

For Immediate Release: April 4, 2019 For More Information: Mark Lauseng, Executive Director 773-3181

2019 Statewide Homeless Count Results

PIERRE – The 2019 Statewide Point-in-Time Homeless Count revealed that 995 individuals were experiencing homelessness in South Dakota on Jan. 22, 2019. The count conducted within a 24-hour time period, includes sheltered individuals who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing or motels paid for by an agency and unsheltered individuals who are staying in vehicles, on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation.

Of the 995 homeless individuals counted:

- 74 percent were adults over the age of 24, 19 percent were children under 18, and 7 percent were young adults 18 to 24 years of age
- 76 percent of those surveyed were sheltered on the night of the count and 24 percent of those surveyed were unsheltered on the night of the count
- 66 persons were veterans compared to 110 in 2017, a decrease of 40 percent; of the veterans counted, 83 percent were sheltered
- 188 persons were children (under age 18) compared to 218 in 2018, an decrease of 14 percent
- 389 females and 605 males were counted
- 761 persons were sheltered and 234 were unsheltered in 2019

Compared to the 2018 count of 1,159, the 2019 count of 995 represents a 14 percent decrease. The one-day snapshots tend to be undercounted and are heavily influenced by factors such as county coverage, number of volunteers, and the greatest factor weather. The 2019 count day weather conditions were generally colder as compared to the weather of 2018 count day.

The Point in Time Homeless Count was conducted by the South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium (SDHHC) in collaboration with community agencies, government, individual volunteers, and homeless service providers. All counties participated in South Dakota. More information on the 2019 and prior years' homeless counts can be found at www.housingforthehomeless.org.

SDHHC is a statewide organization created to address homelessness in South Dakota. Individuals or organizations interested in learning more about SDHHC are encouraged to visit the website www.housingforthehomeless.org and attend the 14th Annual Homeless Summit being held June 18 – 19, 2019, in Oacoma.

399 Gender Homeless Children Age Childrer Young Adults 18-24 Ethnic Diversity White 61% American Indian 10% Other _____ Veterans 66 Individuals

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In 2001, the South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium was created to help unify the people who provide services to the homeless. Throughout the years, this group has been able to identify gaps and create programs and services that make it easier for people to make it on their own. Since its initiation, the Consortium has received federal funding totaling over \$22 million to provide development, operations and supportive services to a variety of homeless programs across the state.