
Attachment A Performance Metrics

In January 2020 during the most recent Point in Time Count, 161,548 persons in California were experiencing homelessness (a 6.8% increase – or 10,270 persons - since 2019). In Sonoma County, that number was 2,745 persons (a 7% decrease – or 206 persons – since 2019). We were not able to conduct a 2021 Point in Time Count due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but another is planned for the last Friday in January 2022.

According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Santa Rosa – Petaluma – Sonoma County Continuum of Care (CoC) area had among the “largest numbers of persons experiencing homelessness” in our category of *Other Largely Urban CoCs*. While our numbers of family homelessness and veteran homelessness were lower than many in our category, our numbers of unaccompanied homeless youth (at 358) and chronically homeless were higher (at 562) than many. However, each of these areas made an improvement on 2019 as follows. In 2020:

- 562 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were identified, a 16% reduction from 675 in 2019.
- 80 families with a total of 235 individuals were found, almost all of them sheltered. This is a decrease of 9%, from 87 families in 2019, and a continued overall decrease in families from a high mark of nearly 200 families in 2013.
- 358 unaccompanied youth were counted - a decrease of 46% from 657 in 2019.
- 139 veterans were counted, a reduction of 34% from 210 in 2019.

US HUD, in directing funds to and providing regulations for CoCs across America's counties, requires us to use and provide these measurements of performance, as shown in Table 1:

1. **Time Being Homeless.** The average length of time a person experiencing homelessness in emergency shelter or transitional housing before placement into permanent housing, in days. Lower is better. Between 2019 and 2020, this reduced slightly in Sonoma County, to 134 days (a 5-day reduction).
2. **Return to Homeless Rate.** The rate by which people return to homelessness within six (6) months of being housed. This measures how well our system keeps people out of homelessness once they have entered our system and had some type of roof over their heads. Lower is better. In 2020, about 9% percent of the people in our system returned to homelessness over six months. This has held relatively steady over two years, and is lower (improved upon) than in 2015 and 2016.
3. **1st Time Homeless.** The number of people in Sonoma County who are homeless for the first time. Less is better. In 2020, 1,611 people became homeless for the first time. In 2019, 1,675 did. This is a 4% decrease in persons homeless for the first time. This measurement improved despite external factors such as fires or COVID-19 that can impact housing stock.
4. **Sheltered circumstances to Permanent Housing.** The rate by which persons in some form of early housing (shelter, transitional housing) move to permanent

supportive housing (PSH). This metric shows how well our system takes people from their early vulnerable state (just off the street) to stable, supportive housing. Higher is better here. In 2020, over 45% of those who began the System of Care in shelter were able to transition to PSH. This is a 9% change to the good since 2018.

5. **Housed Retention Rate.** The rate by which persons in PSH retain and stay successfully in PSH or exit to other Affordable Housing. This metric shows how well our system is keeping people housed once they reach some stability and PSH. Higher is better here. Our rate was 92% in 2020, a good percentage even though it was not as good as 2019.

Table 1 – Performance Measures for the Sonoma County CoC

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019-20 Change |
|--|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|----------------|
| Average Length of Time Homeless (days) | 133 | 121 | 112 | 142 | 139 | 134 | -5 |
| Rate People Return to Homelessness In 6 Months | 12% | 11.50% | 7.50% | 9.20% | 9.50% | 9% | -0.50% |
| Number of People who are Homeless for the First Time | 1262 | 2374 | 2395 | 1625 | 1675 | 1611 | -64 |
| Rate People Exit from ES, SH, TH, and RRH to PH | 36% | 39% | 41% | 36% | 46% | 45% | -1% |
| Rate People in PSH and OPH Retain or Exit to PH | 92% | 92% | 93% | 93% | 95% | 92% | -3% |

In Table 2 below, you can see how Sonoma County's metrics would compare with that of other CoCs on the aggregate in California. Not all metrics are provided on the State report, such as Average Length of Time Homeless. 2020's California aggregate data is not yet available, so these compare Sonoma County's and the State's 2019 numbers.

Generally:

1. Not applicable, as the State's aggregate does not show this number.
2. In 2019, Sonoma County's system saw slightly more people return to homelessness in six months than the State average.
3. Sonoma County's system saw more people enter homelessness for the first time between 2018 and 2019, in part due to wildfire and related home losses. The State overall saw fewer people entering homelessness during the same period.
4. Our "exit rate" from shelter and related early housing to PSH was better than the State's in 2019 (46.4% of shelter residents transitioned successfully to PSH, whereby the State average was 36.1%).
5. Our "retention rate" whereby persons stay in PSH or other affordable housing was just slightly off the State rate in 2019 (95.1% of those in the Sonoma County system stayed in housing, while 96.6% across California did).

Table 2 – Performance Measures for California's CoCs (aggregate)

| | System Performance Measures Summary | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|----------------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2018-19 Change | % Change |
| Rate People Return to Homelessness in 6 Months | 7.2% | 7.8% | 8.3% | 8.0% | 7.9% | -0.2% | N/A |
| Number of People who are Homeless for the First Time | 89,608 | 90,574 | 89,916 | 102,450 | 99,696 | -2,754 | -2.7% |
| Rate People Exit from ES, SH, TH, and RRH to PH | 36.7% | 37.9% | 40.9% | 37.2% | 36.1% | -1.1% | N/A |
| Rate People in PSH and OPH Retain or Exit to PH | 94.9% | 95.5% | 95.8% | 96.3% | 96.6% | 0.3% | N/A |