NJ Counts 2017 Overall Results

- 8,532 homeless men, women and children were counted across the state of New Jersey on the night of the Point-in-Time Count.
- This was an overall decrease of 409 persons, or 4.6%, compared to the 2016 count.
- 1,092 persons, in 992 households, were identified as chronically homeless, an increase of 256 persons, or 30.6%, compared to the 2016 count.
- 1,415 persons were unsheltered; a decrease of 1.9% from the 1,442 persons counted in 2016.

NJ Counts 2017 Key Findings

- The number of homeless persons in emergency shelter, transitional housing and those unsheltered decreased 4.8%, 6.1% and 1.9% respectively. The overall homeless population in New Jersey has decreased at an average rate of 8% per year over the last 5 years.
- 1,017 (16%) of the 6,340 homeless households counted through NJ Counts 2017 were families with children under the age of 18. There was a 10.9% decrease in homeless families as compared to 2016.
- 49 unaccompanied youth households under 18 were identified in the count. This represents a 44.1% increase in the homeless unaccompanied youth population.
2017 New Jersey Point-In-Time Count Fact Sheet

- 1,939 children under the age of 18 were homeless. Of these children, 977 (50.4%) were five years of age or younger, and 962 (49.6%) were between the ages of six and seventeen. Children under the age of 18 represented 22.7% of the homeless population.

- 583 veteran persons were identified in 2017, representing a 4.3% increase from 2016. 16 veterans were unsheltered on the night of the count.

- 46.2% of homeless persons reported some type of disability. Among homeless adults over the age of 18, 57.3% reported a disability. The most prevalent disability reported was mental health issue.

- 20% of households reported that they had been homeless for more than one year.

- 38.7% of homeless households indicated they had no source of income while 18.9% of homeless households indicated they were not connected to any kind of non-cash mainstream benefit.

- 17.9% of homeless households indicated they were staying with friends and family immediately prior to becoming homeless.

- Top factors contributing to homelessness were: being asked to leave a shared residence (20.6%), eviction (13.8%) and loss or reduction of job income or benefits (12.8%)

- Essex County had the highest percentage of the statewide homeless population (24%), followed by Hudson County (9.6%) and Burlington County (7.1%).

This data comes from Monarch Housing Associates’ NJ Counts 2017 Statewide Point-in-Time report available at Monarch’s website: www.monarchhousing.org

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