

2025 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT HOMELESS CENSUS REPORT THURSTON COUNTY, WA



Thurston County Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention
Public Health & Social Services
412 Lilly Rd. NE Olympia, WA 98506
(360) 867-2500 HousingThurston@co.thurston.wa.us

Table of Contents

- Executive Summary** 3
- Key Definitions** 4
- What is the Point-in-Time Count?** 7
- Who is included in the Point-in-Time Count?** 8
- Purpose of the Point-in-Time Count** 8
- Methodology** 9
 - Limitations and Processes** 9
 - The Survey Tool** 10
 - Volunteers** 10
 - Survey Events and Outreach Sites** 10
 - Incentives and Donation Drives** 11
- Thurston County Point-in-Time Count Results** 12
 - Historical PIT Count Data** 12
- 2025 PIT Count** 14
- The Point-in-Time Survey 2025** 17
 - Unsheltered PIT Count 2025** 20
 - Sheltered PIT Count 2025** 24
 - Youth & Young Adult Households** 26
- Closing Summary** 27
- Appendix A: 2025 Thurston County Point-in-Time Survey** 28
- Appendix B: 2025 Thurston County Point-in-Time Census Snapshot** 32
- Appendix C: Washington Dept of Commerce PIT Count 2025 Infographic** 33
- Appendix D: 2025 PIT Count and HIC Summary from WA Dept of Commerce** 34

Executive Summary

The 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count identified 883 individuals experiencing homelessness in Thurston County between January 30-February 6, 2025. This total includes 389 unsheltered individuals, 454 individuals in emergency shelter, and 40 individuals in transitional housing.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Location of Stay:** Nearly half (44%) of all individuals were unsheltered, reflecting sustained pressure on emergency shelters.
- **Household Type:** The system continues to be dominated by single adults, but the 2025 count also included 156 youth under the age of 18 (~38% unsheltered) indicating the continued presence of families and youth in both sheltered and unsheltered settings.
- **Gender:** 357 women and 384 men were counted. An additional 37 individuals identified as transgender or non-binary; 105 did not disclose gender.
- **Race & Ethnicity:** Approximately 29% of individuals identified as people of color – a rate consistent with 2020 census data. Because more than one in five respondents declined to disclose their race, and because people of color are more likely to be underrepresented in survey data, the actual number of BIPOC individuals experiencing homelessness may be higher than reported.
- **Age:** Homelessness impacted all ages, but the largest share fell between 25 and 54 years old. Notably, 24 individuals were over the age of 65, 156 were under the age of 18, and more than 25% of those surveyed were under the age of 25.
- **Veterans:** Twenty-two veterans were counted, half of whom were unsheltered. This reflects a significant decrease from the 60 veterans who self-identified during the PIT Count in 2020. This decline suggests progress in addressing veteran homelessness through targeted housing efforts and support services, though ongoing attention is needed to sustain and build on these gains.
- **Domestic Violence:** 219 individuals (25% of the PIT Count) identified as fleeing domestic violence, reflecting the critical need for trauma-informed housing, flexible safety planning, and system-wide collaboration between homelessness and victim services.

WHAT THIS MEANS

The 2025 PIT Count reflects a system under consistent strain and a community still grappling with housing affordability, systemic inequities, and resource limitations. While shelter and outreach programs continue to meet critical needs, many individuals remain in unsafe, unsuitable, or unsheltered conditions.

These findings reaffirm the idea that homelessness is the outcome of many intersecting forces and addressing it requires sustained, coordinated action.

Key Definitions

Terms commonly used in homelessness response

BALANCE OF STATE (BOS)

A Balance of State serves rural and less densely populated areas that don't have their own designated Continuum of Care (CoC). In Washington State, the Department of Commerce coordinates the Balance of State, which covers most counties (including Thurston County) outside of major urban centers like Seattle.

BIPOC

An acronym for *Black, Indigenous, and People of Color*. The term is used to highlight the unique histories, systemic inequities, and lived experiences of Black and Indigenous communities, while also acknowledging the broader range of people of color who face racial and ethnic disparities. Within homelessness research and reporting, the term helps call attention to the disproportionate impacts of housing instability and homelessness on these communities.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

The Board of County Commissioners is the elected governing body for Thurston County. Commissioners oversee county departments, adopt local budgets and policies, and make decisions on land use, public health, housing, and human services. The BoCC approves funding allocations for housing and homelessness programs and appoints representatives to regional planning bodies like the Regional Housing Council (RHC).

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Defined by HUD as homelessness lasting 12 consecutive months or more, or four separate episodes over the past three years totaling at least 12 months, combined with a qualifying disabling condition.

CONGREGATE SHELTER

Shelter in a shared or dorm-style environment where multiple individuals sleep in the same room and share common spaces such as bathrooms, dining areas, and entryways.

CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC)

A regional or local planning body responsible for organizing and coordinating housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. CoCs are designated by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and are tasked with submitting Point In Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data, operating a Coordinated Entry system, and applying for federal homelessness funding on behalf of their region.

COORDINATED ENTRY (CE)

The centralized process through which individuals are assessed and connected to available housing and services. CE prioritizes those with the most severe needs using standardized tools and ensures a consistent, equitable referral process across Permanent Housing (PH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs.

DISABLING CONDITION

A long-term physical, mental, or developmental impairment that significantly limits a person's ability to live independently. Includes mental illness, substance use disorders, chronic physical illness, or developmental disabilities.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV)

A pattern of abusive behavior used by one person to control another in an intimate or family relationship. Domestic violence is a major cause of homelessness throughout the nation.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Short-term housing is designed to provide immediate, low-barrier shelter and basic needs. Some shelters operate seasonally or only during severe weather.

ENHANCED SHELTER

A type of emergency shelter that provides a secure bed for an extended period, with increased access to supportive services and case management. Enhanced shelters differ from night-by-night or basic emergency shelters by offering greater stability and service connection.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Describes the composition of a person's household, such as a single adult, multiple adults without children, a family with children, or an unaccompanied youth. Different programs may serve specific household types.

HUD

The US Department of Housing & Urban Development. HUD oversees federal homelessness funding, defines data collection standards, and requires annual report submissions from Continuums of Care.

LGBTQ+

An umbrella term for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other identities.

MICRO-SHELTER

A one-room structure that provides a private space for people experiencing homelessness. Micro-shelters are often part of organized villages with shared hygiene and kitchen facilities and are intended as a safer alternative to tents or vehicles.

NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER

Shelter where individuals or households have private or semi-private spaces, such as motel rooms or modular units.

OFFICE OF HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (OHHP)

A division within Thurston County Public Health & Social Services. OHHP manages contracts and programs related to affordable housing, homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, and supportive services. OHHP coordinates local response efforts, oversees data and performance tracking, and collaborates with providers and government partners to address homelessness across the region.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)

Long-term housing with supportive services for people with disabling conditions, or chronic homelessness, families, and those fleeing domestic violence. There is no time limit on the length of stay.

POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT

An annual event lasting one week that counts people experiencing homelessness on a specific date in January. It includes individuals who are sheltered and unsheltered. Required by HUD, the PIT Count is used to track trends, inform funding, and guide policy.

RAPID REHOUSING (RRH)

A short to medium-term housing intervention that provides rent assistance and case management to quickly move individuals or families out of homelessness and into permanent housing.

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL (RHC)

The Regional Housing Council is a collaborative funding and planning body made up of elected officials from jurisdictions across Thurston County. The RHC helps set priorities, guide funding decisions, and align strategies for housing and homelessness response at a regional level.

SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

Staying in a temporary setting funded to serve people experiencing homelessness.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

A temporary housing program designed to help people stabilize while working toward permanent housing. Typically includes supportive services and allows stays up to 24 months. Best practices identify it as most effective for youth and those fleeing DV, where short-term structure and safety can be critical steps toward long-term stability.

UNSHeltered HOMELESSNESS

Living in places not meant for human habitation, such as streets, tents, vehicles, RVs without power, abandoned buildings, or outdoor encampments.

VETERAN

An individual who has served in the US Armed Forces, regardless of length of service or discharge status. Veterans experiencing homelessness may qualify for specialized housing programs through the VA or community providers, though these programs require documentation and proof of service.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Includes anyone under the age of 25, whether in a family or alone. This group often includes youth aging out of foster care, unaccompanied minors, and young adults navigating early independence without housing support.

What is the Point-in-Time Count?

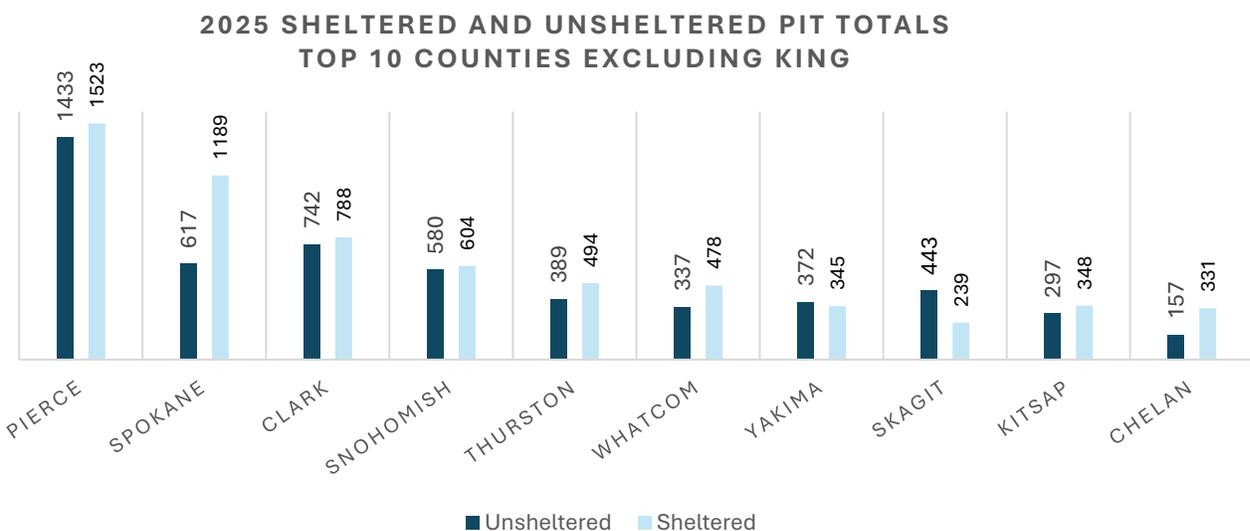
The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual, federally mandated data collection effort that provides a snapshot of homelessness on a single date in January. Conducted across all Continuums of Care (CoCs) and coordinated by local jurisdictions, the PIT Count includes individuals and families residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or in unsheltered locations such as vehicles, encampments, or other places not meant for human habitation.

Data from the count are submitted to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are used to inform funding allocations, policy decisions, and system performance assessments at the local, state, and national levels.

Data on sheltered individuals are compiled through Washington’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), while data on unsheltered individuals are collected through field-based surveys conducted by trained volunteers and outreach professionals. HUD guidelines establish baseline methodology to promote consistency across jurisdictions, though local adaptations are often made to account for geographic and demographic variation.

In Thurston County, the PIT Count is coordinated by the Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention (OHHP) within Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) in collaboration with service providers, volunteers, and community partners. In 2025, OHHP subcontracted the coordination of all PIT Count events to United Way of Thurston County. While the PIT Count provides critical data for understanding regional homelessness trends and identifying service gaps, it is widely recognized as a conservative estimate due to the inherent limitations of a single-date count and challenges in reaching unsheltered populations.

Washington State Department of Commerce released Washington State’s Point-in-Time Count results on August 6, 2025. The following graph is based on that data:



* King County did not publish an unsheltered count in 2025, and is not included in this report

Who is included in the Point-in-Time Count?

The PIT Count collects data on individuals who are unsheltered, sheltered, transitionally housed, or residing in institutional settings without a permanent address to return to upon exit if their duration of residence is less than 90 days. It is important to note that this count does not include individuals who are living temporarily with friends or family.

Unsheltered

- Micro-shelters
- Encampments
- Streets and doorways
- Vehicles
- RVs and boats without water or power
- Abandoned buildings & other locations not meant for human habitation

Sheltered

- Emergency shelter
- Hotel rooms used as emergency shelter
- Transitional housing
- Those in institutional settings such as jail, hospital, and other long-term stay facilities

Purpose of the Point-in-Time Count

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a foundational tool for understanding the scale and characteristics of homelessness within a community. Conducted annually, it fulfills a federal requirement under HUD and is a condition for receiving certain types of funding through the federal Continuum of Care program. Beyond compliance, the PIT Count plays a central role in shaping local, regional, and national strategies to prevent and end homelessness.

At the system level, PIT Count data provides a consistent reference point for year-over-year comparison, making it a valuable metric for evaluating progress, identifying emerging trends, and informing resource allocation. In Thurston County, the PIT Count helps policymakers, funders, and service providers understand who is experiencing homelessness by age, race, household type, veteran status, chronicity, and what types of shelter or supports are being utilized. This insight supports targeted planning, improves coordination of services, and informs efforts to address disparities among overrepresented populations.

The PIT Count also strengthens community engagement and system accountability. Its success relies on cross-sector collaboration, bringing together government agencies, service providers, outreach teams, and volunteers in a shared effort to gather accurate data. This collaborative approach strengthens relationships across the local housing and homelessness response network and increases public awareness of the realities faced by people experiencing homelessness. Used alongside other data sources (like HMIS), the PIT Count provides a clearer picture of community needs and system performance.

While not a complete census, the PIT Count remains one of the most visible and influential datasets in the homelessness policy landscape. It is frequently cited by media, elected officials, and the public, making its accuracy and interpretation critical. Thurston County uses PIT Count data not only to meet federal obligations but also to guide data-informed decisions that promote housing stability, equity, and accountability across the homelessness response system.

Methodology

The Point-in-Time Count is guided by HUD’s nationally standardized methodology, designed to ensure accuracy, consistency, and comparability across jurisdictions. The [PIT Methodology Guide](#) establishes minimum standards to prevent duplication and support high-quality data collection. While the federal framework is consistent, each community tailors its implementation to reflect local geography, resource capacity, and population patterns.

The PIT Count includes two primary components: sheltered and unsheltered counts. Sheltered count data (individuals staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing on the night of the count) are collected through HMIS, while unsheltered count data are more variable, often affected by weather, volunteer capacity, and outreach coverage.

Thurston County conducts a full census-style count, meaning it aims to engage every person experiencing homelessness in the community, rather than relying on a sample. This approach prioritizes equity, visibility, and informed decision-making by ensuring that people who are often invisible in data are intentionally sought out and counted. The 2025 PIT Count used a multi-method approach combining structured outreach, in-person survey events, telephone surveys, and site-based counts. This combination was chosen to maximize coverage and reduce barriers to participation.

The official PIT Count night for 2025 was Thursday, January 30. In alignment with HUD’s allowance for a “service-based count window,” Thurston County extended its data collection over a seven-day period, from January 30 through February 6. Participants were asked to report where they slept on the night of January 30, maintaining the integrity of a single-night snapshot while acknowledging the realities of field outreach in a diverse and often dispersed community.

Limitations and Processes

While the Point-in-Time Count is a valuable tool for understanding homelessness in Thurston County, there are important limitations to acknowledge in both the data itself and the process of collecting it. The count relies on a single-day snapshot, volunteer capacity, and self-reported survey responses. As a result, the data cannot fully capture the dynamic and often hidden experiences of participants.

Populations who are less likely to access shelter or be reluctant to engage with surveyors – including BIPOC communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, survivors of domestic violence, and people with disabilities – may be underrepresented. Language barriers, fear of institutional systems, stigma, survey fatigue, and the transient nature of homelessness all contribute to gaps in data collected and guarded responses. This means that while the data highlights disparities, it may also mask the full extent of inequities across race, gender, and other identity markers.

Recognizing these challenges, Thurston County prioritized equity in survey design, outreach strategies, and volunteer training. These efforts included intentional engagement with historically marginalized groups and centering culturally responsive practices. Still, it is important to be transparent: no methodology can fully eliminate the structural barriers that limit representation in the PIT Count.

By explicitly naming these limitations, Thurston County seeks to provide context for interpreting the data. The PIT Count should therefore be viewed as one tool among many, complemented by qualitative narratives, longitudinal data, and community expertise. Acknowledging both the strengths and constraints of the process is essential to ensuring accountability and advancing equity in homelessness response.

The Survey Tool

The unsheltered count uses a customized version of HUD’s recommended survey tool to capture key demographic, geographic, and systemic data while reflecting the local needs and equity priorities of Thurston County. Survey questions covered age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, disabling conditions, household composition, and chronic homelessness status. All data collection adhered to HUD guidelines and included protocols to ensure informed consent, confidentiality, and trauma-informed engagement.

Surveys were administered in person and by phone, with respondents asked to identify their primary sleeping location on the night of January 30. Field teams were trained to recognize and mitigate bias, avoid duplication, and respect the privacy and confidentiality of individuals who declined to participate, while still ensuring accurate population estimates.

Volunteers

United Way of Thurston County partnered with Thurston County to recruit volunteers for a wide range of activities, from assembling hygiene kits to conducting surveys. Volunteers were essential to the operation of the PIT Count and related outreach events.

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) staff provided training to all volunteers on event logistics, trauma-informed engagement, and survey administration protocols to ensure volunteers were prepared to support vulnerable populations respectfully and effectively.

In total, 38 volunteers contributed 106 hours across PIT Count-related activities:

- 12 volunteers dedicated 36 hours to hygiene kit assembly
- 30 volunteers supported survey sites and community events, contributing 70 hours

Volunteers were deployed across six major events spanning from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31, the day after the night of the PIT Count. Their participation was key to creating welcoming, service-rich environments where individuals could receive care and complete the survey.

Survey Events and Outreach Sites

A total of ten survey events were held across Thurston County to maximize outreach and engagement, particularly among underserved and high-risk populations. These included specialized events tailored to seniors and individuals accessing high-traffic service sites.

- **SENIOR EVENTS**

Senior-focused events were held at the Lacey Senior Center, Olympia Senior Center, and the Olympia branch of the Timberland Library. Trained outreach volunteers facilitated senior engagement. Services and amenities offered included coffee, warming spaces, and resource connections.

- **FAMILY OUTREACH**

The Family Support Center of South Sound led outreach efforts to families with children, focusing on households enrolled in Coordinated Entry. Staff spent the week following the night of the PIT Count conducting targeted outreach and surveys to ensure family representation in the data.

- **YOUTH OUTREACH**

Community Youth Services (CYS) hosted a youth event at Rosie’s Place in downtown Olympia on February 5, offering survey support, haircuts, karaoke, and food to ensure youth and young adult representation in the data.

- **SERGIO’S PLACE HOMELESS CONNECT**

This one-day event was hosted in partnership with Interfaith Works, Thurston County staff, United Way staff, and volunteers. The event offered clothing, food, haircuts, health clinic access, and on-site survey support in a semi-private setting.

- **BLOCK PARTY OUTREACH EVENT**

Held in downtown Olympia on 5th Avenue on February 5, this event brought together multiple service providers to offer resource matching, food, and survey support.

- **POP-UP MEAL EVENTS**

Two mobile events targeted individuals at high-traffic locations during traditional mealtimes:

- Union Gospel Mission (UGM) – January 31 at 6:30 a.m. to reach individuals departing after staying the night of the PIT Count during breakfast to offer survey support
- Catholic Community Services Community Kitchen – also on January 31, and hosted by the Salvation Army, held from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM during lunch to survey support

Both sites distributed bottles of water, snacks, and donated items regardless of survey participation. These sites were selected for their role as consistent service access points during mealtimes.

Incentives and Donation Drives

Incentives played a key role in facilitating engagement. As part of its annual commitment, the Thurston County Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention (OHHP) allocated \$25,000 to support PIT Count-related activities – including around \$5000 for the purchase of cold-weather gear, food, water, hygiene supplies, and other participation incentives.

Across all survey sites and outreach events, the following items were distributed:

- Over 300 emergency shelter items (for example, tents and sleeping bags)
- 500+ duffel bags, ponchos, blankets, beanies, and socks
- 800+ gloves, zip-ties, and hygiene kits
- \$1000+ worth of food and snacks
- 1,200 bottles of water

Community donations added significant value:

- 400+ lbs of clothing
- 30 cases of bottled water from Costco
- 400+ oz of coffee from RevMo and Starbucks
- 100+ lbs of food and beverages from the Thurston County Food Bank

A clothing donation drive was hosted at the Old Fire Hall owned by the City of Olympia.

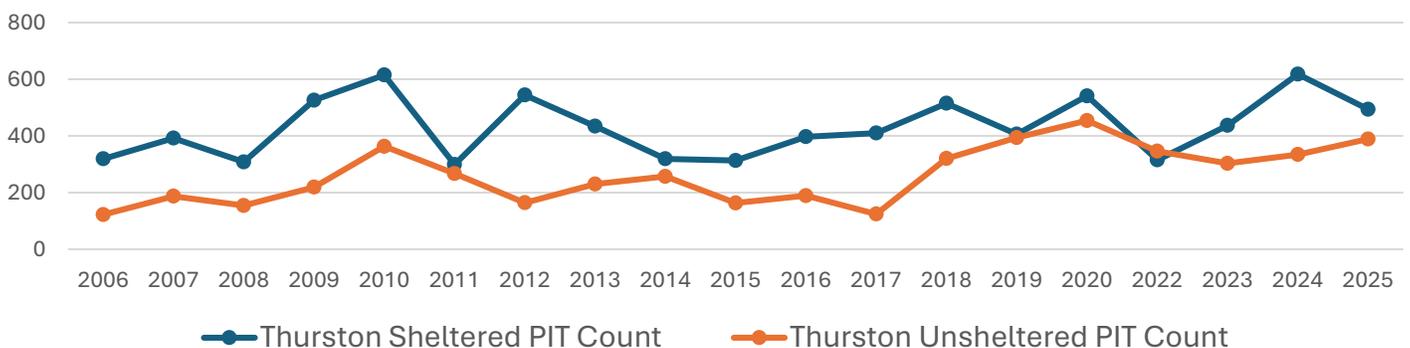
Thurston County Point-in-Time Count Results

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a snapshot of the realities of homelessness in our community. These realities can be hard to confront. Data that identify injustice, inequity, and systemic failures challenge communities to examine long-held narratives and gaps in our collective response. The following sections summarize findings from the 2025 PIT Count conducted January 30 through February 6.

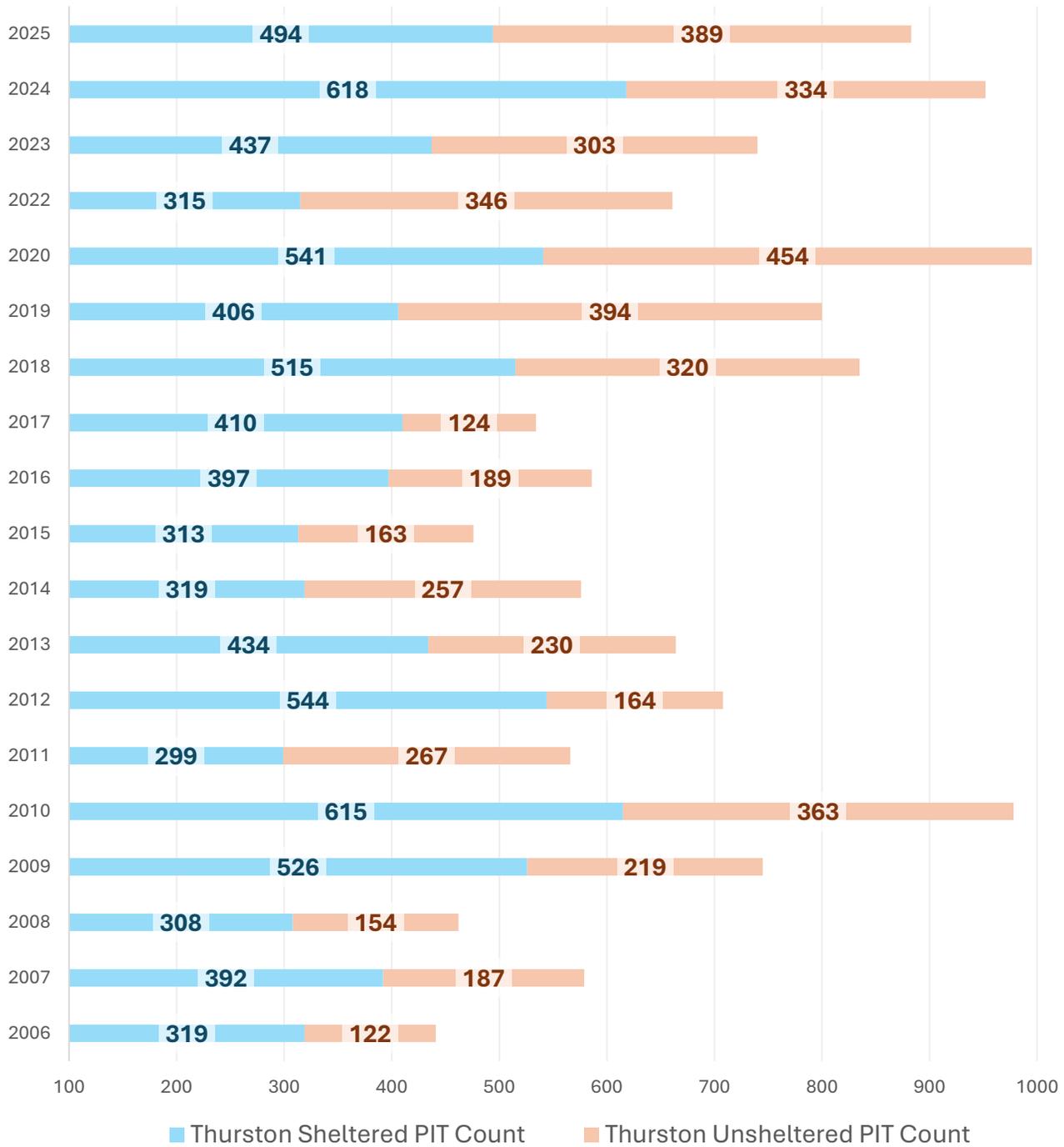
Historical PIT Count Data

The Point-in-Time Count has been conducted annually for two decades, providing a long-term view of homelessness trends. The following two charts show the total number of people participating in the PIT Count over the past 20 years, broken down by sheltered counts and unsheltered counts.

It is important to acknowledge that the Point-in-Time Count is subject to variability stemming from methodological differences across the years. Even relatively minor adjustments - such as changes in how shelter beds are classified or shifts in the level of community participation in the count – can significantly influence the data. These variations, in turn, may affect the conclusions and trends that can be reasonably drawn from year-to-year comparisons.



*2021 did not see a published PIT count from Washington State or from HUD.



*2021 did not see a published PIT count from Washington State or from HUD.

Thurston County Change in Homelessness over the years

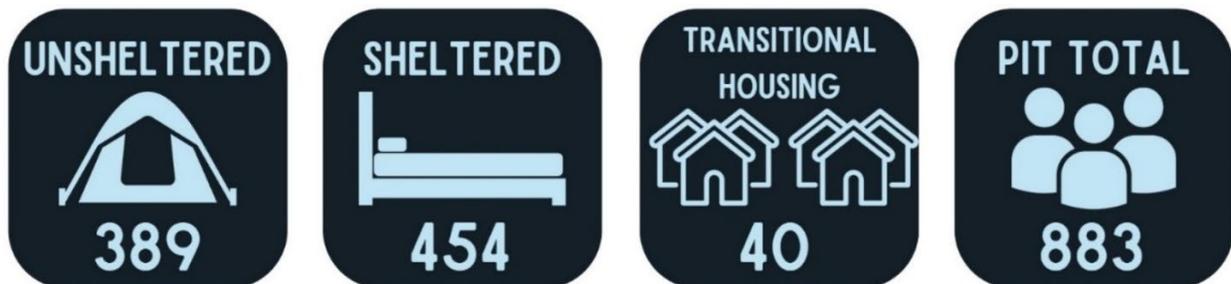
	2022	2023	2024	2025	% change from 2024
Total Sheltered	315	437	618	494	-20.06%
Total Unsheltered	346	303	334	389	16.47%
TOTAL	661	740	952	883	-7.25%

2025 PIT Count

PIT 2025 Overview				
Total 883	Sheltered Total 494		Unsheltered Total 389	
Household Type				
Single Adults 521	Youth in Families 150	Adults with Children 117	Youth & Young Adult Households 95	
Gender				
Men 394	Women 357	No Answer 110	Transgender/Non-Binary 22	
Ages				
0-17 123	18-24 89	25-54 534	55+ 137	
Race & Ethnicity			Veterans & Survivors of Domestic Violence	
White 506	BIPOC 250	No Answer 127	Veterans 22	DV Survivors 160
Disabilities				
Mental Health Disability 419	Substance Use Disorder 275	Chronic Health Condition 252	Physical Disability 234	Developmental Disability 142

LOCATION OF STAY IN HOMELESSNESS

This year’s PIT Count reflected the full spectrum of homelessness in Thurston County: Individuals sleeping outdoors or in vehicles, others staying in emergency shelters, and a small number residing in transitional housing programs. While unsheltered individuals accounted for 44% of the total count, more than half were accessing some form of temporary shelter – a sign that housing programs continue to serve critical roles, even under high demand and limited capacity.



Transitional housing remains the smallest portion of the response system, with just 40 individuals counted in these programs. All transitional beds in Thurston County are reserved for youth, which helps explain the lower numbers. Emergency shelters remain the largest indoor component of the system, but even with 454 people sheltered, the demand still far exceeds availability – especially for families and survivors fleeing violence.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE IN HOMELESSNESS

24% of all people counted identified themselves as being in a family with children, highlighting the continued impact of homelessness on families.

Household type is also shaped by what our system can and cannot accommodate. Many shelters are built with single adults in mind, creating barriers for multi-generational households, couples without children, or families with complex needs. This year’s count reinforces the need for more flexible housing options that can meet people where they are, rather than requiring families to split up or hide to access help.

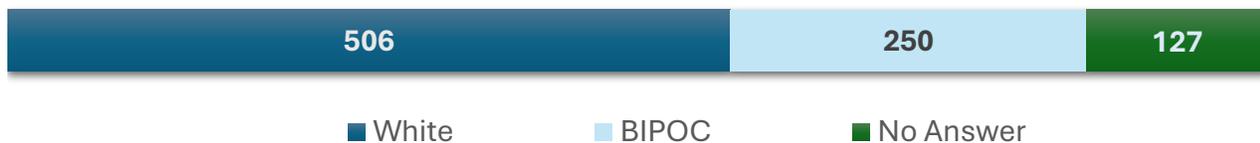
GENDER IN HOMELESSNESS



The gender breakdown across the full count showed 357 women and 394 men. Thurston County continues to see representation of transgender and non-binary individuals (22 total on this year’s PIT count), as well as a significant number of people who declined to disclose their gender at all (110).

This diversity speaks to a system that’s evolving slowly toward being safer and more inclusive, and it points to the continued importance of trauma-informed, gender-expansive spaces, especially in shelters and outreach programs.

RACE & ETHNICITY IN HOMELESSNESS

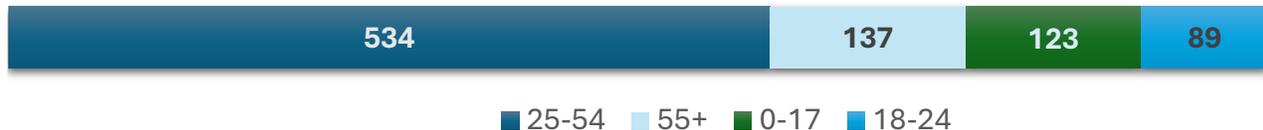


The racial and ethnic breakdown of the 2025 PIT Count reveals stark disparities. While those who listed “White” as part of their race made up 58% of the count, 36% identified as people of color.

The percentages of BIPOC & White individuals are very similar to regional demographic estimates from 2020. However, communities of color face disproportionate risk of eviction, barriers to housing access, and overrepresentation in poverty statistics, all of which are drivers of homelessness.

Behind every demographic label is lived experience shaped by intergenerational trauma, systemic racism, and institutional exclusion.

AGE RANGES IN HOMELESSNESS



Homelessness in Thurston County affects people across all life stages, but it is most concentrated among adults between the ages of 25 and 54, with 60% of all individuals counted fitting into this range. These are people in what are often considered peak earning and caregiving years, and they are facing rising rents, health challenges, and instability with few resources to catch them.

Whether part of a family, newly aging out of foster care, or surviving on their own, the 24% of those under 25 are navigating instability at a formative time in their lives.

At the other end of the spectrum, 137 individuals over age 55 were counted. Aging while homeless compounds existing vulnerabilities, as older adults face higher health risks and fewer employment options. The PIT Count confirms that homelessness impacts all ages.

VETERANS IN HOMELESSNESS

Veteran homelessness in Thurston County shows that those who have served in the armed forces experience housing instability. Despite ongoing initiatives to reduce these numbers, the count still includes veterans without a safe place to sleep.

Twenty-two veterans were counted in total this year, half of whom were unsheltered. This shows both the strength of targeted outreach efforts and the reality that some veterans continue to fall outside the reach of available programs.

Veterans accessing shelter often do so through coordinated partnerships between local providers and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). But those who remain unsheltered may face challenges related to eligibility, documentation, or trust in systems. Continued efforts to integrate housing, healthcare, and behavioral health supports (especially in low-barrier settings) are critical to ensuring that every veteran has access to stability.

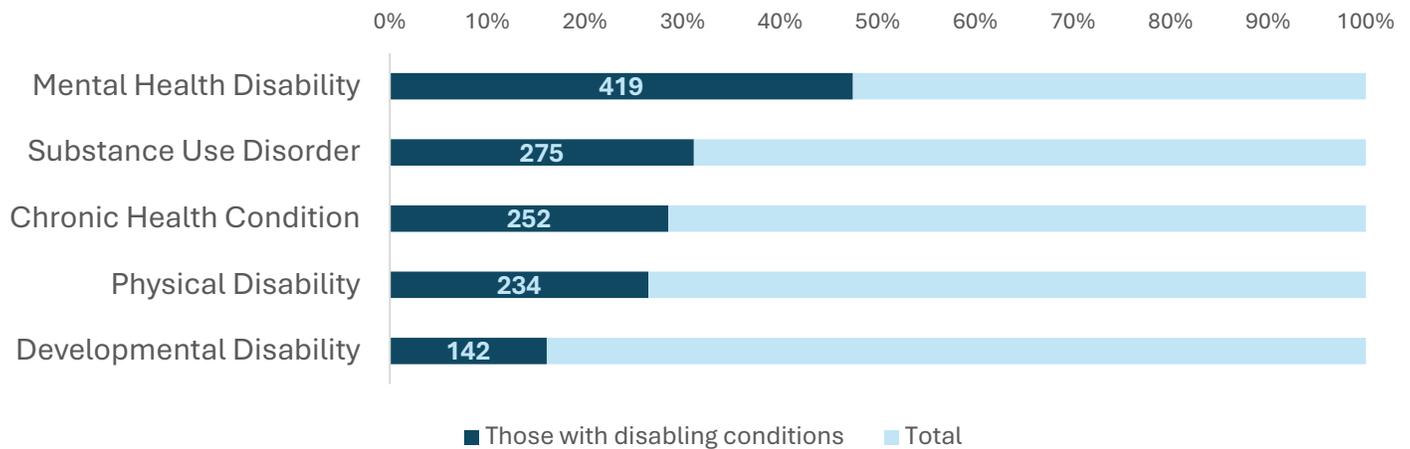
SURVIVORS OF DV IN HOMELESSNESS

219 individuals identified as fleeing domestic violence in 2025 – 25% of the entire PIT Count. While some were staying in emergency shelter, many were unsheltered on PIT night. The scale of this number points to the intersection of personal crisis and system capacity.

Survivors often face limited options, especially when shelters are full. Many are also navigating legal systems, parenting, trauma, and resource scarcity all at once.

The number of people fleeing violence in the 2025 PIT Count speaks not only to the prevalence of intimate partner violence, but also the urgent need for safe, trauma-informed housing solutions that don't require people to choose between safety and shelter.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN HOMELESSNESS



Across the PIT Count, many people reported living with one or more disabling conditions.

Homelessness and disability are deeply intertwined. For many, the path into homelessness is shaped by barriers like the inability to work due to disability, inability to live on disability income, untreated illness or disability, inaccessible housing, or unaffordable care.

The scale of disability in the PIT Count in 2025 underscores the need for permanent supportive housing, trauma-informed care, and integrated health services across both shelter and housing programs. Simply offering a bed isn't always enough – for many, housing must be built with disability in mind from the very beginning.

The Point-in-Time Survey 2025

In addition to the count, the PIT includes a survey designed to gather information directly from people experiencing homelessness. This survey asks a series of questions about demographics, personal history, and service needs that are not captured elsewhere in the report. While not every participant completed the survey, the responses provide additional context that helps inform local planning and highlight specific challenges. The survey results can be interpreted as a complement to the count totals, offering deeper insight into the experiences of those represented in the data.

PRIOR LIVING LOCATIONS

85% of all respondents to the PIT Count survey answered that they are most recently from Washington State, a number consistent with prior years.

For those most recently housed in Washington State, 61% of respondents answered that they were most recently housed in Thurston County. 25% were most recently housed in other counties, and Mason, Pierce, and Lewis counties account for the remaining 14%.

AGE WHEN HOMELESSNESS IS FIRST EXPERIENCED

43% of respondents stated that their first experience with homelessness was prior to their 18th birthday. 17% experienced homelessness first as a young adult between ages of 18 and 24. 31% were between ages 25 and 49, and the remaining 11% of respondents were over the age of 50 when they first experienced homelessness.

CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

The survey asked participants to identify the primary factors that led to their current experience of homelessness. Responses provide insight into the circumstances and events most commonly reported, ranging from economic and housing challenges to health, family, or safety-related issues.

It is worth noting that 96% of those who chose to answer this question on the survey (shown on the following graph) stated that they did not enter homelessness by choice.

Causes of homelessness			
Job Loss / Unemployment	144	Discharged from jail	34
Evicted / Loss of housing	138	Some other reason	33
Domestic Violence	118	Homelessness was a personal choice	23
Family Rejection / Kicked out of the home	105	Abuse or Neglect	20
Substance Use Disorder	79	Medical Costs	18
Physical Disability	63	Lack of Childcare	18
Mental & Behavioral Health Condition	58	Discharged from a hospital	15
Unable to work	54	Aged out of Foster Care	*

An asterisk () indicates that data has been suppressed in accordance with HUD and Washington State Department of Commerce standards to protect participant privacy and ensure statistical reliability.*

INCOME SOURCES

Participants were asked to identify their current sources of income. These responses help show how people experiencing homelessness are supporting themselves and the extent to which formal and informal income streams contribute to survival.

Income Sources			
Income from any source	260	Help from relatives or friends	22
Medicare/Medicaid	95	Temporary Disability (ABD)	20
SSI/SSDI	87	Full Time Employment	17
TANF	62	Seasonal/Farm Employment	*
Panhandling	34	Unemployment	*
Part Time Employment	32	VA Disability	*

SERVICES ACCESSED WITHIN THE PAST YEAR

The survey asked participants which services they used within the past year. These responses provide context on the types of support people experiencing homelessness are able to access and where gaps in connection to resources may exist.

Services Accessed within the past year

Free Meals	314	Behavioral Health	154	No Services	48
Shelter	225	Bus	137	Other Services	33
Showers	216	Legal Help	73	Micro-Shelter	28
Medical Services	204	Job Training	59	Immigration Services	*
Street Outreach	197	Substance use counseling	59		
Day Shelter	170	Transitional Housing	59		

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES

Participants were also asked about reasons they were unable to access services in the past year. These responses highlight the challenges and barriers that can prevent people experiencing homelessness from connecting with available resources.

Barriers to accessing services

Didn't know where to go	212	Program rules too strict	77	Separation from pet	54
Never Heard Back	185	Issues with program staff	72	Separation from partner	51
Lack of transportation	162	No issues	59	Language Barrier	*
Did not have ID	128	Other Issues	57		

SERVICES STILL NEEDED

Finally, the survey asked participants to identify services they still need or would like to access. These responses point to unmet needs and help inform where additional resources or connections may be most critical.

Services still needed

Rental Assistance	413	Landlord accepting voucher	233	Family Reunification	61
Money for Moving Costs	315	Help Clearing Credit	200	Culturally Tailored Services	35
Higher Income	304	New ID/Paperwork	128	Other Assistance	33
Case Management	290	Legal Assistance	125	Immigration Help	*
Transportation	237	Medical/Health Care	112	Language Services	*

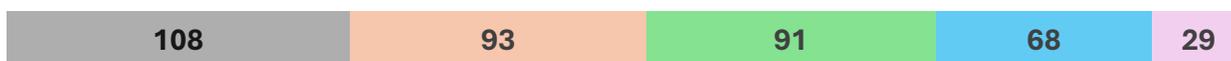
Unsheltered PIT Count 2025

On the night of January 30, 2025, 389 individuals were identified as unsheltered in Thurston County. This includes people sleeping outdoors, in vehicles, or in places not meant for human habitation.

Unsheltered PIT Count 2025					
Total	Vehicles	Microshelter	Tents	Streets	RV / Boat
389	108	93	91	68	29
Household Type		Gender		Race & Ethnicity	
Single Adults 25+	255	Men	184	White	253
People in Families w/Children	117	Women	178	BIPOC	116
Single Youth aged 0-24	17	Trans+/NB	27	No Answer	20
Age			Veterans & Survivors Fleeing Domestic Violence		
0-17	59	25-54	249	Unsheltered Veterans	11
18-24	25	55+	56	Unsheltered Survivors Fleeing DV	115
Disabilities					
Mental Health	218	Chronic Health	144	Developmental	76
Substance Use	156	Physical Health	119		

UNSHeltered SLEEPING LOCATIONS ON JANUARY 30, 2025

■ Vehicle ■ Microshelter ■ Tents or Encampments ■ Streets or Sidewalks ■ RV/Boat/Abandoned Building



The largest share of unsheltered individuals stayed in vehicles (108 people), followed closely by those in micro-shelters (93) and tents or encampments (91). Others self-reported as sleeping on streets and sidewalks (68), and in abandoned buildings, RVs or boats without power (29). These varied sleeping locations reflect the complex realities of homelessness in Thurston County.

FACTORS INFLUENCING WHERE PEOPLE SLEEP

In the middle of winter, individuals sleep in a wide range of locations, including vehicles, tents, on the street, in RVs, and in abandoned buildings – often by necessity, rather than choice.

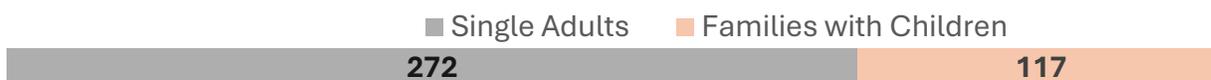
The reasons vary:

- Shelter capacity is limited, and many programs have eligibility criteria that exclude individuals with partners, pets, or complex health needs.

- Micro-shelters, while safer than tents, are often available only through referral, and space is extremely limited. They also may not be accessible to people with mobility challenges or those who don't meet specific program guidelines.
- Vehicles, RVs, and boats offer a degree of privacy and safety from the elements, even when they don't have access to power or water and are not legally or structurally intended for habitation.
- Some individuals may be trying to stay close to familiar locations, work sites, or communities of support, even if those places lack infrastructure.

Sleeping outside in winter is not a reflection of individual failure or refusal of services – it's often the result of a system that cannot yet meet the needs of everyone who turns to it.

HOUSEHOLD TYPES IN UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS



Most unsheltered individuals in Thurston County who participated in the 2025 PIT Count were singles (a grouping that includes unaccompanied youth, as well as couples without children), reflecting gaps in service accessibility. Many shelter and housing programs are structured around individual placements, leaving couples or multi-adult households with limited options. As a result, some choose to remain outside to stay together.

Understanding household composition is critical for designing services that reflect real-life needs. Whether it's a parent trying to keep their children safe, a young adult on their own for the first time, or a couple navigating homelessness together, each household type brings distinct challenges and requires tailored, flexible support.

GENDER IN UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS



In the unsheltered count specifically, 184 individuals identified as men, 178 identified as women, and 27 identified as transgender or non-binary.

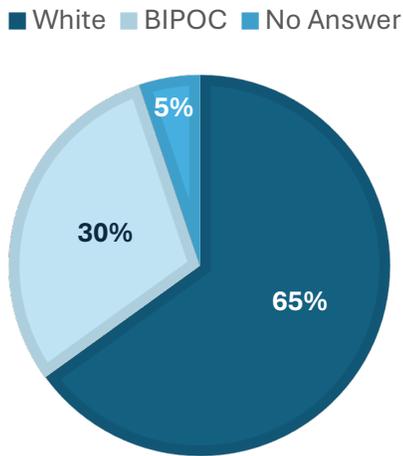
While national data suggests that transgender and non-binary individuals experience homelessness at disproportionately high rates, the 2025 Thurston County PIT Count identified only 27 unsheltered individuals who reported a marginalized gender identity.

There are several reasons that the number may appear lower than the actual number:

- Some individuals may not use binary or institutional language to describe their gender identity, and current survey formats may not fully reflect that.
- In a transient system, access to services can sometimes be shaped by gendered assumptions, leading individuals to mask or avoid disclosure altogether.

This likely discrepancy highlights the need for trauma-informed approaches, culturally competent outreach, and continued improvements in data collection methods that respect gender diversity and autonomy.

RACE & ETHNICITY IN UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS



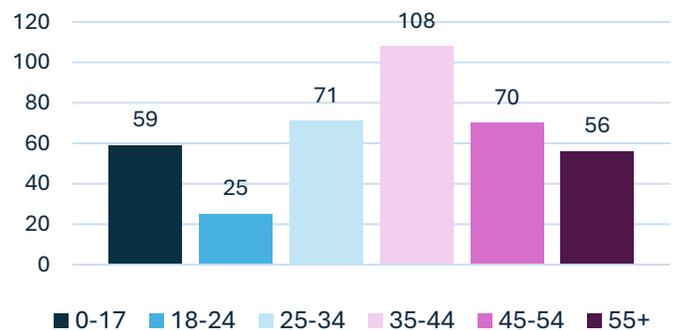
In the 2025 unsheltered PIT Count, 30% of individuals identified as a person of color – defined here as Hispanic, Latino/a/e, or a race other than White alone. This closely mirrors the Thurston Regional Planning Council’s most recent demographic estimates for the county, but the appearance of parity should not be mistaken for equity.

Racial disparities in homelessness are not new. They are the direct result of generations of policy decisions – from redlining and urban renewal to modern zoning laws and income inequality. Nationally and locally, people of color are more likely to be evicted, denied housing, underpaid, and overpoliced. These structural forces increase both the risk of becoming homeless and the barriers to escaping it.

Data for Thurston County and Washington State can be found at: [Race/Ethnicity | Thurston Regional Planning Council, WA](#)

AGE IN UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

In 2025, unsheltered homelessness in Thurston County affected people across all ages. The largest group affected was adults in their 30s and 40s, with 108 individuals between 35-44 and 70 between ages 45-54 being affected. These are often considered “prime working years,” but the data shows that many people in this age range are facing prolonged or repeated episodes of housing instability.



Younger adults also made up a significant share:

- 71 individuals were 25-34, many of whom are navigating rising rents, stagnant wages, and limited access to mental health care or substance use treatment
- 25 individuals were 18-24, an age group often exiting foster care, aging out of youth systems, or surviving without family support
- 59 individuals were under 18, underscoring that unsheltered homelessness is not confined to adults – it also includes children and families

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes that the experiences that people have in childhood can have a tremendous impact on lifelong health and opportunity. For more information

about the Adverse Childhood Experiences study done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), visit [CDC-Kaiser ACE Study](#).

On the other end of the spectrum, 56 individuals were over age 55. Older adults face elevated risks in unsheltered settings, including deteriorating health, mobility challenges, and increased exposure to cold weather. Many have no retirement income, no safety net, and no realistic way to reenter the housing market.

UNSHELTERED VETERANS

In the 2025 Point-in-Time Count, 11 unsheltered individuals in Thurston County identified as veterans. While this number is small in absolute terms, it remains a critical data point and a reminder that even with targeted programs and dedicated housing resources, some veterans continue to remain without shelter.

Veterans experiencing homelessness often face a unique combination of barriers: service-connected disabilities, trauma, chronic health conditions, and difficulties transitioning to civilian life. For some, these challenges are compounded by fixed or limited incomes, limited local support networks, and/or difficulty navigating multiple service systems.

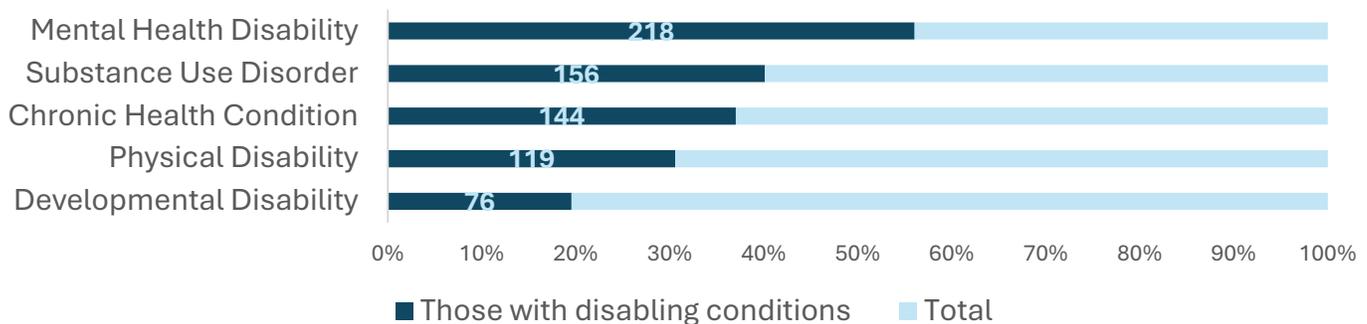
Thurston County benefits from strong partnerships between housing providers, local VA offices, and outreach teams focused on veteran homelessness. However, the presence of even a small number of unsheltered veterans highlights the importance of flexibility in service delivery, continued investments in permanent supportive housing, and ongoing coordination across agencies.

UNSHELTERED SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

During the 2025 Point-in-Time Count, 115 unsheltered individuals in Thurston County identified as fleeing domestic violence, representing nearly one in three people counted. It is a reminder that homelessness and interpersonal violence are deeply connected.

Domestic violence increasingly affects people across all genders. Survivors may face additional barriers to housing, such as eviction history, poor credit or no credit, lack of income, or fear of being located by an abuser. Some are navigating trauma while trying to stay safe, care for children, and rebuild their lives – all without a secure place to sleep.

DISABILITIES AMONG UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS DURING PIT COUNT 2025



Disability is both a cause and a consequence of homelessness, and many individuals experience multiple overlapping disabilities that impact their ability to navigate housing systems, access care, or find consistent safety. For people living outdoors, disabilities are often compounded by environmental risk, lack of treatment access, exposure to violence, trauma, and weather. The data reflects not just individual need, but a broader system gap: the absence of truly accessible, low-barrier housing with built-in health supports.

Sheltered PIT Count 2025

Sheltered PIT Count 2025					
Total 494	Emergency Shelter 454		Transitional Housing 40		
Household Type			Race & Ethnicity		
Single Adults over 24 yo 334	Single Youth age 0-24 93	Families w/Children 67	White 253	BIPOC 134	No Answer 107
Disabilities					
Mental Health Disability 176	Substance Use Disorder 136	Physical Disability 110	Chronic Health Condition 94	Developmental Disability 54	
Gender				Veterans & Survivors of DV	
Men 200	Women 179	No Answer 105	Transgender/ Non-Binary *	Veterans in Shelter 11	Survivors of DV in shelter 38
Age					
<u>0-17</u> 64	<u>18-24</u> 64	<u>25-34</u> 79	<u>35-44</u> 124	<u>45-54</u> 81	<u>55+</u> 82

In previous PIT Count reports, emergency shelter and transitional housing populations were presented as separate categories. This year, they are reported together. There are 40 individuals in transitional housing; however, due to Washington State Department of Commerce’s data suppression requirements, any population statistic with fewer than 11 individuals cannot be reported publicly. This means that, if transitional housing were presented separately, nearly every subgroup would be suppressed.

It is also worth noting that last year’s PIT Count report showed significantly higher numbers for transitional housing. This was the result of how households with Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers were recorded in HMIS. Because this program has sometimes been categorized under “transitional

housing,” it has been inconsistently included in the PIT Count in past years. However, Housing Choice vouchers are not transitional in nature or functionality – they represent permanent housing with transitional services attached. In Thurston County, the only true transitional housing currently available is provided by Community Youth Services and exclusively serves youth under the age of 25.

HOUSEHOLD TYPES FOR SHELTERED HOUSEHOLDS

Of the 494 individuals in sheltered homelessness, the largest share (334 people) were single adults, followed by 93 youth and young adult (YYA) households and 67 people in households with children. This distribution mirrors previous years, where single adults consistently represent the most sheltered residents. Despite the increase in sheltered households over the past few years, the PIT data underscores the need for increased shelter and housing options for all populations.

GENDER FOR SHELTERED HOUSEHOLDS

Of the sheltered population, 200 individuals identified as men, 179 identified as women, and fewer than 11 as transgender or non-binary, with a notable number (105) choosing not to disclose gender. While men represent the largest share, the proportion of women in sheltered homelessness remains significant, reflecting both individual and family household needs. The suppressed count for transgender and non-binary individuals, due to data privacy rules, underscores the importance of maintaining safe, inclusive, and affirming shelter options for people of all gender identities, even when the numbers cannot be fully reported.

RACE & ETHNICITY FOR SHELTERED HOUSEHOLDS

253 sheltered individuals identified as White, while 134 identified as BIPOC. An additional 108 people (22%) declined to disclose their race. The significant proportion of individuals who did not disclose their race means the extent of any racial disparity is not possible to evaluate.

AGE RANGES FOR SHELTERED HOUSEHOLDS

Sheltered individuals in the 2025 PIT Count ranged from young children to older adults, emphasizing the need for a range of housing and service models – from youth-focused transitional programs to permanent supportive housing and health-integrated shelter options for aging adults.

DISABILITIES IN SHELTERED HOUSEHOLDS

Disabling conditions were common among the sheltered population. The overlapping needs present point to the importance of low-barrier, fully accessible shelter environments and robust connections to healthcare, behavioral health, and supportive services. Meeting these needs is not only a matter of housing access – it is essential to sustaining housing stability and preventing future episodes of homelessness.

Youth & Young Adult Households

Youth and young adult households are defined in the PIT Count as individuals under age 25, a group that includes both minors and young people transitioning into adulthood. Nationally and locally, these populations are tracked separately because their experiences of homelessness often differ from those of older adults and families. In Thurston County, youth and young adults continue to represent a distinct portion of those who participated in the PIT Count. In 2025, this included 198 individuals, 83 of whom (almost 10% of the total participants in the PIT Count) were unsheltered.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT DATA SUPPRESSION

Much of the data in the Youth & Young Adult data sheet appears as suppressed (only showing up as an asterisk, rather than a number). Suppression occurs when the number of individuals in a category is very small (less than 11 in this case) and could risk identifying specific people, particularly in a smaller community like Thurston County. Data suppression is required by the Washington State Department of Commerce. While this can limit the level of detail available in the published tables, it is an important safeguard to protect the privacy and confidentiality of people who participated in the count.

Youth & Young Adults Aged 0-24 at time of PIT, January 30, 2025

	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Total participants (age 0-17)	54	*	59
Total participants (age 18-24)	34	30	25
Women	27	22	37
Men	29	14	41
Transgender / Non-Binary / Different Identity	15	*	*
No Answer	17	*	*
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	*	*	*
Asian, or Asian American	*	*	*
Black, African American, or African	*	*	*
Hispanic, or Latina/e/o	*	*	*
Middle Eastern or North African	*	*	*
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	*	*	*
White	31	27	43
Multi-Racial	21	*	25
No Answer	16	*	*
Chronically Homeless Unaccompanied Youth	*	*	*

* Data suppression requirements from WA Dept of Commerce require suppression of all reported data under 11 participants

Closing Summary

The 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count offers more than a set of numbers – it is a lens to the systems, policies, and community conditions that shape who has a home and who does not. This year’s data reveals persistent inequities, significant barriers to stability, and the resilience of individuals navigating housing instability under extraordinary challenges. Across both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, the patterns are clear: single adults remain the largest group, BIPOC residents are disproportionately represented, youth and families continue to require targeted resources, and people with disabling conditions face steep, intersecting barriers to stability.

These findings should not be mistaken for inevitabilities. Ending homelessness will require a coordinated, equity-driven response that addresses immediate survival needs while addressing the systemic causes of housing instability. This means investing in permanent housing, expanding culturally specific and accessible services, and aiding our most vulnerable neighbors.

The PIT Count is a call to action: to move beyond temporary fixes, to honor the dignity of every person counted, and to ensure that future counts measure not just the scope of the problem, but reflect progress as a result of our community’s commitment to solving it.

Appendix A: 2025 Thurston County Point-in-Time Survey

POINT IN TIME SURVEY 2025

THURSTON COUNTY, WA

Where is this survey being taken? City/Area: _____ Survey Giver Initials/Org: _____

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 | f. Temporarily staying with friends/ family |
| b. In a vehicle | g. Hospital, Detox, Other facility |
| c. Abandoned building | h. Emergency Shelter |
| d. In an RV or boat lacking power/water | i. In a tent or other man-made structure |
| e. Jail | j. 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 8) **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 5 or 7 have a disability? **Yes** **No**
9. Do you identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer (LGBTQ)? **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: Man (boy), Woman (girl), Culturally Specific Identity (e.g. Two-Spirit), Transgender, Non-Binary, Questioning, Doesn't Know, Prefers Not to Say, Different Identity (write in).
 Race: American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous, Asian/Asian American, Black/African American/African, Hispanic/Latina/e/o, Middle Eastern/North African, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, White, Doesn't Know, Prefers Not to Answer, Additional/Other Race/Ethnicity (write in).

Survey taker: Gender _____ **Race** _____ **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** ____/____/____ **Veteran Y/N**
LGBTQ? Y/N _____ **Health Conditions (see question 12):** _____

12. Health Conditions: (Circle ALL that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Mental Health Disorder (substantial & long-term) | e. Physical Disability (permanent) |
| 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?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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. Housing Affordability |
| j. Other: _____ | t. Mental Illness |
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: _____ | n. Under the table/informal |
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. Rental Assistance/Homelessness Prevention |
| h. Transitional Housing | q. Not Using Any Services |
| 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:

- a. Person 3: Name _____ Relationship to survey taker _____
Gender _____ Race _____ DOB ____/____/____ Veteran Y/N
LGBTQ? Y/N _____ Health Conditions (see question 12): _____
- b. Person 4: Name _____ Relationship to survey taker _____
Gender _____ Race _____ DOB ____/____/____ Veteran Y/N
LGBTQ? Y/N _____ Health Conditions (see question 12): _____
- c. Person 5: Name _____ Relationship to survey taker _____
Gender _____ Race _____ DOB ____/____/____ Veteran Y/N
LGBTQ? Y/N _____ Health Conditions (see question 12): _____
- d. Person 6: Name _____ Relationship to survey taker _____
Gender _____ Race _____ DOB ____/____/____ Veteran Y/N
LGBTQ? Y/N _____ Health Conditions (see question 12): _____
- e. Person 7: Name _____ Relationship to survey taker _____
Gender _____ Race _____ DOB ____/____/____ Veteran Y/N
LGBTQ? Y/N _____ Health Conditions (see question 12): _____

Other notes: [use this space only to notate issues with the survey, or if you are unsure of where/how to capture information provided by participants]

Appendix B: 2025 Thurston County Point-in-Time Census Snapshot

Thurston County 2025 PIT Homeless Census Data Snapshot					
Surveys Completed	518	Unsheltered	389	Age: 0-17	156
Total Individuals	883	Transitional Housing	40	Age: 18-24	89
Men	410	Emergency Shelter	454	Age: 25-34	159
Women	413	Unaccompanied Minor	73	Age: 35-44	211
Transgender & Non-Binary	27	Veterans	22	Age: 45-54	141
		Families with children	199	Age: 55-64	103
		Singles of any age	684	Age: 65+	24
Current Living Situation - Where did you sleep last night? (survey)					
Abandoned Building	<11	Hospital/Detox/Jail	11		
Out of doors	159	Vehicle	108		
Micro-Shelter	93	RV/Boat without power or water	24		
Causes of Homelessness (survey)					
Eviction/Loss of Housing	138	Job Loss / Unemployment	144		
Family Rejection	105	Alcohol / Substance Use	79		
Physical Disability	63	Lack of Job Training / Unable to Work	54		
Behavioral Health	58	Domestic Violence	118		
Abuse/Neglect	90	Discharged from Incarceration	34		
Illness	85	Discharged from Medical Facility	15		
All sources of Household Income (survey)					
Income?	Yes	260	Temporary Disability / ABD	20	
	No	116	Veteran Pension	<11	
Unemployment	<11	Medicare / Medicaid	95		
TANF	62	Panhandling	34		
Seasonal / Farm	<11	Employment: Full Time	17		
Family / Friend	22	Employment: Part Time	32		
Social Security / Social Security Disability	87				
Self Reported Disabilities (survey & HMIS)					
Physical (Permanent)	140	Developmental	142		
Behavioral or Mental Health Condition	260	Substance Use Disorder	174		
Chronic Health Condition	252				
Race & Ethnicity (survey & HMIS)					
White / Caucasian	582	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	17		
Black / African American	75	Multi-Racial	87		
Asian	13	Hispanic / Latinx	72		
American Indian / Alaskan Native	46	No Reply / Refused	56		
Length of Time Homeless & Episodes of Homelessness (survey)					
Length: Less than 1 year homeless	94	Episodes: Less than 4 episodes in 3 years	68		
Length: More than 1 year homeless	282	Episodes: More than 4 episodes in 3 years	26		
No Reply / Refused	139	No Reply / Refused	421		
Total Chronically Homeless Households participating in this survey					302



HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE UNIT

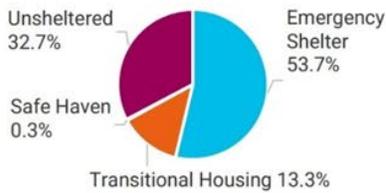
2025 WASHINGTON STATE

Point in Time Count Results

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. This year's PIT count was conducted on January 30th, 2025. The purpose is to enumerate the size and characteristics of the population of people experiencing homelessness.

22,217 people experienced sheltered and unsheltered* homelessness in 2025.

*Note that in 2025 King County did not conduct an unsheltered count, which accounts for approximately 50% of the unsheltered population.



7,267 unsheltered

Locations such as vehicles, outdoors, abandoned buildings, and other places not meant for habitation.

29%

Households with at least one adult and one child

14,950 sheltered

11,934 in Emergency Shelters, 2,954 in Transitional Housing, and 62 in Safe Havens.

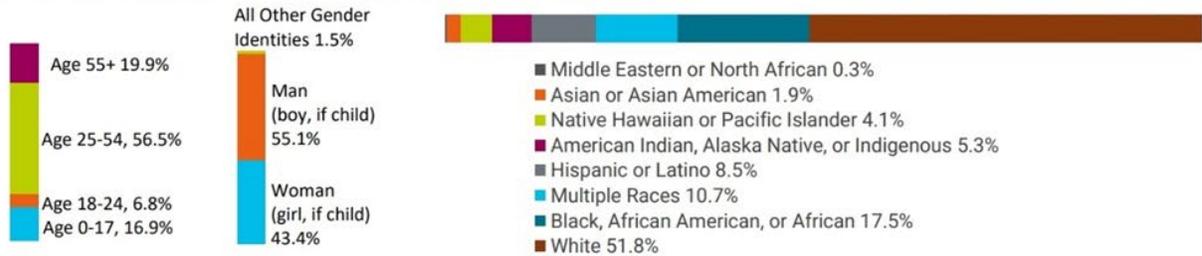
70.5%

Households with adults only

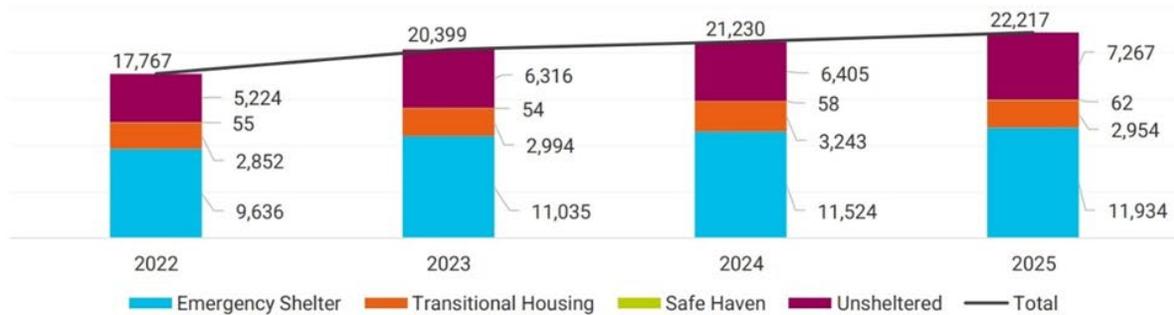
0.4%

Households with children only

Demographics by Age, Gender Identity, and Race and Ethnicity



Changes in Homelessness Over Time (excludes King County unsheltered count)



For more information visit the [Commerce Point in Time Count site](#).



2025 Point in Time and Housing Inventory Count

Overview and Definitions

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness that is carried out on one night in January. The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a count of available beds and the occupancy of those beds on the night as the PIT. The purpose of these reports is to enumerate the size and characteristics of the population of people who are experiencing homelessness and inform us about the housing needs in our communities.

Data collection for the PIT and HIC is mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [CFR Part 578](#), and by the Washington state [RCW 46.185C.030](#). Data from the PIT and HIC is reported in the [Annual Homelessness Assessment Report](#), which is shared with Congress and other governing bodies to inform the public about the state of homelessness. These reports also inform local planning on homelessness services and funding needs.

The [2024 HIC and PIT Data Collection Final Notice](#) defines the types of living situations captured in the PIT and HIC as follows:

1. **Unsheltered Homelessness:** A primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.
2. **Sheltered Homelessness:**
 - a. **Emergency Shelter (ES):** A project that offers temporary shelter (lodging) for homeless people in general or for specific populations.
 - b. **Transitional Housing (TH):** A project that provides temporary lodging and is designed to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within a specified period of time, but no longer than 24 months.
 - c. **Safe Haven (SH):** A project that offers supportive housing that (1) serves hard to reach homeless people with severe mental illness who came from the streets and have been unwilling or unable to participate in supportive services; (2) provides 24-hour residence for eligible people for an unspecified period; (3) has an overnight capacity limited to 25 or fewer people; and (4) provides low demand services and referrals for the residents.

3. **Permanent Housing:**

- a. **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH):** Short- or medium-term housing assistance where the lease is between the program participant and landlord.
- b. **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** Long-term housing for individuals with disabilities and families experiencing homelessness, in which one member of the family has a disability.
- c. **Other Permanent Housing (OPH):** Long-term housing assistance that is not considered PSH or RRH.

Summary

In 2025 King County did not conduct an unsheltered count, which accounts for approximately 50% of the unsheltered population. To summarize trends overtime, King County unsheltered data has been removed from 2024 and 2022 data.

On January 30th, 2025, there were 22,217 people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness across Washington State. Although homelessness overall has increased, up 4.6% from 2024, the rate of increase in homelessness appears to be slowing overtime. Between 2022 and 2023 there was 15% increase in homelessness, and between 2023 and 2024 there was an 8.9% increase.

Short-term housing availability in the form of Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, and Safe Havens, remained relatively consistent, with most housing types seeing a less than 1% change since 2024. However, permanent housing availability increased by 14.1% and occupancy on the night of PIT also increased. While homelessness is increasing, so is the availability of permanent housing options to meet that need.

Sheltered Homelessness

There were 14,950 people living in Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, and Safe Havens on the night of PIT; an increase of 0.8% from 2024, at 14,825. Table 1 shows the total number of people in each project type and the percentage of change. The availability of housing in these project types maintained about the same as last year, but occupancy on the night of PIT decreased slightly, to 73.7%.

Unsheltered Homelessness

Accounting for King County's lack of an unsheltered count this year, unsheltered homelessness increased by 13.5% from 2024, and 15.1% from 2023. There were 7,267 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of PIT, up from 6,405 in 2024. Table 1 shows the changes in unsheltered homelessness.

Permanent Housing

The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) indicated that there were 30,768 permanent housing beds available, which is an increase of 7.2% available beds. On the night of PIT, 26,412 or 85.8% of those available permanent housing beds were occupied. Table 2 shows the available beds and occupancy by project type.