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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homelessness in Evansville and Vanderburgh County Drops 17 Percent to Lowest Level in Four Years

EVANSVILLE, IN – The annual point-in-time count is mandated by the U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and measures the homeless population of a certain area at one designated day and time. The Evansville area was surveyed Wednesday, January 25, 2017 during the evening and overnight hours.

This year's count identified 428 individuals experiencing homelessness in Vanderburgh County. That number represents a 17% reduction from the 2016 count of 495 people and is the lowest number in four years.

Thanks to the community's ongoing use of the Coordinated Entry System, chronic homelessness continued to decline. Of the 428 people counted, 56 were considered chronically homeless. That is an improvement of 27% from last year's count of 77 people. Chronically homeless persons are those who are continuously homeless or experience frequent instances of homelessness.

Substance abuse, mental health conditions, and domestic violence continue to be the leading factors contributing to homelessness in our community. These factors also play a role in the increased number of people considered unsheltered. In the 2017 count, 58 people were identified as living outdoors or in places not meant for habitation. That represents an increase of 71% from the 34 unsheltered people recorded in 2016.

Evansville's local homeless service agencies and organizations, in coordination with the Commission on Homelessness, continue to provide programs and services essential to preventing and ending homelessness in our community.

2017 Point in Time Count

Local Results from January 2017 Count

Vanderburgh County

428 people were homeless – **17% improvement from 2016, lowest in 4 years**

370 people in a shelter – 20% decrease from 461 in 2016

58 were unsheltered – 71% increase from 34 in 2016

56 were chronically homeless – 27% less than in 2016

Past Results:

2016 - 495 people were homeless (461 in shelters, 34 unsheltered)

2015 - 462 people were homeless

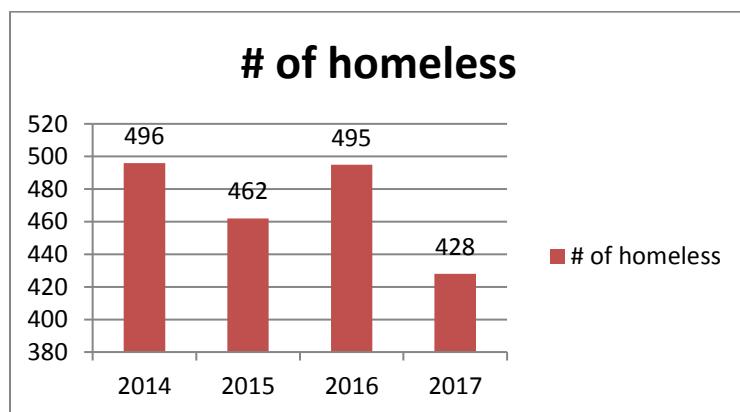
2014 - 496 people were homeless

Chronically Homeless – Vanderburgh County

Of 428 people, 56 were chronically homeless, 21 fewer than in 2016.

This 27% decrease in chronic homelessness can be attributed to the effectiveness of our community's Coordinated Entry Program.

**Commission on
Homelessness**



About The Commission on Homelessness

The Evansville-Vanderburgh Commission on Homelessness was formed in 2005, to oversee and facilitate the implementation of Destination: Home - The Plan to End Homelessness and ensure that its strategies continue moving forward. This Commission was established by ordinances passed by both the Evansville City Council (February 2005) and the Vanderburgh County Commissioners (December 2004). The Commission's purpose is to make non-binding recommendations to city and county government, non-profit organizations, and other interested agencies concerning the ten-year plan to end homelessness. It also makes similar recommendations on other issues of importance concerning homelessness in our community and oversees progress on the implementation of Destination: Home - The Plan to End Homelessness.

<http://evansvillehomeless.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/evvhomeless/>

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