2022 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. We counted 1,851 people, but the official estimate for homelessness in Pierce County is much larger - 4,300 individuals. The lower Point-in-Time count number reflects the challenge of counting a large, geographically distributed unsheltered population over a 24-hour period.

1,851 People counted during the homeless Point-in-Time count
- 23% Chronically homeless
- 38% Female
- 7% Households with children
- 7% Veterans
- 20% Adult survivors of domestic violence
- 11% Unaccompanied youth and young adults
- 52% People of color (However, people of color make up only 34% of the Pierce County population, according to a 2019 ACS estimate.)

Not all people experiencing homelessness sleep outside
- 58% Emergency shelter
- 12% Out of doors
- 6% Transitional housing
- 6% Vehicle
- 18% Unknown

Most told us they lived in Pierce County before experiencing homelessness
- 76% Pierce County
- 12% Outside Washington
- 7% King County
- 6% Other Washington County

Most told us they slept in Tacoma the night of the Point-in-Time Count
- 74% Tacoma
- 10% Puyallup
- 7% Fife
- 6% Other
- 3% Lakewood

The main causes of homelessness are economic and housing-related
There are often many causes for becoming homeless. These are the top three most common:
- Family crisis/breakup
- No affordable housing
- Loss of job

Many unhoused people have an income
- 64% of unhoused people in the County report at least one source of income
- 36% of unhoused people in the County report having no income
A chronic health condition is the most commonly reported disability
Here is the breakdown of the most commonly reported disabilities. Some reported having multiple disabilities.

- 20% Mental illness
- 27% Chronic health condition
- 26% Physical disability
- 25% Substance abuse
- 11% Development disability

Point-in-Time Count overview

- 198 volunteers
- 343 individuals interviewed

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

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