

# Homelessness on Oahu, Hawaii

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## Abstract

This was a research project using multiple scholarly articles and references to analyze and prove the proposed hypothesis behind the contributing factors of homelessness on Oahu, Hawai'i.

## Research Design & Data Collection

Research studies done on:

- Hawaii's overall homeless population
- Mental illness in Hawaii
- Alcohol and substance abuse in Hawaii
- Cost of living in Hawaii

Data Collection

- Quantitative measurement was collected by secondary data.
  - Online journal articles in relation to the topic.
  - News articles published upon relating topics.
- Quantitative measurement also collected by secondary data.
  - Relating more to the direct topic of homelessness and impacts on individuals.
- All articles pertaining to Hawaii directly.
  - Few articles at national level used to show statistics as an overall.

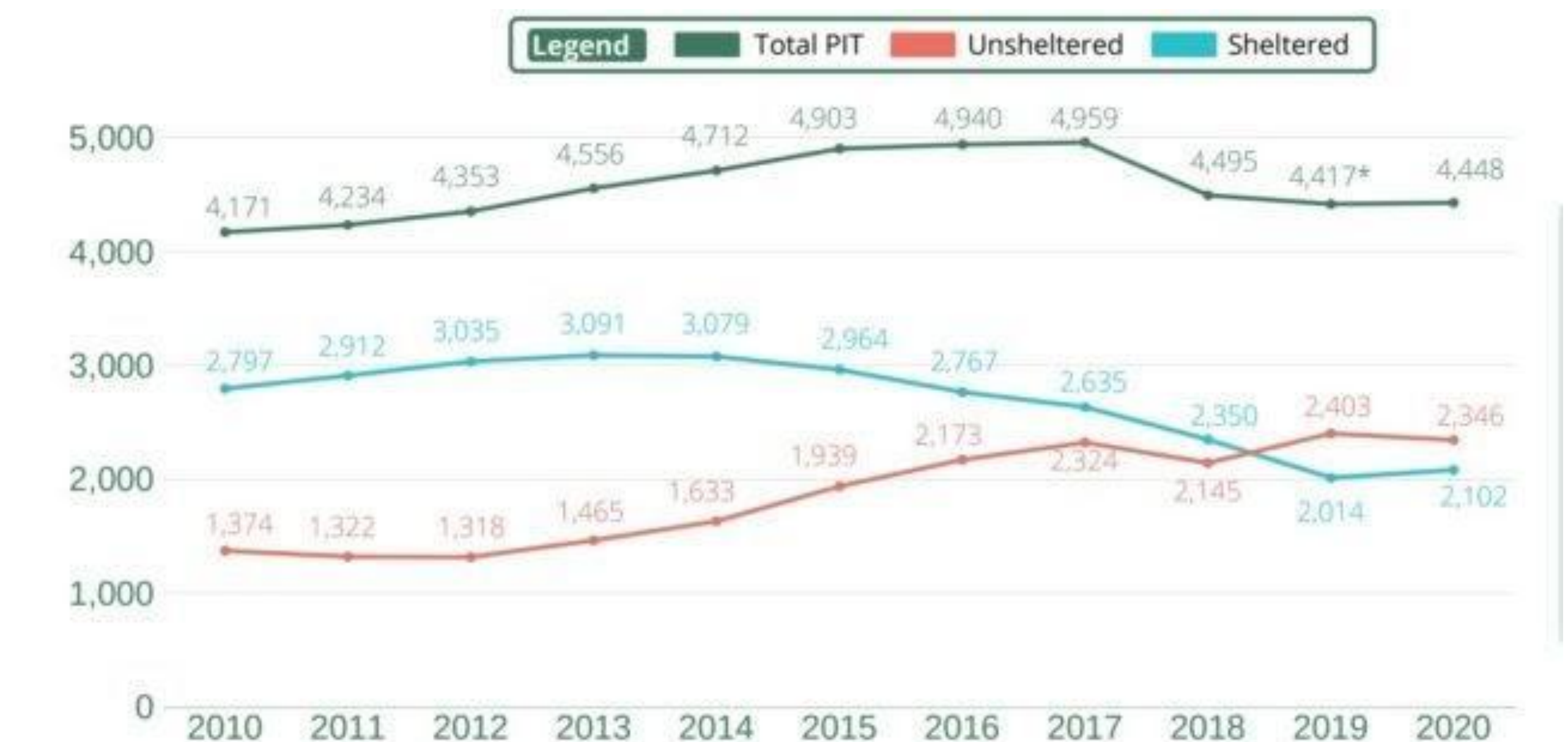


Table 2: Hawaii Homeless Population, 10 Year Span

## Introduction & Research Question

**Introduction:**

Hawaii ranks No. 2 for the highest homelessness rate in the nation.

There about 15,000 homeless individuals in Hawaii,

- About 2,000 people are considered chronically homeless which means they have been homeless from 6+ months and may suffer from mental or physical health conditions.

**Research Question:**

What are the main factors that contribute to homelessness in Hawai'i?

**Hypothesis:**

Mental health issues, substance abuse, and Hawaii's high cost of living are the main factors that contribute to homelessness in Hawai'i.



Figure 1: Homeless on Oahu, Hawaii

## Results

**Mental Illness:**

- High rates of Hawaii's homeless population suffer from mental illness. Schizophrenia being one of the most common mental illnesses. Other mental illnesses include: PTSD
- Severe substance abuse can lead up to mental illness. Help is available but many resist treatment or unable to understand or comprehend treatment options Outreach teams started using antipsychotic drug called Invega Sustenna for those who suffer from mental illness.

**Substance Abuse:**

- Large amounts of alcohol and drug abuse but limited resources.
  - Access is limited for medical detox/rehab facilities.
- Many deny help, do not want help for drugs.

**High Cost of Living:**

- With high costs of living, many evicted and forced to live on streets.
- Median income not enough to cover housing as well as living expenses.

## Discussion

**Mental Illness:**

- In 2016, 4,490 homeless individuals were surveyed. 1,002 adults reported they have a severe mental illness.
- 200+ individuals reside on Oahu.

**Substance Abuse:**

- Many homeless people admit to drug and alcohol abuse.
- One of top 3 causes of death in Oahu's homeless population.
  - 374 deaths linked to effects of drug use.
- Methamphetamine (crystal meth) most used drug amongst Hawaii's homeless.

**High Cost of Living:**

- Hawaii's rent is more than 50% higher than national average. 11% above the national average.
- Median family income is \$85,857.
  - 10% to 14% of households are late on rent.

## Conclusions

I have concluded that the main factors of homelessness in Hawaii are mental illness, substance abuse, and the high cost of living.

- Mental illness has a huge impact on Hawaii's homeless. Many people suffer from Schizophrenia.
- Large amounts of the homeless population are methamphetamine abusers. Severe drug use can lead up to mental illness.
- Hawaii's high cost of living combined with incomes are another leading factor in homelessness.

Conta

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