Statewide Point in Time Count Data (2005 – 2020)

2008-2009 economic recession

2009-2016: 37% increase in homelessness

Persons in Emergency Shelter
Persons in Transitional Shelter
Unsheltered Persons
Statewide Point in Time Count

• Historical data shows the impact of an economic recession on homelessness.

• Numbers in emergency shelter and transitional shelter reflect trends in funding and policy.

• Between 2009 and 2016, homelessness increased by 2,137 people – a nearly 37% increase.

• Not a one-time increase – but slow and gradual over a period of time.

• Since 2016, statewide numbers decreased by over 18%, and then leveled out between 2019 and 2020.

• PIT count data mirrors trends in other data sets.
McKinney-Vento Act Count of Doubled Up and Homeless Students
(School Years 2005-06 to 2019-20)

- Unsheltered
- Shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care placement
- Hotels or Motels
- Doubled up or shared housing
- Differences in the “homeless” definition used by the Department of Education and by HUD.
  - DOE definition includes individuals ‘doubled up’ or in ‘shared housing.’

- Between School Years 2015-2016 and 2019-2020, the number of sheltered/unsheltered students decreased by 652 individuals – a 38.9% decrease.

- This decrease in the number of sheltered/unsheltered students aligns with a similar decrease in homeless families in the PIT count during the same period.

- During the same period, the number of ‘doubled up’ students increased by 710 individuals – a 39.6% increase.

- The increase in ‘doubled up’ students indicates a growing number of individuals that are unstably housed.
• Goal is to build a **housing-focused system** and emphasize permanent housing as the end goal.

• Permanent Housing placements **continued during the pandemic**.

• The **rate of housing placement increased** between 2019 (54%) and 2020 (55%).

• Factors contributing to increased housing placements:
  - In 2017, DHS implemented new performance measures in all homeless service contracts.
  - In 2017, statewide expansion of State-funded HF and RRH programs.
  - Steady increase in federal and county funded programs for housing (e.g. CoC, ESG, VASH, SSVF, etc.).
DHS Homeless Programs

- Homeless Outreach & Civil Legal Services
- Emergency & Transitional Shelters
- Family Assessment Centers
- State Homeless Emergency Grant (SHEG)
- Housing Placement Program (HPP)
- Rapid Re-Housing Program
- Housing First (Permanent Supportive Housing)
Other State Departments Addressing Homelessness

• Department of Health
• Department of Education
• Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
• Department of Public Safety
• Department of Land & Natural Resources
• Department of Transportation
• Hawaii Public Housing Authority
• Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation
• Office of Youth Services
• Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Homelessness Systems Map

Rev. 2020
Our Focus Remains on Housing

• Ohana Zones leveraged with other City and State resources supported new housing on Oahu and neighbor islands.

• OZ funding supports services, while HHFDC and City funds were utilized for construction, acquisition, and rehab.

• The OZ evaluation will review the effectiveness of supportive housing programs, and recommend long-term strategies for scaling.
Increasing Homeless Access Points

- Low-barriers to entry and 24-hour access
- Emergency shelter vacancies are tracked and posted daily
- Spaces provide new opportunities to engage and build relationships
Building Provider and State Capacity

- Weekly BHHSURG webinars, Frontline Provider meetings, and monthly Homeless Funder meetings
- Coordination enabled flexible and rapid system response during the pandemic.
- Established “Homelessness 101” training for State law enforcement
- Worked with DOH to ensure MH-1 and Crisis Intervention Training is offered for State law enforcement and land management agencies.

Shifting from Crisis Response to Long-Term Planning

- Continue to maintain adequate space in shelters and meal programs
- Relieve staff fatigue and non profit capacity/staffing challenges
- Identify and provide safety to those most vulnerable among the homeless population
- Continue outreach, education, and hygiene services to help people experiencing unsheltered homelessness stay safe
- Minimize movement of unsheltered populations
- Location/ contact tracing to notify those who may have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19
• During the pandemic, complaints regarding camps on state lands have increased.
• Coordination with law enforcement and land management agencies (i.e. DOT and DLNR) is key.
• Also need to coordinate with mobile testing programs and health providers for distribution of PPE.
• In 2019, Stored Property Program removed 5,081 tons (11.2 million lbs.) of trash and debris, and stored items for 226 households.
• In 2020, Stored Property Program removed 5,990 tons (13.8 million lbs.) of trash and debris, and stored items for 285 households.
Systems-Level Coordination – Working Together to Compile Fiscal and Program Data to Identify Service Gaps, Overlap, and Areas of Opportunity
Overall State Approach

- Increased focus on accountability for State-funded contracts and services.
- Emphasis on permanent housing.
- “All hands on deck”
Questions?

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