



BRIDGING THE GAP 2022 NEIGHBOR ISLANDS' 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 23. 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 the neighbor islands, asking, “Where did you sleep on January 23rd?” 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. The PIT Count provides a one-night snapshot of homelessness experiences on Hawai‘i Island, Maui, and Kaula‘i. The collected data is compared county to county and year to year and 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).

Results from the 2022 neighbor islands' PIT Counts, conducted on January 23, 2022, revealed the following:

- **Overall homelessness experienced a slight increase of less than 1%, from 2,010 persons in 2020 to 2,022 persons in 2022.**
- **Family homelessness decreased by 18%, from 184 families in 2020 to 151 in 2022.**
- **Veteran homelessness decreased by 18%, from 132 veterans in 2020 to 108 in 2020.**
- **Unaccompanied youth homelessness declined 32%, from 62 households in 2020 to 42 in 2022.**

The total number of homeless families as of the count date was 151, the lowest it has been since 2018. This is a 30% reduction in family homelessness over a five-year period.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than *\$93 million dollars in financial assistance* was distributed by a network of non-profit organizations in partnership with the respective Counties for rent, utilities, and mortgage assistance. Without this funding, overall homelessness would have been more significantly higher.

This network of local non-profits in partnership with the Counties also *launched new prevention, diversion, financial empowerment, and housing stability programs including a Coordination Center in the County of Hawaii* that focused on preventing individuals and families from falling into homelessness.

NEIGHBOR ISLANDS STATISTICS AND TRENDS

The sections that follow provide summary statistics in aggregate and specifically for each of the three neighbor islands that supplied data in 2022. The table summarizes the total number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless over the last five years, while also providing statistics by household type.

BTG Summary, 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sheltered	705	758	706	636	628
Individuals	226	251	290	261	237
Fam Individuals	479	507	416	375	391
Adults	200	211	183	158	163

Children	279	296	233	217	228
Families	135	134	117	108	99
All Households	345	363	394	333	297
Unsheltered	1,330	1,237	1,304	NA	1,394
Individuals	1,000	1,073	1,051	NA	1,224
Fam Individuals	330	164	253	NA	170
Adults	153	77	117	NA	78
Children	177	87	136	NA	92
Families	81	43	67	NA	52
All Households	973	1,015	1,007	NA	1,159
Total	2,035	1,995	2,010	NA	2,022
Individuals	1,226	1,324	1,341	NA	1,461
Fam Individuals	809	671	669	NA	561
Adults	353	288	300	NA	241
Children	456	383	369	NA	320
Families	216	177	184	NA	151
All Households	1,318	1,378	1,401	NA	1,456

HAWAII COUNTY

2022 Regional Summary of Total Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Hawai'i County:

Hawai'i Island Unsheltered Homeless Individuals by Region, 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Individuals	445	385	436	NA	496
1: North Kohala	8	2	0	NA	0
2: Hamakua	22	6	19	NA	6
3: North Hilo	3	0	1	NA	16
4: South Hilo	139	144	185	NA	244
5: Puna	49	17	66	NA	35
6: Ka'u	38	24	11	NA	13
7: South Kona	13	16	1	NA	23
8: North Kona	143	146	132	NA	145
9: South Kohala	30	30	21	NA	14
Family Individuals	224	62	85	NA	58
1: North Kohala	0	0	0	NA	2
2: Hamakua	4	0	0	NA	0
3: North Hilo	0	0	3	NA	0
4: South Hilo	29	11	21	NA	12

5: Puna	39	18	14	NA	21
6: Ka`u	95	17	15	NA	0
7: South Kona	8	0	5	NA	0
8: North Kona	31	4	27	NA	23
9: South Kohala	18	12	0	NA	0
All Individuals	669	447	521	NA	554
1: North Kohala	8	2	0	NA	2
2: Hamakua	26	6	19	NA	6
3: North Hilo	3	0	4	NA	16
4: South Hilo	168	155	206	NA	256
5: Puna	88	35	80	NA	56
6: Ka`u	133	41	26	NA	13
7: South Kona	21	16	6	NA	23
8: North Kona	174	150	159	NA	168
9: South Kohala	48	42	21	NA	14

In 2022, Hawai`i island continued to collect data on two additional questions through unsheltered canvassing. The following questions were included on the Single and Household unsheltered survey forms and were only administered on Hawai`i island.

- Did you move to Hawaii within the past year?
- What led to your current living situation?

As a result, the County was able to determine that the most prevalent response leading to homelessness was a family or relationship conflict, followed by inability to pay rent. These two comprised nearly 54 percent of the responses.

Of those surveyed, 8% stated that they had moved to Hawaii within the past year. All 34 affirmative responses came from individual households.

Results from the 2022 PIT Count demonstrated the following:

1. Overall homelessness increased by five percent (from 797 persons in 2020 to 837 in 2022).
 - a. Unsheltered homelessness rose six percent over the previous year (from 521 persons in 2020 to 554 in 2022).
 - b. Sheltered homelessness increased three percent (from 276 persons in 2020 to 283 in 2022). In 2021, shelter capacity was reduced to meet Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. The total sheltered count in 2021 was 227.
2. Total family homelessness decreased by three percent (from 68 families in 2020 to 66 in 2022)
 - a. Of the 66 families, eighteen (18) families were identified living in unsheltered situations, a decrease of 18% since 2020.

3. Chronic homelessness among all individuals decreased slightly from 306 people in 2020 to 300 in 2022.
4. Veteran homelessness decreased 30 percent (from 61 total veterans in 2020 to 43 in 2022).

MAUI COUNTY

2022 Regional Summary of Total Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Maui County:

Maui Unsheltered Homeless Individuals by Region, 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Individuals	424	402	346	NA	371
1: Central Maui	161	190	144	NA	121
2: Lower Waiehu	19	15	20	NA	2
3: Up Country	43	30	34	NA	54
4: Lahaina	108	85	73	NA	139
5: Kihei	92	82	75	NA	54
6: Hana	1	0	0	NA	1
Family Individuals	50	40	68	NA	65
1: Central Maui	12	2	30	NA	39
2: Lower Waiehu	0	0	15	NA	4
3: Up Country	5	12	0	NA	2
4: Lahaina	21	7	12	NA	18
5: Kihei	12	11	11	NA	2
6: Hana	0	8	0	NA	0
All Individuals	474	442	414	NA	436
1: Central Maui	173	192	174	NA	160
2: Lower Waiehu	19	15	35	NA	6
3: Up Country	48	42	34	NA	56
4: Lahaina	129	92	85	NA	157
5: Kihei	104	93	86	NA	56
6: Hana	1	8	0	NA	1

Maui has shown a consistent decline in total homelessness dating back to 2016. Cohesive, coordinated efforts on Maui has ensured that individuals and families are triaged and assessed for appropriate levels of service.

Results from the 2022 PIT Count demonstrated the following:

1. Overall homelessness shrank by six percent (from 789 persons in 2020 to 741 in 2022).
 - a. Unsheltered homelessness increased by five percent compared to 2020 (from 414 persons in 2020 to 436 in 2022).

- b. Sheltered homelessness diminished by 19 percent (from 375 persons in 2020 to 305 in 2022).
- 2. Overall family homelessness eased by 24 percent (from 83 families in 2020 to 63 families in 2022).
- 3. Chronic homelessness increased by 22 percent (from 259 total people in 2020 to 316 in 2022).
- 4. Veteran homelessness experienced a significant decrease of 33 percent (from 48 veterans in 2020 to 32 veterans in 2022).

KAUA`I COUNTY

Regional Summary of Total Unsheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Kaua`i County:

Kaua`i Unsheltered Homeless Individuals by Zone, 2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Individuals	131	286	269	NA	357
1: West	11	75	62	NA	61
2: South	6	2	5	NA	17
3: South Central	68	118	107	NA	122
4: East	36	41	64	NA	122
5: North	10	50	31	NA	35
Family Individuals	56	62	100	NA	47
1: West	9	27	53	NA	13
2: South	0	2	0	NA	0
3: South Central	27	20	32	NA	17
4: East	20	3	6	NA	9
5: North	0	10	9	NA	8
All Individuals	187	348	369	NA	404
1: West	20	102	115	NA	74
2: South	6	4	5	NA	17
3: South Central	95	138	139	NA	139
4: East	56	44	70	NA	131
5: North	10	60	40	NA	43

Kaua`i works diligently to implement the PIT Count consistently from year to year so that stakeholders and the public can be confident that the results represent an accurate representation of the extent of homelessness on island.

Results from the 2022 PIT Count demonstrated the following:

1. Overall homelessness increased by five percent (from 424 persons in 2020 to 444 in 2022).
 - a. Unsheltered homelessness rose nine percent (from 369 persons in 2020 to 404 in 2022).
 - b. Sheltered homelessness declined significantly by 27 percent (from 55 persons in 2020 to 40 in 2022).
2. Overall family homelessness decreased by 33 percent (from 33 families in 2020 to 22 in 2022).
3. Chronic homelessness increased by 17 percent (from 144 total people in 2020 to 168 in 2022).
4. Veteran homelessness rose 43 percent (from 23 veterans in 2020 to 33 in 2022).

COMMUNITY ACTIONS TO ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

While BTG's focus remains on housing the houseless, this unprecedented pandemic compels us to ramp up preventative measures. Without intentional resources on this front, the resulting impact could exacerbate homelessness in our community.

BTG endorses the following actions:

1. BUILD, ACQUIRE AND MAINTAIN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Hawai'i must continue to dedicate itself to increasing the supply of housing and creating new housing opportunities. BTG will continue to advocate for the prioritization of funding to support an increase in permanent housing. Without increasing affordable housing opportunities, the flow becomes stagnant and creates a longer stay at shelters.

Strengthen landlord incentives to increase participation by property owners in subsidized housing programs, which includes but is not limited to sign-up bonus for first-time program participants, financial protections for repair costs of tenant-caused property damage when the repair costs exceed the tenant's security deposit.

2. INCREASE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS

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

3. MAINTAIN RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH) & LONG TERM RENT SUBSIDY 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.

In 2021, the U.S Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) released two hundred fourteen (214) new Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) on the neighbor islands. It is critical for these types of long-term rent subsidies to continue along with an increase in affordable rental housing units.

4. EXPAND HOMELESS PREVENTION & DIVERSION STRATEGIES

We must strengthen practices and increase system capacity to divert families from entering into homelessness. Homeless prevention resources are critical to assist households who may need assistance. With an unknown time period of economic recovery, many households will continue to need access to rent, mortgage, and utility assistance including arrears, and short-term and medium-term rent assistance.

5. 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.