

Yakima County Human Services Department



Point in Time Community Report

2023

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Introduction

What is the Point in Time (PIT)?

The Point in Time Count, also referred to as the “PIT” or the “count,” is a survey of individuals experiencing homelessness conducted annually throughout Yakima County by the Yakima County Human Services Department, in partnership with local outreach workers and shelter/sanctioned encampment providers. **The data collected is not a complete count of all individuals experiencing homelessness; rather, it is a voluntary survey sampling intended to provide insights on trends, demographics, and causes of homelessness.**

While the goal is always to engage and survey as many individuals as possible through this process, individuals have the right to decline consent, which would result in them not being counted. There is also always an unknowable quantity of individuals who were not identified during the PIT process. If someone is not encountered during the PIT, they cannot be surveyed – and because those who are unencountered are by default unknown, it is impossible to quantify how many individuals are missed. There are a number of strategies deployed to reduce the number of consent-refused responses and increase the number of individuals engaged, including: providing survey-takers with snacks, warm clothes, and toiletries to distribute in their survey efforts; partnering with case managers and outreach workers who have experience and relationships to conduct the surveys; and coordinating with providers prior to the count to ensure that there is adequate training and geographic coverage. Short of being omniscient, however, there is no way to know definitively who was not captured in the data. For this reason, PIT survey data can never be understood to be comprehensive and should always be interpreted as an annual *representation* of homelessness in our community, not a total number.

How is the PIT Conducted?

The PIT survey is administered through two methods:

1. **Outreach Count**, which is conducted through a week-long effort to engage individuals encountered in places not meant for habitation (such as cars, alleyways, parks, and abandoned buildings).
2. **Shelter Count**, which is a single-night count of individuals sleeping in established overnight programs (such as shelters, sanctioned encampments, and transitional housing).

The dates for these efforts always fall in January and are established at the state and federal level to ensure that no individual can be counted in the national data in more than one community. Every shelter count in the United States is performed on the same night across the entire country, on a date selected by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

HUD establishes the baseline set of data which must be collected in the PIT survey through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Standards¹. At the state and local level, there is the option to add additional questions as well. Every single survey conducted within Yakima County follows the exact same format, regardless of who is administering it. An example of Yakima County’s 2023 PIT Survey is provided in Appendix B. The survey is provided in English and in Spanish.

¹ HMIS Data Standards can be found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3824/hmis-data-dictionary/>

After the surveys are conducted, the data is then compiled, checked for completeness and accuracy, compared against shelter rosters for confirmation of bed nights, and deduplicated by staff in the Community Grants and Partnerships Program (CGaP) in the Yakima County Human Services Department. Data is entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) by CGaP staff, where it gets reported to the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) Housing Assistance Unit, and ultimately to HUD.

Who is Counted?

The PIT counts only individuals experiencing literal homelessness as defined by HUD at the time they are surveyed. HUD defines “Literally Homeless” as:

Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

This excludes individuals who are doubled up, or “couch surfing,” those who may be unstably housed, or those at risk of homelessness.

Please see Appendix A for a further list of definitions for terms used in this report.

What's the Point of the Point in Time?

The PIT is part of an annual, national effort to collect data on homelessness in the United States of America. PIT survey data gets reviewed at three levels: county, state, and federal.

At the **county level**, PIT data can provide useful insights regarding the overall state of homelessness within our community, which gives us opportunities for strategic insight into the most important issues to tackle. For example, the PIT survey collects data on the geographic distribution of individuals without housing across the county, the issues most commonly identified as causes of homelessness, and demographics regarding income, Tribal affiliation, and education that are not normally collected in county-wide service data.

One drawback to keep in mind for local data is that especially in a community the size of Yakima, where there are well under a thousand unique responses collected, small variations can cause large fluctuations. Since the PIT is best used as trend data and is not a total number of those experiencing homelessness, this level of sensitivity is something to be cognizant of. Real-life examples of how this may impact Yakima County’s local trend data will be reviewed in the data section.

At the **state level**, PIT data is provided to Commerce, where it is used to give a broader picture of homelessness across the state. PIT data when observed in state reports can either show total numbers for Washington State or offer county-by-county comparisons. Like the local application, the PIT is used

to estimate which Counties have higher concentrations of homelessness, and whether the overall number of individuals experiencing homelessness appears to be trending up or down.

An important state-level application of PIT data is in the allocation of Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) funds. CHG is a state grant that serves as the primary funding source for homeless services in Yakima County, and allocation levels across the state are influenced in part by the PIT data.

At the **federal level**, PIT data is provided to HUD. Many of the small imperfections that can make trending unreliable at the local level become smoothed out by the sheer volume of data at a national scale. This is likely the most useful set of trend data, because of the enormity of the sample size. However, in order to be homogenous at that scale the data has to be stripped of any state or local custom questions that might've been added in any given region – which means that this is the level at which the dataset is least detailed and least customizable.

Challenges

Coverage

As mentioned in the “What is the Point in Time (PIT)?” section above, there are always people missing from the PIT data. Yakima County is the second largest county by land mass in the state, comprising of approximately 4,295 square miles, and the eighth largest county by population at an estimated 256,728 people (according to 2020 US Census data). This means that our community’s outreach teams have a lot of ground to cover – literally – and limited resources and time in which to do it.

In order to be as effective as possible in capturing survey data, the Human Services Department coordinates with local outreach teams for months leading up to the count to ensure that plans are made to identify and prioritize outreach in areas where people experiencing homelessness are known to be present during the day. Outreach efforts are organized to maximize geographic coverage across the county, while also making sure to send outreach teams to areas where they are commonly active throughout the year, in the hopes that if they are already known and trusted by residents it will increase the likelihood of successful survey completion. The local knowledge and relationships held by outreach workers in our community are a crucial component of conducting a safe and successful PIT count.

For success in the Shelter Count, Human Services Department staff coordinate with local shelter/sanctioned encampment providers to confirm their bed and unit counts. They also clarify the populations they serve, such as families or single-person households, and if the clients are required to meet certain criteria, such as being a veteran, young adult, victim of domestic violence, etc. This information is then collected and sent on to the Washington State Department of Commerce. The Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) for Yakima County can be found in Appendix B. This information is then used to help facilitate the day of the count by determining how many surveys each provider receives, which is later used to confirm the number of surveys completed. Every single survey that is used in the PIT efforts is individually numbered and tracked by the Human Services Department to ensure that no surveys are lost.

Youth and Young Adults

Another challenge is in collecting survey feedback from Youth and Young Adults experiencing homelessness. Often called an "invisible population," young people experiencing homelessness tend to stay with friends, avoid adult services, and may be reluctant to be identified by authorities. These

factors can create an additional layer of difficulty in surveying this population, and often results in them being underrepresented in the data.

Consistency

Finally, an important challenge pertaining to the Yakima County PIT is **consistency**. Because the data is most useful as trend data, it is crucially important that it be collected in a consistent manner year over year, to limit the number of changes in data that can be attributed to methodology rather than shifts in trends. Unfortunately, due to continuous shifts in the oversight of the PIT and unusual restrictions on how the count could safely be conducted in 2021 and 2022 due to COVID, Yakima County has lacked year-over-year consistency in the execution of the PIT for nearly a decade. This makes trend data incredibly difficult to take at face value.

Staff turnover at provider agencies can also prevent a challenge in consistency, as the knowledge and relationships needed to do outreach often live with a single individual, and have to be rebuilt by their successor if they leave their position. There is also some nuance to talking about the survey, engaging with an individual to request their participation, and ensuring that the form is filled out accurately and completely so that the data can be used. The Department of Human Services attempts to alleviate the challenges brought on by staff turnover within the community by providing ample opportunities for training, technical assistance, and education for all staff at agencies participating in in the count.

With the reinstatement of the Human Services Department, Yakima County has reached a point of increased stability in PIT oversight, and moving forward is committed to keeping consistency in the survey collection practices. This is the first year that the Human Services Department has been able to regain full internal control over conducting the PIT survey, and establishes a baseline for consistency in methodology moving forward.

Despite these challenges, PIT counts are the only consistent nationwide survey that enumerates people experiencing homelessness. Despite its flaws, the count is the most reliable trend of people experiencing homelessness in the United States from which progress can be measured.

Notable Changes

The type of housing a program provides can shift for a variety of reasons including funding stream, needs of the community, and more. The programs available in our community impact services provided. In 2023, a notable change to the program availability in Yakima County was that Yakima Neighborhood Health Services added 81 new Permanent Supportive Housing beds at the Neighborhood Apartments (36 beds for households without children, and 45 beds for households with at least one adult and one child)

Point in Time Data

Individuals and Households Overview

This section displays the data collected during the 2023 PIT. The two main ways to categorize data are by individuals and by households. The following table shows the number of households and individuals counted during PIT 2023:

Category	Individuals Surveyed	Households Surveyed
Currently Homeless	624	520
Not Currently Homeless	61	61
TOTAL	685	581

Not Currently Homeless

Of the 581 Households surveyed, 61 were not experiencing homelessness on that day. The largest portion, 42 Households, were couch surfing on the nights of the count. 45 of the households not experiencing homelessness, or 74%, had been served at some point by a homeless service provider. No additional analysis was conducted on this population group.

Trend Data

This report is broken up by Households and Individuals. The following table shows a snapshot of both and the change from 2022:

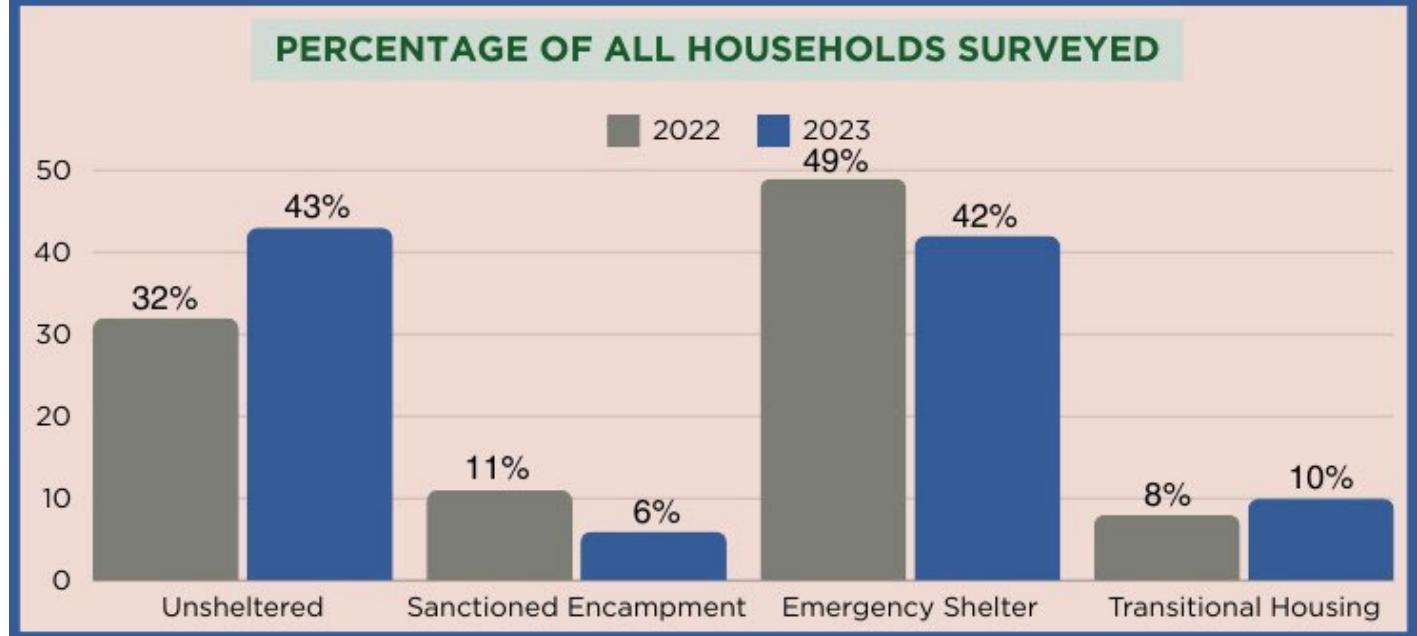
	Households Surveyed			Individuals Surveyed		
	2022	2023	Percent Change	2022	2023	Percent Change
Unsheltered	176	222	+26.1%	183	230	+ 25.7%
Sanctioned Encampments	59	29	- 50.9%	59	29	- 50.9%
Emergency Shelter	272	217	- 20.2%	353	289	- 18.1%
Transitional Housing	47	52	+10.6%	75	76	+ 1.3%
TOTAL	554	520	- 6.1%	670	624	- 6.9%

Overall, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness decreased in 2023 by 6.9% from 2022. In 2023, the unsheltered population increased by 25.7% compared to 2022. Households enrolled in Transitional Housing in 2023 increased by 10.6% compared to 2022. These numbers should also take into consideration the shift in the population which is described in detail in the Multi-Year Data section of this document.

Households

Viewing data by households can provide a more consistent view of homelessness in the community than viewing the number of individuals. Some households have multiple members, such as partners and/or children, which would increase the individual count. In 2023, 520 households were experiencing homelessness – a decrease of 6.1% from 2022. Nearly 2 out of 5 households, or 42.7% counted, were unsheltered. Those residing in Emergency Shelters of all types decreased by 20.2%.

Households Surveyed by Housing Type



Households Surveyed by Housing Type

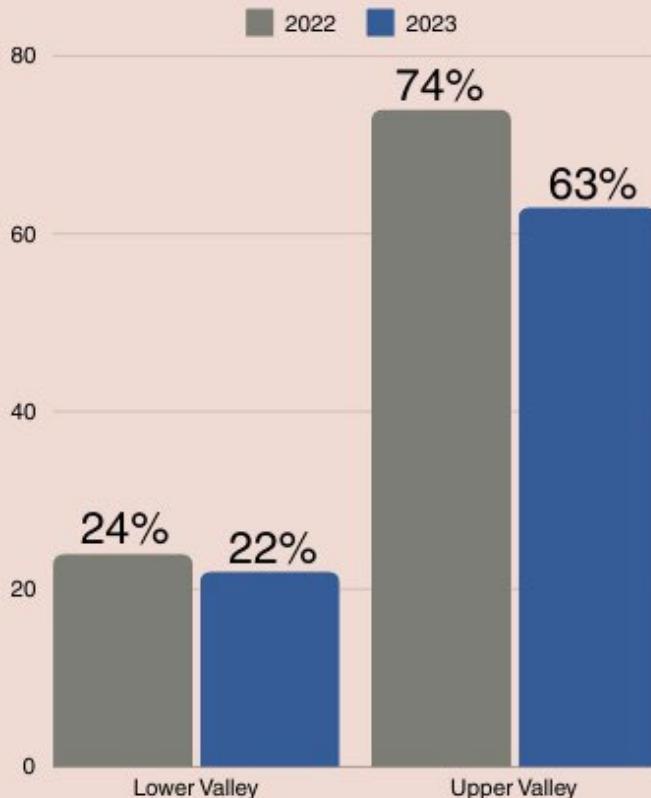
		Distribution of All Households Surveyed by Year			2023 Percent	2023 % Change
		2021	2022	2023	2023	2023
Unsheltered	Outdoors	135	149	193	37.1%	29.5%
	RV/Boat & Vehicle	39	24	26	5%	8.3%
	Abandoned Building	6	3	3	0.6%	0%
	Total	180	176	222	42.7%	26.1%
Sanctioned Encampment	Sanctioned Encampment	65	59	29	5.6%	-50.9%
	Total	65	59	29	5.6%	-50.9%
Emergency Shelter	Single Adult Shelter	136	177	165	31.7%	-6.8%
	Extreme Weather Shelter/Voucher	56	57	26	5%	-54.4%
	Family Shelter	9	23	11	2.1%	-52.2%
	DV Shelter	6	13	10	1.9%	-23.1%
	Medical Respite	2	2	5	1%	150%
	Total	209	272	217	41.7%	-20.2%
Transitional Housing	Families and Single Adults	53	28	22	4.2%	-21.4%
	Single Adults Only	38	19	30	5.8%	57.9%
	Total	91	47	52	10%	10.6%
Grand Total		545	554	520	100%	-6.1%

Location

While 63% of all Households stayed in the Upper Valley the night before the count, this is primarily due to the placement of temporary housing for Sanctioned Encampments, Emergency Shelters, and Transitional Housing. Looking at households that are unsheltered, 65% percent stayed in the City of Yakima the night of the count.

Households Surveyed by Location

ALL HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED



HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED BY AGENCY LOCATION

		2021	2022	2023
Upper Valley	Yakima	289	285	174
Lower Valley	Toppenish	40	48	13
	Wapato	30	37	30
	Sunnyside	2	4	1
	Granger	4	3	2
	White Swan		1	
Unknown, Data not collected				78
Grand Total		365	378	298

Includes Sanctioned Encampments, Emergency Shelter, and Transitional Housing

UNSHeltered Households Surveyed

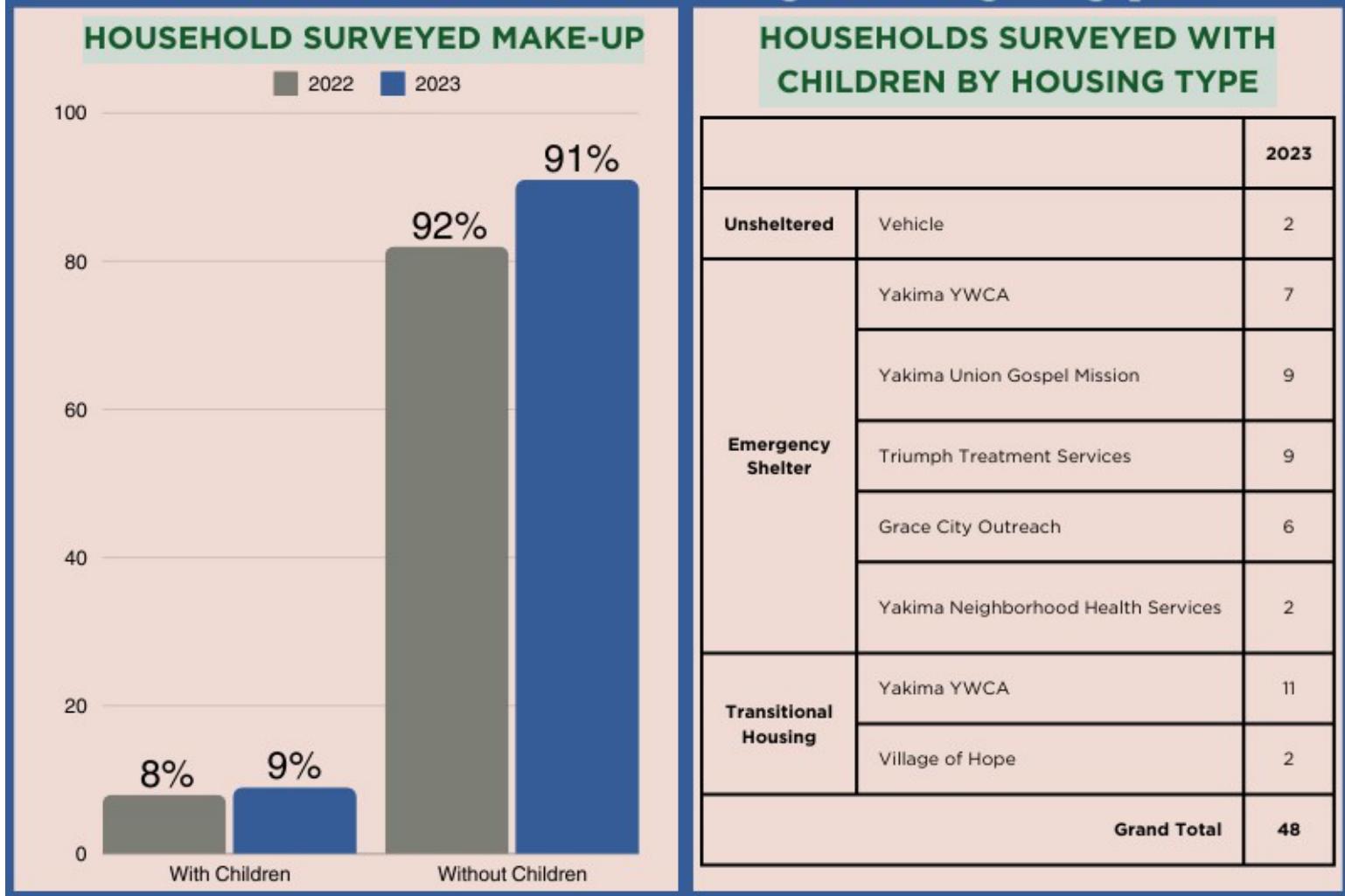
	Yakima	Toppenish	Wapato	Sunnyside	White Swan	Mabton	Union Gap	Selah	Harrah	Granger	Unknown	Grand Total
2021	111	44	13	2	5	1	2		1	1		180
2022	134	28	10	3		1						176
2023	144	48	17	1	1		7	2			2	222

Includes sleeping outside, in vehicles, and abandoned buildings

Household Type

Households are composed of three categories: Households without children, Households with at least one adult and one child, Households with only children (unaccompanied minors). See the Challenges section for more information on collecting data from unaccompanied minors, under the heading Youth and Young Adults. In 2023, households with children increased from 47 households to 48; but households without children were still far and away the most common household type, making up 91% of all households.

Households Surveyed by Type



Households Surveyed by Type

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED BY TYPE

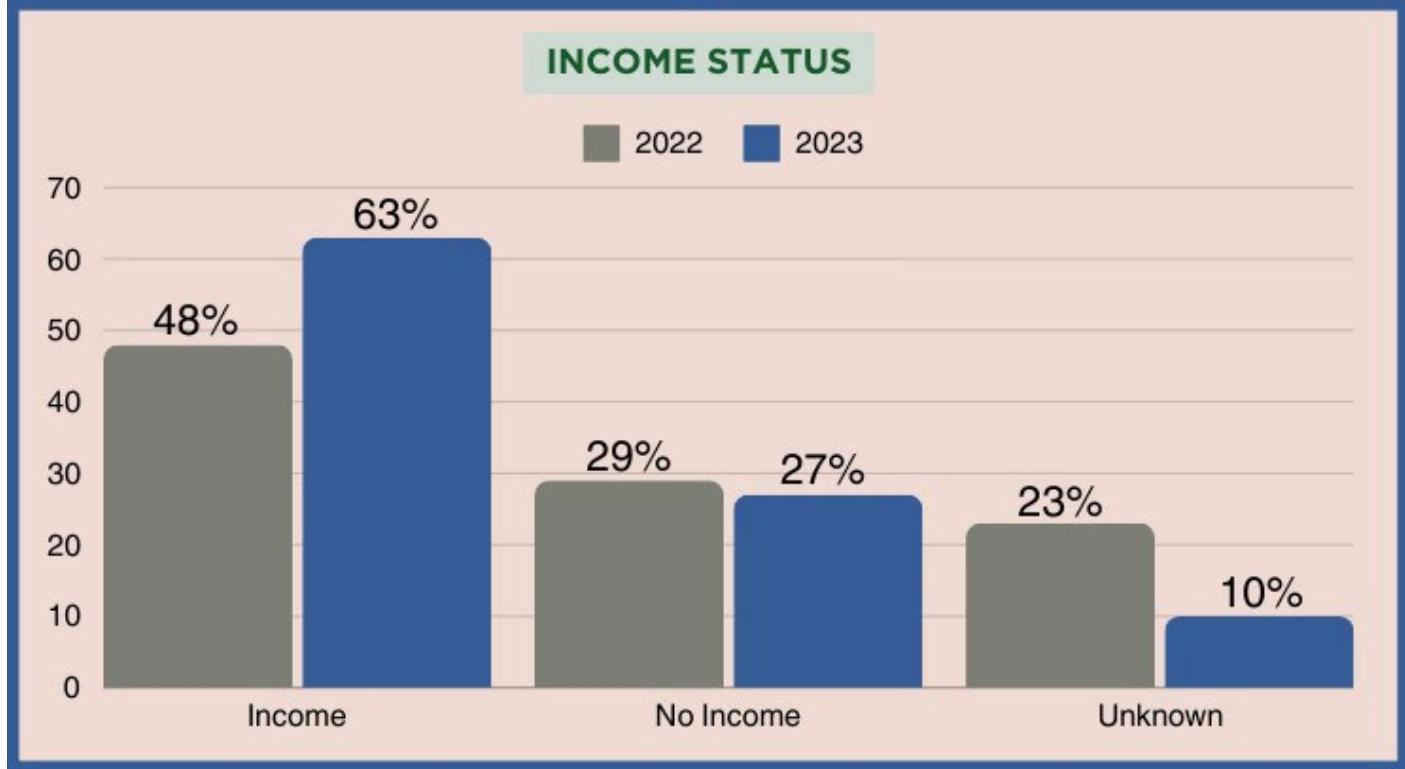
	2021		2022		2023	
	With Children	Without Children	With Children	Without Children	With Children	Without Children
Unsheltered	2	178	1	175	2	220
Sanctioned Encampment	1	64	0	59	0	29
Emergency Shelter	14	195	35	237	33	184
Transitional Housing	16	75	11	36	13	39
Grand Total	33	512	47	507	48	472

Income Source

Multiple categories were included when surveying about income:

Status	Income Type	Income Category	Detail
Income	Cash Income	Earned Income	Full-time Work
			Part-time Work
			Under the Table
			Farm/Seasonal Work
		Other Income	Panhandling
			TANF
			Relatives, partners, friends
			SSI/SSDI
			Per Capita
			Temp Disability/ABD
			Unemployment Income
	Non-Cash Income	Medicare/Medicaid	Medicare/Medicaid
No Income	None	None	None
	Refused	Refused	Refused

Households Surveyed Income Source



In 2023, over half of all households (63%) had some form of income:

Households Surveyed Income Source

INCOME STATUS BY HOUSING TYPE

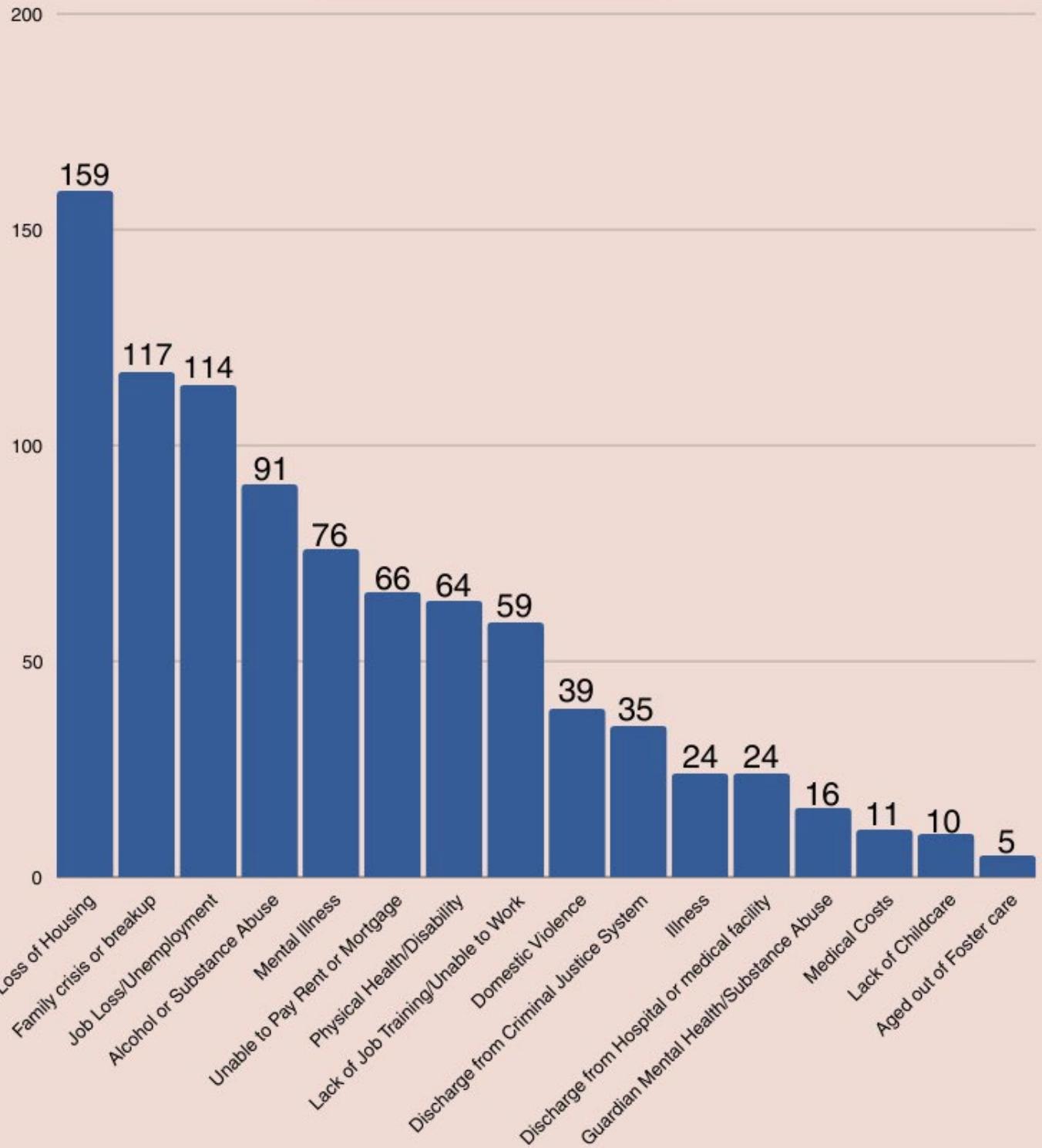
			Unsheltered	Sanctioned Encampment	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Grand Total
Income	Cash Income	Other Income Only	96	9	83	26	214
		Earned Income Only	1	1	9	3	14
		Both Earned and Other Income	1	0	6	3	10
	Non-Cash Income Only	Medicare/Medicaid Only	38	1	46	3	88
No Income	No Income	None	60	14	55	13	142
Unknown	Data Not Collected		25	2	15	3	45
	Client Prefers Not To Answer		4	0	2	1	7
Grand Total			225	27	216	52	520

Causes and Conditions

Households surveyed were asked about what contributed most to their homelessness and were able to select more than one option. The following list is not weighted, but rather shows the number of households who listed that condition as a contributing factor. When asked about causes and conditions, 82%, or 425 households, responded: with only 83 households refusing or didn't know what cause or condition a contributing factor was. Eviction/Loss of housing has remained the number one cause for homelessness reported for the last three years.

Households Surveyed by Causes & Conditions

CAUSES & CONDITIONS



Households Surveyed by Causes & Conditions

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

	2021	2022	2023
Listed Causes	469	390	425
Data Not Collected	0	129	12
None Provided & Refused	76	35	83
Grand Total	545	554	520

The results vary when broken out by age group:

Households Surveyed by Age Group - Causes

Causes & Conditions	YA 18 to 24	Adults 25 to 64	Seniors 65+
Family crisis or breakup	11*	94	4
Lack of Job Training/Unable to Work	10	43	1
Mental Illness	8	64	0
Evicted/Loss of Housing	7	134*	10
Job Loss/Unemployment	6	91	9
Alcohol or Substance Abuse	4	78	2
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	4	51	5
Physical Health/Disability	4	108	11*
Guardian Mental Health/Substance Abuse	4	11	0
Illness	2	18	3
Discharge from Hospital or medical facility	2	19	0
Domestic Violence	1	19	1
Lack of Childcare	1	6	1
Aged out of Foster care	1	4	0
Discharge from Criminal Justice System	1	30	2
Medical Costs	0	10	1

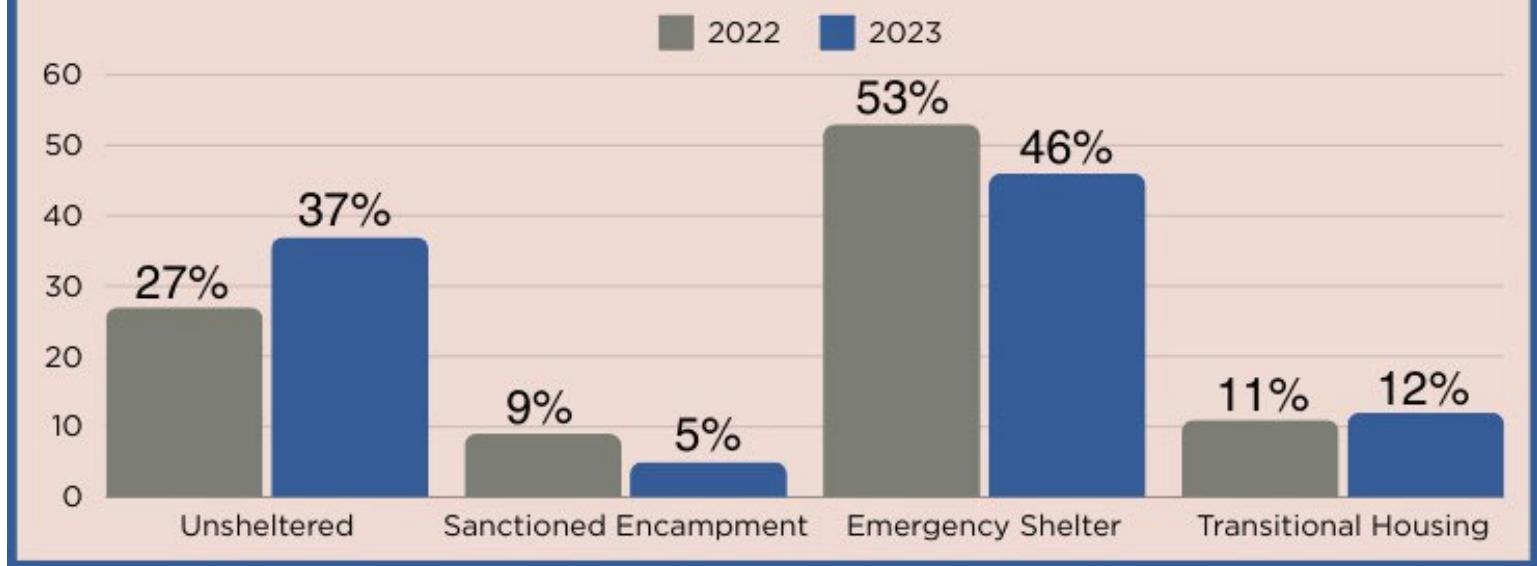
*Number one cause/condition for age group

Individuals

In 2023, 624 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness, a decrease of 6.9% from 2022. The number of people in Emergency Shelters decreased by 18.1%, with the number of individuals who were unsheltered increased by 25.7% compared to 2022.

Individuals Surveyed by Housing Type

PERCENTAGE OF ALL INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED



Individuals Surveyed by Housing Type

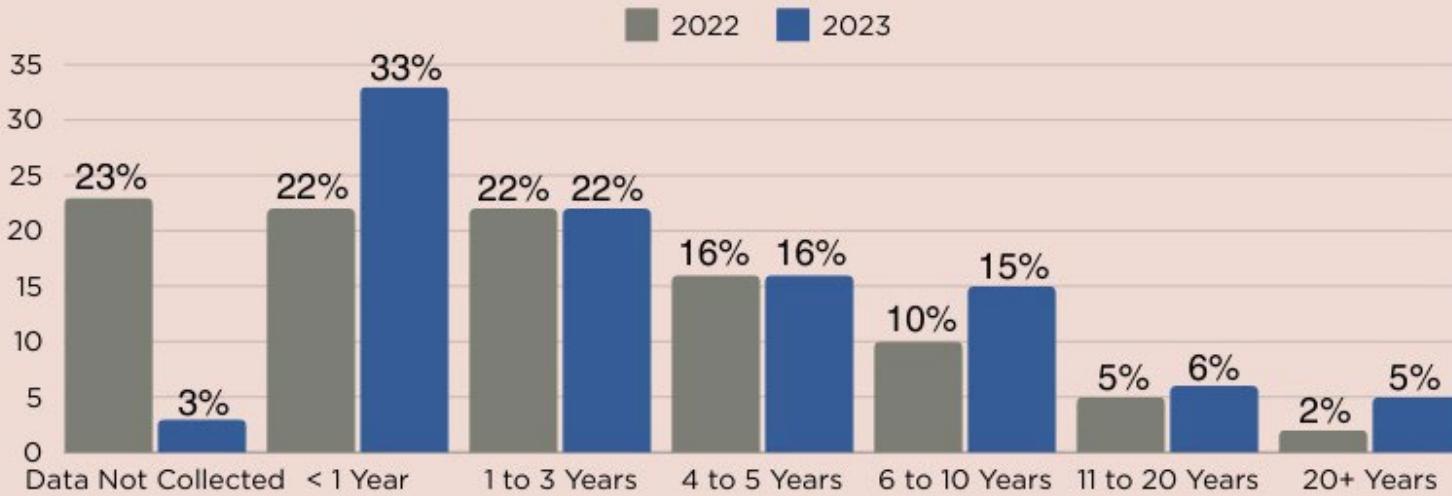
Distribution of All Households Surveyed by Year				2023 Percent	2023 % Change
		2021	2022	2023	2023
Unsheltered	Outdoors	138	150	194	31.1%
	RV/Boat & Vehicle	47	30	33	5.3%
	Abandoned Building	7	3	3	0.5%
	Total	192	183	230	36.9%
Encampment	Sanctioned Encampment	69	59	29	4.7%
	Total	69	59	29	-50.8%
Emergency Shelter	Single Adult Shelter	137	177	185	29.7%
	Extreme Weather Shelter/Voucher	73	73	29	4.7%
	Family Shelter	27	69	37	5.9%
	DV Shelter	14	32	33	5.3%
	Medical Respite	2	2	5	0.8%
	Total	253	353	289	46.3%
Transitional Housing	Families and Single Adults	95	56	46	7.4%
	Single Adults Only	38	19	30	4.8%
	Total	133	75	76	12.2%
Grand Total		647	670	624	100%

Length of Time Homeless

More than 1 in 4 individuals surveyed reported they had been experiencing homelessness for less than a year. Of those who had been homeless for less than a year, 48.8% of them were in an Emergency Shelter. Of those who are unsheltered, 27.9% had been homeless for less than a year.

Length of Time Homeless

YEAR TO YEAR CHANGE



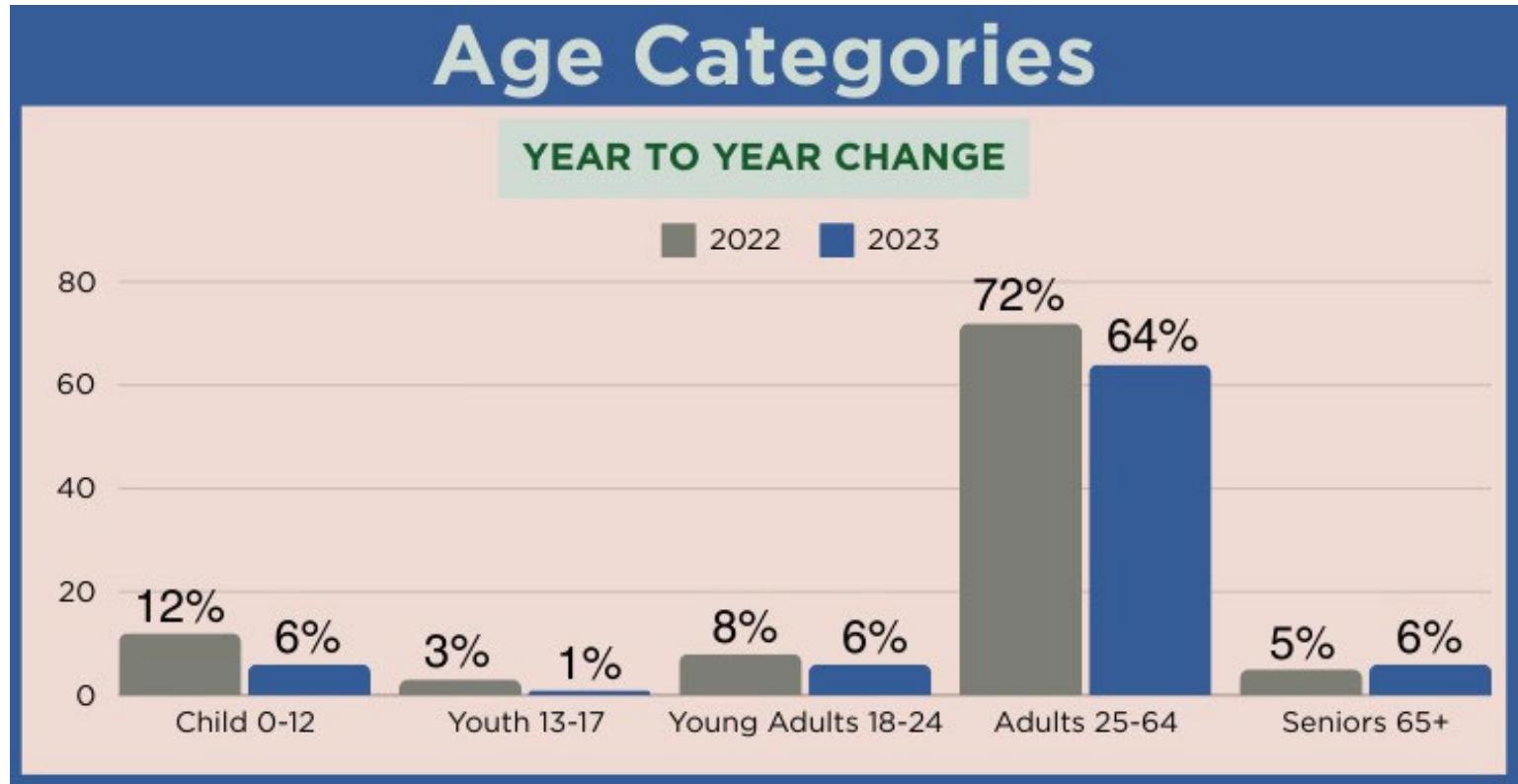
Length of Time Homeless

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED

	Unsheltered	Sanctioned Encampment	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Grand Total
Data Not Collected	11	0	3	1	15
Less than a Year	62	11	84	15	172
1 to 3 Years	40	3	56	15	114
4 to 5 Years	40	5	27	12	84
6 to 10 Years	44	6	23	7	80
11 to 20 Years	15	2	11	1	29
20+ Years	10	2	13	1	26
Grand Total	222	29	217	37	520

Age

The average age of all individuals counted was 42 years old, which was an increase from 2022's average age: 39.5 years old. The most significantly represented age bracket was those between the ages of 25-64. 64% of all individuals surveyed were in this age bracket, with 46% of those in this age bracket in an Emergency Shelter. 17% of all individuals had unknown ages, due to the client being client refused and/or having only a partial date of birth collected by their survey taker.



Age Categories

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED

	Child 0-12	Youth 13-17	Young Adults 18-24	Adults 25-64	Seniors 65+	Unknown, Data not collected	Grand Total
Unsheltered	4	3	14	189	6	14	230
Sanctioned Encampment	0	0	1	22	1	5	29
Emergency Shelter	32	6	16	162	26	47	289
Transitional Housing	1	0	5	29	3	38	76
Grand Total	37	9	36	402	36	104*	624

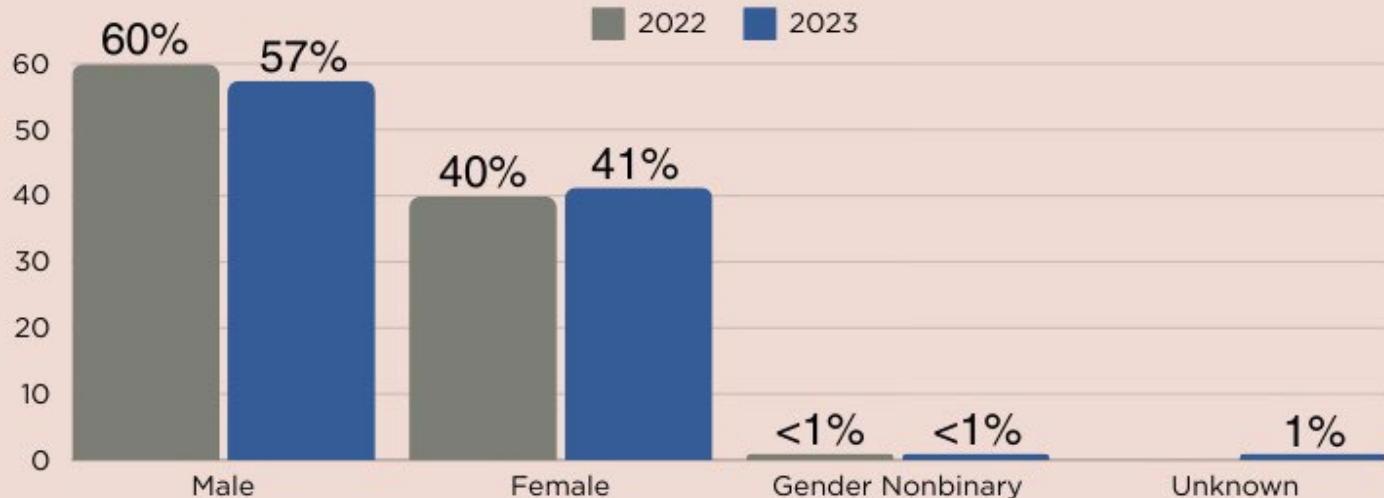
*Clients refused/partial DOB collected

Gender

57.4% of individuals surveyed were male; 1.1% of individuals were Gender Unknown/preferred not to answer.

Gender Categories

YEAR TO YEAR CHANGE



NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED

	Male	Female	Gender Nonbinary	Unknown, client prefers to answer	Grand Total
Unsheltered	139	90	0	1	230
Sanctioned Encampment	18	9	1	1	29
Emergency Shelter	164	124	0	1	289
Transitional Housing	37	35	0	4	76
Grand Total	358	258	1	7	624

Race and Ethnicity

- For the privacy of people entered into HMIS, The Department of Human Services follows Commerce's [prescribed data suppression standards](#).

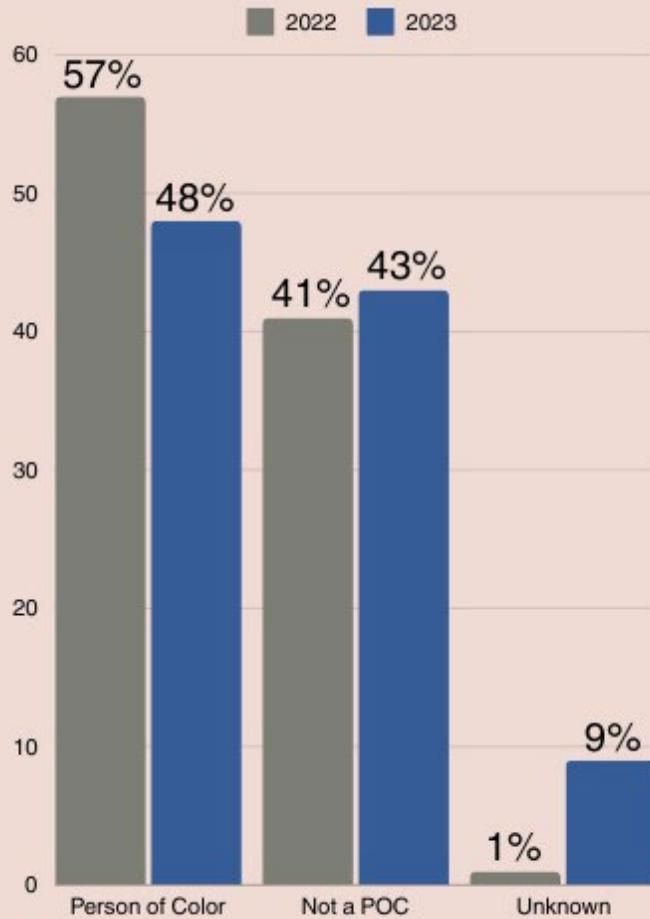
Race and Ethnicity of Individuals Surveyed

RACE AND ETHNICITY COMBINED

Ethnicity	Race	Not a person of color	Person of Color	Unknown	Grand Total
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	White	269			269
	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous		112		112
	Black, African American, or African		15		15
	Multi-Racial		16		16
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		< 11		< 11
	Asian or Asian American		< 11		< 11
	Client prefers not to answer, data not collected			28	28
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	White		84		84
	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous		25		25
	Black, African American, or African		3		3
	Multi-Racial		7		7
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		< 11		< 11
	Asian or Asian American		< 11		< 11
	Client prefers not to answer, data not collected		13		13
Unknown	Client prefers not to answer, data not collected			26	26
Grand Total		269	301	54	624

Race and Ethnicity of Individuals Surveyed

PERCENT OF INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED



BY HOUSING TYPE

	Sanctioned Encampment	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing
Person of Color	48%	52%	48%	38%
Not a Person of Color	45%	46%	44%	30%
Unknown	7%	2%	8%	32%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Tribal Enrollment

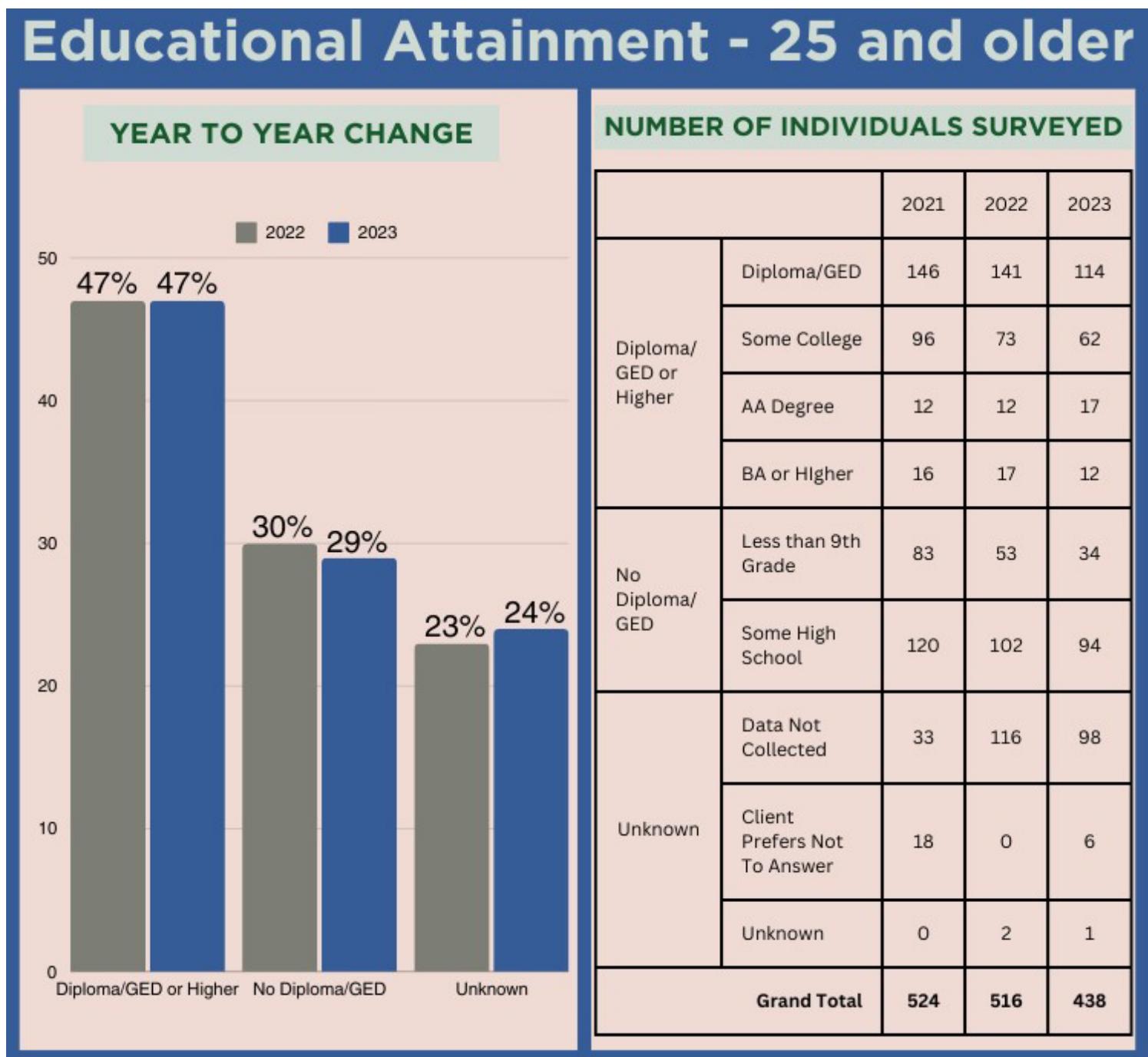
In 2023, 121 individuals surveyed were enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe. Of those, 75.2% of those who were enrolled were members of the Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation.

Tribal Enrollment

	2023
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	91
Chippewa (Unspecified)	4
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	3
Sioux (Unspecified)	3
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma	2
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	2
Klamath Tribes	2
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	2
Aleut	2
Dual Tribal Enrollments	2
Unknown	2
Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana	1
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	1
Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation	1
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	1
Apache (Unspecified)	1
Eastern Shoshone Tribe	1
Grand Total	121

Education

The following table shows the educational attainment for surveyed adults 25 and older. This age delineation is done to prevent a falsely low educational attainment rate caused by children in the appropriate grade level. In 2023, 47% of adults 25 and older surveyed had an educational attainment level of a diploma/GED or higher.



Educational Attainment - 25 and older

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY HOUSING TYPE

	Diploma/GED or Higher	No Diploma/GED	Unknown	Grand Total
Emergency Shelter	87	33	68	188
Sanctioned Encampment	14	9	0	23
Transitional Housing	5	3	24	32
Unsheltered	99	83	13	195
Grand Total	205	128	105	438

Special Populations

This section reviews the survey results by Chronically Homeless status, disability, age, and Veteran status.

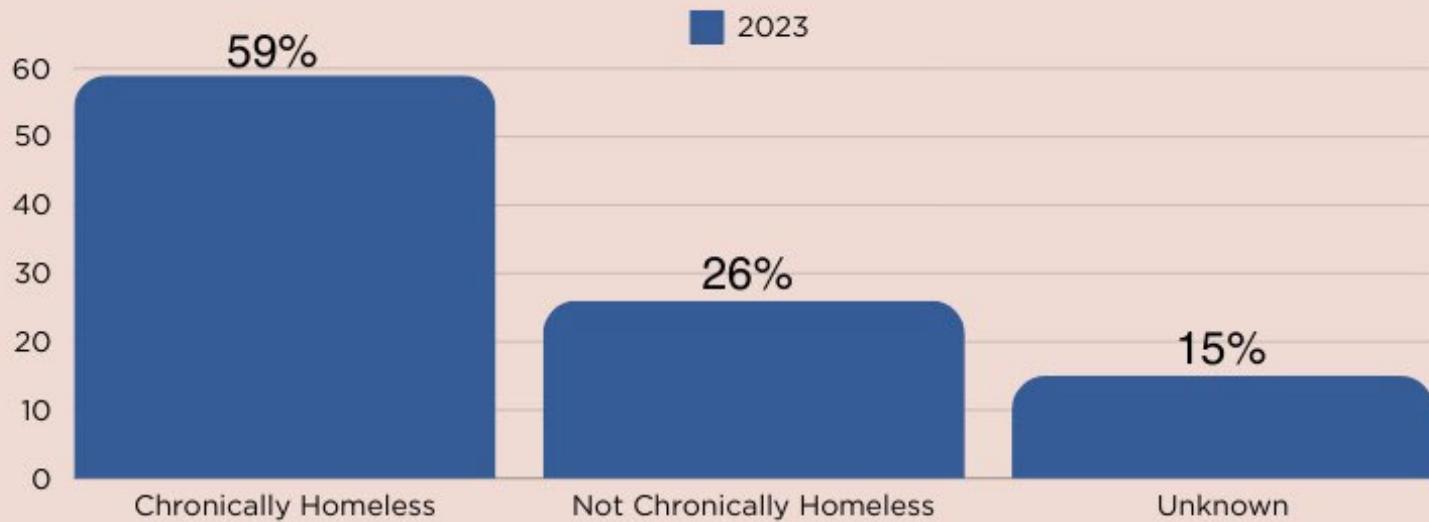
Chronically Homeless

Chronically homeless is defined as an individual with a disability who lives either in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter. The individual could also be living in an institutional care facility, if the individual has been living in the facility for fewer than 90 days and had been living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter immediately prior to entering the institutional care facility². In 2023, 191 households were identified as being chronically homeless.

² Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development, 24 CFR Parts 91 and 578; RIN 2506-AC37 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining “Chronically Homeless”. See a flowchart of this process here: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Flowchart-of-HUDs-Definition-of-Chronic-Homelessness.pdf>

Chronically Homeless Households Surveyed

HOUSEHOLDS WITH A DISABILITY WHO LIVE EITHER IN A PLACE NOT MEANT FOR HUMAN HABITATION, A SAFE HAVEN, OR IN AN EMERGENCY SHELTER.



NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED

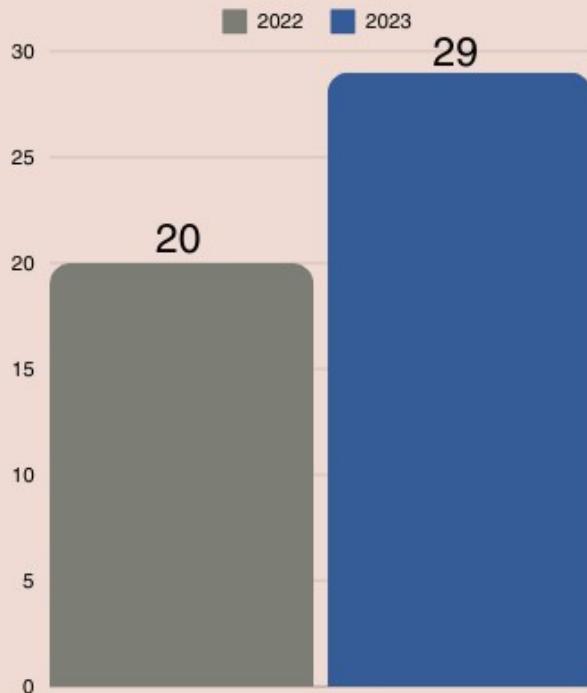
	2021	2022	2023
Unsheltered	114	128	100
Sanctioned Encampment	25	20	13
Emergency Shelter	82	83	78
Grand Total	221	231	191

Veterans

In 2023, 29 individuals surveyed identified themselves as Veterans. Of the 29 Veterans surveyed, 24.1% of them were unsheltered. Slightly under half of all Veterans were chronically homeless, with 41% identified as chronically homeless.

Individuals Surveyed Who Are Veterans

YEAR BY YEAR



PERCENT CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

	2021	2022	2023
Chronically Homeless	75%	50%	41%
Not Chronically Homeless	23%	45%	52%
Unknown	3%	5%	7%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%

BY HOUSING TYPE

	2022	2023
Emergency Shelter	7	18
Sanctioned Encampment	3	4
Transitional Housing	1	0
Unsheltered	9	7
Grand Total	20	29

RECEIVING VETERANS BENEFITS

	2021	2022	2023
Yes	50%		17%
No	50%	85%	79%
Unknown		15%	4%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%

Capacity and Utilization

The following table shows where the 394 sheltered individuals who participated in the survey resided on the night of PIT.

Type	Category	Agency	Program	Capacity	PIT Count	Utilization
Sanctioned Encampment	Sanctioned Encampment	Grace City Outreach	Camp Hope	110	29	26.4%
Emergency Shelters	DV Shelters	The Lighthouse	Domestic Violence Shelter	8	0	0%
		YWCA Yakima	Domestic Violence Shelter	44	33	75%
	Extreme Weather Shelter/ Vouchers	Grace City Outreach	Toppenish Extreme Winter Weather Shelter	75	14	18.7%
		Northwest Community Action Center	Vouchers	15	2	13.3%
		Rod's House	Young Adult Extreme Winter Weather Shelter	16	2	12.5%
		The Lighthouse	Domestic Violence Vouchers	10	0	0%
		Yakima Neighborhood Health Services	Vouchers and Cosecha	19	11	57.9%
	Family Shelters	Grace City Outreach	Portables - Families	110	13	11.8%
		Triumph Treatment Services	Family Shelter	40	22	55%
		Yakima Union Gospel Mission	Family Shelter	48	37	77.1%
	Medical Respite	Yakima Neighborhood Health Services	Medical Respite	5	5	100%
	Single Adult Shelters	Generating Hope	Noah's Ark	37	30	81.1%
		Grace City Outreach	Portables - Singles	84	43	51.2%
		Rod's House	Young Adult Emergency Housing	8	6	75%
		Yakima Union Gospel Mission	Adult Shelters	150	70	46.7%
Transitional Housing	Families and Single Adults	Village of Hope	Armory	30	10	33.3%
		Yakima Union Gospel Mission	Bridge, New Life, Discovery	68	31	45.6%
		YWCA Yakima	Transitional Housing	60	36	60%

Acknowledgements

The Yakima County Annual Point In Time Report 2023 was developed to create a report of the population experiencing homelessness in Yakima County. This long collaborative effort could not have happened without the ongoing participation and support of the following groups and individuals.

Board of County Commissioners

Special thank you to the current Yakima County Board of Commissioners:

- District 1 Commissioner Amanda McKinney

- District 2 Commissioner Kyle Curtis
- District 3 Commissioner LaDon Linde

Providers

Providers are integral to having an accurate Shelter Count of those who are currently housed. Thank you to the service providers who completed Outreach and Shelter counts:

- Generating Hope
- Grace City Outreach
- Northwest Community Action Center
- Rod's House
- The Lighthouse
- Triumph Treatment Services
- Yakama Nation (Village of Hope and Iniiitnu't Shelter)
- Yakima Union Gospel Mission
- Yakima Neighborhood Health Services
- Yakima YWCA

Questions?

For questions about the Point in Time survey or the results published in this report, please contact the Yakima County Human Services Department at HumanServices@co.yakima.wa.us, or by calling (509) 574-1365. More information about homelessness in Yakima County can be found online at www.yakimacounty.us/2390/Homeless-Housing-and-Assistance-Program.

Thank you for your interest in homelessness in Yakima County.

Appendix A: Definitions

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

A federal agency dedicated to strengthening and supporting the housing market and homeownership.

Disabling Condition

A diagnosable substance use disorder, a serious mental illness, a developmental disability, a chronic physical illness, or a disability including the co-occurrence of two or more of the previously mentioned conditions. A disabling condition limits an individual's ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living.

Domestic Violence (DV) Shelter

A shelter established to provide temporary food and shelter, counseling, and related services to survivors of domestic violence situations, such as sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence.

Emergency Shelter (ES)

Provides immediate relief from homelessness and the opportunity for service providers to assess the needs of each individual. The length of stay in an emergency shelter is typically 90 days or less.

Encampment (Sanctioned)

A safe, accessible space where individuals experiencing homelessness are residing in tents or other temporary structures, and the space is one where individuals are permitted to reside in such a fashion. Sanctioned Encampments may also operate with the presence of staff to ensure safety and provide support services to residents.

Encampment (Unsanctioned)

A term used to describe tents, cardboard shacks, and other temporary structures where individuals experiencing homelessness are residing that are not part of an established sanctioned encampment and are in areas not permitted by the government for such habitation.

Extreme Weather Shelter

A shelter open during the summer or winter months during periods of extreme weather that operate with a policy to accept anyone – drunk or sober. This is a type of shelter open only on nights when the weather is dangerous to the survival of people sleeping outdoors.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

A local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness.

Homelessness

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines four categories of homelessness:

Category 1: Literally Homeless

Individuals and families who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including on the streets or in their car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.

Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness

Individuals and families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and has no other resources or support networks to obtain permanent housing.

Category 3: Homeless under other Federal statutes

Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not meet any of the other categories but are homeless under other federal statutes, have not had a lease and have moved 2 or more times in the last 60 days, and are likely to remain unstable due to special needs or barriers.

Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV

Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and who lack resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Categories of homelessness include experiences of those who:

1. Are trading sex for housing
2. Are staying with friends, but cannot stay there longer than 14 days
3. Are being trafficked
4. Left home because of physical, emotional, or financial abuse or threats of abuse and have no safe, alternative housing

Permanent Housing (PH)

Permanent housing for individuals and families who are unable to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency. No time limitation is required.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Permanent housing for individuals and families with special needs, including physical and mental disabilities. Supportive housing provides on-site services – such as healthcare, job training, and counseling – to help people live independently in their own units.

Point in Time Count (PIT)

A survey of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

Medical Respite

Beds provided for people who need bed rest and medical care but are not sick or injured enough to be admitted to a hospital.

Transitional Housing (TH)

Time-limited housing provided with accompanying supportive services and the time needed for a household experiencing homelessness to get stabilized. Designed as a transition between emergency shelter and permanent housing. Amenities usually include a private room, a common kitchen, and laundry facilities. The length of stay is usually limited to 24 months and is usually accompanied by program steps that must be completed, intended to prepare a resident for housing and self-sufficiency.

Unaccompanied Minor

An individual under the age of 18 who is not currently residing with an adult guardian.

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. This includes (but is not limited to) a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

Youth and Young Adults (YYA)

Anyone under the age of 25.

Appendix B: Yakima County 2023 Point in Time Survey

English

2023 Point in Time Survey

Location of Interview _____			Surveyor's First/Last Name _____			Date _____																		
Is the household actively fleeing domestic violence? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			Note: If YES, ONLY collect birth year - DO NOT record initials or exact birth date or sign consent form on back!																					
Relation to HoH	Name		Birthday		Population Data			Education		Disability														
	First	Last	Month	Day	Year	Gender ¹	Sexual Orientation ²	Veteran?	Race ³	Enrolled?	Parents enrolled?	Hispanic or Latino?	Less than 9 th	Some HS	Diploma/GED	Some College	AA Degree	BA or Higher	Chronic Sub. Abuse	Developmental	Mental Health	Perm. Physical	Chronic Health	
Self																								
If an individual is enrolled as a member of a federally recognized Tribe, what is their tribal affiliation? _____																								
1 - Male (M), Female (F), A gender that is not singularly 'Female' or 'Male' (D) Transgender (T) Questioning (Q), Refused (R)																								
2 - Heterosexual (C), Homosexual (H), Bisexual (B), Asexual (A), Questioning(Q), Pansexual (P), Refused (R), Other (O)																								
3 - White (W), Black, or African American, or African (B), Asian or Asian American (A), American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous (I), Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (H), Refused (R)																								
What month & year did you become homeless this time? _____ / _____ / _____									Where did you live when you became homeless? _____															
Has any adult or minor head of household been continuously without housing for a year or more? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No									(If yes – skip to where they stayed last night)															
Has any adult in the household or minor head of household been without housing 4 or more times in the last 3 years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No									Do these times without housing, added together, amount to a year or more? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No															
What City did you stay in last night? _____									(Use the table below to indicate what type of housing they stayed in last night)															
<input type="checkbox"/> Out of Doors			<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle			<input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned Building			<input type="checkbox"/> RV/Boat			<input type="checkbox"/> Temporarily w/ Family or Friends			<input type="checkbox"/> Jail/Prison			<input type="checkbox"/> Institution or Facility			<input type="checkbox"/> Camp Hope			
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter _____			<input type="checkbox"/> TH _____			<input type="checkbox"/> Other – Specify _____																		
Source(s) of Household Income and Benefits Check all that apply. Cash income only (i.e., no food stamps, etc.). <input type="checkbox"/> Refused <input type="checkbox"/> None																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Panhandling			<input type="checkbox"/> TANF			<input type="checkbox"/> Medicare/Medicaid			<input type="checkbox"/> Relatives/Friends			<input type="checkbox"/> SSI/SSDI			<input type="checkbox"/> Part Time Employment			<input type="checkbox"/> Full Time Employment			<input type="checkbox"/> Under the Table/Informal Employment			
<input type="checkbox"/> Per Capita			<input type="checkbox"/> Temp Disability/ABD			<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment Income			<input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Seasonal Employment															

What circumstances contributed the most to your homelessness? Refused None

Housing & Economic	COVID Related?	System & Legal	Health Issues	COVID Related?	Family Conflict
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Loss/unemployment	Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Discharged from hospital or other medical facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental illness	Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence
<input type="checkbox"/> Eviction/Loss of housing	Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Discharged from criminal/juvenile justice system	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical health/disability	Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian mental health/substance abuse
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of job training/ unable to work	Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Aged out of foster care	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/substance abuse	Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Rejection/Kicked Out
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of childcare	Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to pay rent/mortgage	<input type="checkbox"/> Illness	Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical costs

Client Release of Information and Informed Consent

IMPORTANT: Do not enter personally identifying information into HMIS for clients who are: 1) in DV agencies or; 2) currently fleeing or in danger from a domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking situation; 3) are being served in a program that requires disclosure of HIV/AIDS status (i.e.; HOPWA); or 4) under 13 with no parent or guardian available to consent to enter the minor's information in HMIS. *If this applies to you, STOP- Do not sign this form.*

This agency participated 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):

Child 1

Child 2

Child 3

Child 4

HoH Signature

Adult 1

Adult 2

Adult 3

Spanish

2023 Encuesta Prevalencia

Ubicación de Entrevista _____ Primer nombre y apellido del Entrevistador _____ Fecha _____
¿El hogar está activamente huyendo de violencia doméstica? Sí No Nota: ¡Si es así, SOLAMENTE tome año de nacimiento- NO registrar iniciales o fecha exacta de nacimiento o firme forma de consentimiento en la parte posterior!

Fuente(s) de Ingresos del Hogar y Beneficios Marque todos que apliquen. Efectivo solamente (por ejemplo, no cupones de alimentos, etc.) Rechazo Ninguno

<input type="checkbox"/> Mendigar	<input type="checkbox"/> TANF	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicare/Medicaid	<input type="checkbox"/> Parientes/Amigos
<input type="checkbox"/> SSI/SSDI	<input type="checkbox"/> Trabajo a medio tiempo	<input type="checkbox"/> Trabajo a tiempo completo	<input type="checkbox"/> Ingresos debajo la mesa/Emploee informal
<input type="checkbox"/> Per cápita	<input type="checkbox"/> Discapacidad temporal/ ABD	<input type="checkbox"/> Ingreso de Desempleo	<input type="checkbox"/> Rancho/Emploee estacional

¿Qué circunstancias contribuyó más a su falta de vivienda? Rechazo Ninguno

Vivienda y Económico	Relacionado con COVID?	Sistema y Legal	Problemas de Salud	Relacionado con COVID?	Conflictos Familiares
<input type="checkbox"/> Pérdida de empleo/Desempleado	Sí No	<input type="checkbox"/> Dado de alta del hospital u otro centro médico	<input type="checkbox"/> Enfermedad mental	Sí No	<input type="checkbox"/> Violencia Doméstica
<input type="checkbox"/> Desalojo/Perdida de vivienda	Sí No	<input type="checkbox"/> Dado de baja del sistema de justicia penal/juvenil	<input type="checkbox"/> Salud física/discapacidad	Sí No	<input type="checkbox"/> Tutor de salud mental/abuso de sustancias
<input type="checkbox"/> Falta de capacitación laboral/incapaz de trabajar	Sí No	<input type="checkbox"/> Envejecido/a fuera del cuidado de crianza	<input type="checkbox"/> Abuso de alcohol/sustancias	Sí No	<input type="checkbox"/> Rechazo familiar/expulsión
Falta de cuidado de niños	Sí No	<input type="checkbox"/> Incapaz de pagar el alquiler/la hipoteca	<input type="checkbox"/> Enfermedad	Sí No	<input type="checkbox"/> Gastos médicos

Información de Divulgación del Cliente y Consentimiento Informado

IMPORANTE: No ingrese información de identificación personal de HMIS para clientes que son: 1) en agencias de violencia doméstica o; 2) actualmente huyendo o en peligro de una situación de violencia doméstica, violencia de pareja, agresión sexual o acoso; 3) están siendo atendidos en un programa que requiere la divulgación de su estado de VIH/SIDA (por ejemplo, HOPWA); o 4) menores de 13 años sin parentesco o tutor disponible para dar su consentimiento para ingresar la información del menor en HMIS. Si esto aplica a usted, **ALTO- No firme este formulario.**

Esta agencia participa en el Sistema de Información de Gestión de Personas Sin Hogar del Estado de Washington (HMIS), recopilando información, a lo largo del tiempo, sobre las características y las necesidades de servicio de las personas sin hogar. **RCW 43.185C.180**

- Para brindar los servicios más efectivos para trasladar a las personas sin hogar a una vivienda permanente, necesitamos un recuento preciso de todas las personas sin hogar en el estado de Washington. Para asegurarnos de que los clientes no se cuenten dos veces, necesitamos recopilar cuatro piezas de información de identificación personal. Específicamente, recopilamos: nombre, fecha de nacimiento, y raza/etnicidad. También puede optar por proporcionar su número de seguro social. Sin embargo, firmar este formulario no requiere que lo haga. Su información se almacenará en nuestra base de datos durante 7 años después de la última fecha de servicio. Si tiene pregunta sobre la recopilación de datos o sus derechos con respecto a su información de identificación personal, comuníquese con el Administrador del Sistema HMIS al: (360) 725-3028.
- Utilizamos estrictas políticas de seguridad diseñadas para proteger su privacidad. Nuestro sistema informático es muy seguro y utiliza funciones de protección actualizadas, como el cifrado de datos, contraseñas ya autenticación de dos factores, que se requieren para cada usuario del sistema. Existe un pequeño riesgo de una violencia de seguridad, y alguien podría obtener y usar su información de manera inapropiada. Si alguna vez sospecha que los datos en HMIS se han usado indebidamente, administrador del sistema HMIS al: (360) 725-3028.
- Los datos que proporciona pueden combinarse con datos del Departamento de Servicios Sociales y de Salud del Estado de Washington (DSHS) y el Centro de Investigación y Datos Educativos con el fin de realizar un análisis más detallado. Su nombre y otra información de identificación no se incluirán en ningún informe o publicación. Solo un número limitado de miembros del personal que hayan firmado acuerdos de confidencialidad podrán ver esta información. Su información no se utilizará para determinar la elegibilidad para los programas de DSHS. Los administradores para los programas de DSHS. Los administradores del sistema HMIS del estado de Washington tienen acceso completo a toda la información en HMIS. Esto incluye al personal del Departamento de Comercio, administradores de sistemas HMIS designados, y el proveedor de software.
- Al firmar este formulario, usted reconoce y permite que el personal del Departamento de Comercio obtenga registros adicionales de información de otras agencias estatales con las que existe un acuerdo de intercambio de datos (DSA) archivado entre el Departamento de Comercio y los demás datos que ha proporcionado a otras agencias del estado de Washington.
- Su decisión de participar en el HMIS no afectará la calidad, la cantidad o los servicios para los que es elegible para recibir de esta agencia, y no se utilizará para negar alcance, asistencia, refugio o vivienda. Sin embargo, si elige participar, los servicios en la región pueden mejorar si tenemos información precisa sobre las personas sin hogar y los servicios que necesitan. Además, algunos financiadores PUEDEN requerir que usted de su consentimiento para proporcionar su información de identificación personal en HMIS para recibir servicios de esa fuente de financiamiento.

Entiendo las declaraciones anteriores y doy mi consentimiento para la inclusión de información de identificación personal HMIS sobre mí y cualquier dependiente personal HMIS sobre mí y cualquier dependiente que se detalla a continuación, y autorizo que la información recopilada se comparta con agencias asociadas. Entiendo que mi información de identificación personal no se hará pública y solo se utilizará con estricta confidencialidad. También entiendo que puedo retirar mi consentimiento en cualquier momento presentando un formulario de 'Revocación de Consentimiento del cliente' con esta agencia. Entiendo que puedo obtener una copia de mi formulario de consentimiento firmado de esta Agencia (incluidos los formularios firmados electrónicamente).

Hijos dependientes menores de 18 años en el hogar, si los hay (Por favor escriba primer nombre y apellido):

Nino/a 1

Nino/a 2

Nino/a 3

Nino/a 4

Firma de Cabeza de Familia

Adulto 1

Adulto 2

Adulto 3