



## **2020 MAUI COUNTY POINT IN TIME COUNT TOPLINE REPORT**

### **OVERVIEW**

**What is the Point in Time Count?** A point-in-time (PIT) count provides an unduplicated snapshot of how many people experienced homelessness in a community on a given night, or a “point in time.” On the Neighbor Islands, there are three designated communities: Hawai‘i County, Maui County and Kauai County, who each conduct their counts independently. However, these three communities, and every community across the nation, inquiries about the same point in time, which, this year in our community, was January 26. The count includes both sheltered (living in congregate homeless shelters) and unsheltered (living on the streets or in areas unfit for human habitation) populations. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that communities receiving federal funds from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program conduct an annual sheltered count during the last week of January and a biannual unsheltered count. However, in the interest of having the most current data, our community elected to conduct unsheltered counts annually.

Unsheltered counts are conducted by homeless outreach workers and volunteers, who canvas our community to count the people who appear to be living in places not meant for human habitation. This includes individuals and families living in parks, beaches, cars, and tents. This year, housing advocates and volunteers canvassed areas like these across Maui, asking, “Where did you sleep on January 26th?” People experiencing sheltered homelessness (meaning they reside in a county-recognized homeless shelter) are counted through data collected from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which is the database used by homeless service providers to keep track of those who utilize services.

This annual count is one tool used to track progress, inform public opinion, increase public awareness, and attract resources to effectively address homelessness in our communities. The PIT Count helps communities plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in a community’s current homelessness assistance system. While the PIT Count should not be confused with service utilization reports, it does provide a one-night snapshot of homelessness experiences on Hawai‘i Island, Maui, and Kaua‘i. The collected data is compared county to county and year to year and

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provides benchmarks to help stakeholders understand homelessness in their respective communities.

Bridging the Gap (BTG), which represents Hawai'i County, Maui County and Kaua'i County, is the Neighbor Islands' Continuum of Care (CoC). A CoC consists of members who represent a variety of public and private agencies that work together to plan and promote a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness. Data collected in each county's Count is analyzed and aggregated to determine the total CoC results. The major findings of each jurisdiction's PIT Count are required and reported in its annual funding application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

## MAUI COUNTY STATISTICS AND TRENDS

**Table 1** shows the five-year trend in sheltered, unsheltered, and total homelessness on Maui. There was a clear decrease in each category in comparison to 2019 data. In addition, Maui is the only county in the State which has shown a consistent decline in total homelessness for four consecutive years since 2016.

**Table 1: Maui Summary, 2016-2020**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Maui Total
	#	%	#	%	#
2020	375	47.5%	414	52.5%	789
2019	420	48.7%	442	51.3%	862
2018	399	45.7%	474	54.3%	873
2017	395	44.1%	501	55.9%	896
2016	484	42.3%	661	57.7%	1,145

**Table 2** presents the sheltered and unsheltered household configuration statistics for Maui County.

**Table 2: 2020 Maui Household Configuration Summary**

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Maui Total
	#	%	#	%	#
Individuals	140	28.8%	346	71.2%	486
Family Individuals	235	77.6%	68	22.4%	303
Adults	98	73.7%	35	26.3%	133
Children	137	80.6%	33	19.4%	170
All Individuals	375	47.5%	414	52.5%	789
Family Households	64	77.1%	19	22.9%	83

## Maui Homeless Subpopulations

### Chronic Homelessness (CH)

**Table 3: Maui Chronically Homeless, 2020 (self-reported chronic homeless estimates)**

	Emergency Shelter	Unsheltered	Total
CH Individuals	27	203	230
CH Families	5	3	8
Persons in CH Families	19	10	29

### Veteran Homelessness

**Table 4: Maui Homeless Veterans, 2020 (sheltered and unsheltered homeless veteran data)**

	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total
Total Veterans	13	1	34	48
Veteran Families	0	1	0	1
Persons in Veteran Families	0	2	0	2

### Regional Summary

**Table 5: 2020 Regional Summary of Total Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness (specific to Maui County regions identified for the PIT Count, see attached map)**

Region	Individuals		Family Individuals		All Individuals		Family Households	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1: Central Maui	144	41.6%	30	44.1%	174	42.0%	9	47.4%
2: Lower Waiehu	20	5.8%	15	22.1%	35	8.5%	3	15.8%
3: Up Country	34	9.8%	0	0.0%	34	8.2%	0	0.0%
4: Lahaina	73	21.1%	12	17.6%	85	20.5%	4	21.1%
5: Kihei	75	21.7%	11	16.2%	86	20.8%	3	15.8%
6: Hana	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Cohesive, coordinated efforts in Maui ensured that individuals and families were triaged and assessed for appropriate levels of service.

1. Overall homelessness counts shrank by 9% (from 862 persons in 2019 to 789 in 2020).
  - a. Unsheltered homelessness experienced a 6% decline over the previous year (from 442 persons in 2019 to 414 in 2020).

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- b. Sheltered homelessness diminished by 11% (from 420 persons in 2019 to 375 in 2020).
2. Family homelessness eased by 8% (from 90 families in 2019 to 83 families in 2020).
3. Chronic homelessness increased by 4% (from 250 individuals and individuals in households in 2019 to 259 in 2020).
4. Veteran homelessness experienced a moderate increase of 4% (from 46 veterans in 2019 to 48 veterans in 2020)

## **COMMUNITY ACTIONS TO ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS**

Our State's economy is in a desperate descent sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic. The State's key economic engines, particularly the tourism and hospitality industries, as well as small businesses, have been severely impacted by closures and reduction of services. The domino effect is in full force across the State. Vital COVID 19 safety measures have been mandated, leading to layoffs or decreased hours for those who remain employed, resulting in the inability to pay for rents, mortgages, and necessities of everyday living.

While BTG's focus remains on housing the houseless, this unprecedented pandemic compels us to ramp up preventative measures for those without income, awaiting unemployment insurance benefits, and unable to make rent or pay their mortgages. Without intentional resources on this front, the resulting impact could exacerbate homelessness in our community. While State conversations are currently focused on potential budget cuts across the board and including social services, we implore State leadership to at a minimum, maintain current level of funding for outreach, emergency sheltering, rapid re-housing and housing first programs. At times when our State experienced reductions and budget cuts, homelessness in our State was at its worst.

BTG endorses the following actions to alleviate the extraordinary state of affairs presented by COVID-19:

### **1. EXPAND AND ENHANCE STREET OUTREACH**

Individuals experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of exposure to a variety of infectious diseases including influenza and COVID-19. Street Outreach staff are often the only connection to high-risk persons living in encampments or places not meant for human habitation across the island. Health care professionals in partnership with Housing Navigators must be deployed as "Street Medicine Teams" to encampments to assess, treat and educate patients in need of medical assistance, and provide follow up evaluation and care as needed, delivering care directly to them in their own environment. It is the first essential step in achieving higher levels of medical, mental health, and social care and towards a pathway to securing housing and residential stability.

### **2. EXPAND HOMELESS PREVENTION & DIVERSION STRATEGIES**

We must strengthen practices and increase system capacity to divert families from falling into homelessness. Homeless prevention resources are critical to assist households who may

continue to need assistance when federal and state moratoria on evictions are lifted to avoid families from falling into homelessness. With the sudden spike of unemployment and an unknown time period of economic recovery, many families recently laid off in our communities will need access to rent, mortgage and utility assistance including arrears, short term and medium-term rent assistance.

### **3. INCREASE RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH) & RENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families exit homelessness quickly and return to permanent housing by providing three core program activities including housing identification, time limited financial assistance and housing-based case management services. Due to the lack of affordable housing in our community, households in Hawaii need long term rent subsidies.

### **4. INCREASE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS**

It is critical to prevent loss of housing among people who are living in permanent supportive housing or being served by rapid rehousing programs. For chronically homeless individuals (those with a disability and long history of homelessness), stable housing and supportive services is the foundation for stability. Permanent supportive housing programs are project-based, clustered, or scattered site permanent housing linked with supportive services that help residents maintain housing. This housing program is the right intervention for persons with the deepest needs where they may stay in this program indefinitely with temporary or long-term rental assistance and/or supportive services. This resource depleted by April 2020 in Maui and Hawaii Counties.

### **5. BUILD AND ACQUIRE AFFORDABLE HOUSING:**

Hawai'i must continue to dedicate itself to increasing the supply of housing and creating new housing opportunities. BTG continues to prioritize movement to permanent housing, especially considering the COVID-19 pandemic. Without increasing affordable housing opportunities, the flow becomes stagnant and creates a bottleneck at the shelters.