SEATTLE/KING COUNTY
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF
PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

2017

COUNT US IN

ALL**HOME**

ABOUT ALL HOME

All Home is the lead agency for the Seattle/King County Continuum of Care. All Home's vision is that homelessness is rare in King County, racial disparities are eliminated, and if one becomes homeless, it is a brief and only one-time occurrence.

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ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a social research firm dedicated to helping people build better communities by collecting meaningful data, facilitating information-based planning, and developing custom strategies. The firm was founded on the principle that community improvement, initiative sustainability, and program success are closely tied to assessment needs, evaluation of community goals, and development of appropriate responses. Applied Survey Research has over 18 years of experience conducting Point-in-Time Counts throughout California and across the nation. Their work is featured as a best practice in HUD's publication: *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*.

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Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

As the lead agency for the Seattle/King County Continuum of Care (CoC), All Home is responsible for conducting and reporting the findings of the local Point-in-Time Count in the annual funding application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These findings ultimately help communities and the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide, and inform local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience in King County.

METHODOLOGY CHANGES

Formerly known as the One Night Count, Count Us In is the annual Point-in-Time Count of individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. This year, All Home worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research to conduct 2017 Count Us In, implementing new and improved data collection methods for obtaining comprehensive, accurate, and actionable data on the local population experiencing homelessness.

Key changes to the methodology of the 2017 Point-in-Time Count in Seattle/King County included:

- Countywide participation of paid guides and surveyors, who were individuals with current or recent lived experience with homelessness engaged in the data collection process;

- A shift from a "known areas" approach for the general street count to a canvassing of census tracts in King County;

- A sample-based qualitative survey including shelter and service locations, as well as street locations; and

- The incorporation of a youth and young adult count component focused on unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years of age, previously conducted separately from the Point-in-Time Count.

Increased coverage during the general street count featured heightened outreach to individuals living in vehicles and in encampments, as well as in areas of the county beyond the urban cores. This was achieved through increased partnerships with individuals with lived experience, outreach workers, experts in vehicle residency, and community stakeholders familiar with specific areas and encampments.

In addition to helping understand the experiences and needs of individuals experiencing homelessness across Seattle/King County, survey data collected in the weeks following the street count were used to estimate the number of individuals living in vehicles, tents, and abandoned buildings. Individual multipliers for individuals residing in these locations were developed based on survey data, and applied to the number of vehicles and structures observed on the night of the street count where the number of individuals residing in these settings was unknown. Further, survey data were used to estimate the size of certain subpopulations by applying percentages of survey respondents meeting the definition of chronic homelessness and identifying as veterans to the number of individuals, youth, and families identified during the general street count.

Due to the significant changes in the count methodology in 2017, caution is advised in noting trends from previous years' count data, which will not be presented in this report. This is especially true of subpopulation data, where the survey effort was able to provide significantly more reliable data about the unsheltered population. This year's report establishes a new baseline for Seattle/King County.

IMPLEMENTATION

With over 160 individuals with lived experience of homelessness, nearly 600 community volunteers, staff from various city and county departments, and other community partners dedicated to ending homelessness, Count Us In was a comprehensive community effort. This resulted in completing the following core components of Count Us In:

1) General Street Count – a peer-informed visual count of unsheltered individuals, conducted between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM in most areas on January 27, 2017, with more rural or remote locations covered at daybreak on the same day;

2) Youth and Young Adult Count – a focused, survey-based count of unsheltered, unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, conducted at both site-based and street-based locations throughout the day on January 27, 2017;

3) Sheltered Count – a count of individuals residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven programs the night prior to the general street count; and

4) Survey – an in-person representative survey of unsheltered and sheltered individuals conducted by peer surveyors in the weeks following the general street count.

COUNT US IN REPORT

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County on a single night in January. Special attention is given to specific subpopulations, including those experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24.

In this report, the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count is used. This definition includes individuals and families who:

- Are living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter (including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe havens) designated to provide temporary living arrangements; or

- 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, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground (including any sanctioned or unsanctioned encampment location).
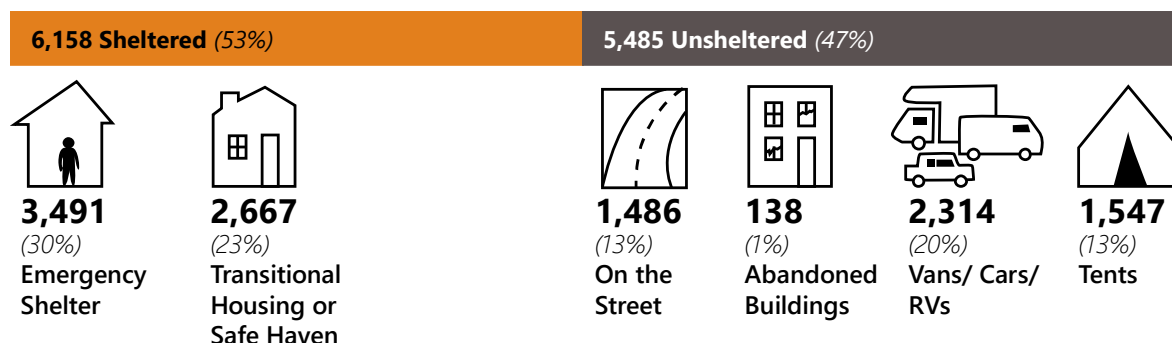
Data presented in this report are sourced from the four components of the count, and frequently from a combination of components. The sources of data are cited below each finding, and detailed information on the methodology can be found in *Appendix 1*.

COUNT US IN RESULTS

On the night of the 2017 Point-in-Time Count in Seattle/King County, there were 11,643 people experiencing homelessness

A total of 11,643 individuals experiencing homelessness were counted on January 27, 2017. Forty-seven percent (47%) of the population was unsheltered, living on the street, in parks, encampments, vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation.

FIGURE 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

6,158 Sheltered *(53%)*		5,485 Unsheltered *(47%)*			
3,491 *(30%)* Emergency Shelter	**2,667** *(23%)* Transitional Housing or Safe Haven	**1,486** *(13%)* On the Street	**138** *(1%)* Abandoned Buildings	**2,314** *(20%)* Vans/ Cars/ RVs	**1,547** *(13%)* Tents

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

People experiencing homelessness are our neighbors

During the Count Us In Survey, seventy-seven percent (77%) of respondents reported living in King County at the time they most recently lost their housing. Twenty percent (20%) of survey respondents reported being born or growing up in King County, and 24% reported having lived in King County for a decade or longer.

Seventy percent (70%) of the county's unsheltered population identified during the street count were residing in Seattle. Seattle was also the location of the majority (76%) of individuals residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe havens on the night of the count. Twenty percent (20%) of unsheltered individuals were residing in the Southwest region; this area includes the cities of Renton, Burien, Auburn and Kent. Lower percentages of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness were residing in East County (5%), Northeast County (2%), North County (1%), and Southeast County (1%). For regional definitions, please see *Appendix 5*.

	2017			
	UNSHELTERED		SHELTERED	
REGION	%	*n*	%	*n*
East County	5%	284	6%	347
North County	1%	53	2%	148
Northeast County	2%	119	1%	47
Seattle	70%	3,857	76%	4,665
Southwest County	20%	1,102	15%	915
Southeast County	1%	70	1%	36
TOTAL	**100%**	**5,485**	**100%**	**6,158**

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, and Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1. For regional definitions, please see Appendix 5.

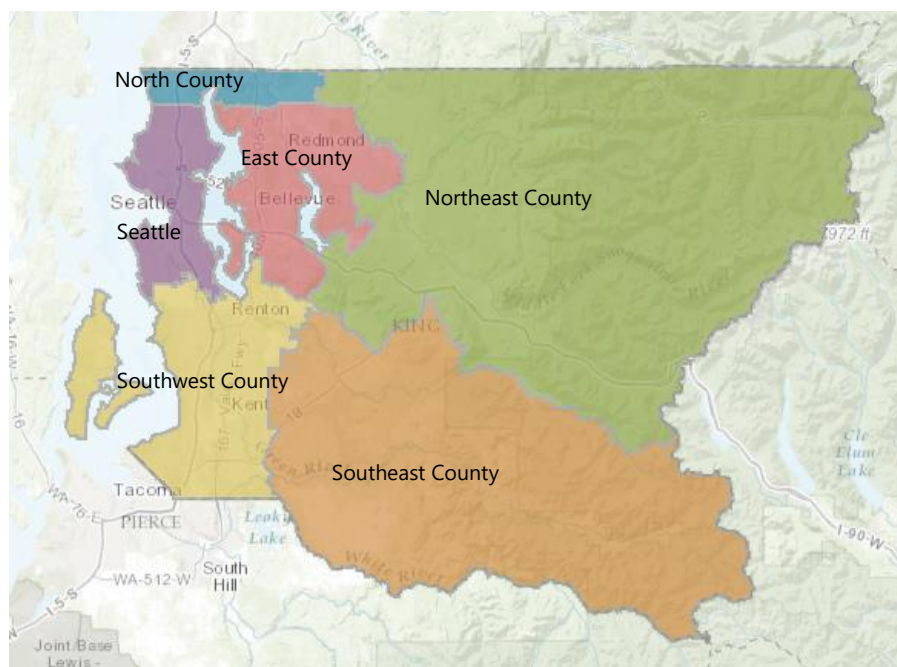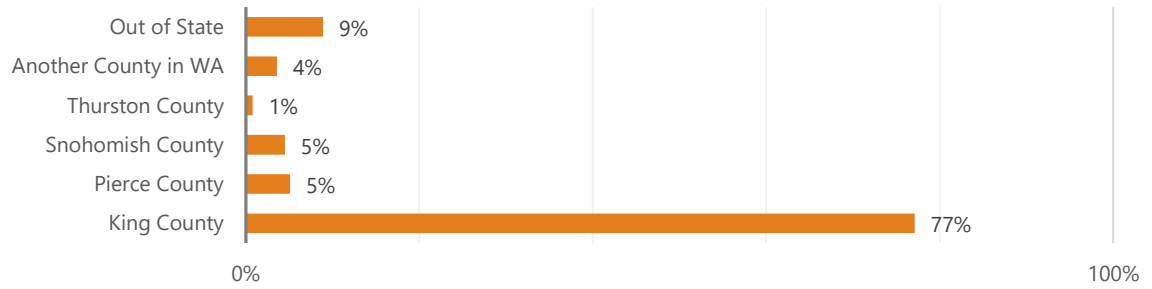*Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.*

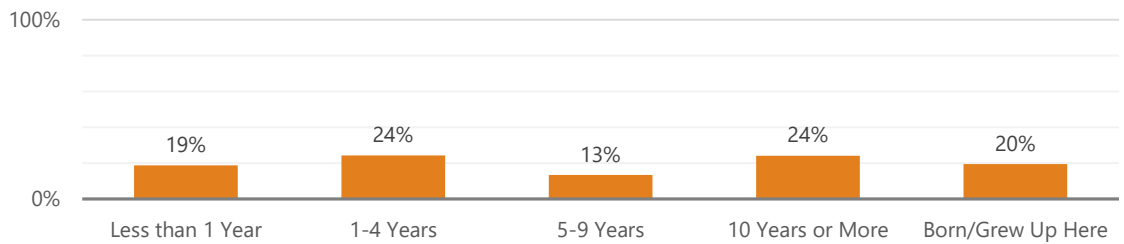FIGURE 2. WHERE WERE YOU LIVING AT THE TIME YOU MOST RECENTLY LOST YOUR HOUSING?

2017 n=866

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN KING COUNTY?

2017 n=845

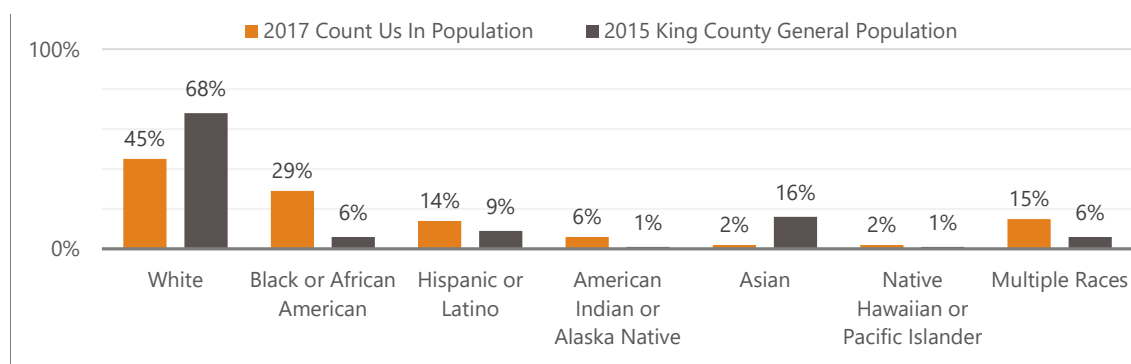*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.*

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

About our neighbors experiencing homelessness

Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color

In 2017, approximately 55% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County identified as people of color. When compared to the demographic racial profiles of the county's general population, the largest disparities were observed among those who identified as Black or African American (29% compared to 6%), Hispanic or Latino (14% compared to 9%), American Indian or Alaska Native (6% compared to 1%), and with multiple races (15% compared to 6%).

FIGURE 4. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

2017 n=11,643

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2016). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov

Count Us In Population includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Young people identified themselves as LGBTQ at higher rates than other survey respondents

The majority of Count Us In survey respondents identified as straight (82%), while 7% identified as bisexual, 5% identified as gay or lesbian, and 2% identified as queer. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years old identified as LGBTQ, compared to 14% of other survey respondents.

An estimated 2,773 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness

Chronic homelessness is defined as sleeping in places not meant for human habitation or staying in emergency shelters for a year or longer, or experiencing at least four such episodes of homelessness in the last three years, *and* also living with a disabling condition such as a chronic health problem, psychiatric or emotional condition, or physical disability. On the night of Count Us In, 64% of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were unsheltered and 36% were residing in sheltered locations.

An estimated 1,329 individuals identified as veterans

Over half (52%) of veterans were unsheltered, while 48% were sheltered on the night of Count Us In. Approximately 32% of veterans were experiencing chronic homelessness, while 28 veterans were part of family households.

An estimated 2,833 individuals were in families with children

These individuals represented 905 family households, 135 of which were households headed by a young parent under 25 years of age. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of persons in families were sheltered on the night of the count, while 3% were unsheltered.

An estimated 1,498 individuals were unaccompanied youth and young adults

These young people represent 13% of the total count population, and comprise unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years of age, including 221 unaccompanied minors under 18 years old. Over three-quarters (76%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults were unsheltered, while 24% were sheltered on the night of the count.

## Experience with domestic violence and foster care

Forty percent (40%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported a history of domestic violence or partner abuse, with 7% reporting that they were currently experiencing domestic violence. Among all survey respondents, 58% of individuals identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ); 54% of families with children; and 43% of unaccompanied youth and young adults reported histories of domestic violence. These groups of individuals also reported domestic or family violence as the primary cause of their homelessness at higher rates when compared to other survey respondents.

Nineteen percent (19%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported a history of foster care, with rates of foster care involvement highest among respondents identifying as LGBTQ (33%) and unaccompanied young people under 25 years of age (29%).

Behavioral health

Half (50%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported at least one disabling condition, and among those individuals 66% reported living with two or more disabling conditions. Behavioral health conditions were the most frequently reported disabling conditions among Count Us In survey respondents, with 45% experiencing psychiatric or emotional conditions, 36% reporting drug or alcohol abuse, and 34% living with post-traumatic stress disorder.

FIGURE 5. DISABLING CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS
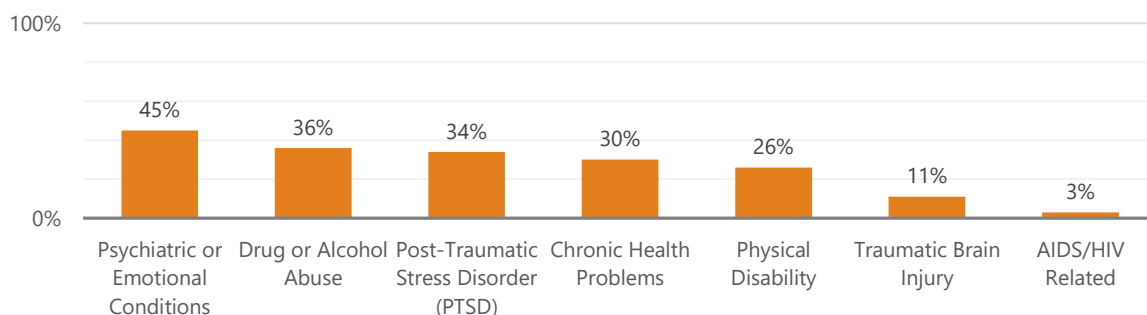
2017 n=1,158

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In. Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.
*Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.*

Housing ends homelessness

Ninety-two percent (92%) of Count Us In survey respondents said they would move into safe and affordable housing if it were offered. Although not necessarily residing in shelter on the night of the count, 42% of respondents reported accessing emergency shelter and 33% reported accessing transitional housing programs.

Prior to losing their housing, nearly three-quarters of Count Us In survey respondents reported living either in a home owned or rented by themselves or their partner (43%), or with friends or relatives (31%). Approximately 23% of survey respondents indicated that issues related to housing affordability were the primary conditions leading to their homelessness, including eviction (11%), inability to afford a rent increase (6%), family or friend could no longer afford to let them stay (4%), and foreclosure (2%).

When asked what would help individuals experiencing homelessness to obtain permanent housing, Count Us In survey respondents reported more affordable housing and rental assistance (73%) as key to ending their homelessness.

FIGURE 6. WHAT WOULD HELP YOU OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING?
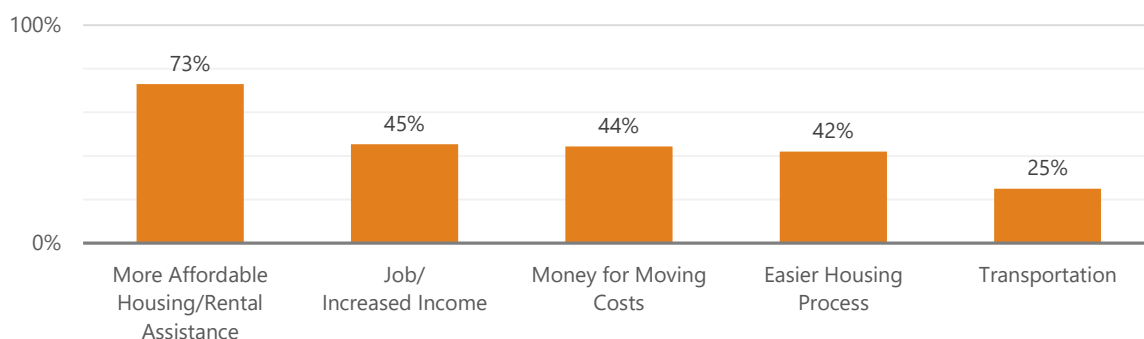
2017 n= 867
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Overall, these findings compare with similar local research and other cities up and down the West Coast

Findings of the 2017 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count are consistent with other research efforts of Applied Survey Research, including its *2016 City of Seattle Homeless Needs Assessment* and Point-in-Time Count efforts in other West Coast communities.[1]

Noted similarities include:

- Individuals experiencing homelessness are generally from the community

- Overrepresentation of people of color and people who identify as LGBTQ compared to the general population

- High rates of domestic violence and abuse, particularly among families and young people

- Large numbers of individuals residing in encampments or in vehicles

- Significant need for behavioral health services and treatment

- Strong desire for affordable housing and need for financial resources to achieve housing stability, including increased income, rental assistance, and money for moving costs

- Challenges in navigating current services, from basic logistics of transportation and personal documentation to organizational and systemic issues related to outreach, staff follow-up, and program eligibility

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[1] Applied Survey Research. (2017, April). *City of Seattle 2016 Homeless Needs Assessment.* Retrieved from http://coshumaninterests.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/City-of-Seattle-Report-FINAL-with-4.11.17-additions.pdf

Count Us In Findings

The 2017 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count included an enumeration of individuals experiencing homelessness living unsheltered, or in sheltered locations listed in the housing inventory chart. The general street count was conducted on January 27, 2017 from approximately 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM, and covered the entire geography of Seattle/King County. The sheltered count referenced shelter occupancy of the previous evening, and included all individuals residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and safe havens.
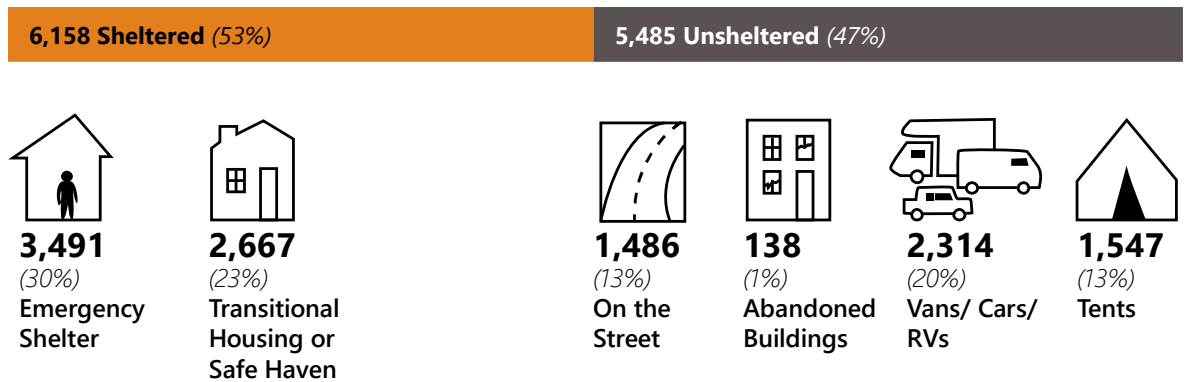
The methodology used in 2017 for Count Us In is commonly described as a "blitz count" since it is conducted by a large team over a very short period of time. As this method was conducted in Seattle/King County, the result was an observation-based count of individuals and families who appeared to be experiencing homelessness. The count was then followed by an in-person representative survey, the results of which were used to estimate the characteristics of the local population experiencing homelessness. Information collected from the survey is also used to inform local service delivery and strategic planning efforts, and to fulfill federal reporting requirements.

In a continuing effort to improve data on the extent of youth homelessness, Seattle/King County also conducted a dedicated, survey-based youth and young adult count. The specialized youth and young adult count methodology was improved in 2017 to better ensure unaccompanied young people under 25 years of age were represented in both the general street count and youth and young adult count. For more information regarding the youth and young adult count, de-duplication, and project methodology, please see *Appendix 1*. For complete count findings, please see *Appendix 2*.

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SEATTLE/KING COUNTY

A total of 11,643 individuals were counted in Seattle/King County on January 27, 2017. Forty-seven percent (47%) of the population was unsheltered, living on the street, in parks, encampments, vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation.

FIGURE 7. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

6,158 Sheltered *(53%)*	5,485 Unsheltered *(47%)*

3,491
(30%)
Emergency Shelter

2,667
(23%)
Transitional Housing or Safe Haven

1,486
(13%)
On the Street

138
(1%)
Abandoned Buildings

2,314
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Tents

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Seventy percent (70%) of the county's unsheltered population was residing in Seattle on the night of the count. Twenty percent (20%) were residing in the Southwest region; this area includes the cities of Renton, Burien, Auburn and Kent. Seattle was also the location of the majority (76%) of individuals residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe havens on the night of the count.

FIGURE 8. NUMBER OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY REGION AND SHELTER STATUS

| | 2017 | | | |
| | UNSHELTERED | | SHELTERED | |
REGION	%	n	%	n
East County	5%	284	6%	347
North County	1%	53	2%	148
Northeast County	2%	119	1%	47
Seattle	70%	3,857	76%	4,665
Southwest County	20%	1,102	15%	915
Southeast County	1%	70	1%	36
TOTAL	**100%**	**5,485**	**100%**	**6,158**

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1. For regional definitions, see Appendix 5.
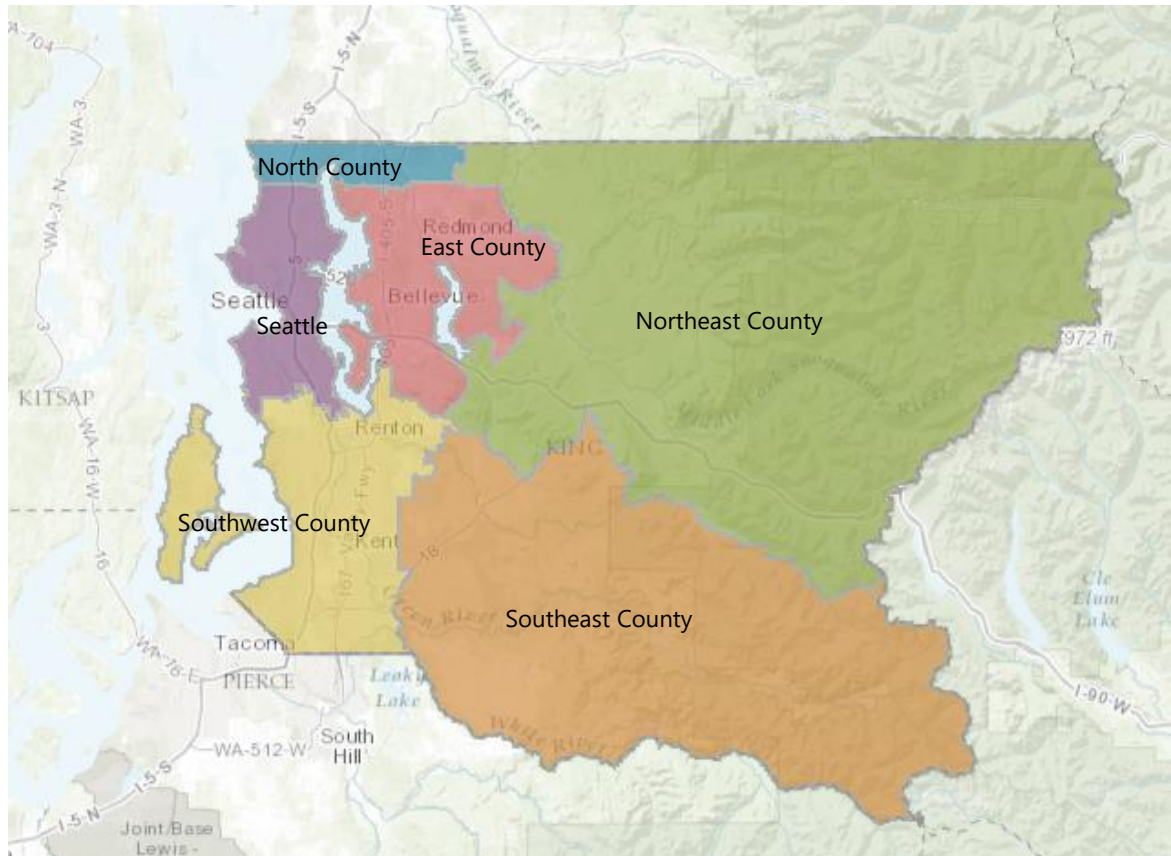
Nearly three-quarters (74%) of individuals experiencing homelessness were in households comprised of adults with no children, and 24% were individuals in family households with at least one adult and one child. Unaccompanied youth under 18 years old, or individuals in households with only children, represented less than 3% of the total count population.

FIGURE 9. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY AGE, SHELTER STATUS, AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE
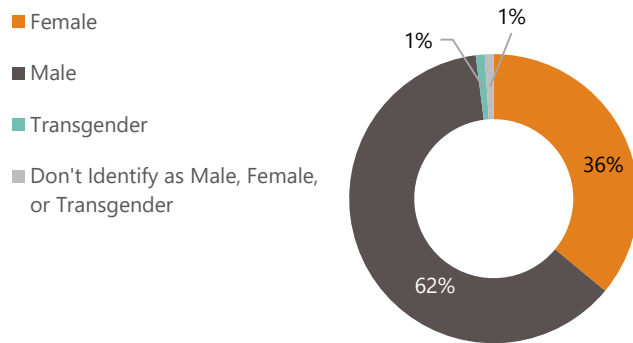
	2017				
	YOUTH UNDER 18	YOUNG ADULTS 18-24	ADULTS OVER 24	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Sheltered	1,677	535	3,946	6,158	53%
Individuals in family households	1,647	205	900	2,752	24%
Individuals in households with no children	--	330	3,046	3,376	29%
Individuals in households with only children	30	--	--	30	<1%
Unsheltered	237	953	4,295	5,485	47%
Individuals in family households	42	6	33	81	1%
Individuals in households with no children	--	947	4,262	5,209	45%
Individuals in households with only children	195	--	--	195	2%
Total	1,914	1,488	8,241	11,643	100%
Percent	**16%**	**13%**	**71%**	**100%**	**--**

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Family households are defined by households with at least one adult and one child. Households without children include households with one or more adults, but no children. Households with only children include households with one or more children, but no adults. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

An estimated majority of individuals experiencing homelessness identified as male (62%). Thirty-six percent (36%) of individuals identified as female, 1% identified as transgender, and 1% identified as neither male, female, nor transgender.

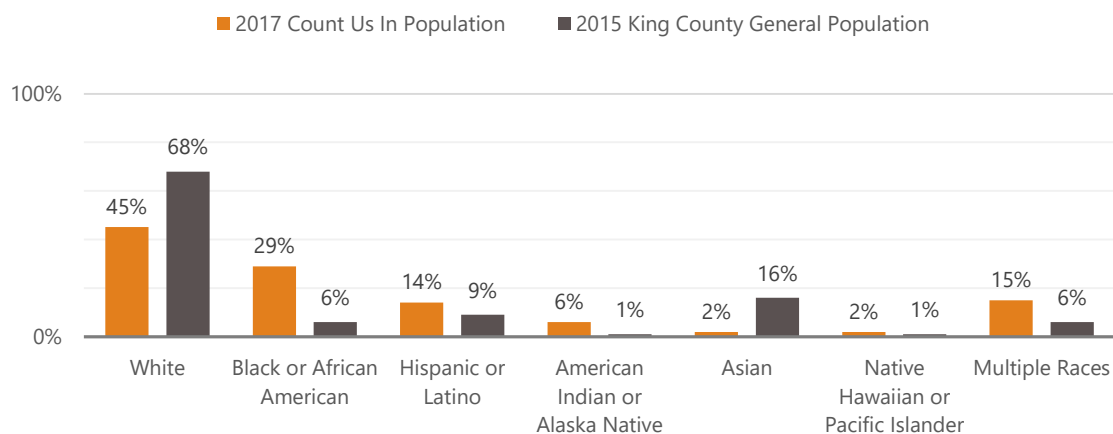FIGURE 10. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY GENDER

2017 n=11,643

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey, Sheltered Count. For unsheltered individuals, gender percentages from the survey were applied to the general street count population. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

In 2017, an estimated 55% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County identified as people of color. An estimated 45% of individuals identified as White, and 29% identified as Black or African American. Fifteen percent (15%) of individuals identified with multiple races, 6% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 2% identified as Asian, and 2% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. When compared to the demographic racial profiles of Seattle/King County's general population, the largest disparities were observed among those identifying as Black or African American (29% compared to 6%), Hispanic or Latino (14% compared to 9%), American Indian or Alaska Native (6% compared to 1%), and multiple races (15% compared to 6%).

FIGURE 11. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

2017 n=11,643

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In. Count Us In Population includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey, Sheltered Count. For unsheltered individuals, percentages of race and ethnicity from the survey were applied to the general street count population. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2016). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Count Us In Survey Findings

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of 2017 Seattle/King County Count Us In. Surveys were administered to a randomized sample of individuals experiencing homelessness in the weeks immediately following the general street count. Data collected through this survey effort was used to profile and estimate the characteristics of the local population experiencing homelessness in order to inform local service delivery and strategic planning efforts, and to fulfill HUD reporting requirements. Please note that the findings presented in this section only include individuals responding to the Count Us In survey and young people responding to the survey-based youth and young adult count.

The 2017 Count Us In survey effort resulted in 1,158 complete and unique surveys, which include eligible surveys completed as part of the youth and young adult count effort. Based on a point-in-time estimate of 11,643 individuals experiencing homelessness, these 1,158 surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 2.7% with a 95% confidence level when generating the results of the survey to the estimated population of persons experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be confident that the results would be within 2.7% percentage points of the reported results.

In order to respect the privacy and ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Missing values are intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted.

For more information regarding the survey methodology, please see *Appendix 1*. For complete survey findings, please see *Appendix 3*.

Survey Demographics

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, respondents were asked basic demographic questions including age, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

AGE

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of Count Us In survey respondents were over 24 years of age. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 represented almost one-quarter (23%) of all survey respondents while youth under the age of 18 represented 4% of all survey respondents.

FIGURE 12. AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS
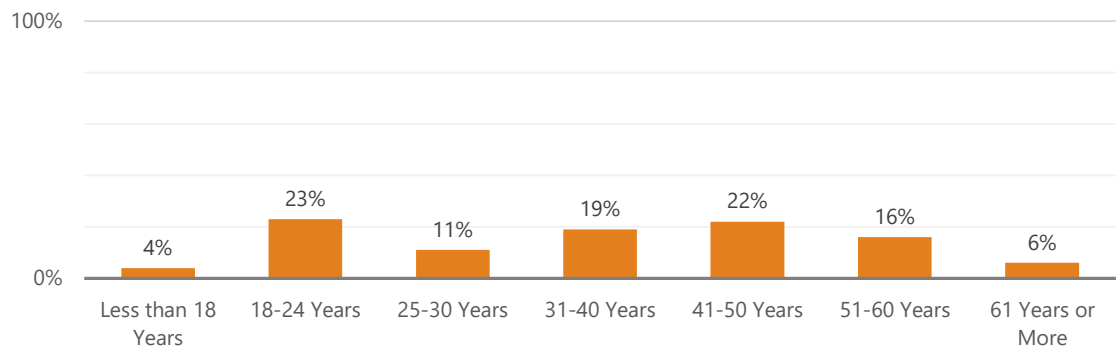
2017 n= 1,158

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
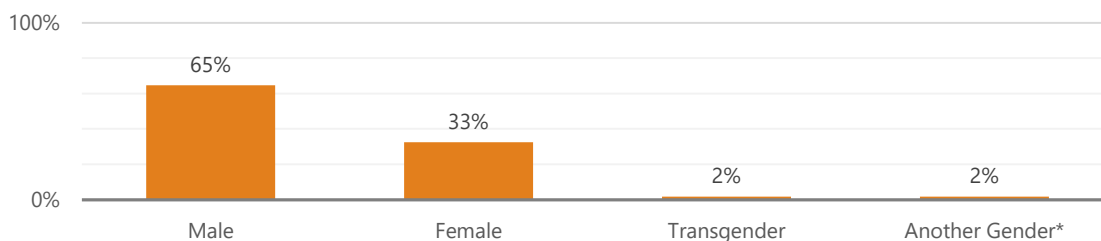*For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.*

GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Sixty-five percent (65%) of survey respondents identified as male, 33% identified as female, 2% identified as transgender, and 2% identified as another gender (e.g. gender-queer, gender non-conforming, or non-binary).

The Gallup U.S. Daily survey found that 4.8% of the general population living in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue region identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.[2] Approximately eighteen percent (18%) of Count Us In survey respondents across Seattle/King County identified their sexual orientation as either lesbian or gay (5%), queer (2%), bisexual (7%), questioning (2%), pansexual (1%) or other (1%). While limited data are available on the number of LGBTQ individuals experiencing homelessness, available data suggest LGBTQ individuals experience homelessness at higher rates – especially among those under 25 years of age.

Survey respondents who identified as LGBTQ reported experiencing homelessness for the first time at a lower rate than non-LGBTQ survey respondents (30% compared to 37%). LGBTQ survey respondents also reported experiencing long-term homelessness of a year or more at lower rates than their non-LGBTQ peers (54% compared to 60%).

FIGURE 13. GENDER IDENTITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 n=1,142

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
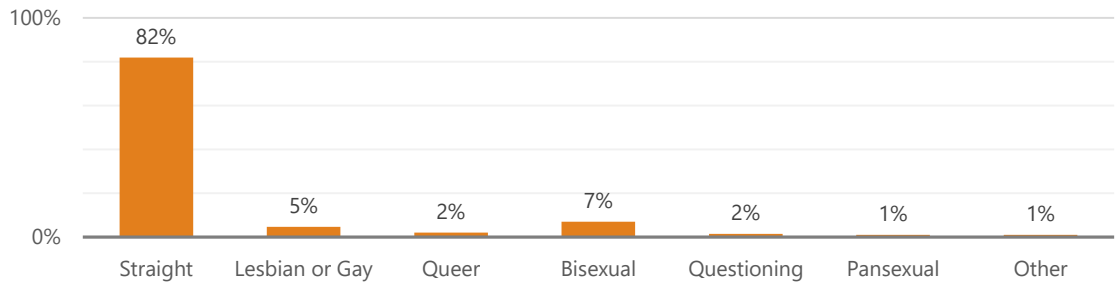*Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.*

* Includes respondents whose reported gender categories represent <1% of the total, including Gender-queer; Gender non-conforming; Non-binary; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender; and Other not listed. Together, these gender categories represent approximately 2% of all responses.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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[2] Newport, F. Gates, GJ. (2015, March 20). San Francisco Metro Area Ranks Highest in LGBT Percentage. Retrieved from http://www.gallup.com/poll/182051/san-francisco-metro-area-ranks-highest-lgbt-percentage.aspx?utm_source=genericbutton&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=sharing

FIGURE 14. SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 n=1,135

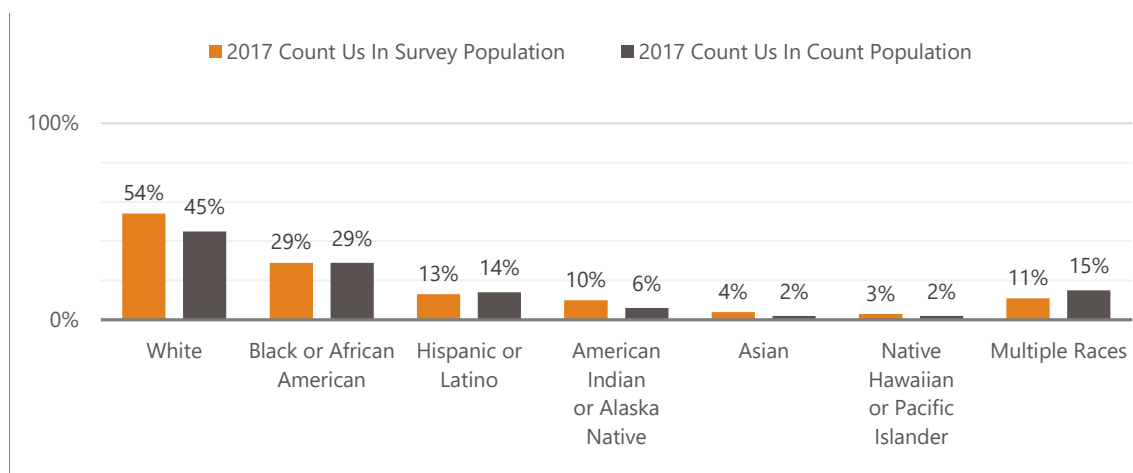*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.*
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

When compared to the entire count population, the race and ethnicity of individuals responding to the Count Us In survey differed across most categories. Survey respondents identified as White, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander at higher rates, and as Hispanic or Latino or with multiple races at lower rates than the general count population. Fifty-four percent (54%) of Count Us In survey respondents identified as White, 29% as Black or African American, 13% as Hispanic or Latino, 11% as multiple races, 10% as American Indian or Alaska Native, 4% as Asian, and 3% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 11% with multiple races.

FIGURE 15. RACE AND ETHNICITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 Count Us In Survey Population n= 1,143; Count Us In Count Population n=11,643

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Count Us In Survey Respondents includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FOSTER CARE

Nationally, it is estimated that at least 20% of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.[3] In the state of Washington, many foster youth are eligible to receive extended foster care benefits as they transition into adulthood, up until their 21st birthday. The goal of extended foster care is to assist foster youth with the transition to independence and prevent them from experiencing homelessness.

In 2017, approximately 19% of Count Us In survey respondents reported a history of foster care. Less than 1% of respondents indicated that they were living in a foster care placement prior to their loss of housing, while a similar percentage (<1%) reported that aging out of foster care was the primary event that led to their homelessness.

FIGURE 16. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- Yes
- No
- Decline to State
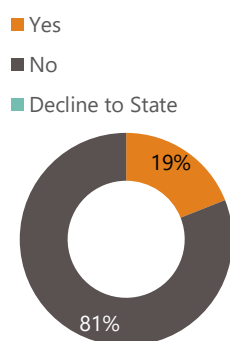
2017 n=1,116

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

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[3] Fernandes, AL. (2007). Runaway and Homeless Youth: Demographics, Programs, and Emerging Issues. Congressional Research Services, January 2007, http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/general/detail/1451.

Duration and Recurrence of Homelessness

Unstable living conditions, poverty, housing scarcity, and many other issues often lead to individuals falling in and out of homelessness. For many, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of homelessness. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported experiencing homelessness prior to their current episode.

Of those with prior homelessness experience, one-fifth (20%) first experienced homelessness as a child under the age of 18, over one-quarter (26%) first experienced homelessness as a young adult between the ages of 18 and 24, and over half (54%) reported their first homeless experience occurring over the age of 24.

Nearly one-quarter (24%) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness four or more times in the past three years. Over half (59%) of survey respondents reported their current episode of homelessness lasting for a year or longer.

FIGURE 17. AGE AT FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS
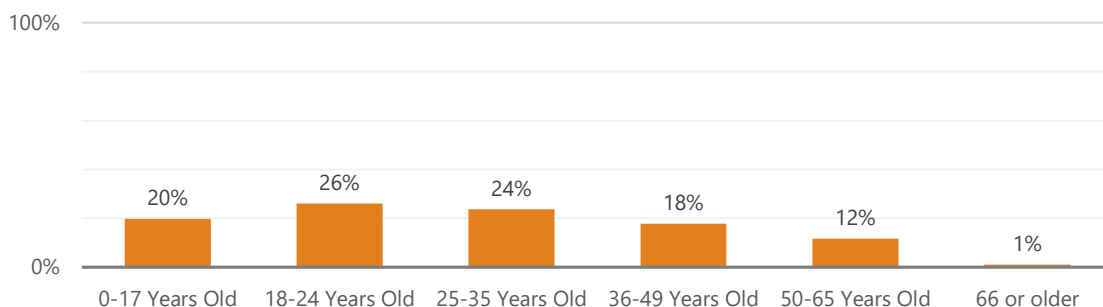
2017 n= 1,103

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 18. LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS
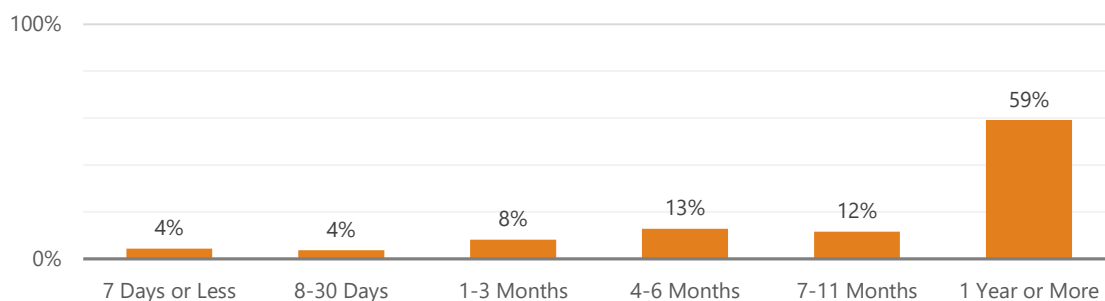

2017 n= 1,035

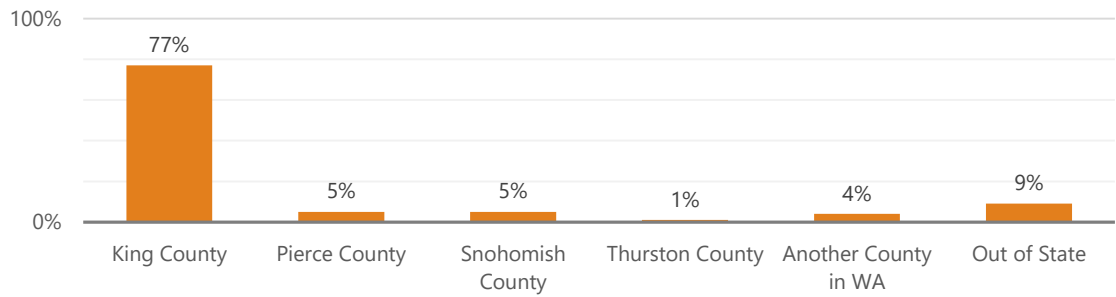*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.*
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Living Accommodations

PLACE OF RESIDENCE

During the 2017 Count Us In survey, over three-quarters (77%) of respondents reported living in Seattle/King County prior to losing their housing. Approximately fifteen percent (15%) were living in another Washington county, while 9% were residing out of state.

FIGURE 19. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 n= 866

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Forty-three percent (43%) of Count Us In survey respondents indicated living in a home owned or rented by themselves or their partner prior to experiencing homelessness. Thirty-one percent (31%) reported living with friends or relatives, while smaller percentages of respondents reported living in subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing (6%), jail or prison (5%), or a motel or hotel (5%). Other living arrangements of survey respondents prior to experiencing homelessness included hospital or treatment facility (3%), military base or on active duty (1%), foster care placement (<1%), juvenile justice facility (<1%), and other places (7%).

FIGURE 20. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS THIS TIME AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 n= 842

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
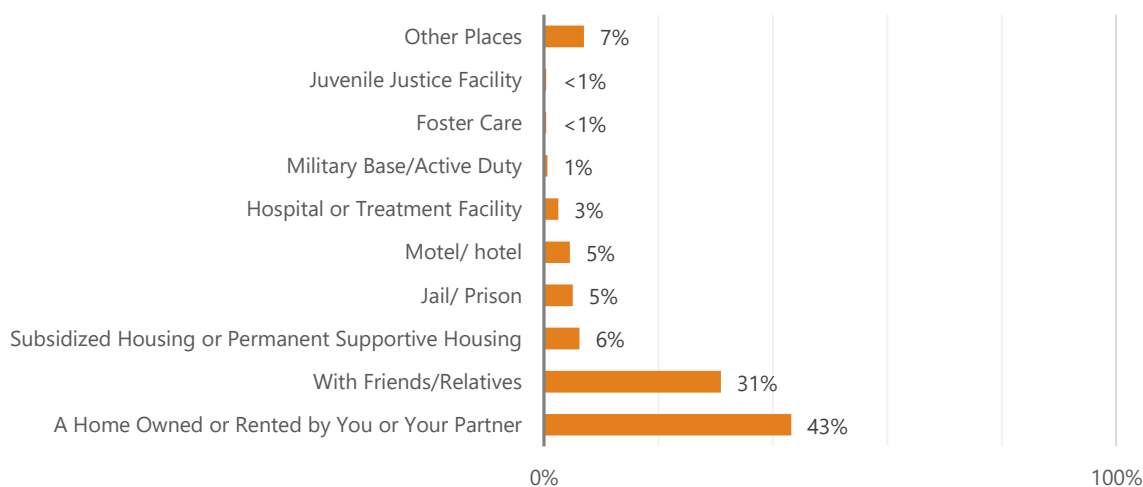
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

While basic information on where individuals were observed during the general street count was collected, survey respondents were also asked about their usual nighttime accommodations.

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported staying in emergency shelter, while 21% reported staying in transitional housing. Over one-quarter (26%) reported sleeping outdoors, including on the streets, in parks, or in encampments. Ten percent (10%) of respondents reported sleeping in a vehicle, 7% reported sleeping in an abandoned building or squat, and 6% reported staying in a motel or hotel.

FIGURE 21. USUAL NIGHTTIME ACCOMMODATIONS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS
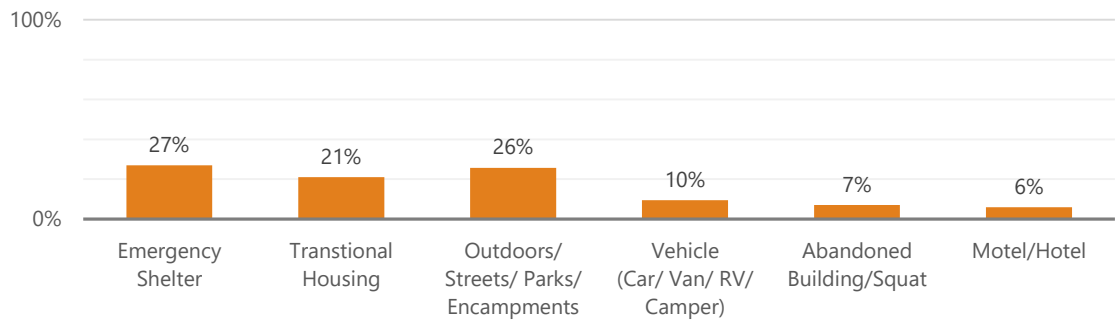
2017 n= 1,158

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
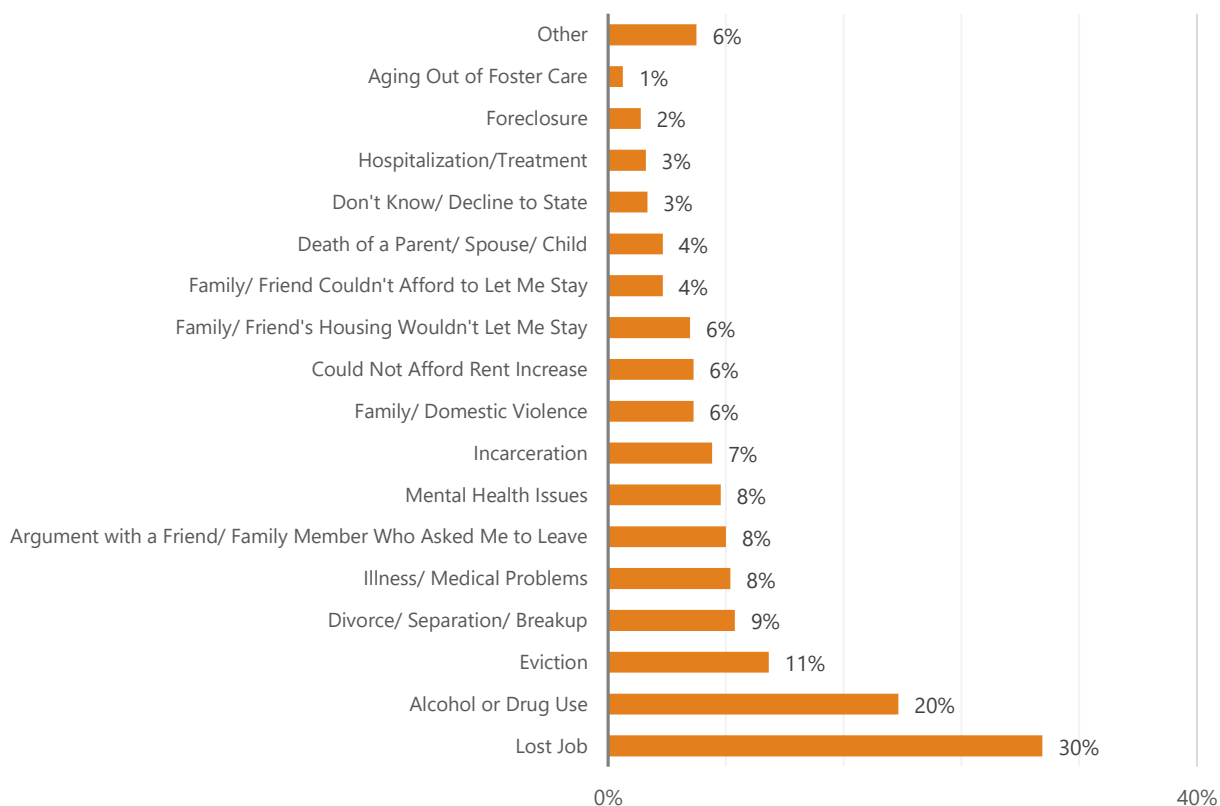*For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.*

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Reported Causes of Homelessness

When asked to identify the primary event or condition that led to their current experience of homelessness, approximately one-third (30%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported the loss of a job. Other top responses included alcohol or drug use (20%); eviction (11%); divorce, separation, or breakup (9%); and illness or medical problems (8%). It should be noted that these responses are the result of a self-assessment and not from a clinical source. These responses, however, are consistent with other communities, and have generally been considered accurate to homeless service providers and outreach staff.

Other reported causes of homelessness also included an argument with a friend or family member who asked them to leave (8%), mental health issues (8%), incarceration (7%), domestic violence (6%), inability to afford rent increase (6%), family or friend's housing wouldn't allow them to stay (6%), family or friend couldn't afford to let them stay (4%), and death of a family member (4%).

FIGURE 22. REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 n= 864

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Support in Obtaining Permanent Housing

When asked what would help them to obtain permanent housing, Count Us In survey respondents most often cited rental assistance and more affordable housing (73%), employment or increased income (45%), money for moving costs (44%), and an easier housing process (42%) as the types of support they would need.

Other supports frequently reported by survey respondents included transportation (25%), help clearing credit (24%), case management (24%), help clearing rental history (23%), finding landlords to accept their housing voucher (20%), and legal assistance (15%).

FIGURE 23. SUPPORT NEEDED TO OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 n= 867

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.
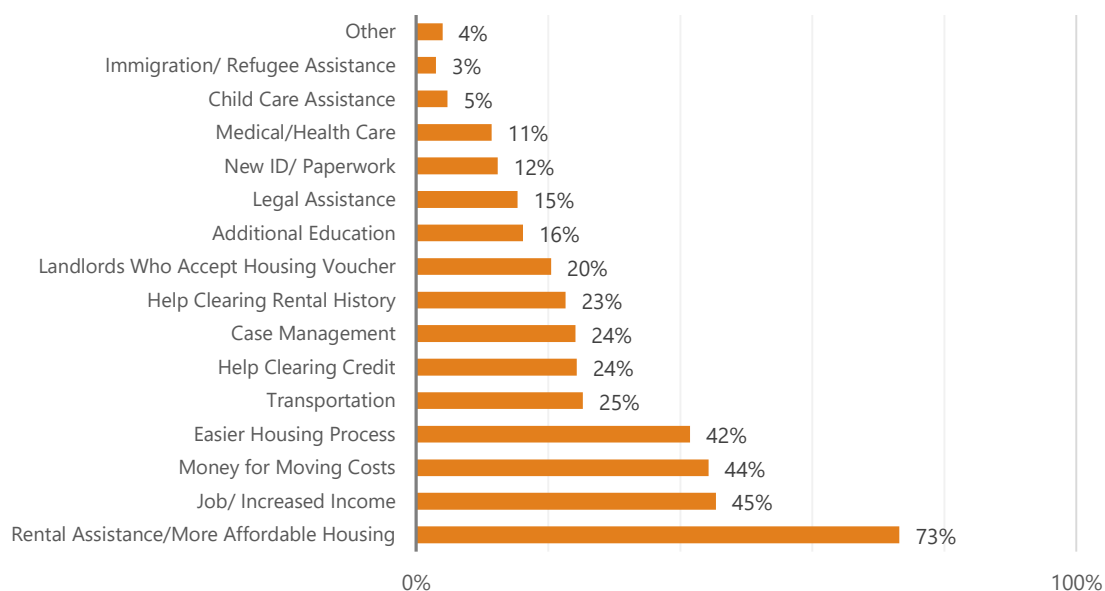
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Assistance and Services

STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The majority of Count Us In survey respondents (81%) indicated receiving some form of state and federal government assistance. The largest percentage (70%) reported receiving food stamps. Nearly one-fifth (19%) of survey respondents reported not receiving any form of government assistance. Eligibility issues, compliance with documentation, and general confusion regarding access to these services are frequently noted as barriers to accessing available services.

FIGURE 24. STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Category	Percentage
Any VA Disability Compensation	3%
Other Veterans Benefits (GI, Health)	4%
TANF	5%
Social Security	7%
General Assistance	8%
SSI/SSDI/Disability	17%
Medicaid/Medicare	29%
Food Stamps/SNAP/WIC	70%
Not Receiving Any Form of Government Assistance	19%

2017 n= 781

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.
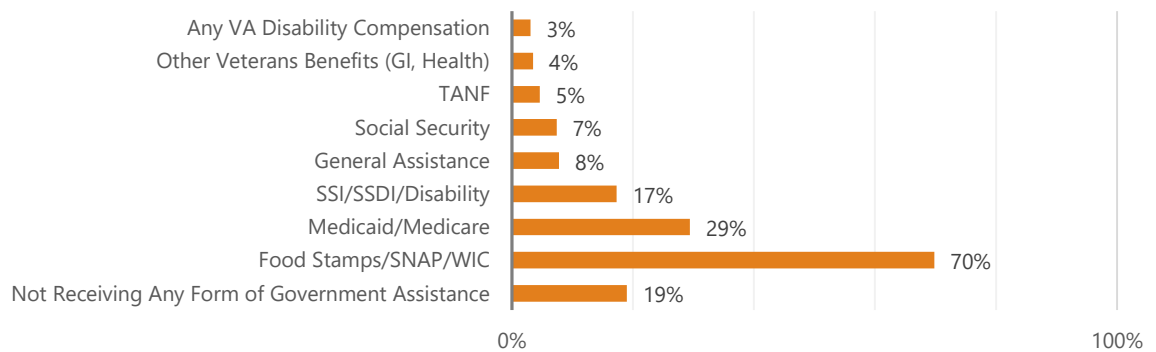
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

A large majority of Count Us In survey respondents (94%) indicated using local, community-based services that are funded publicly or privately, aside from any state or federal assistance. While most respondents reported receiving free meals (62%), bus passes (44%), health services (32%), day shelter services (30%), and mental health services (23%) were also frequently cited. Alcohol/drug counseling (16%), job training/employment services (13%), and legal assistance (10%) were also among services used by survey respondents. Six percent (6%) of respondents indicated they were not currently accessing any services or assistance.

In trying to access services in the community, the majority of survey respondents (79%) reported encountering issues in trying to get help. Lack of transportation (32%) was most frequently cited as a barrier to accessing services, along with not knowing where to go for help (27%), not qualifying for the service they wanted (26%), not having their identification or personal documents (25%), and never hearing back after applying for services (15%). Twenty-one percent (21%) of survey respondents indicated not experiencing any issues in accessing services.

When asked if they had completed a Coordinated Entry Assessment, the majority of Count Us In survey respondents (63%) indicated that they had not. Approximately one-quarter (24%) reported not knowing whether or not they had completed the assessment, and only 14% reported completing the assessment.

Ninety-two percent (92%) of Count Us In survey respondents answered yes when asked if they would move into safe, affordable housing if it were offered.

FIGURE 25. SERVICES AND PROGRAMS UTILIZATION BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS
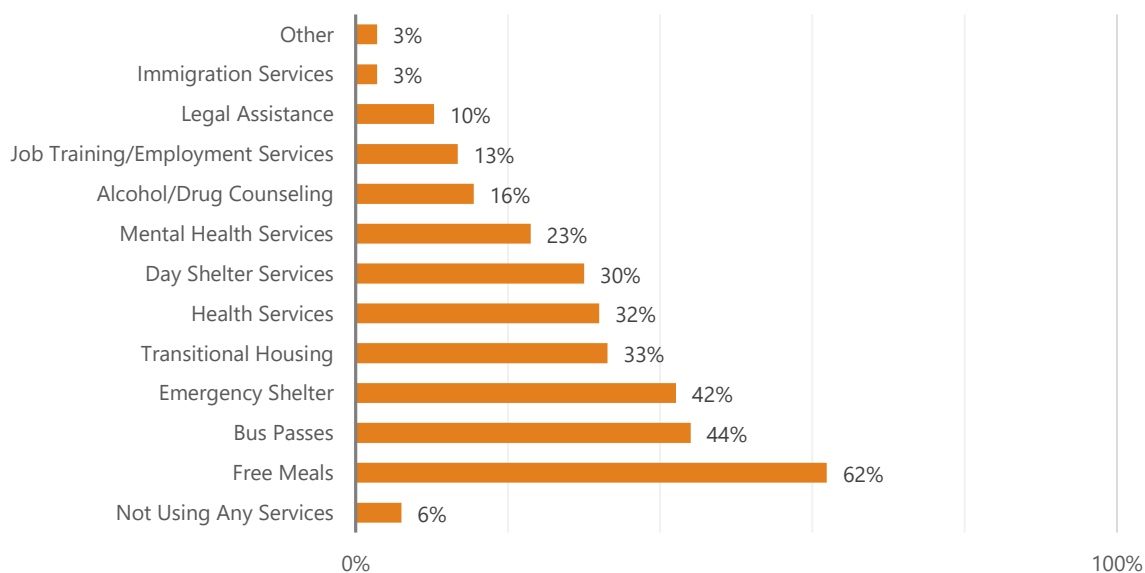
2017 n= 872

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 26. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 n= 814

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

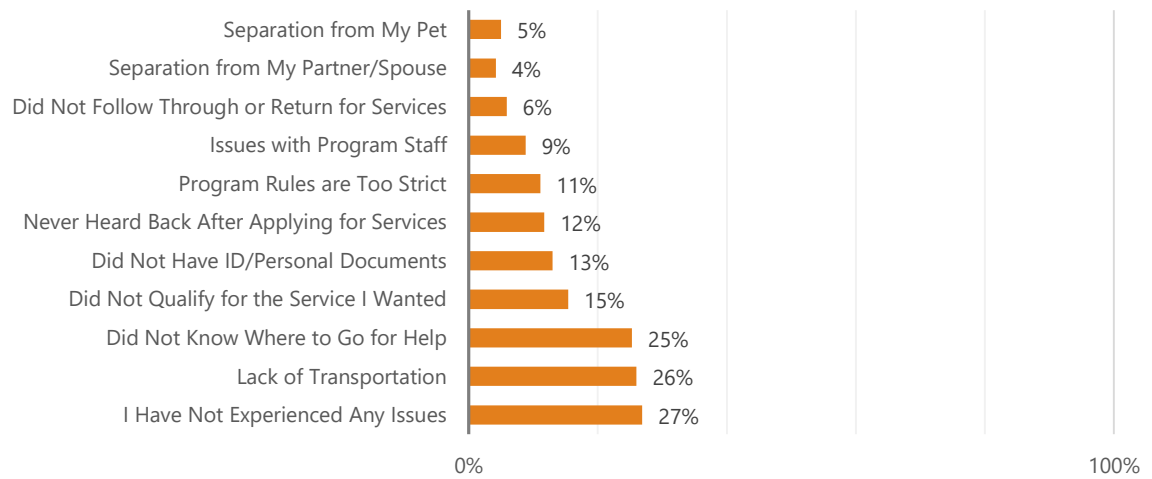FIGURE 27. COORDINATED ENTRY FOR ALL ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 n= 1,122

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Employment and Education

The overall unemployment rate in Seattle/King County was 3.7% in January 2017.[4] It is important to note that the unemployment rate only represents those who are unemployed and actively seeking employment; it does not represent all joblessness.

While the majority of Count Us In survey respondents reported being unemployed (71%), a number reported seasonal (12%), part-time (9%), or full-time work (8%). When asked how long it had been since they last received payment for work, over one-third (37%) reported receiving payment within the past six months. Approximately one-fifth (20%) had received payment in the past 7-12 months, while 17% reported more than 5 years had passed since they last received payment for work.

Over ninety percent (92%) of the general population in Seattle/King County are high school graduates or higher, with nearly half (48%) possessing a bachelor's degree or higher.[5] In contrast with Count Us In survey respondents experiencing homelessness, three-quarters of respondents (75%) reported completion of high school or higher. Of these respondents, 40% obtained their high school diploma or GED, 29% completed some college or an associate's degree, and 6% completed a bachelor's degree or higher.

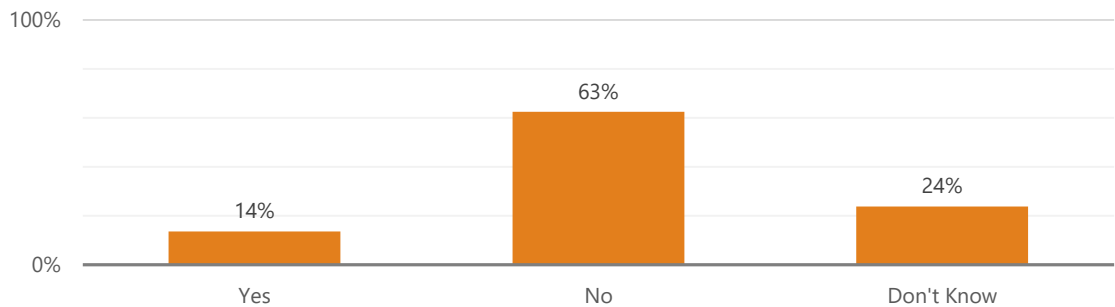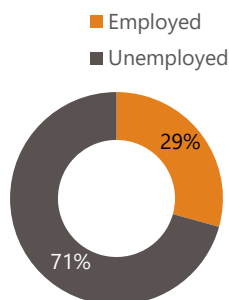FIGURE 28. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 n=863
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

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4 Washington State Employment Security Department. (2017). Labor area summaries. Retrieved from https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications
5 U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2016). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov

FIGURE 29. TIME PASSED SINCE LAST RECEIVED PAYMENT FOR WORK AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS

	TIME PASSED SINCE LAST RECEIVED PAYMENT FOR WORK 2017
1 to 6 Months	37%
7 to 12 Months	20%
2 Years	14%
3 to 5 Years	12%
More than 5 Years	17%

2017 n=803

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 30. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS
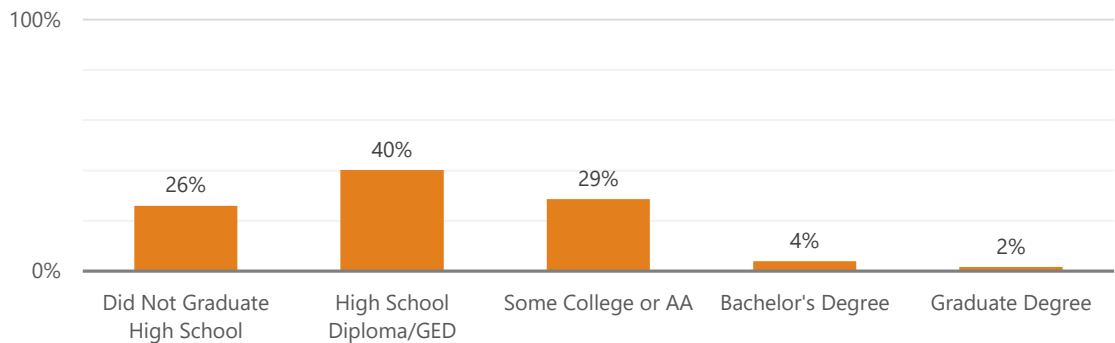
2017 n= 1,126

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Health and Disabling Conditions

In Seattle/King County, approximately 50% of individuals surveyed during Count Us In reported living with one or more disabling health conditions. These conditions include physical disabilities, chronic substance abuse, and severe mental health conditions. Among those reporting at least one disabling condition, 66% of survey respondents reported living with two or more disabling conditions.

The most frequently reported disabling condition was psychiatric or emotional conditions (45%), followed by drug or alcohol abuse (36%) and post-traumatic stress disorder (34%). Thirty percent (30%) of respondents reported chronic health problems. Twenty-six percent (26%) reported a physical disability.

FIGURE 31. DISABLING CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS
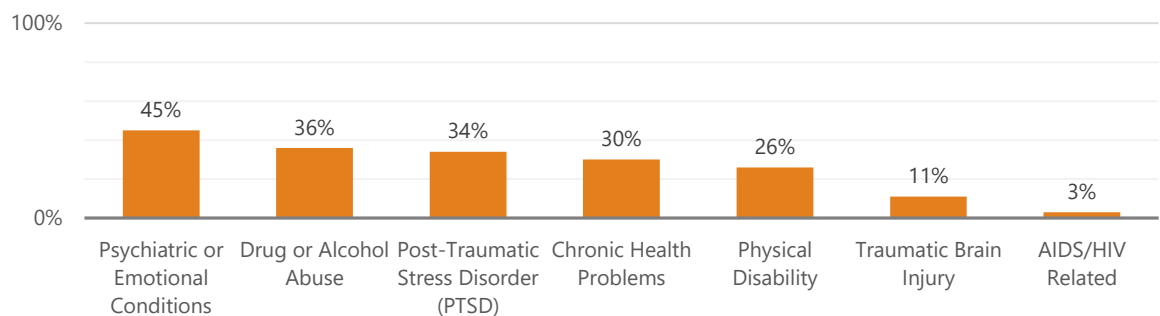
2017 n= 1,086

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Domestic Violence and Partner Abuse

Seven percent (7%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic violence or abuse; 6% of respondents reported family or domestic violence as the primary event leading to their homelessness.

Forty percent (40%) of survey respondents reported experiencing physical, emotional, or sexual abuse over their lifetime. History of domestic violence or partner abuse was most prevalent among individuals identifying as LGBTQ (58%), families with children (54%), and unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years of age (43%). These groups of individuals also reported family or domestic violence as the primary cause of their homelessness at higher rates than other survey respondents.

FIGURE 32. SURVEY RESPONDENTS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

■ Yes
■ No
■ Decline to State

2017 n= 1,009

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 33. HISTORY OF ABUSE BY A RELATIVE OR ANOTHER PERSON THEY HAVE STAYED WITH REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS

■ Yes
■ No
■ Decline to State

2017 n= 1,006

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Criminal Justice System Involvement

Over half (55%) of survey respondents reported ever being in jail or juvenile detention. Five percent (5%) reported being in jail or prison immediately prior to experiencing homelessness, while 11% percent reported being on probation or parole at the time of the survey.

FIGURE 34. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2017 Has been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n=1,131; Currently on Probation/Parole n=1,117

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
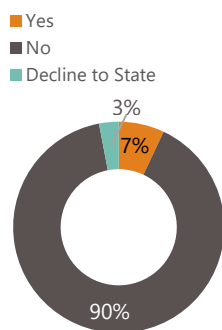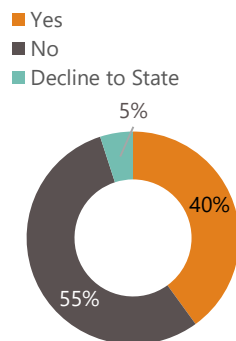*For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.*

Count Us In Subpopulation Findings

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness outlines national objectives and evaluative measures for ending homelessness in the United States. In order to adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identifies four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs, including: individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied youth and young adults. These subpopulations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress toward ending homelessness.

The following section examines each of these four subpopulations, identifying the number and characteristics of individuals included in Count Us In.

Individuals Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Seattle/King County

The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines an individual experiencing chronic homelessness as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years, *and* also has a condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as heads of household.

In 2017, Count Us In estimated 2,773 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness across all subpopulations in Seattle/King County, comprising approximately 24% of the total population experiencing homelessness. Among those individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, 64% were unsheltered and 36% were residing in sheltered locations on the night of the count.

Across household types, 89% of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were in adult households without children. There were 290 individuals across 94 family households, representing 10% of all individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Less than 1% of individuals were in households comprised only of unaccompanied youth under 18 years old.

FIGURE 35. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

Total Chronically Homeless Population: 2,773	
36% Sheltered *(n=986)*	**64% Unsheltered** *(n=1,787)*

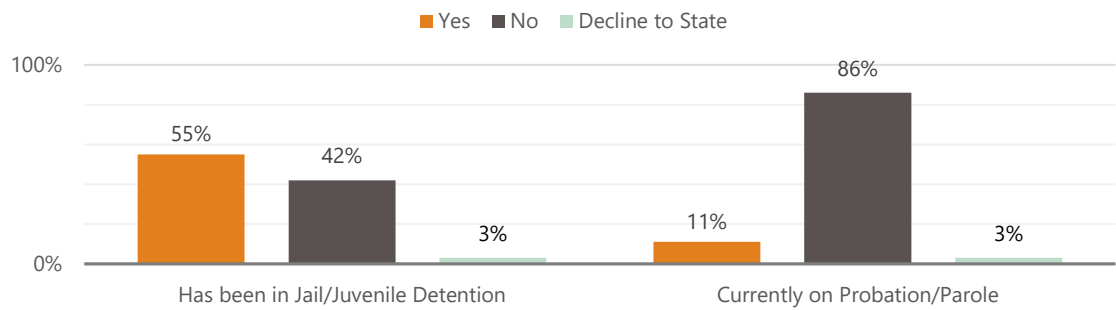*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.*
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 36. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	NUMBER OF CHRONIC PERSONS	% OF CHRONIC TOTAL	NUMBER OF NON-CHRONIC PERSONS	% OF NON-CHRONIC TOTAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL COUNT POPULA-TION
Persons in family households	290	10%	2,543	29%	2,833	24%
Persons in households without children	2,481	89%	6,104	69%	8,585	74%
Persons in households with only children	2	<1%	223	3%	225	2%
TOTAL	**2,773**	**100%**	**8,870**	**100%**	**11,643**	**100%**

Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Family households are defined by households with at least one adult and one child. Households without children include households with one or more adults, but no children. Households with only children include households with one or more children, but no adults. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

SURVEY FINDINGS

Count Us In survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness were slightly older than other survey respondents, with nearly half being over 40 years old. When asked about the first time they experienced homelessness, individuals experiencing chronic homelessness reported higher rates of experiencing homelessness as a child than other survey respondents, and lower rates of experiencing homelessness for the first time at age 50 or older.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness identified as male, 26% identified as female, and 2% identified as transgender.

When compared to non-chronically homeless survey respondents, these individuals identified as White, Hispanic or Latino, and American Indian or Alaska Native at higher rates, and as Black or African American or with multiple races at lower rates. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of respondents experiencing chronic homelessness identified as White, 24% identified as Black or African American, 14% identified as Hispanic or Latino, 13% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% identified as Asian, 2% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 10% identified with multiple races.

Survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness reported higher rates of living with disabling conditions, and of citing alcohol or drug use and medical problems as the primary cause of their homelessness compared to other survey respondents.

Higher rates of ever having been in jail or juvenile detention, currently being on probation or parole, or ever being in foster care were also reported by survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness, when compared to other respondents.

Overall, Count Us In survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness accessed most types of services at a comparable rate to other survey respondents. However, while they accessed free meals and alcohol/drug counseling at higher rates, they accessed employment services at a lower rate than respondents not experiencing chronic homelessness.

FIGURE 37. AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON
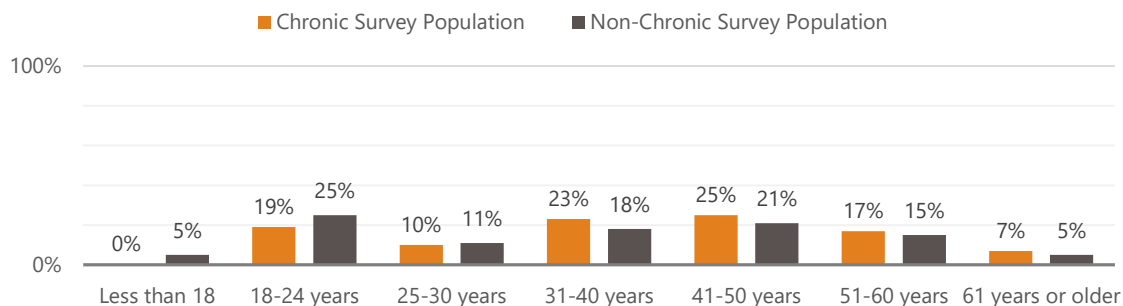
2017 Chronic Survey Population n=276; Non-Chronic Survey Population n=882
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 38. AGE AT FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON
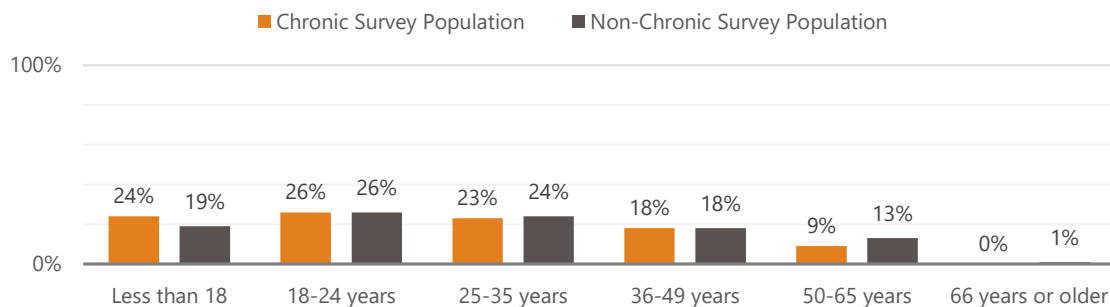
2017 Chronic Survey Population n=271; Non-Chronic Survey Population n=832
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 39. GENDER OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

2017 n=281

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count,.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 40. RACE AND ETHNICITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON

2017 Chronic Survey Population n=278, Non-Chronic Survey Population n=851

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 41. DISABLING CONDITIONS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON

2017 Chronic Survey Population with Disabling Condition=282; Non-Chronic Survey Population with Disabling Condition n=293

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

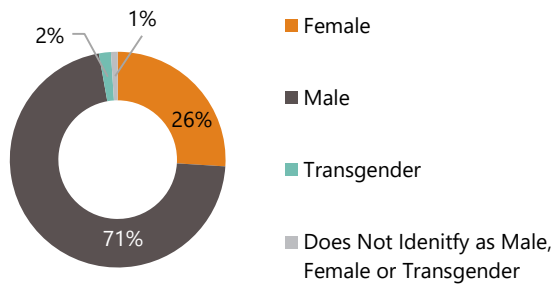FIGURE 42. REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON
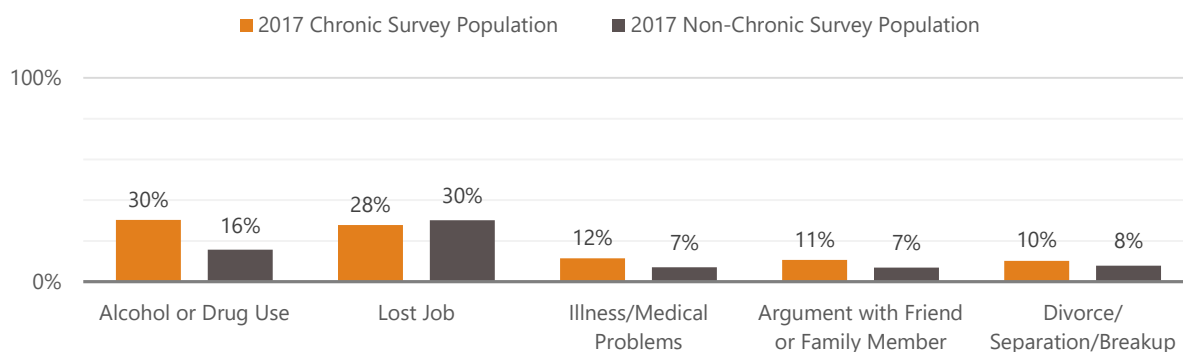
2017 Chronic Survey Population n=234; Non-Chronic Survey Population n=630

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.
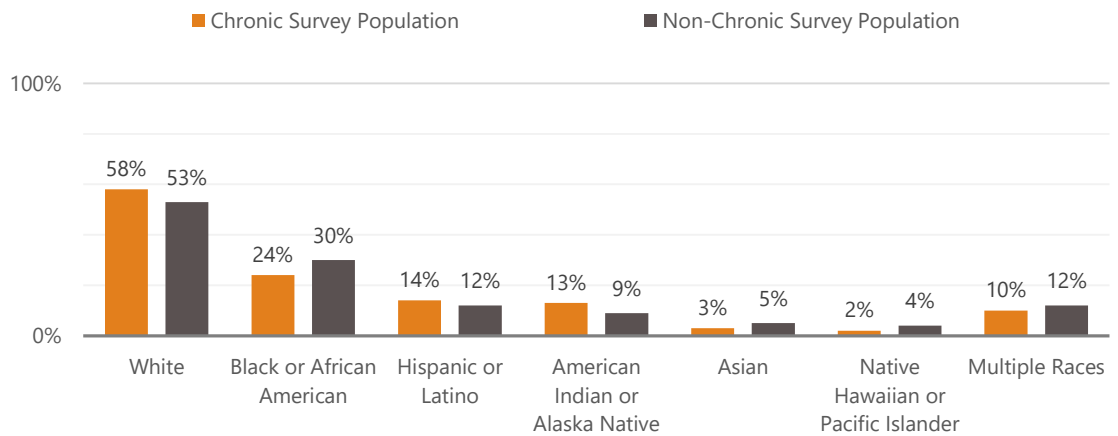
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 43. SYSTEMS INVOLVEMENT AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON

2017 Chronic Survey Population Has been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n=278; Non-Chronic Survey Population Has been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n=853; Chronic Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n=272; Non-Chronic Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n=845; Chronic Survey Population Has been in Foster Care n=270; Non-Chronic Survey Population Has been in Foster Care n=846

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

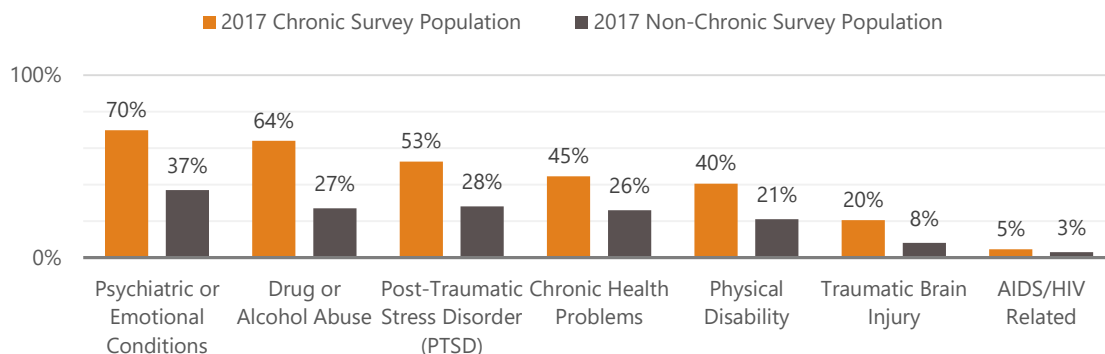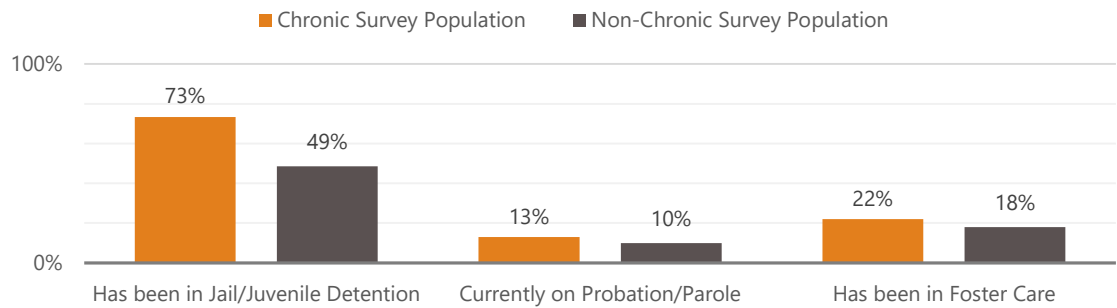FIGURE 44. ACCESS TO SERVICES AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON
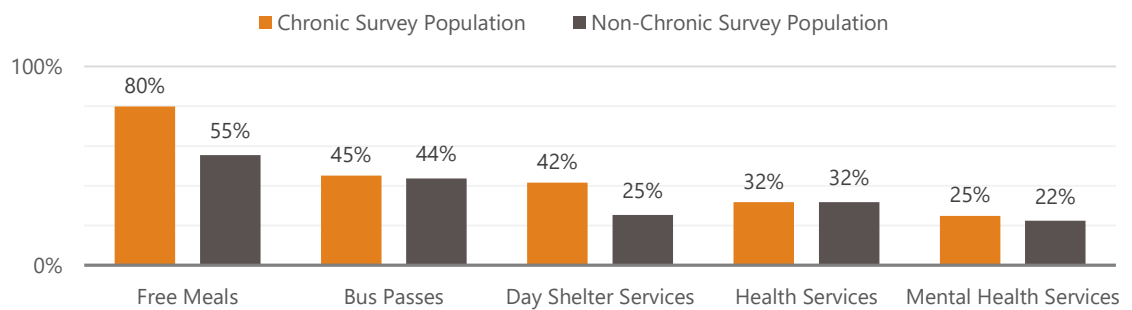
2017 Chronic Survey Population n=233; Non-Chronic Survey Population n=639

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Seattle/King County

Of those counted during 2017 Count Us In, an estimated 1,329 individuals (11% of the total count population) identified as veterans. Over half (52%) of these veterans were unsheltered, while 48% were sheltered on the night of the count.

Ninety-three percent (93%) of veterans experiencing homelessness identified as male, 4% identified as female, and 3% identified as transgender.

Approximately 32% of veterans were experiencing chronic homelessness, while 28 veterans were members of family households.

An estimated 56% of veterans experiencing homelessness identified as White. Twenty-five percent (25%) identified as Black or African American, 9% identified as Hispanic or Latino, 6% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 2% identified as Asian, 1% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 10% identified with multiple races.

FIGURE 45. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS
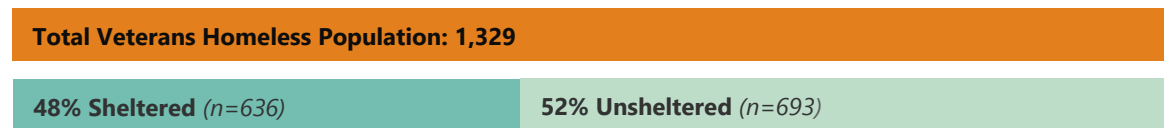
Total Veterans Homeless Population: 1,329	
48% Sheltered *(n=636)*	52% Unsheltered *(n=693)*

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 46. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER
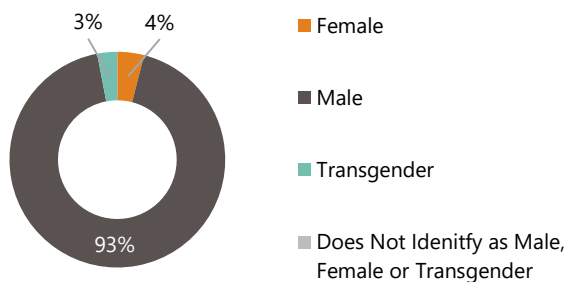
2017 n=1,329

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 47. RACE AND ETHNICITY, VETERANS AND NON-VETERANS COMPARISON

2017 Veterans Count Population n=1,329; Non-Veterans Count Population n=10,314

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on ethnicity and race through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

SURVEY FINDINGS

Compared to other Count Us In survey respondents, veterans reported notably higher rates of living with post-traumatic stress disorder and physical disabilities, lower rates of substance abuse, and slightly lower rates of involvement with the criminal justice system.

Overall, survey respondents identifying as veterans reported accessing services at a lower rate than non-veterans. Among survey respondents who did report accessing services, veterans

indicated higher rates of accessing health and mental health services compared to other survey respondents.

Veterans reported the loss of a job as the primary reason for their homelessness more than any other reason.

FIGURE 48. DISABLING CONDITIONS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, VETERANS AND NON-VETERANS COMPARISON
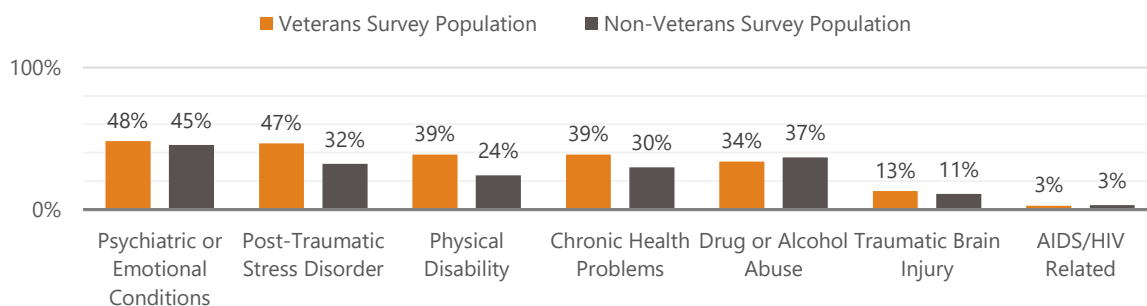
2017 Veterans Survey Population with Disabling Condition n=93, Non-Veterans Survey Population with Disabling Condition n=482

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 49. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, VETERANS AND NON-VETERANS COMPARISON
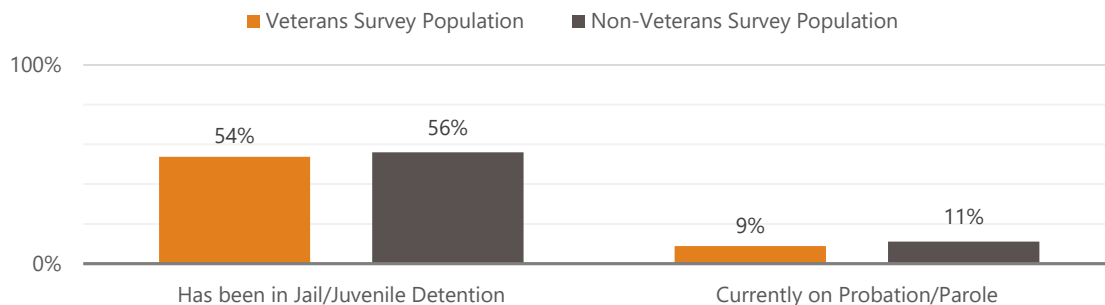
2017 Veterans Survey Population Has been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n=160; Non-Veterans Survey Population Has been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n=936; Veterans Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n=158; Non-Veterans Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n=924

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count.
For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 50. ACCESS TO SERVICES AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, VETERANS AND NON-
VETERANS COMPARISON (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)

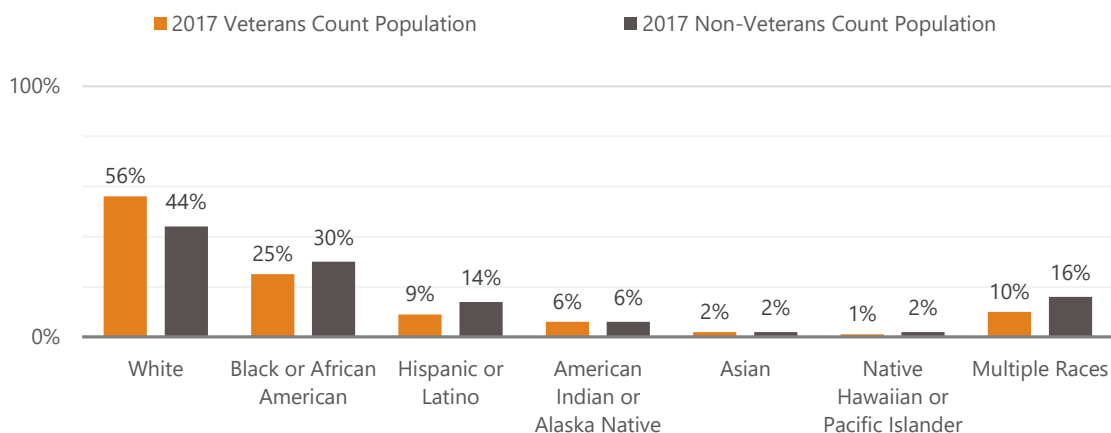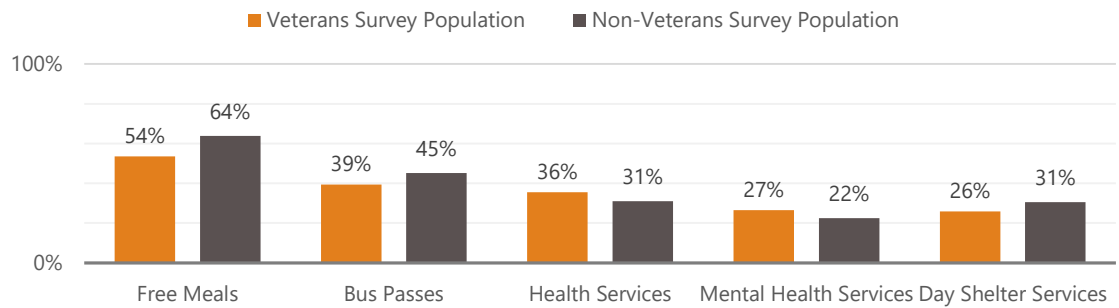*2017 Veterans Survey Population n=155; Non-Veterans Survey Population n=715*

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 51. REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, VETERANS
AND NON-VETERANS COMPARISON (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)
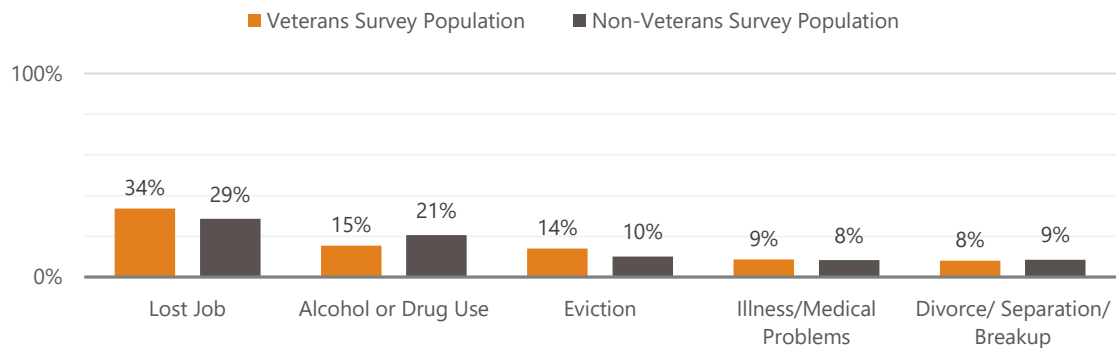
2017 Veterans Survey Population n=149; Non-Veterans Survey Population n=713

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness in Seattle/King County

In 2017, Count Us In identified 905 families with children experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, with a total of 2,833 persons in families. This represents approximately 24% of the total population experiencing homelessness. This percentage, while lower than national data, is consistent with other West Coast communities with similar rates of overall unsheltered homelessness.

Of the 905 families experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, 135 were households headed by a young parent under 25 years of age. There were 222 children in families headed by a young parent under the age of 25.

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of persons in families with children identified during Count Us In were sheltered, while 3% were unsheltered on the night of the count. See *Appendix 1* for further information about the methodology, and the challenges associated with counting unsheltered families.

An estimated sixty percent (60%) of persons in families with children identified as female and 40% identified as male.

When compared to the remainder of the count population, individuals in families identified as persons of color at higher rates. An estimated 38% of persons in families identified as Black or African American, and 27% identified as White. Sixteen percent (16%) identified as Hispanic or Latino, 7% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 5% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 3% identified as Asian, and 21% identified with multiple races.

FIGURE 52. FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

Total Individuals in Families with Children Homeless Population: 2,833	
97% Sheltered *(n=2,752)*	**3% Unsheltered** *(n=81)*

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 53. FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY HOUSEHOLD

	2017					
	CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD	PARENTS UNDER AGE 25	PERSONS 18-24 YEARS OLD IN HOUSEHOLD	PERSONS OVER 24 YEARS OLD IN HOUSEHOLD	TOTAL PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLDS	% OF TOTAL
Persons in Households with Parent Over Age 24	1,467	--	69	933	2,469	**87%**
Persons in Households with Parent Under Age 25	222	142	--	--	364	**13%**
Total	**1,689**	**142**	**69**	**933**	**2,833**	**100%**

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Family households are defined by households with at least one adult and one child.

FIGURE 54. FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER

- Female
- Male
- Transgender
- Does Not Idenitfy as Male, Female or Transgender
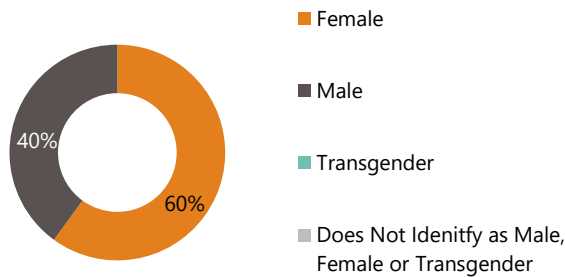
2017 n=2,833

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 55. RACE AND ETHNICITY, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND NON-FAMILIES COMPARISON

2017 Families Count Us In Population n=2,883; Non-Families Count Us In Population n=8,810

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on ethnicity and race through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

SURVEY FINDINGS

Compared to survey respondents with no children, families reported experiencing notably higher rates of domestic violence, and attributed their homelessness to domestic violence or the dissolution of a relationship more frequently.

Overall, families with children reported higher rates of disabling conditions than other survey respondents. Among all survey respondents living with a disabling condition, families reported higher rates of experiencing psychiatric or emotional conditions and chronic health problems, and lower rates of substance abuse and physical disabilities.

Nearly all (99%) families with children responding to the Count Us In survey reported currently accessing services. Compared to other respondents, families with children reported using health and mental health services at higher rates, but reported accessing free meals at notably lower rates.

Families with children also reported lower rates of having ever been in foster care when compared to other survey respondents.

FIGURE 56. REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, FAMILIES
WITH CHILDREN AND NON-FAMILIES COMPARISON (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)
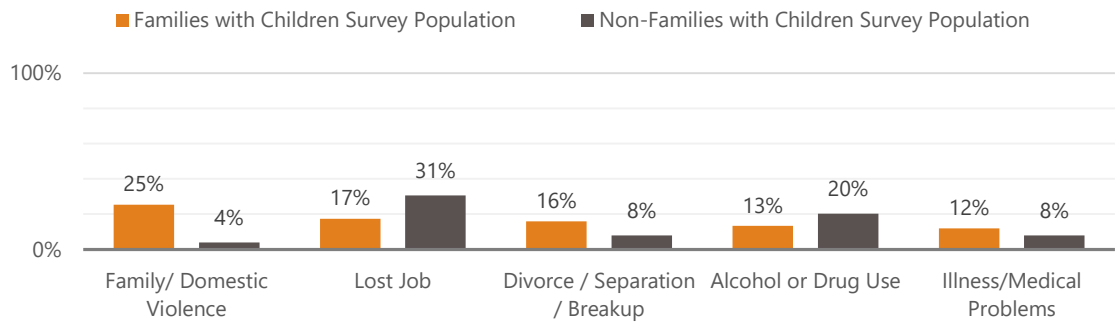
2017 Families with Children Survey Population n=75; Non-Families with Children Survey Population n=789

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 57. DISABLING CONDITIONS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
AND NON-FAMILIES COMPARISON
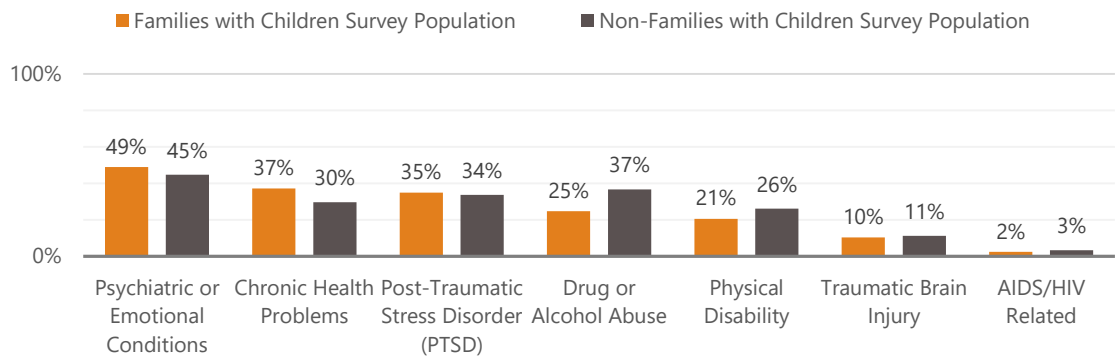
2017 Families with Children Survey Population with a Disabling Condition n=42; Non-Families with Children Survey Population with a Disabling Condition n=533

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 58. ACCESS TO SERVICES AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND NON-FAMILIES COMPARISON (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)
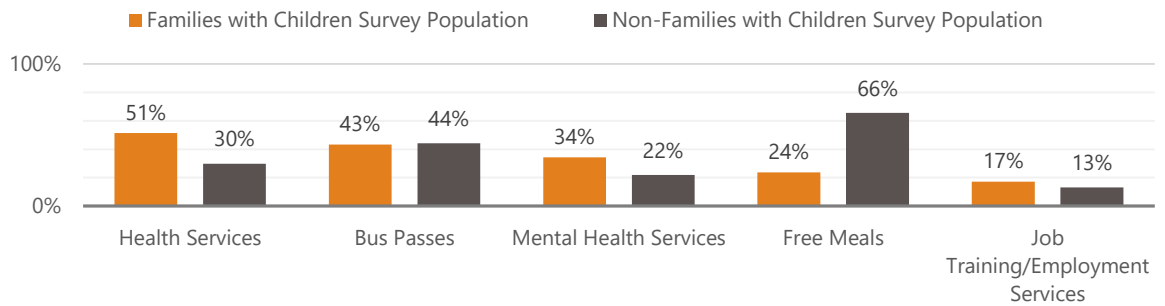
2017 Families with Children Survey Population n=76; Non-Families with Children Survey Population n=796

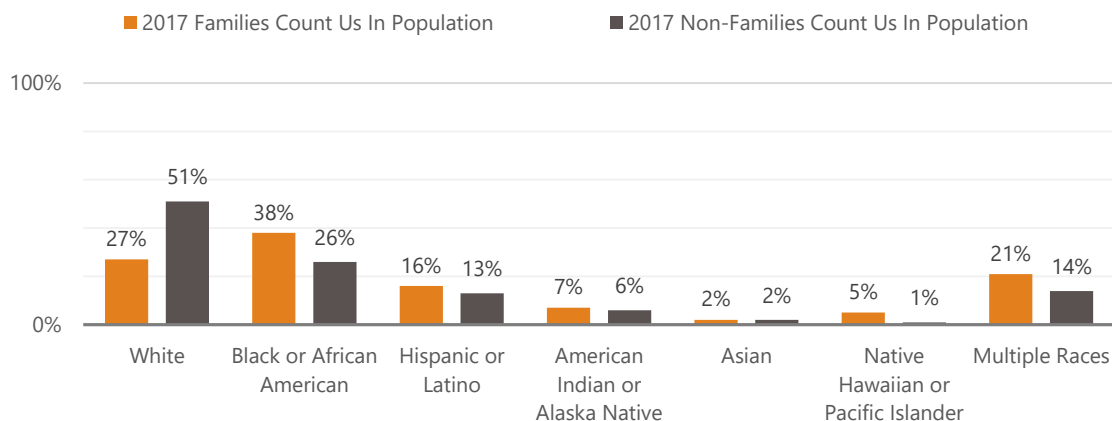*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.*

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 59. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND NON-FAMILIES COMPARISON
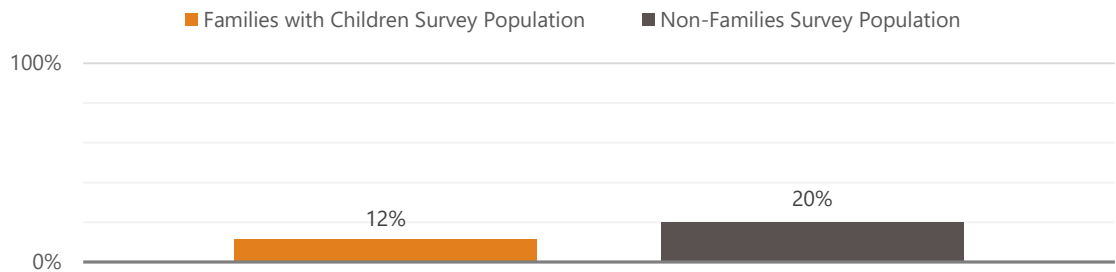
2017 Families with Children Survey Population n=87; Non-Families with Children Survey Population n=1,029

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness in Seattle/King County

Of individuals counted during Count Us In, an estimated 1,498 (13% of the total count population) were unaccompanied youth and young adults. This included 221 unaccompanied youth under 18 years old. These numbers do not include young people under 25 years of age who are in families or have children; these young people are included in the data on families with children. Over three-quarters (76%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults were unsheltered, while 24% were sheltered on the night of the count.

An estimated 54% of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness during Count Us In identified as male. Forty percent (40%) identified as female, and 5% identified as transgender. Compared to the remainder of the count population, unaccompanied young people identified as female at a higher rate.

Compared to the remainder of the count population, young people identified as Black or African American at lower rates, and as Hispanic or Latino or with multiple races at higher rates. An estimated 43% of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness identified as White. Twenty-six percent (26%) identified as Black or African American, 17% identified as Hispanic or Latino, 8% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 4% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 1% identified as Asian, and 19% identified with multiple races.

FIGURE 60. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY AGE
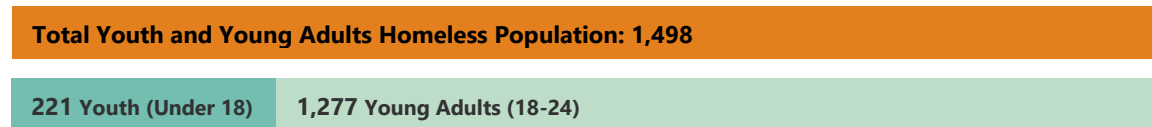
Total Youth and Young Adults Homeless Population: 1,498	
221 Youth (Under 18)	1,277 Young Adults (18-24)

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 61. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

Total Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adult Homeless Population: 1,498	
24% Sheltered *(n=356)*	76% Unsheltered *(n=1,142)*
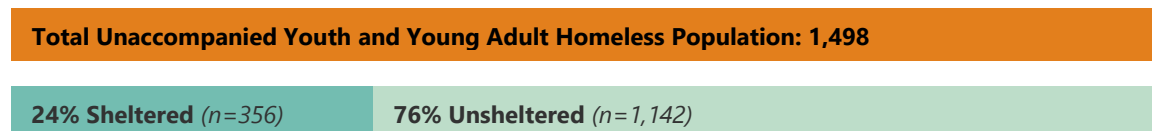
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 62. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER

- Female
- Male
- Transgender
- Does Not Idenitfy as Male, Female or Transgender

2017 n=1,498

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 63. RACE AND ETHNICITY, UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND NON-UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON

2017 Unaccompanied YYA Count Population n=1,498; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Count Population n=10,145

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on ethnicity and race through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

SURVEY FINDINGS

Compared to other Count Us In survey respondents, unaccompanied youth and young adults identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer at notably higher rates than other survey respondents (28% compared to 14%). Unaccompanied youth and young adults also reported higher rates of systems involvement, with 29% indicating ever being in foster care and 17% currently being on probation or parole, compared to 16% and 10% respectively among all other survey respondents.

Unaccompanied youth and young adults cited family or friends not letting them stay with them, eviction, and incarceration as the reason for their homelessness more frequently than other survey respondents.

Overall, unaccompanied youth and young adults responding to the Count Us In survey reported lower rates of experiencing disabling conditions compared to other respondents, and indicated notably lower rates of substance abuse, chronic health problems, physical disability, and AIDS/HIV related illness.

Unaccompanied youth and young adults reported not accessing any services at higher rates compared to other survey respondents (15% compared to 6%). Among survey respondents who did report accessing services, young people used bus passes, day shelter services, and job training and employment services at higher rates than non-youth respondents.

FIGURE 64. LGBTQ IDENTITY AMONG SURVEY REPSONDENTS, UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND NON-UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON
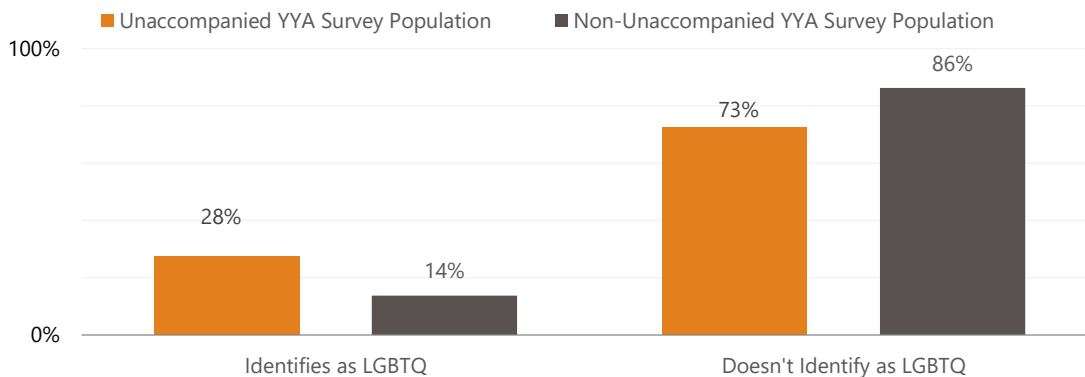
2017 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n=291; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n=867
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey.
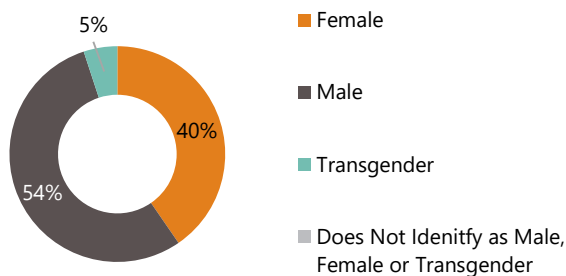*For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.*
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 65. SYSTEMS INVOLVEMENT AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND NON-UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON
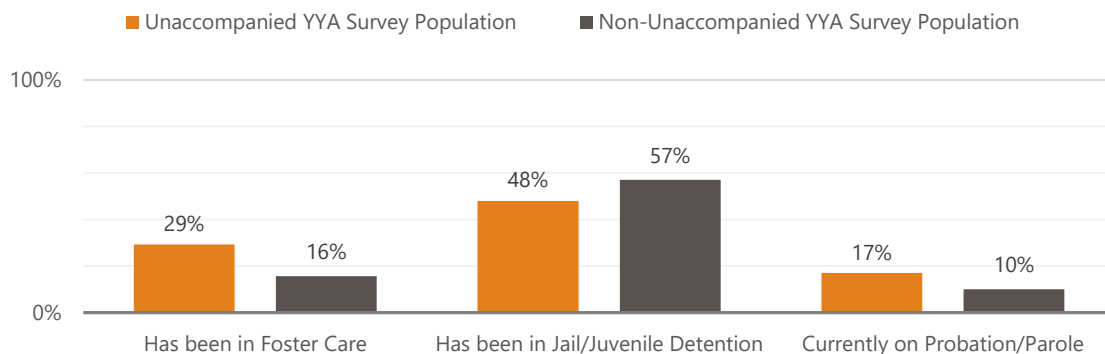
2017 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Has been in Foster Care n=283; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Has been in Foster Care n=833; Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Has been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n=275; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Has been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n=856; Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Currently on Parole/Probation n=273; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n=844

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

FIGURE 66. REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND NON-UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON

2017 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n=46; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n=818
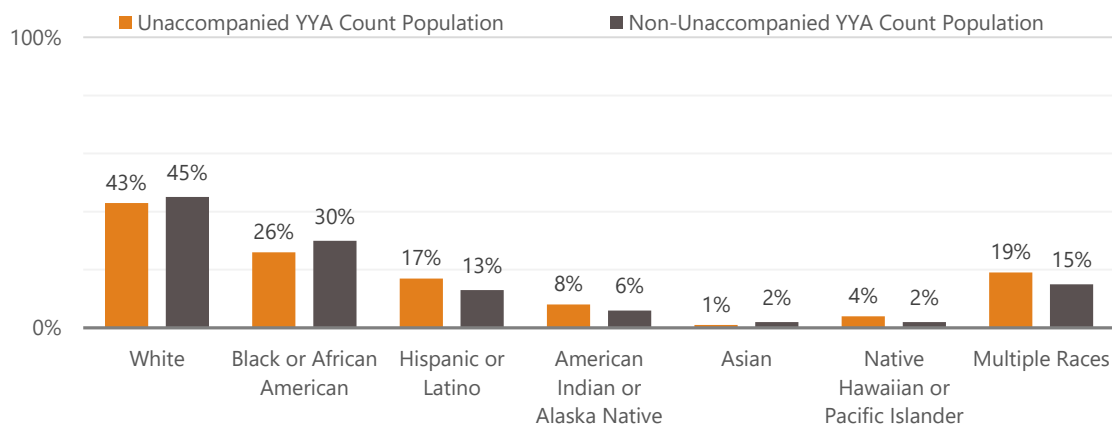
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 67. DISABLING CONDITIONS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND NON-UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON

- Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population
- Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population

	Psychiatric or Emotional Conditions	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	Drug or Alcohol Abuse	Chronic Health Problems	Traumatic Brain Injury	Physical Disability	AIDS/HIV Related
Unaccompanied	41%	33%	25%	13%	10%	10%	1%
Non-Unaccompanied	46%	34%	39%	36%	12%	31%	4%
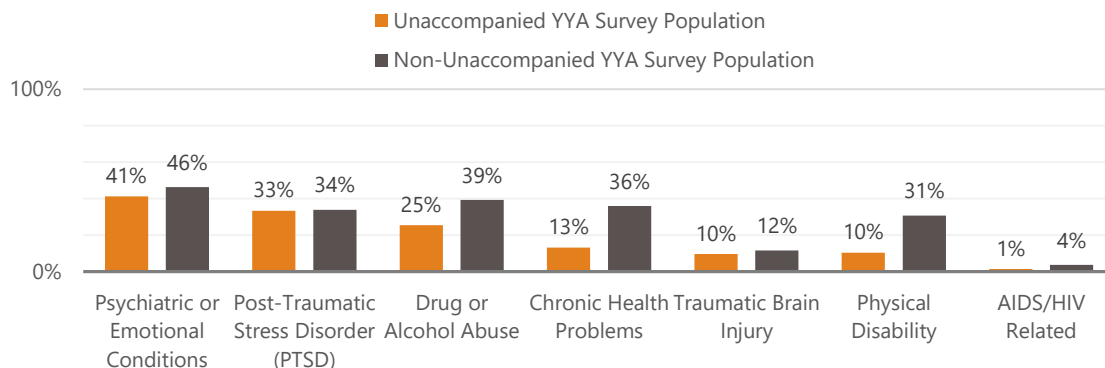
2017 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population with a Disabling Condition n=96; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population with a Disabling Condition n=479

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 68. ACCESS TO SERVICES AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND NON-UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON

- Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population
- Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population

|	Free Meals	Bus Passes	Day Shelter Services	Health Services	Job Training/Employment Services
Unaccompanied	63%	50%	37%	35%	22%
Non-Unaccompanied	62%	44%	29%	32%	13%
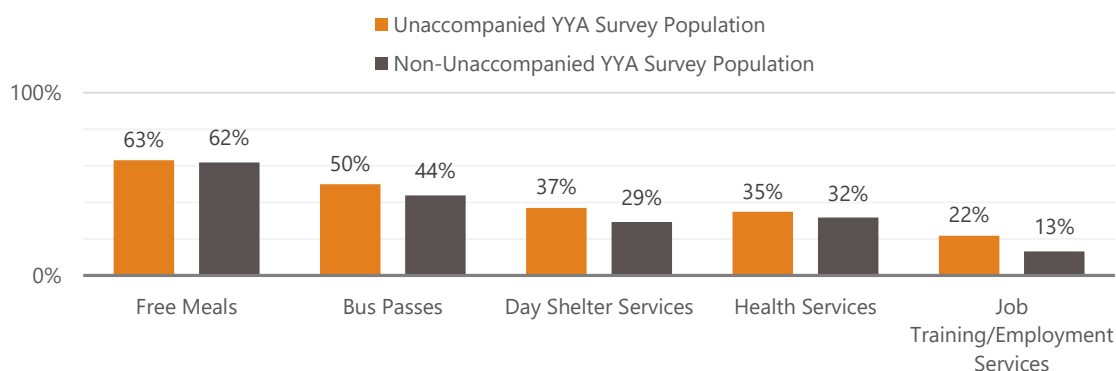
2017 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n=46; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n=826
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.
Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

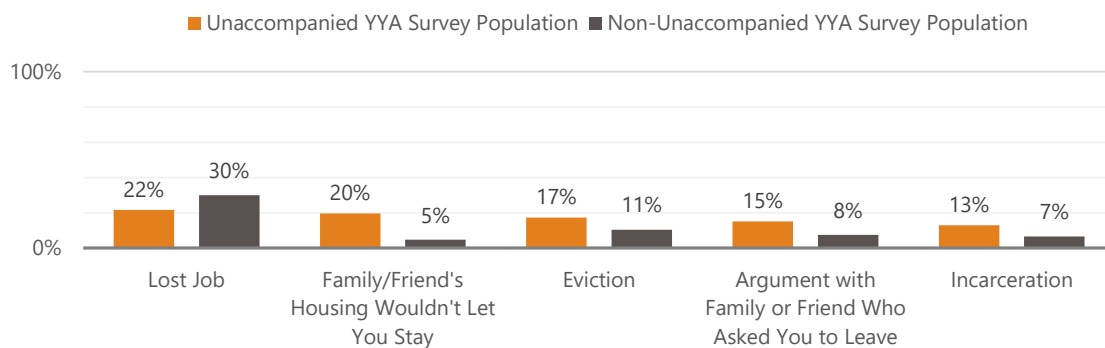*Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.*

Appendix 1: Methodology

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2017 Seattle/King County Count Us In was to produce a point-in-time estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. The methodology used is commonly described as a "blitz count" since it is conducted by a large team over a very short period of time. As this method was conducted in Seattle/King County, the result was an observation-based count of individuals and families who appeared to be experiencing homelessness. The results of the street count were combined with the results of the sheltered count to produce a total number of people experiencing homelessness at one point-in-time in Seattle/King County. The count was then followed by an in-person representative survey, the results of which were used to profile and estimate the condition and characteristics of the local population experiencing homelessness.

A more detailed description of the methodology employed for Count Us In follows.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS COUNT AND SURVEY METHOD

The 2017 Seattle/King County Count Us In was comprised of four primary components:

1) General Street Count – a visual enumeration of unsheltered individuals, conducted between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM on the day of the count;

2) Youth and Young Adult Count – a focused, survey-based count of unsheltered young people under the age of 25, conducted throughout the day of the count at both site-based and street-based locations;

3) Sheltered Count – a count of individuals residing in emergency shelter or transitional housing programs the night prior to the street count; and

4) Survey – an in-person representative survey of unsheltered and sheltered individuals conducted by peer surveyors in the weeks following the general street count.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

To ensure the success of Seattle/King County Count Us In, many county and community agencies collaborated in community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical planning, methodological decision-making, and interagency coordination efforts. Applied Survey Research provided technical assistance with these aspects of the planning process; All Home designated one of their staff to provide project management support, and to assemble

members of the steering committee to provide community oversight and feedback on various elements of count coordination. Interviews with key informants to assess existing supports available and to determine the best strategies for conducting the count also took place as part of the planning process. These interviews included local leadership involved in coordinating previous count efforts, as well as key service providers in communities new to the count.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Local homeless service providers and advocates were active and valued partners in the planning and implementation of the 2017 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count. In addition to county and jurisdictional representatives, the steering committee included local service providers and system partners from across the county and unaffiliated community members dedicated to efforts to end homelessness in Seattle/King County.

Street Count Methodology

GOAL

The goal of the general street count was to obtain an accurate count of persons sleeping outside, in vehicles, in tents, or in other places not meant for human habitation throughout Seattle/King County.

DEFINITION

For the purposes of the count, the HUD definition of unsheltered homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count was used. This definition includes individuals and families with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground (including sanctioned and unsanctioned encampment locations).

METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The 2017 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count marked a significant shift in the methodology used to count the local population experiencing homelessness. In prior years, the street count primarily covered known areas where individuals experiencing homelessness congregated. In 2017, the general street count sought to canvass the entire region. Street count teams covered all but two of the 398 census tracts that comprise Seattle/King County, which were inaccessible to count teams due to weather conditions. While difficult to make specific comparisons to coverage achieved during prior counts, the 2016 count focused primarily on Seattle proper and the more densely populated areas of South and East King County, with less consistent coverage in the North, Northeast, and Southeast regions. The increased coverage during the street count in 2017 ensured that all communities in Seattle/King County were represented in the count, and that individuals experiencing homelessness beyond the urban cores and into outlying areas of the county were counted to the standard of the entire region.

The counts of unsheltered and sheltered individuals were coordinated to occur within the same time period in order to minimize potential duplicate counting. The timing of the general

street count was revisited in 2017, expanding the traditional time by one hour in order to provide sufficient time for count teams to cover their assignments. Additionally, certain areas of the county piloted the use of daybreak hours in order to navigate difficult terrain more safely. While the count took place in most places from 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM, rural communities in the northeastern and southeastern regions of Seattle/King County conducted their counts later in the morning, deploying just before daybreak. Precautions to prevent double counting were taken during count planning. This included coordinating the timing of the count around morning release times of any local shelter programs, and ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness were not expected to migrate across count areas.

Further, modifications were made to the youth and young adult count in order to integrate results from the dedicated effort to count young people under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness into the official Point-in-Time Count estimates for the region. A street-based, peer-led survey effort was added to the existing site-based survey of young people accessing youth services and resources in the community. Along with minor changes to the youth survey instrument, these changes to the youth and young adult count methodology yielded more accurate and inclusive data on young people experiencing homelessness across Seattle/King County.

RESEARCH DESIGN

On the morning of the general street count, teams of two or more were assembled to count designated areas of Seattle/King County. Street count teams were generally comprised of at least one guide with lived experience of homelessness and up to three community volunteers. Guides assisted the team in navigating the count area, identifying locations where unsheltered individuals were likely to be encountered, and providing additional guidance on identifying individuals experiencing homelessness. Volunteers assisted with transporting the team through their count area and performing the tally. Guides were compensated $15/hour for their time spent in training prior to the count, and for their time spent in the field on the night of the count.

Depending on the size and density of the areas, each team was assigned up to three contiguous census tract maps. Census tracts served as a method of organizing the general street count; their boundaries are based on population density and determined by the federal government. Teams were instructed to canvass all accessible streets, roads, and highways within the boundaries of their assigned census tracts by foot, car, or a combination of both.

In many cases, census tracts were pre-assigned to designated team captains in advance of the count. This approach was taken for logistical reasons, as well as to continue traditions of previous Point-in-Time Count efforts in Seattle/King County. In other cases, teams were brought together and assigned census tract areas at the deployment center on the morning of the count. Team captains were seasoned count volunteers who were familiar with specific areas of Seattle/King County. These individuals often scouted their assigned areas in advance of the count; assisted with recruiting the volunteers and guides required for their team; and were ultimately responsible for leading their team through their assigned area in a democratic manner. In the 2017 general street count, team captains were frequently utilized in areas counted in prior years, sites of regular street outreach, and in locations with special safety or access considerations.

In performing the tally, count volunteers were not to initiate direct contact with individuals experiencing homelessness. Leveraging the knowledge and expertise of their team, count volunteers were instructed to only observe, and to record basic demographic and location information on individuals encountered experiencing homelessness.

VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

The assistance of those who possess an intimate knowledge of the activities and locations of individuals experiencing homelessness is critical to the success of the count. Approximately 110 individuals with current or recent homeless experience (not inclusive of approximately 50 young people who served as youth guides for the youth and young adult count) and 579 community volunteers participated in the 2017 general street count.

Individuals with lived experience of homelessness were recruited to serve as guides through local and regional homeless services provider organizations, in coordination with a support staff from the City of Seattle Human Services Department. Partner organizations were instructed to focus recruitment on individuals who possessed current knowledge of where individuals were sleeping outside in their community, and asked to help facilitate guide participation in training and on the day of the count. Regional quotas for guide recruitment were developed based on the number of census tracts and estimated number of teams required to cover the count area, and adjusted based on input from local partners involved in count planning. Recruitment primarily took place in the weeks immediately prior to the count, in order to safeguard against potential complications.

Recruitment of community volunteers included outreach by All Home to prior count participants, local and regional service provider organizations, county agencies, jurisdictional partners, local media, funding collaborators, and other community stakeholders. Regional volunteer recruitment quotas were established in a similar manner as the quotas set for guide recruitment. Volunteers were directed to register online beginning in November 2016, and to indicate the areas of Seattle/King County in which they had previous experience counting or were otherwise interested in counting. Applied Survey Research maintained the volunteer database, and volunteer announcements were communicated by All Home.

All prospective guides and volunteers were asked to participate in training in advance of the count. Training covered the purpose of Count Us In; the definition of homelessness; guidelines on how to safely and respectfully count individuals and families observed sleeping outside; and how to effectively use the tally sheets and census tract maps to complete the count. In-person training sessions were facilitated by Applied Survey Research the week prior to the count, and were held in multiple locations throughout Seattle/King County. A series of early trainings was also held during the first week of January. These early training sessions were primarily designed to help acquaint seasoned count volunteers to the new methodology, and to support early guide recruitment efforts. An online, streaming version of the training was also available for prospective volunteers to view in lieu of attending an in-person session.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. All count participants were advised to take all safety precautions possible, including refraining from entering areas where they were uncomfortable; staying together with their team; and maintaining a respectful distance from those they were counting. The observational nature of the count was

emphasized, which is generally successful in minimizing potentially dangerous situations. Deployment center staff verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the count, and recorded the number on a volunteer deployment log sheet used for tracking teams in the field. Deployment center staff also provided each team with their cell phone number so that count teams could communicate any issues or questions while counting.

Areas considered unsuitable for general count teams due to a high density of persons experiencing homelessness or encampment areas requiring more established relationships, access challenges, or safety concerns, were identified during planning and pre-assigned to experienced outreach workers, seasoned volunteers, and expert guides. These identified areas also included rural eastern and southeastern parts of the county, which were counted after daybreak to ensure count teams could safely navigate difficult terrain.

Law enforcement was notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions immediately before the count. No official reports were received in regards to unsafe or at-risk situations during the street count in any area of the county.

STREET COUNT DEPLOYMENT CENTERS

To achieve complete coverage of Seattle/King County within the four-hour count period, seven primary deployment centers were identified and selected in Seattle, Shoreline, Bellevue, Tukwila, Renton, Kent, and Federal Way. These deployment centers served as central meeting locations for count participants to meet the rest of their team, receive a brief refresher training, and to obtain and return their count materials. Volunteers and guides were assigned to a deployment center prior to the night of the count based on their familiarity with particular areas of the county, their desire to count alongside a specific volunteer group or organization, or convenience. The planning team allocated count routes to the deployment center closest or most central to the coverage area in order to facilitate the timely deployment of count teams into the field.

An additional five remote deployment centers were located in Auburn, Enumclaw, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, and Vashon Island. Partners local to these communities engaged in more focused volunteer and guide recruitment, and supported smaller, concentrated deployments to cover specific areas of the county.

LOGISTICS OF COUNTING

On the morning of the street count, teams comprised of one trained guide with lived experience of homelessness and up to three trained community volunteers were provided with their assigned census tract map area(s), tally sheets, training guidelines, and other supplies. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their count assignment during the hours of the street count, and to communicate with deployment center staff if they required additional assistance or time to cover every part of their assignment. No direct contact with observed people experiencing homelessness was made during the street count.

Upon their return, count teams submitted their tally sheets and maps and were debriefed by the deployment center staff. Observational comments and the integrity of the count effort were reviewed and assessed. This process functioned to check for double-counting, and to verify that every accessible road within the assigned area was counted.

Guides with lived experience of homelessness were included in the unsheltered count if they were not counted by the sheltered count. This was validated by double checking shelter records to deployment center assignment logs.

SPECIAL OUTREACH STRATEGY: ENCAMPMENTS

Over 20 encampments across Seattle/King County, both sanctioned and unsanctioned, were identified during a special planning meeting with organizations conducting regular street outreach. These encampments requiring special access were identified on and redacted from general street count maps, and were counted separately by encampment residents, camp managers, or outreach workers on the day of the count. This special outreach strategy ensured both the accuracy of the data and the privacy of encampment residents.

SPECIAL OUTREACH STRATEGY: VEHICLES

During planning for the general street count, the need for a strategy to count individuals residing in vehicles within the City of Seattle emerged. In response to several known vehicle "hot spots" and the high mobility of vehicle residents as the morning progresses, special teams were assembled prior to the day of the count in order to focus chiefly on counting vehicles in these areas. Approximately five teams comprised of at least one guide and four volunteers covered specialized vehicle routes throughout the City of Seattle. Teams followed the following vehicle identification schema outlined in the *Seattle Vehicular Residency Research Project 2012 Advisory Report,* which was also distributed to general street count teams prior to deployment:

A vehicle should be considered a vehicle residence if it exhibits two of the following six characteristics

1) The view through the front to rear windows is blocked

2) The side and/or rear windows are blocked by sheeting, panels, and/or curtains to restrict visibility on both sides

3) There is evidence of unfrozen condensation on windows

4) At least one window is partially open

5) There are items often associated with vehicular residency such as generators, bicycles, or storage containers externally secured

6) There are unusually large volumes of possessions, sometimes *appearing* to be "refuse" (often in bags), within or near the vehicle [6]

In the special vehicle oriented count team in the City of Seattle, training was led by leaders of the Compass Housing Alliance Road to Home staff along with local vehicle residency expert Graham Pruss. While general count teams counted vehicles in these special vehicle routes as part of their general count assignment, a de-duplication process was undertaken using the last 4 digits of the vehicle license plate to ensure the same vehicle was not counted more than once. Once the de-duplication effort was completed, the file of license plate information was

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[6] Pruss, G. (2012). Seattle Vehicular Residency Research Project 2012 Advisory Report. Seattle University, September 2012. Retrieved from
http://clerk.seattle.gov/~public/meetingrecords/2012/hhshc20120926_8a.pdf

deleted for privacy considerations. License plate information was not made available to any persons other than the data analysis team at Applied Survey Research.

SPECIAL OUTREACH STRATEGY: NIGHT OWL BUSES

As in prior count years, special teams comprised of volunteer pairs were assigned to ride the King County Night Owl Bus routes during the hours of the general street count. These volunteers were instructed to tally individuals observed sleeping on the buses during a single round-trip journey, following the same protocols for identification as general street count teams.

ESTIMATING THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN VEHICLES, TENTS, AND ABANDONED BUILDINGS

During the street count, teams were instructed to tally individuals living in vehicles, tents, or abandoned buildings using the following protocol:

If the number of individuals currently residing in the vehicle, tent, or abandoned building were known by the team or were visible, the team was to fill in the appropriate information on the tally sheet, including their approximate age category (under 18, age 18-24, or 25 and older), dwelling or vehicle type, and whether they were part of a family household with children.

If the vehicle, tent, or abandoned building appeared to be occupied but the number of individuals living there was unknown, the team was to only tally the vehicle type, tent, or building.

In estimating the number of individuals living in vehicle, tents, and abandoned buildings in Seattle/King County, a multiplier was applied to structures and vehicles tallied during the street count where the number of individuals was unknown, and subsequently combined with the number of individuals who were observed residing in these location types during the street count.

The 2017 survey asked respondents where they were residing on the night of the count, and how many people (including themselves) usually reside there. Approximately 60 surveys with individuals residing in these location types were completed in Seattle/King County, yielding lower and less reliable multipliers. Multipliers were developed from surveys in Seattle/King County and 10 California counties conducted in the weeks immediately following the 2017 street count, producing a more reliable, all-county multiplier to estimate the number of individuals residing in vehicles, tents, and abandoned buildings in Seattle/King County. Individual multipliers for those residing in a van, automobile/car, camper/RV, abandoned building/squat, or tent developed from the surveys were applied. In prior years, a generic multiplier of "2 persons per" location type was applied.

The following table summarizes the multipliers applied in 2017:

Vehicle/Location Type	Multiplier
Van	1.8
Automobile/Car	1.42
Camper/RV	1.8
Tent	1.31
Abandoned Building/Squat	1.69

Additionally, demographic characteristics were extrapolated for individuals residing in these locations using data collected during the street count and through the survey, including age and gender.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

There are many challenges in any homeless count, especially when implemented in a community as large and diverse as Seattle/King County. Count Us In is a "snapshot" that quantifies the size of the population experiencing homelessness at a given point during the year. Hence, the count may not be representative of fluctuations and compositional changes in the population either seasonally or over time. It does not calculate the number of unique persons who experience homelessness over a calendar year, which is much higher than those who are experiencing homelessness at any given time. Point-in-Time Counts significantly underrepresent those whose homelessness does not last very long, but who nevertheless need and access emergency shelter and services. From HMIS data available in other jurisdictions, including New York, Philadelphia, and Columbus, as many as 5 to 10% of those living in poverty in a jurisdiction may experience homelessness over the course of a year.[7]

For a variety of reasons, individuals experiencing homelessness generally do not want to be located, and make concerted efforts to avoid detection. Regardless of how successful outreach efforts are, an undercount of those experiencing homelessness will persist, especially of hard-to-reach subpopulations such as unsheltered families, undocumented individuals, and unaccompanied youth and young adults.

The methods employed in a non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers and individuals with lived experience, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. Many factors may contribute to missed opportunities, including:

- It is difficult to identify persons who may be sleeping in vans, cars, recreational vehicles, abandoned buildings, or structures unfit for human habitation.

- Individuals residing in isolated rural areas that are difficult to access or otherwise identify for the purposes of the count.

- Individuals whose physical appearance differs from traditional visual cues associated with people experiencing homelessness can be mistaken for housed individuals. This is especially true of unaccompanied youth and young adults, who often "hide in plain sight" and present similarly to their stably housed peers.

- Families experiencing homelessness with children often seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the streets, in vehicles, or makeshift shelters.

By counting the minimum number of individuals experiencing homelessness during a given point-in-time, the count methodology was conservative and therefore most likely resulted in an undercount of certain unsheltered individuals. A margin of error on the final count is not available, though the data presented is to be considered a minimum estimate. However, this conservative approach was necessary to preserve the integrity of the data collected. Even

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[7] Burt, MR. Wilkins, C. (March 2005). Estimating the Need: Projecting from Point-in-Time to Annual Estimates of the Number of Homeless People in a Community and Using the Information to Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing. Retrieved from http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Estimating-the-Need.pdf

though Count Us In was most likely an undercount of the population experiencing homelessness, the methodology employed was the most comprehensive approach available and provides invaluable data for local and federal service agencies.

VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE FEEDBACK

Count Us In is a community-driven effort that utilizes a broad range of partners for all count activities. Approximately 110 guides with current or recent experience of homelessness and nearly 600 community volunteers participated in the 2017 general street count.

Both guides and volunteers were invited to submit feedback through a survey following the count. The Count Us In Steering Committee reviewed guide and volunteer feedback, and provided additional input on highlights and areas of opportunity for future Count Us In efforts.

Overall, most guides reported being extremely satisfied with the time of the count, their deployment location, communication, and their team assignment. The vast majority of guides were new to the effort, with 95% reporting that it was their first time participating in Seattle/King County's Point-in-Time Count. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of guides reported that the training helped prepare them for the count, though thirty-five percent (35%) reported that they did not attend training prior to the count. In regards to overall experience, eighty-five percent (85%) of guides reported that they were very likely to participate in Count Us In again in future years.

Volunteer surveys indicated generally positive experiences with the location, time, team assignments, and planning/organization of Count Us In. Sixty-three percent (63%) of respondents indicated 2017 was the first year they had participated in Seattle/King County's Point-in-Time Count. The majority of respondents reported having a positive experience. Fifty-four percent (54%) rated their experience as "Good," and thirty-seven percent (37%) rated their experience as "Fair." More than ninety percent (90%) of respondents indicated they were either "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to participate in Count Us In in future years.

The feedback from guides, volunteers, and the Count Us In Steering Committee included ideas for improvement in future years. Suggestions included:

- Ensure adequate time for complete canvassing by increasing time allotted or creating smaller tracts for teams;

- Continue to offer multiple forms of training as the online training option was well utilized, but improve the video quality and increase content related to the day of the count;

- Consider pre-assignment of teams to census tract areas;

- Increase the number of participating guides and increase training for team captains; and

- Increase number of deployment sites in Seattle given the large number of guides and volunteers in the region.

Youth and Young Adult Count Methodology

GOAL

The goal of the youth and young adult count was to be more inclusive of youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who were unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness. While Seattle/King County has conducted a dedicated youth and young adult count annually since 2010, the 2017 youth and young adult count marked the first year that results were integrated into overall estimates of individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County.

In 2013, HUD asked communities across the country to improve efforts to include young people in the Point-in-Time Count. Unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness are traditionally underrepresented due to the often hidden nature of youth homelessness. Many of these young people avoid traditional homeless services, stay in unsheltered locations that can be difficult to find or access, and are more difficult for adult street count volunteers to identify as they often appear similar to their stably housed peers.

In 2017, the goal was to reproduce and expand upon the youth and young adult count work achieved in 2016; to improve upon the youth and young adult count methodology; and to integrate youth and young adult count results into the official estimates reported to HUD, as 2017 is considered a baseline year for youth counts nationwide.

DEFINITION

For the purposes of the count, the HUD definition of unaccompanied youth for the Point-in-Time Count was used. This definition includes youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian, and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their child(ren). Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household.

METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The 2017 youth and young adult count methodology featured the same methodology utilized in prior years, with the incorporation of a youth-led street count component. In addition to administering a survey of unaccompanied youth and young adults at 73 youth survey partner locations, a focused effort to survey unsheltered young people was conducted by approximately 50 peer surveyors and over 20 youth outreach staff across Seattle/King County. The survey instrument used in prior youth and young adult counts was also modified to incorporate core data elements for HUD reporting, and to ensure adequate de-duplication through the unique identifier collected. Further, while the youth and young adult count previously took place the day before the general street count, in 2017 all youth and young adult count activities took place on the same day as the general street count.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The 2017 youth and young adult count methodology was comprised of two primary components:

1) A site-based survey of youth and young adults under the age of 25 at youth shelters, drop-in centers, libraries, schools, community centers, and other organizations serving young people across Seattle/King County; and

2) A street-based survey of unsheltered and unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25 conducted in specific areas throughout Seattle/King County by young people (age 18-24) with lived experience of homelessness and outreach workers.

Partner locations for the site-based survey component received a small stipend from the United Way of King County to support survey activities, including incentives to encourage the participation of young people. Agency staff and volunteers participated in training sessions the week before the count, and were instructed to administer surveys to young people under the age of 25 who sought to participate, regardless of housing status or self-identification as experiencing homelessness. However, only respondents indicating sleeping in an unsheltered location on the night of the count were included in the estimates discussed in this report.

Planning for the new street-based survey component of the 2017 youth and young adult count included representatives from several youth homeless service providers, as well as young people with lived experience. In early January, Applied Survey Research facilitated a focus group wherein young people identified locations unsheltered youth were known to congregate. This information was supplemented by additional hot spots identified by youth outreach workers. Auburn Youth Resources, Friends of Youth, Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Neighborcare Health at 45th Street, New Horizons Ministries, Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, ROOTS, Sanctuary Arts Center, Street Youth Ministries, TeenFeed, ROOTS, and YouthCare recruited young people with lived experience of homelessness and line staff to participate in planning and implementing the youth street count.

Applied Survey Research provided training the week before the count, which covered data collection procedures, confidentiality, safety protocols, and count day logistics. Participating organizations were assigned general count areas where "hot spots" for unsheltered youth were identified prior to the day of the count, based on the familiarity staff and their young people had with these areas. Youth street count teams met at one of seven deployment locations throughout Seattle/King County, and were comprised of one team leader (a youth outreach worker or service provider) and 2-3 youth guides with lived experience. Approximately 50 youth guides and over 20 team leaders participated in the youth street count. Teams were instructed to survey any young people under the age of 25 who were unsheltered, and to provide young people who completed the survey with a $5 food card incentive. Teams were also given tally sheets to count any young people determined to be unsheltered, but unable to complete a survey due to refusal or safety concerns. Young people who participated in planning and conducting the street-based youth survey were paid $15 per hour for their time, including or their time in training prior to the count.

DATA COLLECTION

Agency staff and volunteers conducted site-based surveys of young people under the age of 25 throughout the day and evening of January 27, 2017. Partner sites included youth shelters, drop-in centers, libraries, schools, and community centers. For the second year, New Horizons Ministries hosted the Community Resource Exchange, an opportunity for young people to participate in the survey while accessing a variety of services and resources.

Street-based surveys of unsheltered, unaccompanied youth and young adults were conducted from approximately 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM on January 27, 2017. During youth and young adult count planning, young people with lived experience and youth service providers determined unsheltered youth would be more prominent and the safety of outreach teams would be ensured during this time. Young people serving as youth guides on the day of the count also completed the survey at the end of their count shift, if they had not already completed a survey at one of the partner survey sites earlier that day.

Care was taken by all interviewers to ensure that young people felt comfortable, regardless of the street or service location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, young people were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any one individual.

DATA ANALYSIS

The survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth, so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey. Of 1,104 youth and young adult count surveys administered, 280 valid surveys were left for the analysis. Surveys were also processed according to the housing status of young people. Approximately 25% of youth survey respondents indicated they were unsheltered or residing in temporary shelter, while 6% reported experiencing housing instability and 69% reported being stably housed. This high percentage of stably housed respondents was an artifact of the effort to avoid stigmatizing the housing status of respondents in the many group and institutional settings where the survey was administered. Only respondents meeting the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count were included in the final analysis.

To address potential duplication between the youth and young adult count and general street count, all visual count data were analyzed at the neighborhood-level and young people under the age of 25 counted in the general street count were subtracted.

ESTIMATING THE NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

In producing an estimate of the number of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, count data were collected and integrated from the following sources:

- Youth and young adult count

- General street count (visual) and survey

- Sheltered count

Young people surveyed during the site- and street-based survey efforts of the youth and young adult count were de-duplicated based on the unique identifier collected through the survey instrument. Young people who were surveyed through the general Count Us In survey effort in the weeks following the count were not included in the count, however their surveys were included in the survey data presented in this report.

Counts of young people obtained through the youth and young adult count were de-duplicated at the neighborhood-level from young people under the age of 25 tallied during the general street count. Youth and young adult numbers included from the general street count effort also reflect extrapolated age detail applied to the observed street count population, which took place after de-duplication.

For data reported as unknown by count teams due to access or privacy concerns (e.g. individuals residing in vehicles, tents, abandoned buildings, etc.), extrapolation percentages were derived from a review of both survey and count sources and applied to this segment of the general street count population.

These two counts were subsequently combined to produce an overall estimate of unsheltered unaccompanied youth and young adults. Additional data on young people residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing collected through the sheltered count were included in the total number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COUNT CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

In addition to the overall challenges and limitations applicable to Point-in-Time Counts discussed previously, one of the challenges specifically facing the youth and young adult count in Seattle/King County was the involvement of only youth-specific service providers. Approximately 40% of young adults in Seattle/King County are served solely by the single adult or family systems. Local data reveal that these are essentially non-overlapping groups of young people that have little or no contact with youth-specific service providers. Consequently, counts obtained through the youth and young adult count were significantly lower than estimates from HMIS and the local coordinated entry system. While this was partially mitigated by the integration of youth and young adult estimates derived from the all-population general street count and survey effort, the "snapshot" element of conducting Point-in-Time Counts is further compounded by the often transitory and cyclical nature of youth homelessness.

Sheltered Count Methodology

GOAL

The goal of the sheltered count was to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily residing in sheltered locations across Seattle/King County, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens. These data were vital to gaining an accurate, overall count of the local population experiencing homelessness and to understanding where individuals and families access shelter.

DEFINITION

For the purposes of the count, the HUD definition of sheltered homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count was used. This definition includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide a temporary living arrangement, which may include emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven programs.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Most shelter facilities reported their occupancies for the night of January 26, 2017 through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). BitFocus, the administrators of the local HMIS system, then reported shelter data in aggregate to Applied Survey Research. For shelter facilities not included in the HMIS, Applied Survey Research collected their data through a web-based survey. For data with unknown demographic information, the HUD Point-in-Time Count Data Extrapolation Tool was used to produce estimates. Only programs listed on the Housing Inventory Count reported to HUD are included in the shelter report, which was developed with review by BitFocus.

Survey Methodology

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The survey of 878 individuals experiencing homelessness (not inclusive of the youth and young adults surveyed through the youth and young adult count effort) in the weeks following the general street count was conducted in order to yield qualitative data on the homeless community in Seattle/King County.[8] The survey collected information such as gender, household composition, military service, length and recurrence of homelessness, usual nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted by peer surveyors with current or recent experience of homelessness and service provider volunteers who were trained on the project background information and

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[8] Please note that the methodology described here applies only to the general Count Us In Survey of all populations experiencing homelessness, during which 878 unique surveys were completed. However, in the final analysis, an additional 280 eligible surveys conducted during the youth and young adult count were included for a total of 1,158 surveys.

instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Peer surveyors were compensated at a rate of $7 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily collected if an incentive gift was offered in appreciation for respondents' time and participation. Socks were given as an incentive for completing the survey. The socks were easy to obtain and distribute, were thought to have wide appeal, and could be provided within the project budget. The gift proved to be a successful incentive and was widely accepted among survey respondents.

SURVEY SAMPLING

Based on the point-in-time estimates of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, with all attempts made at a randomized survey sampling process, the 1,158 valid surveys (inclusive of 280 HUD-eligible surveys conducted during the youth and young adult count component) represent a confidence interval of +/- 2.7% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the total estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. Data collected from the survey effort were used to estimate characteristics of the unsheltered population experiencing homelessness by applying percentages of respondents to the number of individuals tallied during the general street count. This included producing estimates of certain subpopulations (i.e. chronically homeless, veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied youth and young adults), and of individuals living in vehicles, tents, and abandoned buildings.

The 2017 Count Us In survey was administered in both unsheltered locations and in transitional housing programs. Unsheltered quotas were developed based on preliminary results from the general street count, and included quotas set for each of the twelve regions covered by deployment centers during the general street count, as well as 11 encampment locations and 2 special vehicle outreach teams. Quotas for emergency shelter and transitional housing programs were based on the previous year's housing inventory count, and focused similarly on ensuring geographic and subpopulation representation across programs countywide. Emergency shelter and unsheltered quotas were met by selecting respondents from general street locations throughout the county. Transitional housing quotas were met by program staff selecting residents and administering the survey to heads of household.

Strategic attempts were made to reach individuals in various geographic locations, and of various subsets such as vehicle residents, encampment residents, families, domestic violence survivors, veterans, and unaccompanied youth. These strategic attempts to increase the participation of these groups included recruiting peer surveyors to engage them in the survey, partnering with a number of local service providers throughout the county with specific knowledge of certain regions or subpopulations, and establishing specific regional and subpopulation quotas to help achieve geographic and subpopulation representation.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, peer surveyors were instructed to employ an "every third encounter" survey approach. Peer surveyors were to approach every third person they encountered whom they considered to be an eligible survey respondent. If the person declined to take the survey, the peer surveyor could approach the next eligible person they encountered. After completing a survey, the randomized approach was resumed. It is important to recognize that while efforts were made to randomize the respondents, it was not a random sample methodology.

It is important to recognize that the populations of individuals experiencing homelessness is considered an estimate, as most populations are actually unknown and there are known limitations to population census efforts. The sampling method used in 2017 Count Us In lay somewhere between simple random sampling (SRS) and selective sampling (SS).

Selective sampling assures an even, random sampling of the population. This method was used in unsheltered locations where individuals in any one neighborhood or location were not static, making simple random sampling difficult or impossible. Simple random sampling was used in sheltered locations in order to ensure any one head of household or individual was as likely as any other to be included in the sample.

DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable, regardless of the street or shelter location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any one individual.

DATA ANALYSIS

The survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth, so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined respondents' date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, and length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey. This process was also inclusive of the surveys completed as part of the youth and young adult count efforts. This left 1,158 valid surveys for analysis. Due to the sensitive nature of the survey, respondents were not required to answer every survey question, and respondents were asked to skip questions that were not applicable. Additionally, the youth and young adult count survey featured fewer questions than the general Count Us In survey, with only questions required for HUD reporting and youth-specific questions of local interest included. For this reason, the number of respondents for each survey question may not total 1,158.

ESTIMATING UNSHELTERED SUBPOPULATIONS: CHRONICALLY HOMELESS, VETERANS, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, AND UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

In order to estimate the number of individuals belonging to the key subpopulations identified by HUD, the following methods were employed for unsheltered subpopulations.

Chronically Homeless

Individuals – Percentage of single survey respondents meeting the definition of chronic homelessness were applied to the population of individuals of the same age category (under 18, 18-24 years old, and over 24 years old) counted during the general street count.

Families with children – Percentage of family survey respondents meeting the definition of chronic homelessness were applied to the number of families counted during the general street count. The total number of individuals in family households experiencing

chronic homelessness was estimated based on the mean household size of family survey respondents meeting the definition of chronic homelessness.

Veterans

Individuals – Percentage of single survey respondents identifying as veterans was applied to the number of young adults (18-24 years old) and adults (older than 24 years old) counted during the general street count.

Families with children – Percentage of family survey respondents identifying as veterans was applied to the total number of family households counted during the general street count. The total number of individuals in veteran family households was estimated based on the mean household size of veteran family survey respondents.

Families with Children

The number of families with children and the total number of individuals in these households come from the general street count. Count volunteers tallied individuals in families observed, recording the age category of each family member (under 18, age 18-24, or older than 24) and grouping these individual tallies together to indicate a single family household. Estimates of unsheltered families with children were not extrapolated from survey data due to the small sample size of unsheltered family survey respondents.

Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults

Estimates of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 were produced through a combination of young people counted through the survey-based youth and young adult count and young people observed during the general street count. Following de-duplication of young people counted across these two components, extrapolation of known age information derived through the general street count and survey was applied to individuals whose ages were recorded as unknown during the street count. For more information, please see the *Youth and Young Adult Count* section in *Appendix 1*.

SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The 2017 Count Us In survey effort in Seattle/King County did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences, as it is difficult to access all of the different groups of people experiencing homelessness. However, the more expansive coverage of unsheltered locations throughout the county provided a more comprehensive understanding of the overall population than in previous years.

There may be some variance in the data that survey respondents self-reported. However, using a peer-to-peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow respondents to be more candid with their answers and to help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Further, service providers and survey distribution coordinators recommended individuals who would be best suited to conduct interviews and reviewed surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.

Appendix 2: Point-in-Time Count Results

The following tables include the 2017 Point-in-Time Count data submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. Data are reported by three household types (households with at least one adult and one child, households with no children, and households with only children) and by shelter status (emergency shelter, transitional housing, safe haven, and unsheltered). Specific data on veteran households, youth and young adult households, and various subpopulations are also reported and included in the tables found in this section.

ALL HOUSEHOLDS
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE ADULT AND ONE CHILD

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	328	555		22	905
Total number of persons	1084	1668		81	2833
Number of children (under 18)	645	1002		42	1689
Number of young adults (18-24)	78	127		6	211
Number of adults (over 24)	361	539		33	933
Gender (adults and children)					
Female	632	1026		41	1699
Male	452	642		40	1134
Transgender	0	0		0	0
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0		0	0
Ethnicity (adults and children)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	903	1403		65	2371
Hispanic/Latino	181	265		16	462
Race (adults and children)					
White	254	460		44	758
Black or African-American	290	774		21	1085

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Asian	6	60		0	66
American Indian or Alaska Native	150	37		0	187
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	45	95		3	143
Multiple Races	339	242		13	594
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of households	91			3	94
Total number of persons	282			8	290

HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CHILDREN

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	2389	928	43	2669	6029
Total number of persons	2392	941	43	5209	8585
Number of youth adults (age 18-24)	153	177	0	947	1277
Number of adults (over age 24)	2239	764	43	4262	7308
Gender					
Female	601	264	24	1546	2435
Male	1773	656	19	3482	5930
Transgender	15	16	0	99	130
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	3	5	0	82	90
Ethnicity					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	2120	829	42	4504	7495
Hispanic/Latino	272	112	1	705	1090
Race					
White	1320	514	20	2575	4429
Black or African-American	705	269	19	1237	2230
Asian	73	29	4	66	172
American Indian or Alaska Native	95	34	0	379	508
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	36	10	0	61	107
Multiple Races	163	85	0	891	1139
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	665	0	37	1779	2481

HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONLY CHILDREN (UNDER 18)

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	13	15	0	167	195
Total number of children (persons under age 18)	15	15	0	195	225

Gender					
Female	8	10	0	51	69
Male	7	3	0	137	147
Transgender	0	2	0	7	9
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	11	12	0	156	179
Hispanic/Latino	4	3	0	39	46
Race					
White	8	9	0	49	66
Black or African-American	1	5	0	81	87
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0	0	0	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0	0	8	9
Multiple Races	3	1	0	57	61
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	2	0	0	0	2

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS
(SUBSET OF *ALL HOUSEHOLDS*)

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE ADULT AND ONE CHILD

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	2	24	0	2	28
Total number of persons	7	86	0	7	100
Total number of veterans	2	24	0	2	28
Gender (veterans only)					
Female	1	11	0	0	12
Male	1	13	0	2	16
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity (veterans only)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	2	23	0	1	26
Hispanic/Latino	0	1	0	1	2
Race (veterans only)					
White	0	12	0	1	13
Black or African-American	2	10	0	0	12

Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	2	0	0	2
Multiple Races	0	0	0	1	1
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of households	0	0	0	1	1
Total number of persons	0	0	0	3	3

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CHILDREN

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	282	328	0	691	1301
Total number of persons	282	337	0	1349	1968
Total number of veterans	282	328	0	691	1301
Gender (veterans only)					
Female	15	9	0	19	43
Male	264	317	0	642	1223
Transgender	3	2	0	29	34
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	1	1
Ethnicity (veterans only)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	268	303	0	627	1198
Hispanic/Latino	14	25	0	64	103
Race (veterans only)					
White	164	193	0	379	736
Black or African-American	78	83	0	161	322
Asian	6	9	0	9	24
American Indian or Alaska Native	13	9	0	57	79
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	5	0	0	9
Multiple Races	17	29	0	85	131
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	71	0	0	346	417

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOUSEHOLDS
(SUBSET OF *ALL HOUSEHOLDS*)

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOUSEHOLDS

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of unaccompanied youth and young adult households	164	189	0	950	1303
Total number of unaccompanied youth and young adults	164	192	0	1142	1498
Number of unaccompanied youth (under 18)	11	15	0	195	221
Number of unaccompanied young adults (18-24)	153	177	0	947	1277
Gender (unaccompanied youth)					
Female	58	84	0	452	594
Male	101	90	0	615	806
Transgender	4	14	0	50	68
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	1	4	0	25	30
Ethnicity (unaccompanied youth)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	140	147	0	949	1236
Hispanic/Latino	24	45	0	193	262
Race (unaccompanied youth)					
White	89	75	0	483	647
Black or African-American	40	66	0	281	387
Asian	4	7	0	0	11
American Indian or Alaska Native	9	17	0	87	113
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	0	0	60	62
Multiple Races	20	27	0	231	278
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	11	0	0	302	313

PARENTING YOUTH HOUSEHOLDS

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of parenting youth households	57	72	0	6	135
Total number of persons in parenting youth households	162	189	0	13	364

Number of parenting youth (youth parents only)	59	77	0	6	142
Number of parenting youth under 18	1	0	0	0	1
Number of parenting youth ages 18-24	58	77	0	6	141
Number of children with parenting youth (children under age 18 with parents under age 25)	103	112	0	7	222
Gender (youth parents only)					
Female	55	71	0	2	128
Male	4	6	0	4	14
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity (youth parents only)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	56	70	0	5	131
Hispanic/Latino	3	7	0	1	11
Race (youth parents only)					
White	15	15	0	3	33
Black or African-American	33	37	0	3	73
Asian	0	1	0	0	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	1	0	0	3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	3	0	0	3
Multiple Races	9	20	0	0	29
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of households	2	0	0	1	3
Total number of persons	6	0	0	2	8

ADDITIONAL POPULATIONS

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	497	346	6	2071	2920
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	304	172	0	1615	2091
Adults with HIV/AIDS	36	13	0	164	213
Victims of Domestic Violence (optional)	422	478	10	1811	2721

Appendix 3: Survey Results

The following tables include the aggregate results of each question asked of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County during the 2017 Count Us In survey.

Section A: Demographics		Count	Column N %
Age	Less than 18 years	40	3.5%
	18 - 24 years	269	23.2%
	25 - 30 years	122	10.5%
	31 - 40 years	224	19.3%
	41 - 50 years	257	22.2%
	51 - 60 years	180	15.5%
	61 years or more	66	5.7%
	Total	1158	100.0%
Which of the following best represents how you think of your gender?	Male	738	64.6%
	Refused	4	.4%
	Other not listed	2	.2%
	Female	371	32.5%
	Transgender	20	1.8%
	Don't identify as male, female, or transgender	3	.3%

	Gender-queer	4	.4%
	Gender non-conforming	4	.4%
	Non-binary	7	.6%
	Total	1142	100.0%
Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Yes	136	12.2%
	No	958	85.9%
	Don't know	21	1.9%
	Total	1115	100.0%
Which racial group do you identify with most?	White	611	54.1%
	Black or African American	322	28.5%
	Asian	49	4.3%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	109	9.7%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	35	3.1%
	Other	127	11.2%
	Total	1129	100.0%
Which of the following best represents how you think of your sexual orientation?	Straight	930	81.9%
	Queer	24	2.1%
	Bisexual	80	7.0%
	Pansexual	14	1.2%
	Lesbian or Gay	53	4.7%
	I dont't know/questioning	17	1.5%
	Refused	26	2.3%

	Other	11	1.0%
	Total	1135	100.0%
Are you currently pregnant or parenting?	Yes	88	7.6%
	No	1057	91.4%
	Don't know	11	1.0%
	Total	1156	100.0%
Have you ever been in foster care?	Yes	213	19.1%
	No	903	80.9%
	Total	1116	100.0%
Do you have a companion animal living with you?	Yes	42	15.2%
	No	229	83.0%
	Don't know	5	1.8%
	Total	276	100.0%
Is English your primary language?	Yes	752	88.0%
	No, specify:_____	65	7.6%
	Decline to state	38	4.4%
	Total	855	100.0%

Section B: Veterans Status		Count	Column N %
Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces?	Yes	148	12.9%
	No	986	86.0%
	Don't know	12	1.0%

	Total	1146	100.0%
Were you ever called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?	Yes	30	3.5%
	No	828	95.5%
	Don't know	9	1.0%
	Total	867	100.0%
Have you ever received health care or benefits from a VA center?	Yes	93	10.7%
	No	773	88.9%
	Don't know	4	.5%
	Total	870	100.0%
Is anyone else in your household a Veteran?	Yes	99	8.7%
	No	1026	89.7%
	Don't know	19	1.7%
	Total	1144	100.0%

Section C: Accommodation		Count	Column N %
Where were you staying on the night of January 26th?	Outdoors/streets/parks/tent	262	22.6%
	Backyard or storage structure	18	1.6%
	Motel/hotel	65	5.6%
	Emergency shelter	314	27.1%
	Transitional housing	238	20.6%
	A place in a house not normally used for sleeping	24	2.1%

	Public facility (train station, transit center, bus depot)	12	1.0%
	Van	18	1.6%
	Automobile/car	49	4.2%
	Camper/RV	43	3.7%
	Abandoned building/squat	26	2.2%
	Encampment	36	3.1%
	Drug/alcohol treatment/detox center	0	0.0%
	Hospital	0	0.0%
	Jail/juvenile detention/prison	0	0.0%
	Foster care placement	0	0.0%
	Apartment/house/trailer	0	0.0%
	A home owned/rented by you/partner	0	0.0%
	A home owned/rented by friends/relatives	0	0.0%
	Other	53	4.6%
	Total	1158	100.0%
How many people including yourself usually stay there?	1	33	57.9%
	2	9	15.8%
	3	6	10.5%
	4	3	5.3%
	5	2	3.5%
	7	1	1.8%
	12	1	1.8%
	20	1	1.8%
	30	1	1.8%

	Total	57	100.0%
Is this the first time you have been homeless?	Yes	408	35.9%
	No	730	64.1%
	Total	1138	100.0%
How long have you been homeless this current time? (Shade 1)	7 days or less	46	4.4%
	8-30 days	38	3.7%
	1-3 months	85	8.2%
	4-6 months	133	12.9%
	7-11 months	120	11.6%
	1 year	98	9.5%
	More than 1 year	515	49.8%
	Total	1035	100.0%
How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years, including this current time?	1 time	452	40.0%
	2 times	167	14.8%
	3 times	91	8.0%
	4 times	50	4.4%
	5 times	19	1.7%
	6 or more times	94	8.3%
	Less than 4 times	112	9.9%
	4 or more times	113	10.0%
	Don't know	33	2.9%
	Total	1131	100.0%

Have you been living in an emergency shelter and/or on the streets (including bus stations, underpasses, encampments, abandoned buildings, etc.) for the past year (12 months) or more?	Yes	488	56.2%
	No	342	39.4%
	Decline to state	39	4.5%
	Total	869	100.0%
In addition to right now, how long would you say you have stayed in these kinds of places total in the past 3 years?	Less than a year	342	37.4%
	1 - 3 years	493	53.9%
	4 years or more	79	8.6%
	Total	914	100.0%
Have you ever been asked to move from your sleeping location by law enforcement?	Yes	393	46.5%
	No	452	53.5%
	Total	845	100.0%
How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?	0-17 years	218	19.8%
	18-24 years	288	26.1%
	25-35 years	261	23.7%
	36-49 years	196	17.8%
	50-65 years	129	11.7%
	66 or older	11	1.0%
	Total	1103	100.0%

Section D: Household Members		Count	Column N %
How many people are in your household, including yourself?	1	923	82.3%
	2	147	13.1%
	3	26	2.3%
	4	15	1.3%
	5	4	.4%
	6	2	.2%
	7	4	.4%
	Total	1121	100.0%
Do you have any children under age 18?	Yes	200	23.2%
	No	642	74.6%
	Don't know	19	2.2%
	Total	861	100.0%
Are any of your children under 18 currently living with you?	Yes	66	7.7%
	No	794	92.2%
	Don't know	1	.1%
	Total	861	100.0%
Do you live alone or with other household members?	Alone	697	81.0%
	With other household members	164	19.0%
	Total	861	100.0%

Section D1: Demographic Household Members		Count	Column N %	Responses	Column Responses %
How they are related to you?	Child	76	46.3%	76	41.3%
	Spouse	29	17.7%	29	15.8%
	Non-married partner	52	31.7%	52	28.3%
	Other family member	9	5.5%	9	4.9%
	Other non-family member	18	11.0%	18	9.8%
	Total	164	100.0%	184	100.0%
How old are they?	Under 18	75	46.6%	75	40.1%
	18-24	21	13.0%	21	11.2%
	25+	91	56.5%	91	48.7%
	Total	161	100.0%	187	100.0%
How do they Identify their gender?	Male	107	65.2%	107	52.7%
	Female	91	55.5%	91	44.8%
	Transgender	2	1.2%	2	1.0%
	Don't identify as male, female or transgender	3	1.8%	3	1.5%
	Total	164	100.0%	203	100.0%
Are they Hispanic or Latino?	Yes	27	16.5%	27	15.8%
	No	131	79.9%	131	76.6%
	Don't know	13	7.9%	13	7.6%
	Total	164	100.0%	171	100.0%
Which racial group do they identify with the most?	White	103	54.8%	103	41.0%

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	African American	69	36.7%	69	27.5%
	Asian	16	8.5%	16	6.4%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	16	8.5%	16	6.4%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	5	2.7%	5	2.0%
	Other	26	13.8%	26	10.4%
	Don't Know/Refuse	16	8.5%	16	6.4%
	Total	188	100.0%	251	100.0%

Section E: Residency		Count	Column N %
Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?	Out of State	77	8.9%
	King County	668	77.1%
	Pierce County	44	5.1%
	Thurston County	7	.8%
	Snohomish County	39	4.5%
	Another County in WA	31	3.6%
	Total	866	100.0%
If from outside the county, why did you move to King County?	For a job/seeking work	43	21.8%
	Was traveling/visiting and remained here	25	12.7%
	To access VA services or clinic	8	4.1%
	Family/friends are here	36	18.3%
	To access homeless services and/or benefits	50	25.4%

	LGBTQ community/acceptance	7	3.6%
	Legal Marijuana	7	3.6%
	Other	21	10.7%
	Total	197	100.0%
How long have you lived in King County?	Less than 1 year	214	19.4%
	1-4 years	274	24.8%
	5-9 years	140	12.7%
	10 years or more	238	21.5%
	Born/grew up here	239	21.6%
	Total	1105	100.0%
Immediately before you became homeless, where were you living?	A home owned or rented by you or your partner	364	43.2%
	Subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing	52	6.2%
	Hospital or treatment facility	21	2.5%
	A home owned or rented by friends/relatives	260	30.9%
	Juvenile Justice Facility	1	.1%
	Foster care	3	.4%
	Jail or prison	42	5.0%
	Motel/hotel	38	4.5%
	Military base/active duty	5	.6%
	Other	56	6.7%
	Total	842	100.0%

Section F: Cause and Prevention		Count	Column N %
What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness?	Lost job	255	29.5%
	Family/domestic violence	50	5.8%
	Mental health issues	66	7.6%
	Hospitalization/treatment	22	2.5%
	Aging out of foster care	4	.5%
	Could not afford rent increase	50	5.8%
	Eviction	94	10.9%
	Family/friend's housing wouldn't let me stay	48	5.6%
	Family/friend couldn't afford to let you stay	32	3.7%
	Death of a parent/spouse/child	32	3.7%
	Foreclosure	19	2.2%
	Incarceration	61	7.1%
	Alcohol or drug use	170	19.7%
	Illness/medical problems	72	8.3%
	Divorce/separation/break up	74	8.6%
	Other	53	6.1%
	Don't know/decline to state	23	2.7%
	Argument with a friend or family member who asked you to leave	69	8.0%
	Total	864	100.0%
What would help you obtain permanent housing?	Help clearing my credit	211	24.3%
	Help clearing my rental history	196	22.6%

	Medical/health care	99	11.4%
	Child care assistance	41	4.7%
	Immigration/refugee assistance	26	3.0%
	Case management	209	24.1%
	Rental assistance	560	64.6%
	Additional education	140	16.1%
	More affordable housing	435	50.2%
	Landlords who accept my housing voucher	177	20.4%
	Job/increased income	394	45.4%
	Money for moving costs	384	44.3%
	Legal assistance	133	15.3%
	New ID/Paperwork	107	12.3%
	Make housing process easier	360	41.5%
	Other	37	4.3%
	Transportation	219	25.3%
	Total	867	100.0%
If safe, affordable housing were available, would you move inside?	No	34	4.0%
	Yes	776	91.6%
	Decline to state	37	4.4%
	Total	847	100.0%

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Section G: Income and Employment		Count	Column N %
What is your current employment status?	Employed full-time	65	7.5%
	Employed part-time	81	9.4%
	Employed seasonal/sporadic	107	12.4%
	Unemployed	610	70.7%
	Total	863	100.0%
How long has it been since you received payment for work?	1- 6 months	296	36.9%
	7- 12 months	157	19.6%
	2 years	116	14.4%
	3-5 years	95	11.8%
	More than 5 years	139	17.3%
	Total	803	100.0%
What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Less than high school	287	25.5%
	High school/GED	453	40.2%
	Some college or AA	322	28.6%
	Bachelor's	45	4.0%
	Graduate degree (Masters or PhD)	19	1.7%
	Total	1126	100.0%

Section H: Health 1. Do you experience any of the following:	Yes		No		Refuse		Total	
Any chronic health problem or medical condition	341	30.2%	742	65.7%	46	4.1%	1129	100.0%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	380	33.7%	699	62.1%	47	4.2%	1126	100.0%
Any psychiatric or emotional conditions	504	44.9%	566	50.4%	52	4.6%	1122	100.0%
A physical disability	285	25.6%	791	70.9%	39	3.5%	1115	100.0%
A traumatic brain injury	124	11.1%	947	84.7%	47	4.2%	1118	100.0%
Drug or alcohol abuse	402	35.7%	676	60.0%	48	4.3%	1126	100.0%
An AIDS or an HIV related illness	34	3.1%	1006	92.6%	46	4.2%	1086	100.0%

Section H: Health 2. Does it keep you from holding a job, living in stable housing or taking care of yourself?	Yes		No		Refuse		Total	
Any chronic health problem or medical condition	225	66.0%	106	31.1%	10	2.9%	341	100.0%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	241	63.4%	130	34.2%	9	2.4%	380	100.0%
Any psychiatric or emotional conditions	349	69.2%	138	27.4%	17	3.4%	504	100.0%
A physical disability	220	77.2%	55	19.3%	10	3.5%	285	100.0%
A traumatic brain injury	81	65.3%	36	29.0%	7	5.6%	124	100.0%
Drug or alcohol abuse	271	67.4%	120	29.9%	11	2.7%	402	100.0%
An AIDS or an HIV related illness	25	73.5%	8	23.5%	1	2.9%	34	100.0%

Section H: Health Additional Questions		Count	Column N %
If you live with a spouse, a significant other or parent, do any of the following conditions prevent them from maintaining work or housing?	Chronic health problem	15	1.7%
	PTSD	10	1.2%

	Drug or alcohol abuse	27	3.1%
	Physical disability	11	1.3%
	Traumatic brain injury	4	.5%
	Psychiatric or emotional condition	17	2.0%
	HIV/AIDS	3	.3%
	None of the above	38	4.4%
	Not applicable	780	90.1%
	Total	866	100.0%
Are you currently experiencing home/domestic violence or abuse?	Yes	68	6.7%
	No	908	90.0%
	Decline to state	33	3.3%
	Total	1009	100.0%
Have you ever been physically, emotionally or sexually abused by a relative,	Yes	402	40.0%
	No	551	54.8%
	Decline to state	53	5.3%
	Total	1006	100.0%

Section I: Services and Assistance		Count	Column N %
Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance?	Emergency shelter	367	42.1%
	Mental health services	201	23.1%
	Alcohol/drug counseling	135	15.5%
	Not using any services	55	6.3%
	Free meals	540	61.9%

	Bus passes	384	44.0%
	Job training/employment services	117	13.4%
	Day services	259	29.7%
	Legal assistance	90	10.3%
	Transitional housing	289	33.1%
	Immigration services	24	2.8%
	Health services	277	31.8%
	Other	24	2.8%
	Total	872	100.0%
If you are not using any type of shelter services, why not?	They are full	9	20.9%
	They don't accept my pet	4	9.3%
	They are far away	3	7.0%
	They are too crowded	14	32.6%
	Germs	11	25.6%
	Bugs	11	25.6%
	I can't stay with my partner/family	4	9.3%
	I can't stay with my friends	1	2.3%
	There is nowhere to store my stuff	11	25.6%
	There are too many rules	17	39.5%
	Total	43	100.0%
Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance?	General Assistance (GA)	61	7.8%
	Food Stamps/SNAP/WIC	545	69.8%
	Any VA Disability Compensation	24	3.1%

	Other Veterans benefits (GI, Health)	27	3.5%
	Social Security	58	7.4%
	SSI/SSDI/Disability	135	17.3%
	Medicaid/Medicare	230	29.4%
	TANF	36	4.6%
	Not receiving any form of	147	18.8%
	Total	781	100.0%
Have you recently experienced any of the following issues trying to get help or access services in the community?	Did not have an ID or personal document	206	25.3%
	Never heard back after applying for services	125	15.4%
	Separation from my partner/spouse	72	8.8%
	Did not know where to go for help	219	26.9%
	Did not qualify for the service I wanted	212	26.0%
	Did not follow through or return for services	90	11.1%
	Separation from my pet	48	5.9%
	Lack of transportation	264	32.4%
	Language barrier	34	4.2%
	Issues with program staff	95	11.7%
	Program rules are too strict	106	13.0%
	I have not experienced any issues	174	21.4%
	Other	41	5.0%
	Total	814	100.0%
Have you taken a Coordinated Entry Assessment (CEA)?	**1 Yes**	153	13.6%

	2 No	701	62.5%
	3 Don't know	268	23.9%
	Total	1122	100.0%

Section J: Criminal Justice System		Count	Column N %
Have you ever been in jail or juvenile detention?	1 Yes	618	54.6%
	2 No	477	42.2%
	3 Decline to state	36	3.2%
Are you currently on probation or parole?	1 Yes	121	10.8%
	2 No	959	85.9%
	3 Decline to state	37	3.3%
	Total	1117	100.0%

Appendix 4: Table of Figures

Appendix 5: Regional Definitions & Unsheltered Counts

EAST COUNTY
Beaux Arts Village
Bellevue
Clyde Hill
Hunts Point
Kirkland
Medina
Mercer Island
Newcastle
Redmond
Yarrow Point

NORTH COUNTY
Bothell
Kenmore
Lake Forest Park
Shoreline
Woodinville

NORTHEAST COUNTY
Carnation
Duvall
Issaquah
North Bend
Sammamish
Skykomish
Snoqualmie

SEATTLE

SOUTHEAST COUNTY
Black Diamond
Covington
Enumclaw
Maple Valley

SOUTHWEST COUNTY
Algona
Auburn
Burien
Des Moines
Federal Way
Kent
Milton
Normandy Park
Pacific
Renton
SeaTac
Tukwila
Vashon Island

REGION	2017					
	PERSONS ON STREETS/ OUTSIDE	PERSONS IN CAR/RV/ VAN	PERSONS IN TENTS	PERSONS IN ABANDONED BUILDINS	TOTAL UN-SHELTERED PERSONS	% OF TOTAL
East County	33	201	46	4	**284**	**5%**
North County	16	35	0	2	**53**	**1%**
Northeast County	22	29	66	2	**119**	**2%**
Seattle	1,076	1,550	1,153	78	**3,857**	**70%**
Southeast County	22	39	9	0	**70**	**1%**
Southwest County	313	460	277	52	**1,102**	**20%**
Total	**1,482**	**2,314**	**1,551**	**138**	**5,485**	**100%**

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In. Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1. For regional definitions, please see Appendix 5.

Appendix 6: Terms & Abbreviations

Chronic homelessness – Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as "an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years." This definition also applies to heads of household who meet the definition.

Disabling condition – A physical disability, mental illness, depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or a developmental disability.

Emergency shelter – The provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility, or through the use of stabilization rooms. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 90 days or fewer. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for survivors and their children.

Family – A household with at least one adult and one child under 18.

Homeless – Under the Category 1 definition of homelessness in the HEARTH Act, includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, or with 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, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

HUD – Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Safe haven – A form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach persons experiencing homelessness with severe mental illness, who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.

Sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness – Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

Single individual – *A*n unaccompanied adult or youth.

Unaccompanied young adult – Unaccompanied young person between the ages of 18 and 24 years old.

Transitional housing – Housing in which individuals experiencing homelessness may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Supportive services – which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination

– may be provided by the organization managing the housing, or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Unaccompanied youth – Children under the age of 18 who do not have a parent or guardian present.

Unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness – Individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.

Appendix 7: Acknowledgements

The 2017 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count planning team would like to thank the many individuals and organizations who contributed to this project. Nearly 1,000 community volunteers, individuals with lived experience of homelessness, county and jurisdictional agencies, community-based organizations, donors and sponsors assisted with all aspects of Count Us In. From participating in planning meetings and coordinating count logistics to serving on the day of the street count and facilitating the administration of surveys, the support of the community was critical to the success of the count.

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SERVICE PROVIDERS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services • Acres of Diamonds • Asian Counseling and Referral Service • Atlantic Street Center • Attain Housing • Auburn Food Bank • Auburn Youth Resources • Bread of Life Mission • Catholic Community Services • Community Psychiatric Clinic • Compass Housing Alliance • Compass Housing Alliance – Road to Home Congregations for the Homeless • Consejo Counseling and Referral • Downtown Emergency Service Center • First Place School • Friends of Youth • Harborview Medical Center • Hopelink • Interagency Academy • Interim CDA • Issaquah Community Center • Jubilee Women's Center • Learning Center North • Lifelong AIDS Alliance • Lifewire • Low Income Housing Institute • Mary's Place • Mercy Housing Northwest • Multi-Service Center • Muslim Housing Services • Neighborcare Health 45th Street Homeless Youth Clinic • New Beginnings • New Horizons Ministries • Operation Nightwatch • Opportunity Center • Peace on the Streets by Kids from the Streets • Pioneer Human Services • Plateau Outreach • Plymouth Healing Communities • POCAAN • REACH • Reconnect to Opportunity • ROOTS • The Salvation Army • Sanctuary Art Center • SHARE/WHEEL • Shoreline Community Center • Solid Ground • The Sophia Way • Sound Mental Health • St. Stephen Housing Association • Street Youth Ministries • Teen Feed • Therapeutic Health Services • Union Gospel Mission • Vine Maple Place • Vision House • Way Back Inn • Wellspring Family Services• We Count • YMCA • YouthCare • YouthSource • YWCA

CITY AND COUNTY PARTNERS

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SEATTLE/KING COUNTY

2017 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT