



Lane County Homeless Point in Time Count 2020 Methodology

Lane County Human Services, the anti-poverty program for the county, along with community partners, conducts an annual 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. The official record of the Point in Time Count night will be Wednesday, January 29, 2020. The unsheltered count collection will take place during the day of Thursday, January 30, 2020 and individuals will be asked about where they stayed on the night of Wednesday, the 29th.

The 2019 Count

In 2019, approximately 300 volunteers collected surveys across Lane County. Volunteers were deployed from regional hubs in the cities of Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove, Junction City, Florence, and Veneta.

Highlights of the 2019 Count:

Of the 2,165 people counted:

- 426 individuals were staying in Emergency Shelter
- 106 individuals were in Transitional Housing (up to 24 months) designated for people experiencing homelessness
- 1,633 men, women, and children were unsheltered
 - 411 of the unsheltered were staying in alternatives to shelter programs such as Dusk to Dawn, Dawn to Dawn Micro Tents, Opportunity Village, Rest Stops, Community Supported Shelters (Conestoga Huts), or sanctioned car camping. While these provide much-needed safe places to sleep, they do not meet the HUD definition of shelter.

Total 2,165 individuals

Characteristics:

- 257 family members in homeless households with children (84 households); 158 of those were sheltered (55 households); 99 of those were unsheltered (29 households)
- 197 homeless veterans
- 841 chronically homeless people: 150 sheltered; 691 unsheltered
- 759 people self-reported a mental illness
- 525 people self-report chronic alcohol/substance abuse that prevents them from stable housing
- 26 unaccompanied homeless youth (under 18)

In 2018, almost fifty-two thousand (51,977) people were served by agencies that track projects in ServicePoint, which is Lane County's Client/Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Of the 51,977 people served, over thirteen thousand (13,070) households were homeless for at least one night in 2018.

In addition:

- 1,537 unduplicated individuals were served at St. Vincent De Paul's Egan Warming Center during 22 nights of activation during the winter season 2018-2019.
- 2,490 homeless students attended public school in Lane County during the 2017-2018 school year (Oregon Dept. of Education). This includes those doubled up or couch-surfing with relatives or friends.
- 546 homeless youth were served at the Looking Glass New Roads Access Center (ages 13-22) during calendar year 2018.
- 171 runaway and homeless youth stayed at the Station 7 emergency shelter (under age 18) during calendar year 2018.
- 2,070 people stayed at the Eugene Mission during CY 2018; 1,990 adults and 80 children.

2020 Count Methodology

The Unsheltered Count will take place Thursday January 30, 2020 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.

Survey Collection

Point in Time Count surveys will be electronically collected via mobile devices Thursday, January 30, 2020 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. People will be asked "Where did you stay last night?" as the night being counted will be Wednesday January 29, 2020. The Count will take place during daylight hours for ease of finding individuals experiencing homelessness. McKinney-Vento Homeless liaisons will also complete surveys with youth who attend school and are experiencing homelessness. Homeless service providers, such as day access centers, will be asked to designate staff or volunteers to collect surveys at their locations.

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 maps with geographic assignments of known hotspots to survey. Known hotspot information and encampment locations will be compiled based on input from people with lived experience of homelessness in Lane County, parks and open spaces staff, homeless service providers, street outreach teams, community advocates, advisory boards, law enforcement and more. Large encampments and secluded areas will be assigned to trained professionals such as street outreach workers and homeless service providers.

Regional Deployment Centers

Deployment Centers will be organized for volunteers to check in/out with a local point of contact. These will be organized with Lane County staff. Lane County staff will work with local volunteers to ensure adequate volunteer recruitment, training, and staffing for the day of the Count.

Deployment Centers will be located in the following cities: Eugene, Springfield, Veneta, Cottage Grove, and Florence.

Volunteers

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

All volunteers will be required to attend an in-person training. Trainings will be provided across Lane County based on volume of volunteers in different regions. This year's training will include new modules about how to engage and approach people to collect surveys. All surveyors will be trained on safety, survey question comprehension and completeness, and trauma-informed interview techniques.

Electronic Survey Instrument

To improve the "Unsheltered Count" data quality, the mobile device application, "Counting US", from Simtech Solutions will be used for the 2020 Count. It features HUD-compliant reporting logic to produce a Point in Time report of all surveys conducted, GPS mapping, and has the ability to submit surveys later if there is not an internet connection at the time of the data collection. The mobile application survey tool will be updated to make it more conversational in nature and clarify the intent of the questions. Questions will be the same as the 2019 Count, including questions pertaining to domestic violence experience, and pregnancy, minus the Youth-Specific Questions from the 2019 survey.