



Release Date: 05/14/2020

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Interview Availability: 11:30am – 2:30pm (in person or virtually)

Homelessness in San Antonio/Bexar County: Insights from 2020 Point-In-Time Count

May 14, 2020 (San Antonio, TX.) - The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) released a virtual community briefing presentation today on the state of homelessness based on the results from the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count that was conducted on January 23, 2020.

Speakers include: Brenda Mascorro, SARAH Executive Director; Mayor Ron Nirenberg; Kenny Wilson, Haven for Hope CEO and President; Marta Pelaez, Family Violence Prevention Services CEO and President; Gloria Vasquez, Director of the Alamo Area Council of Governments; and members of the Youth Action Board Suyapa Munoz, Nina Lockwood, and Latonya Richard.

Three key findings were highlighted:

- 1. Increase in Unsheltered Homelessness:** The 2020 PIT Count revealed a slight increase in overall homelessness (2%) since the 2019 PIT Count. There was a 2% decrease in sheltered homelessness, and a 7% increase in unsheltered homelessness. In the past 10 years, there has been an 19% decrease in sheltered homelessness and an 8% increase in unsheltered homelessness. More emphasis is needed on developing safe and affordable housing options and connecting the unsheltered population directly to housing with supportive services. SARAH is advocating for [additional flexible funds](#) to divert people quickly from homelessness to reserve the more intensive interventions for the most vulnerable residents in our community.
- 2. Increase in Aging Adults Experiencing Homelessness:** There was a 50% increase in the number of aging adults (50+ years) experiencing homelessness since last year. Further, there are 600 aging adults over 55 years old who are at a higher risk of COVID-19; 210 or 35% of these aging adults over 55 years old are chronically homeless*. SARAH along with partners such as Haven for Hope and the City of San Antonio Department of Human Services have recently put measures in place to prioritize the populations most vulnerable to COVID-19 for the limited housing stock and resources available.
- 3. Increase in Youth and Young Adults (YYA) Experiencing Homelessness:** There was a 45% increase in the number of youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness since last year. Further, there was a 73% increase in parenting youth. Due to an expected undercount in 2019, SARAH developed a strategy to ensure YYA were identified, which could explain the increase. [SARAH's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\) funding opportunity](#) for youth-serving agencies is currently accepting applications for over \$3 Million in funding for housing and drop-in services.

The community briefing presentation and the accompanying summary analysis report is available on the SARAH website: <https://www.sarahomeless.org/2020-point-in-time-count/>

*A chronically homeless individual is "either (1) an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR (2) an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.



About SARAH: *South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless, SARAH, works with agencies across San Antonio and Bexar County to end homelessness. As the local Continuum of Care Lead Agency, SARAH is charged to create an improved service system that effectively provides support, coordination, and housing to all homeless populations within San Antonio and Bexar County, with a primary focus on moving individuals and families out of homelessness efficiently and permanently. Our goal is for homelessness to be a **rare, brief, and nonrecurring event**. For additional information, visit: www.sarahomeless.org or call 210-876-0720.*

About the PIT Count: *Every year during the last 10 days in January, Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the nation collect data on those experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. The PIT Count provides the federal government with knowledge to make decisions on strategic decisions and funding allocations. It also provides our local community with informative data to prevent and end homelessness. SARAH collaborates with stakeholders including the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, San Antonio Police Department, Bexar County Sheriff's Office, federal government officials, homeless service providers, faith-based organizations, consumers, and nearly 400 volunteers every year to plan and implement the PIT Count.*