KCRHA
King County Regional Homelessness Authority

2024 Unsheltered PIT

Updated: 10/13/23

5 Year Planning Model

53,532 People

State administrative data indicates that in 2022, over 53,000 people experienced homelessness in King County.

Agenda

- Background
- Overview for 2024
- Respondent Driven Sampling
- Lessons learned from 2022
- Timeline

Background

- Point-in-Time Count (PIT) required by HUD
- Aligns with the Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Unsheltered PIT required every-other year
- Standard Unsheltered PIT is a street count
- Widely understood to be an undercount

Background

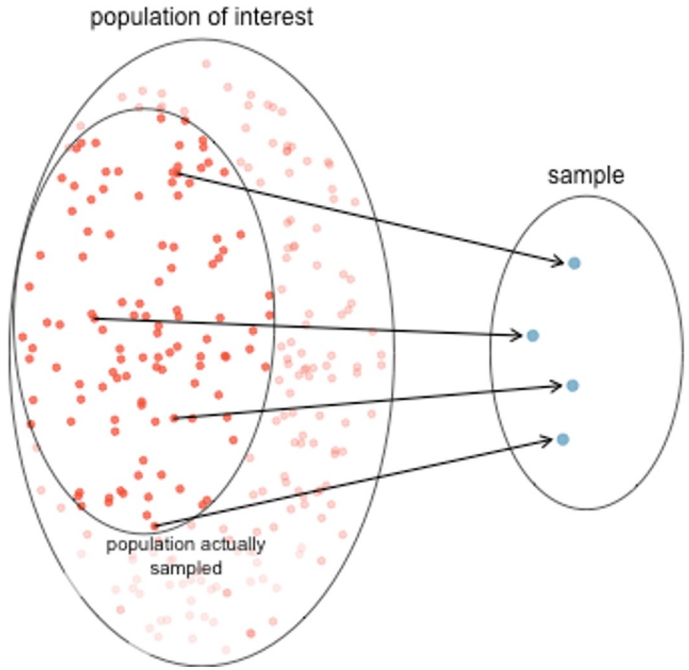
- King County has been doing the PIT for decades
- KCRHA became system administrator in 2022
- Received methods exception for 2022 Unsheltered PIT
- Piloted Respondent Driven Sampling
  - Partnered with LEC and researchers from UW

Overview of 2024

- Planning is well underway
- Seeking methods exception from HUD
- Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS)
- Build from lessons learned in 2022
- Partner with University of Washington
  - Data Sharing Agreement
  - Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Respondent Driven Sampling

- RDS is both a sampling strategy and set of statistical estimators
- Measuring hard to reach populations
- Key features:
  - Does not require sampling frame
  - Allows participants to remain anonymous
  - Leverages peer recruitment
  - Allows direct surveying of those sampled



Respondent Driven Sampling

- Known as link-trace sampling or network sampling
- Individuals of the **target population** are recruited through “coupons”
- Survey occurs at known “hub” locations
- The first respondents interviewed/recruited are known as “seeds”

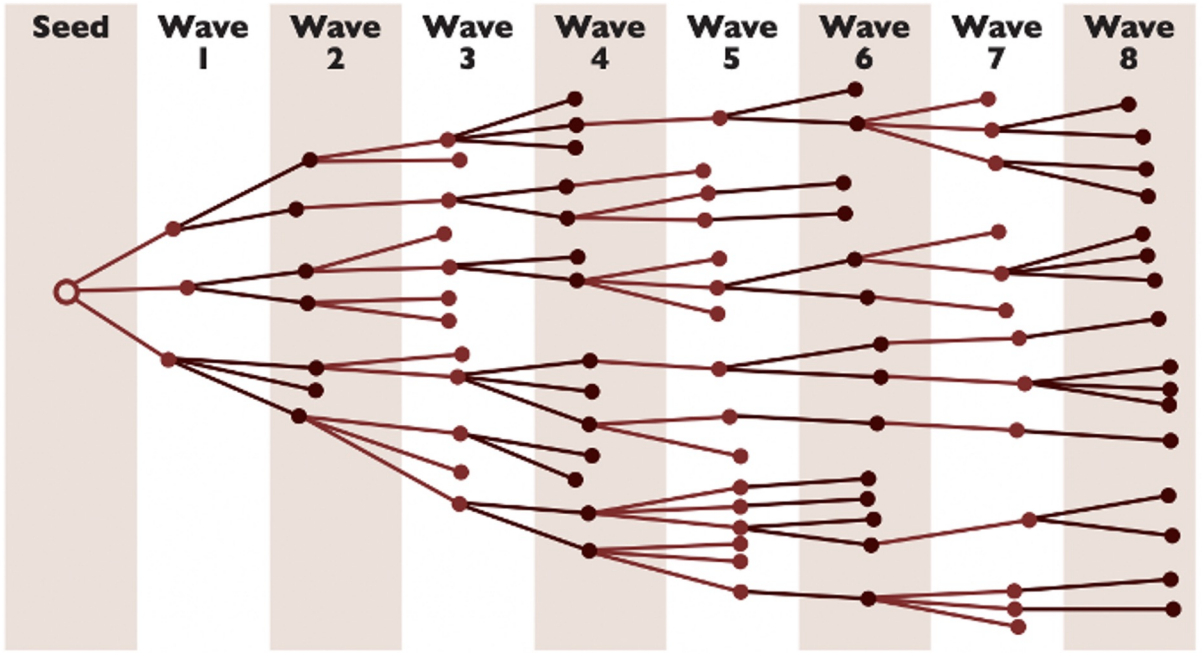


Figure 1.1 Recruitment chain of eight waves generated from one seed

Source: Johnston LG, Sabin K. Sampling hard-to-reach populations with respondent driven sampling. *Methodological Innovations Online*, 2010, 5(2):38–48.

Respondent Driven Sampling

RDS Estimater (Population Size)

Salganik-Heckathorn Estimator

$$\frac{N_u}{N} = \frac{d_s \cdot c_{su}}{d_u c_{us} + d_s \cdot c_{su}} = \mu$$

Where d_s is the average degree of Sheltered population and d_u is the average degree of the unsheltered population. c_{us} and c_{su} are the proportions of each group's relations that are shared with the other group. We estimate this with the observed proportions of cross-group referrals.

Noting,

$$N = N_u + N_s$$

And given that we know $N_s = 5084$, then we can rewrite this as

$$N_u = N_s \frac{\mu}{(1-\mu)}$$

Where we can estimate μ from the RDS sample.

Lessons Learned

Burien and Auburn hubs were not representative of South King County	Will identify hub locations in Kent and Federal way
Only one rural hub in North Bend was hard to get to	Will add one additional rural hub, location to be determined
Staffing demands were greater than anticipated	Staffing plan is more robust, with clearer roles
Paper forms and hand-written coupons were difficult to manage	Forms will be filled out on a tablet with surveyors, use of a coupon tracking app to print coupons on site

Lessons Learned

American Indian Alaska Native Community under-represented	Change how we collect race data, collaborate with Chief Seattle Club
Families with children were under-represented	Pilot phone-based RDS for families with Mary's Place Intake Line
We under-communicated about new methodology	Starting communication plan early, including more detail
Pairing the PIT and qualitative data collection required significant logistics	We will only do data gathering for the PIT this year

Timeline

July-September 2023:
- Planning started
- Submit methods request to HUD
- Reestablish relationship with UW

October 2023:
- Continued planning
- Learnings from UW
- Identify hub locations
- Finalize budget

November 2023:
- Finalize methodology and staffing plan
- Submit methodology to Advisory Board
- Volunteer recruitment

January 2024:
- Finalize all logistics and supplies
- Volunteer training (completed by 12th)
- Data Collection Jan 22nd – Feb 2nd

February 2024:
- A short break to catch our breaths
- Data validation and analysis

March 2024:
- Data analysis complete (March 15th)

April 2024:
- Anticipated HUD submission: April 30th

KCRHA
King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Thank you.

Stay up to date by following us on social media and subscribing to our emails.

Scan this QR code to sign up for KCRHA emails →

@KingCoRHA

@KCRHA