

## Kent County Point In Time Count

2016

The Point In Time (PIT) Count is a tally of who is experiencing homelessness on a given night and provides a snapshot of homelessness in a community. The count includes individuals and families living in temporary housing, as well as people who are without shelter (“on the street”). Communities who receive Continuum of Care funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are required to conduct a count each year during the last week of January.

The PIT Count does not provide comprehensive information about the extent of homelessness in our community. It is only one set of data, among several, that, when taken together, help clarify the extent of homelessness for the purposes of evaluation and planning.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness provides some helpful context for count data:

*Point-in-time counts are important because they **establish the dimensions of the problem** of homelessness and help policymakers and program administrators track progress toward the goal of ending homelessness. Collecting data on homelessness and tracking progress can inform public opinion, increase public awareness, and attract resources that will lead to the eradication of the problem.*

*HUD uses information from the local point-in-time counts, **among other data sources**, in the congressionally-mandated Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR). This report is meant to inform Congress about the number of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. and the effectiveness of HUD’s programs and policies in decreasing those numbers.*

*On the local level, point-in-time counts **help** communities **plan services and programs** to appropriately address local needs, **measure progress** in decreasing homelessness, and **identify strengths and gaps** in a community’s current homelessness assistance system.*

The 2016 Kent County PIT count was conducted by the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness for the evening of January 27. In addition to collecting information from a dozen organizations that provide temporary shelter services and support, experienced homeless outreach staff teamed up with other professionals to contact and interview people sleeping without shelter in areas all over Kent County.

A summary of count data from the past eight years is below. Additional detail from this year’s Count is available on the next page and still more detail can be made available upon request.

|                      | Jan 27,<br>2009 | Jan 22,<br>2010 | Jan 26,<br>2011 | Jan 25,<br>2012 | Jan 23,<br>2013 | Jan 29,<br>2014 | Jan 28,<br>2015 | Jan 27,<br>2016 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total                | 868             | 585             | 627             | 712             | 732             | 793             | 912             | 800             |
| Emergency Shelter    | 334             | 296             | 284             | 282             | 260             | 345             | 408             | 594             |
| Transitional Housing | 500             | 279             | 327             | 400             | 428             | 415             | 478             | 165             |
| Unsheltered          | 34              | 10              | 16              | 30              | 44              | 33              | 26              | 41              |

## Point In Time Populations Summary

Count Date – 1/27/2016

### Households and Persons [( ) = Previous year]

|                       | Sheltered |              | Unsheltered | Total            |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
|                       | Emergency | Transitional |             |                  |
| Total Households      | 479 (347) | 86 (229)     | 37 (24)     | <b>602 (600)</b> |
| Total Persons         | 594 (408) | 165 (478)    | 41 (26)     | <b>800 (912)</b> |
| Children under age 18 | 113 (68)  | 76 (239)     | 0           | <b>189 (307)</b> |
| Persons 18 to 24      | 35 (28)   | 10 (51)      | 8 (1)       | <b>53 (80)</b>   |
| Persons over age 24   | 446 (312) | 29 (188)     | 33 (25)     | <b>558 (525)</b> |

### Gender

|             | Sheltered |              | Unsheltered | Total            |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
|             | Emergency | Transitional |             |                  |
| Female      | 205       | 79           | 9           | <b>293 (388)</b> |
| Male        | 389       | 86           | 32          | <b>507 (523)</b> |
| Transgender | 0         | 0            | 0           | <b>0 (1)</b>     |

### Ethnicity

|                         | Sheltered |              | Unsheltered | Total            |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
|                         | Emergency | Transitional |             |                  |
| Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino | 528       | 135          | 35          | <b>698 (795)</b> |
| Hispanic/Latino         | 66        | 30           | 6           | <b>102 (117)</b> |

### Race

|                           | Sheltered |              | Unsheltered | Total            |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
|                           | Emergency | Transitional |             |                  |
| White                     | 255       | 91           | 25          | <b>371 (388)</b> |
| Black or African-American | 289       | 68           | 11          | <b>368 (449)</b> |
| Asian                     | 4         | 0            | 1           | <b>5 (2)</b>     |
| Amer Indian/Alaska Ntv    | 7         | 4            | 1           | <b>12 (10)</b>   |
| Ntv Hawaiian/Pcfc Islndr  | 1         | 1            | 0           | <b>2 (2)</b>     |
| Multiple Races            | 38        | 1            | 3           | <b>42 (61)</b>   |