



# The Homeless By-Name List

A BETTER WAY TO UNDERSTAND HOMELESSNESS IN LANE COUNTY

## WHAT IS THE HOMELESS BY-NAME LIST (HBNL) AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM THE ANNUAL POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT?

Locally, agencies serving unhoused community members have used the Annual Point in Time Count, or PIT Count, as the baseline for understanding the scope of homelessness in our community for many years.

Conducted one day a year, the PIT Count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and helps determine how much state and federal resource communities receive for programs and services. The PIT Count is voluntary, and many unsheltered people decline to participate. It can also be challenging to locate people who are living in hard-to-find places in only one day.

A by-name list is an unduplicated list of all people experiencing homelessness who access services in the area. It provides a single, more robust source of data that can be shared across agencies to better analyze and understand what is happening in this population and help inform responses. The HBNL is a tool used by cities across the US to help improve outcomes for communities working to address homelessness.

Last year, Lane County, Eugene and their partners began using the Homeless By-Name List (HBNL), which tracks people who are unhoused and are receiving services from local agencies. This information is compiled and reported monthly.

## WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF A HBNL?

The HBNL helps local government and service providers:

- Demonstrate the scope of homelessness in Lane County
- Clarify how people move in and out of the homeless services system on an ongoing basis
- Provide accurate information to inform goals to reduce homelessness
- Provide accurate information to demonstrate the county's progress in making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Overall, the HBNL provides a more accurate measurement of homelessness in our community. Having a better understanding of who is experiencing homeless and how they are making progress helps local agencies prioritize services and better respond to the need. It also helps us identify places where adjustment or adaptations can be made to improve interventions and outcomes.

## Technical Assistance Collaborative Recommendations

**HOMELESS SERVICE SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. EXPAND AND COORDINATE STREET OUTREACH
2. EXPAND DIVERSION & RAPID EXIT STRATEGIES
3. EXPAND AND COORDINATE RAPID REHOUSING
4. 350 UNITS PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
5. MOVE-ON STRATEGIES
6. TENANCY SUPPORTS
7. COORDINATED ENTRY CHANGES
8. LANDLORD PARTNERSHIPS
9. BEST PRACTICE TRAINING
10. 75 BED EMERGENCY SHELTER



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## HOW DOES IT WORK?

The HBNL is part of the larger Homelessness Management Information System. This database is used locally and managed by Lane County. Community partners such as St. Vincent de Paul and the Eugene Mission participate in adding information. Participating service providers enter people into the system at the time they receive service and note their exit when service is complete, or someone chooses to leave a program.

Ultimately, Lane County and Eugene hope to have all service providers in the area participating in the HBNL. Currently, the HBNL does not include information from some local service providers; it also does not include unsheltered people who do not engage in any services from a participating agency.

## WHO IS CONSIDERED HOMELESS?

Based on federal definitions, someone is considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence. People sleeping in places not meant for human habitation or emergency shelters are considered homeless. This include adults or children who are either staying at an emergency shelter, an alternative shelter (such as over-night parking or Dusk to Dawn) or are sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (such as parks, streets, cars, bridges.)

## HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ON THE HBNL?

In 2019, the first full year for HBNL in Lane County, 9,679 unduplicated people accessed homelessness services in Lane County during at least one point in the year. Comparatively, the 2019 PIT Count identified 2,165 people.

According to the HBNL, in the month of June 2020 the number of unhoused people in Eugene who accessed services was 2,121. Another 193 people accessed services in Springfield, 150 in Cottage Grove, 102 in Florence, 50 in Oakridge, and 100+ across other communities and unincorporated areas in the county. The HBNL numbers fluctuate seasonally with more people accessing services during cold months and fewer people accessing services in warmer weather.

## IS HOMELESSNESS INCREASING?

The HBNL shows that homelessness is dynamic and fluctuates, both up and down throughout the year. At this point, the average monthly county of people experiencing homelessness was higher in 2019 than in 2020. The decrease in 2020 may be due to the availability of services during COVID-19.

## ARE PEOPLE COMING TO OUR AREA FOR SERVICES?

Data from the HBLN indicates that most people experiencing homelessness and accessing services in our communities report that their last residence was in the local area.

A large part of Lane County is rural, so some people do come into Eugene from outlying areas of the county because it's where they can access more resources and services. Housed people do the same thing.