



CONTACT:

Peter Callstrom - Executive Director
Regional Task Force on The Homeless (RTFH)
peter.callstrom@rtfhsd.org 858-292-1392

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Diego County 2011 Homeless Count

Final Results: County-Wide Increase of 5.9%

SAN DIEGO – Friday, March 11, 2011

The Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) conducted the County's annual homeless Point-In-Time Count (PITC) on January 28, 2011. The preliminary count (released on 2-10-11) reported an increase of 3.3% countywide. After the preliminary count results, the RTFH reviews every census tract (605 tracts) to ensure that all maps are accurately counted. If homeless persons were identified outside of assigned areas, they are not included in the preliminary count as those individuals may have been accounted for in adjoining maps. The RTFH carefully reviews every map to ensure that people are neither counted multiple times, nor omitted from the count. The final aggregate count of the PITC process has been compiled:

- The 2011 PITC (shelter and unsheltered): 9,020 (8,517 in 2010) - an increase of 5.9%.
- The 2011 **unsheltered** (street count): 4,981 (4,599 in 2010) - an increase of 8.3%.
- The 2011 sheltered: 4,039 (3,918 in 2010) - an increase of 3.1%.

Since the 2008 PITC, San Diego County has reported a 19% overall increase in homelessness.

"This year's count is the most comprehensive since the inception of this HUD mandate in 2005." states Peter Callstrom, RTFH Executive Director. Callstrom further stated, "The data collected allows our community and continuum of care (service providers, funders, and advocates) to understand and accurately report information. This data enables us to qualify for millions in federal funding which helps prevent, alleviate, and address homelessness on many levels. The need has never been greater for coordinated services. As homelessness is a region-wide and growing crisis, we need city and county leadership to join in and remain committed to supporting the service provider community to solving homelessness. Ending homelessness requires consistent and stable funding – a crucial investment that benefits our entire community."

About the Point-In-Time Count (PITC):

The PITC is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is conducted throughout the country in late January. Each year, our results are reported in City and County federal grant applications to HUD. The PITC identifies the number of homeless individuals (sheltered and unsheltered) and their location. It also captures detailed demographic information on a subset of these individuals. This data is vital when identifying strategies and services that can enable people to leave the street.

Due to the inherent challenge of finding, identifying, and counting every person who is homeless during the PITC, this count cannot account for every single person. Many persons are hidden from view, may be residing temporarily with friends or family, or are simply inaccessible during the count. Despite these limitations, the PITC provides an important understanding of homelessness that can be compared over time.



The Point-In-Time Count (PITC) Components:

1. **The Count:** January 28, 2011 – between 4am and 8am. HUD mandates that the count occur (throughout the Country) in the last week of January in order to avoid duplication.
2. **Unsheltered Count:** Volunteers conducted a visual count throughout the County of people sleeping in places not meant for human habitation (i.e., on the street, in parks, riverbed, canyons, the beach, etc.)
3. **Sheltered Count:** people living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, safe havens, and in hotels/motels (with voucher).
4. **In-depth questionnaire/surveys:** In February, trained volunteers administered hundreds of questionnaires of unsheltered homeless persons, providing a wealth of data on homelessness in our region.
5. **Reporting:** The data will be confirmed and analyzed by the RTFH. Results will be shared via our website (www.RTFHSD.org) and periodic press releases. On March 11, 2011, the RTFH will provide the final County count, City counts, and preliminary analysis on data gathered from the questionnaire.

Why the Point-In-Time Count (PITC) is critical to San Diego:

- **People:** No one should be homeless
- **Funding:** Results leads to millions in federal funds for local agencies
- **Understanding:** PITC data leads to targeted services and measurable results
- **Knowledge:** To provide agencies with key data - critical for federal and state grant applications
- **Action:** Awareness of the scope of the problem leads to the knowledge needed to act
- **Results:** Ending homelessness benefits EVERYONE

About The Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH):

- *The Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) manages the county-wide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a comprehensive and secure online data system used by service providers to conduct case management, to track persons served, to refer individuals and families to critical resources, and to gather and analyze key demographics and trends. Charged with this responsibility by the Regional Continuum of Care Council (RCCC), the RTFH is the data center on homelessness for our region.*
- *The RTFH is San Diego County's data center and technical resource for information on homelessness. We support, empower, and collaborate with San Diego County's homeless service providers on a myriad of issues.*
- *The RTFH provides technical assistance, training, research, and critical data reports to many stakeholders: service providers, cities, the County, elected officials, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).*
- *We conduct the annual 'Point-In-Time' Count (PITC). Mandated by HUD throughout the country, the PITC provides our region with critical insights into understanding the scope, trends, and impact of homelessness.*
- *Working together, we can better understand homelessness, develop best practices and ensure sustainable solutions that enable people to become housed.*

Resources:

www.rtfhsd.org	San Diego County - Regional Task Force on The Homeless (RTFH)
www.endhomelessness.org	The National Alliance To End Homelessness
www.usich.gov	The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
www.hudhre.info/pit	HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange (HRE)

###