



City of Long Beach

Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: June, 3 2019

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.L.*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Homeless Services Update: 2019 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Results**

Homelessness impacts every sector of our community and continues to be the subject of study, evaluation, and planning since before the inaugural Point-in-Time Homeless Count (Count) in 2003. This memorandum provides the results of the 2019 Count and a comparative analysis with the 2017 Count.

The Homeless Services Division is required to complete a Count every two years as part of its lead designation. The 2019 Count marked the kick-off to an annual count process to allow for an analysis of trends from year to year. Although street and shelter counts will fluctuate, the Count remains a valuable tool for local communities and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide trend analysis on the scope of homelessness regionally and across the nation. The Count process is a community-wide effort that provides an opportunity for concerned residents and local businesses to actively contribute, learn about people who are experiencing homelessness, and gain an understanding of the resources available to address homelessness in Long Beach.

Homeless Count Methodology

The 2019 Count was conducted in the early hours of January 24, 2019, with the help of 250 volunteers consisting of community-based providers, members of the public, and City staff. Teams led by experienced guides fanned out on foot and by car conducting surveys of people experiencing homelessness throughout Long Beach. The number of volunteers participating is critical to ensuring that map segments have comprehensive coverage.

This year, all volunteers were required to attend an orientation session that provided technical training for data collection and engagement techniques during the survey process. Training is a priority to ensure consistent data collection throughout all maps, ensure safety practices in the field, and to provide support to trained and experienced map leads.

A key focus of the Count process is to ensure the comprehensive coverage of the 52-square miles of Long Beach. This year, over 20 first responders (police and fire) participated in the Count. These teams have specific expertise and training working in the field, which is critical to identifying known areas of congregation to be covered by map teams on the day of the Count. Outreach teams canvassed the city in the days leading up to the Count to validate the accuracy of Hot Spot Guides, which illustrate well-known areas of congregation. This year, teams were deployed an hour earlier (5 a.m.) than in prior Counts to allow them to arrive at their designated map areas and engage individuals sleeping on the streets.

Teams deployed to the field are provided with a 22-question survey that collects demographic information, subpopulation information, length and circumstances of homeless experience, and previous engagement in services. No identifying information is collected during the survey process; rather, key demographic information is used to create a unique identifier. This unique identifier is used to de-duplicate survey respondents that may have been surveyed in other locations during the count process, such as shelters, service sites, and food programs. All responses collected are based on a self-report by survey respondents.

Summary of Key Findings

The 2019 Count determined that there were 1,894 persons experiencing homelessness in Long Beach on the morning of January 24, 2019, and were comprised of:

- **1,275 unsheltered persons** (living on streets, in cars, or other locations not meant for human habitation); and,
- **619 sheltered persons** (in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs).

The 2019 Count results demonstrate a 2 percent increase in the total number of persons experiencing homelessness compared to 2017. This increase is attributed to the street population, which is almost exclusively comprised of adults. Despite this increase in the street count there was an 8 percent reduction in chronic homeless persons¹. This illustrates a continuing downward trend since 2013 and demonstrates the effectiveness of the Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC) prioritization of the most vulnerable amongst the population in supportive housing options. As the CoC continues to make progress toward reducing chronic homelessness, the data also reflects that 52 percent of individuals surveyed reported being homeless for the first time.

The table below provides comparative data on the number of persons experiencing homelessness, including both sheltered and unsheltered, from 2013 to 2019 Counts.



Attachment A provides a summary report of the 2019 HUD Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) count results as reported to HUD, including 2015 and 2017 HUD HDX count submissions for comparison.

¹ Chronic homelessness is defined as, An unaccompanied individual or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who (1) has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or (2) has experienced at least four separate episodes of homelessness in the past three years, where the combined episodes total a length of 12 months or more.”

Street Count: Unsheltered and Other Service Sites

The street count involves two components: (1) canvassing of the 47 map segments covering the 52-square miles of Long Beach; and, (2) canvassing Other Service Sites (OSS). OSS are non-residential locations where persons experiencing homelessness may be located on the day of the Count. OSS locations typically include supportive service agencies, including the coordinated entry hubs at the Multi-Service Center and Mental Health America's The Village, churches and food banks, medical clinics, and transit mall.

The 2019 Count reflects a 14 percent increase of individuals residing on the streets. This increase, along with a broader dispersion of the population across the city, may contribute to a heightened awareness of street homelessness in our community. The chart below demonstrates the shifts:

Street Count Year	2013	2015	2017	2019
Total Street Maps Count	601	771	801	911
Council Districts 1-3	64%	52%	51%	52%
Council Districts 4-6	12%	20%	19%	17%
Council Districts 7-9	23%	28%	30%	31%

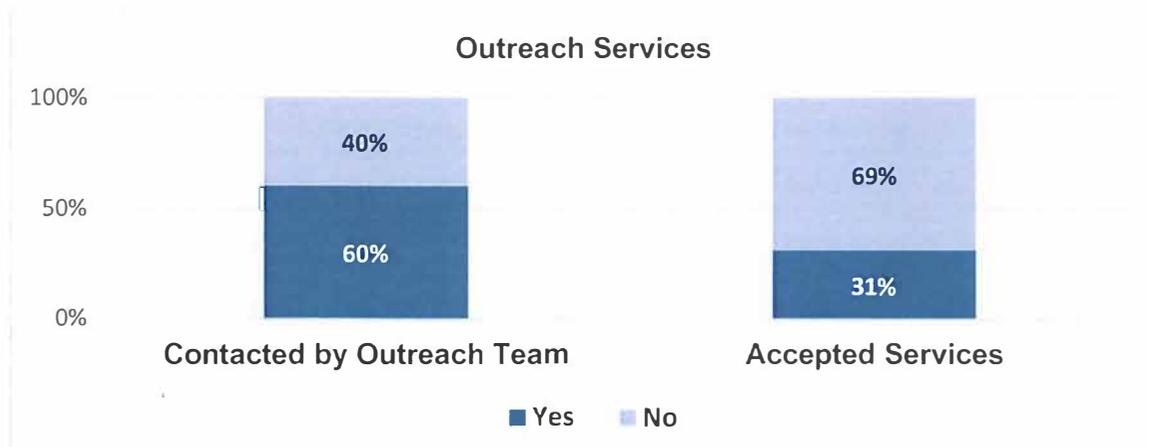
Population shifts between 2013 and 2019 may be attributed to ongoing regional encampment clean-up and maintenance efforts along the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Flood Control, a responsibility of the County of Los Angeles. Other potential factors affecting dispersion include the restoration of wetlands, green space expansion projects, and revitalization of the Downtown Civic Center. Overall, the Count results demonstrate a stable dispersion of homelessness across map segments citywide. The attached maps show comparative shifts from 2017 to 2019 (Attachments C and D).

Sheltered Count Results

The 2019 Count reflects a 5 percent decrease in the sheltered population compared to 2017 Count results. This reduction can be attributed to limited availability of crisis shelter funds, which historically have provided supports to households experiencing homelessness in a motel voucher setting (i.e., General Relief Motel Voucher Program). The Homeless Services Division anticipates increases in the sheltered population in future Counts due to the anticipated opening of the Year-Round Shelter in the Summer of 2020.

Supplemental Information

The Homeless Services Division is interested in understanding the impact of the Street Outreach Network to the unsheltered population. Two new questions were included in the 2019 survey to further understand if individuals had previously been contacted by outreach teams for services and, if so, had they accepted or declined them. The following graph illustrates the reported responses.



Although only 31 percent of those who have been outreached for services accepted them, the Street Outreach Network continues their engagement efforts to link people living on the streets to services. On average, it takes 17 engagement attempts before an individual is willing to engage in services.

Making an Impact

The 2019 Count reflects a flat (statistically insignificant) count in homelessness in our community. This may be due to several efforts and new initiatives that have been implemented in the last two years. Most notably, in May 2018, the City launched Everyone Home Long Beach (EHLB), a new initiative to address the statewide homelessness crisis and its impacts on Long Beach. The EHLB Taskforce was assembled and is comprised of leaders from across the City and those with lived experience of homelessness. Its purpose is to build on the City's comprehensive homeless services and affordable housing efforts and to identify innovative approaches to provide new pathways into housing, while preventing residents from falling into homelessness.

The Homeless Services Division successfully negotiated a direct allocation of Measure H funding to Long Beach to support prevention and rapid rehousing efforts for single adults, as well as funding support for the Coordinated Entry System and Outreach Response. The Housing Authority supports these efforts with a direct allocation of approximately \$870,000 for the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP) also funded through Measure H. Additionally, the Housing Choice Voucher Program provided close to \$1.2 million in HUD funding that is set aside to house 105 households who are experiencing homelessness annually. This funding support has been critical to supporting local efforts to minimize entry into the homeless services system, while shortening the length of homelessness for those who have already been displaced.

The State of California also issued funding through two programs that will provide significant funding to support services for households who are at-risk of, or are currently experiencing, homelessness: the California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH) in the amount of \$1.2 million, and the California's Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) in the amount of \$12.4 million. The City received CESH and HEAP funding as a designated CoC entity, with additional funding from HEAP for being one of the 11 designated Large Cities in California.

The City facilitated several meetings to gain collaborative input for the use of these funds. Funding priorities identified in these meetings will support the acquisition of a year-round shelter site, as well as a new navigation center. The goal of providing a navigation center is to facilitate individuals' access to the year-round shelter, linkage to supportive services, and obtaining permanent housing. Programming will include a safe, secure place for people to store their personal belongings, onsite outreach and engagement activities, access to basic needs and to facilitate coordination among City departments and broader CoC partners.

There will also be funding for housing stabilization services, such as Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing services for transitional age youth (ages 18-24), a safe parking program, and a jobs program for individuals experiencing homelessness. These additional resources will further enhance the existing safety net in Long Beach to ensure homeless episodes are a rare and brief experience.

The City is also a critical partner in the development of several permanent housing developments focused on serving households experiencing homelessness including:

Project Name	Population Served	Number of Units	Anticipated Opening
Beacon Place	Veterans	38	Spring 2019
Beacon Pointe	Seniors	121	Fall 2019
Spark at Midtown	Families	95	Anticipated 2020
Vistas Del Pueblo	Families	48	Anticipated 2020
469 West Apartments	Singles and Families	56	Anticipated 2020

These projects will account for an infusion of 358 units of permanent housing for at-risk and households experiencing homelessness in Long Beach.

The Homeless Services Division is the lead for the Long Beach CoC and is recognized nationally as a model for a well-coordinated system of care. All new housing projects utilize the Coordinated Entry System (CES), which prioritizes households based on their service need and eligibility for housing project. This ensures households with high service needs are matched to available wrap around services that support long-term success in housing. Additional practices that the CoC utilizes to support at-risk or households experiencing homelessness include:

- Universal delivery of evidence-based best practices to individuals and families regardless of their housing status.
- Integrating all key partners into the CES that provides a “no wrong door” approach to accessing services.
- Coordinated housing application and utilization processes linked to supportive services and financial assistance programming.
- An interdepartmental coordination that utilizes multiple department’s expertise in addressing the impacts of homelessness in a systematic way.

2019 Homeless Count Results

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The Homeless Services Division, along with several CoC partners, work collaboratively to ensure the system of care continues to expand its capacity and improve service delivery. HUD is shifting its priority from funding supportive and transitional housing to a more narrowed focus on permanent and rapid rehousing. Accordingly, the CoC is working with community, regional, and State partners to enhance the Long Beach system of care, and to identify and leverage funding streams that will help provide needed services no longer covered by HUD.

The City has come a long way in increasing its capacity and resources to address homelessness on a large scale. It continues to excel at achieving positive outcomes, and demonstrates at a national level its successes with service and housing delivery. The City will continue to seek and implement innovative and creative programming to stay at the forefront of best practices across the nation until all individuals and families who seek housing receive that housing and have the supports available to them to remain housed.

Summary

The 2019 Count reflects a flat count for homelessness in Long Beach. The results also support a more general dispersion across the city. Increasing housing costs, low vacancy rates, and stagnant wages/mainstream benefits demonstrate that Long Beach's comprehensive system of care is needed to ensure people have the support and resources needed to prevent homelessness and to facilitate access to services to quickly move back into a permanent home.

Long Beach's commitment to continued innovation and systematic improvements have been critical to the people who experience homelessness and the community at large. The recommendations from the Everyone Home Long Beach Task Force continue to challenge our system's refinement, expansion of partnerships within the community, and continued collaborative regional efforts to further support local progress toward closing gaps within our system.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (562) 570-4016.

ATTACHMENT A: HOMELESS DATA EXCHANGE (HDX)
B: HOMELESS COUNT FACT SHEET
C: MAP POPULATION DISPERSION 2017
D. MAP POPULATION DISPERSION 2019

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
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DEPARTMENT HEADS



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HOMELESS SERVICES DIVISION
BIENNIAL HOMELESS COUNT COMPARISON
HOMELESSNESS DATA EXCHANGE (HDX)

	2015	2017	2019	2017 & 2019 Comparison
Unsheltered	1513	1208	1275	6%
Sheltered				
Emergency Shelter	391	354	321	
Transitional Housing	416	301	298	
Safe Haven	25	*	*	
Total	832	655	619	-5%
Total Unsheltered & Sheltered				
	2,345	1,863	1,894	2%
Chronic Homelessness - Adults				
Unsheltered	731	539	555	
Sheltered	196	147	77	
Total	927	686	632	-8%
Chronic Homelessness Household - Adults				
Individuals	905	592	542	
Adult in Families	22	94	90	
Total	927	686	632	-8%
Veterans				
Unsheltered	94	110	91	-17%
Sheltered	214	208	213	2%
Total	308	318	304	-4%
Homeless Subpopulations				
Unsheltered				
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	550	451	383	
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	330	315	278	
Adults with HIV/AIDS	13	19	27	
Victims of Domestic Violence	108	141	147	
Sheltered				
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	209	135	177	
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	127	71	112	
Adults with HIV/AIDS	30	37	27	
Victims of Domestic Violence	97	105	116	

*Safe Haven project no longer in operation.

Homeless Subpopulations - self-reported, includes duplicate counts.

	2015	2017	2019	2019 %
Adults	2,090	1,722	1,774	94%
Children	255	141	120	6%
Total	2,345	1,863	1,894	100%

Age

Under Age 18	255	141	120	6%
18 to 24	134	89	67	4%
25 to 34	352	307	305	16%
35 to 44	375	341	382	20%
45 to 54	658	451	429	23%
55 to 61	382	319	362	19%
Over age 62	189	215	230	12%
Total	2,345	1,863	1,894	100%

Gender - Adults

Female	638	481	517	29%
Male	1,446	1,227	1,252	71%
Transgender	6	12	3	0%
Gender Non-Conforming		2	2	0%
Total	2,090	1,722	1,774	100%

Ethnicity - Adults

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,620	1,311	1,232	69%
Hispanic/Latino	470	411	542	31%
Total	2,090	1,722	1,774	100%

Race - Adults

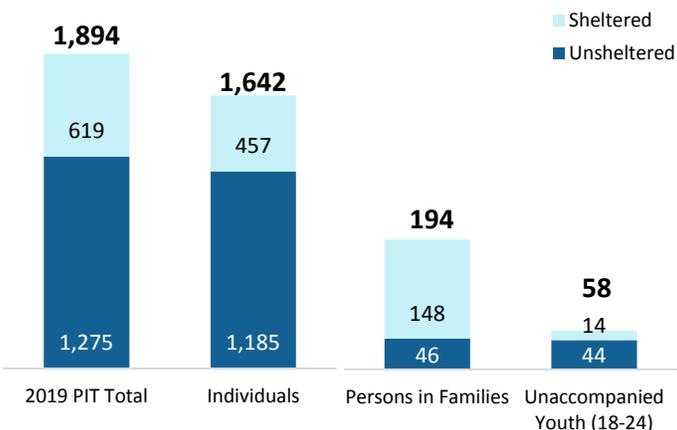
American Indian or Alaska Native	37	53	26	1%
Asian or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	75	93	89	5%
Black or African-American	678	544	614	35%
White	1,214	961	999	56%
Multiple Races or Other	86	71	46	3%
Total	2,090	1,722	1,774	100%

Long Beach

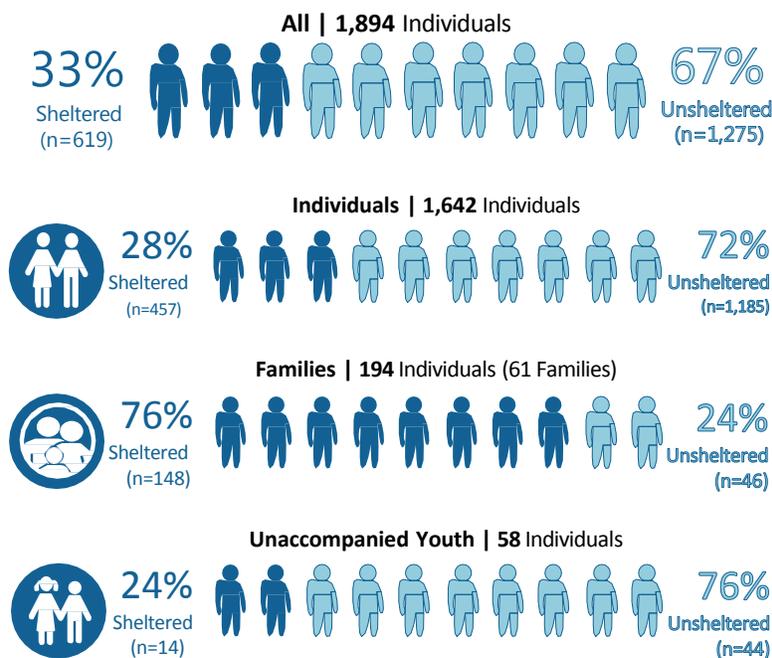
2019 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

On January 24, 2019 the City conducted a Point-in-Time Count (PIT) that accounted for **1,894** people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach. As the lead agency for the Long Beach Continuum of Care (COC), the Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for conducting and reporting the findings of the PIT Count in the annual Continuum of Care funding application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These findings help communities and the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide, and inform local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience in Long Beach.

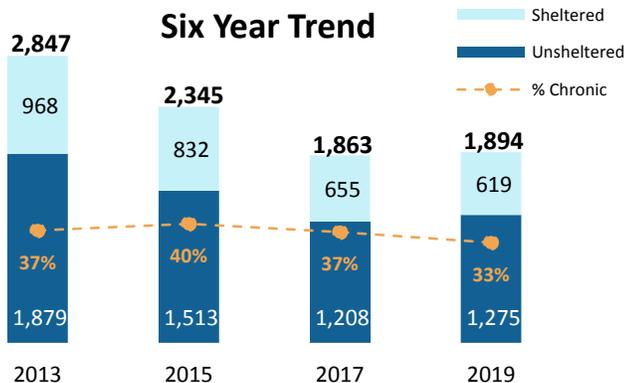
2019 PIT Results



2019 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population



Six Year Trend



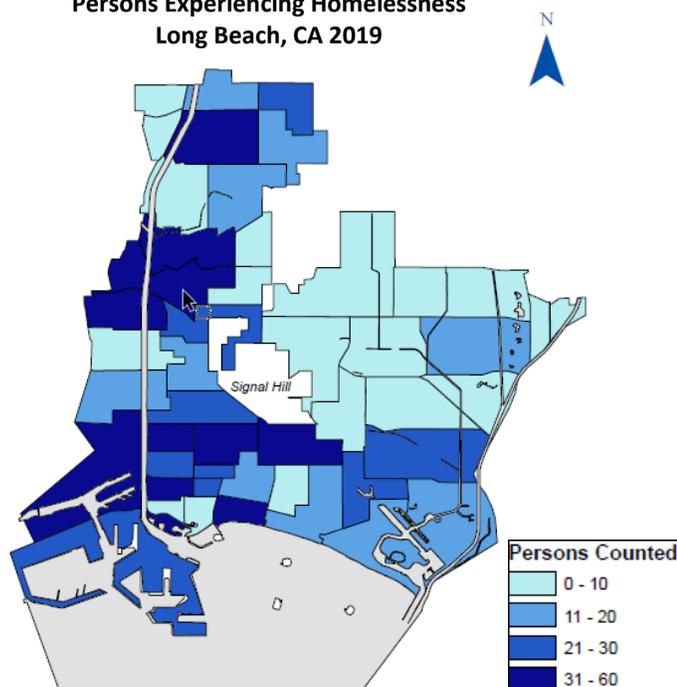
Subpopulations



First Homelessness Episode: **52% Yes**
48% No

Note: Results based on 1,203 responses

Persons Experiencing Homelessness Long Beach, CA 2019





Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness

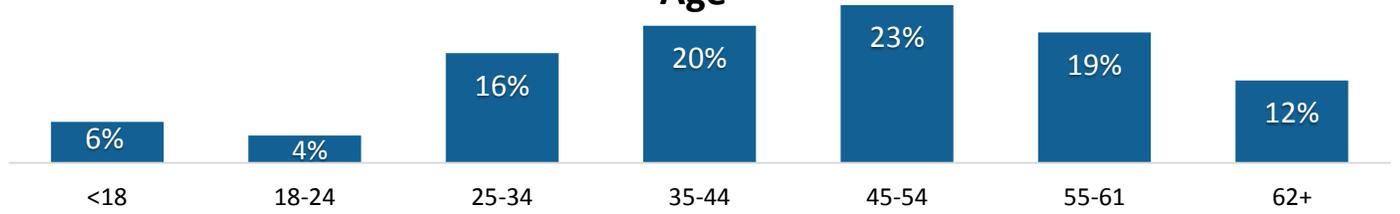
Note: Results based on 1,455 responses

8%
30 days or less

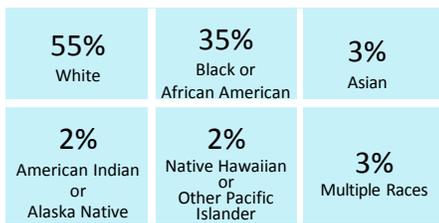
32%
1-11 months

60%
One year or more

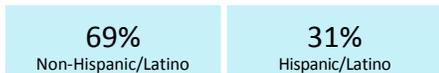
Age



Race



Ethnicity



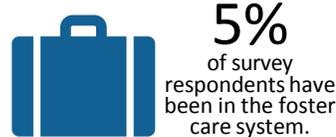
Gender



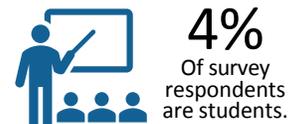
LGBTQ+



Foster Care



Students



Disabling Conditions

The survey included questions related to physical and mental health conditions. The purpose was to understand the challenges and needs across homeless populations. It is important to note that these data are self-reported.

Note: Multiple response question, numbers will not total to 100%.



24%
Substance Use Disorder



34%
Serious Mental Illness



3%
AIDS/HIV



16%
Survivor of Domestic Violence

Outreached for Services

1,131

1,131 or 60% of survey respondents said they have been outreached for services.

Accepted Services

593

593 or 31% of survey respondents said they have previously accepted services from outreach.

Subpopulation Definitions

Chronically Homeless

An individual or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who (1) has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or (2) has experienced at least four separate episodes of homelessness in the past three years, where the combined episodes total a length of 12 months or more.

Veterans

Persons who have served active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

Families

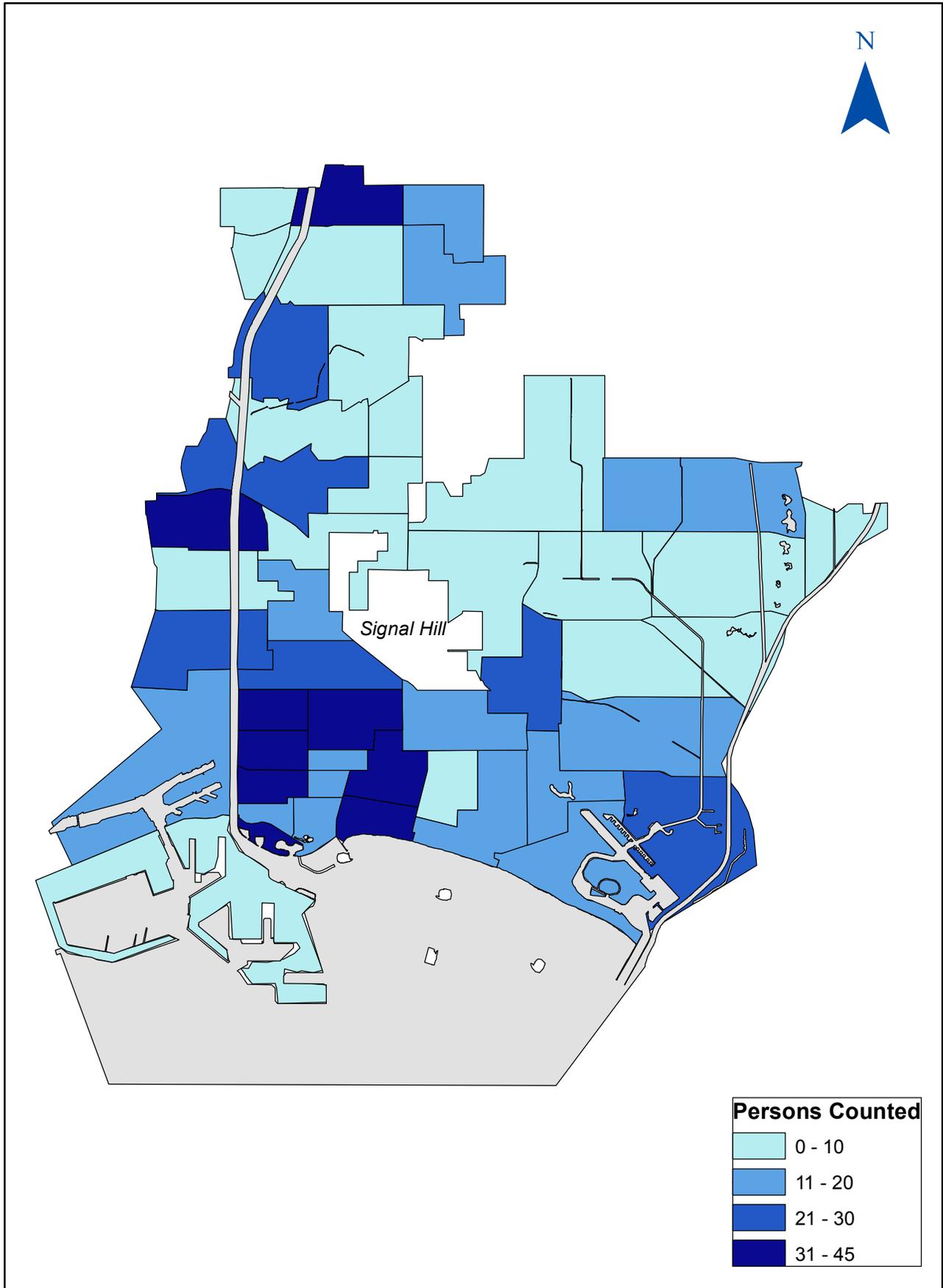
A household with at least one (1) adult member (persons 18 or older) and at least one (1) child member (persons under 18).

Unaccompanied Youth

Individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who are homeless and living without a parent or legal guardian.

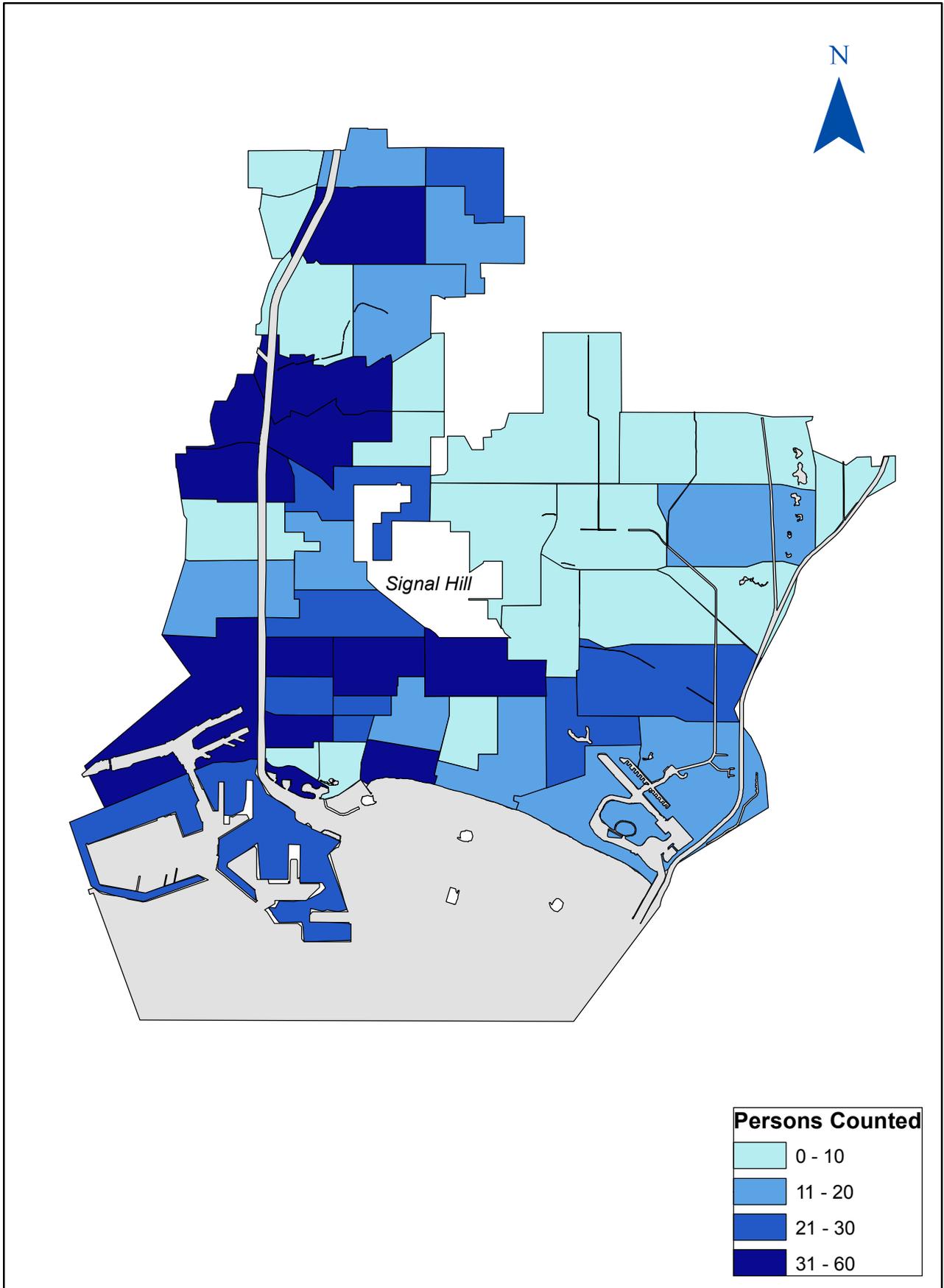
For more information about the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services and efforts to address homelessness in Long Beach, please visit <http://www.longbeach.gov/health>

**Persons Experiencing Homelessness
Long Beach, CA
2017**



Total persons: 801

**Persons Experiencing Homelessness
Long Beach, CA
2019**



Total persons: 911