



**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**2020 POINT IN TIME HOMELESSNESS COUNT RESULTS RELEASED**

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** – Results of the 2020 Point in Time (PIT) Count of persons experiencing homelessness was released today. Conducted on January 29, 2020 by the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC), the Count is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and serves as a snapshot of homelessness in the county on a single night. The County and CoC provided oversight of the PIT Count, working closely with Northern Santa Barbara County United Way Home for Good, Simtech Solutions and more than 500 volunteers.

Countywide, 1,897 persons were counted representing an increase of 5 percent in the number of persons experiencing homelessness. The count includes 1,223 persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 674 persons living in emergency shelters or transitional housing. In 2019, the official PIT count was 1,803. There was a notable increase in unsheltered persons living in their vehicles between 2019 and 2020. While communities across the state of California have not yet released their 2020 Point in Time Count numbers, many counties experienced double digit increases in the homeless population between 2017 and 2019.

Year	Homeless Sheltered	Homeless Unsheltered (persons in vehicles in parenthesis)	Total Homeless persons
2019	670	1,133 (479)	1,803
2020	674	1,223 (629)	1,897

Highlights from the collected data include:

- 90 families with 185 children under the age of 18 were homeless the night of the count (this does not include families doubled up, paying for a motel or at-risk of homelessness), 90 families represent a decrease of **22 percent** from 2019.
- 51 percent of the persons in the unsheltered count (1,223) were living in vehicles (629), an increase of **31 percent** from 2019.
- 613 persons were experiencing chronic homelessness, an increase of **45 percent** from 2019.
- 210 veterans were experiencing homelessness, an increase of **83 percent** from 2019.

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Home for Good recruited more than 500 volunteers to assist, including 435 people who showed up at 5:30 a.m. to canvas 89 census tracts across the county.

“The PIT Count effort illustrates that there is still much work to do to address homelessness; thankfully we have committed resources and dedicated partners to pursue solutions across the county,” stated CoC Chairman Rob Fredericks in response to the PIT results.

The chart below provides count data by city/area compared to the 2019 PIT homeless population estimates combining both unsheltered and sheltered populations. The homeless population was distributed throughout the county: 1,292 (68%) persons in south county, 387 (20%) persons in north county and 218 (12%) in mid-county. The homeless population in Lompoc and Santa Maria decreased, while nearly all areas along the South coast had increases in the homeless population. Increases are attributed to more persons counted that are living in their vehicles.

**Table 1: PIT Population by Area**

<i>City/Area</i>	<b>2020 Total</b>	<i>2019 Total</i>
<i>Carpinteria</i>	<b>39</b>	21
<i>Summerland</i>	<b>8</b>	8
<i>Montecito</i>	<b>6</b>	6
<i>Goleta</i>	<b>166</b>	119
<i>Santa Barbara</i>	<b>914</b>	887
<i>Isla Vista</i>	<b>69</b>	33
<i>Unincorporated South Coast areas including Gaviota, East Goleta Valley, Mission Canyon and Toro Canyon.</i>	<b>90</b>	<i>not reported</i>
<i>Lompoc</i>	<b>211</b>	249
<i>Vandenberg Village/Mission Hills</i>	<b>5</b>	
<i>Buellton/Solvang/Santa Ynez Valley</i>	<b>2</b>	5
<i>Santa Maria</i>	<b>382</b>	464
<i>Orcutt</i>	<b>2</b>	7
<i>Guadalupe</i>	<b>3</b>	4
<i>New Cuyama</i>	<b>0</b>	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,897</b>	1,803

The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care promotes community-wide planning and strategic use of resources and programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness. The County of Santa Barbara serves as the lead agency for the CoC.

The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care Board will receive a presentation of the 2020 PIT Count on April 2 at 2 p.m. at Shepard Hall at the Santa Maria Library. A more comprehensive report of the 2020 PIT data will be released later this year after official submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

For additional details on the 2020 Point in Time report, contact Kimberlee Albers, Homeless Assistance Programs Manager at [kalbers@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:kalbers@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) or (805) 560-1090.