



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) 2021 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Results

SAN ANTONIO (May 14, 2021) – SARAH hosted a community briefing presentation on Monday on the state of homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County. We prepared this presentation using data from this year's **sheltered** PIT Count and community-wide Street Outreach (SO) activities. The 2021 **unsheltered** PIT Count was canceled due to health and safety concerns from the COVID-19 pandemic. This community briefing provided an analysis on how many people are experiencing homelessness this year in San Antonio/Bexar County compared to previous years for various populations, including veterans, families, chronically homeless, youth, etc. A recording of this presentation can be [viewed here](#).

Our full 2021 Point-In-Time Count Report has been posted to our website at sarahomeless.org/reports-and-data and will be released to our Newsletter Subscribers this evening. Here is the [direct link](#). **We have highlighted five key findings from this year's report:**

1. A 10% decrease in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in shelters

The sheltered count in 2020 was 1,658 and lowered to 1,499 in 2021. This drop is attributed to the CDC's moratorium on evictions, which reduces the number of individuals and families seeking temporary shelter. It will be essential to remain diligent in coordinating our upstream or homelessness prevention response to prevent a snowball of evictions in the coming months.

2. A 41% decrease in the number of families experiencing homelessness in shelters

The count of families experiencing homelessness in shelters decreased by 111 to a total of 158 in 2021. School districts and shelters have reported a drop in families experiencing homelessness due to the moratorium on evictions and concerns about contracting COVID-19 in a congregate setting. Thanks to extensive work on testing and implementing CDC guidelines, shelters have not seen significant outbreaks and continue to be incredibly safe options for families.



Alliance to House Everyone

3. A 23% decrease in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in shelters

The count of veterans experiencing homelessness in shelters lowered from 159 to 123 year-over-year. San Antonio continues to lead the nation in its coordinated response to quickly house any veteran experiencing homelessness in under 90 days.

4. A 66% increase in the number of individuals in shelters experiencing chronic homelessness

Chronic homelessness can be defined as experiencing homelessness for at least a year or repeatedly with a disabling condition. The number of people in shelters experiencing chronic homelessness increased from 138 to 229. This group now represents 15% of the entire population in shelters. It is a positive sign to see this vulnerable population moving off the streets into our community's shelters to access services.

5. 71% of individuals engaged in Street Outreach reported a mental health condition

San Antonio has worked diligently over the last year to expand homeless outreach services and create a coordinated outreach response. These protocols and the ability to build relationships are a critical first step. The remaining need is to expand permanent supportive housing options for this population to meet their long-term needs.

For further comment or interview requests, please contact Billy Mahone, Director of Community Engagement, at 210-413-5513 or billymahone@sarahomeless.org.

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About SARAH: SARAH is the lead Continuum of Care (CoC) agency for San Antonio and Bexar County. As the CoC, SARAH secures and distributes funding for direct service providers in the housing and homeless community and provides guidance to strengthen policies and programs. SARAH is responsible for collaborating with, listening to, and collecting data from the housing and homeless community to ensure everyone has a place to call home.

South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless

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