

## 2019 EveryOne Counts! Homeless Point-in-Time Count Frequently Asked Questions

\*\*\*\*\*\* May 2019 Release of Topline Countywide Homeless Count Numbers \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

- 1. According to the 2019 EveryOne Counts!, how many people are experiencing homelessness in Alameda County in 2019 countywide?
  - a. 8,022 total countywide
    - i. 1,710 sheltered
    - ii. 6,312 unsheltered
- 2. Is homelessness increasing in Alameda County?
  - a. The total number of people experiencing homelessness in Alameda County increased 43% between 2017 and 2019.
  - b. In 2019, the total number is 8022.
  - c. In 2017, the total number was 5629.
  - d. This confirms the analysis of EveryOne Home's <u>Plan to End Homelessness: 2018 Strategic Update</u> that says: for every two people becoming homeless, only one person returns to permanent housing.
  - e. The 2018 Strategic Update can be found on the EveryOne Home website.
- 3. These are high-level, countywide numbers. When will more detailed information be released?
  - a. The full countywide report for the 2019 EveryOne Counts! will be released at the end of July 2019.
  - b. There report will include more detailed information such as jurisdictional information, demographics, and summary of responses of surveys with people experiencing homelessness.
  - c. Until the full report is released, no data or analytical breakdown is available about specific cities, subpopulations, or trends within the overall population of people experiencing homelessness.
  - d. City reports for Oakland, Berkeley, Hayward, Fremont will be released at the end August.
  - e. The 2019 reports will include information similar to what was included in the 2017 EveryOne Counts! reports. <u>Past reports</u> can be found on the EveryOne Home <u>website</u>.
- 4. How much is the County spending on homelessness and is it helping? How much do we need to spend to reverse this trend and effectively end homelessness?
  - a. EveryOne Home's 2018 Strategic Update reports:
    - i. Alameda County spent \$106 million on the Housing Crisis Response System in FY2017/18 on homelessness prevention, shelter, outreach, navigation, rapid rehousing, subsidized permanent housing and permanent supportive housing.
    - ii. Service providers assist approximately 1500 people to return to permanent housing every year, yet there are 3000 people becoming homeless for the first time.



- iii. The rate at which people are becoming homeless outpaces the ability to house them with existing resources.
- iv. The largest service and housing gaps are in homelessness prevention, subsidized housing for people with extremely low-incomes, and permanent supportive housing.
- b. The <u>2018 Strategic Update</u> estimates that a total of \$330 million per year would end unsheltered homelessness, calling for an increase of \$228 million, the bulk of which should be spent in prevention, subsidized housing for people with extremely low-incomes, and permanent supportive housing.
- 5. How does Alameda County compare to other counties in the region?
  - a. Homelessness is a product of the regional, statewide, and national housing crisis.
  - b. Alameda County, San Francisco, and Santa Clara have reported increases in overall homelessness in 2019.
  - c. While all counties experienced an increase in overall numbers, San Francisco has the smallest increase and has committed the greatest amount of the spending on affordable housing and services for extremely low-income people. Alameda County spends the least of the 3 counties and has experienced the greatest overall increase in homelessness.
  - d. Increased investment from the public and private sectors makes a difference in solving homelessness when spent on the right solutions.
- 6. What is the EveryOne Counts! Homeless Point-in-Time Count?
  - a. EveryOne Counts!, the Alameda County Homeless Point-In Time Count, is a comprehensive count of the local population experiencing homelessness.
  - b. Alameda County's EveryOne Home worked in conjunction with Aspire Consulting LLC and Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the EveryOne Counts! 2019 Homeless Count and Survey, using a methodology that provides a consistent measure of homelessness in Alameda County.
  - c. The count includes information on individuals and families sleeping on the streets, in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation, as well as those residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing.
  - d. Biennial, point-in-time counts are conducted once every two years during the last 10 days of January by communities across the country and is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.
  - e. It is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions that are receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
  - f. Currently, Alameda County receives more than \$37 million in HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding, a key source of funding for the county's permanent housing and services for the homeless.
- 7. What definition of homelessness is used for the EveryOne Counts! Point-in-Time Count?
  - a. The HUD definition of homelessness is used for the Point-in-Time Count.
  - b. This definition includes individuals and families:



- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low income individuals); or
- ii. With a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.
- 8. What process or methodology does the EveryOne Counts! Point-in-Time Count use?
  - a. A four-step data collection process
    - i. 1-day observation, based street count (100% canvas)
    - ii. Dedicated youth count (targeted outreach)
    - iii. Shelter count (HMIS data)
    - iv. Survey (sample of individuals residing on the street and in county shelters in the days following the count)
  - b. Peer-to-peer data collection
    - i. Engaging individuals currently experiencing homelessness in the data collection process as guides for street count and as surveyors
    - ii. Guides are compensated for their time and expertise at an hourly rate