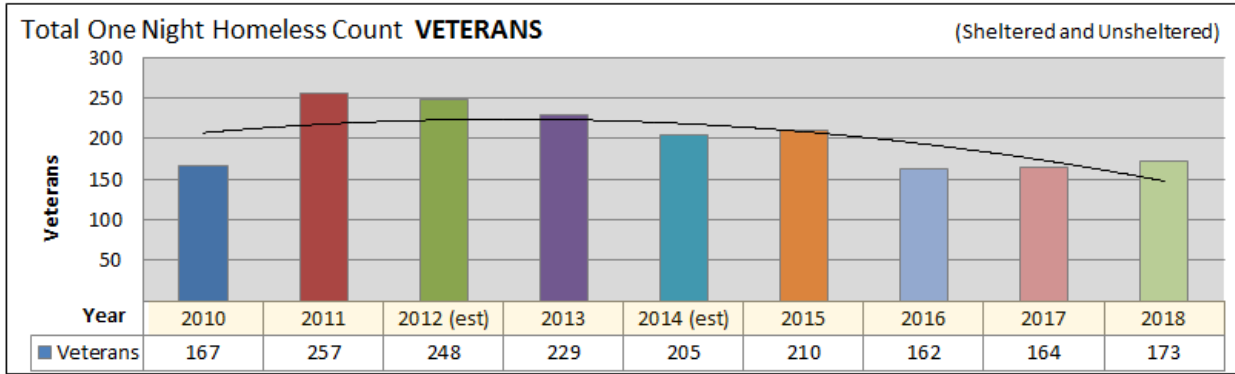
Note that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness includes people living in a place not meant for human habitation, which includes a car, under a bridge, and in a park. Couchsurfing, “Doubling up,” or staying with a friend, while demonstrating housing instability, does not count as homeless as defined by HUD. People living in Opportunity Village, Community Supported Shelters, Conestoga Huts, Car Camping, Dusk to Dawn, or other sanctioned camps were counted as homeless as these places do not have utilities connected and are not categorized as meant for human habitation.

Exhibit 2: Chronic Homelessness PIT Count Year over Year Comparison



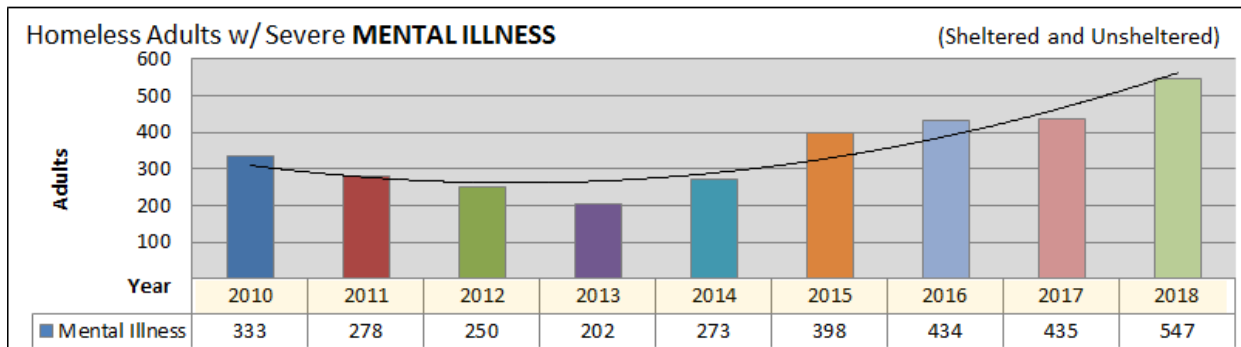
Note that Chronic Homelessness is defined as long-term disability and 12+ months of homelessness or four episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years totaling 12+ months). The number of chronically homeless people rose from 574 in 2016 to 713 in 2018. The percentage of people counted who are chronically homeless stayed around 40-43%.

Exhibit 3: Homeless Veterans Year over Year Comparison



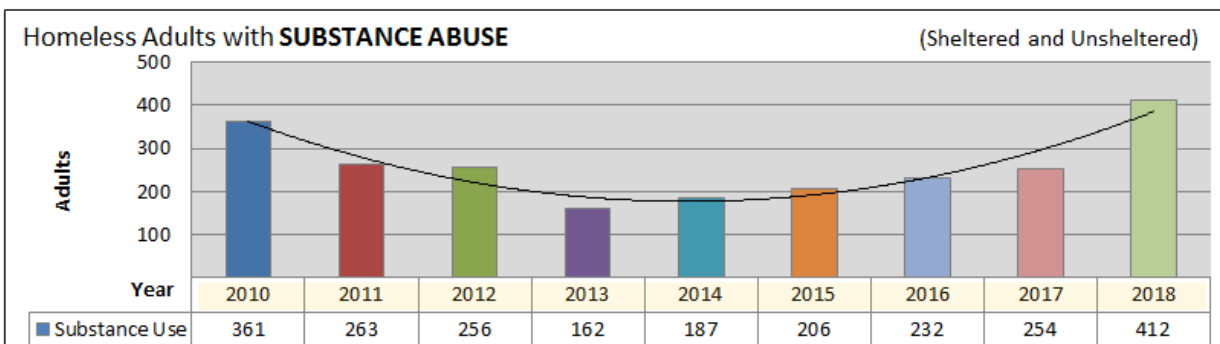
The number of homeless veterans increased over the past two years from 162 in 2016 to 173 in 2018. The number of *chronically* homeless veterans decreased from 83 in 2017 to 75 in 2018. The percent of homeless veterans in the Count has stayed at 11% for the past three years. This is consistent with what we are seeing on the Homeless Veteran By-Name-List which is run weekly. Every week, Lane County Human Services Division identifies homeless veterans in the Homeless Management Information System, ServicePoint who have not yet been screened by the Veteran’s Administration or Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF).

Exhibit 4: Homeless Adults with Severe Mental Illness Year over Year Comparison



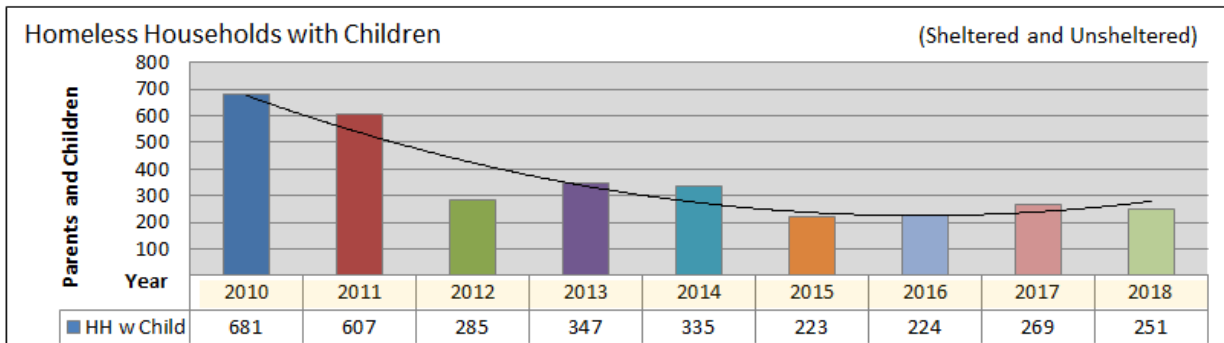
The number of people with long-term disabling mental illness increased over the past two years from 434 in 2016 to 547 in 2018 – staying steady around 30-33%.

Exhibit 5: Homeless Adults with Substance Abuse



The number of people with long-term disabling substance abuse increased over the past two years from 232 in 2016 to 412 in 2018. This is a jump from 16% to 25% (of the people in the count reporting substance abuse). Note that these numbers represent people who self-report substance use as serious, disabling, and a barrier to maintaining stable housing.

Exhibit 6: Homeless Households with Children



Individuals in homeless households with children decreased compared to last year with 251 people in households with children reported in 2018. This is a minor reduction and contrasts with the increased demand in Lane County for family housing and emergency shelter during the 2017-2018 winter season.

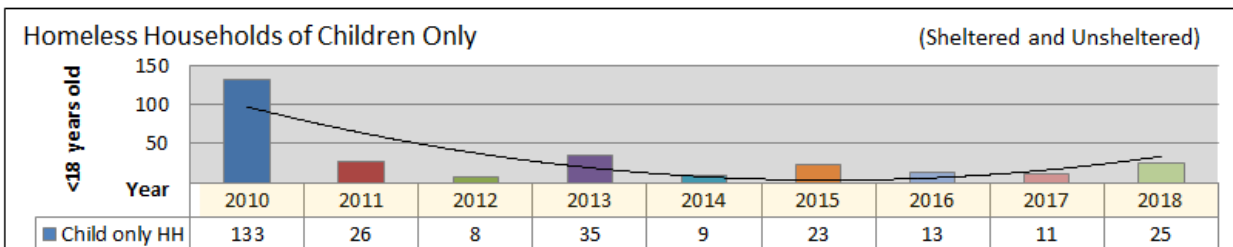
During the winter months of November 2017 through March 2018, many families were sheltered using motel vouchers which, while necessary for addressing the crisis of homelessness, is not a sustainable approach nor does it provide Providers with an opportunity to assist the families in moving out of homelessness.

The Homeless Day Access Center for Families served 39% more people in need this winter than last winter. They also reported a high number of turn-aways (households they are unable to serve due to lack of resources and system capacity). During the first six weeks of Winter 2016/17, 671 children and adults received services compared to the first six week of Winter 2017/18 where 930 children and adults received services.

Emergency Shelters with family options were at capacity this winter, and homeless motel vouchers were often used in lieu of emergency shelter beds. Compare the first six weeks of Winter 2015/16 where 103 people in 35 families were served, and in the first six weeks of Winter 2017/18 , where 236 people in 69 families were served.

Chronically homeless families screened for placement in Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing Projects more than doubled from last year. In mid-December 2016 the number of Families on the Permanent Housing list was only 15 families, whereas there were 35 families on the Permanent Housing list in mid-December 2017.

Exhibit 7: Homeless Households of Children Only



Children-only households are households where all members are less than 18 years old. Unaccompanied youth households that are homeless jumped from 11 to 25 between 2017 and 2018.

Exhibit 8: Age Breakdown in 2018 Point in Time Count

	ALL	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Age 0-5	4%	7%	2%
Age 6-12	4%	6%	3%
Age 13-17	3%	5%	2%
Age 18-24	7%	5%	8%
Age 25-44	35%	29%	38%
Age 45-54	21%	19%	22%
Age 55-64	21%	22%	21%
Age 65-88	5%	6%	5%

Exhibit 9: Race in 2018 Point in Time Count

	ALL	Sheltered	Unsheltered
White	79.9%	79.6%	80.0%
Black	3.0%	4.4%	2.3%
Asian	1.0%	2.1%	0.4%
AI/AN	3.5%	4.4%	3.1%
NH/OPI	0.7%	1.0%	0.5%
Multi	10.9%	7.5%	12.5%
DK/R	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%

The prevalence of African Americans in Lane County (2016 data) is 1.1%, whereas Black residents are represented at a rate of 3% in this year’s count. This demonstrates a threefold overrepresentation in Lane County’s homeless population. The Asian population is underrepresented in the homeless population, with only 1% of the overall homeless population, compared to the County population of 3%. American Indian/Alaska Natives are more than twice as likely to be homeless as the general population (3.5% compared to County prevalence of 1.5%). Native Hawaiians are also overrepresented in the homeless population, with .7% counted in 2018 compared to the general population of .3%.

Exhibit 10: Latinx in 2018 Point in Time Count

	ALL	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Latino/Latina	9%	12%	8%
Non-Latino/Latina	91%	88%	92%

The general population in Lane County is 8.5% Latinx, and the Latinx homeless population is only slightly higher than the general population at 9%.

Exhibit 11: Lane County Cities where 2018 Point in Time Surveys Collected (Numerical)

	ALL	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Eugene	1435	490	945
Springfield (including Glenwood)	170	31	139
Cottage Grove	20	0	20
Creswell	5	0	5
Florence	23	1	22
Blue River	4	0	4
Veneta	28	0	28
Lowell	1	0	1

A concerted effort was made to engage volunteers and service providers in the Count throughout Lane County. Here you can see the actual number of surveys collected in each City, and Exhibit 12 demonstrates this breakdown as a percentage. The highest percentage of sheltered and unsheltered surveys were collected in the City of Eugene.

Exhibit 12: Lane County Cities where 2018 PIT Count Surveys Collected (Percentage)

	ALL	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Eugene	85.1%	93.9%	81.2%
Springfield (including Glenwood)	10.1%	5.9%	11.9%
Cottage Grove	1.2%	0.0%	1.7%
Creswell	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%
Florence	1.4%	0.2%	1.9%
Blue River	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
Veneta	1.7%	0.0%	2.4%
Lowell	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%

[Housing Inventory Count \(HIC\)](#)

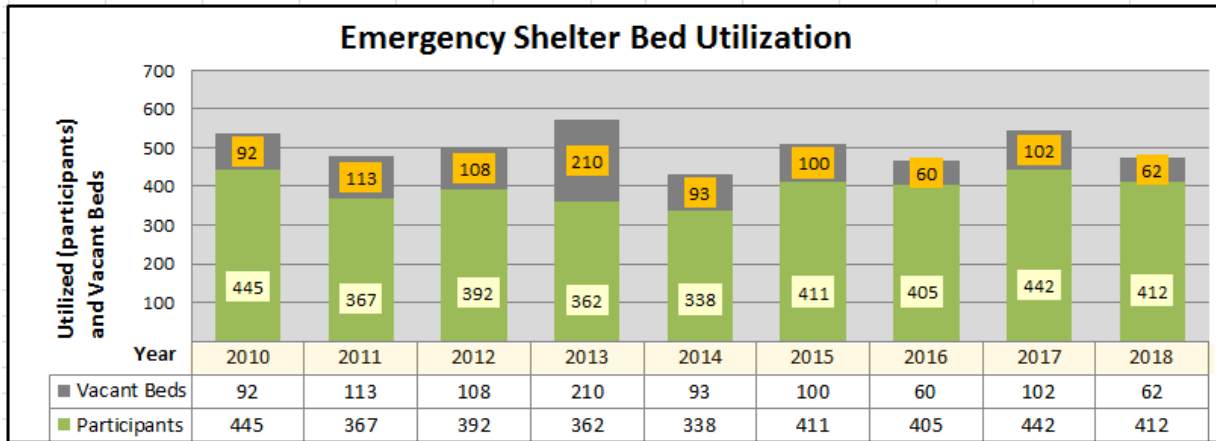
The third part of the PIT Count is the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). This is an inventory of housing designated for people experiencing homelessness.

Exhibit 13: Housing Inventory Count (HIC) 2018

	PIT Count	Total Beds	Utilization Rate
Emergency Shelter (ES)	412	474	87%
Transitional Housing (TH)	95	96	99%
Rapid Rehousing (RRH)	216	216	100%
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	542	594	91%
TOTAL	1265	1380	92%

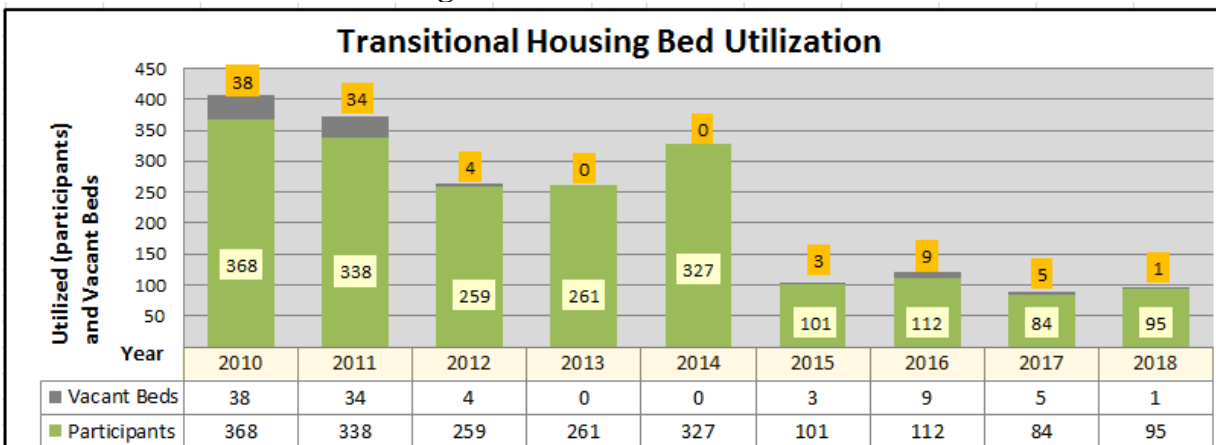
The Permanent Supportive Housing inventory increased to 594 beds - up from 512 beds in 2017. This is due to a few factors, including that the Madrone project was added this year (adding 65 beds). Shelter Plus Care increased to an average of 90 (from 81 beds), and HUD-VASH, while receiving the same number of Vouchers, were able to serve more families with children (adding 45 beds). Lane County's overall inventory decreased from 1418 beds in 2017 to 1380 beds in 2018.

Exhibit 14: Emergency Shelter Bed Utilization



The Emergency Shelter inventory decreased to a total of 474 beds - down from 544 beds in 2017. The Eugene Mission decreased capacity (50 beds) by reallocating resources and planning space for new projects in the future. In addition, ShelterCare ended two projects (totaling 15 beds).

Exhibit 15: Transitional Housing Bed Utilization



The Transitional Housing inventory stayed exactly the same at 96 beds.

Note that Rapid Rehousing (RRH) doesn't have an "Inventory." The number used for the inventory is the number of people housed with RRH on the night of the count (as per HUD guidance). Therefore RRH is always at 100% utilization. RRH decreased from 260 in 2017 to 216 in 2018.

New People in the Count

The unsheltered and sheltered Count may appear to suggest that Lane County's Continuum of Care has made no headway in reducing or ending homeless. However, it is important to note that each year's count mostly included people experiencing homelessness who *had not* been in the Count in prior years. This demonstrates a trend that people move in and out of homelessness, depending on a variety of factors including health, economic circumstances, social safety net, intimate partner violence, and more.

- Only 390 people counted in 2018 were also counted in 2017. This leaves 1,250 people who were not in the prior year's Count.
- There are 231 people counted in 2018 who were also counted two years ago in 2016, leaving the majority 1,409 who were not in the prior year's count.
- 204 people counted in 2018 were also counted three years ago in 2015. The majority 1,436 were not in the prior year's count.
- 90 people were counted in the past four counts: 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018

The Group of 90

The 90 people who have been counted in the PIT Count for the past four years are engaged in services, but represent people who are “stuck” in our system.

Exhibit 16: The Group of 90

Usual Shelter/Alt-Shelter	Client	Chronically Homeless	average years	average months
Parking Programs (year round)	28	18	3.6	44
Dusk to Dawn (seasonal)	3	2	<1	11
Egan (cold nights)	25	21	3.7	45
Eugene Mission (year round)	27	11	4.5	54
Opportunity Village (year round)	3	2	3	37
Unsheltered or in Alt-Shelter Project	4	0	-	-
	90	54	3.8	46

Of the people counted in the last four PIT Counts, 96% were long-term or frequent stayers at an Emergency Shelter or Alternative Shelters. Alternative shelters include Dusk to Dawn, car camping programs, and Opportunity Village. For example, 27 people are long-term stayers at the Eugene Mission averaging 4.5 years or 54 months.

- Street Outreach: 15 of the 90 persons had Street outreach services in the past. None are currently engaged in Street Outreach.
- Chronic Homelessness: 60% are Chronically Homeless
- Coordinated Entry Assessment (access to housing designated for Homeless Persons): 32 individuals (36%) have had a Front Door Assessment, 9 (10%) are currently on the Central Wait List for Permanent Supportive or Rapid Rehousing
- 80 people are in need of a Front Door Assessment
- 15 of the 90 people are Female (17%).
- 54 is the average age (ranging from 22 to 83 years old).
- 10 people identified as Latinx (11%). The Lane County general population is 8.5% Latinx, which represents a 2.5% higher disparity of people who are Latinx experiencing chronic homelessness compared to the general population.
- 11 people identified as race other than white (12%). Lane County data from 2016 lists the prevalence of African Americans as 1.1%, Alaska Indian/Alaska Native 1.5%, Asian 3%, and Native Hawaiian .3%. This demonstrates an overrepresentation of people who identify as a race other than white in the Count over the past four years.

Conclusion

The Annual Point in Time Count provides a snapshot of what homelessness looks like in our community. There are clear racial, health, and economic disparities prevalent in the population of people experiencing homelessness in our community. While the total number of people experiencing homelessness in our community remains steady, most people appear for the first time in each year’s Count, demonstrating that people move in and out of homelessness. Varying factors including low vacancy rates, rising rents, restrictions on renters, discrimination and bias affect the current housing landscape. Lane County and the Cities therein work diligently with providers, community advocates, and people who are currently or formerly homeless, to provide creative solutions and harm reduction strategies to address the social justice issue of homelessness.