



2016 Point in Time Count

SUMMARY

Each January, Contra Costa's Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts a comprehensive point-in-time count of families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The Point in Time (PIT) Count tallies information about people sleeping in emergency shelters and transitional housing as well as people sleeping in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation. It provides a one-day snapshot of homelessness and includes data about families, youth, chronically homeless, and veterans, as well as demographic data about gender, ethnicity, and race.

PIT data collection is conducted by CoC service agencies, community partners, and volunteers. PIT methodology is provided in Appendix A. Data collection took place the evening of January 27th and continued through the next two days at community sites and through outreach efforts.

Results Overview

On the evening of January 27, 2016, there were 3,500 individuals identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness in Contra Costa County through the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count. Slightly less than half (1,730) of these individuals were literally homeless and 1,770 were at risk of homelessness. Among the literally homeless, there were 620 people in shelters and another 1,110 were sleeping on the streets. Youth under the age of 18 made up 11% of the homeless population and two-thirds of those youth were residing in shelters the night of the count. Two-thirds of the population are male.

3,500 Homeless or Imminently At-Risk



* Sub-population data is self-reported and collected only for literally homeless adults.

The 1,730 homeless individuals made up 1,437 households (households refer to the number of single adults or family units that need housing); 7% of these households were families with minors. There were an additional six unaccompanied minors, five in youth shelters and one living on the streets.

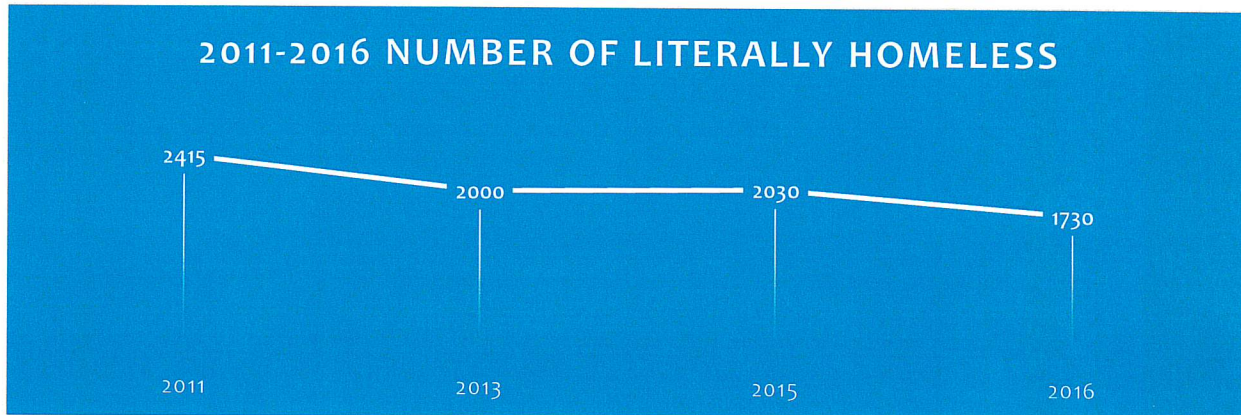
Two-thirds of homeless families slept in shelters the night of the count.

There was a significant regional shift across the county for unsheltered individuals. More people reported sleeping outside or were found in encampments in East County relative to 2015 data, and fewer in West and Central County.

2015-2016 Regional Changes in Unsheltered



Contra Costa County has experienced a 26% decrease in the number of people since the 2011 Point In Time Count.



Additionally, over the past five years there has been a decrease in number of unsheltered individuals identified through PIT. Since 2011 there has been a 26% decrease in the number of people sleeping outside across the county. Central County has experienced 70% fewer people sleeping outside and West County had 60% fewer since 2011. East County had a 30% increase.



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Please contact homelessprogram@hsd.cccounty.us for questions or more information about the 2016 Point In Time Report.



2016 PIT RESULTS

The Point in Time Count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to measure homelessness over the course of one night each January. PIT provides valuable information about the scope of homelessness, particularly around the number of unsheltered people on the streets and the progress being made in ending homelessness for adults and families. It is also used by local agencies to help plan services and programs appropriately, address strengths and gaps in programming, increase public awareness, and attract resources to help end homelessness. More information about the purpose of the PIT Count is included in Appendix A; PIT Methodology is provided in Appendix B.

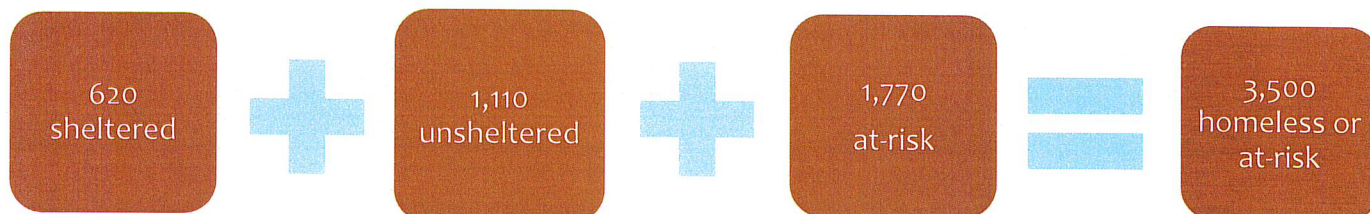
The 2016 Point in Time Count identified 3,500 individuals that were homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Contra Costa County the night of January 27, 2016. Half of these individuals (1,730) were “literally” homeless and the other half (1,770) were “at-risk” of homelessness.

Literally Homeless Sheltered and Unsheltered

There were 1,730 literally homeless individuals identified in the 2016 PIT Count. Almost two-thirds (1,110 individuals) were sleeping in uninhabitable locations such as encampments, abandoned buildings, and vehicles. Six hundred and twenty people were residing in emergency or transitional shelters.

At-Risk of Homelessness

Individuals at-risk of homelessness are those people that were at imminent risk of losing a temporary sleeping arrangement and were not yet homeless per the HUD definition. Almost all of those identified as at-risk of homelessness were being served under the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act with the West Contra Costa County Unified School District. Only 179 of the 1,770 were identified as at-risk through PIT surveys.



The 1,730 literally homeless individuals constituted 1,437 households (households refer to the number of single adults or family units that need housing). One hundred and eleven of these households were families with children. There were an additional six unaccompanied minors--five in youth shelters and one living on the streets.



1,437 Homeless Households

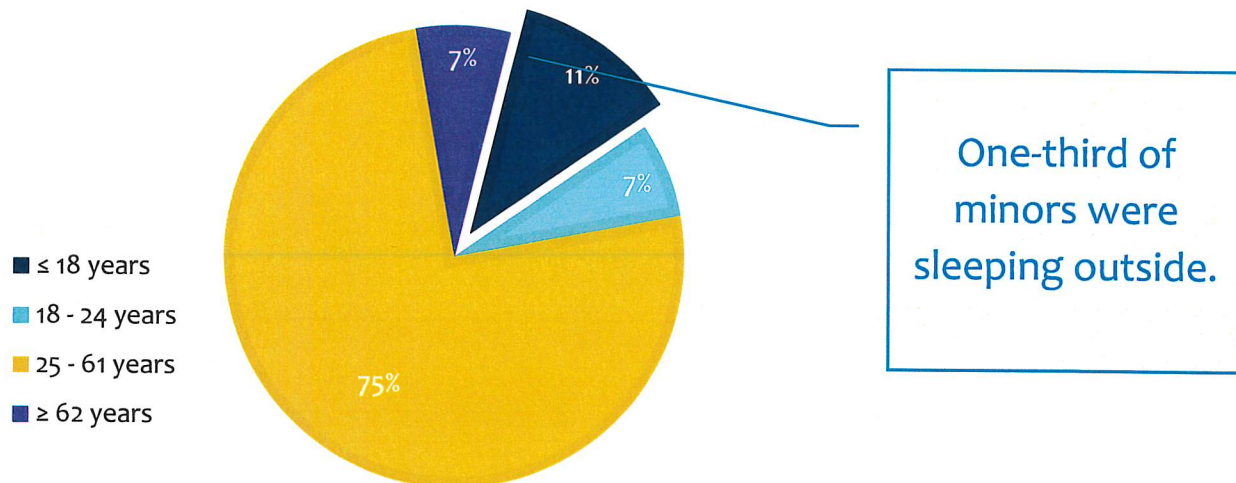
- 111 families with children (7% of households)
- 6 unaccompanied youth
- 1,320 households with adults only



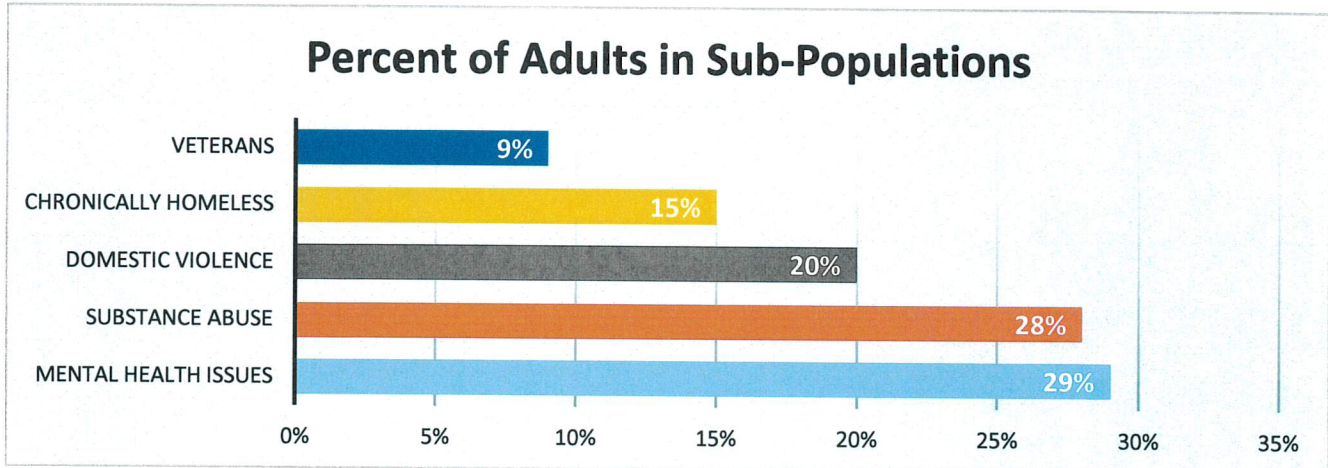
Homeless Sub-Populations

PIT data allows the CoC to understand the housing needs of various groups within the homeless community. Below are data for age groups, chronically homeless, and those with persistent and debilitating mental and physical health conditions. The new HUD definition of chronically homeless is provided in Appendix C.

Age Groups Among Literally Homeless in PIT



Information from the PIT Count confirmed that a significant number of homeless individuals are challenged with chronic disabilities. Many people reported more than one health condition. Data on these sub-populations are consistent with the CoC's service data collected throughout the year. Note that these categories are not mutually exclusive; individuals may be included in more than one sub-population type.



* Data reported for those that self-report a disability or veteran status

Encampments and Service Site Map

Outreach teams mapped encampments the night of the count using GPS (Global Positioning System) or hardcopy maps and entered into ARCGIS for visualization. This map does not capture every individual that reported sleeping outside the night of the count and instead identifies encampments encountered during the count by outreach team. Service sites where the PIT Count was conducted are displayed on the map as well. The shaded areas in the map illustrate where encampments were found the night of the PIT Count. The heat maps demonstrate where there was greater density of encampments within a given area.

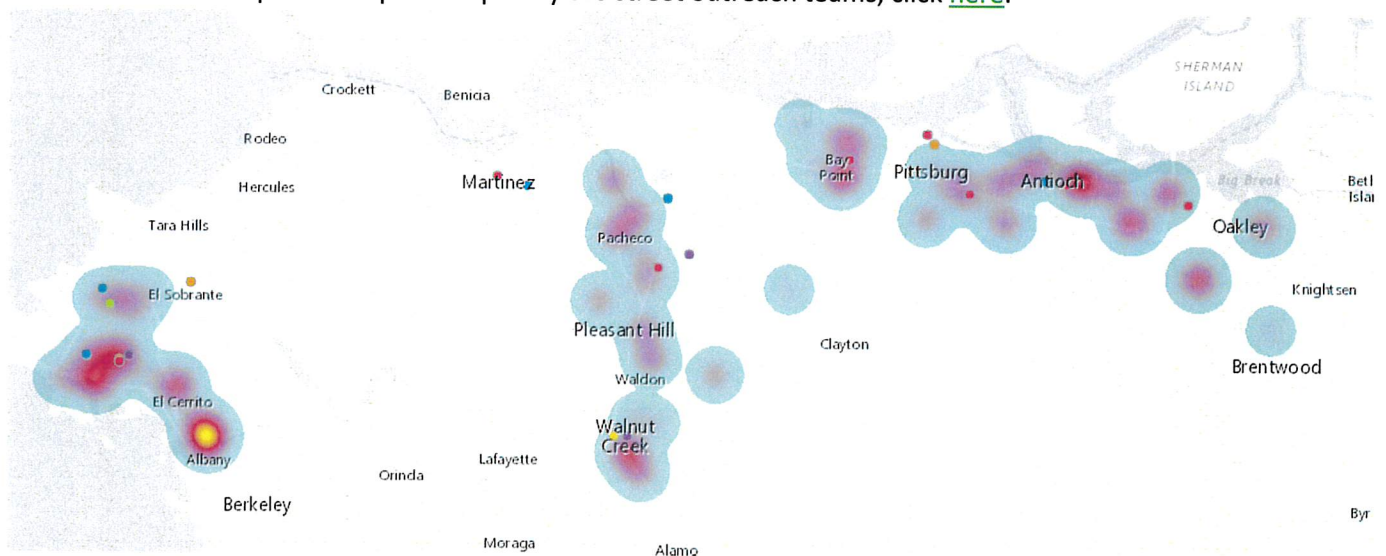
Service sites are represented by the colored dots on the map. Each type of service site is a specific color.

- Soup Kitchen
- Emergency Shelter
- Multi-Service Site
- Community Site
- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Shelter and MSC

Homeless Encampments



To view the encampment map developed by the street outreach teams, click [here](https://cogis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=b857690b1fdb4cb09f8d54303a968fc1&extent=-122.4766,37.6554,-121.5634,38.1484).

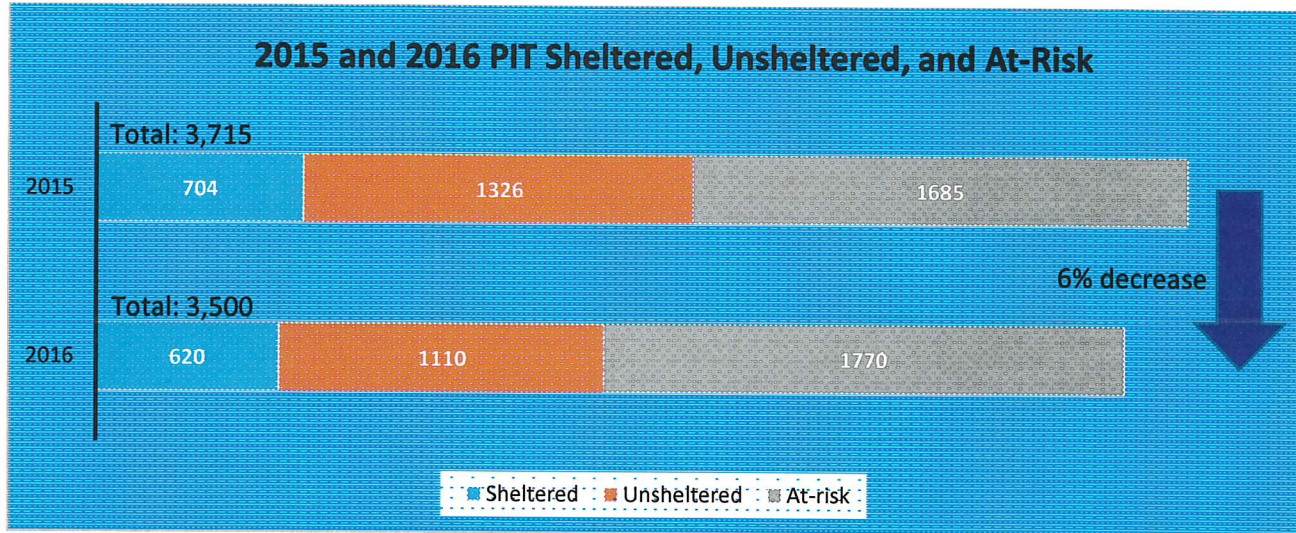


The encampment map can be found at: <https://cogis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=b857690b1fdb4cb09f8d54303a968fc1&extent=-122.4766,37.6554,-121.5634,38.1484>



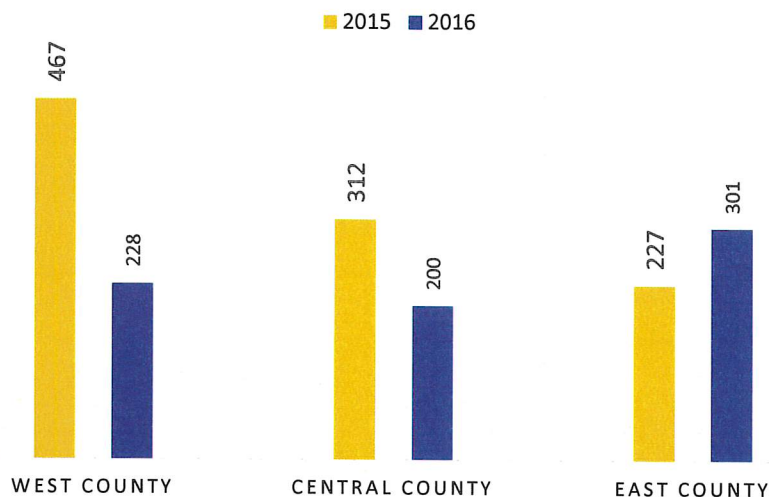
2015 AND 2016 PIT COMPARISONS

The total number of individuals identified in the 2016 PIT Count was similar to the number found in 2015. There were 215 fewer people included in the 2016 Count, a 6% decrease, with slightly fewer in all three homeless status categories (sheltered, unsheltered, and at-risk). Among literally homeless, there was a 15% decrease.



The most notable difference between 2015 and 2016 were the shifts across regions within the county where people slept outside on the night of the count. The graphic below illustrates regional changes for unsheltered individuals who reported the city in which they slept.

PIT UNSHELTERED BY REGION



33% increase in number of people sleeping in uninhabitable locations in East County in one year

The number of people that slept outside during the 2015 and 2016 PIT Counts are listed by each city below. Most cities in

2016 Point In Time Count



West and Central County had decreases in the number of people sleeping outside while multiple cities in East County experienced increases.

2015 and 2016 Unsheltered PIT by City

East County			Central County			West County		
	2015	2016		2015	2016		2015	2016
Antioch	122	164	Alamo	0	1	Crockett	0	1
Bay Point	25	39	Clayton	10	2	El Cerrito	30	13
Bethel Island	5	2	Clyde	0	1	El Sobrante	14	8
Brentwood	11	8	Concord	114	73	Hercules	12	1
Byron	0	0	Danville	0	0	N. Richmond	9	1
Oakley	8	28	Lafayette	1	2	Pinole	11	5
Pittsburg	56	60	Martinez	72	63	Richmond	356	160
			Pacheco	18	8	Rodeo	12	2
			Pleasant Hill	63	11	San Pablo	23	37
			San Ramon	1	0			
			Walnut Creek	33	39			
Totals	227	301	Totals	312	200	Totals	467	228

* This table includes data only for individuals that reported the city in which they slept on the night of the count.

PIT TREND DATA (2011-2016)

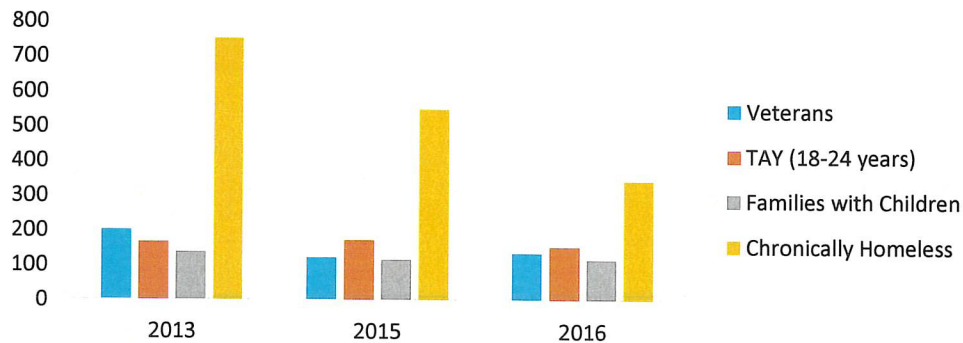
There has been a 26% decreased in the number of people identified through PIT that are homeless since 2011.

2011-2016 LITERALLY HOMELESS



PIT data includes information on demographics and special populations. Since 2013, there has been a general decrease in the number of veterans, transition age youth (18 to 24 year olds), families with children, and chronically homeless individuals. HUD has established a new definition for chronically homeless, provided in Appendix C.

2013-2016 Sub-Population PIT Trends

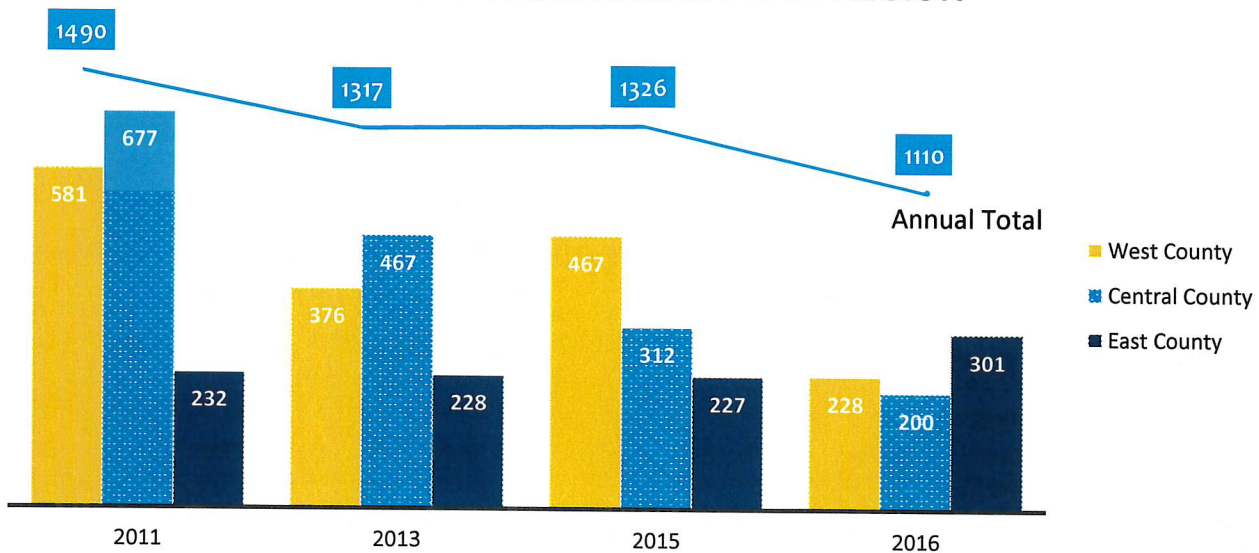


The number in every sub-population has decreased in the past three years.

* Data reported for those that self-report a disability or veteran status

The number of people sleeping outside has decreased gradually over time. There was a 26% decrease in the number of unsheltered identified in the PIT Count from 2011 to 2016. Regional trends show increases in East County and significant decreases in Central and West County.

2011-2016 UNSHELTERED PIT BY REGION



Since 2011, there has been a 70% decrease in Central County in the number of people sleeping outside the night of the PIT Count and a 60% decrease in West County. East County experienced a 30% increase.



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APPENDIX A – Purpose of Point in Time Count

The Annual Point In Time (PIT) Count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to learn about homeless individuals and households in each Continuum of Care (CoC) across the country. PIT results are referenced by HUD and other government and non-profit agencies to understand needs and allocate resources to serve those affected by homelessness. Data is reported for *sheltered* and *unsheltered* individuals that are literally homeless. Sheltered individuals are those living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, half-way house, or youth foster program on the night of the count. Unsheltered individuals are those living in encampments, cars, streets, or other locations not designed for human habitation on the night of the count.

In previous years, Contra Costa’s Council on Homelessness collected data on those that did not fit the HUD definition of homelessness but had other temporary living arrangement eligible for HUD funded services, referenced as “at-risk” of homelessness. This includes individuals sleeping in temporary locations such as treatment facilities, jails, hospitals, or doubled-or-tripled-up with family or friends on a temporary basis. However, as the Council moves toward relying on HUD-recognized tools and definitions, the 2016 PIT report does not provide detailed data on “at-risk.”

Quantifying the needs and resources to end homelessness requires the use of multiple data sources. There are three key data elements used by HUD to understand the homeless population that fall under four homeless categories (defined in the sidebar on this page). The Point in Time Count and Housing Inventory Count (collected together on the same day) are useful for identifying and serving those homeless that fall under Category One; while the American Housing Survey includes data about Categories Two and Three.

The Continuum of Care collects data throughout the year on all consumers utilizing homeless services. The PIT is simply a snap shot of Category One homelessness.



HUD HOMELESS CATEGORIES

Category 1 Literal Homelessness

Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.

Category 2 Imminent Risk of

Homelessness Individuals or families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and has no other resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Category 3 Homeless Under Other Statutes Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories but are homeless under other federal statutes, have not had a lease and have moved 2 or more times in the past 60 days and are likely to remain unstable because of special needs or barriers.

Category 4 Fleeing Domestic

Violence Individuals or families who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who lack resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

APPENDIX B – Point in Time Methodology

HUD requires that a full sheltered and unsheltered count be conducted every other year, in “odd years,” while sheltered-only counts are acceptable in “even years.” However, the Council on Homelessness chose to conduct the full count in 2016 to better capture trends and changes in this county as the community embarks on new initiatives and programming. For this year’s count, a full census was conducted on January 27, 2016. The PIT Count results presented in this document reflect all the individuals identified as experiencing homelessness on this night.

A new strategy for collecting PIT data was implemented for the 2015 census. These efforts proved to be effective in reaching both sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and engaged community members in data collection efforts. These strategies were used for the 2016 PIT Count as well as an additional resource through shelter hotlines (explained below).

The use of these four data collection strategies is critical for the CoC because Contra Costa County is over 720 square miles and has homeless individuals residing in shelters, encampments, and other temporary living situations in rural, suburban, and urban areas. The PIT Count collected data for January 27th, 2016.

The four data collection resources utilized in the 2016 PIT Count:

- 1) **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data:** this captures all individuals residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing on January 27th, 2106.
- 2) **Service and Community Site Canvass:** volunteers surveyed persons experiencing homelessness that utilized homeless services or community resources during the count.
- 3) **Encampment Outreach:** trained staff surveyed all persons sleeping in homeless encampments.
- 4) **Call Centers and Shelter Access Lines:** staff at the three shelter access lines were trained to conduct the PIT survey during PIT data collection.

1) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data is collected for any individual utilizing homeless services at any agency in the Contra Costa County Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC). HMIS is important for capturing data about the homeless population served throughout the year at the various CoC sites. For the PIT Count, this data is pulled only for those utilizing emergency or transitional shelters the night of the count, January 27, 2106. Shelter sites not entering data into HMIS provided a supplemental survey to report how many people were sheltered in their program that night, broken down by age category and household type. HMIS and shelter surveys captured demographic and subpopulation data required for HUD reporting.

2) Service and Community Site Canvass

Outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness took place over a two-day period as they visited service providers or community agencies where homeless frequently utilize services. These community



sites included Multi Service Centers that are part of the CoC as well as locations frequented by homeless persons - food distribution sites, soup kitchens and dining halls, libraries, and health care facilities. The full list of service sites is available in the Appendix A. The PIT survey is provided in Appendix D.

All data collection volunteers were required to attend one of the four training sessions offered before initial collection began the evening of the 27th. Volunteers were assigned, based on their availability and location preferences, to a service or community site to interview members of the homeless community. The volunteers conducted a five to ten minute survey with each person experiencing homelessness. Volunteers were posted in these sites over two days following the night of the PIT Count, January 28th and January 29th, for two to four hour shifts at high traffic times as identified by the location managers and/or staff.

To ensure that the same people were not counted multiple times, the PIT survey included the full name, birthdate, and last five digits of the social security number of each person interviewed. Duplicate surveys were then removed from the total count using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

An observational tool was used to capture the most basic and observable data for individuals that chose not to participate or had communication barriers.

3) Encampment Outreach

Outreach for unsheltered individuals was conducted over a three-day period across encampments throughout the county. This outreach was completed by the CoC's regular outreach teams as they are trained in outreach techniques and familiar with encampment locations and the populations residing in those encampments. These teams utilized the HMIS data collection system already used when serving new or current clients. Some individuals in encampments were not comfortable sharing personal information or were sleeping or unwilling to talk. For these individuals, the 2016 PIT Observation Tool was completed to capture basic, observable information such as age and gender.

Outreach teams also tracked, either through GPS or hardcopy maps, the locations of each encampment to help illustrate primary geographic areas throughout the county where encampments have been established. Specific locations are not provided in this report to protect both the homeless community members as well as the local agencies serving those areas.

All encampment locations identified during the count were entered into ARCGIS for a visual representation. Service and community sites where PIT Count was conducted are also included in the map. This map is provided on page 4.

4) Call Centers and Shelter Access Lines

The county has three help lines for consumers to contact when seeking emergency shelter: the Contra Costa Shelter Hotline, 211 with the Contra Costa Crisis Center, and One Door (through SHELTER, Inc.).



Staff and volunteers at these agencies already collect personal identifying information as they help identify emergency shelter options.

Using shelter access lines for reaching homeless consumers was a new strategy for the 2016 PIT Count. There were fewer calls than anticipated but this option proved to capture those that would not have been identified through other PIT data collection tools.

PIT Data Elements

In previous years the CoC reported detailed data on those that were literally homeless (the numbers reported to HUD) and at-risk of homelessness in the PIT Count. In an effort to align with HUD PIT reporting requirements, specific information about the population is focused only on those that are literally homeless. However, the total number of homeless referenced in this report includes Individuals categorized as at-risk because they have other temporary living situations, including anyone who told interviewers that they stayed in a jail, hospital, treatment program, or a friend or family member's house on January 27 and consider themselves homeless because they do not have a steady and stable residence. Any family currently in the West Contra Costa County Unified School District Homeless Education program as reported in HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) were also included in the "at-risk" category. These families include those that were "couch surfing" or "doubling-up" and fall within the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness used by the Department of Education.

HUD PIT Reporting Requirements

HUD requires each Continuum of Care to report how many people were sheltered in transitional housing and emergency sheltered programs and how many people were unsheltered on the date chosen in January. Those counted are broken down by age category and household type:

- Age Categories:
 - The number of children under age 18
 - The number of adults ages 18 to 24
 - The number of adults over age 24
- Household Categories:
 - Households with at least one adult and one child
 - Households without children
 - Households with only children (including one-child households and multi-child households)
 - Youth households (including parenting youth and unaccompanied youth)

HUD also requires the CoC to capture demographic data such as ethnicity, race, and gender, as well as subpopulation data for chronically homeless individuals and families, veterans, severely mentally ill persons, persons experiencing chronic substance abuse, persons with HIV/AIDS, and victims of domestic violence (optional reporting).



2016 Point In Time Data Collection Sites

Food Distribution Sites

- Greater Richmond Interfaith Program Souper Center
- Loaves and Fishes (Martinez, Antioch, Pittsburg, Bay Point, Oakley)
- Sunrise Café
- Monument Crisis Center

Multi-Service Sites

- Bay Area Rescue Mission
- Trinity Center
- Anka Behavioral Health Centers

Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing

- Greater Richmond Interfaith Program
- Bay Area Rescue Mission
- Trinity Center
- Winter Nights
- Mountain View
- County Emergency Shelters (Concord, Brookside, Calli House, Respite)
- Don Brown Shelter
- Lyle Morris Family Center

Healthcare

- HealthCare for the Homeless mobile van

Community Sites

- County and City Libraries

Hotlines

- 211
- Homeless Shelter line
- One Door

Flyer locations

- BART
- John Muir Emergency Rooms (Walnut Creek and Concord)
- Sutter Health Emergency Room
- Contra Costa County Hospital Emergency Room
- Contra Costa County Mental Health clinics
- Day Labor Program



- AmTrak



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APPENDIX C – New Chronically Homeless Definition

One of the sub-populations reported in this report are individuals that are chronically homeless. HUD modified the chronically homeless definition to better identify those with the highest needs for permanent supportive housing. The change in definition resulted in far fewer people identified as chronically homeless in the 2016 PIT Count.

HUD DEFINITION OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS	
Old Definition	New Definition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a disability• Experienced homelessness for longer than a year, during which time the individual may have lived in a shelter, Safe Haven, or a place not meant for human habitation.• Or experienced homelessness four or more times in the last three years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a disability• First, in terms of length of homelessness, the four episodes now have to add up to 12 months. Before this new definition, an individual could technically be homeless four different days over a three-year period and be classified as chronically homeless.• Second, previously people who exited institutional care facilities after spending fewer than 90 days there would not have that period counted toward their homelessness. Now, it will be.• Third, the time between periods of homelessness has now been defined as seven days in order for the period of homelessness to constitute an “episode.”• Finally, HUD has clarified the ways in which service providers should verify whether an individual’s homelessness experience meets the definition of chronic homelessness.