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 chronic homelessness has increased at twice the national rate
- Oregon has the fourth highest rate of per capita homelessness (5.4%) in the U.S.
- Oregon has the second highest rate of unsheltered homeless families (52%) in the U.S.

HOMELESSNESS INCREASED ACROSS MAJOR WEST COAST CITIES FROM 2015-2017

- +39% Oakland
- +30% Los Angeles
- +16% Seattle
- +10% Portland

INCREASE IN OVERALL HOMELESSNESS FROM 2015-2017

- 11.6% decrease in unsheltered homelessness
- 24% increase in chronic homelessness
- 35% decrease in unsheltered African Americans
- 120% increase in transgender people
- 14% increase in women (36% overall)
- 132% increase in the number of vets in shelter

Transition Projects
DRIVERS OF HOMELESSNESS

- Portland had the highest rate of rent increases in the U.S. in 2016. Meanwhile, renter incomes have not kept pace with surging rents. Between 2006 and 2015, Portland rents increased 63%, while renter incomes increased just 39%.
- On a minimum wage salary of $11.25 per hour, a Portlander makes approximately $1,800 per month. The average cost of a 1-bedroom apartment in Portland is $1,355 per month.
- More than half of tenants in Portland are "rent-burdened," meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent. Nearly 1 in 4 tenants are "extremely rent-burdened," dedicating at least 50% of their pay to rent.
- Multnomah County has a shortage of 25,000 affordable housing units.
- Oregon ranks last in the nation for access to mental health care.
- Nationally, there are only 35 affordable rental homes available for every 100 renter households living at or below the poverty line.
- The percentage of the federal discretionary budget going to the Department of Housing and Urban Development has decreased from 14.4% in 1978 to an estimated 2.7% in 2018.

WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE?

- The U.S. government is currently focusing on veteran and chronic homelessness. Chronic homelessness was reduced by 27% from 2010-2016. Veteran homelessness has fallen by 45% since 2009.
- The overall number of homeless in the U.S. increased by less than 1% in 2017, but decreased by 13% since 2010.
- In October 2015, the Portland City Council declared a state of emergency around Portland's affordable housing crisis. That state of emergency has been renewed twice and is now in its third year.
- While the number of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. increased only slightly in 2017, it is increasing dramatically along the West Coast.

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2016 State of Mental Health in America - Ranking the States, Mental Health America
State Data and Contacts Map, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
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2017 Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness in Portland/Gresham/Multnomah County, Oregon
The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress
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