



SAN MATEO COUNTY 2018 ONE DAY UNSHELTERED COUNT IN SELECT AREAS

March 2018

COUNTY OF **SAN MATEO**
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

2018 ONE DAY UNSHELTERED COUNT IN SELECT AREAS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the findings from the 2018 San Mateo County One Day Unsheltered Count in Select Areas (“count”). The 2018 observational count was conducted on January 24, 2018, in each census tract of South San Francisco, Pacifica, Half Moon Bay, Redwood City including the North Fair Oaks area¹, East Palo Alto, and the unincorporated Coastside areas. Results indicated 467 unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in these areas, an increase of 16% from 2017 when 402 people were counted. Specific findings show that the number of people experiencing unsheltered street homelessness has decreased, while the number sleeping in cars, tents and RVs has increased. No unsheltered families with children were observed during the count.

OVERVIEW

This brief report provides the findings from the 2018 San Mateo County One Day Unsheltered Count in Select Areas (“count”). The San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) coordinated the count in collaboration with community and County partners. The count was conducted in the early morning hours of January 24, 2018. Approximately 85 volunteers consisting of community-based providers, partners and County staff fanned out by foot and car to conduct an observational count of homeless persons observed in each census tract in each of six cities and/or geographic areas: South San Francisco, Pacifica, Half Moon Bay, Redwood City including the North Fair Oaks area, East Palo Alto, and the unincorporated Coastside area. The County conducted this count to help plan with its partners and to assess how to best serve homeless households and assist them with returning to housing as quickly as possible.

METHODOLOGY

The count took place during the early morning hours of January 24, 2018. Volunteers for this counting effort consisted of service providers, County staff and community partners who serve homeless individuals and required minimal training. A total of 57 tracts within the six areas were canvassed by the volunteers. Volunteers collected data using a tally sheet, on which they indicated the number of homeless individuals and/or families observed in their assigned tract (they also noted data on gender and age if possible). In cases where people could not be directly observed, volunteers made note of the number of cars, RVs, and tents/encampments that were likely to have people sleeping inside. Both the count of observed people and the count of cars, RVs, and tents/encampments contribute to provide information about the locations where unsheltered people slept on the previous night. HSA staff collected the completed tally sheets and provided them to Focus Strategies for data entry and analysis.

¹ The Redwood City area for the count included the North Fair Oaks area, so all references to the Redwood City area in this report include the North Fair Oaks area

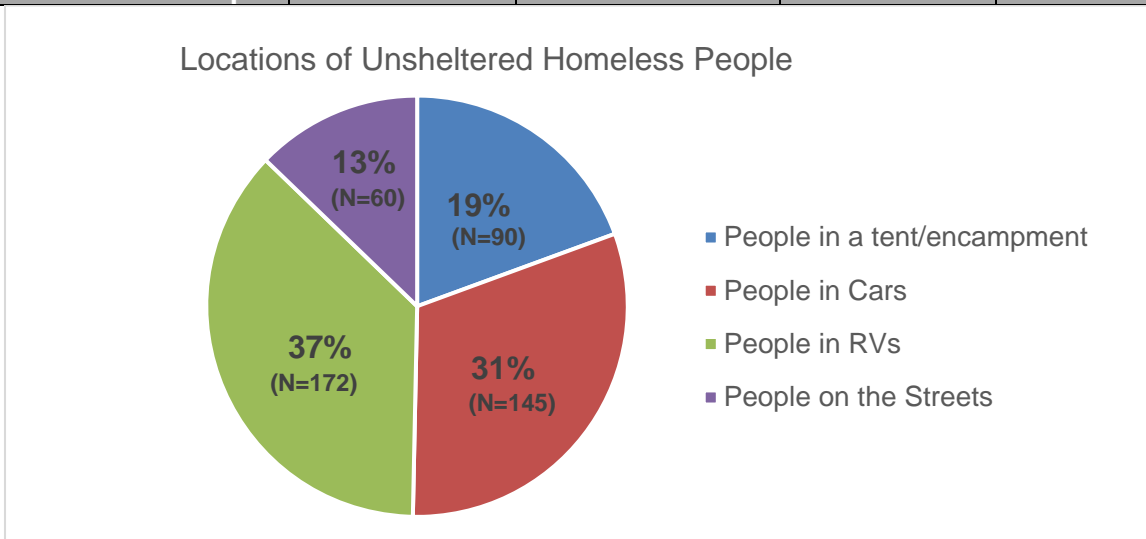
NUMBER OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE

The table below aggregates information from the tally sheets collected by the volunteers. Tally sheets collected data on vehicles that appeared to be occupied, tents/encampments, and people sleeping on the streets, indicating whether they were single adult households or households with children.

In order to estimate the total number of people who may be sleeping in each of the cars, RVs, and tents/encampments, multipliers developed for the 2017 San Mateo County One Day Count were applied to these data. Specifically, 97% of cars, RVs, and tents counted were designated as adult only households with 1.05 adults, and 3% of cars, RVs, and tents were designated as family households with 4 people in each.² It is important to note that no family households with children were observed on the street, and because the methodology involves using a multiplier that estimates 3% of households living in vehicles and tents are family households with children, the result did include very few families with children in vehicles and tents.

The table below shows the total number of people living on the streets as collected from the tally sheets and the estimated number of people living in vehicles and encampments after applying the multiplier. The total number of homeless people across the geographic areas and sleeping locations was 467; just over two-thirds of the people counted are sleeping in either a car (31%) or RV (37%).

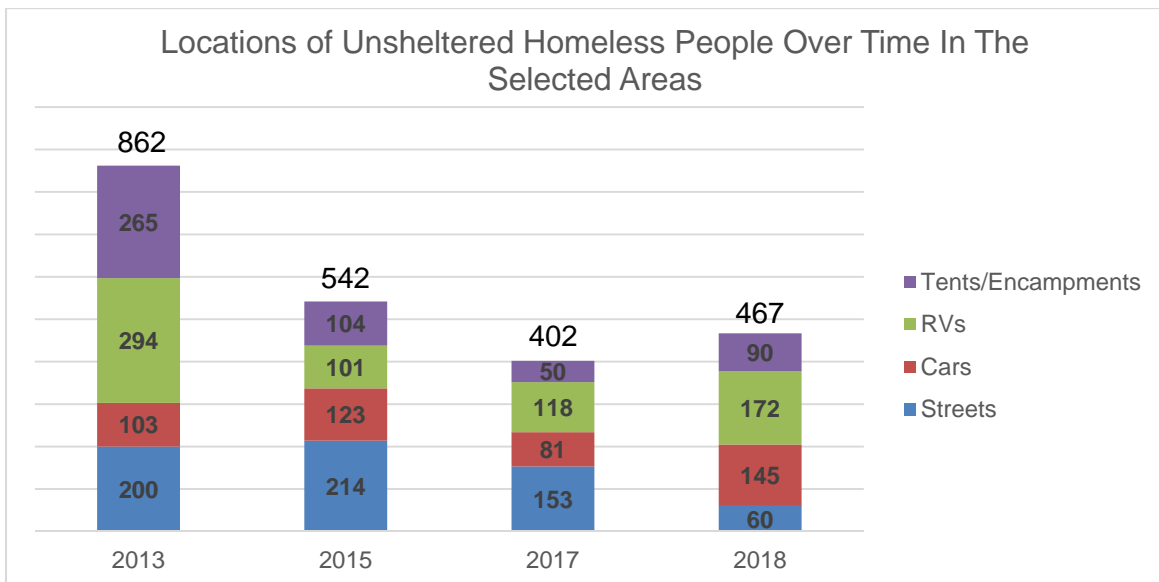
Region	Location			
	# of People on the Street	# of People in Cars	# of People in RVs	# of People in Tents / Encampments
South San Francisco	4	4	9	2
Pacifica	12	39	46	11
Half Moon Bay	14	7	2	8
Redwood City	18	31	51	43
East Palo Alto	12	48	36	26
Coast - unincorporated	0	16	28	0
Total Number of People	60	145	172	90



² Due to safety concerns, volunteers did not go inside homeless encampments or disturb anyone inside vehicles to separately count the people in them.

The next table compares the number of people counted in these sleeping locations in 2017 with data from this 2018 count. First, the total number of unsheltered people has increased by 16% from 2017, from 402 people to 467. The data also indicate that there was a shift in where they slept, with a much lower number of people sleeping on the streets (decreased by 61%), while there were more people sleeping in each of cars (79%), RVs (46%), and tents/encampments (80%).

Region	# of People on the Street Streets		# of People in Cars		# of People in RVs		# of People in Tents / Encampments	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
South San Francisco	32	4	0	4	1	9	0	2
Pacifica	21	12	45	39	28	46	18	11
Half Moon Bay	20	14	4	7	7	2	12	8
Redwood City	29	18	15	31	36	51	14	43
East Palo Alto	37	12	10	48	45	36	6	26
Coastside - unincorporated	14	0	7	16	1	28	0	0
Total Number of People	153	60	81	145	118	172	50	90
2017-18 Percent Change		-61%		79%		46%		80%

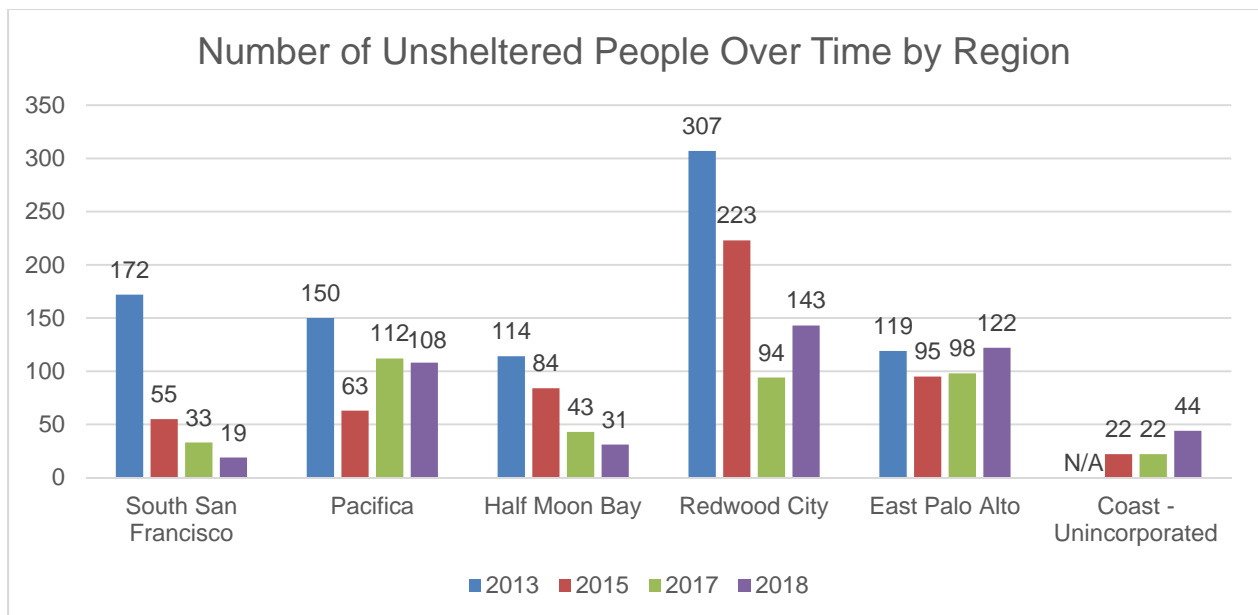


TOTAL NUMBER OF UNSHELTERED PEOPLE IN SELECT AREAS SINCE 2013

A count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in South San Francisco, East Palo Alto, Redwood City, Pacifica, Half Moon Bay, and the unincorporated Coastside areas determined that there were 467 unsheltered homeless people on the morning of January 24, 2018. As the data in the table below show, the total number of people counted in 2018 has increased from 2017, although remains lower than the total number counted in previous years.

Region	2013 One Day Count	2015 One Day Count	2017 One Day Count	2018 Mini One Day Count	% Change 2017 - 2018	% Change 2013 - 2018
South San Francisco	172	55	33	19	-43%	-89%
Pacifica	150	63	112	108	-4%	-28%
Half Moon Bay	114	84	43	31	-28%	-73%
Redwood City	307	223	94	143	52%	-53%
East Palo Alto	119	95	98	122	24%	3%
Coast - unincorporated	N/A	22	22	44	100%	N/A
Total	862	542	402	467	16%	-46%

The next graph illustrates the patterns associated with the total number of people counted in each geographic region since 2013. The data suggest that in South San Francisco and Half Moon Bay, the number of unsheltered people has steadily declined. Redwood City, East Palo Alto and the unincorporated Coast have all varied over time.



CONCLUSION

The number of unsheltered homeless persons counted in six geographic regions increased from 2017 to 2018 by 16%, or 65 people. The increases are a result of increases in the number of people sleeping in cars, RVs, and tents/encampments; the number of people counted on the street declined by a substantial amount. The County and its partner agencies will continue to implement strategies identified in the strategic plan to end homelessness, using data from the count and many other data sources to help guide implementation. The County's Strategic Plan to End Homelessness can be found through the link at the bottom of the page here: <http://hsa.smcgov.org/center-homelessness>.