



Measuring the Impact of *Home, Together*

By Matthew Doherty, Executive Director

Home, Together, the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness released in July 2018, describes strategies that will be implemented between the 2018 and 2022 fiscal years. The plan also includes a public expression of multiple progress measures that we will use to assess the overall impact of its implementation.

Recently released reports have provided us with the data needed to establish the baseline measures from which we will assess progress. These assessments will be used to inform future revisions to the Plan and its Objectives and Strategies. In the interests of transparency and accountability, a summary of the measures is below.

It is important to note that the vast majority of the data presented here, based upon the timeframes covered, does not provide an assessment of the impact of the first year of *Home, Together* implementation. We have, however, provided an assessment of changes within these measures between the previous year's data and the most recent data available; for many, we have also assessed the changes since 2010, when the previous federal plan, *Opening Doors*, was first launched.

I'll be offering some reflections on this data, and the implications for the implementation of *Home, Together*, in future commentary.

Changes within National Annual Point-in-Time Counts of People Experiencing Homelessness

Measure: Number of People Experiencing Homelessness at a Point-in-Time				
Population		2018	Change 2017-2018	Change 2010-2018
Total	Total	552,830	+ 0.3%	-13.2%
	Sheltered	358,363	- 0.7%	-11.2%
	Unsheltered	194,467	+ 2.4%	-16.7%
Individuals	Total	372,417	+ 1.6%	-5.8%
	Sheltered	194,340	+ 0.6%	-8.4%
	Unsheltered	178,077	+ 2.7%	-2.6%
Veterans	Total	37,878	- 5.4%	- 48.9%
	Sheltered	23,312	- 5.6%	- 46.3%
	Unsheltered	14,566	- 5.0%	- 52.5%
Family Households	Total	56,342	- 2.7%	- 29.1%
	Sheltered	51,513	- 2.5%	- 17.3%
	Unsheltered	4,829	- 4.5%	- 71.8%
People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness	Total	88,640	+ 2.2%	- 16.4%
	Sheltered	30,754	+ 15.5%	- 29.0%
	Unsheltered	57,886	- 3.6%	- 7.7%
Unaccompanied Youth (Under 25)	Total	36,361	Trend assessments will be performed starting with 2019 data	
	Sheltered	18,011		
	Unsheltered	18,350		

Source: [2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1](#)

Decreases and Increases in PIT Counts at State and CoC Levels

Measure: Number of States and Continuums of Care Reporting Decreases vs Increases		
	2018	2017
Number of states reporting decreases vs. increases in homelessness at a point-in-time	31 states and DC reported decreases, and 19 states reported increases	30 states and the District of Columbia reported decreases, while 20 states reported increases
Number of CoCs reporting decreases vs. increases in homelessness at a point-in-time	198 CoCs (50%) reported decreases, and 200 CoCs (50%) reported increases	237 CoCs (60%) reported decreases, and 162 CoCs (40%) reported increases

Source: [2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1](#)

Changes within Use of Shelter and Transitional Housing

Measure: Number of People Spending Time in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Annually			
Population	2018	Change 2017-2018	Change 2010-2018
Total	1,416,906	- 0.3%	- 11.1%
Individuals	950,497	- 0.04%	- 8.9%
Veterans	118,380	- 5.1%	- 18.3%
Family Households	150,630	+ 2.2%	- 10.5%

Source: [2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Part 2](#)

Changes in Numbers of Public School Students Experiencing Homelessness

Measure: Number of Students Identified as Experiencing Homelessness at Some Point During School Year			
Population	School Year 16-17	Change SY 15-16 to 16-17	Change SY 10-11 to 16-17
Total	1,355,821	+ 3.9%	+ 27.6%
Unaccompanied children and youth	118,364	+ 6%	+ 115%

Source: [Education of Homeless Children and Youth Federal Data Summary for School Years 2014-15 to 2016-17](#)

Achievement of Goals by Communities and States

Measure: Number of Communities and States that Have Achieved Each Population-Specific Goal			
Population-Specific Goals	By End of FY 2018	By End of FY 2017	Change 2017 - 2018
To end Veteran homelessness	66 communities; 3 states	54 communities; 3 states	+ 12 communities
To end chronic homelessness among people with disabilities	3 communities; 0 states	3 communities; 0 states	0
To end homelessness among families with children	0	0	0
To end homelessness among unaccompanied youth	0	0	0
To end homelessness among all other individuals	0	0	0

Source: [USICH web site](#)