

2021 Homeless Point-In-Time Count Results

Each January, Pierce County surveys people experiencing homelessness. This homeless “point-in-time count” is a one-day snapshot that captures the characteristics and situations of people living here without a home. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, there was no unsheltered survey conducted, which caused our 2021 totals to be lower than previous years. This is not an indication of fewer people experiencing homelessness.

1,005 Homeless Persons Counted

- 26% Chronically homeless
- 11% Households with children
- 41% Female
- 24% Adult survivors of domestic violence
- 9% Unaccompanied youth & young adults
- 8% Veterans
- 50% People of color (However, people of color make up only 27% of the Pierce County population.(ACS estimate 2018))

Not all people experiencing homelessness sleep outside

No unsheltered surveys were conducted this year due to the pandemic, resulting in no results for people living out of doors, in vehicles, abandoned buildings, etc.

- 89% Emergency Shelter
- 0% Out of doors (street, tent, etc.)
- 11% Transitional housing
- 0% Vehicle, abandoned building, other

Most told us they lived in Pierce County before they became homeless

- 70% Lived in Pierce County
- 6% Unknown
- 5% Lived in King County
- 6% Lived in Other WA counties
- 13% Lived Outside of WA

The main causes of homelessness are economic and housing-related

Survey respondents shared many causes for becoming homeless. These are the top three:

- Family crisis
- No affordable housing
- Loss of job

Many people experiencing homelessness have an income

- 46% of people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County report at least one source of income.
- 54% of people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County report having no income.

Mental illness is the most commonly reported disability

Here is the breakdown of the most commonly reported disabilities. Some people reported having multiple disabilities.

- 41% Mental illness
- 30% Chronic health condition
- 30% Physical Disability
- 20% Substance use
- 11% Developmental disability

For the full data set visit www.piercecountywa.gov/PIT