



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

FAQs: 2017 Homelessness Point-in-Time Count



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What is a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count?

- Count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons carried out on one night in the last 10 calendar days of January
- Must cover the entire geographic area of county – mapped via census tracts
- The count captures all people who are homeless per the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition:
 - Individuals or families sleeping in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs for people who are homeless, or who are sleeping in a motel room supported by a voucher
 - Individuals or families sleeping in places not meant as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings, including the streets, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, RVs or boats without plumbing or electricity, bus or train station, airport or camping ground.

What is the Purpose?

- Generate valid, accurate data regarding homeless individuals and families
- Enable policymakers, funders and homeless programs to make effective decisions regarding the most effective solutions to homelessness in our community
- Secure Marin County's federal funding for homeless services and meet federal data reporting requirements. In 2016, homeless assistance programs in Marin County received more than \$3.3 million from HUD to support housing for disabled homeless individuals and families.
- Increase community understanding of homelessness

How Do We Count?

- Volunteer teams, including city and county agencies, faith- and community-based organizations, businesses and private Marin County residents work with expert guides, who are formerly or currently homeless individuals, to ensure count is thorough. All volunteers receive training in advance of the count.
- The county is divided into census tracts and volunteer teams are assigned to canvass each tract to count persons who are homeless.
- Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs report how many individuals and families used their services on the night of the count. A qualitative survey of households who were homeless on the night of the count is completed in the weeks following to capture more detailed data regarding the characteristics of homeless Marin households, including basic demographics and information related to disabilities, employment, and housing barriers. General Street Count: January 27th 2016 from Daybreak (5 a.m.) to 10 a.m. (those sleeping outdoors, on the streets, in parks, etc.)

- Marin County uses special methodology to effectively count certain populations that are more difficult to identify:
 - Youth: count conducted at a separate time with peer guides and local youth service providers
 - Vehicle residents: count conducted by emergency medical services agencies during the very early morning hours when lived-in vehicles are easier to identify
 - Anchor-outs: count conducted on Richardson Bay in partnership with Sausalito Police Department and local expert to ensure that only persons living in vessels that meet the HUD definition of homelessness are counted.