PORTLAND/MULTNOMAH COUNTY

2017 HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT

WHAT'S CHANGED?

1. **4,177 people** experienced homelessness on a single night in February 2017

2. Fewer people are living on the streets unsheltered than there were 2 years ago

3. The homeless population in Portland is now older, more disabled, and homeless for longer

HOMELESSNESS IN PORTLAND

Portland's number of people experiencing homelessness rose for the first time in 6 years.

HOW WE COMPARE

- Portland’s rate of chronic homelessness (30.8%) is twice the national average
- Oregon has one of the highest rates of unsheltered families in the U.S. (12% unsheltered) (2016)
- Oregon has the 5th highest rate of per capita homelessness in the U.S. (2016)

HOMELESSNESS INCREASED ACROSS MAJOR WEST COAST CITIES FROM 2015-2017

- **+39%** Oakland
- **+30%** Los Angeles
- **+16%** Seattle
- **+10%** Portland
**DRIVERS OF HOMELESSNESS**

- Portland had the highest rate of rent increases in the U.S. in 2016, with rent prices rising 14% between February and March alone.
- On a minimum wage salary, a Portlander makes $11.25 per hour and approximately $1,800 per month. The average monthly cost of a 1-bedroom apartment in Portland is $1,100+ per month.
- More than half of tenants in Portland are "rent-burdened," meaning they spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent.
- Multnomah County has a shortage of 25,000 affordable housing units. (2016)
- Nationally, there are only 35 affordable rental homes available for every 100 renter households living at or below the poverty line.
- Only 1 in 4 households that qualify for federal housing assistance receive it.
- Oregon ranks last in the nation for access to mental health care.

**WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE?**

- The U.S. government is currently focusing on veteran and chronic homelessness. Chronic homelessness has been reduced by 27% from 2010-2016. Veteran homelessness has fallen by nearly 50% since 2010.
- The overall number of homeless in the U.S. declined by 3% in 2016, and by 12.6% from 2009-2016.
- In October 2015, the Portland City Council declared a state of emergency around Portland’s affordable housing crisis. That year-long state of emergency was renewed in the fall of 2016.
- Portland became the first West Coast city to effectively end homelessness among veterans in December of 2016.
- While the overall number of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. is decreasing slightly, numbers are increasing along the West Coast.

Sources:
National Apartment Report: March 2016, Abodo
Oregon Minimum Wage Rate Summary, Oregon.gov
Some Portland-area rents are falling, landlord group says, The Oregonian
Rents rose 13 percent annually, but new supply slowed price growth, The Oregonian
Portland Needs to Build Thousands of Affordable Apartments. Here’s Why It Keeps Coming Up Short, Willamette Week
National Housing Week of Action, www.ourhomes-ourvoices.org
The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes, National Low Income Housing Coalition
2016 State of Mental Health in America - Ranking the States, Mental Health America
2017 Point-in-Time Count in Multnomah County, Oregon, Joint Office of Homeless Services
2015 Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness in Portland/Gresham/Multnomah County, Oregon