



1750 17th Street - C1 Sarasota, FL 34234

April 26, 2019

News Release

Each year the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness (Suncoast Partnership) on behalf of the Sarasota/Manatee Continuum of Care compiles the Annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count. This survey provides a snapshot of homelessness in Sarasota and Manatee County on a single night, January 28 to January 29 of 2019. While it is not possible to count every homeless person, the methodology used in our communities includes gathering information from those who are in emergency shelters and transitional housing, engaging in outreach efforts in known areas where unsheltered homeless persons may be gathered and a general canvassing in our communities to capture the best picture possible. The count allows us to look at trends over the years by using consistent methodology.

The overall number of homeless persons surveyed in Sarasota and Manatee Counties is 1,135, down nearly 5% from 2018. In the City of Sarasota, the count was down by 13.7%. The total number for Sarasota County decreased by 8.2% while the Manatee County count is nearly the same as in 2018.

Edward DeMarco, CEO of the Suncoast Partnership talked about the results of the count.

“As rents increase at a significantly greater rate than income, the lack of affordable workforce housing has played a big part in the number of people who are homeless and seeking housing. While there were 559 new coordinated entry intakes of homeless persons in 2018, there is still a reduction in the overall count of those who were homeless on the night of the annual survey. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the community’s homeless crisis response and the Oneby1 Coordinated Entry System.”

During 2018, the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness and the Continuum of Care Leadership Council made a commitment to focus housing assistance for those who have been homeless the longest with a greater acuity of need. The Oneby1 Coordinated Entry System, through the efforts and commitment of the Continuum of Care partners, assisted 256 long term and high need homeless persons find permanent housing.

The PIT count is conducted by more than 40 volunteers using a survey tool which provides a means for gathering information directly from individuals and families experiencing homelessness. And this year’s count for the night of January 28th was the most comprehensive ever with more organizations assisting in the count and more shelters reporting on the number of homeless persons. The PIT results, along with other data and information, help inform the Sarasota and Manatee County Continuum of Care (CoC) as they plan to address the needs of those who are homeless and those at imminent risk of homelessness.

The Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (as amended) authorizes the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to require the PIT count in all Continuums of Care.



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PIT Survey Year to Year Comparison

	2016	2017	2018	2019	Rate of Change	
Total Homeless Count					18 vs 19	16 vs 19
Total	1468	1447	1192	1135	-4.8%	-22.7%
Sheltered (Emergency & Trans. Housing)	804	785	740	735	-0.7%	-9.0%
Unsheltered	664	662	452	400	-11.5%	-40%
Sub-populations						
Veteran	161	149	108	110	1.9%	-31.7%
Chronically Homeless	311	285	250	246	-1.6%	-20.9%
Youth	121	121	115	83	-27.8%	-31.4%
Adults with Minor Children (Households)	79	74	76	68	-10.5%	-13.9%
Geographic Identification						
Manatee County (including City of Bradenton)	497	570	545	541	-0.7%	8.9%
City of Bradenton Only		328	340	322	-5.3%	-1.8%
Sarasota County (Including City of Sarasota)	971	877	647	594	-8.2%	-38.8%
City of Sarasota Only	632	429	351	303	-13.7%	-52.1%