

2018 Point In Time Homeless Count Results

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities receiving federal homelessness assistance funds to conduct an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons. This requires collaborative efforts by a wide range of community partners, including staff and volunteers from public and nonprofit organizations that work with people who are homeless in in our rural communities.

The local Point In Time (PIT) Homeless Count was conducted on January 23rd and was led by members of the Northwest Ohio Housing Coalition – Continuum of Care. The goal was to identify a realistic count of the number of homeless individuals or families in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Van Wert and Williams counties. Only those individuals deemed literally homeless – those that are in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing programs, or unsheltered and living on the streets or in their cars could be included in the count. A total of 60 individuals within the six county area were identified to have been homeless during this year’s count. This is a 46% decrease from the 2017 count. The 2018 count also indicated the occurrence of family homelessness in our communities increased since last year. Of those reported to have been homeless in January, 63% were part of a family unit (15 families containing 16 children and 22 adults). Comparably, the 2017 PIT results indicated that 48% of homeless persons were part of a family (17 families containing 27 children and 28 adults).

COUNTY	Adult Men	Adult Women	Youth Males	Youth Females	Undetermined Age/Gender	Families	Men	Women	Youth	Veterans	TOTALS
Defiance	4	6	0	0	0	6	4	6	5	0	25
Fulton	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Henry	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	8
Paulding	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2
Van Wert	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	7
Williams	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	7	7	0	16
Overall	12	10	0	0	0	15	6	16	16	1	60

It is important to understand that there are many others that struggle with housing instability but are not counted in this effort. Lack of sufficient income combined with limited housing subsidies or affordable housing opportunities results in many people doubling or tripling up in overcrowded housing with friends and relatives. Others find themselves “couch-surfing” – staying with a different, friend, relative or acquaintance each night, which can present as much of a challenge as actual homelessness. Additionally, both Fulton and Van Wert county projects had structural changes in programs where clients had previously been included in this count but are no longer.

The Northwest Ohio Housing Coalition will use the data collected about homeless individuals and families to assist with local planning efforts and guidance to develop more effective programs and services.

For more information about the 2018 PIT Homeless Count or the Northwest Ohio Housing Coalition contact the PIT Coordinator at 419-782-6962 or scheeseman@nocac.org.