



The South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness (SCICH) is a statewide network of advocates, service providers and funders committed to ending homelessness.

The following information regarding the **2017 Point in Time Count** should be used as a foundation when discussing the results of the most recent report, released to the public in mid-September.

- *During the 10-day Point in Time Count in January 2017, at least **3,916 people** were homeless in South Carolina – a 28.98% decrease from 2016.*
- *It's important to note that **17,698 individuals** were served in homeless programs Federal FY 2016 (full 12 months), which more accurately reflects the extent of homelessness in SC.*

What do these numbers mean?

South Carolina's homeless population isn't static; as of this report writing some of the people who were homeless on the January count date have found housing and others who had housing on the count night are currently homeless. This count is only a snapshot of the number of homeless across our state.

Who is considered homeless?

In accordance with HUD guidelines the following categories are used to define homelessness:

Sheltered Homeless – is a person living in a publicly or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements.

Unsheltered Homeless – a person has a primary nighttime residence that includes on the streets, in an encampment, in a vehicle, or in some other uninhabitable situation.

The Uncounted – there are many homeless who don't get counted, because they are temporarily living in hotels or with family.

What is the Point in Time Count?

In the last ten days of January 2017, communities across the United States conducted a count of individuals and families who were homeless, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The resulting homeless census, referred to as a "Point in Time Count," provides **an indication of the size and characteristics of the nation's homeless population.**

The information gathered during the Point in Time Count is used by HUD to **determine funding needs and priorities across the country.**

What type of information is included?

In addition to the base number of homeless people across our state, other important information is included for special populations such as veterans, families, unaccompanied youth, children, persons with mental illnesses, and those with other special needs or disabilities.

Who coordinates the Point in Time Count?

In South Carolina, all four of the state's homeless program regions, **called *Continua of Care*,** conducted a count of individuals and families who are homeless in their jurisdictions. South Carolina's Continua of Care includes four regions: Upstate Continuum of Care, Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless, Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization, and Lowcountry Homeless Coalition.

The information is **collected by agencies and volunteers** across the state, using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and face to face interviews with our homeless population. The **information is then compiled by the South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness** in partnership with the four Continua of Care lead agencies and governing boards. ***SCICH then produces and distributes the final statewide report.***

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