

A HOME FOR EVERYONE

Whatcom County Coalition to End Homelessness 2022 Annual Report

Part A: Point-in-Time Census of Homeless Residents

Part B: Public School Students and their Families



July 2022

Sponsored by:

Whatcom County Health Department

City of Bellingham

Whatcom County Coalition to End Homelessness

Whatcom Homeless Service Center at Opportunity Council

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Disclaimer

The COVID-19 pandemic was enormously disruptive in 2020, 2021, and 2022. COVID-19 impacted how people experience homelessness and also significantly changed the way that the Point in Time (PIT) Count was conducted. To decrease the risk of disease transmission for people collecting and responding to surveys, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued new safety considerations for counting during COVID-19 in 2022. That guidance called for:

- Encouraging all people involved to be fully vaccinated, stay home if they have symptoms, and observe for symptoms after
- Recommending that volunteers be tested for COVID-19 prior to participation
- Providing and asking volunteers to use personal protective equipment and practice social distancing
- Considering the risk for contracting COVID-19 when selecting volunteers
- Leveraging the work of homeless service provider staff who serve as counters
- Remote training
- Partnering with public health and health care partners
- Sampling in conducting counts
- Use of mobile counting applications

In a rare departure from the standard January survey dates of the past, the Department of Commerce pushed the count date to occur in late February due to the high COVID cases in January of this year. With COVID still a significant concern, the counting effort again relied heavily on the professional services of the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Coordinated Entry system administrators, and other homeless service providers to safely collect information about people experiencing homelessness in our community- both in shelters and outdoors. Their commendable efforts greatly improved the value and completeness of this report's information.

Introduction

Purpose of this report

The annual Point in Time Count report provides a deeper understanding of residents experiencing homelessness in Whatcom County. Efforts to resolve homelessness for Whatcom County residents rely on accurate information that provides a basis for an informed community response. The goal of this report is to educate and empower service providers, local policy makers, funding partners, and concerned community members who seek to engage with this challenge in meaningful ways. The systematic collection of information about homelessness makes it possible to observe changes over time and to analyze our county's progress against the backdrop of regional and national trends.

Criteria for counting homelessness

The Point in Time surveys provide information only about people who were experiencing homelessness in Whatcom County overnight on February 24, 2022. The surveys reflect only households who met a specific definition of homelessness, which excludes people who were:

- couch surfing, or otherwise staying informally with friends or family,
- formerly homeless households who resided in supportive, subsidized housing, or
- individuals who were homeless at their time of entry into prisons, jails, hospitals, or other institutions

These surveys provide information only about households who spent the night of February 24, 2022:

- residing in emergency shelters,
- transitional housing programs,

- subsidized motel rooms, or
- in unconventional sleeping places, such as tents, sidewalks, vehicles, or other places not intended to be used for human habitation

Furthermore, the surveys capture information only for people who reported that they were homeless, on the specific night of February 24, 2022, and in accordance with the above definitions. These criteria were established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and they are applied consistently across jurisdictions to allow for meaningful comparisons.

Limitations for counting homelessness

National research indicates that Point in Time Counts underestimate the number of those who are experiencing homelessness because:

- Participation is voluntary, and some choose not to be counted. This is especially true of immigrants, even those with legal status, who fear reprisal as a result of participation.
- A point in time is just a “snapshot” and does not capture all those who cycle in and out of homelessness over the year. Furthermore, “snapshots” will miss seasonal fluctuations that occur in our communities.
- It is difficult to find where all unsheltered people reside, and impossible to know all the places that might provide unconventional shelter (i.e. tents, sheds, abandoned cars). In 2022, because of COVID-19, traditional gathering places like libraries and food banks were unavailable as surveying locations.

Understanding homelessness data

The data in this report was provided to surveyors by individuals experiencing homelessness in Whatcom County. Individuals responded verbally to questions and, in some cases, on behalf of household members who were not present and/or not adults. It should be understood that the sensitive and personal nature of some questions, as well as different interpretations of terms like *disability*, *domestic violence*, *shelter*, or *length of time homeless* means that answers reflect the views of respondents, and do not necessarily meet precise or standard definitions. Some participants chose to answer only some of the questions. The Point in Time Count provides data that can be used for estimates, but it is not a comprehensive study of all people experiencing homelessness.

The Point in Time count is only one of several sources of information about people experiencing homelessness. Other sources include the Washington State Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction, the local Coordinated Entry database, records of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, and the Homeless Management Information System.

The homeless housing system in Whatcom County

This report is not intended to provide an overview of the many efforts underway to prevent and end homelessness for Whatcom County households. Still, it’s important to recognize that many individuals and households are no longer experiencing homelessness after being successfully housed through community programs, and the numbers provided speak to the flow of households into and out of homelessness over a given year. Specifically, there were 1,352 households (2,335 individuals) who received some form of housing support through Whatcom County’s coordinated entry housing providers in 2021. Approximately two in five of those households (562) benefited from new program openings in 2021, while the rest received services that continued from prior years. Of the 1,352 households, 300 received assistance to prevent eviction. In addition, 1,719 households (more than 2,000 individuals) benefited from a stay at an emergency shelter, either with a locally-

funded stay at a motel or at one of several emergency shelters for specific vulnerable populations. Information from newly-housed individuals and families was not collected for this report.

Without the hard work of partner agencies and the supportive resources from local, state, and federal funders, the 1,352 households who were served in 2021 may also have been added to the count in February 2022 when the surveys were done. Partner agencies that participate in the local coordinated housing system include:

- Bellingham Housing Authority,
- Catholic Community Services,
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County (DVSAS),
- Interfaith Coalition,
- Lake Whatcom Residential and Treatment Center,
- Low Income Housing Institute & Road2Home
- Lydia Place,
- Mercy Housing Northwest,
- Northwest Youth Services,
- Opportunity Council,
- Pioneer Human Services,
- Sun Community Services,
- Veteran's Administration (HUD-VASH), and
- YWCA Bellingham

The effort and commitment of additional independent housing providers further reduces homelessness in Whatcom County and adds much-needed capacity to a system in which the demand for housing services exceeds supply. Agencies like HomesNOW Not Later!, Engedi Refuge, New Way Ministries, Lummi Stepping Stones, Lummi Victims of Crime, Tl'íls Ta'á'altha Victims of Crime (Nooksack Tribe), Bellingham Housing Authority, Lighthouse Mission Ministries, multiple clean and sober homes, and others deserve recognition for their work to end homelessness as well.

A more in-depth overview of this system is available in the 2019 *A Home For Everyone: Strategic Plan to End Homelessness in Whatcom County*, which can be found online at <https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/44575/Strategic-Plan-to-End-Homelessness-in-Whatcom-County-2019>.

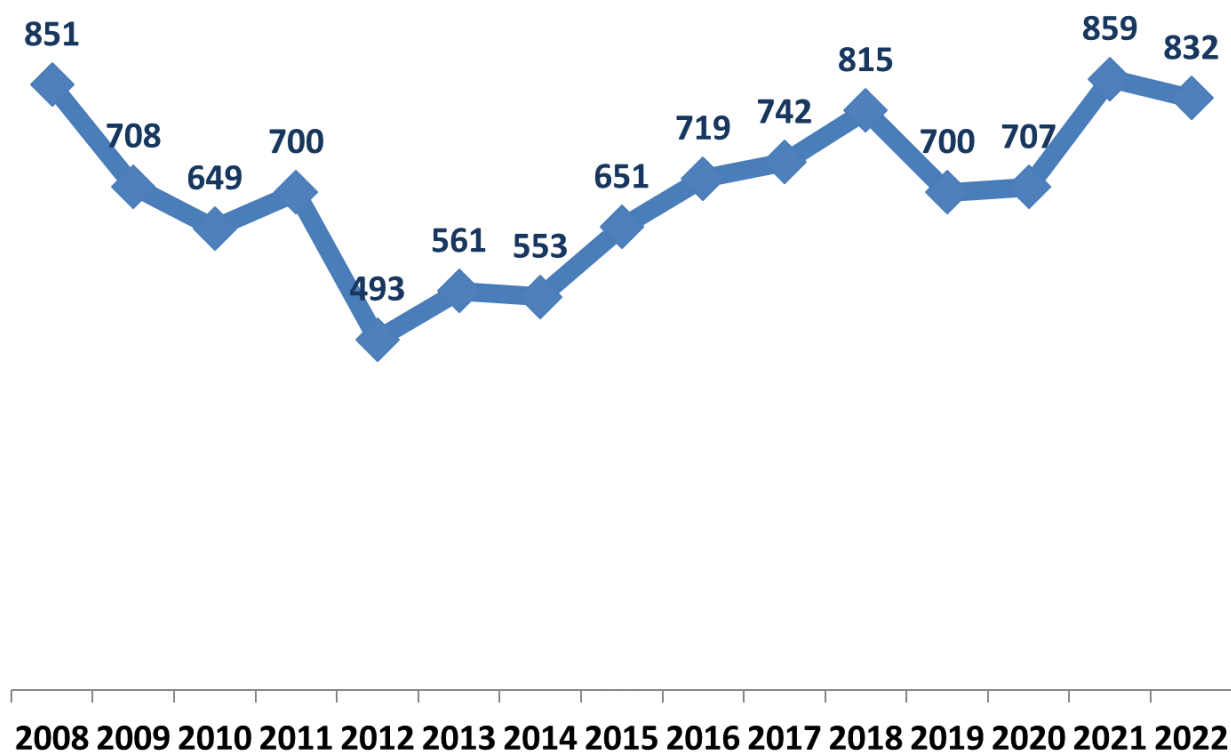
Part A: Point in Time Data & Analysis

Homeless individuals and households experiencing homelessness in Whatcom County

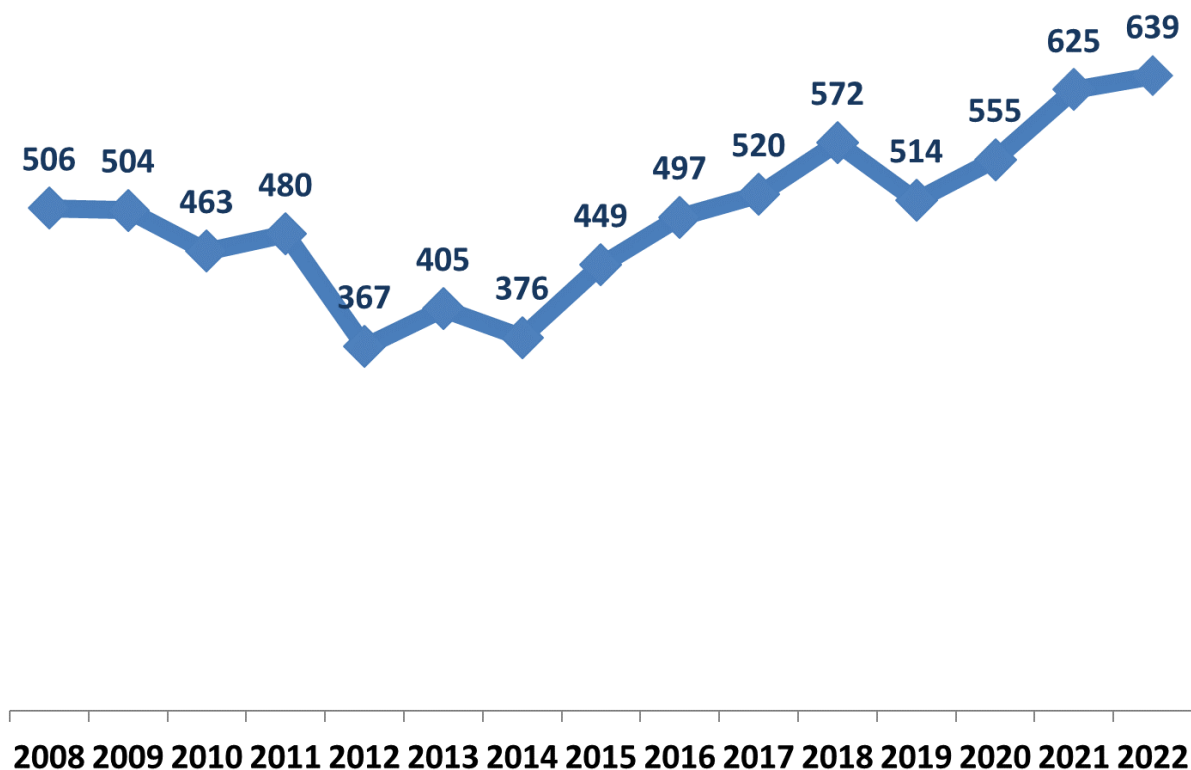
Of those surveyed, a total of **832 individuals** from **639 different households** were found to be experiencing homelessness in Whatcom County on February 24, 2022. For the purpose of this homeless count, households were divided into two categories: *sheltered* and *unsheltered*. Households could be either single individuals or comprised of multiple people. Sheltered homeless individuals either stayed in an emergency shelter or transitional housing facility on the night before the count. Unsheltered individuals spent the night of February 24, 2022 outdoors, in cars, or other places not meant for habitation.

The year-over-year change between 2021 and 2022 was a 3% decrease in homeless persons counted (from 859 homeless persons in 2021 to 832 in 2022). The year-over-year change in number of homeless households increased by 2% between 2021 and 2022 (from 625 households to 639 households), and also is the highest number reported since counting began in 2008.

**Whatcom County Annual Homeless Census
2008-2022 - Persons Counted**



Whatcom County Annual Homeless Census 2008-2022 - Households Counted



Unsheltered and Sheltered Homeless Persons and Households

Of the 832 persons counted this year, 650 slept in shelters or transitional housing facilities, and the other 182 were *unsheltered*. The count of sheltered individuals includes people staying in a few types of shelters:

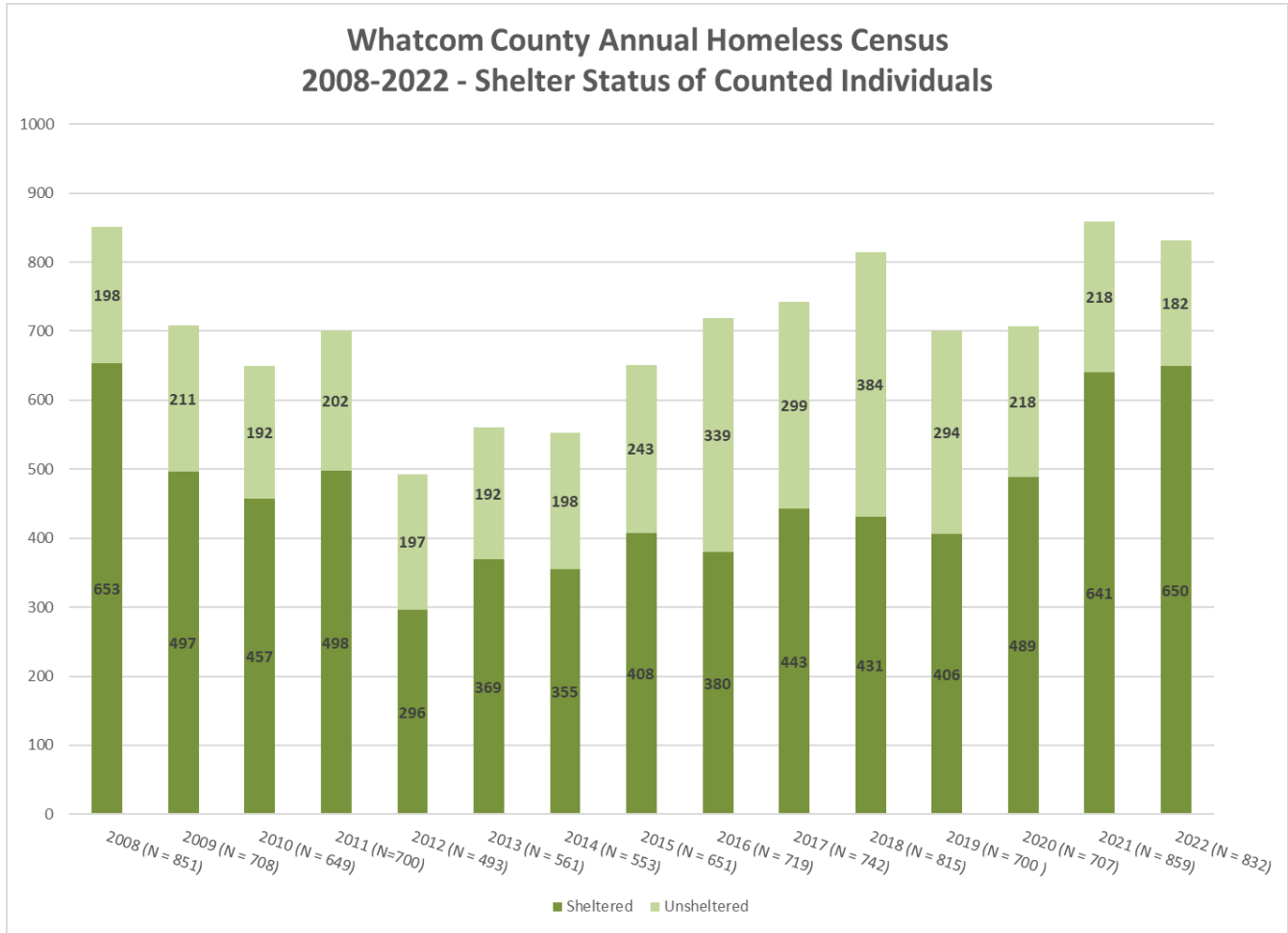
- Night-by-night (drop-in) emergency shelters
- Extended stay emergency shelters (including houses, facilities, and tiny homes with locking doors, electricity, heat, windows that open, and access to onsite hygiene and cooking facilities)
- Motel rooms paid with subsidies
- Transitional housing programs

The count of unsheltered individuals includes people who slept in the following types of locations:

- Informal camping locations
- In alleys, under bridges, on sidewalks, or in doorways
- In vehicles
- In RVs that do not have functioning hygiene and/or cooking facilities, or
- Other places not meant for human habitation, including abandoned buildings

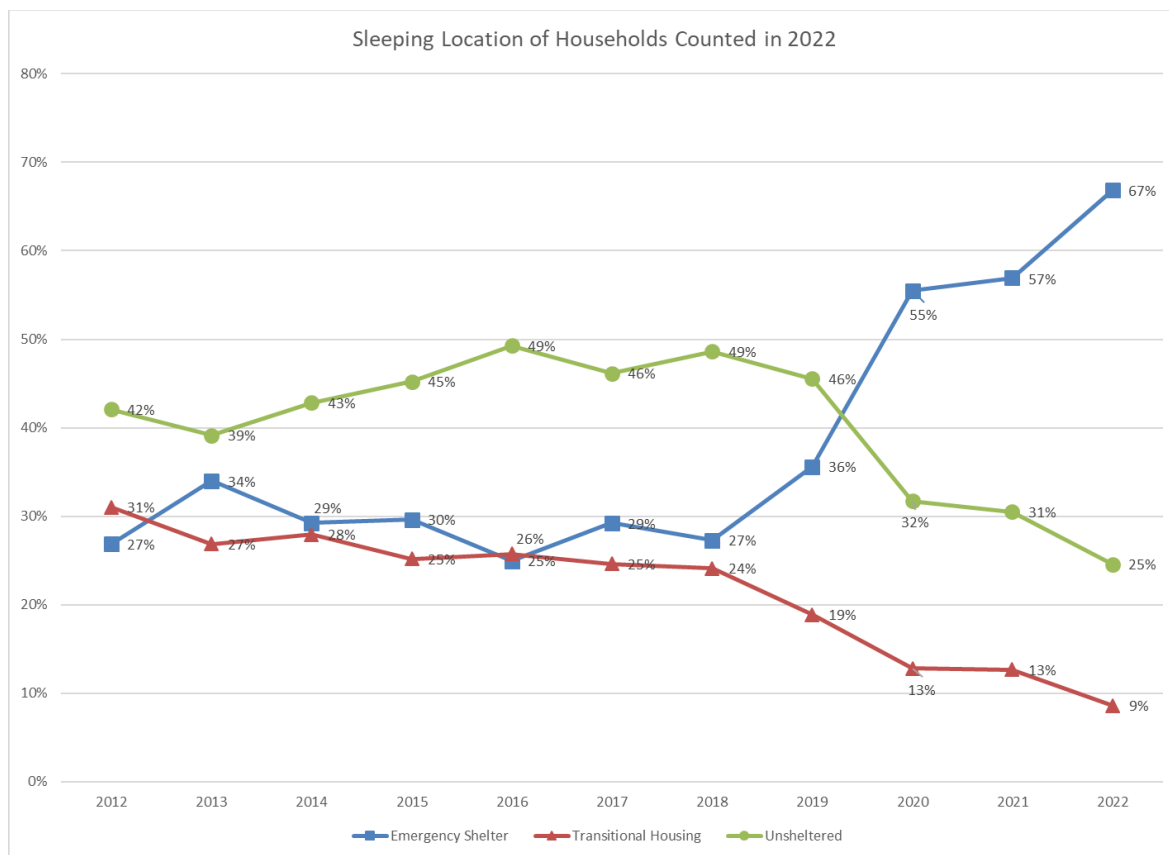
In 2022 there was a 1% increase in the number of people counted who were sheltered. The number of unsheltered individuals counted decreased by 17%, to 182 (compared to 218 in 2021). The increase in resources to provide motel stays during the COVID pandemic, along with other increased shelter capacity, contributed to the increase in sheltered households in 2022. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in motels grew by a greater number (+195) than the overall increase of counted people experiencing homelessness since 2020 (+125). Compared to 2020's report, the percentage of people counted who were unsheltered decreased from 31% to 22% of the total homeless population. Continuing last year's trend, a greater percentage of people

experiencing homelessness in 2022 were using shelters than in any year since 2008 (75%), likely related to additional shelter resources in the community.



The combined number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness, as counted for this report was relatively similar to last year’s count. The overall number of individuals decreased by 27 (3%) from the 2021 total. In terms of specific populations, the unsheltered total went down by 17% from 2021 and the sheltered population grew by 1%. The number of households in motels (mostly families with children) expanded from eight in 2020 to 88 in 2021, and then reduced slightly to 67 in 2022 (more detail about family homelessness is provided in following sections).

The relationship between shelter availability and unsheltered homelessness continues to be a complex interaction that reflects the diverse and overlapping needs and desires of the many different people experiencing homelessness. Aligning the types of shelters and the services they offer with community needs is an ongoing challenge demonstrated by unsheltered homelessness occurring simultaneously with vacant shelter beds. On the night of the count, February 24, 182 individuals slept outside in Whatcom County despite the consistent availability of beds at the Base Camp low-barrier night-by-night shelter in downtown Bellingham (there were 65 vacant beds that night).

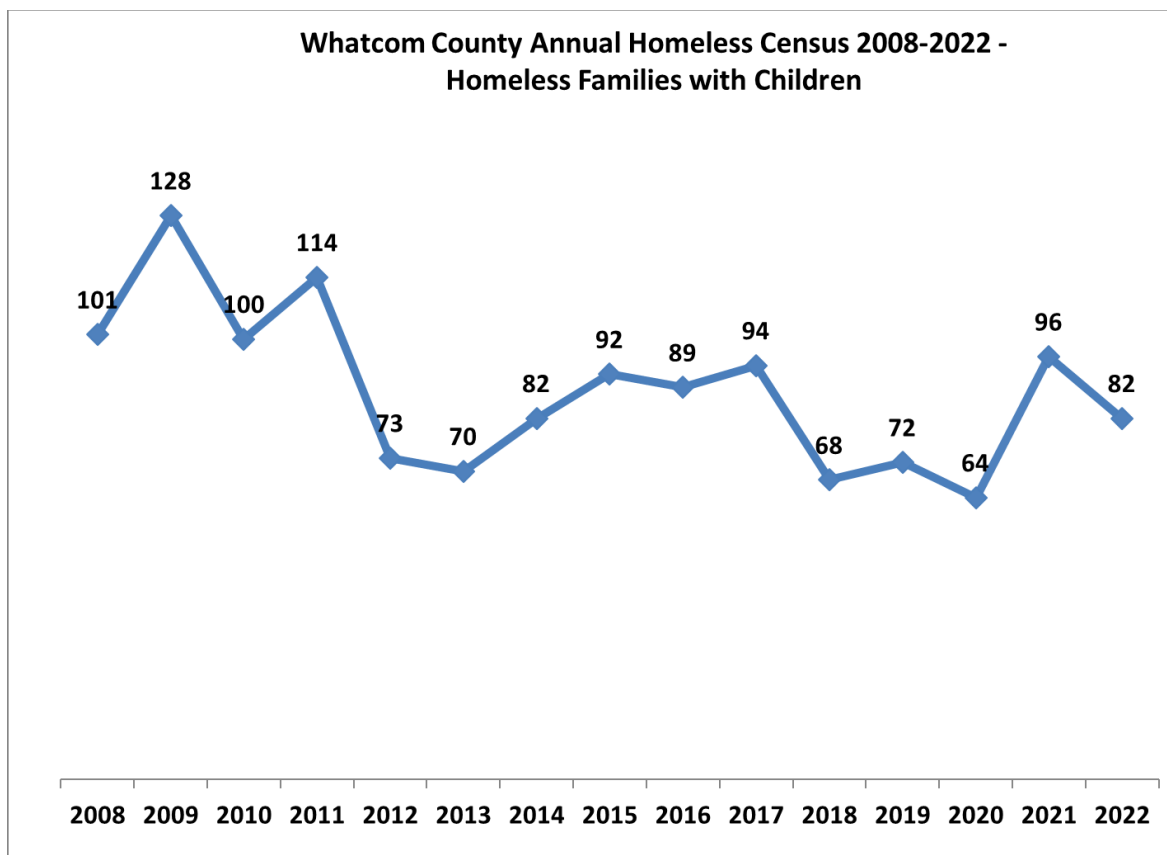


Number of homeless families with children

The number of families with children counted in motels increased dramatically between 2020 and 2021 following a vast expansion of the local motel program. From 2020 to 2021, the number of counted homeless families (including families in motels) increased by 50% (from 64 to 96). This year, the 2022 count revealed a modest decline from the record-high 96 households in 2021 to 82 in 2022, but the number is still elevated well above the 2020 total of 64. As always, family composition is reported through self-report surveys and cannot account for complex custody arrangements.

The expansion of motel rooms available for emergency shelter for families with children in 2020 was a response to new challenges and resources that came about as a result of the COVID pandemic. With additional resources that allowed housing agencies to place families into motels, those families, who may have been experiencing housing instability for quite some time, officially met the criteria to be counted for the purposes of this report. They also became much easier to locate and count, because they were formally engaged with the coordinated housing system of Whatcom County.

Although detailed explanations about the increased need for family shelter(s) are beyond the scope of this report, anecdotal evidence suggests that families felt unsafe in doubled-up living arrangements due to increased exposure to COVID-19, additional stress and financial hardship brought about by reduced economic activity, and additional challenges associated with isolation and separation from support systems.



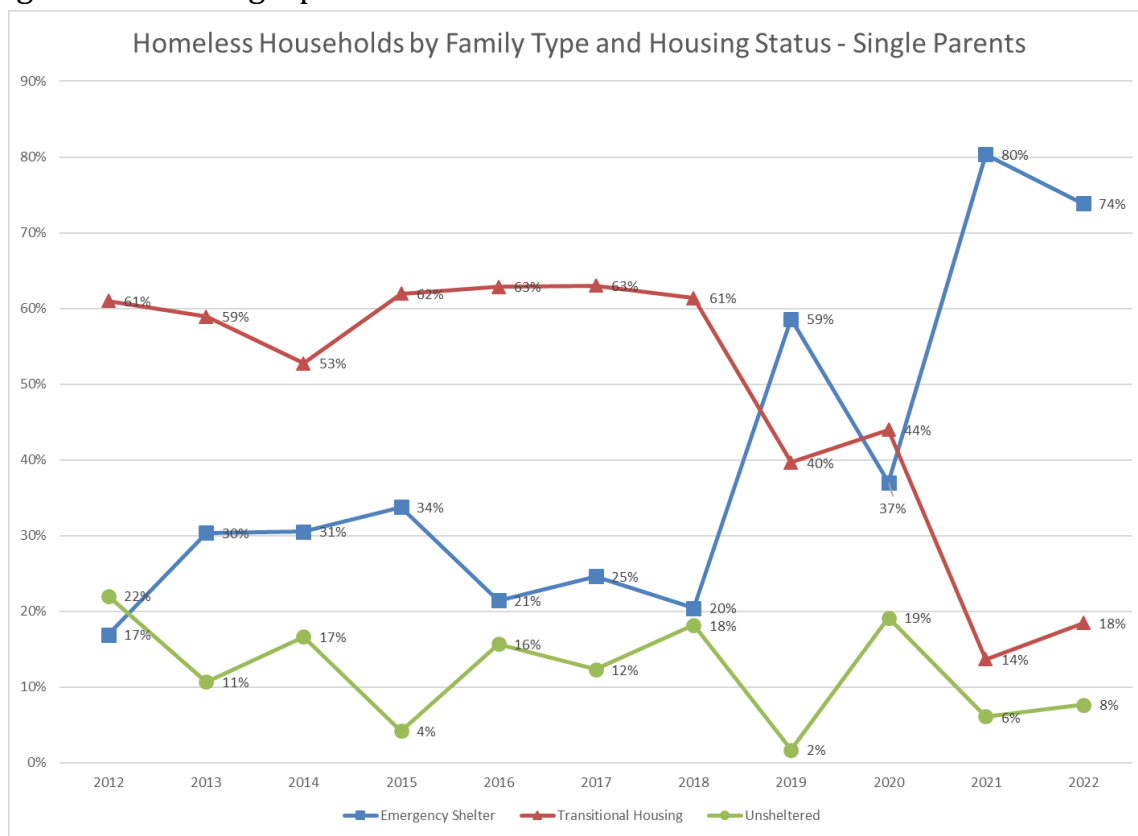
Household Size and Composition

Of the 639 homeless households counted, 539 (84%) were unaccompanied persons. There were 18 (3%) family households with more than one person but without children. Families with children accounted for 82 households (13% of total households). Of the households with children, 65 were single-parent families and 17 families had both parents present. In addition, three households comprised of unaccompanied minors were counted in 2022. Compared to last year, there was a 15% decrease in households with children and a 5% increase in households without children.

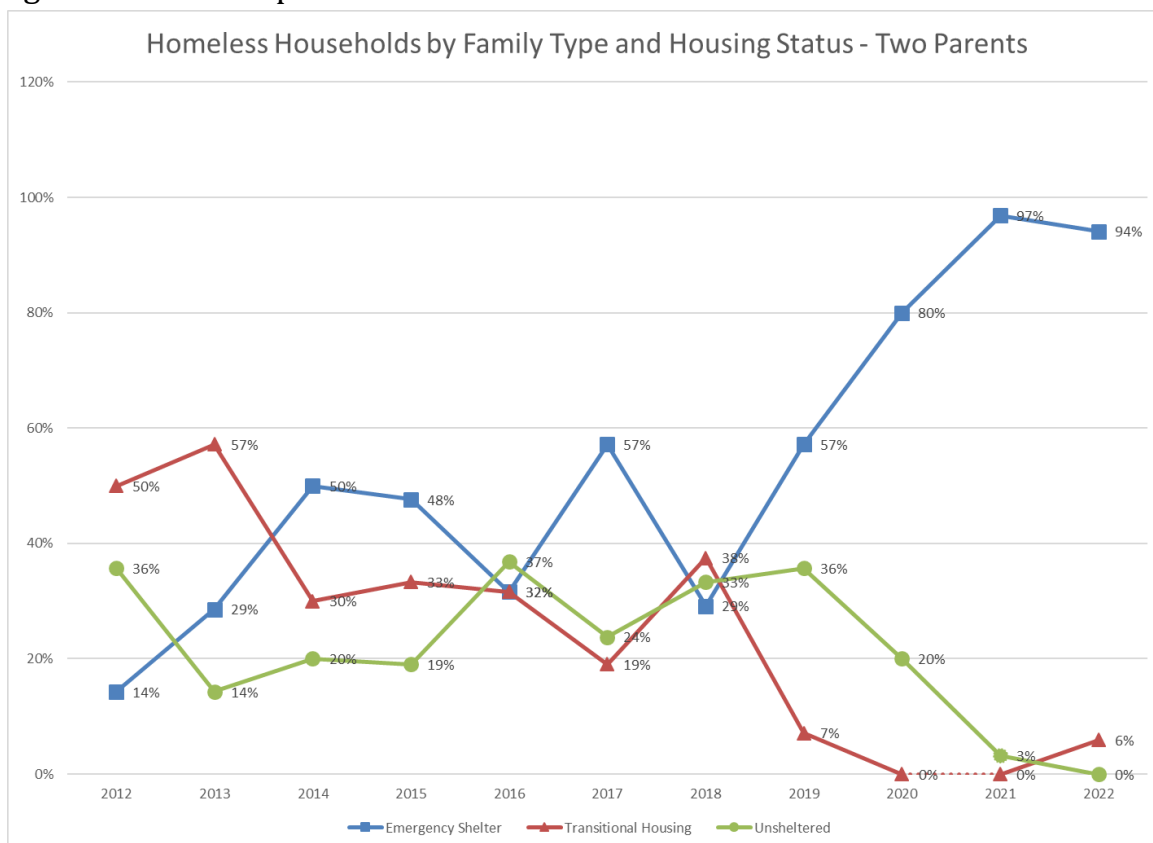
Household Type	Number of Households	Percent of Households
Adult Families without Children	18	3%
Single Parent with Children	65	10%
Two Parents with Children	17	3%
Unaccompanied Individuals	539	84%
Total	639	100%

As in years past, the overwhelming majority of households continue to be comprised of single, unaccompanied adults. These one-person households have historically been shown to be more likely to experience unsheltered and chronic homelessness.

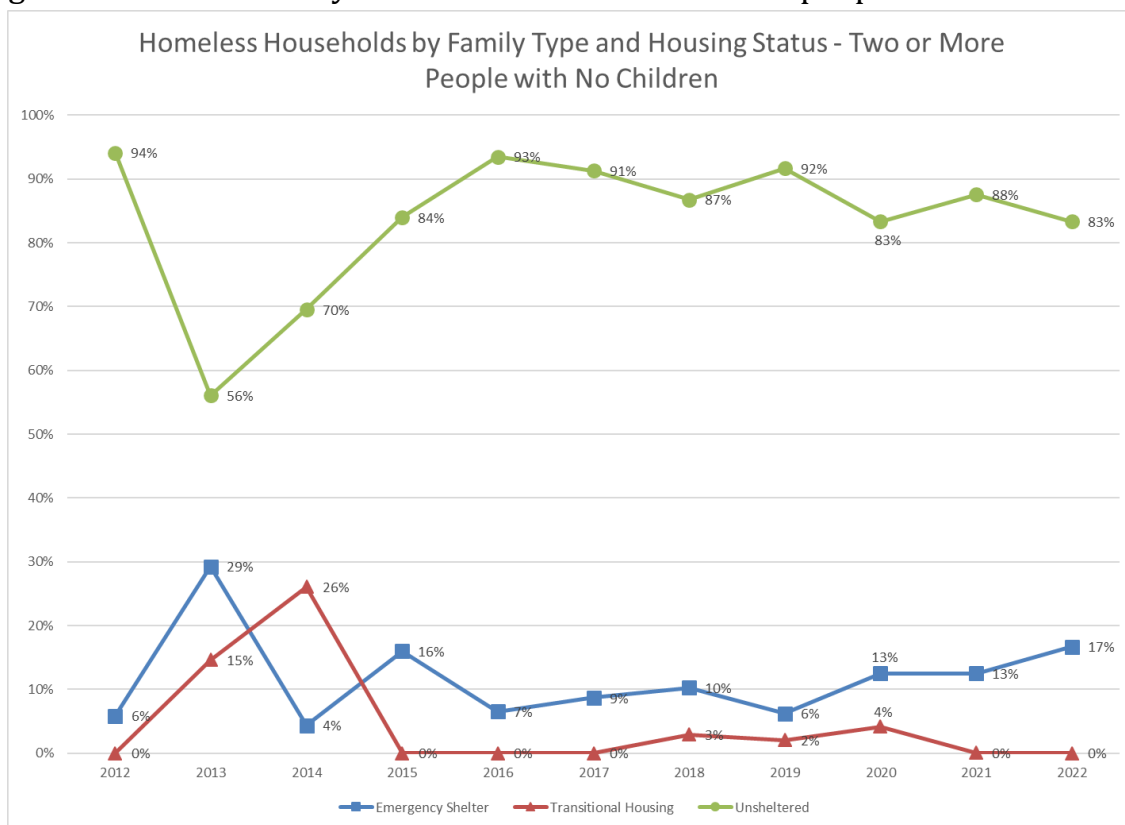
Sleeping location of single parent households



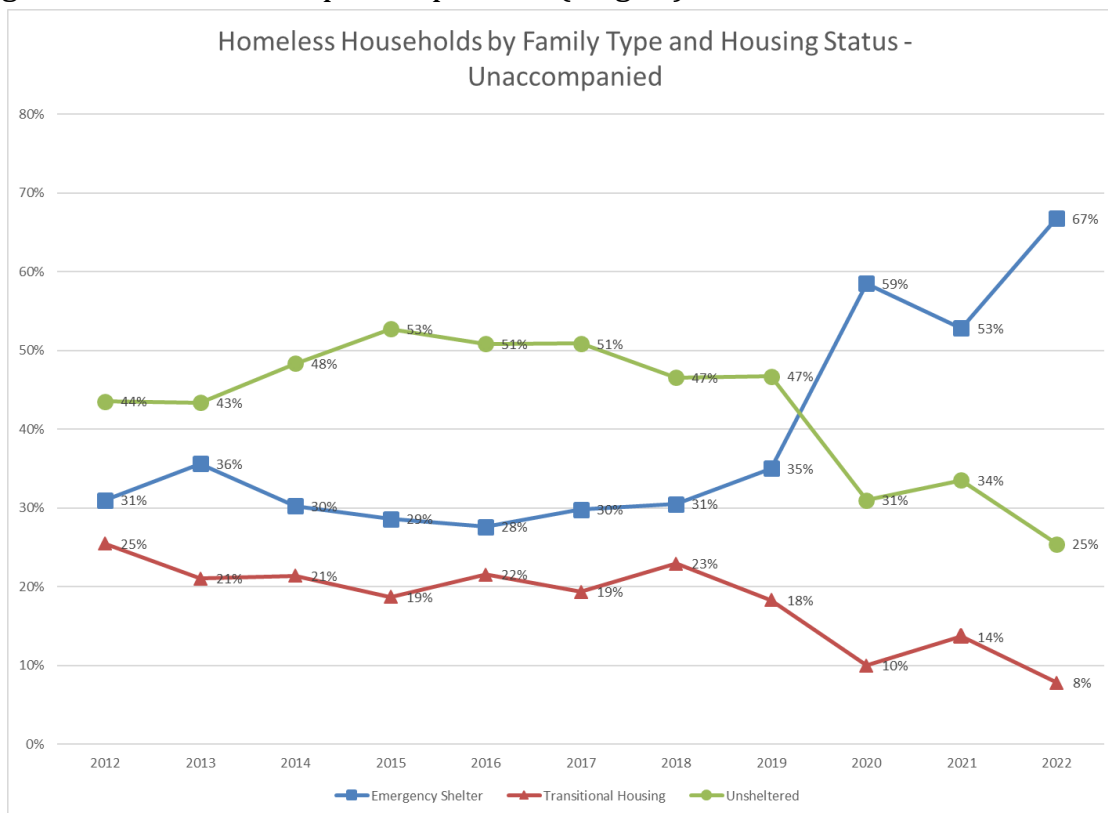
Sleeping location of two parent households



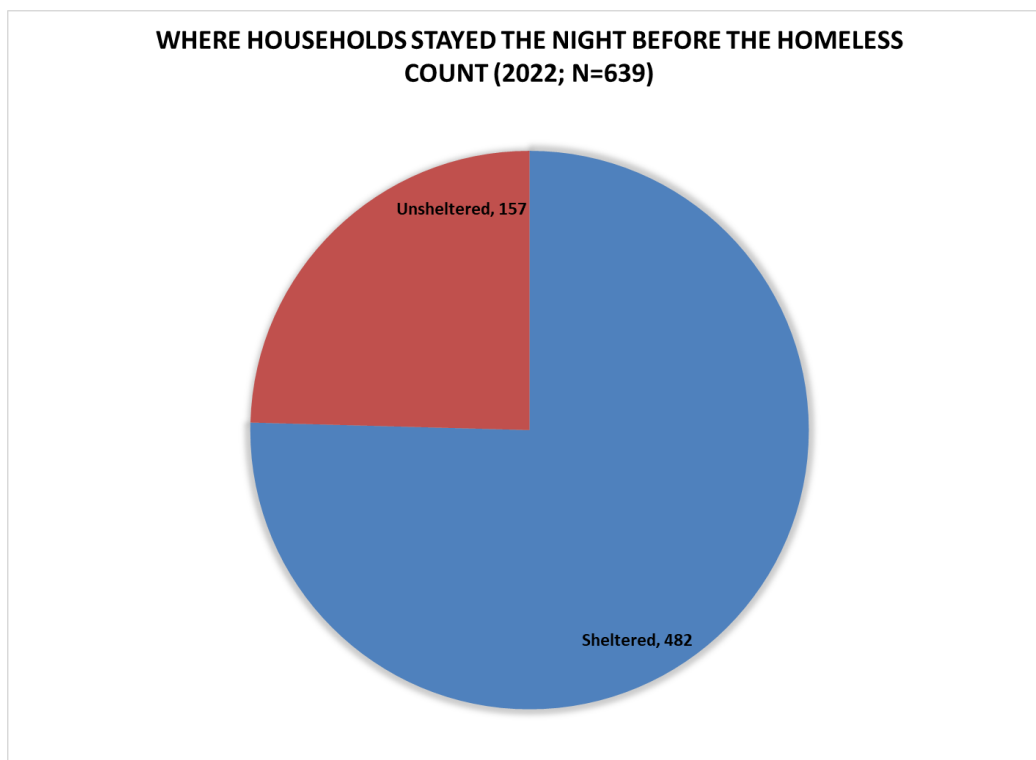
Sleeping location of adult-only households with two or more people



Sleeping location of unaccompanied persons (singles)



Sheltered and unsheltered households



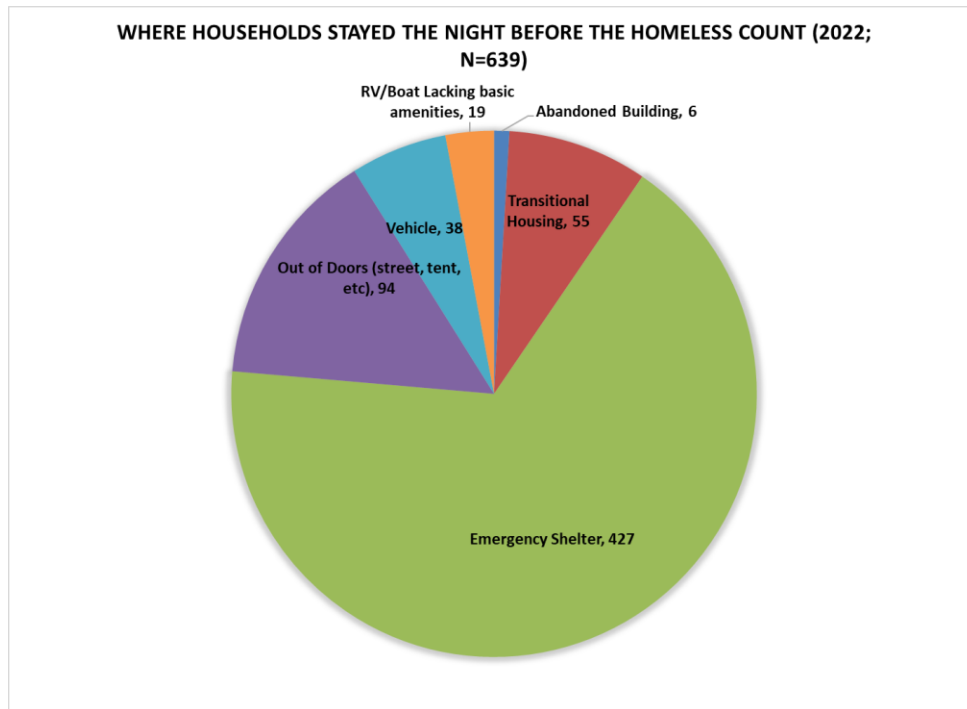
The two broad categories for sleeping locations are either sheltered or unsheltered. Sheltered locations are further divided into transitional housing and emergency shelter programs (sometimes collectively referred to as “interim housing”). Although there are differences among transitional housing programs, they tend to resemble a stable, predictable home for the medium-term, and emergency shelter stays usually are shorter, aiming to host individuals or families for up to 90 days. There are many types of emergency shelters, some with drop-in availability, some for specific populations (i.e. minors, survivors of domestic violence, etc.), some that use congregate settings, and others that provide private bedrooms in more traditional residential settings. By definition, people residing in either emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities are considered to be experiencing homelessness because they do not benefit from the protections of a legally-binding lease for their home.

In 2022, 75% of all surveyed homeless households had spent the Point in Time Count night in a shelter or transitional housing facility and the other 25% spent the night unsheltered.

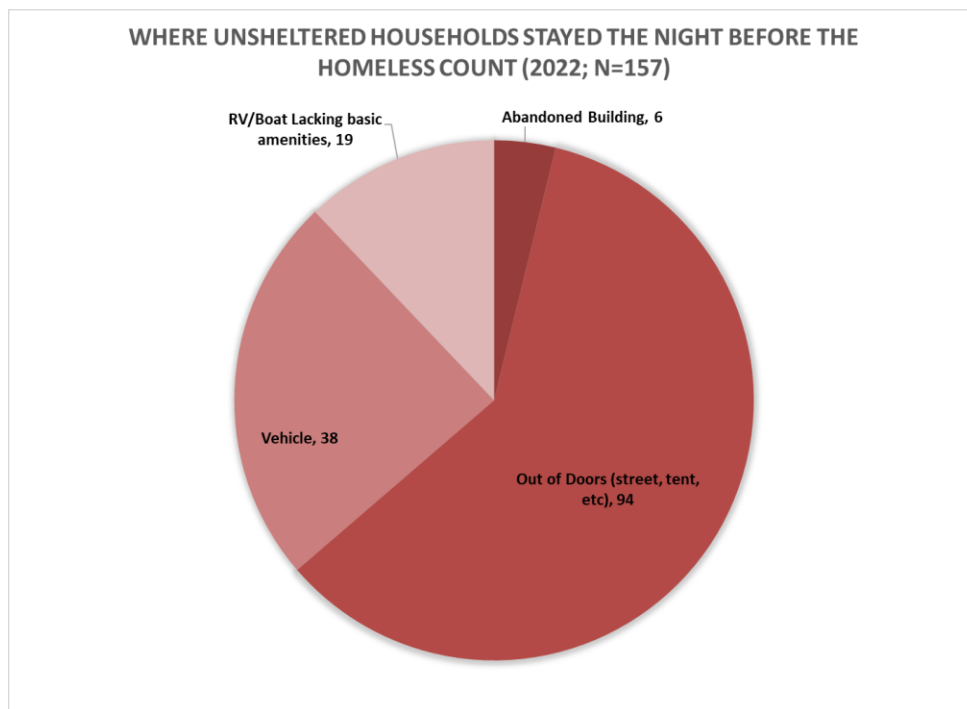
- Of the 75% in shelters or transitional housing, more than four out of five (89%) were in an emergency shelter, including subsidized motels, and the rest were in transitional housing (11%).
- Of the 25% of homeless households who were unsheltered, about three out of five (60%) were staying outdoors, one in four (24%) slept in passenger cars or trucks, 12% were in a RV or boat that lacked access to amenities such as water or electricity, and the remaining 4% slept in an abandoned building.

When compared to unsheltered counterparts, people sleeping in interim housing facilities (transitional housing or emergency shelters) have more access to opportunities that can lead to long-term health improvement and housing stability. Resources in shelters include hygiene facilities, food and drinking water, connections to medical services, and often a place to safely store belongings. Still, the 2022 Point in Time count shows that about a quarter of households were experiencing unsheltered homelessness despite available beds in shelters. However, the number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness (182) continues to exceed the

number of available beds. Although it's unlikely that shelters will ever meet all the needs of every individual, the 2022 count underscores that there is still progress to be made towards understanding the needs of those who do not choose to use available shelter beds.



The following graph shows the type of location where *unsheltered* survey participants reported having slept the night of February 24.

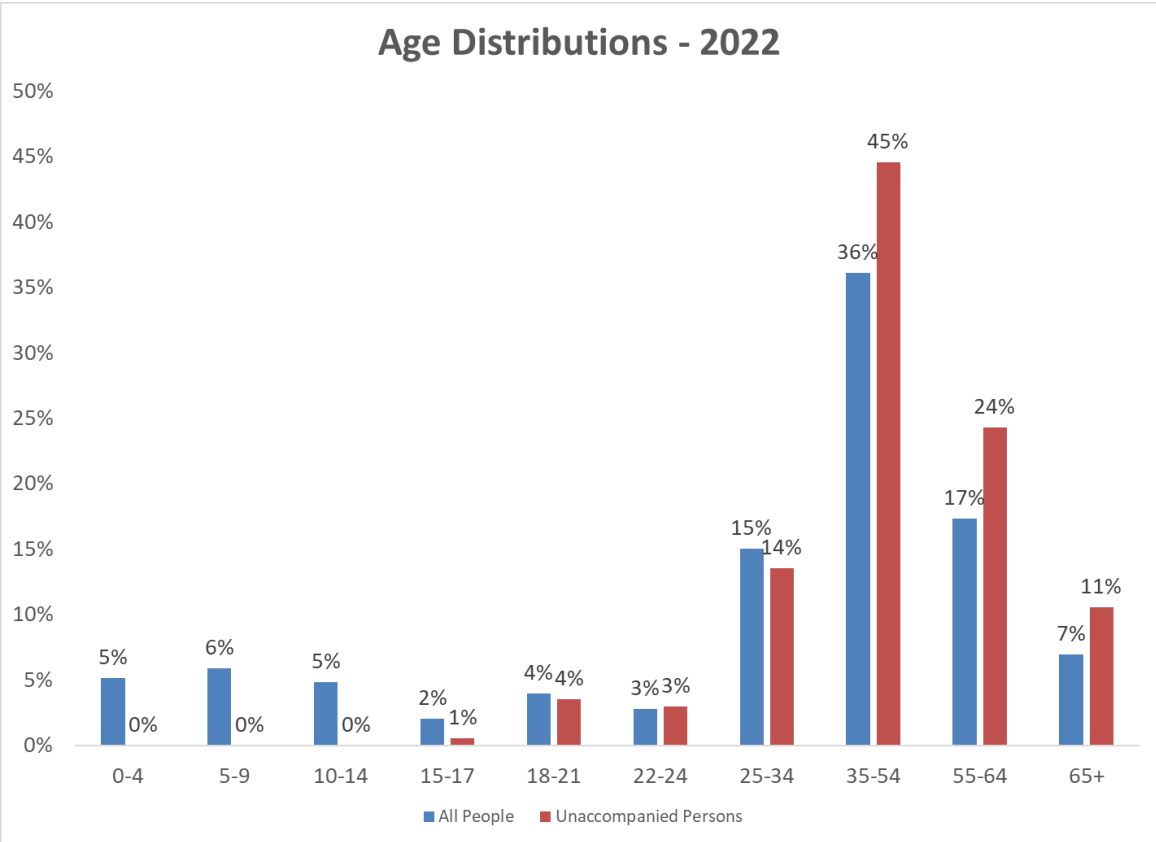


Age and gender

Respondents could select more than one gender option or refuse to answer the question. Of those who were surveyed, homeless persons were divided between persons who identified as males (56%), females (41%), gender nonconforming (less than 1%), or more than one gender (e.g., female and transgender, female and a gender other than a singular gender). Another two percent of respondents chose not to disclose or identify a gender.

There was a wide range of ages, spanning from infants less than a year old to seniors as old as 83. The median age of all homeless persons, including children, was 39 years. Children under 10 years old accounted for 11% of all identified individuals, and another 7% were between 10 and 17 years old. Together, children under the age of 18 accounted for about one in five of all individuals counted.

Unaccompanied individuals tend to be older than members of multi-person households. The median age of unaccompanied homeless persons was 48 years. Two unaccompanied minors (ages 16 to 17) were staying unsheltered, and one unaccompanied minor was staying in an emergency shelter for youth. Almost half (45%) of unaccompanied homeless persons were 35-54 years of age. Unaccompanied persons aged 55-64 increased slightly from the 2021 count (23% in 2021 and 24% in 2022).



Disabling Conditions

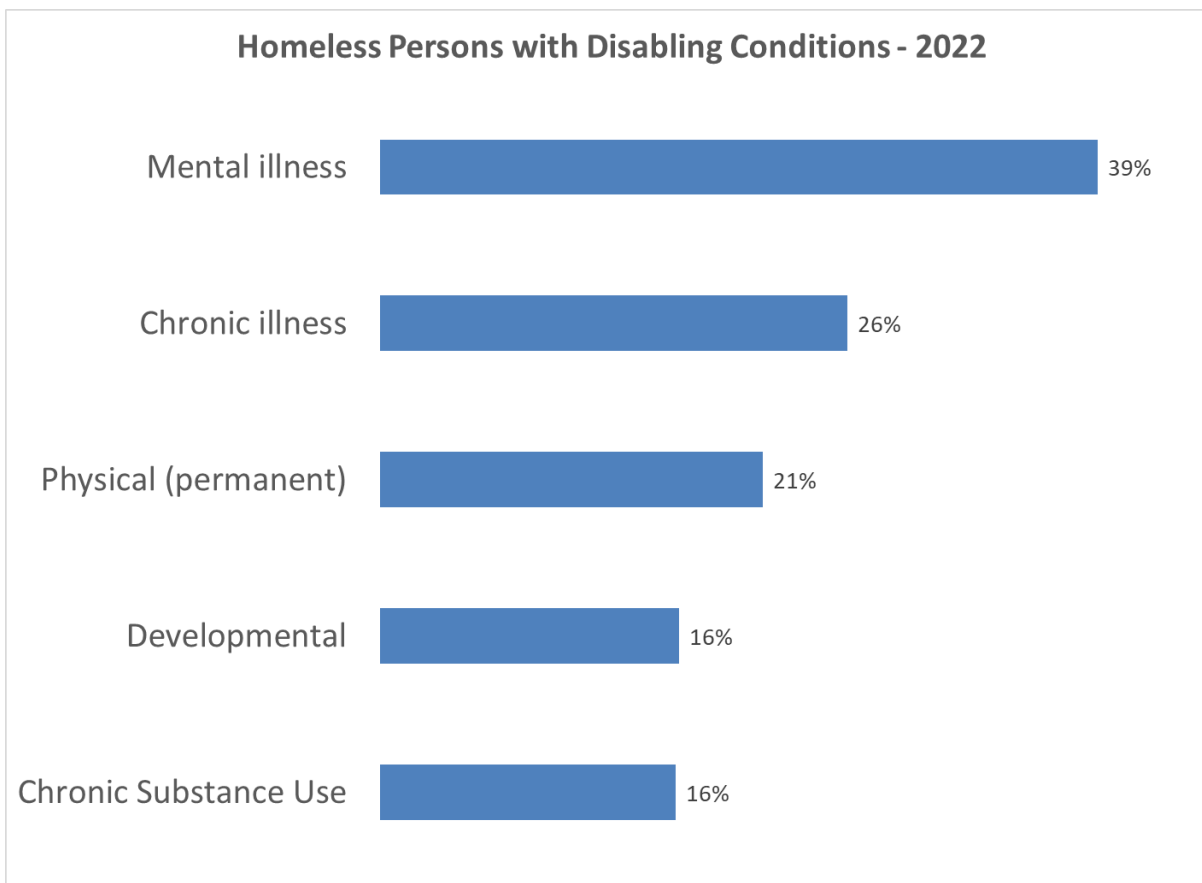
Respondents who were staying in a night-by-night emergency program (e.g., Base Camp) are not required to respond to disability questions when they enter the shelter. As a result, we do not have responses for night-by-night shelter participants regarding disabling conditions. All who responded to this question were individuals who stayed

unsheltered, in continuous stay emergency shelters, or in transitional housing. They were asked to indicate if they, or members of their household, have any of the following five disabilities¹:

- Mental Health (Substantial and Long Term)
- Chronic Health Condition (Permanently Disabling)
- Developmental Disability
- Physical Disability (Permanent)
- Chronic Substance Use

The chart below includes only persons who were staying unsheltered, or in continuous stay emergency shelters or transitional housing operated by local providers including Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS), YWCA, Northwest Youth Services, Opportunity Council, Lydia Place, Sun Community Services, Lighthouse Mission Ministries (not including the Base Camp emergency shelter), HomesNOW!, Interfaith Coalition, Lummi Victims of Crime, Ferndale Community Service Cooperative, Low Income Housing Institute, and Engedi Refuge. Disability information is available for only 591 of the 832 persons counted this year.

The disabling conditions asked about and reported for the 591 surveyed individuals were mental illness (39%), chronic health conditions (26%), developmental disability (16%), permanent physical disabilities (21%), and chronic substance use (16%). The data on disabling conditions is based on self-report, and it is acknowledged that negative stigma may contribute to under-reporting of personal disabilities.

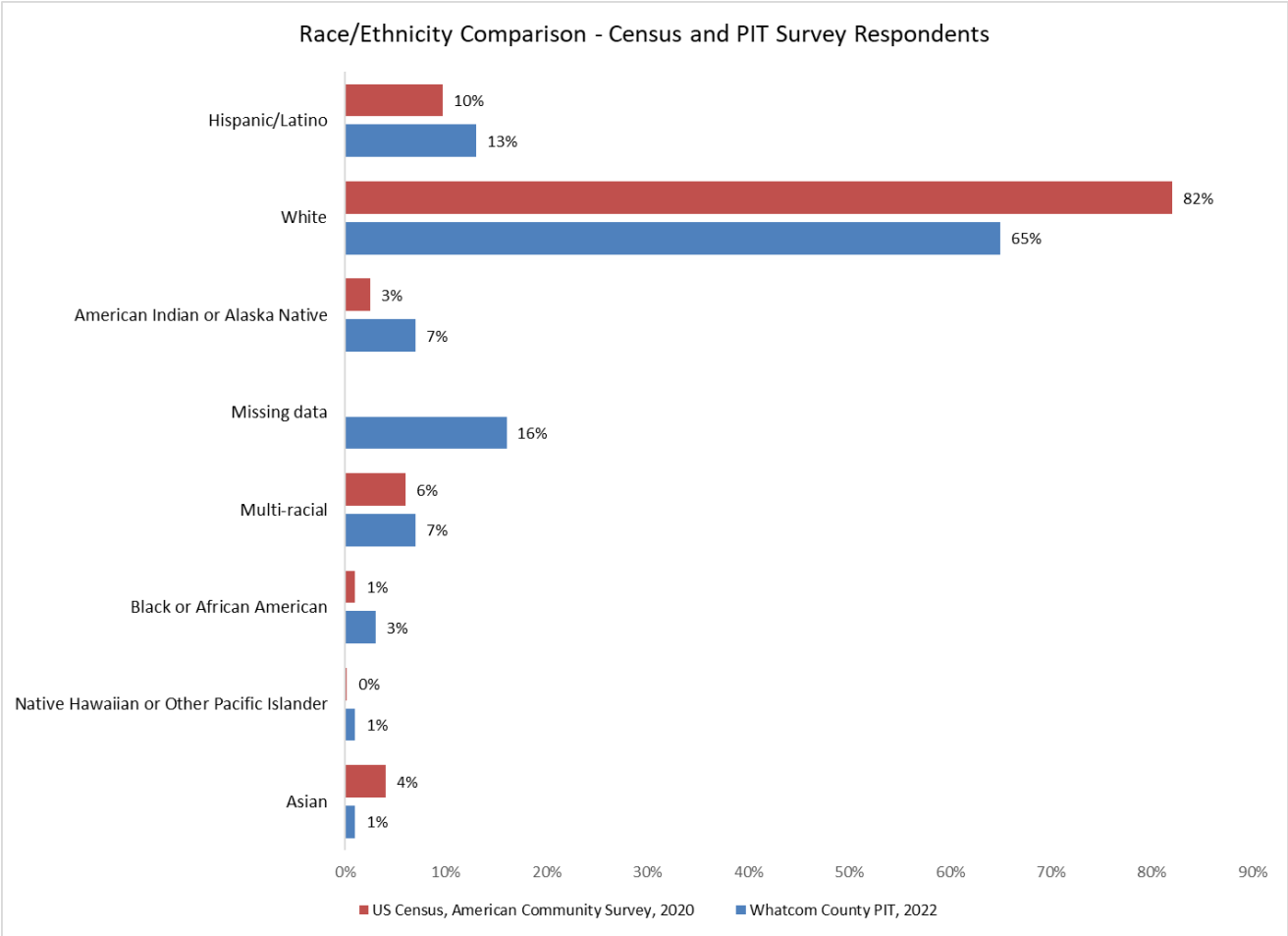


¹ The five categories of disabilities, as well as the specific wording to describe the categories, were determined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Disabilities are common among individuals experiencing homelessness, with many experiencing more than one disability contributing to their housing insecurity. Disabilities are not unique to this population, however. According to the CDC, about one in four adults in the United States has a disability. Based on the overall prevalence of disabilities, and because the overwhelming majority of people with disabilities are not experiencing homelessness, we can infer that although disabilities can contribute to the challenges of homelessness and housing instability, the mere presence of a disability does not typically cause homelessness.

Race and Ethnicity

Survey respondents were asked to list which race or races they identify with and results are shown below. Note that 16% of respondents did not answer this question



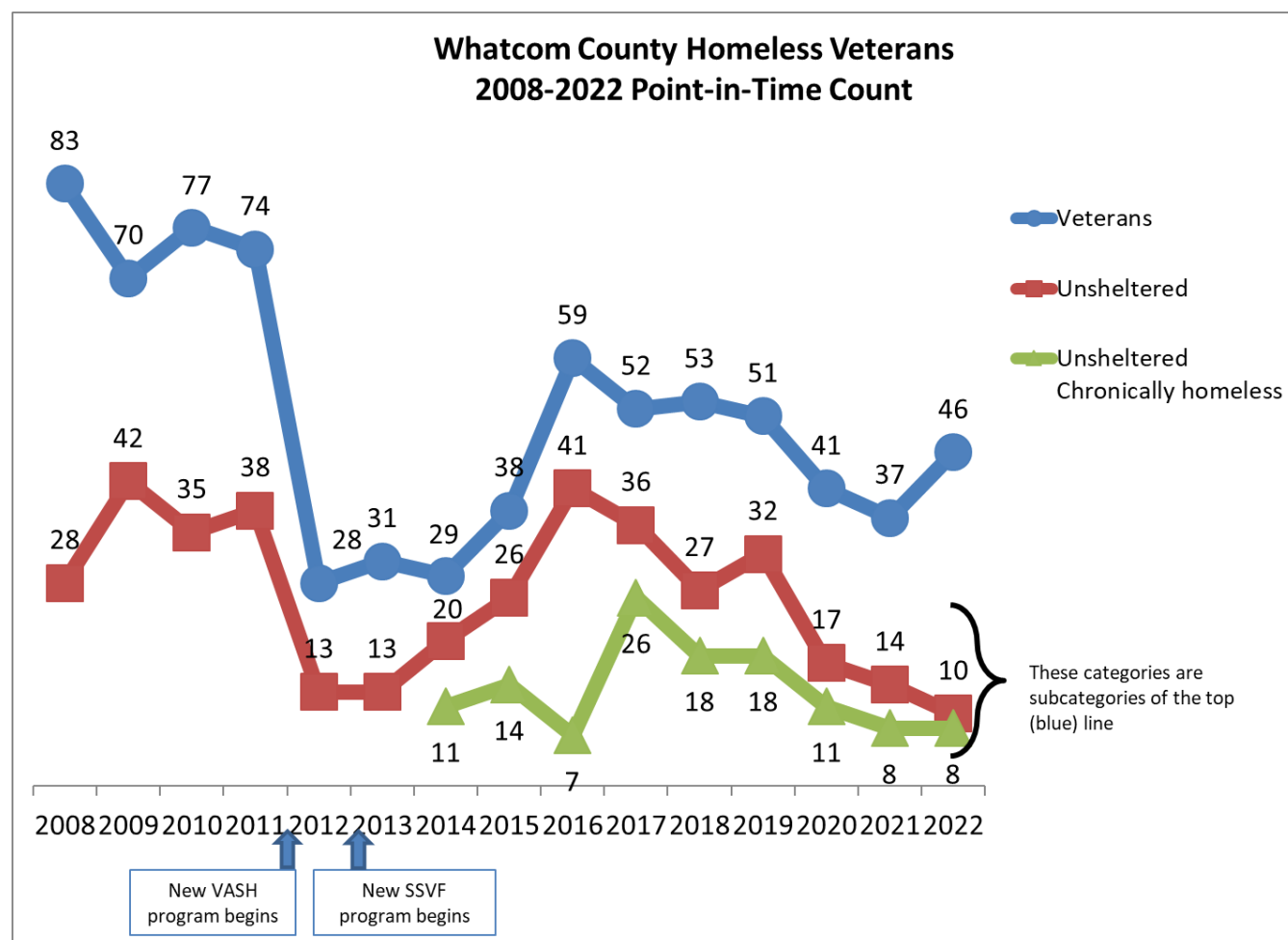
Race and ethnicity continue to be correlated with homelessness. The 2022 Point in Time count surveys show that only 60% of the respondents experiencing homelessness told surveyors that they identify both as white and non-Hispanic. This contrasts with the county’s demographics where the white, non-Hispanic population makes up more than 82% of Whatcom County’s population. The data is incomplete (16% did not answer this question) and surveys were not conducted by outreach workers across all of Whatcom County, but this information suggests that work is needed to offset current systems that result in a greater portion of people of color experiencing homelessness than their white neighbors. Although people of color in Whatcom County experience poverty at higher rates than their white neighbors, this does not fully explain the disparities in homelessness. For example, census data shows that the American Indian and Alaska Native population accounts for about 5% of Whatcom resident in poverty, but they account for 7% of people experiencing homeless, as counted in this report. Adding further evidence of overrepresentation among the homeless community, surveys were not conducted on site this year with either of

Whatcom County's two tribal communities, suggesting that the undercount of non-white individuals may be significantly higher than it would be otherwise.

Homeless Veterans

Surveyors counted 46 homeless veteran households in 2022. 42 of these households were comprised of a single person, one was a household that included children, and three included more than one adult, but no children. Of all the veteran households experiencing homelessness, 10 of them were unsheltered, and eight of those unsheltered households were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Despite significant progress over the last five years in reducing homelessness experienced by veterans, the 2022 count shows an increase in homeless veteran households, indicating that additional resources are necessary to achieve our objective of ending homelessness for all veterans in Whatcom County. As evidenced by dramatic declines in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness a decade ago, new programs and new resources can be effective in reducing the number of veterans that become, or continue to be, homeless. However, unsheltered and chronic homelessness continued to decline, due largely to increased (but not recurring) pandemic related resources specifically targeted to shelter more veterans.

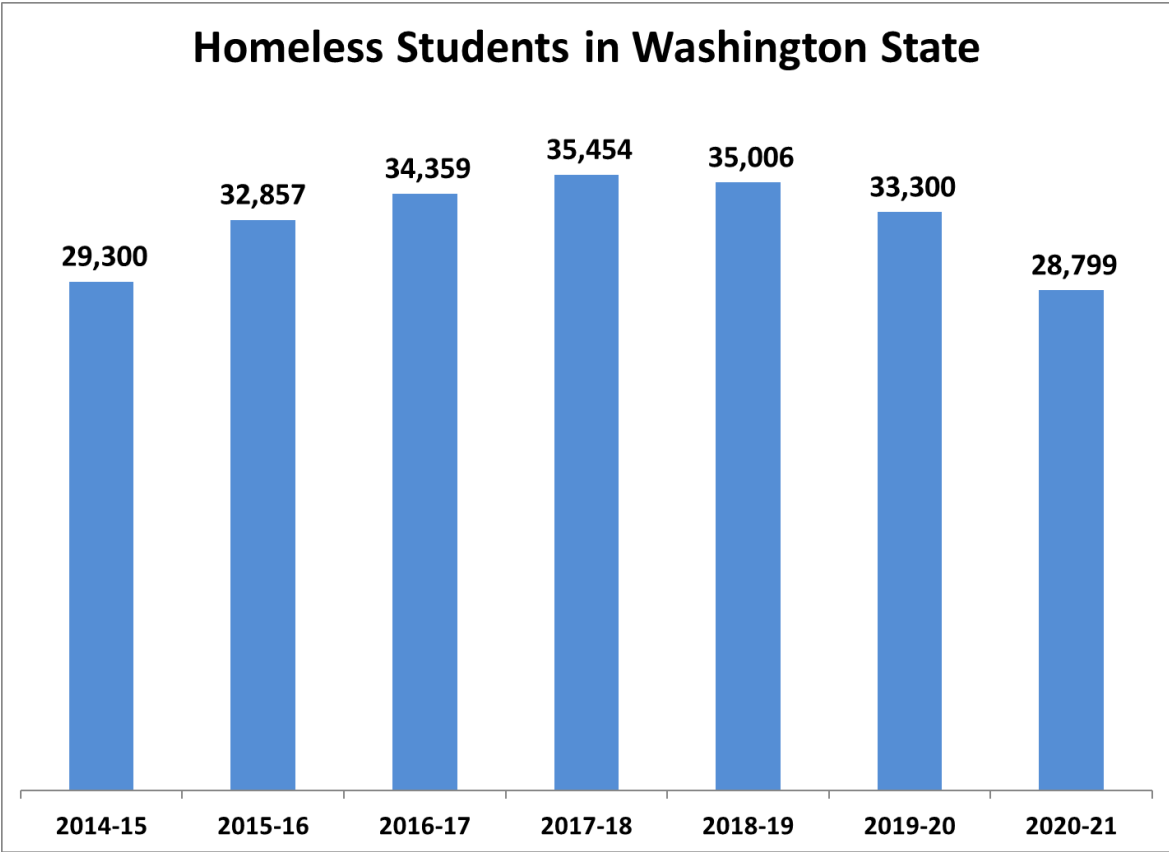


Part B: Homelessness of Public-School Students in Washington State and Whatcom County

In 2004, the U.S. Department of Education began requiring states to report data on homeless students in all local school districts as part of their Consolidated State Performance Report.

Previous Point in Time Count reports in Whatcom County have included information about homelessness from the Washington State Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI), which was a cumulative count of all students who experienced episodes of homelessness at some point during the school year. The OSPI’s approach to reporting on homelessness changed in the last year, and their figures now include only the students who were enrolled prior to the first school day of October. As a result, the newly reported numbers are lower, because students that enroll after the beginning October are not included in the report.

The figure below shows the number of homeless students in Washington State public schools over the last seven years. Note that these figures reflect the definition of homeless children included in Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act², a definition that is different than the one used by HUD and elsewhere in this report, and as noted above, includes only students enrolled in the district prior to October.



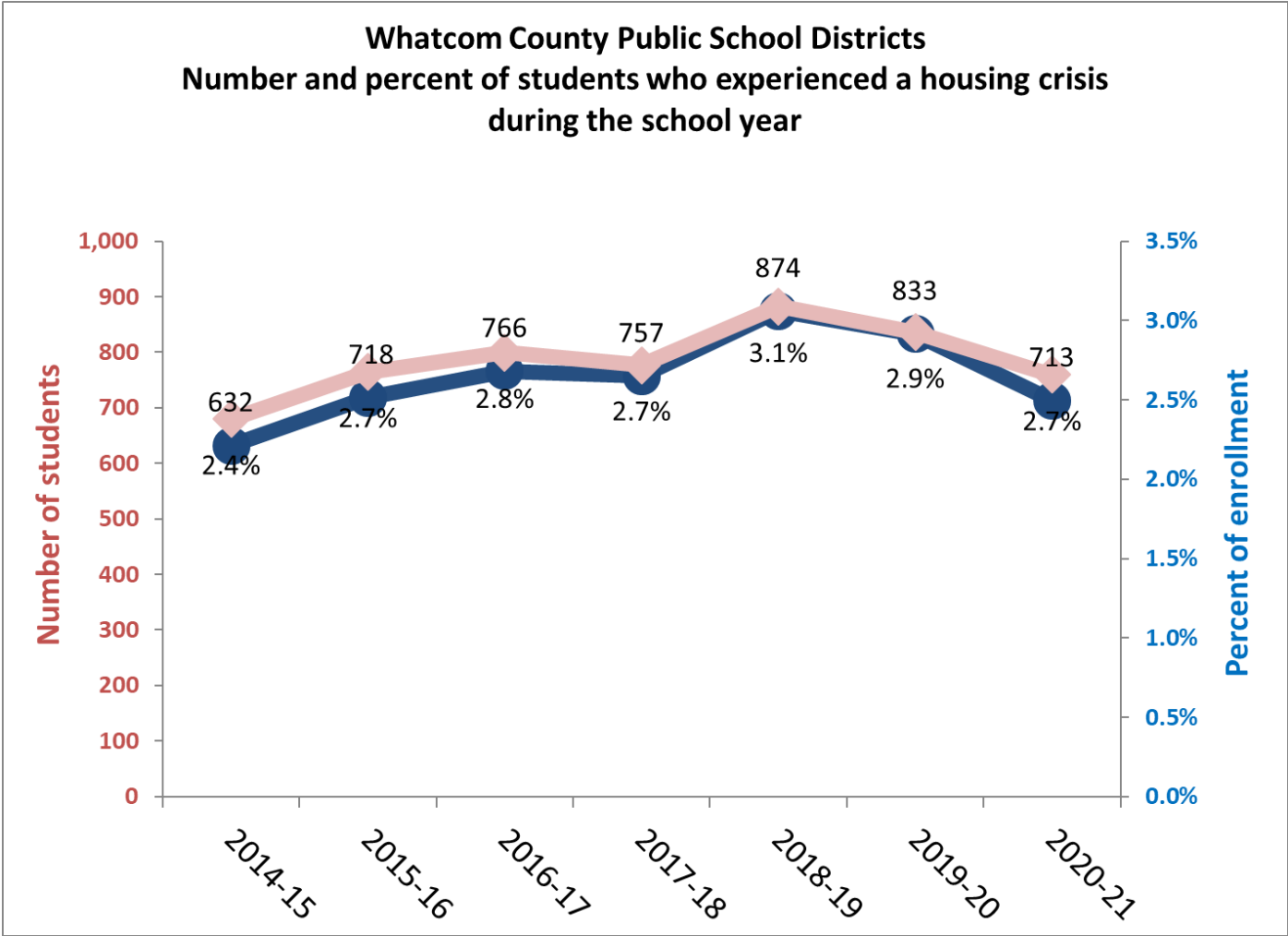
² Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence including, children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement; children and youths who have 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; children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and migratory children who qualify as homeless.

Differences between homeless point-in-time count and homeless students in school data

School districts and the OSPI report data on homelessness that is different than the countywide annual Point in Time Count in two important respects. First, the Point in Time Count is a snapshot of homelessness on a single night, whereas the data reported by schools are cumulative over the course of a school year (meaning they add together everyone who is homeless at any point during the school year). Secondly, the PIT Count data includes only people who are “literally” homeless according to HUD, generally meaning people who are unsheltered, in emergency shelter, or in transitional housing. In addition to those three categories, school districts also include children who are doubled-up with another family to prevent becoming literally homeless, and households residing in a hotel or motel that is paid with private funding.

Homelessness among students at public schools in Whatcom County

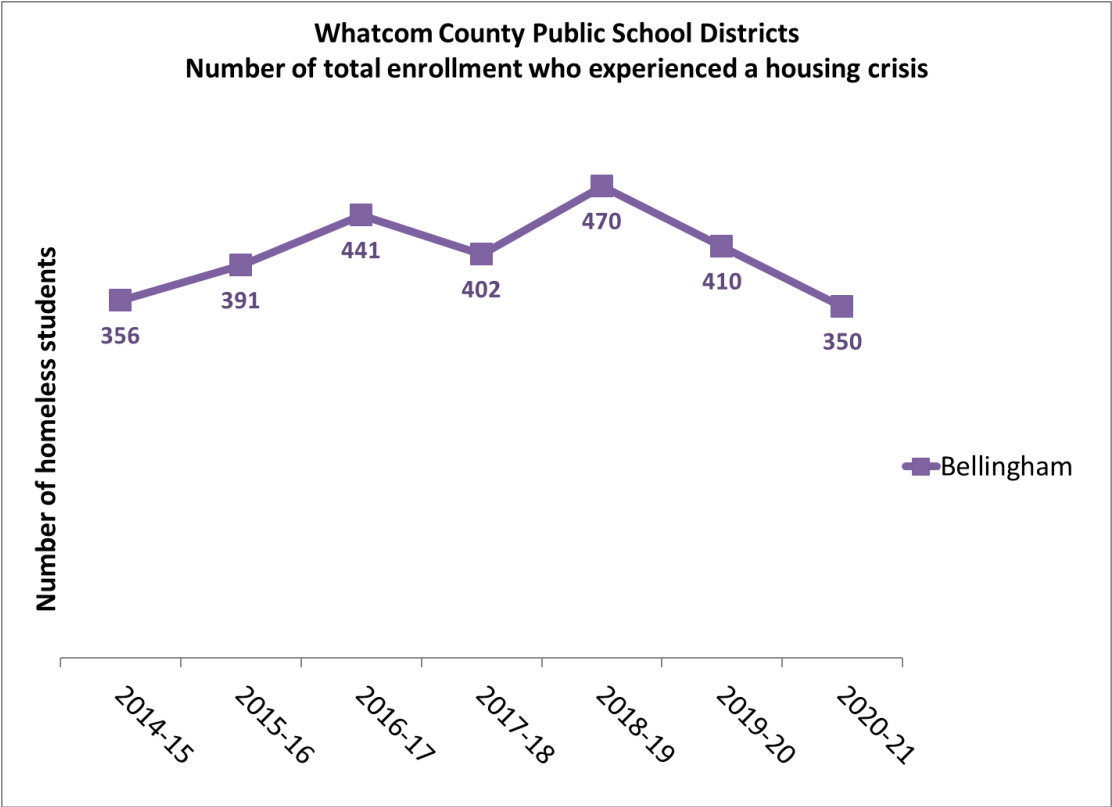
The emerging trend in Whatcom County is similar to the state as a whole (shown on the previous page). The following graph shows that in Whatcom County there was a significant increase in homelessness among public school students after the 2017-18 school year, followed by a decrease of 9% between the 2019-20 and 2020-21 years (the most recent data available at the time of this report). Since the 2014-2015 school year, the percentage of students who experience homelessness has increased from 2.4% to 2.7%, or stated differently, from 24 out of every 1,000 students to 27 out of every 1,000 students.

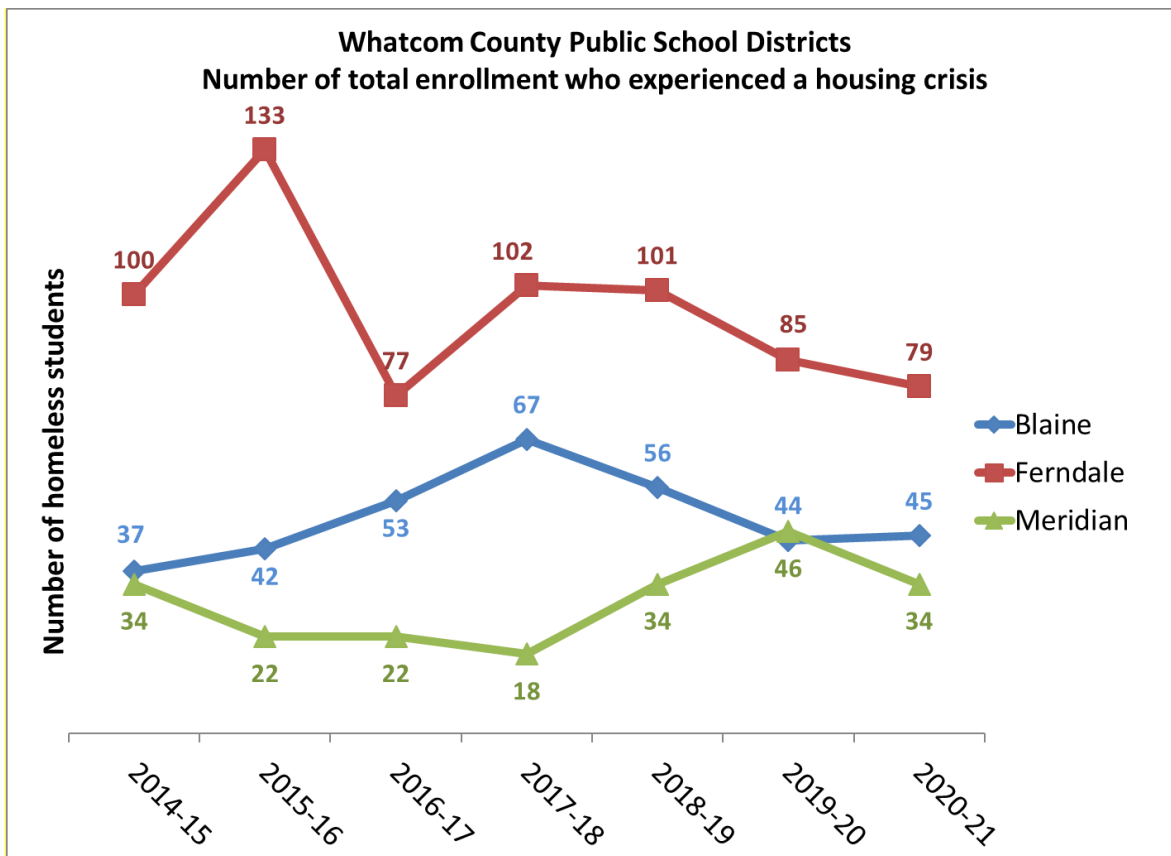
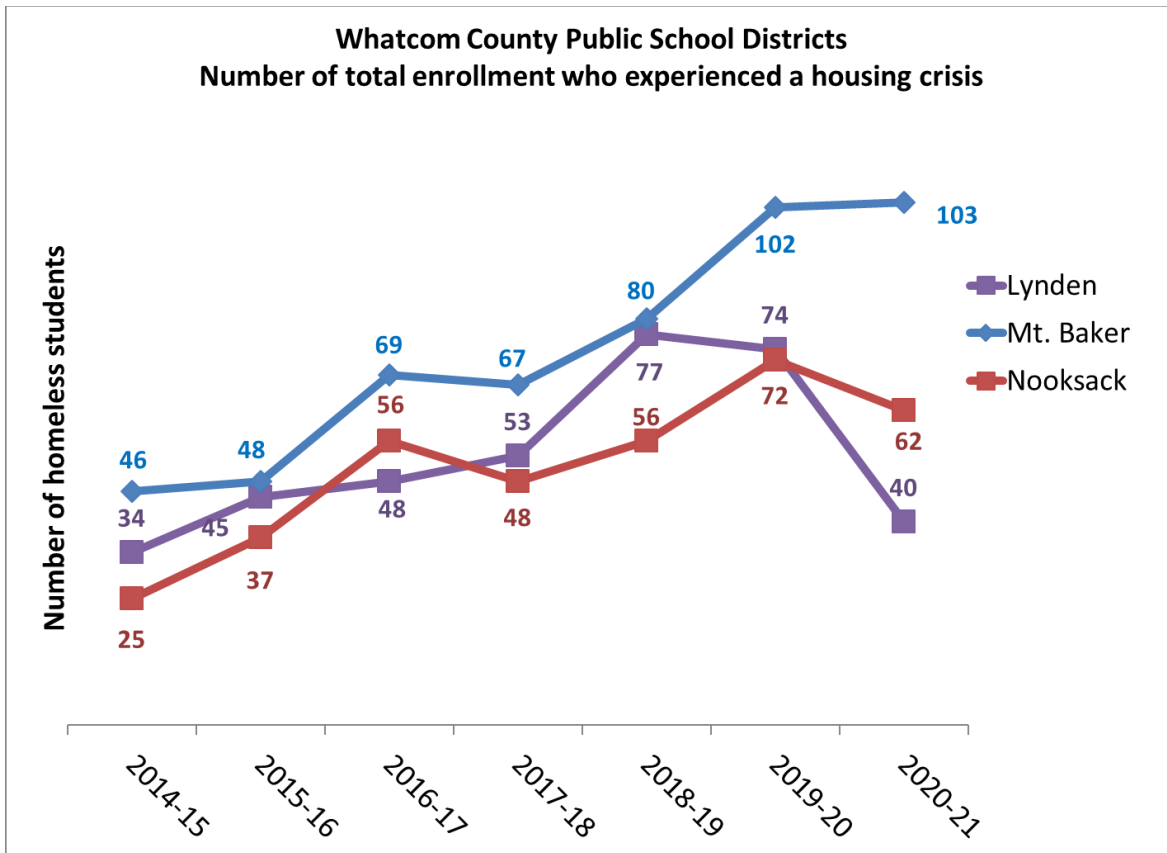


Public school homeless statistics by district

The charts below show the number of homeless students counted in each school district from 2014-15 to 2020-21 school years. These charts are one of the few opportunities to look at homelessness as it relates to geography within Whatcom County because the standardized approach taken by these public-school districts is consistent from region to region and numbers do not rely on street outreach or other Bellingham-based services.

As noted in the graph above, homelessness among students had been growing in Whatcom County, but over the past two school years has gone down. Disaggregated data, shown below, provides more local insight about how different regions of the county are faring in this respect. For example, in Bellingham School District, the most populous district, homelessness has decreased by 26% over the past two school years. However, while homelessness went down overall and in Bellingham, in the past two school years homelessness among students went up in both the Nooksack (11%) and the Mt. Baker School Districts (29%). Other districts have seen periods of growth and reduction, indicating a dynamic environment for local families, and one of geographic inconsistency from district to district. These changes may also reflect families relocating from district to district.





Homelessness and academic achievement³

The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to proactively identify and enroll homeless students, even if they lack the normally required documents for enrollment. The definition of homeless includes children and youth who “lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” Eligible students may continue attending their school of origin (if feasible) with transportation provided by the school district upon request, even if they move outside their school of origin’s residential zone. Students may also transfer to the local attendance area school. These rights, including the right to immediate enrollment, extend to unaccompanied homeless youth, even if they are unable to provide proof of guardianship.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, states are required to distribute a certain portion of their state’s homeless education funding to school districts through competitive subgrants. Subgrant funds facilitate the school enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth. The level of funding for subgrants is based on the needs of the Lead Educational Agency requesting assistance, as well as the quality of their applications. School districts that apply for and receive McKinney-Vento subgrants may use the funds to provide tutoring and supplemental instruction, early childhood education, transportation, school supplies, professional development on homeless education issues for school and district staff, and other services that otherwise may not be provided by the public-school program.

While lack of housing is a direct challenge for students, there are broader difficulties experienced by homeless students and other students living in poverty that researchers suggest may have a greater effect on student performance. These include:

- economic stressors
- parental job loss
- parental financial distress
- residential mobility
- school mobility
- crowding
- hunger and poor nutrition

Researchers also underscore the significance of cumulative risk, pointing out that many of the risk factors listed above often co-occur in the lives of homeless children, making it difficult to isolate the effects of each individual risk factor.

Despite the difficulty in separating the effects of poverty from those of homelessness, and the mixed results of studies comparing homeless and low-income children, homeless children are a particularly vulnerable, diverse subgroup of disadvantaged children. They face substantial challenges in achieving academic success, and the consequences of their struggles can last a lifetime.

³ This section is excerpted from: Bowman, Dukes, and Moore. 2012. *Summary of the State of Research on the Relationship Between Homelessness and Academic Achievement Among School-Aged Children and Youth*. National Center for Homeless Education, Greensboro, NC.

Appendix A: Survey Form

2022 Whatcom County Point-in-Time Count

Agency or Location: _____

NOTE: Victims of DV: do not enter name, birth month or birth day into HMIS. However, please collect this information so surveys can be de-duplicated prior to data entry. No signature is required.

ONE FORM PER HOUSEHOLD

Location: Where did you stay last night? (choose one - applies to entire household)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Out of Doors (street, tent, etc) City/Town staying in: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Shelter/Motel Voucher Program (program name: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle (CAR/TRUCK ONLY) City/Town staying in: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Transitional Housing Program (program name: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> RV/Boat lacking any of the following amenities: drinking water, restroom, heat, ability to cook/bathe City/Town staying in: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Supportive Housing Program* <u>STOP!</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned Building City/Town staying in: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> (Currently in Jail) * <u>STOP!</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> (Currently in Hosp/Detox/Other facility)* <u>STOP!</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Temp. Living w/ Family or Friends * <u>STOP!</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Paying for a motel * <u>STOP!</u>

*STOP! Indicates not considered homeless for PIT. Do not proceed with rest of form.

A. *Household Information																	
ONLY include CHILDREN and other household members if they are staying in the same location as the Head of Household (Please enter each HH member below. Use additional form if household has more than seven members.) Please check a HH type in the next box.																	
Household without Children _____ Household with Adults & Children _____ Households with only Children _____																	
										v. Disabilities							
										Check all that apply to each client							
Individual #	Relation to Head of Household Spouse/ Partner/ Child/ Etc	ii.		iii.			iv. Population Data				NONE APPLY	Chronic Substance Abuse	Physical Disability (Permanent)	Developmental Disability	Mental Health (Substantial & Long-Term)	Chronic Health Condition (Permanently Disabling)	
		First Name	Last Name	Month	Day	Year	Gender ¹ Choose all that apply	Race ² (enter all that apply)	Native American tribe	Ethnicity (Hispanic (H) or Non-Hispanic (N))							
1	Self																
2																	
3																	
4																	
5																	
6																	
7																	

¹ Male (M), Female (F), Transgender (T), Gender other than singularly male or female (e.g., non-binary, D), Questioning (Q), Refused (R)

² White (W), Black or African-American (B), Asian (A), American Indian or Alaska Native (I), Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (H), Client refused (R)

- Q1. Has anyone in your household ever served in the Armed Forces of the United States?
☐ Yes which individual(s)? Use the "Individual #" from table above: _____ ☐ No ☐ Refused
- Q2. Are you currently fleeing or in danger from a domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking situation? (If yes, DO NOT ENTER NAMES IN HMIS) ☐ Yes Use the "Individual #" from table above: _____ ☐ No
- Q3. What month and year did you become homeless? MONTH _____ YEAR _____
- Q4. Has any adult in household or minor head of household been continuously staying in an emergency shelter and/or unsheltered for a year or more?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Refused
- Q5. Has any adult in household or minor head of household been homeless 4 or more times in the last 3 years? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Q6. Do these times without housing, added together, amount to a year or more? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Q7. Does any person who answered yes for Q4, Q5, or Q6 have a disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No