

*Ventura County*

*2018*

*Preliminary*

*Homeless Count Report*

## **Acknowledgements**

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## I. Executive Summary

There were 1,299 adults and children who were homeless during the point-in-time count according to the Ventura County 2018 Homeless Count and Survey. This number represents a 147 person or 12.8% increase when compared to the number of homeless persons who were counted in 2017, which was 1,152. The 1,299 persons counted in 2018 represents the first homeless count increase when compared to the previous year since 2009 (see Table 3).

The cities of Oxnard and Ventura account for nearly two-thirds (65.5%) of the 1,299 homeless persons (515 persons representing 40.0% and 335 persons representing 26%, respectively). The City of Simi Valley again had the third highest population of homeless (143 persons representing 11%) followed by the City of Thousand Oaks (80 persons representing 6%). Table 4 lists the total number of unsheltered and sheltered persons for each city.

There was a 12.8% increase in the number of homeless adults and children between the 2017 and the 2018 homeless counts.

As noted in the table below, of the 1,299 homeless adults and children counted in 2018, 821 or 63.2% were unsheltered and 478 or 36.8% were sheltered, whereas 57.6% were unsheltered and 42.4% sheltered in 2017.

Table 1. Comparison of 2017 and 2018 Homeless Counts

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
	#	%	#	%	
2017 Homeless Count	488	42.4	664	57.6	1,152
2018 Homeless Count	478	36.8	821	63.2	1,299
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>+157</b>	<b>+5.6</b>	<b>+147</b>
	<b>-</b>		<b>+(23.6%)</b>		<b>+(12.8%)</b>
	<b>(2.0%)</b>				

Section IV. Unsheltered Subpopulation Summaries provides a breakdown by various unsheltered subpopulations for 2018. A breakdown by various unsheltered subpopulations for each jurisdiction for 2018 is provided in Appendix A.

Table 2 shows that from 2017 to 2018 there was a slight increase (2.1%) in the percentage of sheltered people staying in emergency shelters and a decrease (8.7%) in the percentage of people staying in transitional housing. The Safe Haven population stayed nearly the same.

Table 2. Comparison of 2017 and 2018 Sheltered Homeless Counts

	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Safe Haven		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2017 Homeless Count	283	58.0	195	40.0	10	2.0	488	100
2018 Homeless Count	289	60.5	178	37.2	11	2.3	478	100
<b>Variance:</b>	<b>+6 (+2.1%)</b>	<b>+2.5</b>	<b>-17 (-8.7%)</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>+1 (+10%)</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-10 (-2.0%)</b>	

### Comparative Data

Ventura County first conducted a homeless count and subpopulation survey in 2007. The homeless count and survey, however, was conducted every year beginning in 2009. The following table compares the homeless counts since 2007. The 1,299 persons counted in 2018 represents the first homeless count increase when compared to the previous year since 2009

Table 3: Ventura County Homeless Counts from 2007 – 2017.

Year	Total # of Homeless Persons	% of Increase or Decrease from Previous Year
2007	1,961	-
2009	2,193	+12
2010	1,815	-17
2011	1,872	+3
2012	1,936	+3
2013	1,774	-8

2014	1,449	-18
2015	1,417	-2
2016	1,271	-10
2017	1,152	-9
2018	1,299	+12.8

The next table provides the number of homeless persons counted since 2007 by cities and unincorporated area.

Table 4. Comparison of the number of homeless persons counted since 2007 by cities and unincorporated area

Jurisdiction	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Camarillo	10	13	15	29	30	27	38	35	24	27	49
Fillmore	5	4	5	10	16	13	6	7	6	0	2
Moorpark	13	7	1	7	5	9	15	7	4	7	3
Ojai	82	60	52	40	41	43	62	40	29	19	31
Oxnard	671	679	520	638	522	645	379*	603	584	461	335
Port Hueneme	9	1	9	6	12	17	13	22	7	18	19
Santa Paula	97	91	54	50	60	34	31	20	56	35	44
Simi Valley	163	303	229	226	284	211	194	202	99	105	143
Thousand Oaks	81	147	106	87	90	121	130	83	104	102	80
Ventura	588	623	601	570	701	519	495	334	300	301	516
Unincorporated	242	265	223	209	175	135	86	64	58	77	77
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,271</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,299</b>

\*This number was artificially low due to an unresolved reporting discrepancy and the winter warming shelter being located in Ventura.

### Unsheltered Persons

Of the 1,299 persons counted in 2018, 821 or 63.2% were unsheltered, which is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as

“An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) An individual or family 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.”

Gender

The following table provides a breakdown by gender for adults, unaccompanied youth under age 18, and children in families under age 18. HUD requires the summary to consist of men, women, and transgender.

Table 5. Breakdown by Gender

	Adults		Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18	
	#	%	#	%
Male	582	72.0	0	0.0
Female	219	27.1	1	100
Transgender	2	0.3	0	0.0
Gender Non-Conforming	5	0.6	0	0.0
Missing Data	0	0.0	0	0.0
		100		
	808	100	1	100

Ethnicity

Table 6 offers a breakdown by ethnicity. HUD requires the summary to consist of Hispanics or Latinos and non-Hispanics or Latinos.

Table 6. Ethnicity

	Adults		Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18	
	#	%	#	%
Hispanic or Latino	258	31.9	0	0.0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	478	59.2	1	100
Don't Know	26	3.2	0	0.0
Refused	4	0.5	0	0.0
Missing Data	42	5.2	0	0.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>

Race



Table 7 provides a breakdown by race. It is important to note that instructions from HUD were to include Hispanics or Latinos in the race categories listed below because the designation “Hispanic or Latino” does not denote race.

Table 7. Race

	Adults		Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18	
	#	%	#	%
American Indian or Alaska Native	21	2.6	0	0.0
Asian	8	1.0	0	0.0
Black or African American	40	5.0	1	100
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	7	0.9	0	0.0
White	645	79.8	0	0.0
Other	31	3.8	0	0.0
More Than One	9	1.1	0	0.0
Don't Know	42	5.2	0	0.0
Refused	4	0.5	0	0.0
Missing Data	1	0.1	0	0.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>

### Age

The next table offers a breakdown by age for adults.

Table 8. Breakdown by Age for Adults and Unaccompanied Children Under Age 18

Adults:	#	%
Under Age 18	1	0.1
Ages 18 - 24	31	3.8
Age 25 - 34	144	17.8
Age 35 - 44	171	21.1
Age 45 - 54	241	29.8
Age 55 - 61	146	18.1
Age 62+	75	9.3
Missing Data	0	0.0

<b>Total:</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>100</b>
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Other Subpopulations

Table 9 provides a breakdown of other subpopulations for adults.

Table 9. Other Subpopulations

<b>Subpopulations:</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Chronically Homeless Adults	229	28.3
Families including Chronically Homeless Families*	6	**
Persons Released from Prisons & Jails During Past 12 Months	230	28.4
Persons w/Chronic Health Conditions	213	26.3
Persons w/HIV/AIDS	10	1.2
Persons w/Mental Health Problems	228	28.2
Substance Users	213	26.3
Unaccompanied Women	214	26.4
Veterans***	39	4.8
Experiencing Homelessness Because Fleeing Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking	51	6.3

\*Of the six families, 1 family was chronically homeless with two adults and three children living In Camarillo

\*\*The total number of adults in the six families was nine and represents 1.1% of the total adult population of 808.

\*\*\* 46.1% or 18 veterans were chronically homeless Individuals.

There were additional questions that were added to the survey that were not required by HUD. The questions are listed in the next table.

Table 10. Additional Survey Questions

<b>Survey Question</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Did You Become Homeless Because of the Recent Fires?	15	1.9
Do You Receive Disability Benefits?	83	10.3
Is this the first time you've been homeless?	228	28.2

There was one additional question, which is listed below.

Table 11. How Many Months Have You Been in the Community?

Question	#	%
1 Year or Less	67	8.3
Between 1 Year and 2 Years	25	3.1
Between 2 Years and 5 Years	75	9.3
Between 5 Years and 10 Years	70	8.6
More Than 10 Years	167	20.6
Missing Data	405	50.1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>100</b>

### Next Steps: Implementing Recommendations to End Homelessness

Trying to end homelessness for 821 unsheltered adults and children collectively can be overwhelming and discouraging. Focusing on specific subpopulations can elicit confidence because the number of a given subpopulation is much less and is more manageable. Thus, for example, building upon the recent success towards ending homelessness among veterans can be inspiring.

**Recommendation 1:** Finish the job of ending homelessness among unsheltered veterans

As noted below, the number of unsheltered veterans has decreased significantly over the past several years—from 118 in 2013 to 39—according to past homeless counts.

Year	# of Unsheltered Veterans
2013	118
2014	88
2015	85
2016	57
2017	50
2018	39

In order to finish the job, the public and private partners should continue to implement the best practices of

- Permanent supportive housing and a Housing First approach through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which combines Housing

Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA provides these services for participating Veterans at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outreach clinics.

- Rapid rehousing and a Housing First approach through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, which provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families that are currently in or transitioning to permanent housing. SSVF is designed to rapidly re-house homeless Veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis.

Public and private partnerships should also include local cities. A breakdown by city of the 39 unsheltered veterans is below, which can further elicit confidence that ending homelessness among veterans can be achieved, especially if concerted efforts continue.

City	# of Unsheltered Veterans
Camarillo	1
Oxnard	9
Port Hueneme	1
Santa Paula	2
Simi Valley	4
Thousand Oaks	5
Ventura	17
Total:	39

**Recommendation 2:** Further the efforts to end homelessness among unsheltered youth

The total number of youth age 18 – 24 increased in 2018 reversing a trend of decreases for the previous two years.

Year	# of Unsheltered Youth Age 18 - 24
2013	67

2014	68
2015	95
2016	43
2017	25
2018	31

As a result, public and private partners should convene and determine next steps. A breakdown by city of the 31 unsheltered youth age 18 – 24 follows:

City	# of Unsheltered Youth Age 18 - 24
Camarillo	2
Oxnard	8
Santa Paula	2
Simi Valley	5
Thousand Oaks	4
Ventura	10
Total:	31

**Recommendation 3:** Promote a zero tolerance policy for children living on the streets, in vehicles, and other places not meant for human habitation

The number of unsheltered families counted each year continues to increase. The lowest number in recent years was six (6) families in 2018 as noted below.

Year	# of Unsheltered Families
2013	47
2014	61
2015	43
2016	22
2017	12
2018	6

Continuing to implement a Rapid Rehousing approach for non-chronically homeless persons is imperative. There was one family counted in 2018 that was chronically homeless and the better intervention is permanent supportive housing.

Rapid re-housing is an approach that focuses resources on helping families and individuals quickly move out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Priority is placed on helping individuals and families move into permanent housing as rapidly as possible and providing services to help them maintain housing. Services to support rapid re-housing include housing search and landlord negotiation, short-term financial and rental assistance, and the delivery of home-based housing stabilization services, as needed.

**Recommendation 4: Encourage each city to adopt their unsheltered homeless count numbers as baseline numbers.**

Each city should be encouraged to adopt the results of the unsheltered homeless count in their jurisdiction, which can be found in this report in Appendix A. Each city should be encouraged to implement recommendations 1 – 3 above in order to end homelessness among unsheltered veterans, youth age 18 – 24, and families within their jurisdiction.

## **II. Background Information**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as part of its requirements for local jurisdictions to continue to receive Continuum of Care funding for homeless persons, has asked local jurisdictional applicants to conduct a “one-day point-in-time” unsheltered and sheltered homeless count every other year since 2005 during the last 10 days of January. However, since 2012, HUD requires a sheltered count every year, which includes emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, including safe havens.

In addition, HUD requires local jurisdictional applicants to gather data for the following subpopulations: chronically homeless individuals, chronically homeless families, persons with mental illness, persons with HIV/AIDS, substance users, veterans, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth under age 18, and youth ages 18 – 24.

### **A. When were the 2018 Count and Subpopulation Survey conducted?**

The homeless count and subpopulation survey were conducted on February 22, 2018. Identifier information was also collected to prevent duplication. The local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) was used to complete the sheltered count on the same day. Those agencies that operate an emergency shelter or transitional housing program and do not participate in HMIS completed a survey instrument that asked the same information as collected HMIS.

### **B. Who was counted and surveyed in 2018?**

Only those persons who met HUD’s definition of homelessness were counted and surveyed. HUD considers a person homeless only when he/she lives:

- In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings;
- In an emergency shelter; and
- In transitional housing including safe havens.

HUD does not consider the following persons to be homeless—persons who are “doubled up,” or persons who are “near homelessness”—but considers them to be at risk of becoming homeless. Such persons were not included in the homeless count.

The Census Bureau noted that 9.8% or approximately 84,000 of the 854,223 residents of the County were living below the poverty level as reported in the 2017 American Community Survey. These persons are at risk of becoming homeless. Many of these persons can become homeless because of social structural issues such as increases in rent, loss of job, and rising health care

costs. In addition, personal experiences such as domestic violence, physical disabilities, mental illness, and substance abuse can cause members of a low income household or an entire household to become homeless. Often, one or more of these experiences factor into a household's homeless experience as suggested Table 9.

Again in 2017, Ventura County 2-1-1 saw the highest request for housing assistance resulting in the top unmet need category.

The County of Ventura Healthcare for the Homeless reported 14,521 persons enrolled that meet the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) definition of homeless (includes doubled up and at-risk persons). Of this number, 4,456 persons or 30% were literally homeless (on the streets, emergency shelter or transitional housing).

Ventura County Office of Education also tracks the number of homeless students through a broader definition of homelessness set by the federal Department of Education. Data collected in the 2017 school year showed 4,400 students temporarily doubled-up or at-risk of homelessness. 569 students or 13% met the HUD definition of homelessness. This data includes all public K-12 schools in Ventura County.

### **C. Who carried out the count and subpopulation survey?**

Over 150 volunteers helped with the count and subpopulation survey. Each city had volunteer teams that were coordinated by a team leader(s). In addition, volunteer teams were coordinated by a team leader(s) to count in unincorporated areas of the county. Teams counted on the streets, at non-residential program sites that served homeless persons such as food programs, health care centers, and public assistance sites, and shelters and transitional housing programs.

Volunteer efforts were coordinated by the County Executive Office (CEO) which is responsible to the Board of Supervisors for the general administration and coordination of all County operations and programs (see <http://www.ventura.org/county-executive-office>). The CEO consulted with the Institute for Urban Initiatives to complete the count and subpopulation survey.

Urban Initiatives is a community-based research and development agency that has completed many housing and homeless assessments including several homeless counts for cities and counties throughout Southern California. It consists of several agencies that respond to the economic, housing, and social needs of neighborhoods, cities, and counties from community, regional, national, international, and faith-based perspectives (see [www.urban-initiatives.org](http://www.urban-initiatives.org)).

The CEO also consulted with the Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance (VCCCA), whose mission is to facilitate an end to homelessness in Ventura County by coordinating funding, housing, and service strategies that prevent and end homelessness to plan and coordinate the count. The VCCCA is made up of individuals and representatives who support the mission, including those from the service sector (mental health agencies, health care agencies, social



service providers, victim advocates, and educational institutions), housing agencies (non-profit and for-profit developers, housing authorities), law enforcement, and advocates (faith community, formerly homeless and neighborhood groups). For more information about VCCA, visit [www.venturacoc.org](http://www.venturacoc.org).

