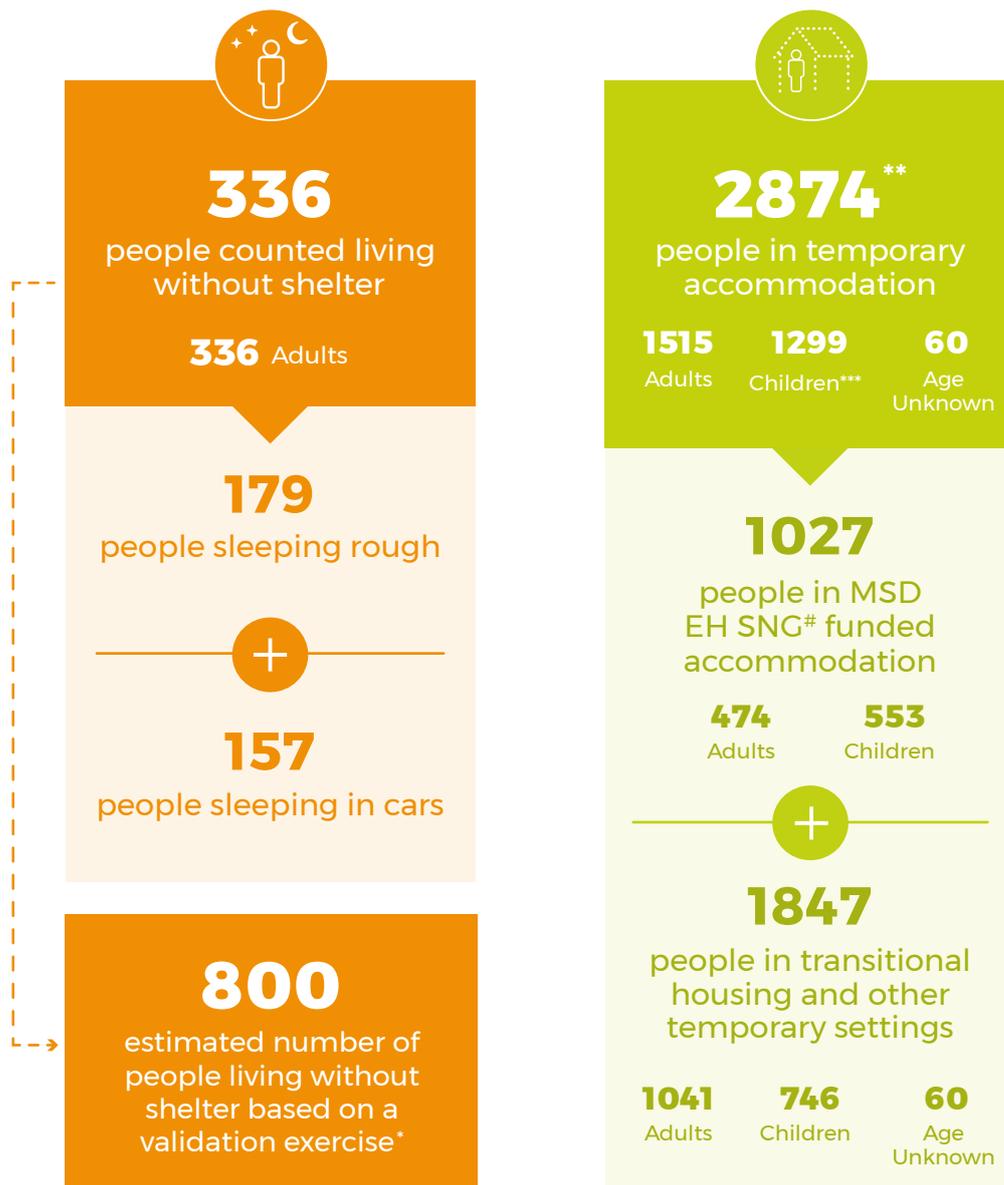


Initial findings

Point in Time count, 17 September 2018

Minimum numbers of people living without shelter and in temporary accommodation in Auckland.



* The validation exercise is explained over the page.

** The number of people in temporary accommodation and services includes information provided by 24 service providers. This does not include all funded and non-funded providers.

*** A child is under 18 years of age.

MSD EH SNG = Ministry of Social Development Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant.

www.aucklandhomelesscount.org.nz

Factsheet

Background

Ira Mata, Ira Tangata: Auckland's Homeless Count was the first Auckland-wide Point in Time count of people living without shelter (on the street and in cars). The count also included people in temporary accommodation.

The number of people living without shelter was collected by volunteers on Monday 17 September, from 9.30pm to 12.30am (a total of three hours). Volunteers went out in groups of two to four to selected streets and areas across the Auckland region – from Wellsford in the north, Waiuku in the south, Piha in the west and towards the Hunua Ranges in the east.

Volunteers counted and asked people to participate in a confidential survey.

The number of people in temporary accommodation and in services was supplied by providers and the Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

About our name

Ira Mata, Ira Tangata is about people. While not a literal translation, the name recognises that each person embodies those who have come before them and those in the future. It reflects that a person is not defined by their homelessness and that people who are homeless are valued – they 'count'.

Guiding principles

1. **Do no harm** – Protect confidentiality and treat everyone with respect and dignity.
2. **Consistency across Auckland** – Ensure a consistent approach in what we say and do across the region.
3. **Collaboration is critical** – We can't and aren't doing this alone.
4. **Housing is a human right** – One person homeless is one person too many. We're doing this because we want to end homelessness in Auckland.

About Point in Time counts

The Point in Time approach used for the count establishes the minimum number of people living without shelter and living in temporary accommodation at a given time on a given night. This method has been well-established and is used internationally to measure unsheltered homelessness and people in temporary accommodation.

The information from the count should be used alongside other data sources and research to strengthen our understanding of homelessness in Auckland. This information can then be used to assist in informing policy and planning to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

Who is involved?

Ira Mata, Ira Tangata was funded by Auckland Council, and delivered by Housing First Auckland backbone services with support from the Housing First Auckland Collective. Collaboration also involved community and emergency housing providers, people with lived experience of homelessness, social service community organisations, local and central government, iwi and academics and researchers.

Ira Mata, Ira Tangata was supported by an Advisory Group which includes key representatives from community organisations, central and local government, academics and people with lived experience.

About the volunteers

We are incredibly grateful to every single volunteer for their generosity of time and for caring enough to be part of *Ira Mata, Ira Tangata*.

More than 1,000 people registered to volunteer. Approximately 660 took part on the night:

- 577 volunteers went out on the street
- 80 volunteers helped with the coordination at each volunteer headquarters.

Volunteers were based from eight volunteer headquarters across five sub-regions of Auckland.

- North Auckland: Warkworth and Albany.
- West Auckland: Glen Eden.
- Central Auckland: Kingsland and Waiheke Island.
- East Auckland: Panmure.
- South Auckland: Manukau and Pukekohe.

There was a strong sense of community and caring from volunteers.

“ It was a way for me to give back to the community AND to contribute to the eradication of homelessness in the land of milk and honey. There should not be homelessness in NZ.”

“ I have been homeless before and it was exciting to know there are so many people who care about the most vulnerable.”

“ The camaraderie on the night was wonderful, and the atmosphere was amazing! It was beautiful to see so many people coming together for such a cause. It restored faith that people care about our whānau living without shelter.”

What is a validation exercise?

International best practice recommends the use of estimation techniques to quantify the number of people missed during the count of people living without shelter.

We conducted a post-count validation exercise under the direction of a statistician from Otago University.

Our validation exercise showed we reached approximately 40% of the people who were without shelter on 17 September. From this we estimate there are approximately 800 people living without shelter across the Auckland region.

What was included in the count?

Data included in the count

People living without shelter.

- People living on the street and in improvised dwellings, including people sleeping rough, in a makeshift shelter or car.

People living in temporary accommodation.

- People living in transitional housing, other temporary sheltered accommodation and MSD funded accommodation.

People in services.

- People staying in mental health and addictions services who would have otherwise been homeless.

Data not included in the count

People living in temporary accommodation.

- People living in motor camps and boarding houses.

People in services.

- People in prison or hospital emergency departments who would have otherwise been homeless.

People who are sharing accommodation.

- People sharing someone else's private dwelling, eg 'couch surfing' or in overcrowded situations.

People living in uninhabitable housing.

- People living in dilapidated dwellings.

Definitions

Homelessness[†]

Homelessness is defined as living situations where people with no other options to acquire safe and secure housing: are without shelter, in temporary accommodation, sharing accommodation with a household or living in uninhabitable housing.

The homeless living situations described for each of the conceptual categories of the definition are as follows.

1. Without shelter

Living situations that provide no shelter, or makeshift shelter, are considered as without shelter. These include living situations such as living on the street, and inhabiting improvised dwellings, such as living in a shack or a car.

2. Temporary accommodation

Living situations are considered temporary accommodation when they provide shelter overnight, or when 24-hour accommodation is provided in a non-private dwelling, and are not intended to be lived in long-term. This includes hostels for the homeless, transitional supported accommodation for the homeless, and women's refuges. As well as people staying long-term in motor camps and boarding houses, as these are not intended for long-term accommodation.

3. Sharing accommodation

Living situations that provide temporary accommodation for people through sharing someone else's private dwelling. The usual residents of the dwelling are not considered homeless.

4. Uninhabitable housing

Living situations where people reside in a dilapidated dwelling are considered uninhabitable housing.

Ministry of Social Development Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant funded accommodation

The MSD EH SNG pays for short-term accommodation for up to seven days at a time, often in hostels or motels, when no other accommodation can be found.

Transitional housing

Transitional housing provides warm, dry and safe short-term accommodation for people in need, along with tailored support. The programme is led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development with collaboration from Housing New Zealand, transitional housing providers, and the wider housing sector.

Other temporary settings

Other temporary settings includes people staying in independently funded temporary accommodation, and people in DHB funded mental health and addiction services who would otherwise be homeless.

[†]Statistics New Zealand (2015) New Zealand definition of homelessness. Wellington.

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