



How Close Are We to Ending Chronic Homelessness in California?

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We are struggling with ending chronic homelessness in California, the state with the largest number of persons who are homeless, after some significant progress in previous years. In 2005, all of the continuums of care (CoCs)¹ in the state reported a total of 64,965 chronically homeless adults and children. In 2010 the same CoCs reported 31,235 chronically homeless adults and children, which corresponds to a decrease of 33,730 or 52%.

Between 2010 and 2015, however, there was a slight increase (3%) in the number of chronically homeless adults and children. During the one-year period between 2015 and 2016, though, there was a slight decrease (4%).

The 4% decrease may be the beginning of a favorable reversal of the previous five-year period of 2010 - 2015. The strategies that the California CoCs are using to end chronic homelessness are outlined in the last section of this brief.

¹ A "Continuum of Care" is a geographically based group of representatives that carries out the planning responsibilities of the Continuum of Care program, as described in 24 CFR Part 578 [Docket No. FR-5476-I-01] RIN 2506-AC29 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These representatives come from organizations that provide services to the homeless, or represent the interests of the homeless or formerly homeless.

NOTE: This brief is a follow up to an earlier brief that focused on chronic homelessness and the 20 CoCs that have the largest numbers of homeless persons in the United States. The brief was entitled “How Close Are We to Ending Chronic Homelessness in the United States” and also outlines the strategies the 20 CoCs are using to end chronic homelessness. The brief can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

An Increase in Chronic Homelessness Between 2010 and 2015

Between 2010 and 2015 there was a slight increase in the total number of chronically homeless adults and children. As noted in the last row of the following table, all of the California CoCs reported a total of 32,227 chronically homeless adults and children in 2015, which represents an increase of 992 persons or 3% when compared to the 31,235 persons reported in 2010.²

Table 1. Comparison of Total Number of Unsheltered and Sheltered Chronically Homeless Persons in 2010 and 2015

California CoCs:	2010			2015		
	sheltered	unsheltered	total	sheltered	unsheltered	total
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County CoC	195	2,075	2,270	189	2,018	2,207
San Francisco CoC	1,008	1,808	2,816	415	1,214	1,629
Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC	266	760	1,026	211	539	750
Sacramento City & County CoC	155	277	432	184	318	502
Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County CoC	103	922	1,025	114	588	702
Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC	89	851	940	212	409	621
Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties CoC	159	497	656	36	562	598
Marin County CoC	92	43	135	48	233	281
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	51	791	842	165	417	582
Mendocino County CoC	34	440	474	35	77	112
Turlock, Modesto/Stanislaus County CoC	68	374	442	17	42	59
Stockton/San Joaquin County CoC	278	99	377	83	210	293
Daly City/San Mateo County CoC	29	426	455	86	233	319
Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC	24	108	132	23	326	349
Fresno City & County/Madera County CoC	245	634	879	23	345	368
Roseville, Rocklin/Placer, Nevada Counties	62	169	231	97	237	334
Redding/Shasta County CoC	26	27	53	75	223	298
Napa City & County CoC	61	71	132	55	77	132
Vallejo/Solano County CoC	48	57	105	9	218	227
Chico, Paradise/Butte County CoC	31	155	186	51	206	257
Merced City & County CoC	21	30	51	35	186	221
Davis, Woodland/Yolo County CoC	27	123	150	43	44	87
Humboldt County CoC	40	387	427	15	377	392
Colusa, Glen, Trinity Counties CoC	0	40	40	5	30	35
Yuba City/Sutter County CoC	13	28	41	0	198	198

² <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports>.

El Dorado County CoC	0	15	15	13	91	104
Tuolumne, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa Counties CoC	10	75	85	4	97	101
Tehama County CoC*	-	-	-	11	23	34
Lake County CoC*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Los Angeles City & County CoC	2,414	5,247	7,661	1,798	12,375	14,173
San Diego City and County CoC	399	872	1,271	340	1,349	1,689
Santa Ana, Anaheim/Orange County CoC	205	3,578	3,783	133	447	580
Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC	236	247	483	43	321	374
Bakersfield/Kern County CoC	39	219	258	36	131	167
Long Beach CoC	115	674	789	204	749	953
Pasadena CoC	112	271	383	16	182	198
Riverside City & County CoC	26	695	721	113	419	532
San Bernardino City & County CoC	70	291	361	77	487	564
Oxnard, San Buenaventura/Ventura County CoC	155	632	787	18	505	523
Glendale CoC	39	69	108	18	51	69
Imperial County CoC	12	0	12	20	159	179
San Luis Obispo County CoC	7	194	201	6	409	415
Alpine, Inyo, Mono Counties CoC*	-	-	-	1	18	19
Total:	6,964	24,271	31,235	5,077	27,140	32,227

*CoC did not report data for chronically homeless persons.

A Decrease in Chronic Homelessness Between 2015 and 2016

There was a reversal, though, between 2015 and 2016. As noted in the last row of table 2, all of the California CoCs reported a total of 29,927 chronically homeless adults and children in 2016, which represents a decrease of 1,308 persons or 4% when compared to the 32,227 persons reported in 2015.

Table 2. Comparison of Total Number of Unsheltered and Sheltered Chronically Homeless Persons in 2015 and 2016

California CoCs:	2015			2016		
	sheltered	unsheltered	total	sheltered	unsheltered	total
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County CoC	189	2,018	2,207	110	1,985	2,095
San Francisco CoC	415	1,214	1,629	718	1,214	1,932
Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC	211	539	750	214	539	753
Sacramento City & County CoC	184	318	502	222	318	540
Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County CoC	114	588	702	150	549	699
Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC	212	409	621	145	201	346

Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties CoC	36	562	598	0	98	98
Marin County CoC	48	233	281	24	233	257
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	165	417	582	156	417	573
Mendocino County CoC	35	77	112	76	101	177
Turlock, Modesto/Stanislaus County CoC	17	42	59	104	100	204
Stockton/San Joaquin County CoC	83	210	293	39	210	249
Daly City/San Mateo County CoC	86	233	319	5	233	238
Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC	23	326	349	20	231	251
Fresno City & County/Madera County CoC	23	345	368	18	528	546
Roseville, Rocklin/Placer, Nevada Counties	97	237	334	93	0	93
Redding/Shasta County CoC	75	223	298	49	345	394
Napa City & County CoC	55	77	132	57	41	98
Vallejo/Solano County CoC	9	218	227	38	214	252
Chico, Paradise/Butte County CoC	51	206	257	32	206	238
Merced City & County CoC	35	186	221	27	197	224
Davis, Woodland/Yolo County CoC	43	44	87	45	44	89
Humboldt County CoC	15	377	392	0	362	362
Colusa, Glen, Trinity Counties CoC*	5	30	35	-	-	-
Yuba City/Sutter County CoC	0	198	198	34	0	34
El Dorado County CoC	13	91	104	48	0	48
Tuolumne, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa Counties CoC	4	97	101	4	94	98
Tehama County CoC	11	23	34	8	23	31
Lake County CoC*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Los Angeles City & County CoC	1,798	12,375	14,173	660	12,808	13,468
San Diego City and County CoC	340	1,349	1,689	308	1,108	1,416
Santa Ana, Anaheim/Orange County CoC	133	447	580	269	447	716
Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC	43	321	374	122	331	453
Bakersfield/Kern County CoC	36	131	167	85	216	301
Long Beach CoC	204	749	953	89	749	838
Pasadena CoC	16	182	198	47	154	201
Riverside City & County CoC	113	419	532	77	301	378
San Bernardino City & County CoC	77	487	564	20	385	405
Oxnard, San Buenaventura/Ventura County CoC	18	505	523	32	254	286
Glendale CoC	18	51	69	65	30	95
Imperial County CoC	20	159	179	0	60	60
San Luis Obispo County CoC	6	409	415	9	382	391
Alpine, Inyo, Mono Counties CoC*	1	18	19	-	-	-
Total:	5,077	27,140	32,227	4,219	25,708	29,927

What is indicative of this reversal, as noted in table 3, is that seven (7) or 16% of the 40 CoCs answered “yes” when asked “Is the CoC on track to meet the goal of ending chronic homelessness

by 2017?” by HUD in the 2016 CoC Program grant application which were submitted to HUD for CoC funding in September.

Table 3: CoC’s on Target to End Chronic Homelessness by end of 2017

California CoCs:	CoC on Target to End Chronic Homelessness by End of 2017?	
	Yes	No
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County CoC		✓
San Francisco CoC		✓
Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC	✓	
Sacramento City & County CoC		✓
Santa Rosa, Petaluma/Sonoma County CoC		✓
Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC		✓
Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties CoC		✓
Marin County CoC		✓
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC		✓
Mendocino County CoC		✓
Turlock, Modesto/Stanislaus County CoC	✓	
Stockton/San Joaquin County CoC		✓
Daly City/San Mateo County CoC		✓
Visalia/Kings, Tulare Counties CoC		✓
Fresno City & County/Madera County CoC		✓
Roseville, Rocklin/Placer, Nevada Counties		✓
Redding/Shasta County CoC		✓
Napa City & County CoC		✓
Vallejo/Solano County CoC		✓
Chico, Paradise/Butte County CoC		✓
Merced City & County CoC		✓
Davis, Woodland/Yolo County CoC		✓
Humboldt County CoC		✓
Colusa, Glen, Trinity Counties CoC*		-
Yuba City/Sutter County CoC		✓
El Dorado County CoC		✓
Tuolumne, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa Counties CoC		✓
Tehama County CoC		✓
Lake County CoC*		-
Los Angeles City & County CoC		✓
San Diego City and County CoC		✓
Santa Ana, Anaheim/Orange County CoC		✓
Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC		✓

Bakersfield/Kern County CoC	✓	
Long Beach CoC		✓
Pasadena CoC		✓
Riverside City & County CoC	✓	
San Bernardino City & County CoC	✓	
Oxnard, San Buenaventura/Ventura County CoC		✓
Glendale CoC	✓	
Imperial County CoC	✓	
San Luis Obispo County CoC		✓
Alpine, Inyo, Mono Counties CoC*		-
Total:	7	36

*CoC did not submit a CoC Program application to HUD for funding in 2016.

Strategies to End Chronic Homelessness

The seven (7) California CoCs that answered “yes” when asked if they were on track to meet the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2017 were also asked to briefly describe the “strategies that have been implemented by the CoC to maximize current resources to meet this goal.” A review of the strategies being used by the seven CoCs revealed the following:

1. Street Outreach and Engagement

Intense focus on chronically homeless individuals and families through assertive street outreach and engagement into areas and encampments where chronically homeless persons are known to live.

2. Coordinated Entry System

Use of a coordinated entry system to identify chronically homeless individuals and families with the most severe needs and prioritized them for permanent housing placement.

3. Discharge Planning

Foster cooperation between first responders, hospitals and homeless outreach staff to identify high cost frequent hospital users and prioritize them for permanent supportive housing units by using a housing first and rapid rehousing approach.

4. Low Barrier Shelter

Provide low barrier shelter, which does not require sobriety for admission, until permanent supportive housing (PSH) was secured.

5. Mainstream Resources

Connect chronically homeless households to mainstream resources including Medi-Cal and behavioral health services while awaiting PSH placement.

6. Housing First Approach

Implement a housing first approach to help chronically homeless individuals and families obtain permanent housing by focusing on removing barriers such as little or no income, past or present substance use, and criminal history.

7. Data Collection

Created and maintain a master list of chronically homeless individuals and families that is updated on an on-going basis to help monitor progress and track housing outcomes.

8. Case Conferencing

Conduct meetings on a regular basis with housing and supportive services providers in order to ensure that barriers to housing are being removed on a case-by-case basis and that progress is being monitored.

9. Align Federal, State, and Local Resources

Align federal, state, and local resources that develop and support affordable housing including permanent supportive housing through acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, and supportive services when needed.