

2020 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.

1,897 Homeless Persons Counted

- 22% Chronically homeless
- 7% Households with children
- 35% Female
- 16% Adult survivors of domestic violence
- 6% Unaccompanied youth & young adults
- 8% Veterans
- 46% 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

- 43% Emergency Shelter
- 17% Out of doors (street, tent, etc.)
- 9% Transitional housing
- 31% Vehicle, abandoned building, other

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

- 55% Lived in Pierce County
- 32% Unknown
- 2% Lived in King County
- 5% Lived in Other WA counties
- 6% 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
- Domestic Violence

Many people experiencing homelessness have an income

- 43% of people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County report at least one source of income.
- 57% 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.

- 28% Mental illness
- 27% Chronic health condition
- 26% Physical Disability
- 20% Substance use
- 9% Developmental disability

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