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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Homelessness in the Texas Balance of State: 2020 Point in Time Count Results**

On January 23, 2020, Texas Homeless Network led efforts for the annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT), which aims to provide a snapshot of the individuals and families experiencing homelessness in a geographical area over the course of one night. Survey responses are self-reported and/or observed and may not be representative of the entire homeless population. This count takes place over the course of 24 hours during the last ten days of January as mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Additionally, communities have the ability to participate in the Service-Based Count methodology. The Service-Based Count allows an additional seven days to count those that are experiencing homelessness but not accessing resources on the day of the PIT Count.<sup>1</sup>

5,728 people were counted in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC). The TX BoS CoC is made up of all service providers, advocates, local government officials, and citizens who work to eliminate homelessness in [215 of Texas' 254 counties](#). There were a total of 637 volunteers counting in 52 different counties across the TX BoS CoC that put in over 4,500 hours to the effort. This accounted for 69% of the total Texas Balance of State geography based on the most recent population estimates ([2018 U.S Census Bureau Quick Facts](#))

Texas Homeless Network's Data Coordinator, Kyra Henderson, emphasizes the importance of the PIT Count by stating: "Our communities rely on this data because in many cases it is the only numerical representation of the scope of the homeless population in their area. Not only is the data important for funding purposes, but the count itself is a powerful advocacy and community outreach tool as it attracts volunteers from all sectors in the homeless crisis response system."

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<sup>1</sup> The Service-Based Count focuses on conducting interviews with users of non-shelter services at locations frequented by people who are experiencing homelessness. This strategy has been used to help Continuums of Care (CoC's) learn about unsheltered individuals who might not have been found on the night of the PIT count due to lack of capacity or geographical challenges. The service-based count can only be done in conjunction with the 24-hour count.

### **Highlights of the Count:**

65 regional PIT leads organized homeless service providers, volunteers, and other community stakeholders to count those experiencing homelessness in sheltered and unsheltered locations in their areas. Texas Homeless Network staff provided technical and on-site assistance throughout the 24-hour period to ensure a successful count in each participating community. This was in addition to several months of training and planning support from Texas Homeless Network's Data Coordinator, Kyra Henderson.

All participating communities used an app called Counting Us, created by Simtech Solutions, Inc. to conduct surveys. The app allowed for easier collection of the information and real-time data corrections resulting in a more thorough, accurate count.

Of the 5,728 surveys conducted:

- 2,141 individuals were staying in emergency shelter
- 549 individuals were staying in transitional housing (up to 24 months)
- 1,890 individuals were unsheltered
- 1,148 were observation surveys<sup>2</sup>

### **Characteristics:**

- 432 households of adults with at least one child (under the age of 18)
- 4,148 households of adults without children
- 933 children under the age of 18
- 269 unaccompanied youth households
- 668 chronically homeless
- 338 veterans

For a visual representation of this data, we have included an infographic on the following page for media use.

**About Texas Homeless Network:** Texas Homeless Network (THN) is a non-profit membership-based organization whose mission is to lead Texas communities to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Learn more at [thn.org](http://thn.org).

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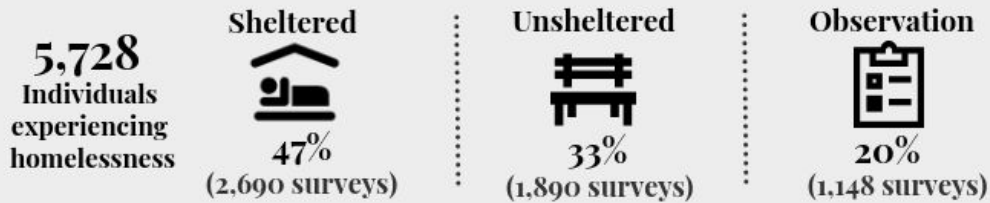
<sup>2</sup> Observation surveys occur when volunteers are unable to obtain consent for a survey. Typical circumstances necessitating an observation survey are when the individuals experiencing homelessness are sleeping or if the volunteer feels unsafe or uncomfortable approaching. The survey consists of four questions (Estimated age range, gender, race, and ethnicity). This allows for an individual to be accounted for while still respecting their freedom to not participate in the full survey.

# 2020 Point-in-Time

Texas Balance of State  
Continuum of Care

The Annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT) was conducted on January 23rd, 2020 to identify the needs of households residing in **Unsheltered locations** (such as cars, streets, parks, etc) as well as **Sheltered locations** (Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing). The PIT Count aims to provide a snapshot of the individuals and families experiencing homelessness in a geographical area, over the course of one night.

*\*Responses are self-reported and/or observations and may not be representative of the entire homeless population\**



## Demographic Breakdown



## Population Details



For more information please contact Kyra Henderson at [data@thn.org](mailto:data@thn.org)

