2023 Point in Time Count

Homeless Census Report

Thurston County, WA

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Executive Summary

The Point in Time Count (PIT) is conducted every year. The purpose is to count the number of people experiencing homelessness. This activity is required by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The data collected through the Point in Time Count is useful, even though we're not able to count every single person experiencing homelessness.

At a glance, the 2023 PIT data points to common trends from previous PIT annual counts. The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness remains high, while the number of available shelter beds remains stagnant.

Since 2021, Thurston County has participated in two initiatives aimed towards ending homelessness for two sub-populations. The Built for Zero initiative focuses on the chronically homeless population and the Anchor Community Initiative focuses on youth and young adults. The success of these initiatives is dependent on consistently capturing quality data within the Homeless Crisis Response System. The organizations within the Homeless Crisis Response System continue to work together to improve data. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) can potentially replace the unsheltered and sheltered PIT count once we reach reliable and quality data. This could eliminate the need for surveys, which have proven to be a barrier in collecting accurate PIT data in the past. The PIT uses a great deal of time, money, effort and energy. If HMIS could replace the PIT, these resources could be reserved for other homeless response activities.

It would be a gamechanger for our Homeless Crisis Response System to have real-time access to accurate, reliable data year-round and not rely on the annual PIT survey to illuminate the issues our unsheltered neighbors face. Until that time, the PIT serves a crucial element in understanding the scope and scale of homelessness in Thurston County and nationwide. It is vital to take this information, alongside other data sources, to create as complete as possible picture of who, how, and why folks experience homelessness in Thurston County.

Definitions

Chronically Homeless Individual
An individual with a disability who has been continuously homeless for one year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years where the combined length of time homeless on those occasions is at least 12 months.

Congregate Shelter
Is an emergency shelter where the residents share a common sleeping area.

Continuum of Care (CoC)
A local planning body responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area. Thurston County is part of the Balance of State CoC.

Emergency Shelter
Is a facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter to for homeless people. Can be nigh-by-night or continuous stay.

Encampment or camp
An outdoor area, either private or public, where multiple tents, man-made structures, or other impromptu dwellings are situated.

Disability
A self-identified physical, mental, and/or behavioral health condition that impacts an individual's ability to perform certain daily activities. No verification of disability is required for the PIT.

Homeless
A person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
Provides an annual inventory of beds that assist people in the CoC who are experiencing homelessness or leaving homelessness.

Non-Congregate Shelter
Is an emergency shelter that provides private sleeping space, such as hotel or motel room.

Occupancy Rate
Is the percentage of available beds that are occupied on the night of the PIT count.

People in Families with Children
Are people who are experiencing homelessness as part of a household that has at least one adult (age 18 and older) and one child (under age 18).

Sheltered Homelessness
Refers to people who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (under 18)
Are people under age 18 in households with only children who are not part of a family with (other) children or accompanied by a parent or guardian during an episode of homelessness.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (18-24)
Are people in households without children, who are not part of a family or accompanied by their parent or guardian during their episode of homelessness and are between the ages of 18-24.

Unsheltered Homelessness
Refers to people whose primary nighttime location is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (e.g. abandoned building, doorway, vehicle, park).

Vehicle/RV
Any car or Recreational Vehicle, whether self-powered or towable that is utilized as a primary place of habitation. Also called liveaboards, or homestead vehicles.

Veteran
Refers to anyone who self-identifies as having served in the United States armed forces. Verification of veteran status is not required for the PIT, however, may be required for veteran specific homeless services.

What is the Point in Time Count?

The annual Point in Time Count (PIT) is a census of all people experiencing homelessness across the nation, including Thurston County. It is mandated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It normally takes place during the last ten days of January. It requires counties across the nation to collect data and count how many people are experiencing homelessness at that point in time.
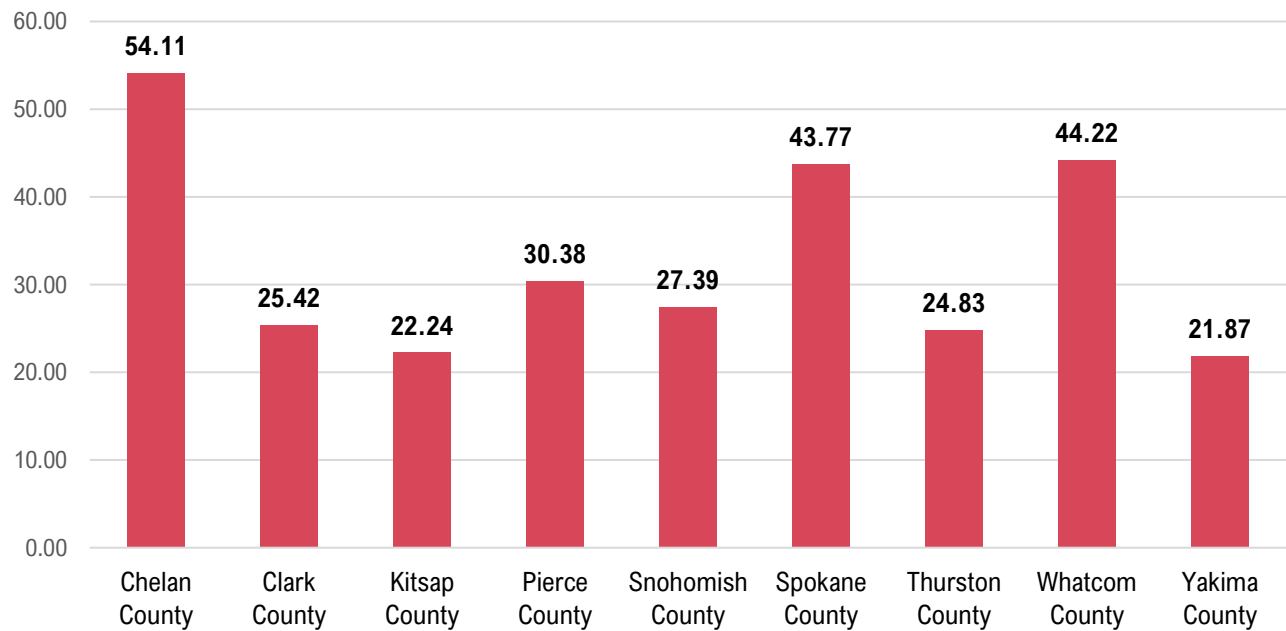
In the State of Washington, each Continuum of Care (CoC) is responsible for conducting and managing its PIT; King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, and Spokane County each consist of their own CoC. The remaining 34 of Washington's 39 counties make up the Balance of State CoC. This is important to note, as Balance of State members must maintain consistency, and have limited flexibility in how the count is conducted.

2023 WA County PIT Counts
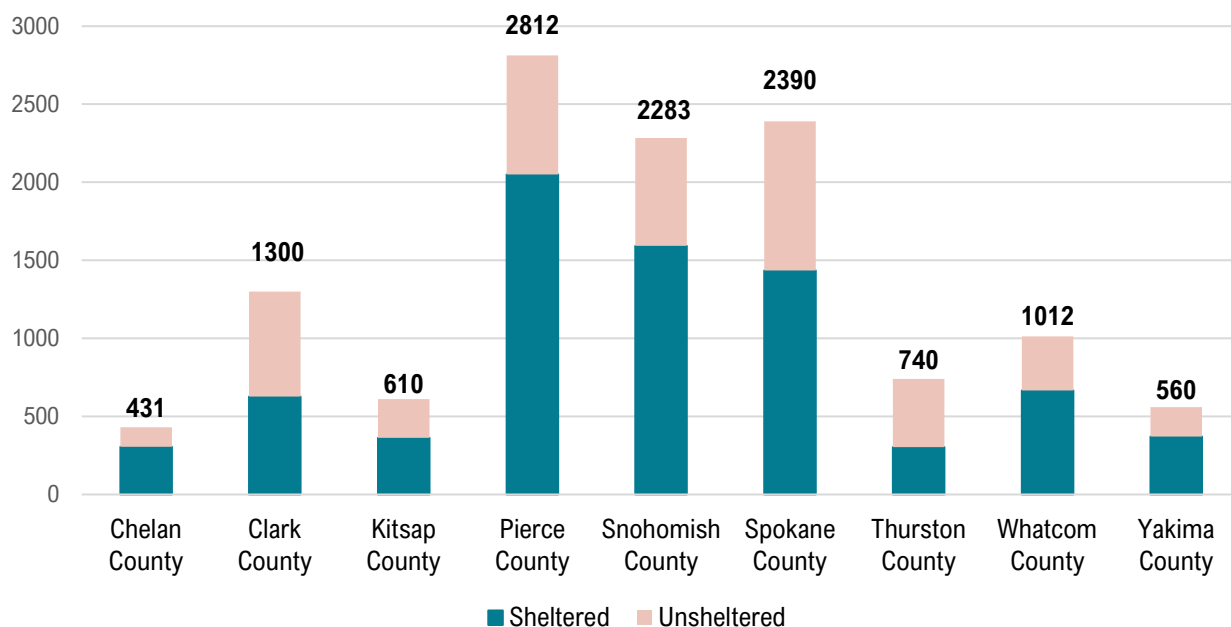
Counties that had a total count of 400 or more in 2023 were included in this chart. King County chose not to do a count in 2023, which they are able to do as their own Federal Continuum of Care. The next graph shows the relationship of this number to the population of each included county.

County rates of homelessness per 10,000 population

Chelan County: 54.11
Clark County: 25.42
Kitsap County: 22.24
Pierce County: 30.38
Snohomish County: 27.39
Spokane County: 43.77
Thurston County: 24.83
Whatcom County: 44.22
Yakima County: 21.87

Who is included in the count?

The PIT collects data on people who are unsheltered, sheltered, transitionally housed, or in an institutional type setting without a permanent address to return to upon exit.

The count doesn't include those that are doubled-up—individuals staying with friends and family.

Unsheltered

- Encampments
- Streets/doorways
- Vehicles/RVs
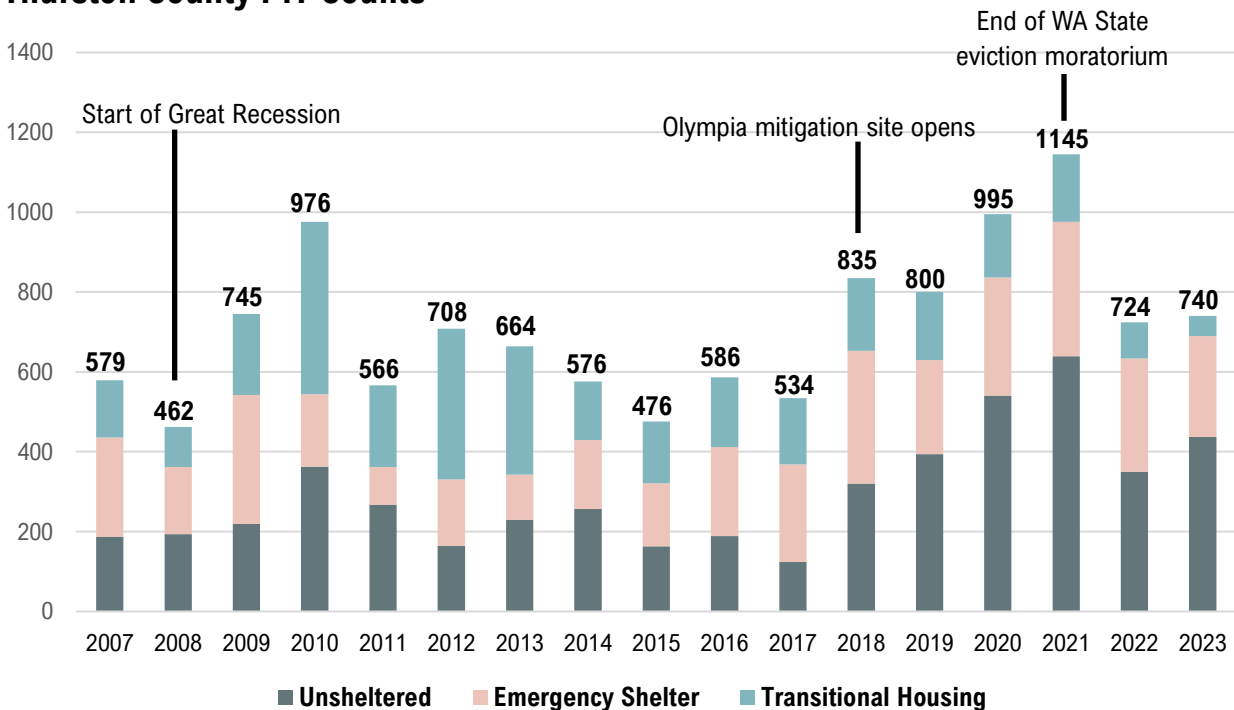- Abandoned buildings
- Micro-shelter

Sheltered

- Emergency shelter: continuous stay and night-by-night
- Hotel rooms used as emergency shelter
- Transitional housing

Institutional

- Jail
- Hospital
- Other treatment or long-term stay facility

Thurston County PIT Counts

Why do the Point in Time Count?

The Point in Time Count (PIT) is a window into understanding who and how people are experiencing homelessness in our community. By conducting the count as comprehensively as possible, we get a snapshot into a single night in our county, where we can look at our available housing and shelter options alongside the number of our unsheltered homeless and assess for gaps between those two figures.

Our local data is combined with rest of the Balance of State for Washington, and then reported to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to be included in the National Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR). This lets us look at and measure local, state, and national level trends in homelessness.

The AHAR provides data to decision makers so that they can strategize the use of available resources and plan for building capacity moving forward. The PIT helps shape our understanding of homelessness, each year, and over time in Thurston County.

Conducting a census of homeless individuals each year has led to some standardized practices and approaches, which includes using our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as the primary source of data for Transitional Housing and Emergency Shelter occupancy on the PIT

night. For projects that do not participate in HMIS, they are provided paper surveys and encouraged to complete them with all individuals in residence.

The Point in Time Count remains one of the most consistent touchpoints on measuring active homelessness in the community and it remains a vital piece of our data infrastructure on homelessness. Other efforts and data sources provide insight into homelessness in addition to the Point in Time Count.

Methodology

The Point in Time Count (PIT) has standardized best-practices which HUD outlines in the [PIT Methodology Guide](). This guide outlines minimum standards for ensuring the count is conducted consistently, and in such a way as to not count any individual twice. There are different methods that are recommended depending on the size of the population, and the geography of the area, such as the share of urban versus rural zones.

There is a distinction in methodology between the sheltered and unsheltered portions of the count. The unsheltered portion is the component of the count that fluctuates the most year to year. This is due to factors such as: the shift in the planning committee each year; better understanding of best practices and new ways to capture participation; and the organizational capacity of participating homeless service providers. It is also impacted by external factors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and any encampment, or facility closures.

In Thurston County, we attempt to count all individuals experiencing homelessness through surveys, rather than using a sampling method. A sampling method entails surveying a small subset of the population, and then extrapolating the information from the sample to everyone across the county. The data reported in the Thurston County 2023 PIT is a census data reporting method and not extrapolated from a sample population.

For the 2023 unsheltered count, there were several components that were coordinated to reach as many individuals as possible. Components of collecting surveys included hosting targeted events, direct surveys during outreach, telephone surveys using the Coordinated Entry list, and pop-up survey tents.

The method for surveying households living unsheltered on the designated PIT night can vary from completing the entirety of the count on a single pre-determined day to conducting surveys over the course of one week. The count typically happens on a single night, for 2023 that night was Thursday, January 26. The Thurston County PIT conducted the surveyed count for seven days, January 26 through February 2. In the survey, participants were asked where they stayed the night of Thursday, January 26.

The Survey

The surveys were developed based on HUD minimum data requirements for deduplication which includes: first and last name, date of birth, race/ethnicity, gender, and veteran status. When an individual chooses not to provide all, or key parts of this information, it can make it challenging to validate that their data is not duplicated elsewhere. In addition, the survey asks for LGBTQIA+ status, if they live with a disability, and reason for homelessness. Any respondent who shares their HIV status or that they're fleeing domestic violence are automatically de-identified to protect their identities.

The surveys were expanded in 2023 to include information about where individuals are from, how long they have been in Thurston County, and what types of experiences they have had while accessing local resources over the past year. The full survey is included in this report as Appendix A.

Survey Outreach

The surveys were conducted in several ways to maximize the level of engagement. This included in-person surveys during regularly scheduled outreach activities and at specific PIT events.

Groups that conducted the surveys in camps include Olympia Mutual Aid Partners (OlyMAP), Lacey Mobile Outreach Team, City of Olympia Homeless Response Team, Love Abounds Here (Yelm), Northwest Resources, and two groups of volunteers, who surveyed multiple sites in Tumwater and supported additional survey capacity in two of the larger encampments within Olympia.

While direct outreach with the surveys was successful, most surveys collected came from the various events held during PIT week.

Coordinated Entry Agencies

Family Support Center of South Sound and Olympia Mutual Aid Partners (OlyMAP) conducted surveys over the phone by calling through both the family and single adult Coordinated Entry lists. After completing a phone survey, participants were directed to the offices of each agency to receive their incentives. This effort also helped provide a comparison by-name list to confirm the accuracy of the Coordinated Entry by-name lists for both populations that homeless services providers use for referrals to shelter and housing options. A by-name list is a list accounting for all people experiencing homelessness by name or unique HMIS identifier.

Volunteers

United Way partnered with Thurston County to recruit volunteers for a variety of roles from sorting donations to completing surveys with individuals.

Public Health and Social Services staff provided volunteer training to those volunteers recruited through United Way, and through the volunteer pool established to serve during cold and hazardous weather events. During this training, staff instructed volunteers on the logistics of the event, how to complete the survey, as well as considerations for being trauma informed when communicating with people experiencing homelessness.

Volunteers were utilized across six events that spanned from 6am through 9pm on Friday, January 27th, the day following the night of the Count.

Events

There were several PIT events held for specific demographic groups. There were two concurrent senior events, a youth and young adult event, two all-day laundry events, and a Homeless Connect event accessible to all households experiencing homelessness. In addition, PIT surveys were conducted in Yelm during their ongoing monthly service event, a resource fair, at the Yelm Community Center. And two pop-up survey efforts were conducted at local shelters during breakfast and lunch service.

The events in connection with the PIT serve a number of beneficial purposes. It allows for a direct connection to service providers, the opportunity for the count itself and the incentives offered around engagement, and it allows for broad based community building. The events bring people together, and center service to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Youth Count Event

Historically, youth and young adults (ages 12-24) experiencing homelessness are undercounted in traditional PIT counts. In 2016, Chapin Hall research and policy center developed and published the "Voices of Youth Count Tool Kit". The purpose of the tool kit was to provide a guide for communities wishing to get a better understanding of how many youth and young adults are experiencing homelessness, as they are a population often not accounted for during the annual PIT.

"Accurately counting unaccompanied homeless youth using methods developed for counting homeless adults and families has been challenging. Youth experiencing homelessness are found in different locations and at different times than adults and families, and many do not want to be

found or do not think of themselves as being homeless." Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Youth Count Toolkit

In Thurston County, youth specific PIT activities had not occurred since 2018. In 2023, Thurston County staff collaborated with local homeless services providers who specifically serve youth and young adults and youth with lived experience of homelessness (YLEH) to plan a Youth Count event. All events, activities, food, and donations were centered on the feedback of YLEH whose efforts were compensated through gift cards.

The Youth Count event was held at First Christian Church in downtown Olympia. Some activities that were offered at the Youth Count were: specially designed and hand screen printed "Youth Count 2023" T-shirts, haircuts, live DJ, First Aid training and First Aid kits, to-go snack bags provided by Thurston County Food Bank, Burritos from Chipotle and Vegan macaroni & Cheese from The Wayside Café were provided, and various donations of clothing, make-up, hygiene kits and more. Several agencies tabled at the event offering service connection and various donations.

Events for Seniors

Senior Services of South Sound along with some dedicated volunteers helped spearhead the senior count. There were two events held concurrently on the Friday following PIT night, January 27th. These were held from 10-2pm at both the Olympia and Lacey Senior Centers. This time was chosen to overlap with the standard free lunch meal served.

There were jackets and sweaters along with the donations available for participants. Engagement with the survey was not required to receive incentives or a meal. The PIT was there to boost normal services, and to try to capture homeless seniors who may not otherwise have been counted. In total only a handful of surveys were gathered, but relationships were strengthened, and a pathway laid down for the following PIT counts of what has and has not worked to get folks to engage, regardless of their age or where they access services.

Families

Family Support Center of South Sound has traditionally led the count for families with children in Thurston County. Family Support Center spent 7-days calling down the list of households who have already been identified within the Coordinated Entry system and complete surveys with those households.

Sergio's Place Homeless Connect Event

The Homeless Connect event at Sergio's Place, the new day and service access center from Interfaith Works, was a successful collaboration of providers, Thurston County staff, and United Way volunteers. Over 13 organizations came together to offer a broad range of service connection opportunities. In addition, on-site free veterinary care, haircuts, a clothing/jacket closet, free pizza, coffee, and tea were offered. Interfaith Works graciously hosted the event as

their inaugural opening of Sergio's Place providing an opportunity for participants to visit and engage with the space.

There was a room next to the main space set up with tables and chairs, for individuals to conduct the survey, and answer questions more privately. The hope in creating a semi-private space, was to create a sense of security and privacy, as some of the questions are very personal.

Pop-up Events

There were two pop-up events that took place to survey people where they access services. The first event was held on the morning of Friday, January 27, at Union Gospel Mission (UGM). UGM is an emergency drop-in, night-by-night shelter. Setting up at 6:30 a.m. when individuals were leaving, allowed us to count individuals who resided at UGM during the PIT night. Most emergency shelters in Thurston County enter their data directly into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), but UGM does not, so the timing of the event set-up was strategic.

The second pop-up event was at the Catholic Community Services Community Kitchen, hosted at Salvation Army at 5th and Plum Street in downtown Olympia. Incentives, donations, snacks, and water were offered at both locations. The regular meal service at the Salvation Army is a well-known and busy service access point for a warm and free meal, which is why it was chosen.

Laundry Events

The Spin City laundry facility on Pacific Way in Olympia, was rented out over the course of two full days. Olympia Mutual Aid Partners (OlyMAP) took on the organization and staffing for these events and helped manage the flow of participants. The facility was open for individuals to come in and do laundry for free, and get access to services, the PIT incentives, and some snacks and beverages.

Some local encampments are supported by faith and community-based organizations to facilitate laundry services on a year-long basis. However, these volunteer laundry efforts do not reach all encampments and are dependent on volunteer availability. Consequently, the PIT laundry events were met with enthusiasm and a high level of engagement. Nearly a third of the surveys completed for those unsheltered were collected at one of the two laundry events.

Vehicle/RV Count

The Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater police departments conducted the vehicle/RV count. This component of the 2023 PIT does not include a survey. Visual vehicle counts provide supplemental data to attempt to estimate the number of households living in their vehicles.

Vehicle and RVs were counted on the night of January 26. For PIT reporting, there is an option to include the count of vehicles and RVs/Boats without power or running water. Individuals who

complete the survey may indicate that they are living in a vehicle or RV and that is reflected in the unsheltered results section.

Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater:

- 14 RVs: Depending on the size of the RV, the standard assumption of the number of individuals change. For short or truck-bed models, these are generally counted as one individual. Larger models, with a kitchen and bathroom, are counted as two individuals.
- 68 vehicles: These are considered, when information is not known, to be counted as the residence of at least one individual.

Incentives and Donation Drives

The Thurston County Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention (OHHP) sets aside $25,000 each year to fund Point in Time Count (PIT) activities. The funded activities may include the purchase of incentives for survey participants, event costs, food, drinks, and other approved activities to increase participation in the PIT surveys. Incentives provided for the 2023 PIT included quality cold weather gear and tarp kits for camp weatherization. Tarp kits included a full 8' by 20' tarp,15 feet of paracord, and 5 extra-large zip ties.

There was also a large donation drive for warm clothing held over the course of the month and a half leading up to the PIT. This drive resulted in the donation of over 100 new/like new jackets, 50 sweatshirts, and a few hundred pairs of additional socks and gloves. Donations and incentives were distributed at each of the PIT events.

While incentives are intended to compensate survey takers for their time, it is not a resource that would be withheld. All staff and volunteers for the PIT distributed items freely, regardless of completion of the survey.

2023 PIT Results

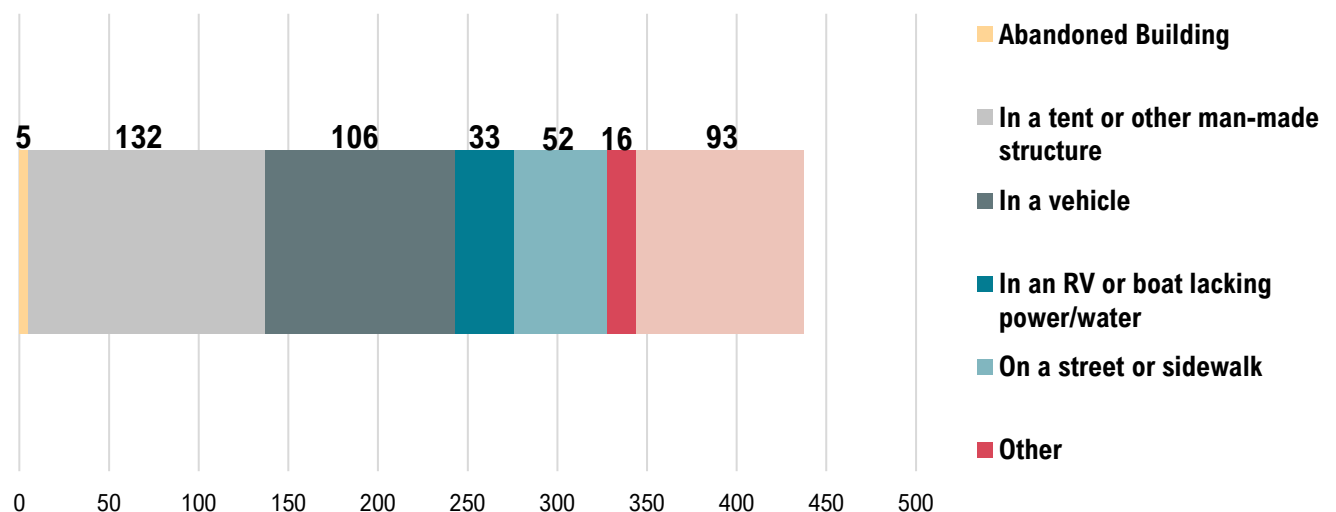The results are broken out into four sections:

- Unsheltered Count
- RV/vehicle count (a sub-set of the unsheltered count)
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Youth and Young Adults
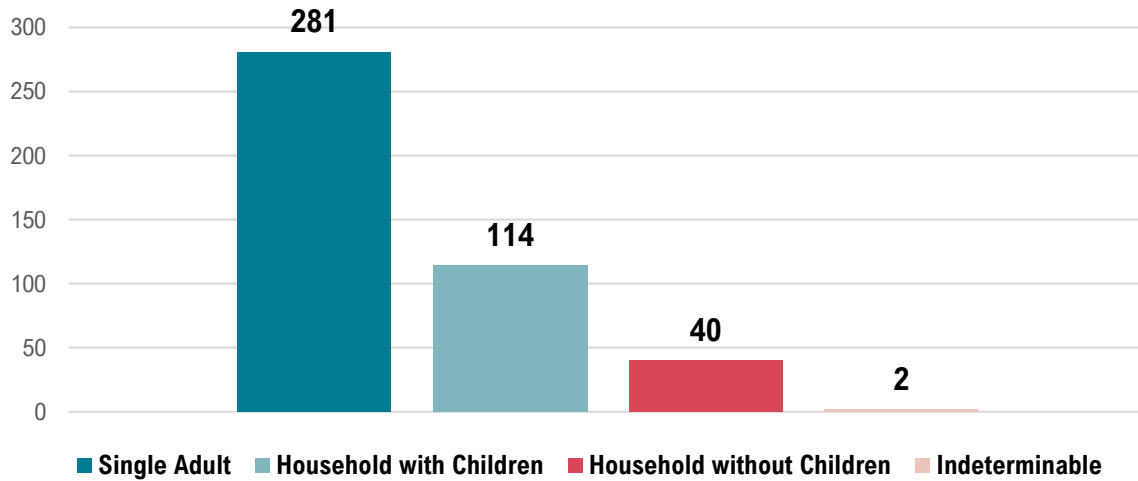
The full data is included in Appendix C.

Unsheltered Count

The unsheltered count includes all individuals who completed survey who were identified as residing in a place that qualifies as "unsheltered homelessness" per HUD's definition. The majority of individuals resided in a tent or on the street or sidewalk, while large minority resided in a vehicle or RV. Quince Street Village (QSV), a micro-shelter community does not meet the minimum formal requirements to be classified as formal Emergency Shelter, though it represents a potentially improved circumstance over tents or other totally unsheltered circumstances.

Where did you stay last night?

Legend:
- Abandoned Building
- In a tent or other man-made structure
- In a vehicle
- In an RV or boat lacking power/water
- On a street or sidewalk
- Other

Values shown: 5, 132, 106, 33, 52, 16, 93

Household Type

Single Adult: 281
Household with Children: 114
Household without Children: 40
Indeterminable: 2

The largest population of survey participants identified as a "Single Adult". The "Households with Children" category does not account for all family members individually, and only accounts for the person taking the survey. If the data was broken down further, the total number of individuals within the "Households with Children" category would surpass the number of "Single Adults". The numbers of families with children under 18 and experiencing homelessness are often undercounted when only accounted for by their "household."

Gender Identity

Male 58%
Gender Non-Conforming 1%
Female 41%
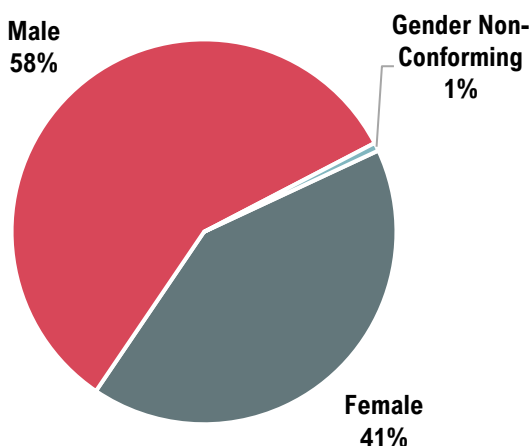
People who identify as male consistently make up the majority of unsheltered populations.
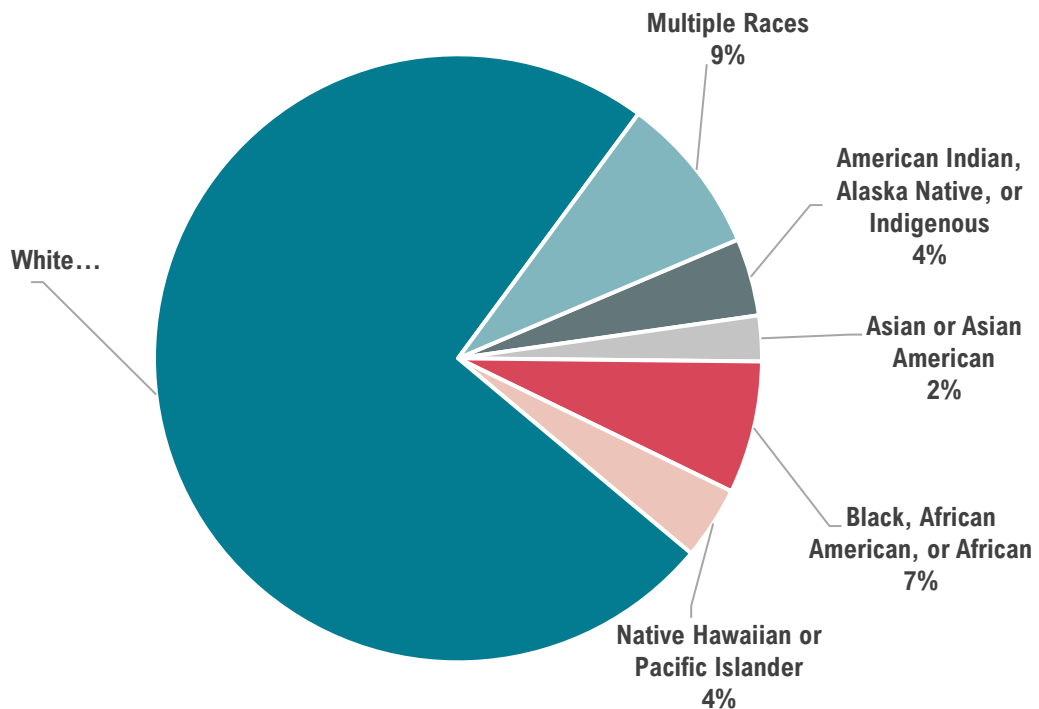
Does anyone in the household identify as 2SLGBTQIA+?

34 survey participants responded that one or more members of their household identify as Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Aromantic, plus other marginalized gender and sexual identities (2SLGBTQIA+). This is 8% of the unsheltered count. However, data on 2SLGBTQIA+ people experiencing homelessness is sparse, as it is not required to be collected in Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) intakes and assessments for unsheltered adult populations (over 25 years old).

Another reason why data on sexual and gender identities is often poorly represented may be due to the discomfort of either the survey giver, or survey taker in asking or answering questions regarding sexual and gender identities.

Generally, agencies and programs specifically serving homeless youth and young adults (0-24 years old) are required to account for gender and sexual identities as nationally 40% of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness identify as 2SLGBTQIA+. Yet, even with the data requirements, young people may be hesitant to disclose their status to HCRS workers.

Race

Multiple Races 9%

American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous 4%

Asian or Asian American 2%

White…

Black, African American, or African 7%

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 4%

The race of the respondents in the unsheltered count does not exactly align with the state data in the snapshot of homelessness report. This means the PIT count is not reaching as many unsheltered individuals who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) in Thurston County as would be proportional to the snapshot. For example, American Indian Alaska Native, per the PIT is 4%, however per the snapshot should be around 13%.

Ethnicity

■ Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx　■ Hispanic/Latinx　■ Refused/Not Identified
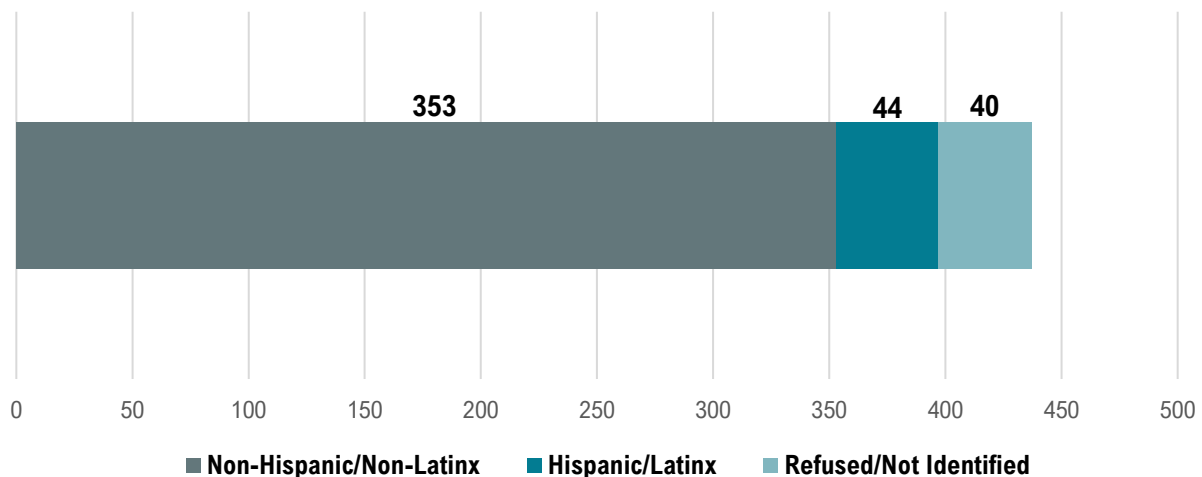
10% of individuals identified as Hispanic/Latina(o)(x). This tracks with county census data which shows 10.5%.

Age

■ under 18　■ 18-24　■ 25-34　■ 35 - 44　■ 45 - 54　■ 55 - 64　■ 65+
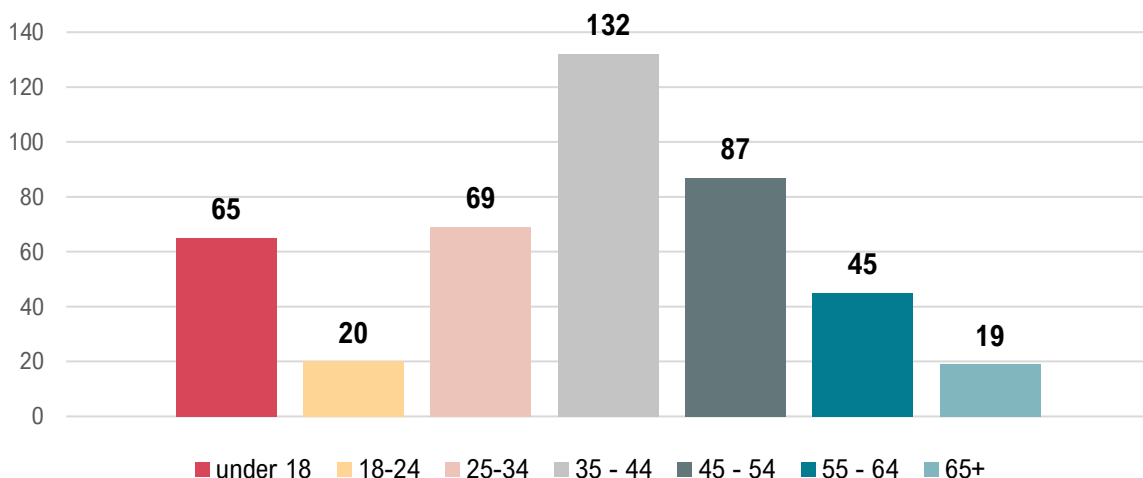
20% of unsheltered respondents were under 18 or over 65. These individuals are considered more vulnerable and at risk of the short and long-term negative impacts and effects of homelessness. Supportive services aimed at youth and seniors looks differently than those targeted at single-adults and families.

Veterans

Only two individuals identified as veterans in the unsheltered count. That only accounts for 1% of the population, which is not consistent with other local data sources. The local Homeless Management Information System for example showed 11 veterans entering projects in the second quarter (June-August) 2023.

Fleeing Domestic Violence

69 people (16% of unsheltered population)

0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70
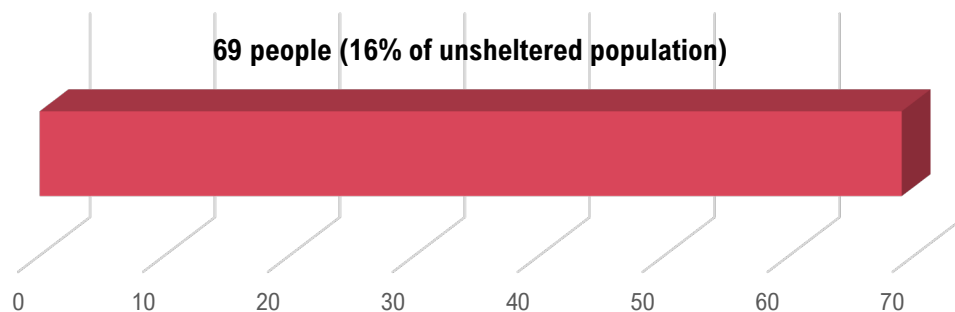
69 individuals identified as fleeing domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sex or labor trafficking. This represents **16%** of the unsheltered population. Identifying information about these individuals is not entered into HMIS, per RCW 43.185C.030, for their protection.. Housing service providers agree that due to fear of being identified, difficulties with tracking and engagement, and prioritizing data security, that this population is larger than what can be identified via survey.

Health Conditions
Select all that apply.

Legend:
- Behavioral Health Conditions
- PTSD
- Substance Use Disorder
- Chronic Health Problems
- Physical Disability
- Intellectual Disability/Memory Impairment
- TBI
- Mental Health

Values: 123, 175, 134, 129, 110, 58, 87, 40
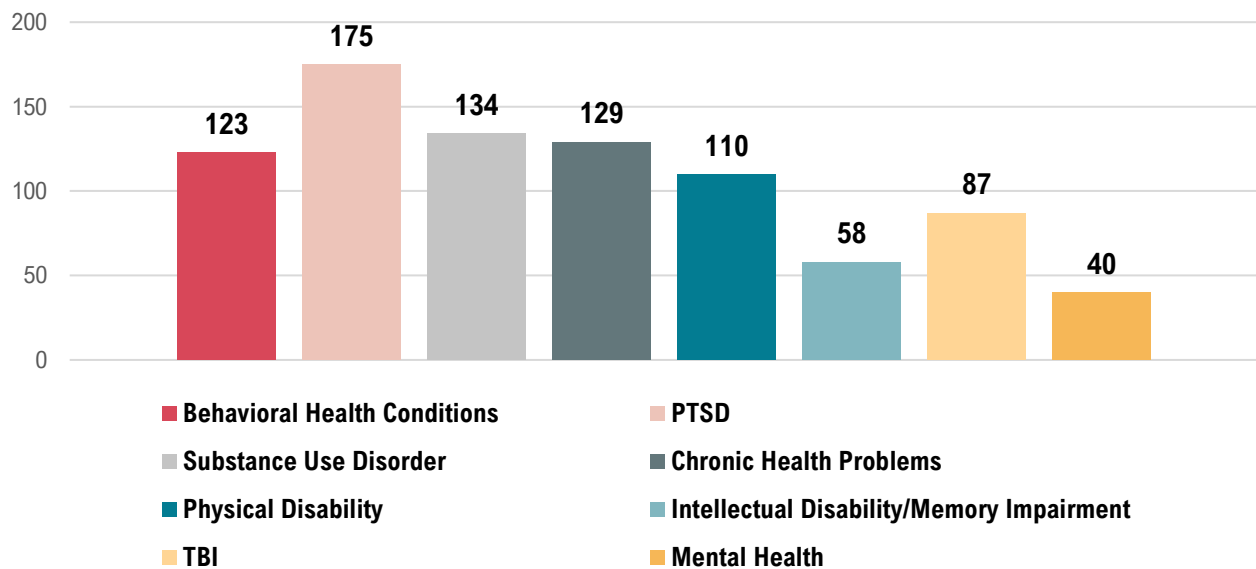
Survey respondents were asked to select all health conditions that apply to them. The graph above shows the frequency of each health condition. The most frequently identified health condition was Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, at nearly 40% of the unsheltered population.

Where are you from?

- Out of State 11%
- Washington 14%
- Pierce, Mason, Lewis 13%
- Thurston County 62%
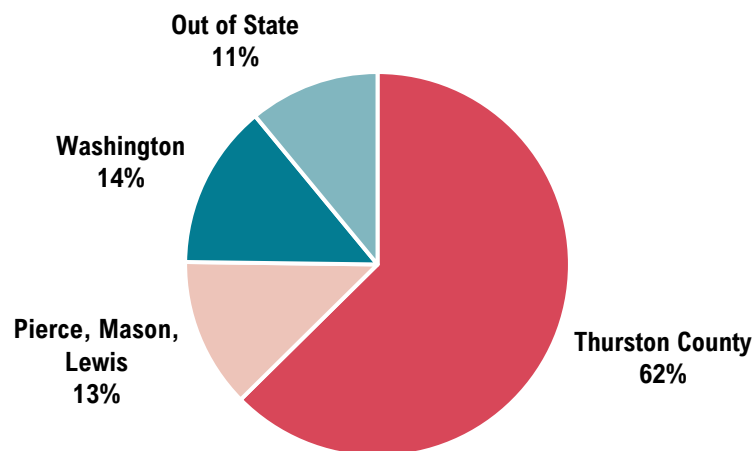
75% or 3/4 of individuals reported that they were from Thurston or a neighboring county. Only 11% identified as having come from out of state, where Oregon, California, Florida, and Texas were the most common states identified.

How long have you lived in Thurston County?

0-6 months
10%

6-12 months
7%

1-2 years
6%

2-5 years
14%

More than 5 years
63%
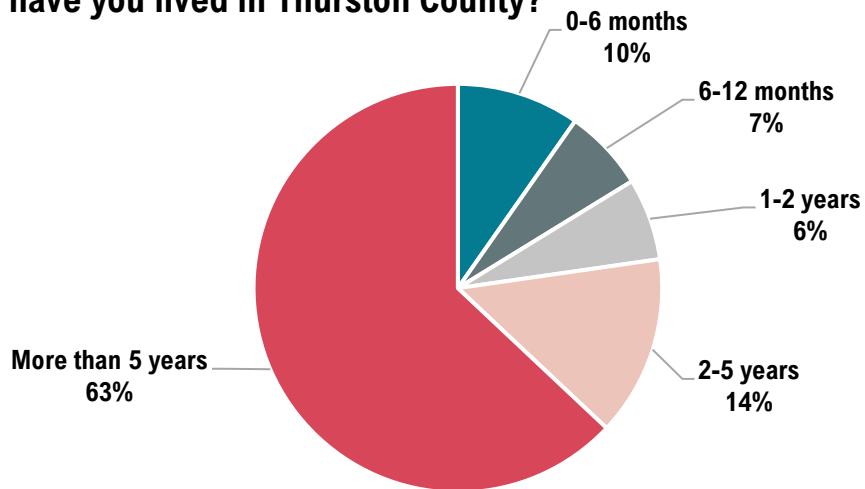
Of those unsheltered individuals who report being from Thurston County, over 75% have lived in the county for 2 or more years.

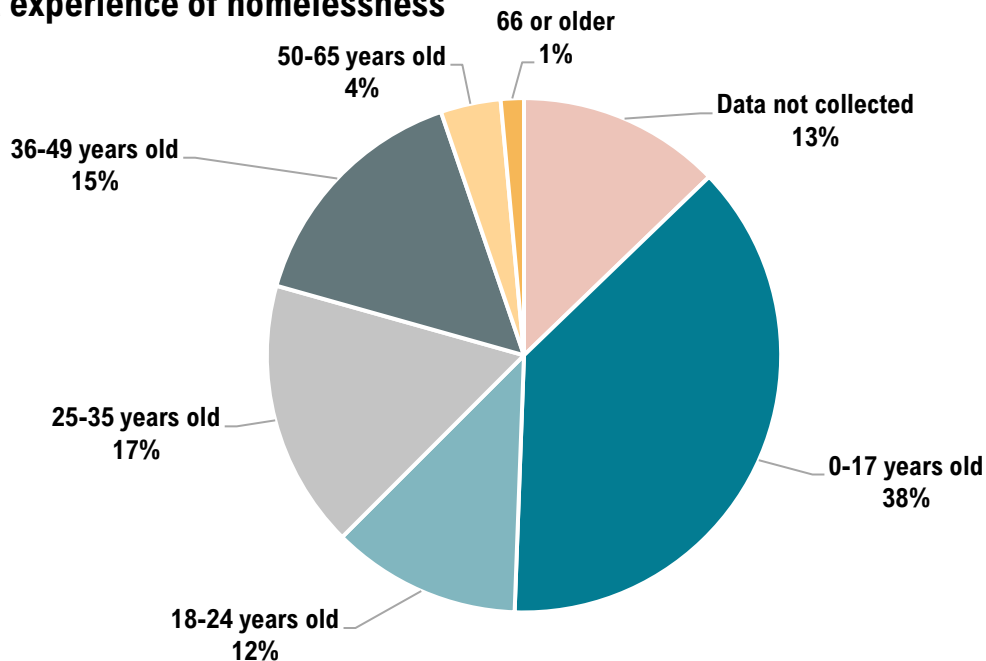## Age first experience of homelessness

66 or older
1%

50-65 years old
4%

36-49 years old
15%

Data not collected
13%

25-35 years old
17%

**0-17 years old**
38%

18-24 years old
12%

50% of individuals were 24 years or younger when they first experienced homelessness. This is a known factor in ongoing and recurring chronic homelessness, as well as one that disproportionately impacts BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities.

The Center for Disease Control recognizes that the experiences that people have in childhood "can have a tremendous impact on lifelong health and opportunity. The Office of Homeless Youth Reports that youth homelessness happens for a variety of reasons, including:

- structural factors - 49% of young people between 18 and 24 years old are low income or experiencing poverty.
- systemic failures - Black, Native, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian youth are removed from their homes and placed in out of home care.
- individual and relational factors – according to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation 9,286 young people with disabilities aged 14-24 were unstably housed in 2018.

What led to your homelessness?
Select all that apply.
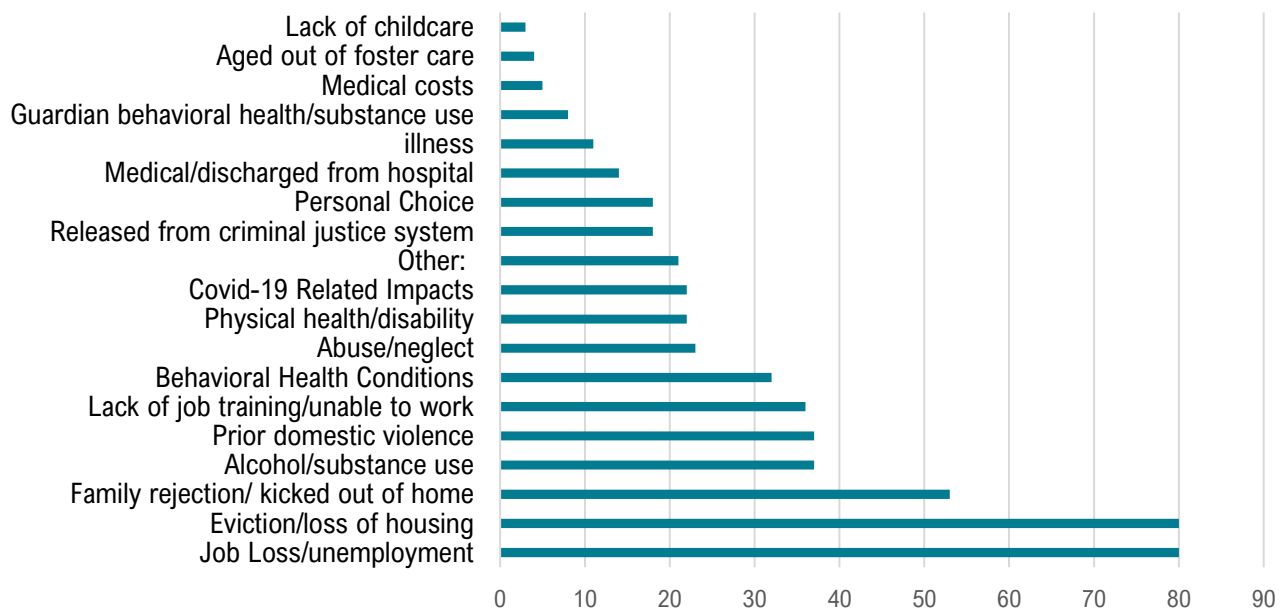
It's common for a person to have multiple risk factors that lead to becoming homeless. Therefore, this question allowed for respondents to select all factors that apply to their experience. In the "other" category, the answers provided had three major themes: unexpected injury, loss/death of significant other, and insufficient income.

In a 2023 survey conducted by the Thurston County Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention of households who had received State and Federal COVID related rent assistance from 2020-2023, 75% of respondents reported having a rent increase of $100 or more per month. In an US Government Accountability Office report published in July 2020, it is reported that every $100 increase in rent leads to a 9% increase in homelessness.

Sources of Household Income
Select all the apply.

Source	Value
Other	0
Unemployment	~1
VA	~3
Seasonal/farm employment	~5
Full time employment	~9
Temporary Disability/ABD	~11
Panhandling	~14
Relatives/Friends	~20
Part time employment	~21
TANF	~28
None	~45
SSI/SSDI	~57
Medicare/Medicaid	~124
Any Source	~187
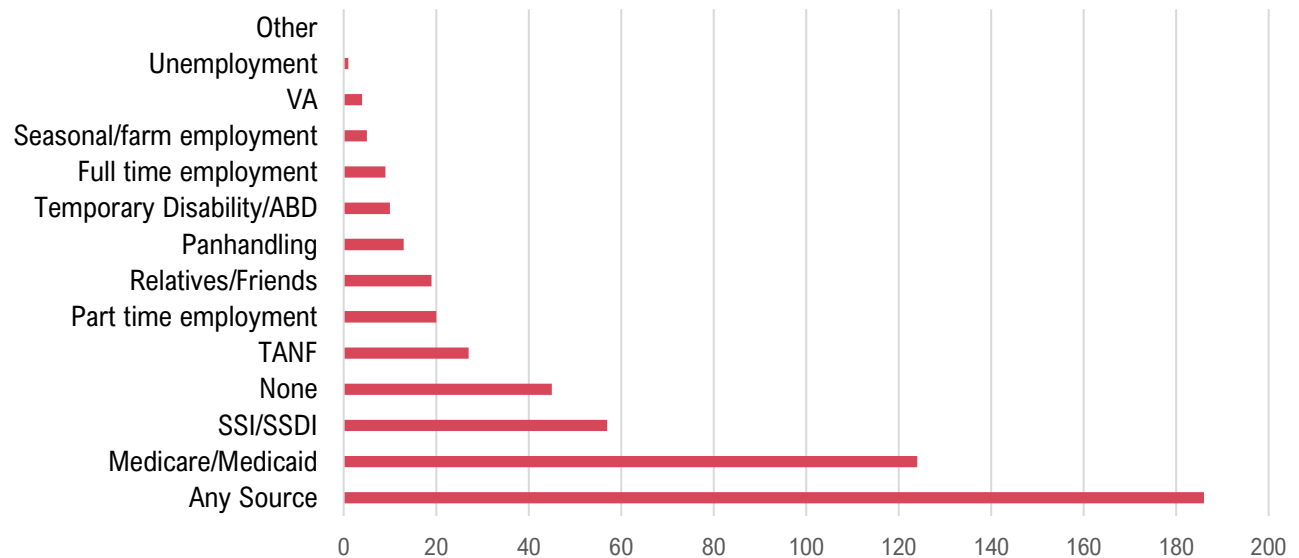
Sources of household income were reported for anyone in the household, not just the individual taking the survey.

Services and Programs Accessed in Past Year
Select all that apply.

Service	Value
Immigration Services	0
Legal Assistance	~13
Sanctioned Encampment/Village	~14
Transitional Housing	~16
Other:	~17
Job Training/Employment	~18
Alcohol/Drug Counseling	~21
Day Shelter Services	~29
Behavioral Health Services	~32
Emergency Shelter	~43
Not Using Any Services	~46
Bus Passes	~54
Hygiene Services	~66
Medical Services	~76
Outreach Services	~102
Free Meals	~128

The "other" category responses were identified as rent assistance and services under the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act ensures educational rights and protections for homeless children and youth. Some examples of services students can access include immediate enrollment, free/reduced lunch, transportation to remain at the same school, as well as additional supplies and resources.

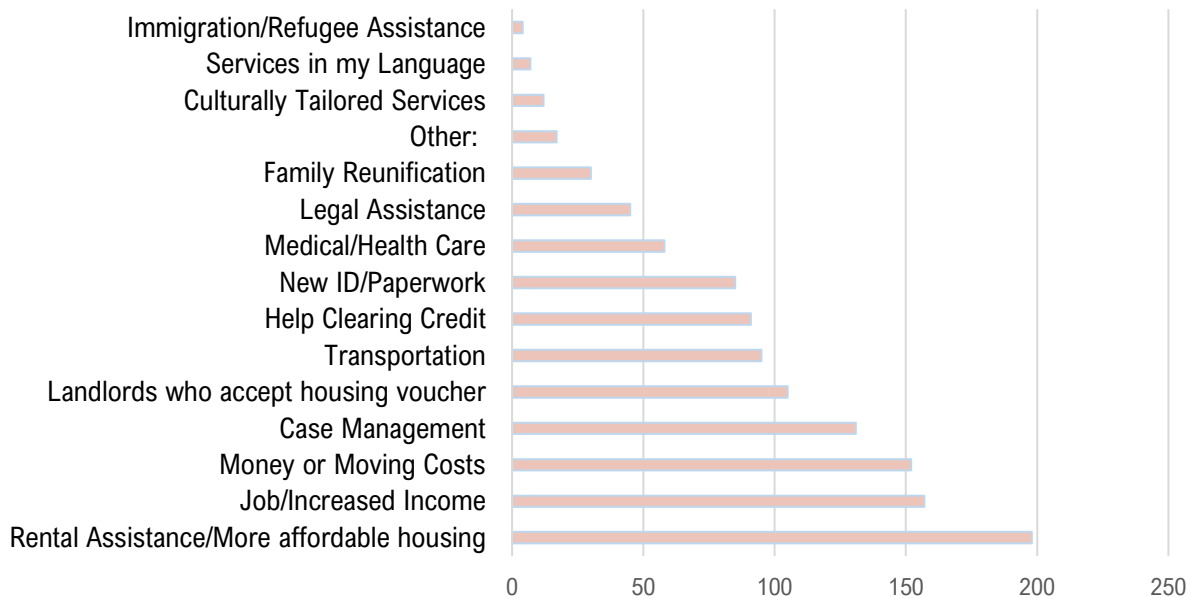### Barriers to accessing services
Select all the apply.
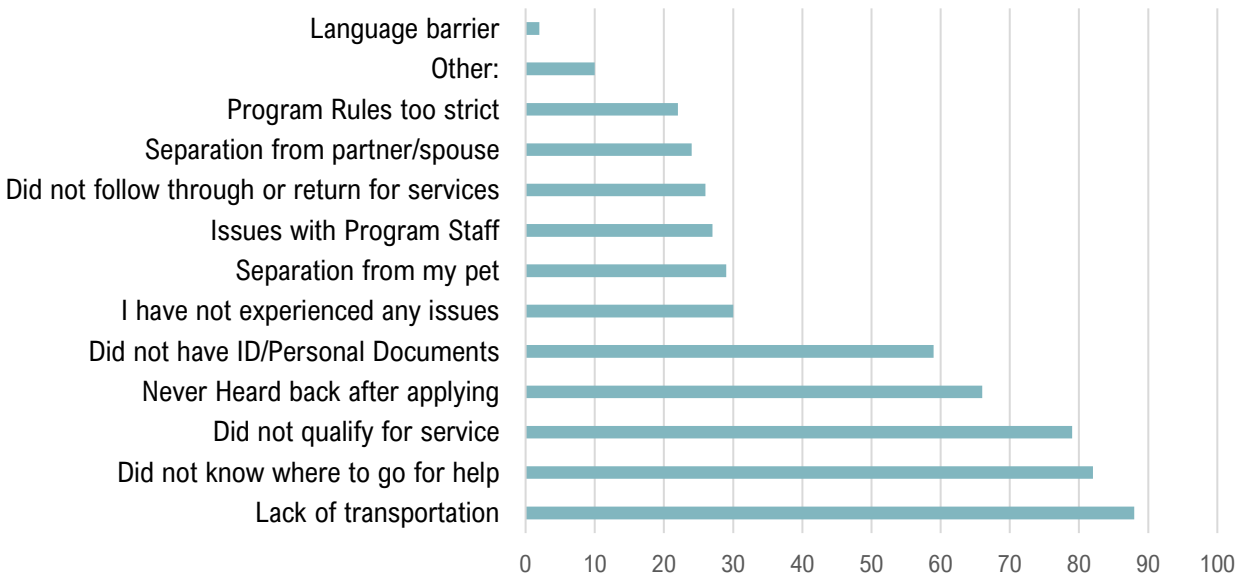
Lack of transportation and not knowing where to go for help were identified as the most common barriers to accessing services. Intercity Transit buses do not require bus fare to ride. Intercity transit also offers a "village van" service which can be reserved for specific pick-up and drop times and locations over the phone or online for appointments.

Both services are free and can help people seeking employment with their transportation needs. However, using public transportation requires some physical ability as there can be a lot of walking between bus stops and destinations. There are also limits on the number of personal belongings that can be taken aboard and many homeless individuals don't have access to safe storage of their belongings.

Additionally, if individuals have pets other than a service animal, they will not be allowed on public transportation with their animal. Other barriers identified were not having a phone, service program waitlists were too long, and inadequate funding at crucial services or that all service funds had been expended.

Support Needed to Obtain Permanent Housing
Select all the apply.

Horizontal bar chart showing support needed to obtain permanent housing (categories from least to most):

- Immigration/Refugee Assistance: ~3
- Services in my Language: ~7
- Culturally Tailored Services: ~12
- Other: ~17
- Family Reunification: ~30
- Legal Assistance: ~45
- Medical/Health Care: ~58
- New ID/Paperwork: ~85
- Help Clearing Credit: ~90
- Transportation: ~95
- Landlords who accept housing voucher: ~105
- Case Management: ~130
- Money or Moving Costs: ~152
- Job/Increased Income: ~157
- Rental Assistance/More affordable housing: ~197

Rental assistance/more affordable housing was the most common identified support needed to obtain and remain in permanent housing. When looking at local trends in rental patterns, according to the UW Apartment Market Report, Thurston County has continued to see a very low vacancy rate, and about 6% average rental increase per year. The average rent in Thurston County is $1,567, and about 3.9% vacancy. Supports identified in the "other" category were having more landlords who accept felony/criminal backgrounds and RV/vehicle repair.
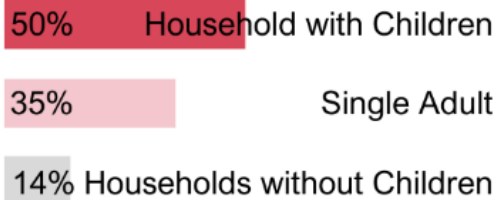
RV/Vehicle

This section details a subset of the overall unsheltered population – those staying in RV/Boats without power and water, and in vehicles. When we zoom in on this population, there are distinct differences between those living in RVs, boats, or vehicles and the overall unsheltered population. Those living in RVs/boats or in vehicles often find themselves the subject of parking citations every few days, which can be just as impactful to that individual as an encampment sweep.

The need to move from location to location makes it difficult for individuals to connect to services or maintain employment. Safe Parking programs may provide stability and reduce barriers for households living aboard vehicles, yet Thurston County does not currently have any Safe Parking programs in the HCRS. The total counted in RVs and vehicles was 139.

Who is living in RVs and vehicles?

Household Type

- 50% Household with Children
- 35% Single Adult
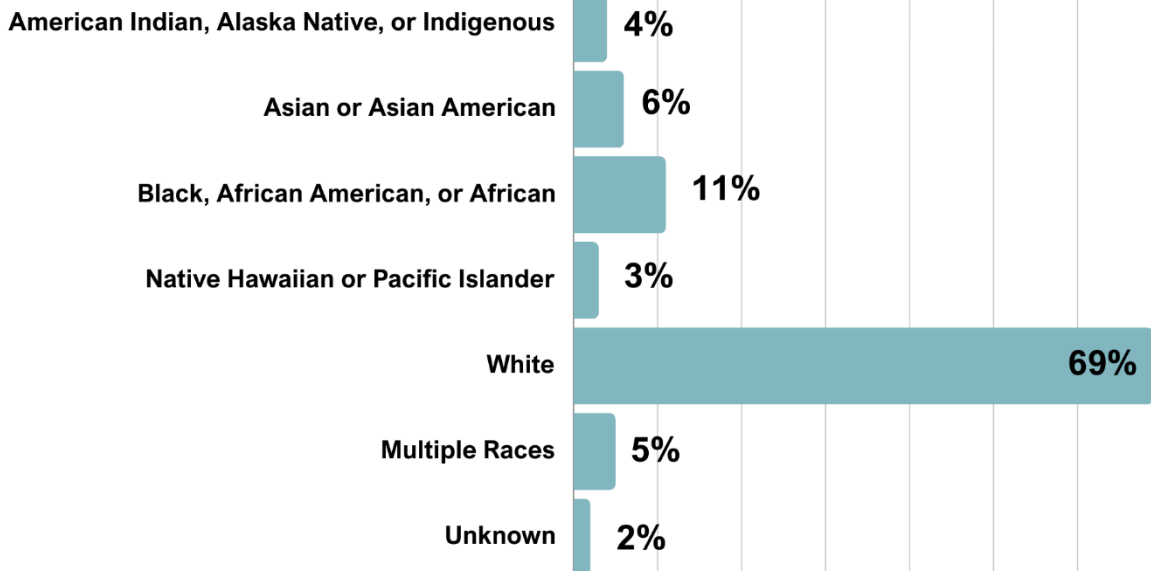- 14% Households without Children

Fleeing Violence

22% YES   78% NO

This is over 6% higher than the unsheltered population as a whole.

Race & Ethnicity

- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous — 4%
- Asian or Asian American — 6%
- Black, African American, or African — 11%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander — 3%
- White — 69%
- Multiple Races — 5%
- Unknown — 2%

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	Hispanic/Latino	Unkown
83%	11%	6%

Age

31% Under 18
4% 18-24
17% 25-34
25% 35-44
13% 45-54
9% 55 +

Veterans

Two veterans living in RV/vehicles.

Gender

54% Female

44.6% Male

1.4% Gender Non-conforming

PIT Vehicle & RV Counts

Year	Number reported sleeping in vehicles/RVs
2011	31
2012	41
2013	30
2014	54
2015	37
2016	31
2017	53
2018	146
2019	115
2020	195
2021	128
2022	90
2023	139

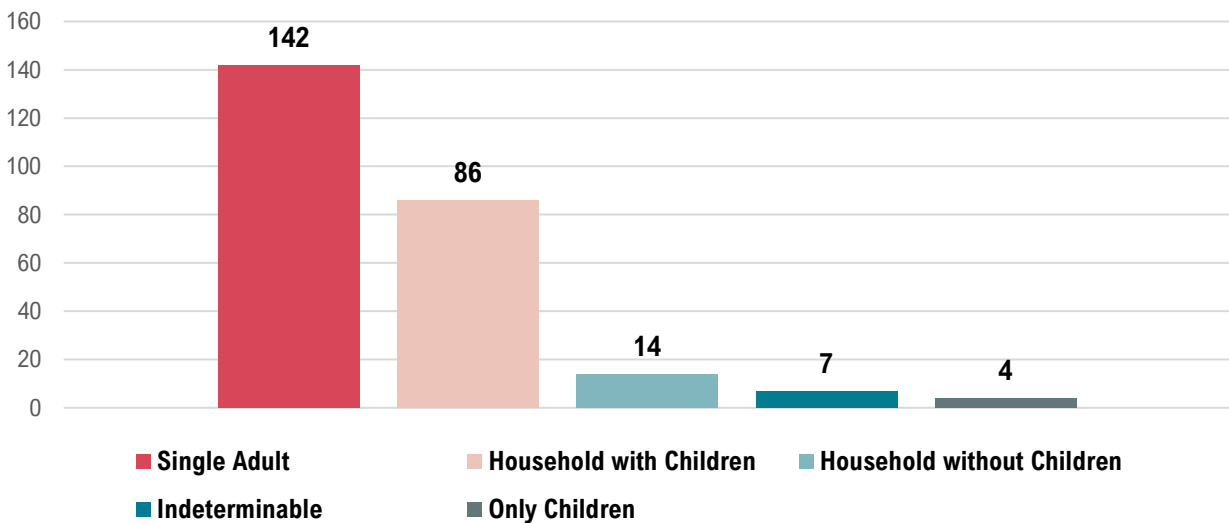■ Number reported sleeping in vehicles/RVs

Emergency Shelter

Emergency shelter is temporary emergency housing that is either night-by-night or continuous stay. Continuous stay means that a person has a reserved shelter space for multiple nights. Night-by-night shelters require a person to register for the shelter each day.

In Thurston County, we have different kinds of emergency shelter including:

- congregate shelters, in which individuals sleep on mats or cots in community spaces.
- small individual or shared rooms.
- hotel and motel units.
- tiny homes and micro-shelters.

Agency	HMIS Project	Population on PIT night
Community Youth Services (Thurston)	CYSHaven House - CRC	1
Community Youth Services (Thurston)	CYSHOPE	3
SafePlace	SAFSafePlace - Hotel/Motel Vouchers	3
SafePlace	SAFSafePlace - Shelter	22
Union Gospel Mission (Olympia)	UGM Emergency Shelter (PIT)	45
Catholic Community Services (Thurston)	CTHEmergency Shelter	16
Catholic Community Services (Thurston)	CTHHopeVillage	4
Low Income Housing Institute (Thurston)	LHIPlum Street Village	28
Saint Michael Parish	SMPSt. Mike's (PIT)	11
Family Support Center (Thurston)	FSCFamily Support Shelter	23
Family Support Center (Thurston)	FSC2163-Cold Weather Shelter	11
Family Support Center (Thurston)	FSCExpanded Shelter	10
Family Support Center (Thurston)	FSCMotel Vouchers	17
Salvation Army (Thurston)	VATCenter of Hope	5
Interfaith Works	IFWUnity Commons	21
Interfaith Works	IFWUnity Commons Expanded	30
Olympia Mutual Aid Partners	OMAHotel Vouchers	3
Total		**253**

Household Type

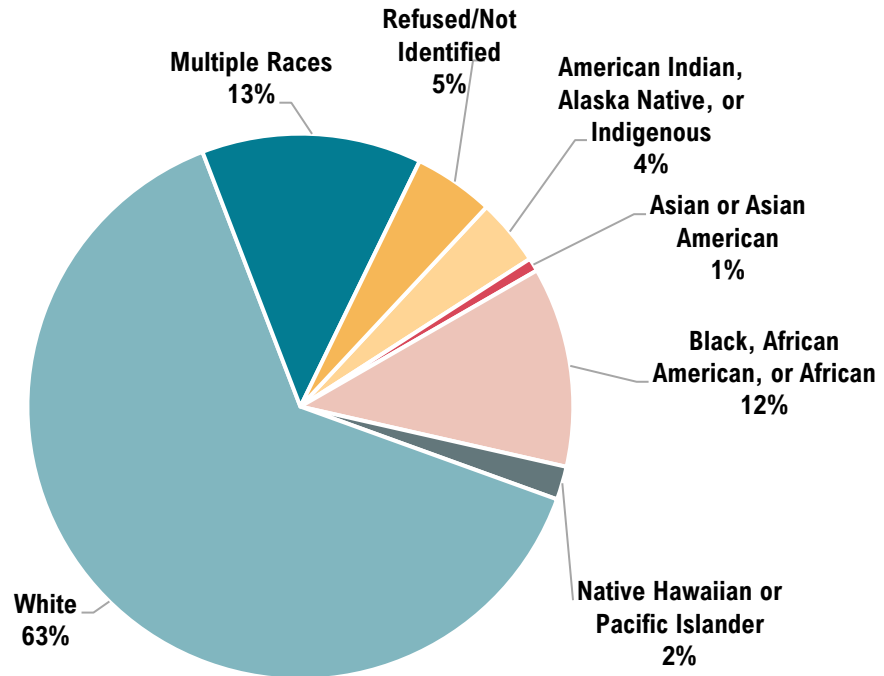| Household Type	Count
Single Adult	142
Household with Children	86
Household without Children	14
Indeterminable	7
Only Children	4

The majority of those residing in emergency shelter are single adults, which include youth and young adults ages 18-24, and families – defined as at least one adult and one child.

Gender

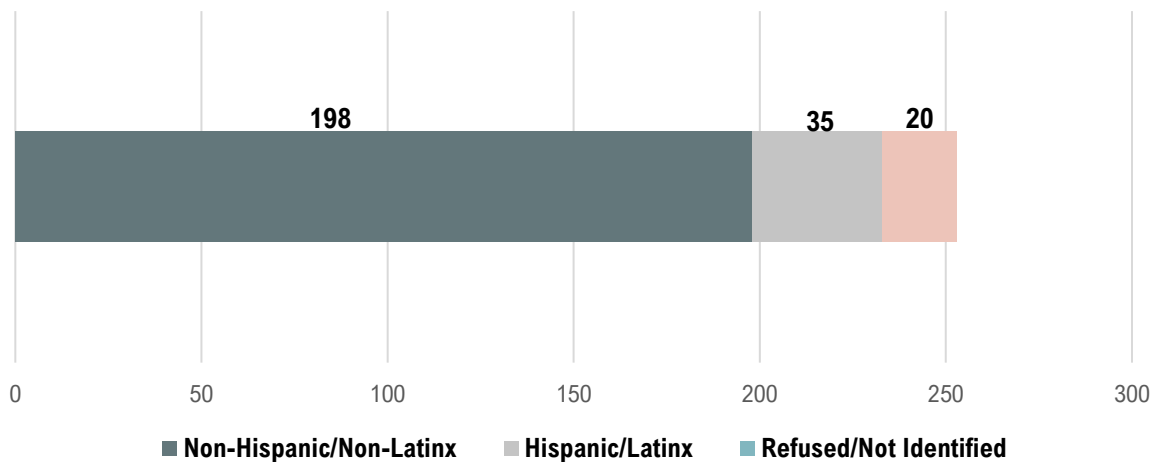| Gender	Percent
Male	57%
Female	40%
Gender Non-Conforming	2%
Transgender	1%
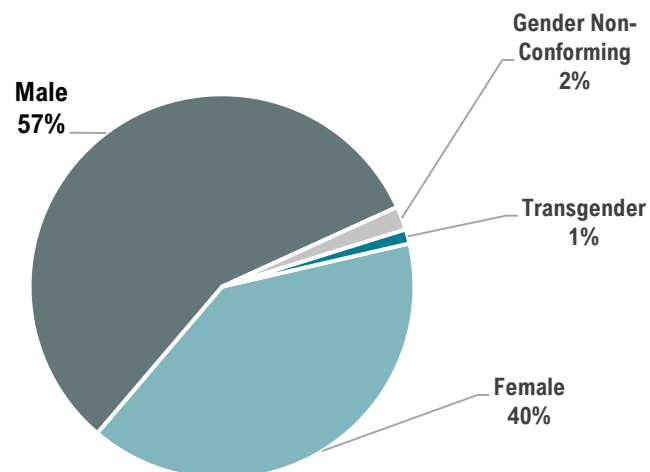
The gender makeup of those in emergency shelter is almost the same as those unsheltered, which could indicate relatively equitable access into existing projects. If there were more males or females than the unsheltered population, this could indicate folks of a certain gender are having an easier or harder time accessing emergency shelter services.

Race

Multiple Races
13%

Refused/Not
Identified
5%

American Indian,
Alaska Native, or
Indigenous
4%

Asian or Asian
American
1%

Black, African
American, or African
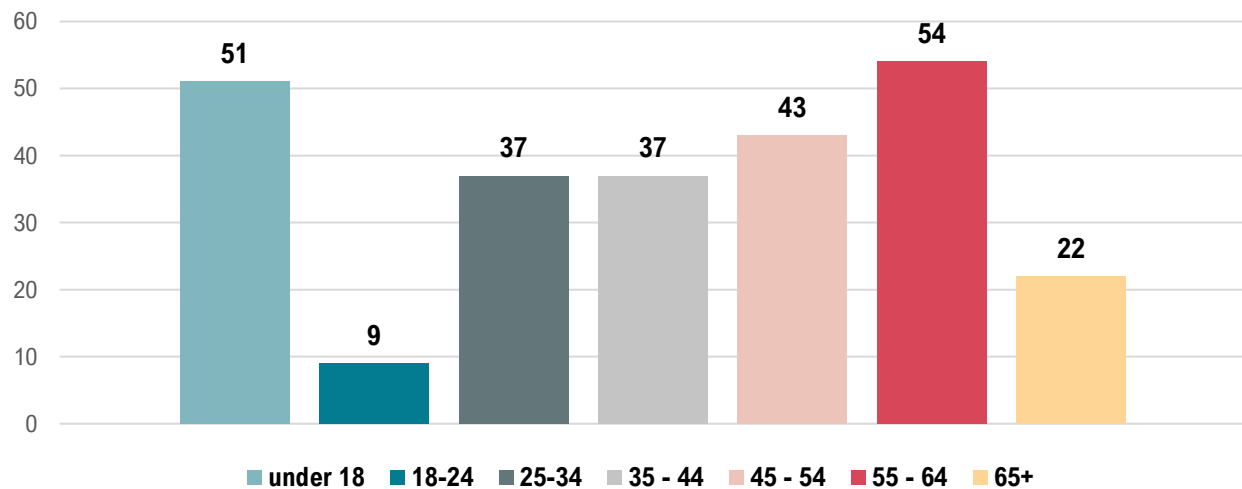12%

Native Hawaiian or
Pacific Islander
2%

White
63%

Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC) are generally underrepresented in Emergency Shelter. This means there are more BIPOC individuals in the general unsheltered population than are accessing shelter services. The gap is widest for American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Ethnicity

198   35   20

| 0 | 50 | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 | 300 |

■ Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx   ■ Hispanic/Latinx   ■ Refused/Not Identified

Age

This chart reflects that there is a large number of minor youth in family shelter (20% of the Emergency Shelter population), and that 30% of those in shelters are 55 or older. This means 50% of those in Emergency Shelter in Thurston County are either a child/young adult or a senior citizen.

Veterans

20 individuals, or 8%, of those in Emergency Shelter identify as veteran. There are additional supports for veterans through the Department of Veteran Affairs, however that data is not entered in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and so is not included here.

Fleeing Domestic Violence
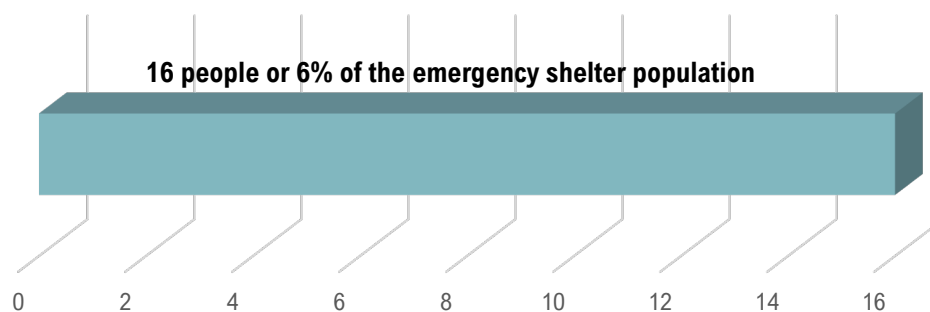
16 individuals, or 6% of the emergency shelter population identified as fleeing domestic violence, intimate partner violence, human or labor trafficking. The identities of these individuals on the PIT surveys are protected for their safety.

Health Conditions
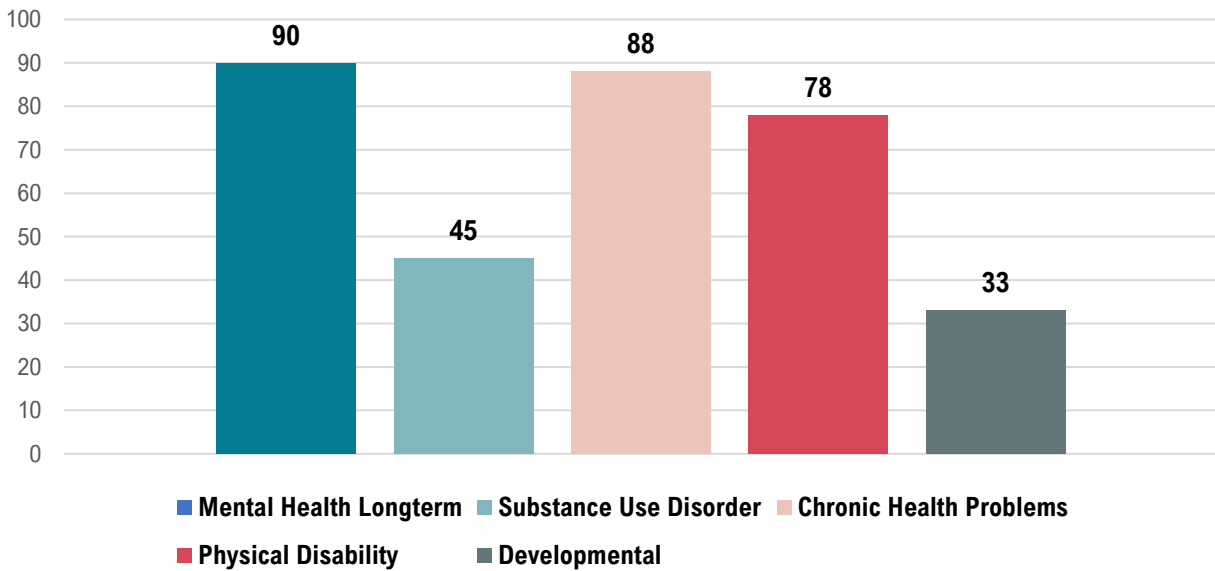
Mental and Chronic Health conditions were the most commonly identified issues. This is consistent with the health conditions reported by the unsheltered population.

Chronically Homeless
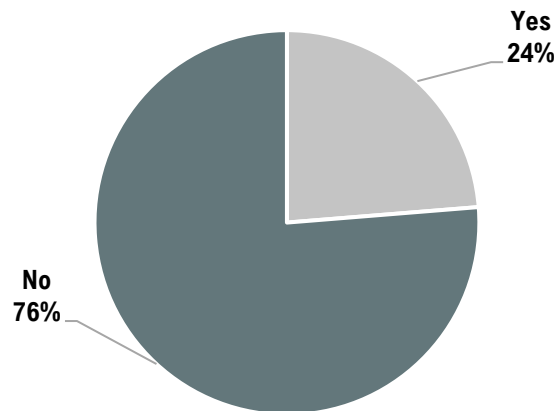
Chronic homelessness is defined as a person with a disability who has been homeless for a year or more or they had four or more experiences of homelessness over a three-year period. The percentage of chronically homeless individuals in Thurston has remained stable at around 25% since 2019.
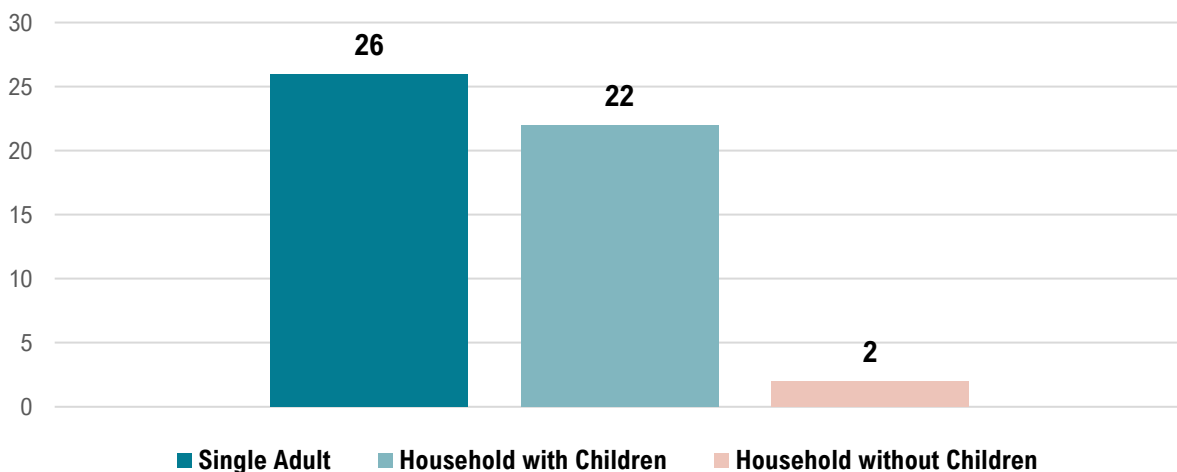
Transitional Housing

Transitional Housing programs are a mid-length housing option, meant to be 24 months or less of rental housing assistance and case management support. In Thurston County, there are a limited number of these types of programs, and most transitional housing units are dedicated to youth and young adults.

Age

Legend: Under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35 - 44, 45 - 54, 55 - 64, 65+

Values: 12, 28, 3, 1, 0, 2, 4
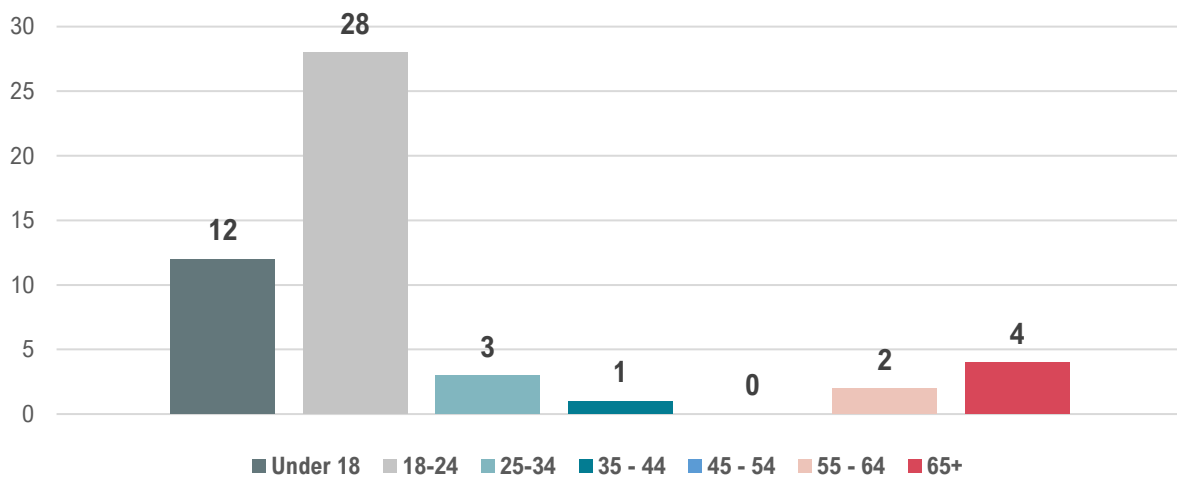
Transitional Housing programs have been identified as a best practice in enabling young people towards housing stability. Transitional Housing includes case management for residents to ready young people for the time in which they age out of a Transitional Housing program. Conversely, Transitional Housing programs are not identified as best practice for older adults, families with minor youth or chronically homeless populations and are therefore utilized less.

Household Type

Legend: Single Adult, Household with Children, Household without Children

Values: 26, 22, 2

Considering the established best practice, most individuals in Transitional Housing are youth and young adults. This shows the proportion is split about evenly for single households, and youth parenting households.

Gender
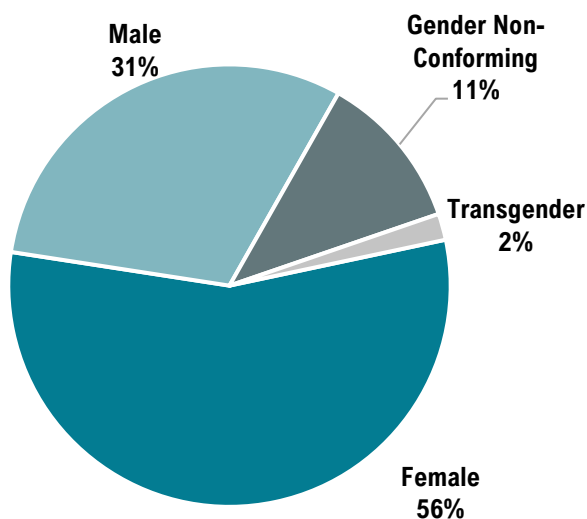
The majority of those in Transitional Housing are female, which is a distinct difference over Emergency Shelter and those living unsheltered populations. As well, that 11% of individuals living in Transitional Housing identify as a non-binary gender speaks to the fact that the majority of the Transitional Housing programs in Thurston County are for youth and young adults, and gender identity data is not currently collected for adults over 25.

Race
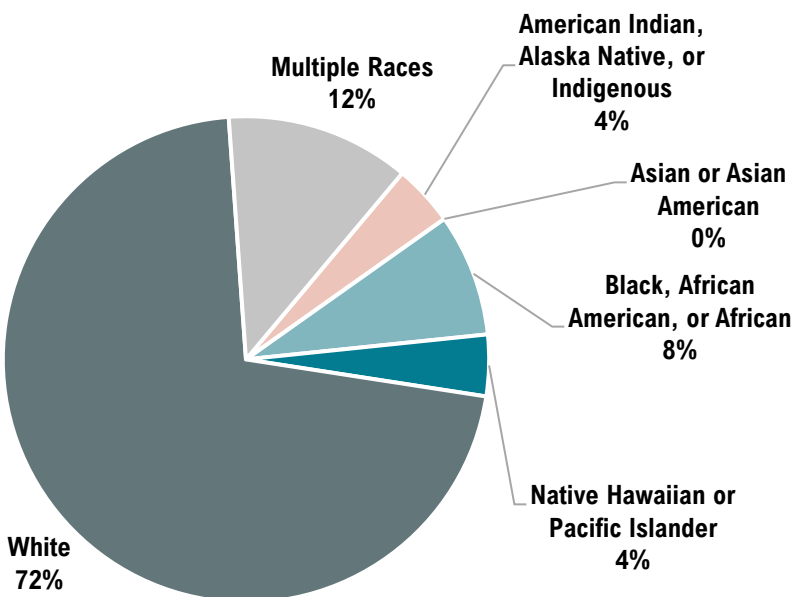
BIPOC individuals are underrepresented in Transitional Housing projects. There are a number of reasons why this could be the case including getting screened out, placements skewing towards white people, provider bias, and a lack of staff reflective of clientele race and ethnicity.

Ethnicity

Legend: Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx, Hispanic/Latinx, Refused/Not Identified
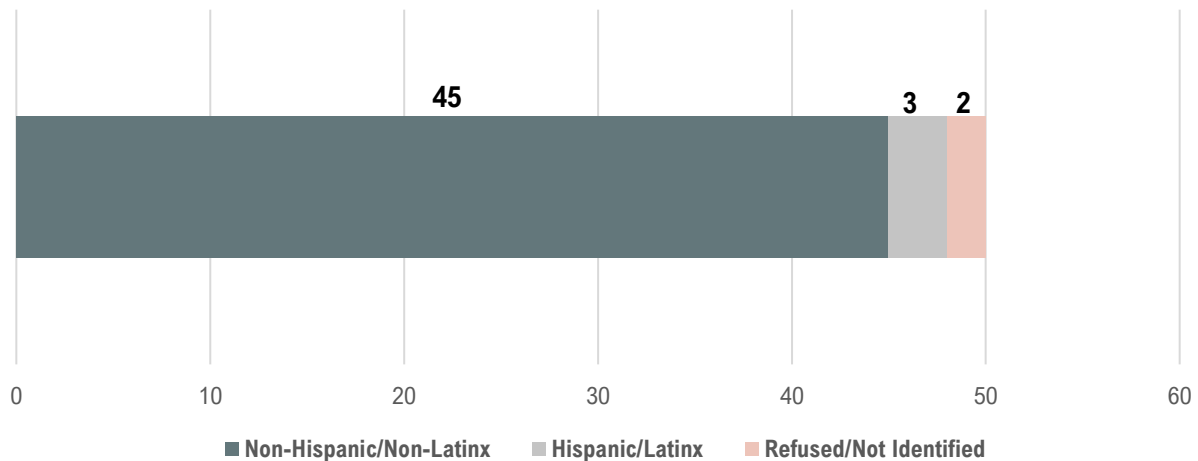
Veterans

Five individuals identified as veterans, or 10% living in Transitional Housing projects.

Fleeing Domestic Violence

Three individuals, or 6% in Transitional Housing identified as fleeing domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sex or labor trafficking. The identities of these individuals on the PIT surveys are protected for their safety. Transitional Housing programs are not structured and designed to support the majority of individuals fleeing violence as many Transitional Housing units are location based, and do not change.

This can make it difficult to maintain confidentiality regarding the location of those fleeing domestic violence, as it's not necessary or appropriate to maintain confidentiality of the location for those who are not fleeing. Thurston County does not have any Transitional Housing that exclusively serves those fleeing violence.

Health Conditions

Mental Health Longterm: 18
Substance Use Disorder: 2
Chronic Health Problems: 8
Physical Disability: 6
Developmental: 1
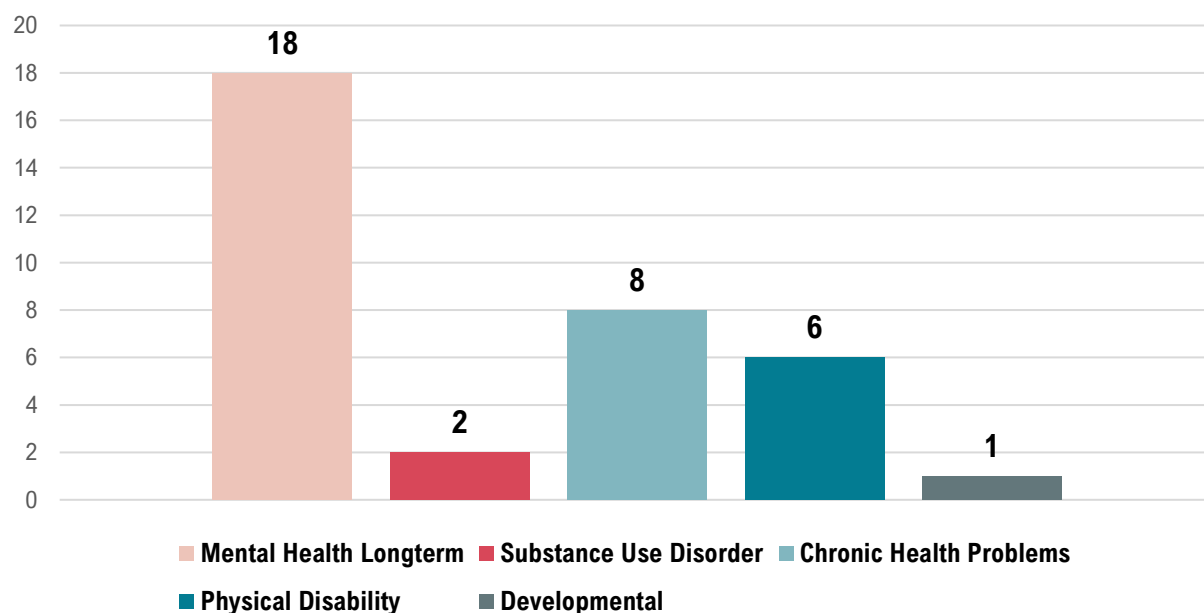
Similar to the unsheltered and emergency shelter populations, mental and chronic health issues were the most common health conditions reported.

Youth and Young Adults

Ages 0-24 During the Point in Time Count (PIT)

Emergency Shelter — Persons under age 18: 51; Persons ages 18-24: 9
Transitional Housing — Persons under age 18: 12; Persons ages 18-24: 28
Unsheltered — Persons under age 18: 99; Persons ages 18-24: 25
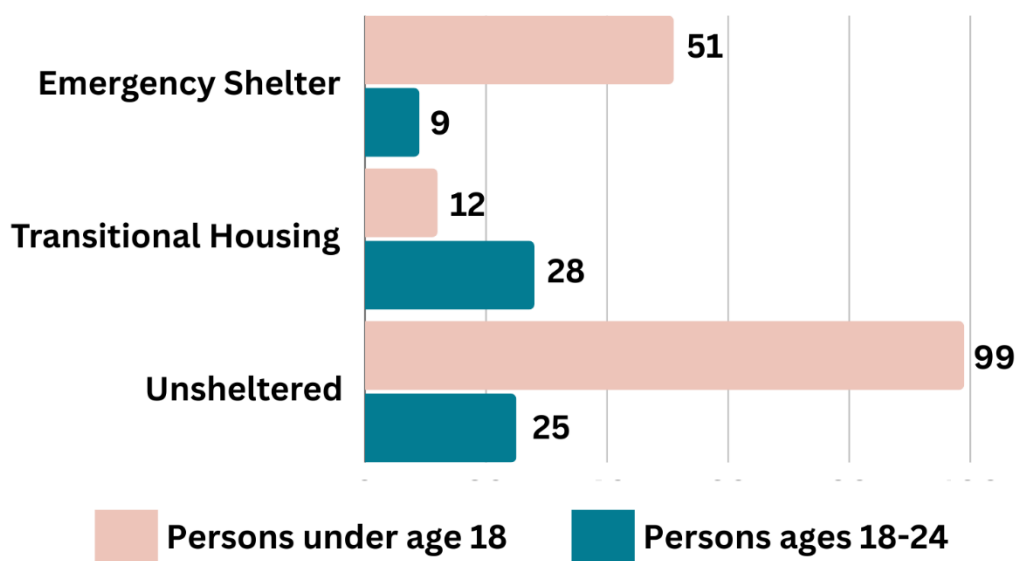
Total under age 18

162

Total ages 18-24

62

Transgender
<1%

Gender Non-Conforming
<5%

Female
52%

Male
43%
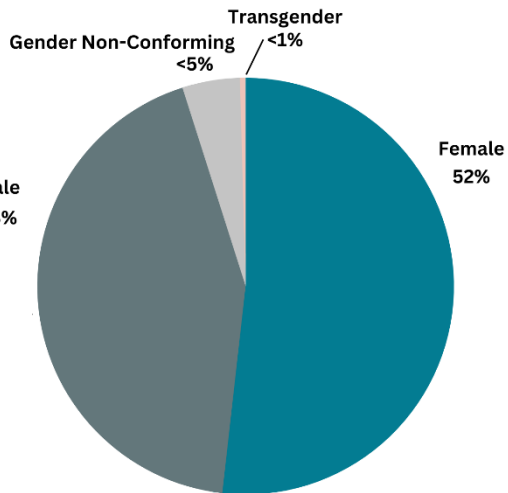
Chronically Homeless Unaccompanied Youth (Ages 0-24)

14

Race & Ethnicity

American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous — <5%

Asian or Asian American — <5%

Black, African American, or African — 13%

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander — <5%

White — 61%

Multiple Races — 13%

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino 82%	Hispanic/Latino 18%
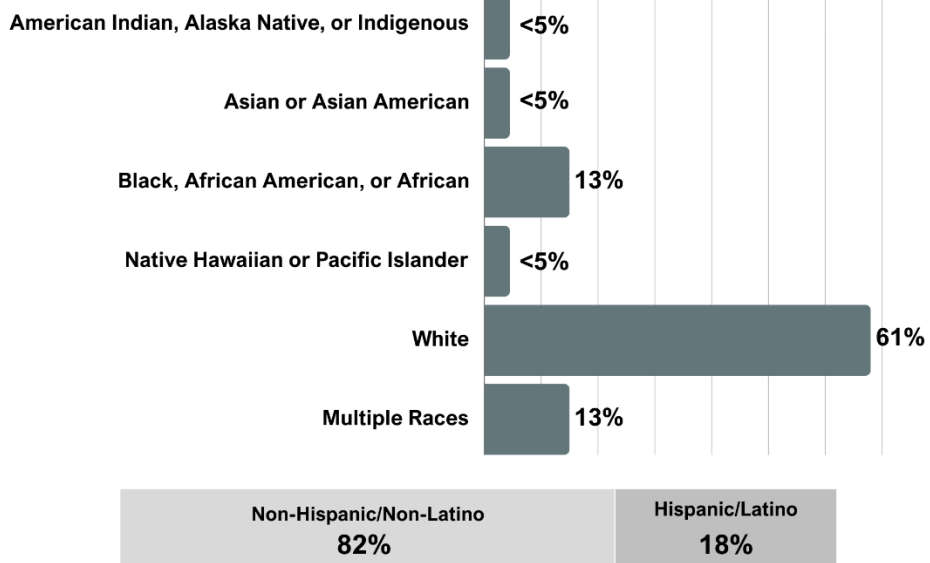
Supplemental Data

How many homeless students enrolled in each school district?

There's been a significant increase in homeless students over the past few years. This increase is not reflected in the overall homeless population. Overall homelessness in Thurston County increased in 2021 and then decreased in 2022 and 2023. The number of homeless students may have been under reported in 2020 and 2021 due to remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. This may account for the rise in homeless students when school returned to in-person learning. Another reason there may be an increase in homeless student populations may be due to increases in monthly rent and the end to COVID related Federal and State rent assistance programs.
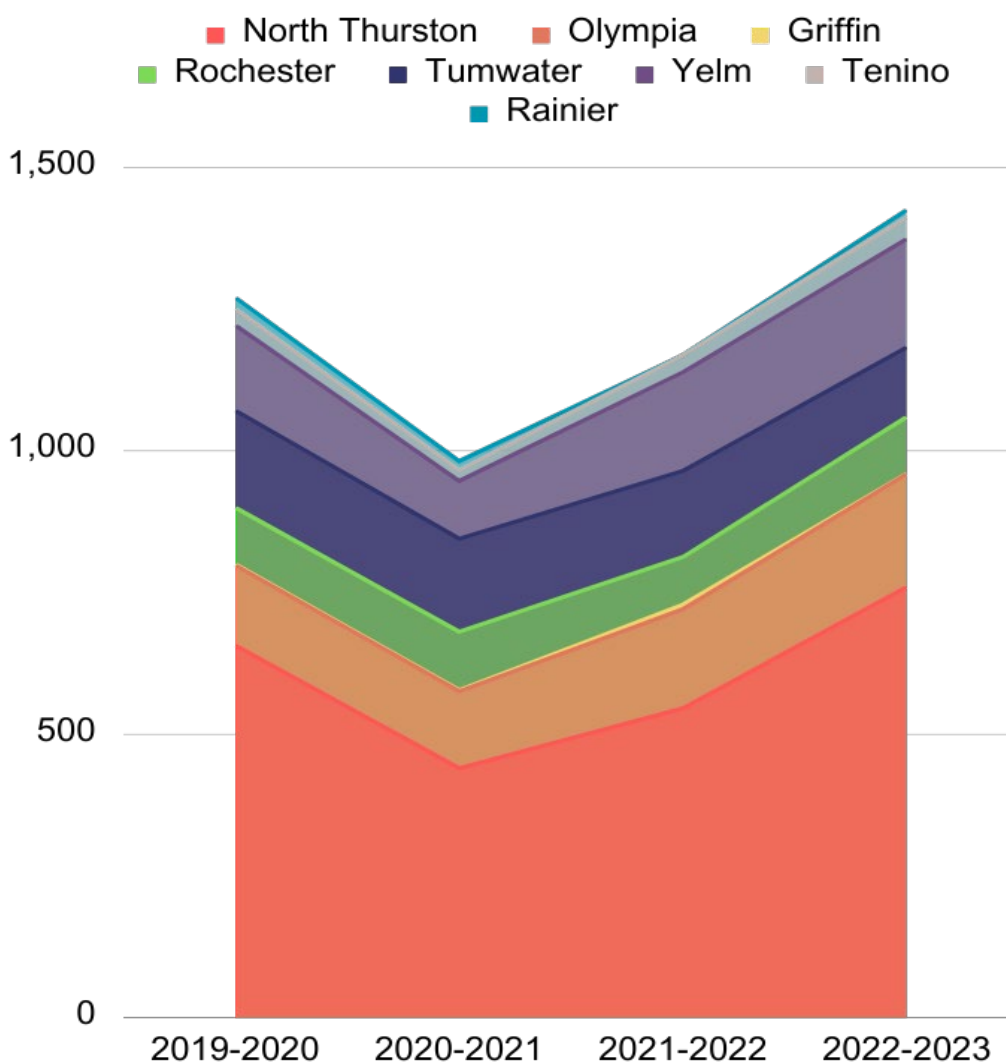
Data sourced from OSPI Washington State Report Card. https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/

Snapshot of Homelessness Report – January 2023

	Total	Minor Only, None Under Age 12	Minor Only, at Least One under Age 12	Youth (18-24) w/o minors	Adults (25+) w/o minors	Single Parent with Minors	Two Parents with Minors	Unknown
Thurston County	8678	30	0	742	5564	1568	772	<11

	Total	Youth or Young Adult Households All Members 24 or Younger	Adult-Only Households with at Least One Member 25 or Older	Households with One or More Adults 25 or Older and One or More Minors	Unknown Household Type
Thurston County	**100.0%**	**8.6%**	**60.8%**	**30.4%**	**2.0%**
American Indian or Alaska Native	13.3%	1.2%	8.1%	4.0%	0.0%
Asian	4.6%	0.4%	2.5%	1.7%	0.0%
Black or African American	13.9%	1.5%	6.7%	5.7%	<11
Hispanic or Latino	13.1%	1.6%	5.9%	5.6%	<11
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	5.4%	0.6%	2.6%	2.2%	0.0%
White, Non-Hispanic	59.0%	4.4%	39.0%	15.5%	0.2%
Unknown	1.4%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.0%

Data sourced for the above two tables, from WA State Department of Commerce, Snapshot of Homelessness in WA State for January 2023 report.

Closing Summary

Over the last three years, the world has experienced the COVID-19 pandemic. 2023 marked the end of mask mandates and although the COVID-19 virus still spread, vaccination and medical treatment were widely available. For many, the pandemic wound down over 2023. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 and 2022 Point in Time Counts were completed without holding in-person events. 2023 marked the return of in-person PIT events.

These events provided access to free and essential services, warm clothing, survival gear, food, and connections to resources. In 2023, the PIT included an expanded survey which may have impacted the length of time each survey took to complete and on how the surveys were conducted. The surveys in the 2022 PIT took participants about Five minutes to complete and the expanded surveys in 2023 took participants about 10-15 minutes to complete.

The 2023 data tells us that people are experiencing homelessness locally – the majority are from Thurston or neighboring counties. People are homeless due to being evicted, losing their job, or their income from working is not enough to sustain housing. We see that a considerable number of households have some income, either through work or government subsidy, and they remain unhoused.

Survey participants shared that free meals and outreach were the most common services accessed and more affordable housing and rental assistance was consistently flagged as the number one need. There are a lot of families living in vehicles in Thurston County, and many students experiencing homelessness either through living unsheltered in encampments, or through doubling up on family and friend's couches. The number of students experiencing homelessness in Thurston has been increasing over the last 4 years, with 1,423 reported for the 2022-2023 school year.

There is a need across all ages and experiences of homelessness for an increase in accessible and affordable housing options. There is considerable work being done across the local jurisdictions in Thurston County, through the Thurston Regional Housing Council, and across the Built for Zero and Anchor Community Initiative to find a variety of solutions to address this crisis. The PIT is a reinforcement of the immediate need for additional housing options and reflects a part of the story of our unhoused neighbors.

2023 marks the eighteenth Point in Time Count (PIT) conducted in Thurston County. We now have almost two decades of data to help us learn about homelessness. Over the many years of conducting the PIT, our community has come together to plan, implement and report the results of this event. Although there have been changes and adjustments made to how the count is conducted, having a set of annual data for 18 years is a significant accomplishment.

Volunteer and Community Recognition

- The 2023 PIT Steering Committee
- United Way of Thurston County
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Providence Abuse Intervention Center
- OHRS
- Community Action Council LMT
- Peer Olympia
- Valeo Vocation
- South Sound Reading Foundation
- GCU
- CHPW
- Cricket Wireless
- Shower Power
- Intercity Transit
- Lived Experience Housing Steering Committee (LEHSC)
- VASH/Vet team
- Olympia Barber School
- CARE Olympia
- Olympia Mutual Aid Partners
- Union Gospel Mission
- Salvation Army
- Thurston County Food Bank
- City of Olympia Homeless Crisis Response Team
- City of Olympia Police
- Tumwater Police
- Lacey Mobile Outreach Team
- Lacey Police Department
- The Wayside Café
- The Center for Community Based Learning and Advocacy – TESC
- KJR Printing
- South Sound Reading Foundation
- Community Youth Services
- Stonewall Youth
- Medic One
- Lamplighters
- Senior Services for South Sound
- Chris Clem
- Hannah Durbin
- Michael Hughes
- Davin Thompson
- McKenzie Johnson
- Charlie Schneider

- Carol McKinley
- Debbie Dohrmann
- John Dohrmann
- Ramona Gresham
- Shaila Fisher
- Ida Dightman
- Lynette VandKieft
- Mike Leonard
- Kathy Leonard
- Theresa Madden
- Robin Vasquez
- Cheryl Simrell King
- Andrea Dashe
- Charles Ware
- Lark Claassen
- Gregory Claassen
- Mary Jean Berkstresser
- Alan Berkstresser
- Shirley Carlson
- Martin Balikov
- Cece
- Lou Ellyn Jones
- Karla Meyer
- Lilly Dugger
- Veronica Shriver
- Emily Clouse
- Natalie Skovran
- Charlia Messinger
- Lex Langgoth-Torres
- Jacob Dinklage
- Vito Valera
- JC Wortham
- Eden Lung
- Bryn Houghton
- Berenice Hartt
- William Porter
- Stacie Munro
- Grant Forster
- Morrigan Peterson
- Kennedy Sadler
- Anna Schlecht
- Mindy Chambers
- Dr. Dimyana Abdelmalek
- Mailey Willaims
- Cheyenne Urps
- Meg Toney

Appendix A: Survey

POINT IN TIME SURVEY 2023   **THURSTON COUNTY, WA**

Where is this survey being taken? City _____ Area _____ Time _____

ARE YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY GROUP CURRENTLY FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, or under the age of 13 without a parent or guardian? If yes, skip both grey boxes. (Same for anyone who doesn't want to give a name)

Fleeing domestic violence?   **Yes**   **No**   Under age 13 without parent/guardian?   **Yes**   **No**

1. First name _____ Last Name _____
2. Date of Birth _____ (for those who do not consent, please estimate year for DOB).

3. Where did you sleep last night? (circle the answer that best applies)
   a. On the street or sidewalk   e. Temporarily staying with friends/ family
   b. In a vehicle   f. Hospital, Detox, Other facility
   c. Abandoned building   g. Emergency Shelter
   d. In an RV or boat lacking power/water   h. In a tent or other man-made structure
   e. Jail   f. Other:_____
4. Where was your last PERMANENT address? City_____ State _____
   a. If Thurston, how long had you lived in Thurston County when you became homeless:
      0-6mo   **6mo-1yr**   **1-2yr**   **2-5yr**   **5+yr**
5. Have you or anyone in the household been continuously without housing for a year or more?
      Yes (skip to Question 9)   **No**
6. Have you or anyone in the household been without housing 4 or more times in the last 3 years?
      Yes   **No** (skip to Question 9)
7. Do these times without housing, added together, amount to a year or more?   **Yes**   **No**
8. Does any person who answered yes for either 6 or 7 have a disability?   **Yes**   **No**
9. Do you, or any person in your family group identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer? **Yes**   **No**

10. Household Type: ☐ Household without Children; ☐ Household with Children; ☐ Household with only children
11. Please answer the following for ALL people in this family group:
    Gender: Male (M), Female (F), Transgender (T), A gender that is not singularly 'Female' or 'Male' (N), Questioning (Q), Doesn't Know (DK), Refused (R)
    Race: White (W), Black, African, or African American (B), Asian or Asian American (A), American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous (I), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (H), Doesn't Know (DK), Refused (R)

    Survey taker: Gender _____ **Race** _____ **Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)** Y/ N   **Veteran** Y/N

    Additional Household Members: (utilize space on back of HMIS form for additional members).

    a. Person 2: **Name** _____ _____ **Relationship to survey taker** _____
       Gender _____ **Race** _____ **DOB** _____/_____/_____ **Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)** Y/ N   **Veteran** Y/N
       Health Conditions (see question 11):_____
    b. Person 3: **Name** _____ **Relationship to survey taker** _____
       Gender _____ **Race** _____ **DOB** _____/____/_____ **Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)** Y/ N   **Veteran** Y/N
       Health Conditions (see question 11):_____

12. Health Conditions: (Circle ALL that apply)
    a. Behavioral Health Conditions   e. Physical Disability
    b. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)   f. Intellectual Disability/Memory Impairment
    c. Substance Use Disorder   g. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
    d. Chronic Health Problems
13. At What Age did your first experience of homelessness occur? (more choices on next page)
    a. 0-17 Years Old   d. 36-49 Years Old

b. 18-24 Years Old   e. 50-65 Years Old

c. 25-35 Years Old   f. 66 or Older

14. What circumstances led to your homelessness? (Circle ALL that apply)

 a. Job loss/ unemployment   k. Behavioral Health Conditions

 b. Aged out of foster care   l. Physical health/ disability

 c. Eviction/ loss of housing   m. Alcohol/substance use

 d. Lack of job training/ unable to work n. Family rejection/ kicked out of home

 e. Medical/discharged from hospital o. Prior Domestic violence

 f. Released from criminal justice system p. Guardian behavioral health/substance use

 g. Medical costs   q. Illness

 h. Lack of childcare   r. Abuse/ neglect

 i. Personal Choice   s. Covid-19 Related Impacts

 j. Other:_____

15. Sources of household income or benefits (Circle ALL that apply)

 a. TANF   h. Part time employment

 b. VA   i. Full time employment

 c. SSI/SSDI   j. Seasonal / farm employment

 d. Unemployment   k. Panhandling

 e. Temporary Disability/ABD   l. Relatives/ friends

 f. Medicare/Medicaid   m. None

 g. Other:_____

16. Services and Programs Accessed in last 12 months (Circle ALL that apply)

 a. Free Meals   j. Alcohol/Drug Counseling

 b. Bus (Bolt/Greyhound) Passes   k. Immigration Services

 c. Emergency Shelter   l. Outreach Services

 d. Hygiene Services   m. Job Training/Employment

 e. Day Shelter Services   n. Legal Assistance

 f. Medical Services   o. Sanctioned Encampment/Village

 g. Behavioral Health Services   p. Not Using Any Services

 h. Transitional Housing

 i. Other:_____

17. Issues Experienced While Trying to Access Services in last 12 months (Circle ALL that apply)

 a. Did not qualify for service   h. Issues with program staff

 b. Lack of transportation   i. Separation from partner/spouse

 c. Did not know where to go for help j. Separation from my pet

 d. Did not have ID/Personal Documents k. Language barrier

 e. Never Heard back after applying l. I have not experienced any issues

 f. Program Rules too strict   m. Did not follow through or return for services

 g. Other:_____

18. Support Needed to Obtain Permanent Housing (Circle ALL that apply)

 a. Rental Assistance/More affordable housing i. New ID/Paperwork

 b. Job/Increased Income   j. Culturally Tailored Services

 c. Money for Moving Costs   k. Medical/Health Care

 d. Case Management   l. Family Reunification

 e. Help Clearing Credit   m. Services in my Language

 f. Transportation   n. Immigration/Refugee Assistance

 g. Landlords who accept housing voucher o. Legal Assistance

 h. Other:_____

Client Release of Information and Informed Consent

This agency participates in the Washington State Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) by collecting information, over time, about the characteristics and service needs of people facing homelessness. RCW 43.185C.180 and RCW 43.185C.030

- To provide the most effective services in moving people from homelessness to permanent housing, we need an accurate count of all people experiencing homelessness in Washington State. In order to insure that clients are not counted twice, we need to collect four pieces of personally identifying information. Specifically, we collect: name, birth date, and race/ethnicity. You may also choose to provide your social security number. However, signing this form does not require you to do so. Your information will be stored in our database for 7 years after the last date of service. If you have questions about collection of data or your rights regarding your personally identifying information, contact the HMIS System Administrator at: (360) 725-3028

- We use strict security policies designed to protect your privacy. Our computer system is highly secure and uses up-to-date protection features such as data encryption, passwords, and two-factor authentication required for each system user. There is a small risk of a security breach, and someone might obtain and use your information inappropriately. If you ever suspect the data in HMIS has been misused, immediately contact the HMIS System Administrator at: (360) 725-3028

- The data you provide may be combined with data from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and Education Research and Data Center for the purpose of further analysis. Your name and other identifying information will not be included in any reports or publications. Only a limited number of staff members, who have signed confidentiality agreements, will be able to see this information. Your information will not be used to determine eligibility for DSHS programs. Washington State HMIS system administrators have full access to all information in HMIS. This includes the Department of Commerce staff, designated HMIS system administrators, and the software vendor.

- By signing this form, you acknowledge and allow Department of Commerce staff to obtain additional records of information from other state agencies with which there is a data sharing agreement (DSA) on file between Commerce and the other agency. Our DSA guides data transfer and storage security protocols. If DSAs are in place, Commerce is authorized by you to obtain, add to HMIS, and use for evaluation purposes any other data you have provided to other Washington state agencies.

- Your decision to participate in the HMIS will not affect the quality or quantity of services you are eligible to receive from this agency, and will not be used to deny outreach, assistance, shelter or housing. However, if you do choose to participate, services in the region may improve if we have accurate information about homeless individuals and the services they need. Furthermore, some funders MAY require that you consent to provide your personally identifying information in HMIS in order for you to receive services from that funding source.

I understand the above statements and consent to the inclusion of personally identifying information in HMIS about me and any dependents listed below, and authorize information collected to be shared with partner agencies. I understand that my personally identifying information will not be made public and will only be used with strict confidentiality. I also understand that I may withdraw my consent at any time by filing a 'Client Revocation of Consent' form with this agency. I understand that I may obtain a copy of my signed consent form from this Agency (including forms signed electronically).

Dependent children under 18 in household, if any (Please print first and last names):

_____   _____

_____   _____

Client Signature (Parent/Guardian)   Date

11 – Continued:

Space below for additional family members:

Gender: Male (M), Female (F), Transgender (T), A gender that is not singularly 'Female' or 'Male' (N), Questioning (Q), Doesn't Know (DK), Refused (R)
Race: White (W), Black, African, or African American (B), Asian or Asian American (A), American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous (I), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (H), Doesn't Know (DK), Refused (R)

a. Person 4: **Name** _____ _____ Relationship to survey taker _____
   Gender _____ **Race** _____ **DOB** _____/_____/_____ Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) Y/ N   Veteran Y/N
   Health Conditions (see question 11):_____

b. Person 5: **Name** _____ **Relationship to survey taker** _____
   Gender _____ **Race** _____ **DOB** _____/_____/_____ **Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)** Y/ N   **Veteran** Y/N
   Health Conditions (see question 11):_____

c. Person 6: **Name** _____ _____ Relationship to survey taker _____
   Gender _____ **Race** _____ **DOB** _____/_____/_____ Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) Y/ N   Veteran Y/N
   Health Conditions (see question 11):_____

d. Person 7: **Name** _____ **Relationship to survey taker** _____
   Gender _____ **Race** _____ **DOB** _____/_____/_____ **Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)** Y/ N   **Veteran** Y/N
   Health Conditions (see question 11):_____

e. Person 8: **Name** _____ _____ Relationship to survey taker _____
   Gender _____ **Race** _____ **DOB** _____/_____/_____ Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) Y/ N   Veteran Y/N
   Health Conditions (see question 11):_____

Other notes:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____.

Appendix B: Preliminary Data Release

2023
POINT IN TIME PRELIMINARY DATA REPORT

THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

The Point in Time Count is an effort to determine how many people are experiencing homelessness nationwide. The 2023 count was conducted on January 26th. Events, outreach, and direct provider engagement were the key avenues for survey distribution. A more detailed report will be released in June or July 2023.

This data represents an initial snapshot, and has not yet been verified by the Department of Commerce. The final data may be slightly lower than what is represented here.
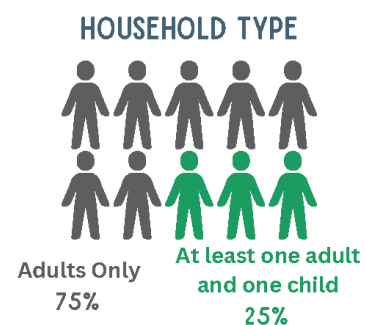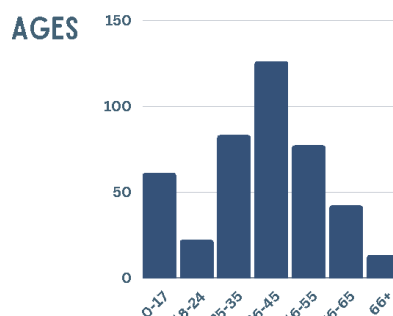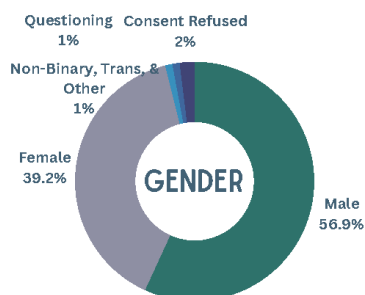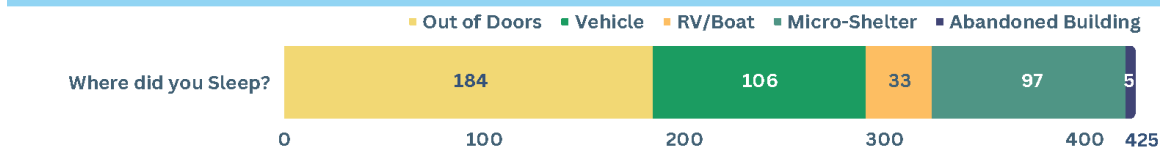
Unsheltered	Sheltered	Transitional Housing	PIT Total
425	274	50	749

OVERVIEW OF UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS

Where did you Sleep?
- Out of Doors: 184
- Vehicle: 106
- RV/Boat: 33
- Micro-Shelter: 97
- Abandoned Building: 5
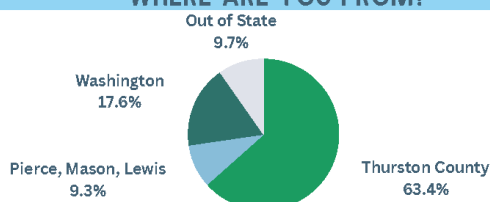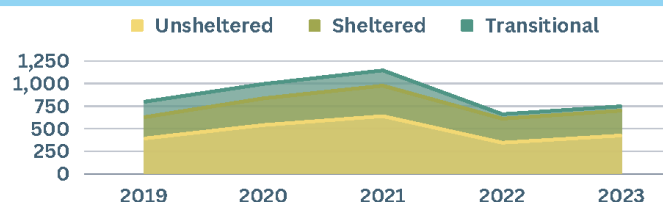
(scale 0 to 425)

GENDER
- Questioning 1%
- Consent Refused 2%
- Non-Binary, Trans, & Other 1%
- Female 39.2%
- Male 56.9%

AGES
(bar chart: 0-17, 18-24, 25-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65, 66+)

HOUSEHOLD TYPE
- Adults Only 75%
- At least one adult and one child 25%

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
- Out of State 9.7%
- Washington 17.6%
- Pierce, Mason, Lewis 9.3%
- Thurston County 63.4%

PIT COUNTS
- Unsheltered
- Sheltered
- Transitional
(area chart: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023; scale 0 to 1,250)

Contact Information

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Homeless Program & Data Specialist
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2023
POINT IN TIME PRELIMINARY DATA REPORT

THURSTON COUNTY
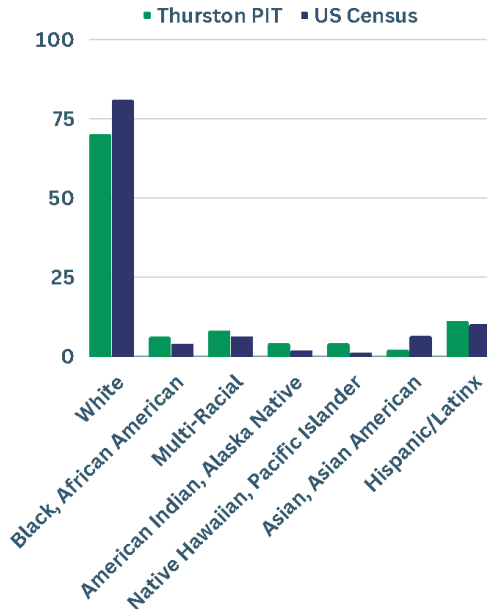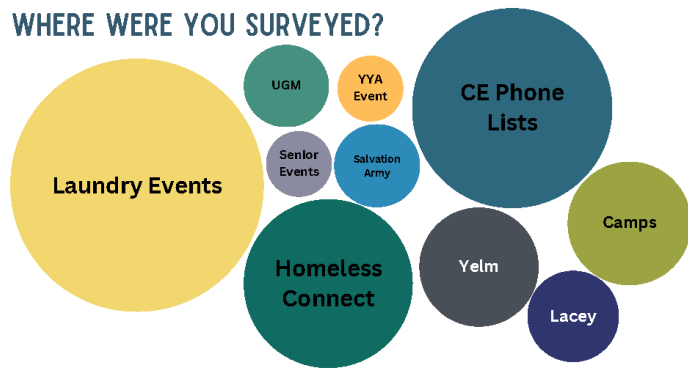WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

RACE & ETHNICITY

■ Thurston PIT ■ US Census

Categories (x-axis): White, Black African American, Multi-Racial, American Indian Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander, Asian Asian American, Hispanic/Latinx

FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

3% VETERANS

14%

WHERE WERE YOU SURVEYED?

- Laundry Events
- UGM
- YYA Event
- CE Phone Lists
- Senior Events
- Salvation Army
- Camps
- Homeless Connect
- Yelm
- Lacey

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2023 PIT COUNT

- 68 vehicles and 14 RVs were identified as live-aboard - a likely primary residence for at least 1 person.
- 51 individuals were surveyed that were doubled-up or couch surfing. These folks do not qualify for inclusion in the formal PIT count, but are an important population to understand.
- 6 individuals were counted in jails and hospitals with no permanent address.

- Survival gear distributed to participants : 300 Solar & Rechargeable Flashlights; 500 Tarp Kits: an 8'x20' tarp with 25' of paracord and 12" zip ties; 500 pairs of insulated winter gloves; and 2,000 Hot Hands.
- 8 events were held to provide connection to local resources, including healthcare, free laundry, haircuts, hot meals, veterinary care, jackets and warm clothing, and hygiene products.

Contact Information

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Appendix C: Data Sheet

Thurston County - 2023 PIT Homeless Census Data - At a Glance						
Surveys Completed	344	Unsheltered	437	Emergency Shelter		253
Total Individuals	740	Transitional Housing	50	Unaccompanied Minor		4
Male	409	Children 17 & under	128	Veteran		38
Female	308	Adults 18-24	57	Households w/children		71
Transgendered	4	Adults 25-44	279	Households w/o children		493
Gender Non-Conforming	14	Adults 45-64	231			
		Adults 65+	45	Consent Refused for HMIS		204

Current Living Situation - Where did you sleep last night? (survey)			
Abandoned Building	5	Hospital/Detox/Jail*	6
Out of Doors	184	Vehicle	106
Micro-Shelter	93	RV/Boat without power or water	33
Staying with Friends or Family* (*not officially included in total PIT)			51

Causes of Homelessness (survey)			
Eviction/Loss of Housing	80	Job Loss/Unemployment	80
Family Rejection	53	Alcohol/Substance Use	37
Physical Disability	22	Lack of Job Training/Unable to Work	36
Behavioral Health	32	Domestic Violence	37
Abuse/Neglect	23	Discharged from Jail/Juvenile Detention	18
Illness	11	Discharged from Medical Facility	14

All Sources of Household Income (survey)				
Income?	Yes	186	Social Security/Social Security Disability	57
	No	45	Temporary Disability/ABD	10
Unemployment		1	Veteran Pension	4
TANF		27	Medicare/Medicaid	124
Seasonal/Farm		5	Panhandling	13
Family/Friend		19	Employment: Full Time	9
No reply/refused		113	Employment: Part Time	20

Disabilities as Self-Reported (survey & HMIS)			
Physical (permanent)	194	Developmental	92
Mental Health	148	Substance Use Disorder	181
Chronic Health Condition	225	Behavioral Health	123

Race & Ethnicity (survey & HMIS)			
White/Caucasian	501	American Indian/Alaska Native	29
Black/African American	63	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	23
Asian	12	Multi-Racial	74
Hispanic/Latino	82	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	596
No reply/refused			54

Length of Time Homeless & Episodes of Homelessness (survey)			
Less than 1 year Homeless	40	Less than 4 episodes in 3 years	27
More than 1 year Homeless	197	More than 4 episodes of homelessness in 3 years	10
No reply/refused	107	No reply/refused	307
Chronically Homeless			60