KING COUNTY 2024 POINT IN TIME COUNT

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Executive Summary

To effectively address homelessness in any community, it is crucial to understand the specific populations affected and their unique challenges. This report highlights findings from the 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count conducted by King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) in partnership with the University of Washington, focusing primarily on unsheltered homelessness.

Key findings indicate an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness (26%) and also chronic homelessness (78%) since 2022. Homelessness exists in every corner of *King County*, with notable differences in shelter resources available by region. Disparities persist across racial and ethnic backgrounds, with *American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous People* among the groups most disproportionately affected. Leading causes of homelessness reported by most survey respondents included *job loss*, *eviction*, and *increased rental costs*. When asked about immediate shelter preferences, most people indicated a need for shelters with *accessible and low-barrier enrollment*, that were *clean and safe*, provided *personal space*, and were *located near or in their home community*.

This report provides a data-driven portrait of the regional crisis of homelessness. It is intended as a resource for our communities and their members, including governments, civic leaders, service providers, and community advocates across the region. While specific solutions are beyond the scope of this report, the findings provide a detailed view into how a person's situation, background, and resources present a different experience of homelessness that can then be used to shape frameworks in which interventions can be developed.

About King County Regional Homelessness Authority

King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) coordinates the effort to significantly reduce homelessness throughout *King County, Washington*, by overseeing the **Continuum of Care (CoC)** and its **Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS).** In this role, KCRHA coordinates public funding, including grant management and oversight. The Authority performs data collection, analysis, reporting and management, and data governance. KCRHA also advises on policy direction and develops plans in collaboration with regional partners to address homelessness effectively.

Our approach emphasizes equity and justice, grounded in the principle of **targeted universalism**[1]. We recognize that designing systems to meet the needs of the most marginalized people has benefits for the entire community. By centering individuals with lived experience, we aim to more effectively eliminate inequities and address the diverse needs of those we serve.

KCRHA is responsible for conducting the biennial Unsheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Count for *Seattle and King County*. The resulting data is critical to track trends, inform interventions, and shape equitable frameworks for long-term solutions.

King County is located on the unceded traditional land of the Coast Salish Peoples. KCRHA honors this land and its peoples, both past and present. As part of our commitment to foster equitable outcomes, KCRHA directs resources to organizations led by and supporting Native and Indigenous Peoples.

Acknowledgements

KCRHA extends its deepest gratitude to all who contributed their time, expertise, and resources to successfully complete the 2024 PIT Count. This effort reflects our collective commitment to addressing homelessness with equity and compassion. We especially extend our gratitude to

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[1] https://belonging.berkeley.edu/targeted-universalism

our neighbors who are currently experiencing homelessness for entrusting us with their information and experiences. It is for them, and for the good of all the people who call King County home, that we undertake our mission to end homelessness.

University of Washington Partnership

We are grateful to the University of Washington (UW) faculty and graduate students whose expertise in the Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) method, data collection, and statistical analysis was instrumental. Their support, including the development of essential software and methodology in 2022, was made possible through funding from the National Science Foundation (CAREER Grant #2142964) and UW Population Health Initiative (Tiers 2 and 3).

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KCRHA Staff Contributors

This project would not have been possible without the tireless dedication of KCRHA staff: Abby Anderson, Barbara Talkington, Benjamin Mathewson, Cathea Carey, Carolina Nieva-Lanza, Claire Guilmette, Daniel Ramos III, Ivan Hernandez , James Sizemore, Janelle Rothfolk, Joel Bernstein, Mallory Van Abbema, Owen Kajfasz, Philicia Jenny, Sparrow Carlson, Tamika Alston, Tiffany Brooks, and Tom Regan.

Community Partner Contributors

Public Health — Seattle & King County, King County Library System, Bellevue Public Library, City of Seattle, Aurora Commons, Catholic Community Services, YMCA of Greater Seattle, the Snoqualmie Valley YMCA and Arcadia Youth Shelter and Drop-in Center, Maple Valley Food Bank, The Compass Center, St. Vincent de Paul, Seattle Vet Center, Vashon United Methodist Church, Vashon Presbyterian Church, Vashon Food Bank, Ronald United Methodist Church, Highline United Methodist Church, Together Center, City of Issaquah, Chief Seattle Club, City of Seattle RV Wastewater Collection, Rainer Valley Food Bank, Skyway Silent Task Force, City of SeaTac, Vashon Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness, The Salvation Army, Evergreen

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Special thanks to our partner Mary's Place and to our phone line volunteers Ben, Chaz, Chase, Dorothy, Dustin, Halle, Kristi, Leah, Matt, Nicole, Rumi, and Ryan. Thank you for being flexible and understanding in our process of problem-solving and refining the Family Phone Line process.

Data Sources and Scope

Data Sources

This report draws on data from several sources. Below is an overview of the primary sources. When other sources are cited or used, they are explained inline, with citations included in the references.

- **Point-In-Time Count Dataset:** This dataset represents the responses of people experiencing homelessness in King County collected through Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) (e.g., peer referral) during the survey period.
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data:** This data is drawn from the Homeless Management Information System, which collects, stores, processes, and reports on data collected from participating programs and agencies. This data is used to perform a count of sheltered individuals and households experiencing homelessness as reported by providers of shelters, transitional programs, and safe havens. The data collected is only for the night of the sheltered PIT Count (January 25, 2024).
- **Non-HMIS Sheltered Data:** Non-HMIS data on shelter programs is collected using a survey for homeless service providers that provided temporary lodging for individuals and households on the night of the PIT Count, and that do not regularly report data through HMIS. The survey consists of questions required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and mirrors data collected from HMIS.

Sheltered Dataset

Data on sheltered homelessness is composed of HMIS data (90%) and non-HMIS Sheltered Data (10%) collected from non-participating programs and agencies. This report uses enrollment and service information from the following program types:

- **Congregate Shelters:** Shelter is within a single building, individuals or households do not have a private spot to sleep.
- **Non-Congregate Shelters:** Shelter is within a single building, individuals or households get a private and enclosed space to sleep.
- **Micro Shelter:** Individuals or households get a private place to sleep, typically in a stand-alone structure such as a tiny home or pallet shelter.
- **Hotel/Motel:** A voucher to pay for nightly stay at a hotel or motel.
- **Transitional Programs:** Temporary lodging designed to facilitate the movement of individuals and households experiencing homelessness into permanent housing in a specified period.
- **Safe Haven:** Temporary lodging that serves hard-to-reach individuals experiencing homelessness as in the case of severe mental illness.

Unsheltered Dataset

Data on unsheltered homelessness is collected during the PIT Count using the RDS sampling method (**Point-In-Time Count Dataset**). This survey data is gathered from people who self-reported experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County, and makes enumeration and analysis possible for people residing in places not meant for human habitation, including:

- Streets, sidewalks, parks, abandoned buildings, encampments or other outdoor spaces.
- Vehicle (RV, car, truck, trailer boat, etc.)

Subregions

To better understand local needs, balance priorities, and implement solutions across the different areas of the county, the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between King County and its major cities has prescribed the creation of administrative subregions within the CoC. These subregions represent a best-faith, data-driven effort to recognize the diverse and varied needs of the populations experiencing homelessness in King County and are subject to changing boundaries

as needed. There are currently seven subregions defined by KCRHA within King County. This report will provide summaries and descriptions for each subregion[2].

Privacy and Confidentiality

KCRHA is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of our neighbors who have entrusted us with their information. To this end, we have performed data suppression where sample sizes are very small (n < 10) and have aggregated some labels with small associated sample sizes. Where we have applied these or other treatments to the reported results, we have provided explanations in the footnotes.

Background

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandates that all Continuums of Care (CoC) conduct annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Counts. These serve as the primary national assessment of homelessness[3] between each US Census, which occurs every 10 years. HUD requires a yearly sheltered count and biennial unsheltered count. The PIT Count is designed to take a "snapshot" of people experiencing homelessness on a typical night. The intent is to understand how many people are experiencing homelessness in each CoC, along with their demographic information. The *Seattle/ King County CoC* is entirely comprised of *King County, Washington*.

HUD requires that the measurement day typically occurs on the third Thursday in January. This day is chosen to align with the federal reporting calendar to have a consistent year-to-year

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[2] Summaries do not include Urban Unincorporated Areas since we were unable to gather sufficient data in those areas. For analysis, these Urban Unincorporated Areas were considered continuous with Seattle Metro subregion.

[3] Each CoC reports its findings up to HUD, where the data are organized into the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress (https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar.html). In this report we occasionally make comparisons between our CoC and the nationwide body of data. We acknowledge that differences in collection and analysis techniques (methodologies) result in varying values, but also that the comparisons are between statistics that are accepted as reliable by HUD, and in this way are our best available comparisons between ours and other CoCs.

comparison and to understand the need during winter months when seasonal weather conditions make it even more important.

The 2024 PIT Count took place on January 25, following federal guidelines. The unsheltered survey counts people sleeping outside, in tents, in cars or RVs, or in other locations not meant for human habitation (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2012).

HUD permits regions to develop and apply to use their own methodologies for collecting homelessness data. As the CoC lead, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) is responsible for conducting the count in King County, Washington. This year, as in 2022, KCRHA received approval from HUD to use Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) method for the 2024 Unsheltered PIT Count, which occurred between January 22 and February 2. This is the same as the method used in the 2022 count, which allows us to better compare the results between 2022 and 2024. In the past, the PIT counts used a direct, visual methodology, relying on volunteers to canvass large areas on a single night. RDS, combined with the survey period, improves this approach by leveraging human networks to reach less visible people.

KCRHA and the University of Washington (UW) collaborated with community partners and people with lived experience to design and implement a network-based survey using RDS. RDS has proven to be an effective method to gather information from hard-to-reach populations, such as those experiencing homelessness who are not connected to services. The final methodology was approved by the UW Institutional Review Board (IRB) (study ID STUDY0019473). This project was approved to survey *Adults Over the Age of 18*, therefore estimates for *Unaccompanied Youth* in the population are generated using statistical methods from shelter data.

While the RDS methodology provides a more accurate snapshot than the traditional one-night street count, it is still likely an undercount. Nonetheless, the PIT Count remains a vital tool for tracking demographics and biennial trends in our region.

Figure 1: *Seattle/King County CoC[4], by Subregion*
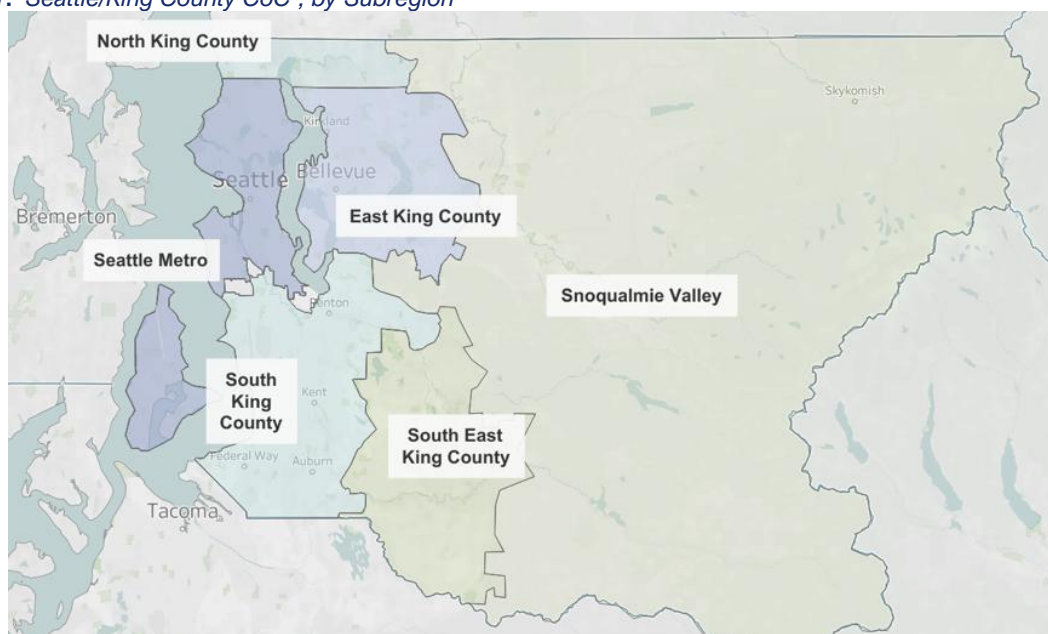
Race and Ethnicity Data

Throughout this report, PIT Count data are compared to population estimates from the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year surveys (U.S. Census Bureau & U.S. Department of Commerce, 2023). This helps us recognize when certain groups are disproportionately overrepresented among the population of people experiencing homelessness. Overrepresented groups include *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*; *American Indian, Alaskan Native or Indigenous; Black*, *African American or African;* and *Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o)*.

Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) appeared in the 2024 survey options as both an ethnicity and racial identity per HUD and Office of Management and Budget data standard updates. Ethnicity was reportable as either Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) or *Non-Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o).*

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[4] Because King County spans and encompasses all of the Seattle/King County CoC, we occasionally refer to both in this report. All references to King County and the Seattle/King County CoC are interchangeable, and the population(s) under consideration are the same.

Although it was not part of the prescribed Racial and Ethnic Identities options, *Middle Eastern or North African* was included on the survey as an available choice. However, the data collected for this category did not represent a sufficiently large or varied sample, so that we have excluded this category from certain analyses and visualizations.

Gender Identity Data

In 2024 there were data standard updates to the available options for gender identity. Prior to 2024, the collection of gender identity included the following available options:

i. *Male*,
ii. *Female*,
iii. *Transgender*, and
iv. *Gender Non-Conforming* (i.e., not exclusively Male or Female).

The updated options now allow respondents to select one or more of the following:

i. *Woman* (*Girl,* if child),
ii. *Man* (*Boy*, if child),
iii. *Culturally Specific Identity* (e.g., *Two-Spirit*),
iv. *Transgender*,
v. *Non-Binary*,
vi. *Questioning*,
vii. *Different Identity*, and
viii. *More than One Gender*.

Further information on how gender identity data was collected and treated in this report is illustrated below in the results (***Table 5***). For this report, we occasionally choose to use Female and Male or Girl and Boy instead of Woman and Man, to fit the scope of the data under discussion. The changing terminology reflects changes in data and reporting standards that are required by HUD, as well as the commitment of KCRHA to evolving our understanding of gender as a spectrum.

Methodology

Respondent-Driven Sampling

Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) is a proven method of surveying hard-to-reach populations, including those experiencing substance use disorders or people with HIV/ AIDS. It provides a framework for valid statistical inferences (Almquist, Hazel, Anderson, Ozeryansky, & Hagopian, 2023). Major organizations, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH), support communities' use of RDS. The method works through peer referral – people invite others they know to take part, and those new respondents do the same. All data collected, including network information, is self-reported.

Hub Sites

Surveys take place at a designated location, called a "**hub site,**" rather than in a respondent's personal space. A hub site is a dedicated location where respondents are invited to complete their surveys (like polling locations). Our hub site selection process considered factors such as geography, accessibility, and sample randomness to ensure accurate representation of a diverse population.

The King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) used RDS for the 2022 PIT Count, working from nine hub site locations across *King County*. In 2024, we increased hub site coverage to 20 total sites, including a pilot study using a ***phone call center***. All in-person surveys took place at hub sites. Sites were strategically located to work within the unique geographic environment and coverage area of King County. The 2024 PIT Count phone call center (pilot study) was created to try to improve sampling of subpopulations that may have challenges accessing a physical hub, such as *Families with Minor Children*.

Seeding

To initiate the sampling of target populations and subpopulations of interest, RDS uses a recruitment strategy called ***seeding***. The first respondents are known as "seeds." Each seed

receives three "coupons" (see **Appendix II**) at the end of their survey. The coupons contain a QR code that links the seed's "parent" coupon to the new "child" coupon. Each child coupon respondent will then have three additional coupons to distribute to others experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their network. Anyone who receives a coupon can visit a hub site to take the survey. This process creates a referral tree based on pre-existing relationships (networks) and expands recruitment to reach populations furthest from service connections. For example, in *Figure 2*, the longest referral tree consisted of 20 coupons, creating waves (Almquist, Kahveci, Kajfasz, Rothfolk, & Hagopian, 2024b). This means that the seed coupon continued and recruited 19 respondents. The seed's network initiated additional branches at each wave, showing the recruitment of more individuals and associated networks.

Figure 2: *Number of Recruits, by Wave (Demonstrated by the Longest Tree)*
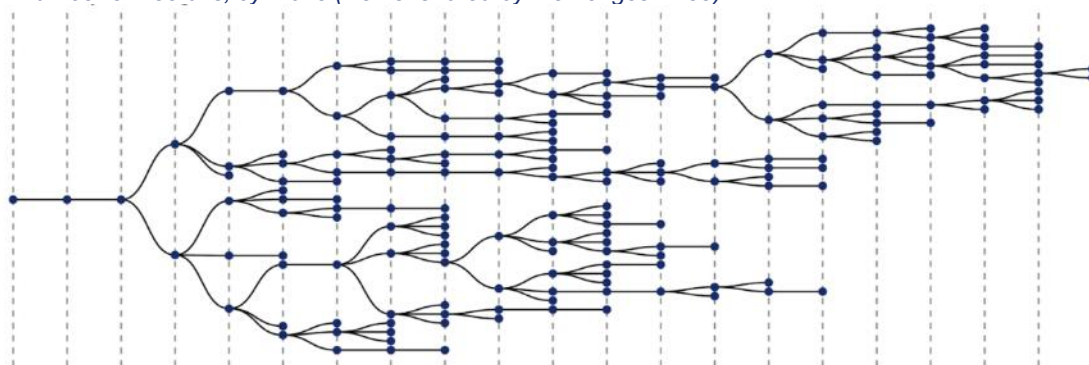
The number of respondents generated by each wave is shown below (*Figure 3*). Wave zero (the initial wave) started with 310 respondents, with each successive wave adding fewer respondents until we reached a sampling equilibrium, or full enough saturation of all personal networks. This shows no new respondents were being generated. Each column represents the number of respondents generated at that wave, totaling 1,466 people experiencing *unsheltered homelessness* who were directly surveyed by our volunteers and staff.

Figure 3: *Number of Recruits (Respondents) Generated, by Wave*
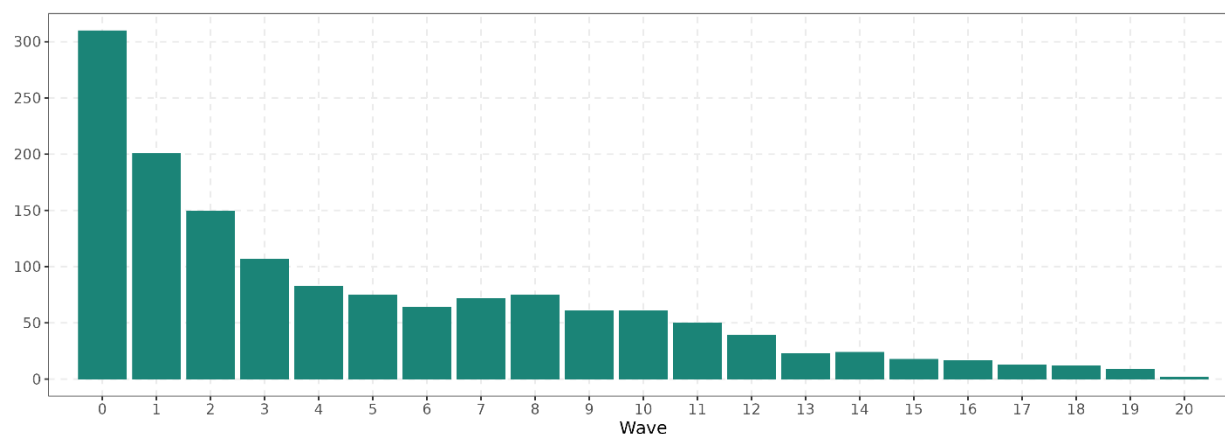
Accounting for Duplication of Respondents

The survey is anonymous, collecting only the first two letters of first name, the first two letters of the last name, and the year and month of birth. To issue digital gift cards, we also collected phone or email data. This data was also used to deduplicate individuals and stop waves if duplication was suspected. Additionally, staff and volunteers at hub sites would monitor the respondents and, if they believed a person had already completed a survey, they would note it in the survey instrument to alert the data support team. The referral tree is then pruned to remove the duplicate record, keeping the first entry seed (Almquist et al, 2024b). In total, fewer than 1% of collected responses were identified as duplicates (multiple surveys by the same person).

Accounting for Oversampling

To account for oversampling of different groups and prevalence of different individuals, we adjusted the sample statistically. This adjustment uses a modification of the re-weighting scheme developed for standard RDS methodology, which considers the peer-to-peer referral nature of the data. We further combine this with Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) shelter data through individual surveys through the survey-based PIT Count (Almquist, Kahveci, Hazel, Kajfasz, Rothfolk, Guilmette, Anderson, Ozeryansky, & Hagopian, 2024a).

Data Collection

Based on community feedback and data from the 2022 Unsheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Count, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) identified key areas for improvement. While planning for sampling and surveying, we focused on the following:

- Volunteer Recruitment, Training, and Deployment
- Hub Site Selection, Location, and Setup
- Online Survey Instrument
- Subpopulation-Targeted Outreach and Recruitment for Seeding
- Scaling the Respondent-Driven Sampling methodology with digitized QR codes
- Respondent Payment and Interpretation Services

Volunteer Recruitment, Training, and Deployment

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recommends creating an annual volunteer recruitment and deployment plan for the PIT Count. For 2024, planning began in December 2023 to estimate volunteer needs at each hub site and design targeted recruitment and training. KCRHA's plan included recruiting volunteers for seeding throughout *King County* and surveying at hub sites, conducting three training sessions, and providing a manual.

Recruitment

Based on input from subregional planners, 2022 PIT Count staff, and homeless service providers, KCRHA estimated needing between 100 and 175 total volunteers. ***Seeding volunteers*** were current outreach or homeless service providers familiar with those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. These volunteers provided their preferred sites and subregions, assisted in strategically planning timing, and identified the location of respondent recruitment. ***Hub site volunteers*** came from local homelessness service providers, the University of Washington (UW) School of Social Work, government partners, local homeless coalitions, community members, and people with lived or living experience in homelessness. To highlight the importance of volunteers with lived or living experience, those who self-identified

(no minimum requirement) received a stipend of $33 an hour. Some of these volunteers were also affiliated with homeless services providers and worked with specific subpopulations – such as *Youth and Young Adults* and *Veterans* – or had experience working in rural areas. All volunteer recruitment was conducted through the Smartsheet app, including registration, hub site or subregion preference, and tracking.

Training

All volunteers were required to attend or view a pre-recorded training session. Volunteers for seeding trained on the PIT Count overview and how to talk to potential respondents, distribute transportation tickets, and answer questions or concerns that may arise. The manual was developed to provide hub site volunteers with clear guidance on survey protocols, how to manage daily operations, and safety protocols to use during emergency situations. Training sessions and manuals for hub site volunteers primarily focused on the RDS model, the background of the PIT Count, and the logistics of the count. Combined, the training sessions and manual detailed hub operations, critical points of contact for each site, the consent form and survey instrument, hub site roles and expectations (***Figure 4***, ***Table 1***), the reseeding process, traffic management, referral coding, material management, debit card inventory, terms and definitions, and distribution management. Volunteer training (and manual) were designed to ensure that all volunteers clearly understood the methodology and were equipped to conduct the count with accuracy and consistency.

Deployment

All scheduling for volunteers and staff to hub sites was done with a volunteer management website named When-To-Help. There were three key volunteer groupings that formed;

1) Survey volunteers for interviewing and site management,
2) Survey volunteers with lived or living experience, and
3) Volunteers for Outreach and Seeding.

The volunteer manager assigned volunteers to hub sites based on a combination of preferences made during sign-up (Smartsheet) and emails or calls. Volunteer contact information was entered, then designated to hub site shift(s), and either the volunteer manager or regional coordinator contacted them to confirm. Throughout this process, adjustments were made to address unexpected scheduling conflicts. Shifts were either reassigned to other volunteers or

covered by KCRHA staff directly. To ensure coverage at hub sites, regional coordinators contacted volunteers daily to assess staffing needs. If there were gaps, the volunteer manager would contact the volunteer pool to get shifts filled.

Figure 4: *Organizational Chart for PIT Count Staff and Volunteers*
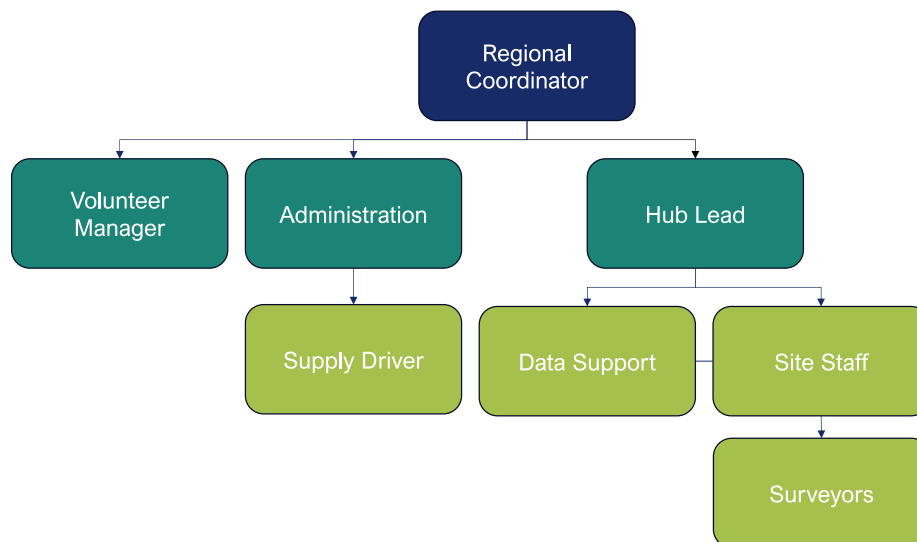
Table 1: *Role Descriptions for PIT Count Staff and Volunteers*

Role	Affiliation	Role Description
Data Support	KCRHA Staff	Monitors and verifies data collected. Provides software and hardware support and troubleshoots any gift card questions.
Administration	KCRHA Staff	Assists delivering and picking up hub supplies, and inventory.
Volunteer Manager	KCRHA Staff	Oversees training, scheduling, lived-experience volunteer incentive pay and logistics for all volunteer and non-KCRHA staff.

Hub Leads	KCRHA Staff/ Volunteers	Oversees hub site by triaging survey traffic and emergencies. Monitors site safety, QR codes, and bus tickets and is present the entire hours of operation. Reports back to Administration and Subregional leads.
Surveyors	Volunteers/ KCRHA Staff	Trained by KCRHA staff. Conduct the survey and build rapport with respondents.
Seed Volunteers	Outreach and Service Providers	Trained by KCRHA staff to seed for the first wave of survey respondents in the field, including initial outreach to a subpopulation such as Veterans.

During data collection, the regional coordinator was dedicated to information gathering, troubleshooting, and supply coordination. They often stepped in to complete surveys for their area. This allowed the volunteer manager to travel between subregions and coordinate the deployment of volunteers for hubs throughout the county. Each hub was assigned a hub lead and surveyors who reported to the regional coordinator and the volunteer manager about site needs. Hub leads were critical in assessing the daily and real-time needs of operations, such as set-up and take down, monitoring site traffic, monitoring resources, and acting as the hub liaison between the project and onsite staff. They requested supplies, provided additional volunteer support, and reported any safety or respondent concerns. The hub lead would also ensure safe and private spaces for those who preferred to take their survey privately. Hub leads would inform KCRHA staff at headquarters (volunteer manager, data support team, equipment manager, and supply driver) after each site closed for a daily "huddle" on any staffing, resources, or equipment needed to maintain operations for the next day. Each hub site had at least one dedicated staff member from KCRHA (usually hub lead) to support operations.

Table 2 summarizes the average number of volunteers per day for all sites over a two-week period. A total of 140 volunteers contributed their time, completing 552 shifts and logging a total of 1,884 volunteer hours. On average, each volunteer took on about four shifts, contributing approximately 13 hours of service. These numbers highlight the commitment of the volunteers who supported the project and how critically important they were for the success of the data collection.

Table 2: *Summary of Volunteer Staffing*

Total Volunteers	140
Total Shifts	552
Total Hours Volunteered	1,884 hours
Average Shifts per Volunteer	4 shifts
Average Hours Volunteered per Volunteer	13.46

Of the 140 hub site volunteers, 12% identified as having lived experience of homelessness. This representation was vital to the project's success, as these volunteers provided invaluable perspectives that enriched the surveying process and provided in-the-field troubleshooting for data collection. There were 20 seed volunteers that traveled throughout the county to start initial surveys.

Hub Selection

Based on previous community feedback on the 2022 PIT Count, the hub site selection followed a comprehensive selection process to prioritize locations in King County that were accessible and have proximity to transportation (especially public transportation). Additionally, we partnered with a service provider dedicated to families to offer a phone line for *Families with Minor Children* in the county who cannot travel to a site. All physical sites were selected based on additional hub site selection criteria to increase targeted outreach across the county.

Hub site selection criteria (see **Appendix III**) were designed for three goals:

1) To reach geographical areas: rural, urban, suburban, and island regions
2) To create representative sample of subpopulations such as Veterans, Families with Minor Children, *Single Adults*, Youth, and Young Adults, *American Indian/ Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander*
3) To obtain representative samples by the type of unsheltered sleeping arrangement including car, vehicle, RV, etc.

Hub sites (total 20) required a wide range of considerations (see Hub Site Checklist) and varying numbers of volunteers based on a location's size, anticipated respondent traffic, and hours of operation. Larger sites, such as the Compass Center Day Center and Georgetown Food Bank, had six volunteers per day, reflecting their capacity to support a higher level of activity and outreach. Mid-sized sites – including Bellevue Library, Kirkland Library, and Ronald United Methodist Church – maintained an average of four volunteers daily. Smaller sites, such as Issaquah Community Center, Maple Valley Food Bank, and Snoqualmie Valley YMCA, averaged one volunteer per day, as these sites were predicted to have a smaller number of potential respondents. A list of all hub site characteristics by region (see Hub Site Locations) details hub types, dates of operations, and the total hours of operation. It is important to note that the Seattle Vet Center, Highline United Methodist Church, Kirkland Library, and Compass Center Day Center were only open for one of the two weeks, which influenced their reported averages.

Hub Setup

All hubs were to follow RDS methods, with slight differences made to a few locations (such as *Vashon Island* and Family Phone Line). Hub sites were resourced with the volunteers and staff, technology, and equipment needed to conduct the survey and on-site staff available to refer respondents during data collection. Each hub was outfitted with a premade site kit that was comprised of a binder with copies of the manual, paper survey, and consent forms for respondents to follow along, tablets for each surveyor, QR code printers, seed coupons, gift cards, bus tickets, and other items used to facilitate participation, such as snacks, first aid supplies, harm reduction kits, hand warmers, and beverages. Each tablet was preloaded with the apps used to administer surveys, complete referral coupons, and track gift card distribution. Hub leads were issued cell phones to contact KCRHA staff (Administration, Volunteer Manager, Regional Coordinator) if there were any issues with the hardware or software.

The premade kits were kept onsite for the data collection and safely stored at the end of each operating day. If possible, kits were placed in a locked tub at the site at the end of the day. Each hub lead would check kit inventory for all supplies at the end of the day and submit any request for additional supplies to the Regional Coordinators. Supplies would be delivered by the Supply Driver.

At each site, respondents were invited to enter the location and provide their seed coupon. Hub leads would add them to a waitlist, and they were surveyed in order of arrival. The surveyor

would direct the respondent to a surveying station (secluded area with a tablet and paper copy of the survey and consent form), where the surveyor would scan the coupon's seed QR code and the respondent would complete the survey. Once completed, respondents were escorted to the check-in/ check-out station where the hub lead would sit to issue the additional coupons to the respondent and distribute the gift card and bus transportation tickets.

Survey Instrument

To track the seed coupon to the survey instrument, UW built a management system in Microsoft Power Apps that generated unique survey links for KCRHA. Power Apps is secured using standard data security protocols built into the system. Surveyors used the tablet camera to scan seed coupons. Once scanned, a URL was created to direct them to the survey instrument on Qualtrics and linked responses to the seed. Qualtrics allowed for logic to be built into the survey instrument to skip unnecessary questions. For example, if a respondent reports that they are the only person in their household, then the survey will not populate the "Household Questions" section of the survey.

The survey instrument first collected the demographic data required by HUD, including *Age*, *Gender*, *Race and Ethnicity*, *parental status*, *Veteran* status, whether a person has experienced *Domestic Violence*, *Serious Mental Illness*, or *Substance Use Disorder*, and whether a person is *chronically homeless* as defined by HUD. Second, the survey instrument included questions about how many people the respondent knows who are also unsheltered and the type of setting where they are sleeping (network information). These questions help inform the estimate of the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the county. Last, the "Special Questions" section includes questions that ask how far and long the respondent traveled to get to a hub. It also included questions about common barriers to housing and/or shelter for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County.

Seed Data Collection and Coupon Management

Seed coupons were categorized during recruitment as "walk-up seeds" and "outreach" seeds. Walk-up seeds were respondents who showed up to a site without a peer referral and were assigned a seed coupon by a hub lead. Each hub had 25 walk-up coupons to assign during the first two days of opening, and hub leads coordinated with data support on when to stop seeding. Respondents were encouraged to get a peer referral coupon from someone they knew to ensure

the relationship between parent and child coupons and develop referral trees. Hubs distributed an average of 13 walk-up seeds each, which ultimately made up 80% of the total seeds.

Outreach seeds, 20% of all seeds, represent survey respondents who came to a hub with a referral coupon from an outreach volunteer or homeless services provider. Based on community feedback and data from the 2022 Unsheltered PIT, KCRHA identified the following populations as targets for outreach seeding:

- Those living unsheltered in rural, low-density areas of King County
- Vehicle Residents
- Young Adults (18-24)
- Veterans
- American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/ AN)
- Those with severe mental health disabilities
- Other service areas between hub locations

For example, a Supporting Services for Veteran Families case manager would give outreach seeds to Veterans, and a young adult shelter's staff issued coupons to young adults. All seeders were instructed to spread out their seed distribution as much as possible to maximize the number of potential networks. Some seeders offered and arranged rides to the nearest hub for those they distributed seeds to, a valuable service that increased the rate at which outreached referents took the survey. Volunteer outreach and homeless service providers were asked to seed the populations they serve day-to-day prior to the start of the data collection period to:

1. Provide rural hubs with a supply of potential respondents to take the survey on day 1
2. Increase access to unsheltered networks that may not be geographically close to a hub
3. Focus targeted outreach for specific populations that have historically been undercounted in the Unsheltered PIT Count
    a. A single seed and subsequent referrals can help ensure these undercounted networks are a part of the survey sample
4. During data collection, outreach seeding supplemented hubs that were completing fewer surveys than originally expected with more respondents.

All coupons were printed with the locations and schedules of each hub, with a Spanish version on the back (see **Appendix II** Seed Coupon). QR codes were printed and placed in the center of the seed coupons, which were distributed to hubs and outreach seeders. Each hub was

assigned a two-letter code (e.g., "CD" for Compass Center Day Center), which made up the first two characters of each coupon ID. Outreach seeders were given seed coupons that corresponded to the nearest hub to where they were distributing coupons.

Power Apps allowed for the coupon ID to be scanned (via camera) or entered in by hand. Hub leads and surveyors were instructed to scan rather than enter in by hand for data quality assurance. This was because if the coupon ID entered was incorrect, then the child coupon IDs generated would also be incorrect. The data support team would have to correct this error either before the survey could be completed or during the data cleaning.

Hand-entered coupon IDs accounted for most data quality errors during data collection, followed by issues with printing the appropriate coupon ID. If an error was suspected, hub leads and surveyors would note the issue in the Power Apps, helping data support to track associated coupons and adjusting parent/ child coupon IDs to correctly identify networks.

Similarly, during the first days of data collection for a physical location, if a duplicate coupon ID was used at a hub site, hub leads would discard the duplicate coupon and print a new coupon seed assigned to the respondent. For the second week of data collection, hub leads and surveyors were not to allow duplicate IDs to be entered at all to further eliminate the possibility of duplicate child coupons.

Family Phone Line

To reach a niche population of Families with Minor Children, KCRHA developed a high-functioning process to test the scalability of the RDS method. The key component of this pilot was to provide over-the-phone recruitment and survey administration while not having physical coupons given to potential survey respondents. Our process for the Family Phone Line was as follows:

1. Outreach consisted of a resource seeker contacting our partner organization through an intake phone line.
2. Once our partner organization provided resources and supports to the caller, staff would ask the resource seeker if they had children under the age of 18 (17 years old and younger) experiencing homelessness with them and if they were interested in being surveyed for the PIT Count with a brief explanation of the timeframe and incentives provided.

3. If resource seekers stated yes, our partnering organization would then share their phone numbers and initials with KCRHA staff as a referent interested in participating using a secure, internal spreadsheet.
    a. Initially, the partnering organization would provide the PIT Count Family Phone Line. This led to low initial outreach and was amended to the above, proactive approach.
4. Following the outreach, KCRHA Family Phone Line staff and volunteers started calling potential respondents within one business day of the resource seeker expressing interest.
    a. The proactive approach also included a voicemail script for when staff or volunteers were not able to reach a potential survey respondent after the first attempted call.
5. KCRHA Family Phone Line staff and volunteers found that priming the Power Apps with potential survey respondents' information from the internal spreadsheet allowed volunteers to manage fewer screens and limited errors.
    a. Unlike physical sites, data support configured the Power Apps permissions for Family Phone Line volunteers and staff. This provided them with the ability to edit or delete surveys that were primed but not started.
    b. A separate, internal spreadsheet was also created to track call information, such as if voicemails were left, if other follow-up was needed, if the respondent had an additional phone number, if surveyors responded to a request for a call back at another time, and notes.
6. Once the survey was completed, survey respondents were asked if they knew other families with children under the age of 18 who were also experiencing homelessness in order to initiate a child seed.
7. If they did, surveyors asked for their phone numbers, which were then added to the spreadsheet. From there, the hub lead would transfer the phone number and affiliated child coupon code into the call queue.
8. Then, surveyors would continue down the call queue.

Vashon Island Data Collection

To accommodate technical issues and the small volume of anticipated respondents, KCRHA worked with community members to adapt our data collection process at the Vashon Island hubs. During data collection, a total of 49 surveys were completed across the three sites.

Surveys were administered by paper. Coupon ID tracking mirrored the digital survey ID method on the paper surveys and coupons:

- Seed respondents were assigned a seed ID such as VF-101-0.
- Surveyors wrote this ID on the paper survey used with that respondent and recorded the ID on a paper tracker.
- Surveyors then recorded three child coupon IDs based off the respondent's ID – such as VF-101-10, VF-101-20, VF-101-30 – on the paper tracker.
- Surveyors also wrote each child coupon ID on a coupon for the seed respondent to recruit additional respondents.
- Surveyors followed a similar process with non-seed respondents, creating new child coupons based on the coupon presented from the non-seed respondent (VF-101-11, VF-101-12, VF-101-13).
- At the end of each day, the hub lead transcribed the paper tracker into an online spreadsheet on a KCRHA Microsoft SharePoint site.

All paper surveys were securely stored with the Vashon hub lead and handed off to KCRHA staff at the end of the data collection period. Following data collection, paper surveys were then added into the same system as the digitally collected data. The manual tracking was successful in capturing network information for this analysis.

Debit Card Policy and Procedure

KCRHA used physical and virtual gift cards to incentivize the unsheltered population to complete surveys. Physical gift cards were activated at the site by hub leads and surveyors upon survey completion. The gift cards (Visa or Mastercard) were pre-loaded with $20. Respondents who completed the survey over the phone were emailed a virtual gift card of $40. For respondents from hub sites, virtual gift cards were later distributed to either the email and/ or phone number provided in Power Apps for any successful referrals (child coupons). They received an additional $5 for each person, up to three additional surveys ($15 total).

Interpretation Services

The volunteer group helped improve data collection by offering a wide range of languages and interpretation services. KCRHA also contracted a language line to ensure that any interested respondent could complete a survey. Collectively, volunteers spoke 11 languages: French,

Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin, Swahili, Creole, Italian, Somali, Korean, Turkish, and Mandinka. These volunteers were important in ensuring that survey participants from different linguistic backgrounds could comfortably share their experiences. Surveyors and hub leads used the language line as much as 11 times a day for multiple days, most commonly for Spanish. The language line also helped with Swahili and Tigrinya, showing the variety of languages spoken by people in the community.

Estimates Computation

From the modification to RDS detailed above, UW was able to build a probability sample (sampling weights) and infer statistical estimation of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness from those who were sheltered. In this methodology, data from those that are receiving services through shelters were used to perform the estimation. After data validation, KCRHA was provided the statistical estimate of the number of people that are unsheltered (Almquist et al., 2024b).

Results

In partnership with University of Washington (UW) contributors, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) was able to estimate multiple population characteristics for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in *King County*, including:

1. Total people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness
2. Distributions by Race and Ethnicity
3. Distributions by Age and Gender Identity
4. Household composition(s)
5. Summaries by specific health and well-being indicators.

In addition to demographic information and descriptions of racial and ethnic composition, the data provide population information specific to each of the administrative subregions defined within our Continuum of Care (CoC).

Occasionally, this report will draw comparisons between results from 2022 and 2024. 2022 is considered a baseline year because it represents the nearest reference year with complete data for comparison. It also was the first year that KCRHA coordinated with research teams at UW to employ the Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) methodology.

Overall Homelessness

From 2022 to 2024, King County saw an increase in the total number of people experiencing homelessness from 13,368 to 16,868, or by about 26%. Accounting for countywide population growth over a similar period, this is an estimated increase of about 1.4 people per thousand.[5]

To compare *Seattle/King County* with similar CoCs, we selected the 10 CoCs with the *highest average homelessness* in 2022 and 2024 that are also classified as *Major City CoCs* (Office of Community Planning and Development, 2024). **Figure 5** compares these CoCs with respect to their changes in overall homelessness between 2022 and 2024.

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[5] The change in the number of *people per thousand* is measured as the difference between the proportions of people experiencing homelessness to the general population in 2024 and 2022, multiplied by 1,000. General population estimates are obtained from ACS 5-Year Survey results.

Figure 5: *Ten Largest CoCs, by Change in Overall Homelessness (2022 – 2024)*
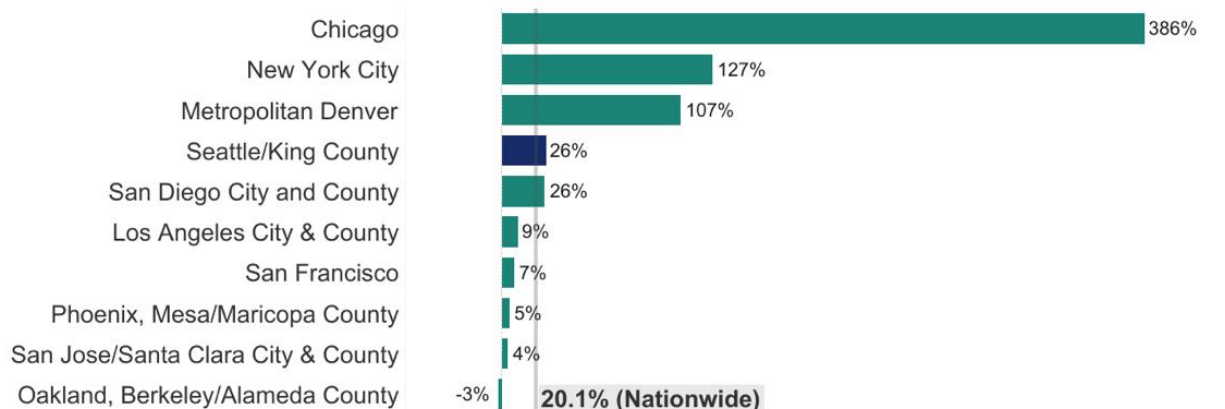
Sheltered and Unsheltered Homelessness

The following summarizes King County for those experiencing both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. Any person may experience either sheltered or unsheltered homelessness at different times, so these figures do not represent distinct groups, only the state of the population *on the night of the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count* (January 25, 2024). Our data show that while the overall number of people experiencing homelessness in King County has increased from 2022 to 2024, the relative *proportions* of the total that are sheltered or unsheltered have remained steady (*Figure 6*).

The distribution of percent changes in overall homelessness for all CoCs within the *United States* shows Seattle/King County was slightly above the national average (20%) at 26% (*Figure 7*).

Figure 6: *Proportions of Estimated Total Homelessness (2022 – 2024)*
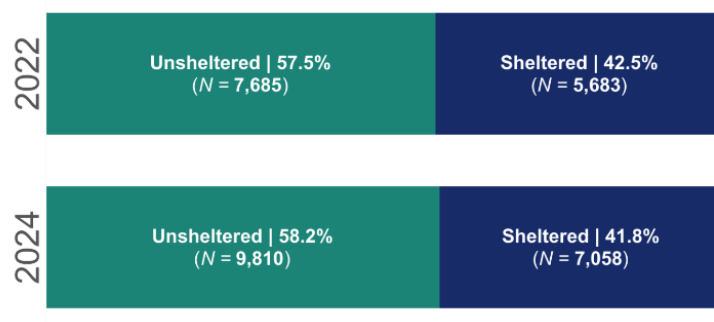
Figure 7: *Percent Change in Total Homelessness, National Comparison (2022 – 2024)*
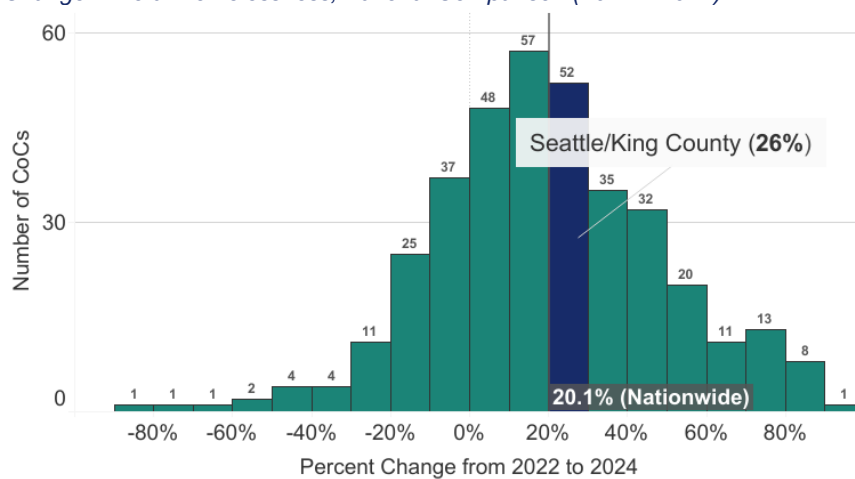
Sheltered Homelessness

Nationally, sheltered homelessness increased by about 16%. In King County, we observed an increase of 24% (**Figure 8**). This represents an increase from 5,683 to 7,058.

Figure 8: *Nationwide CoCs[6] by Change in Overall Sheltered Homelessness (2022 – 2024)*
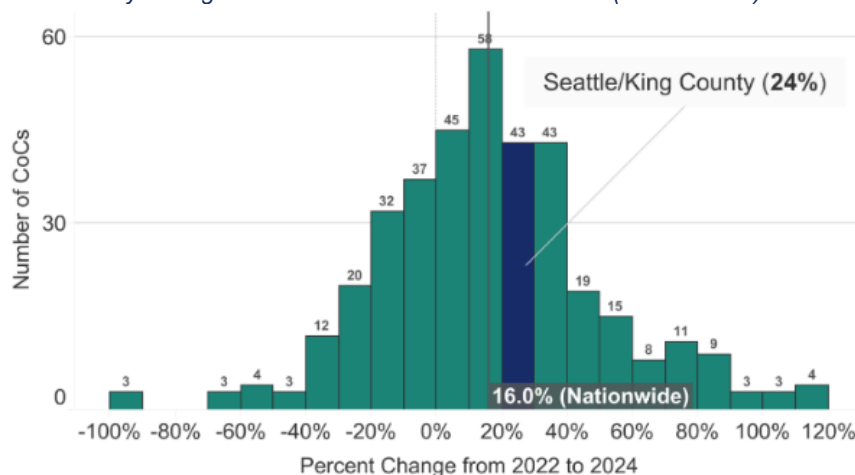
Unsheltered Homelessness

Figure 9 shows that unsheltered homelessness increased nationally by 46% on average. In Seattle/King County, we observed an increase of about 28%, from 7,685 to 9,810[7]. Among the comparable CoCs, this is the fourth highest increase in total estimated unsheltered people (2022 – 2024).

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[6] Cities represent the Major City CoC's (comparable to Seattle/King County) with the highest average levels of homelessness from 2022 to 2024. The reference line indicates the median value for all CoCs.
[7] The difference between the figure reported here (9,810) and the total referenced across the remainder of the report (9,692) results from the fact that RDS estimation required data points to be associated with a geographical location. Because the Family Phone Line data was not associated with geographical sites, data from that site only appeared in the aggregate estimates for the entire CoC, and were not included in the remainder of the report.

Figure 9: Nationwide CoCs, by Change in Overall Unsheltered Homelessness (2022 – 2024)
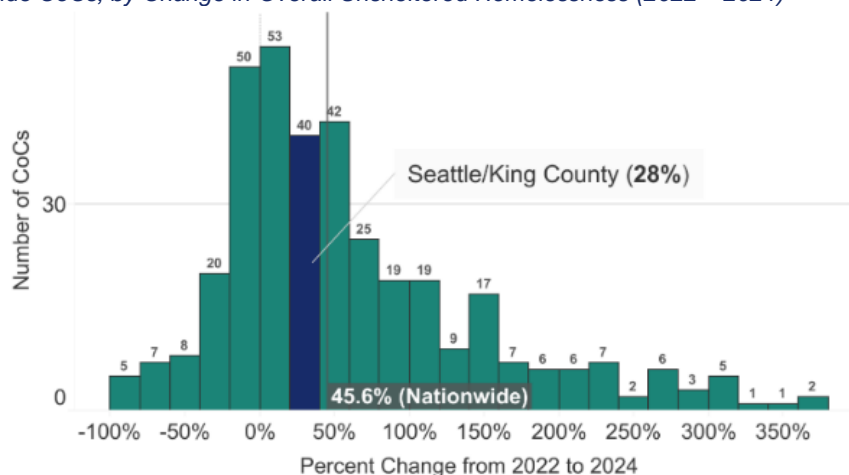
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data shows that demand for shelter and housing generally exceeds supply, with large differences between some subregions in terms of shelter and housing capacity. These figures represent estimates of available bed capacity across the system on the night of the PIT Count, including estimates for programs that do not participate in the HMIS (where data were supplied directly by those programs).

Table 3: Estimated Availability of Beds per Person Experiencing Homelessness, for Select Subregions [8]

Subregion	Shelter Beds Available	Sheltered People	Unsheltered People	Total People	People per Bed
North King County	198	170	1730	1900	9.6
Snoqualmie Valley	38	66	49	115	3.0
South East King County	89	48	155	203	2.3
South King County	1601	1123	2059	3182	2.0
Seattle Metro	5003	4855	4585	9440	1.9
East King County	1018	796	1114	1910	1.9
Total	**7947**	**7058**	**9692**	**16750**	**2.1**

[8] Bed count estimates based on HMIS data for the day of January 25, 2024, via the 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) report, which is the accompanying report on beds and units available across the system on the night of the PIT Count. See **footnote 7** for an explanation on the difference between overall reported totals and totals of subregional estimates. (Revised: updated HIC/ PIT data – 20250512)

Demographic Results of Unsheltered Dataset

The experience of homelessness varies widely according to each person's *Gender Identity*, *Age*, *Race*, *Ethnicity*, and more. These estimates of the demographic characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in our community serve to help us understand better what services to provide and where to provide them to make the greatest impact.

Race and Ethnicity Identities

For the 2024 PIT Count, survey respondents identified with one or more racial categories including the following[9]:

i. *American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous (abbr. "AI/ AN")*
ii. *Asian or Asian American (abbr. "Asian")*
iii. *Black, African American or African (abbr. "Black")*
iv. *Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) (abbr. "Hispanic")*
v. *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (abbr. "NHPI")*
vi. *Middle Eastern or North African (abbr. "MENA)*
vii. *White (abbr. "White")*

Not all people reported an ethnic or racial identity from this set, and people who reported more than one racial identity were added to the *Multiracial* category. All other unidentifiable responses were consolidated to the *Unknown* category.

To provide a reasonable benchmark for the proportion of people by race who would be expected to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County, we have included comparisons to statistics from the American Community Survey (ACS) (U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2023). All other things equal, the PIT Count estimates of unsheltered homelessness across Racial and Ethnic Identities should be proportionately even with ACS estimates for the general population. Differences between the estimated proportion of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and the ACS 2023 population estimate can indicate over- or under-representation of the given Racial or Ethnic group within the population of unsheltered people in King County. Disproportionality between estimates supports the idea

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[9] See *How to use this report* section above for more details on how Race and Ethnicity are analyzed and displayed for this report. Abbreviations are aligned with demographic reporting standards and are used sparingly where needed to reduce visual confusion.

that certain groups experience unsheltered homelessness differently and is evidence of disparity.

Across all subregions, *American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous People* were most often overrepresented. Next highest were *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders* and *Black, African American, or African*. Both *White* and *Asian or Asian American* groups were generally underrepresented among people experiencing homelessness. *Middle Eastern or North African* made up the smallest fraction, and the sample data for that group was not sufficient to support detailed analysis and comparison.

Figure 10: *Unsheltered Estimates, by Race and Ethnicity, with ACS 5-Year (2023) Benchmarks*

■ US Census Estimates (ACS, 2023)
■ Unsheltered Estimates (PIT Count, 2024)

Category	ACS Benchmark	PIT Count
MENA	0.3%	—
Asian	19.9%	1.4%
NHPI	0.7%	2.0%
AI/AN	0.4%	5.9%
Black	6.5%	15.2%
Multiracial	7.0%	15.5%
Hispanic	10.8%	16.2%
White	54.7%	43.6%
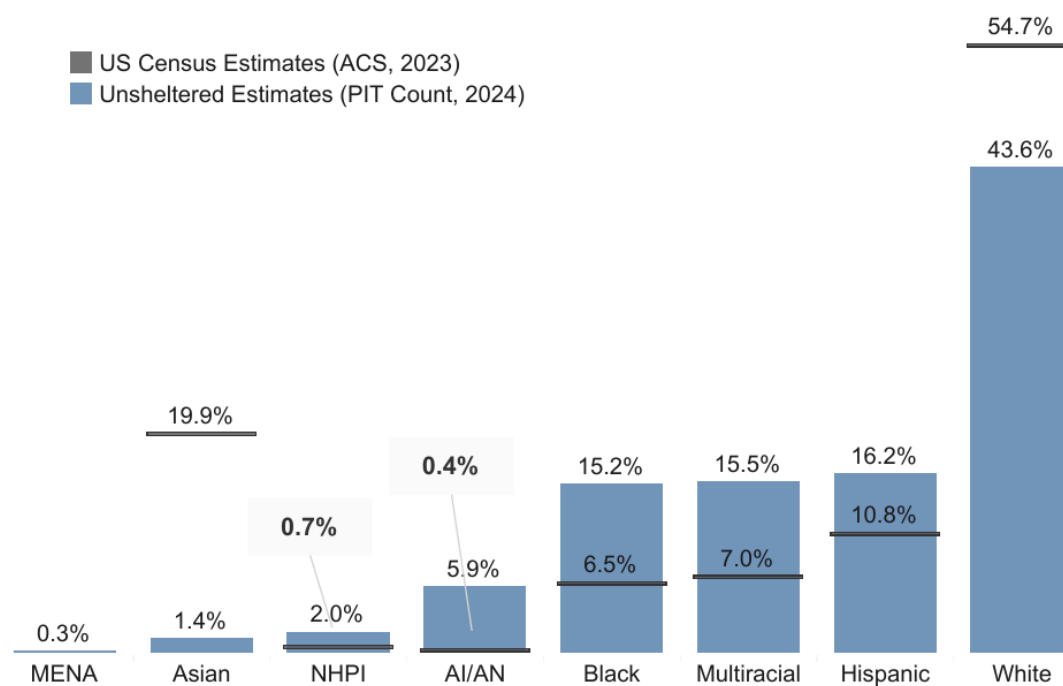
Gender Identity

Survey respondents were asked to choose their gender identity from the following list of options:

i.   *Woman (Girl, if child)*
ii. *Man (Boy, if child)*
iii. *Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-spirit)*
iv. *Transgender*
v.   *Non-Binary*
vi. *Questioning*
vii. *Different Identity*

Respondents were provided an opportunity to enter any identity not available for selection ("*Other"*) or to "*Choose not to Answer*."

Unsheltered people in King County reported gender identity similarly to the rest of the nation, with majority of unsheltered people identifying as *Man* (approximately 77% in King County; 67% nationally) followed by *Woman* (roughly 22% in King County compared to 30% nationally).

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Office of Budget Management (OMB) data standards update in 2024 resulted in a difference in gender identity options between 2022 and 2024. To assist in understanding the changes between PIT Count years, ***Table 4*** shows the difference in choices between 2022 and 2024, which informed how we compared gender identity distributions across both years.

For King County, there was little difference between gender identity distribution of people identifying as either Male/ Man or Female/ Woman between 2022 to 2024. Among people who identified as *Transgender*, the estimated total number decreased from 214 in 2022 to fewer than 10 in 2024.

Table 4: *Gender Identity Selections Available and their Mappings (2022 – 2024)*

2022 Choices	2024 Choices	Mapped for Comparison[10]
Female	*Woman (Girl, if child)*	*Woman/ Girl/ Female*
Male	*Man (Boy, if child)*	*Man/ Boy/ Male*
Transgender	*Transgender*	*Transgender*
Gender Questioning	*Questioning*	*Questioning*
Gender that is not Singularly Female or Male	*Non-Binary* *Culturally Specific Identity* *Different Identity* *More Than One Gender*	*Different Identity*

Figure 11: *Gender Identity by Estimates and Proportion of Responses (Overall)[11]*

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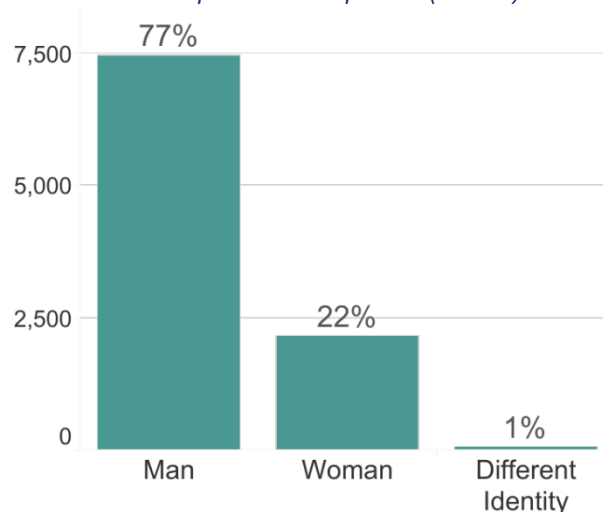
[10] Data mapping did not aggregate this particular response across the years in question. We do not believe this impacted estimates by Gender Identity.

[11] Due to very small numbers of people reporting their identity as Culturally Specific, Non-Binary, Questioning, more than one, or Different Identities, we have included them here in the category of people who have different identities from strictly Cisgender or Transgender and who did not choose Questioning. This is done in part to help discourage the use of our data to identify marginalized groups for purposes other than their interests.

Figure 12: *Unsheltered Estimates by Gender Identity and Year (2022 – 2024)*
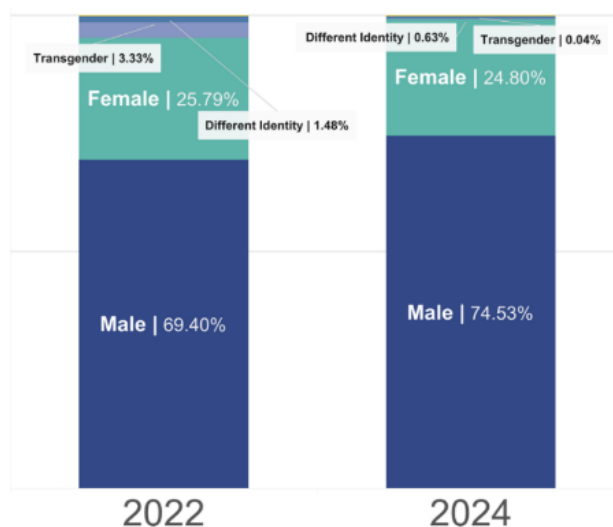
Age

Across all subregions, most respondents reported being between 35 and 44 years old (31%), and 94% of all people reported ages between 25 and 64. Nationally, age distribution is similar, with the most frequently reported ages between 34 and 44 years old (Office of Community Planning and Development, 2024).

From 2022 to 2024, while there are apparently large decreases in the *relative proportions* of *Youth and Young Adults* in the population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, this is due to the general increase in the count. Unsheltered homelessness for *Youth Under the Age of 18* dropped from 415 to 323 (28%), and there was an approximately 7% decrease (363 to 337) for those *Between the Ages of 18 and 24* (**Figure 14**).

In addition to questions about their current age, survey respondents were also asked about the age at which they first experienced homelessness. Approximately 25% of respondents reported having first experienced homelessness before the age of 18, with more than 80% reporting having first experienced homelessness before the age of 45.

To compare 2022 and 2024 rates of unsheltered homelessness by age, we used three categories. These categories included people *Under the Age of 18*, *Young Adults Aged 18 to 24*,

and *Adults Over the Age of 24*. Estimates of unsheltered people under the age of 18 (minor children) were not obtained directly, since minors cannot provide informed consent for the collection of personal information (except in special cases). We used sheltered HMIS data and Unsheltered PIT Count data on individuals, household information, and historical data (last time we surveyed under 18) to estimate the total number of people under 18 who are also experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Figure 13: *Distribution of Responses, by Age Group (Unsheltered) for 2024*
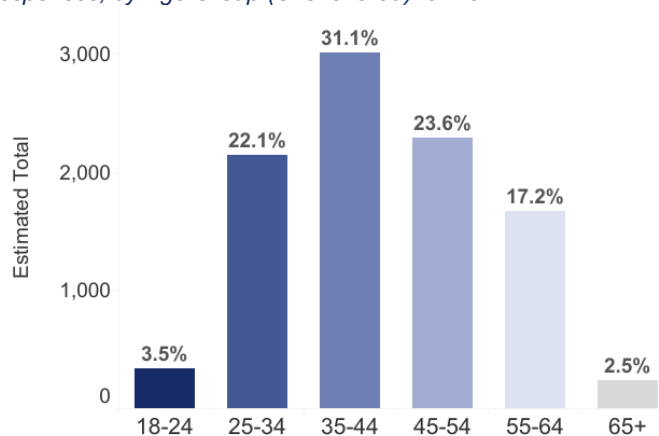
Figure 14: *Comparison of 2022 and 2024 Unsheltered, by Age Group*
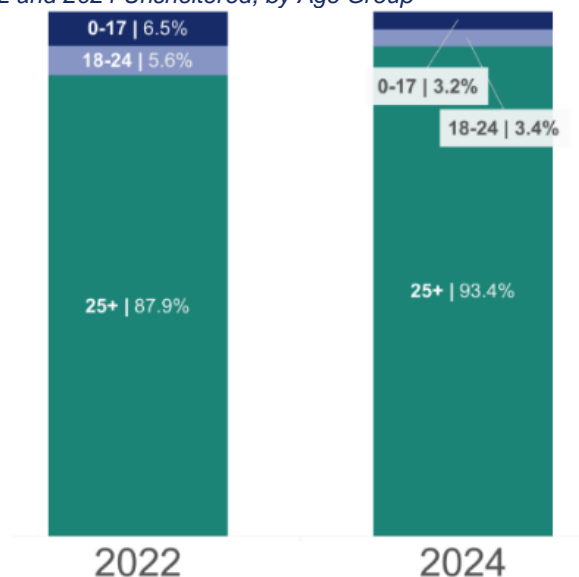
Household Composition

For the population of people experiencing homelessness in King County, we refer to *households* using an expanded definition provided by HUD. Households are defined as all people who occupy a given unit of housing and are not required to be legally defined guardians, dependents, or family members. Differences in household composition pose obvious barriers to obtaining shelter. For example, a congregate shelter generally offers little privacy and no guarantee that people with minor children are provided appropriate privacy or services.

To effectively estimate shelter available for households of differing compositions, we rely on explicit shelter designations as well as enrollment data collected in the HMIS. To estimate the capacities by household type shown in *Table 5*, we analyzed the enrollments for all participating shelter programs (does not include permanent housing programs) to determine what type of household is most often served, measured as those for whom 70% or more of the enrollments represented the associated household type in 2024.

Between 2022 and 2024 the proportion of *households that include children* compared to *households with only adults* decreased substantially (*Figure 16*) as a share of the total estimates of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

The estimated number of households with at least one adult and one child *(Adult and Children)* decreased by 727, or about 58%, from 1,253 to 526. Similarly, the estimate of households with only children (*Children Only*) decreased by 308 from 415 to 107, or by about 74%. This contrasts with the *increase* from 6,624 to 8,963 in adult-only households (*Adults Only*), an increase of approximately 35%.

Some variation from year to year must be expected due to changes in the methodologies and agencies involved in the PIT counts over time. ***Table 6*** illustrates how the reported numbers of people by household type have changed since 2015. Inflection points, such as the increase in reported numbers beginning in 2020, are not necessarily indications of radical changes in the true composition. More on this can be found in the **Limitations** section of this report.

Figure 15: *Distribution of Household Types, by Reported Status of Head of Household (Unsheltered)*

Adult(s), no Children	93.5%
Adult(s) and Child(ren)	5.4%
Children only	1.1%

Table 5: *System Capacity Estimates for January 2024 from HMIS Participating, by Selected Household Composition[12]*

Household Types	Shelter Programs	Shelter Beds	Sheltered People	Unsheltered People	People per Bed
Single Adults	101	4772	3475	8846	2.6
Youth and Young Adults	22	279	383	438	2.9
Families with Children	54	2896	3175	526	1.3
Total	**177**	**7947**	**7033**	**9810**	**2.1**

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[12] Estimates based on most up-to-date HIC and PIT data (on 2025-03-31), which are available from HUD at https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/ahar/#2024-reports.

Figure 16: *Households by Type (2022 – 2024)*
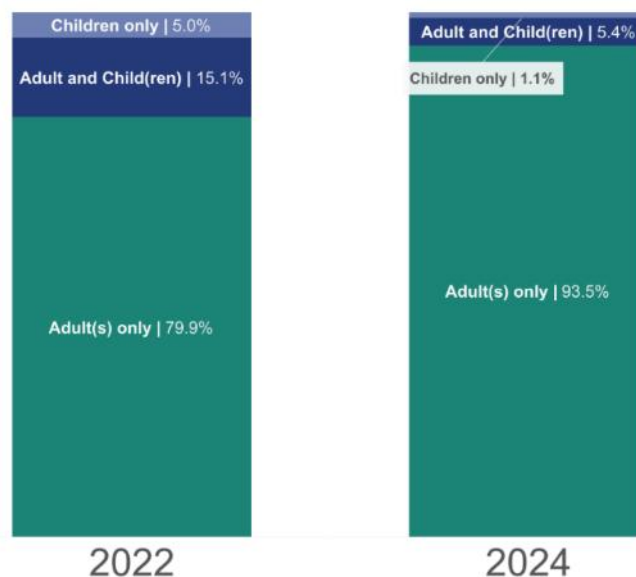
Table 6: *PIT Count Estimates from 2015 to 2022, by Unsheltered Household Type[13]*

Year	Unsheltered Individuals	Unsheltered Family Members	Unsheltered Families	Family Members as % of All
2015	3,772	31	9	0.82%
2016	4,449	56	28	1.24%
2017	5,404	81	22	1.48%
2018	6,241	79	25	1.25%
2019	5,165	63	19	1.21%
2020	4,481	1,097	317	19.67%
2022	6,624	1,253	415	18.92%
2024	9,810	526	135	5.36%

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[13] Information on data collection can be found at
https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/2022_HIC_and_PIT_Data_Collection_Notice.pdf

Tribal Affiliation

More than 100 people surveyed reported identifying as a member of one or more federally recognized Native American Tribes and Peoples, and *Figure 17* shows a summary of those who responded.

Due to the very small number of people each who reported tribal affiliations, nearly half (49%) of all endorsements were represented in the grouping "*Other Tribes*." An exhaustive list of all tribal affiliations reported can be found in *Table 7*.

Figure 17: Self-Reported Tribal Affiliations (PIT Count Responses, 2024)
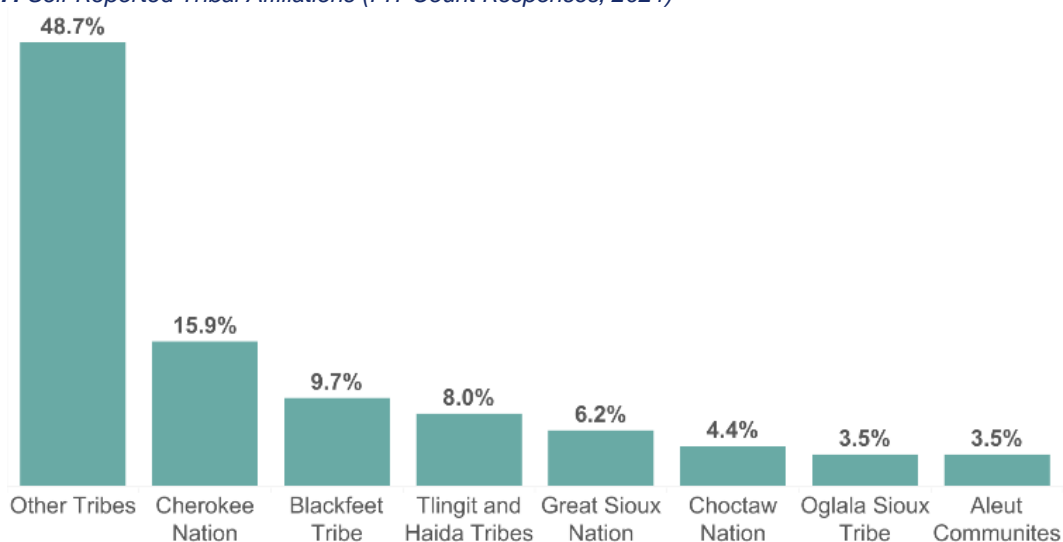
Table 7: Other Tribal Affiliations Reported, by Respondents

Alatna Village	Mohawk Tribe
Apache Tribes	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes (Fort Peck)	Natchez Indians
Chippewa Indians	Navajo Nation
Chippewa Cree Indians	Nez Perce Tribe
Coeur D'Alene Tribe	Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona
Comanche Nation	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	Pueblo Tribes of New Mexico
Duwamish Tribe	Puyallup Tribe
Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe	Seminole People

Gros Ventre Tribe	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Inupiat	The Chickasaw Nation
Ivanof Bay Tribe	Tulalip Tribes of Washington
Ketchikan Indian Community	Ute Indian Tribes
Klawock Cooperative Association	Walker River Paiute Tribe
Maidu Indians of California	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Makah Indian Tribe	Yakama Nation
Metlakatla Indian Community	

Health and Well-Being

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about personal health and well-being, including questions about domestic and sexual violence, general disability, serious mental illness, and substance use disorder. Responses are summarized based on respondents' Age, Racial and Ethnic Identities, Gender Identities, and whether they are *chronically homeless*.

The data shown in the following sections summarize more than 800 responses collected for the following four questions:

1. *Are you experiencing homelessness because you are currently fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking?*
2. *Do you identify as having a disability?*
3. *Do you identify as having a severe mental illness?*
4. *Do you identify as having a substance use disorder?*

Historically, the conditions under consideration in this section have been underreported due to a host of factors, including serious stigmatization. All data represented here are self-reported, and no patient information or proof of diagnosis was required. We acknowledge that our findings might underestimate the true rates among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and are committed to pursuing ways to continuously improve our data quality and reliability.

Any Disability

More than half (51%) of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County reported experiencing some form of physical, cognitive, or other general disability (*Figure 18*). This includes conditions that affect mobility, ability to perform certain daily activities, ability to

perform certain kinds of work, and any other condition that poses significant challenges during daily living.

Given general population trends and the broad scope of the question, the distributions of gender identities and age groups are not remarkable. We observe a high proportion of people who meet the criteria to be considered *chronically homeless*, but, given that the definition of *chronic homelessness* requires the presence of a disabling condition that limits normal activities, this is also unremarkable. Most remarkable is the high proportion at which people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness also experience disability (51%).

Distribution by Racial and Ethnic Identities among this group is aligned with the expected proportions, which are represented by the vertical reference bars. They represent the proportion that each group has within the estimated total people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County (PIT Count, 2024).

Figure 18: Unsheltered People who are Experiencing Any Disability, by Demographics
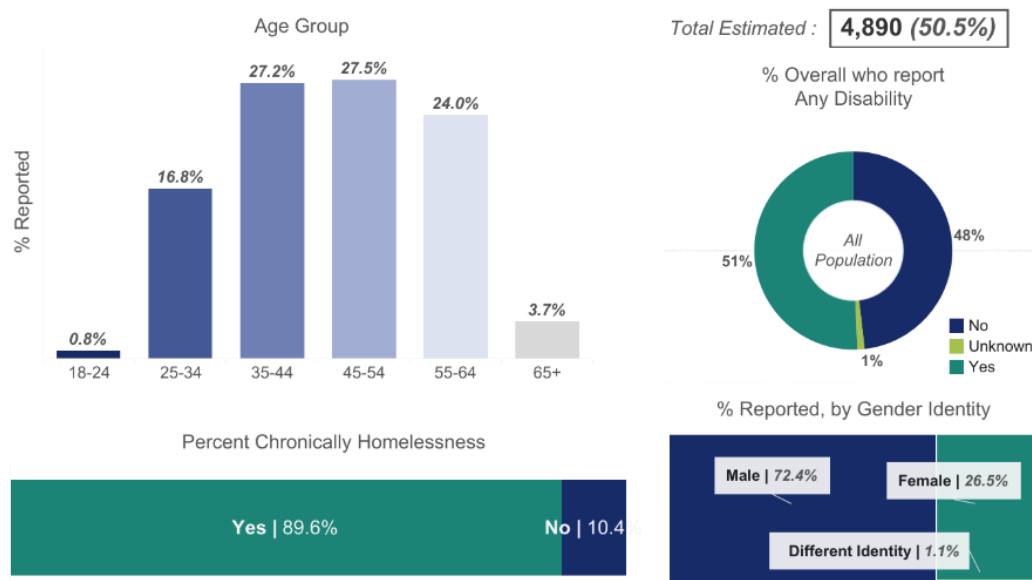
Figure 19: Unsheltered People Who are Experiencing Any Disability, by Race and Ethnicity[14]
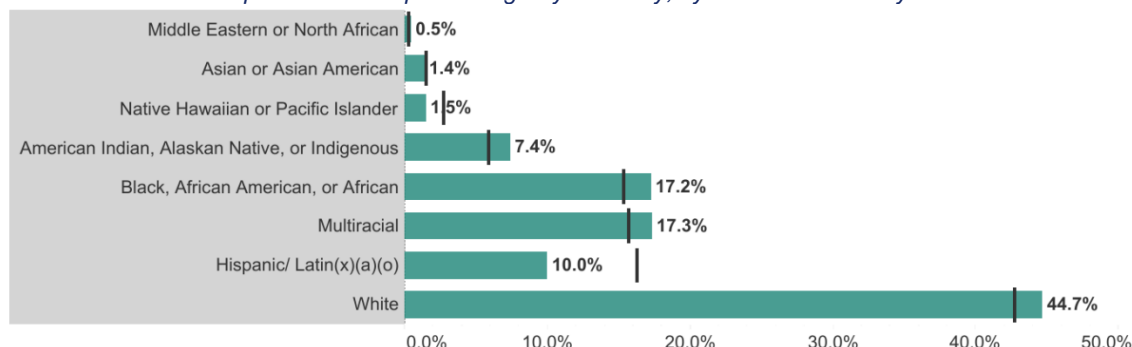
Serious Mental Illness

Mental Illness is defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder ranging from mild to serious to severe that may impact normal and necessary human activities (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2024). According to an analysis published by the National Institutes of Mental Health, an estimated one in five Americans experience any mental illness (AMI), while 6% reported experiencing some form of *Serious Mental Illness* (SMI) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2024).

People experiencing SMI are more likely to experience inherent impacts on income and housing stability (Colburn & Aldern, 2022). To assess for SMI, respondents were asked "*Do you identify as having a severe mental illness?*" Like *Any Disability*, there can be a strong stigma associated with this question, and therefore we expect underreporting.

More than a third (34%) of unsheltered people reported experiencing SMI (**Figure 20**). As in the case of *Any Disability*, we see a high proportion of *chronically homeless* people among this group, which is less remarkable considering that the definition of *chronic homelessness* requires at least one disabling condition. By age, more than 30% of people reporting SMI were between 35 and 44. By gender, rates of SMI were similar to those observed in the overall population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

With respect to Race and Ethnicity, the highest proportions of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness who reported having an SMI were people who identified as either White; Black,

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[14] Vertical bars indicate the proportion of the total people experiencing unsheltered homelessness who also identify as a member of the given racial or ethnic group shown, based on PIT Count data estimates.

African American, or African; or as Multiracial. People who identified as *Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o)* and Asian or Asian American showed the lowest proportions of reported SMI relative to expected.

Figure 20: Unsheltered People who are Experiencing Serious Mental Illness, by Demographics
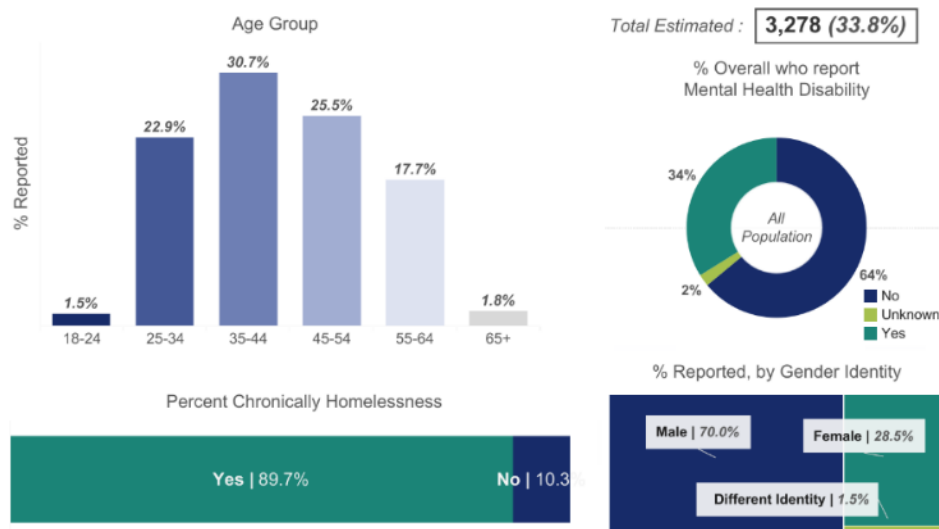
Figure 21: Unsheltered People who are Experiencing Serious Mental Illness, by Race and Ethnicity
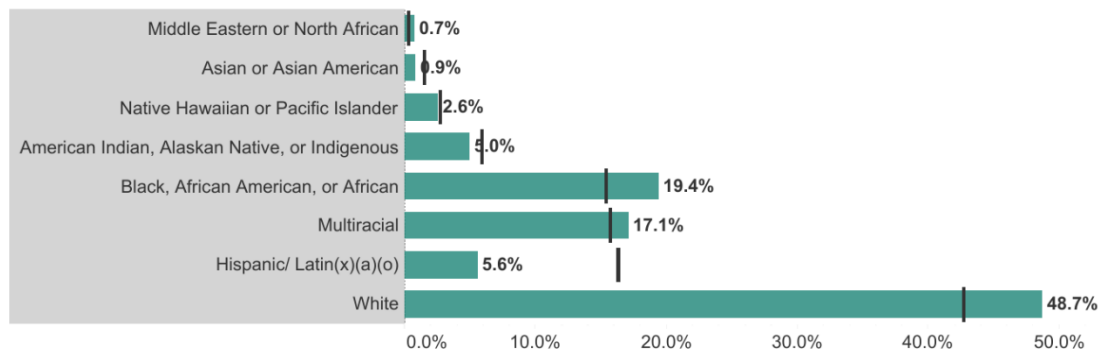
Substance Use Disorder

The issue of underreporting due to stigma and fear is also a consideration when reporting on *Substance Use Disorder* (SUD). The data summarized in this section represent estimates based on the responses to the survey question, "*Do you identify as having a substance use disorder?*"

Among people experiencing SUD, most (35%) reported being between the ages of 35 and 44, with 84% between 25 and 64 years old. By gender, nearly 79% identified as men. We see a high proportion of *chronically homeless* people among this group, which is less remarkable considering that the definition of *chronic homelessness* requires at least one disabling condition. By Racial and Ethnic Identities, people identified as White reported the highest rates of SUD (52%), relative to the distribution of Race and Ethnicity for the entire population of unsheltered people. Both Black, African American or African and Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) people reported the lowest *relative proportions*.

Figure 22: Unsheltered People who are Experiencing Substance Use Disorder, by Demographic
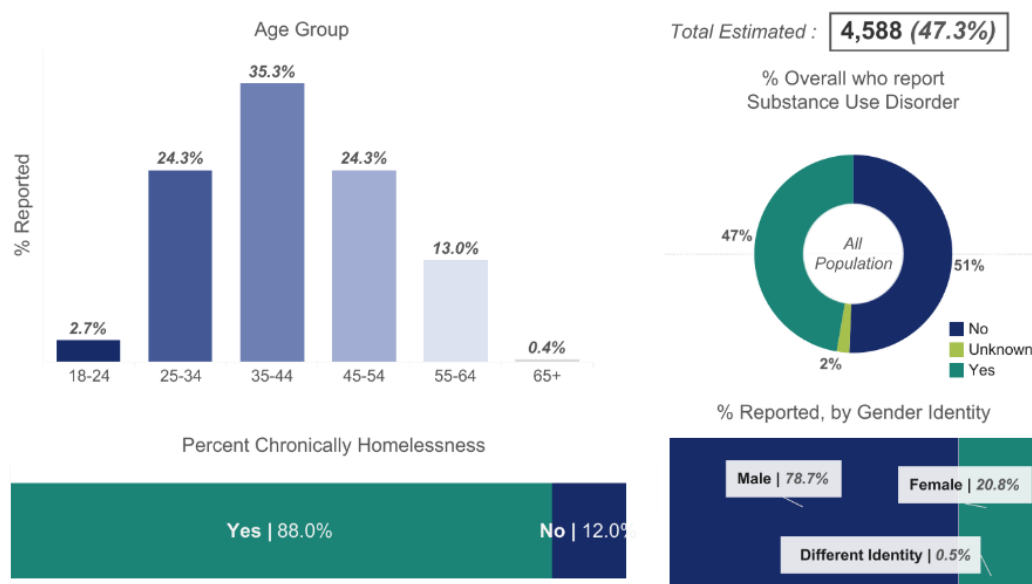
Figure 23: Unsheltered People Who are Experiencing Substance Use Disorder, by Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Asian or Asian American	1.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2.0%
American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous	5.7%
Black, African American, or African	11.8%
Multiracial	15.6%
Hispanic/ Latin(x)(a)(o)	11.3%
White	52.3%
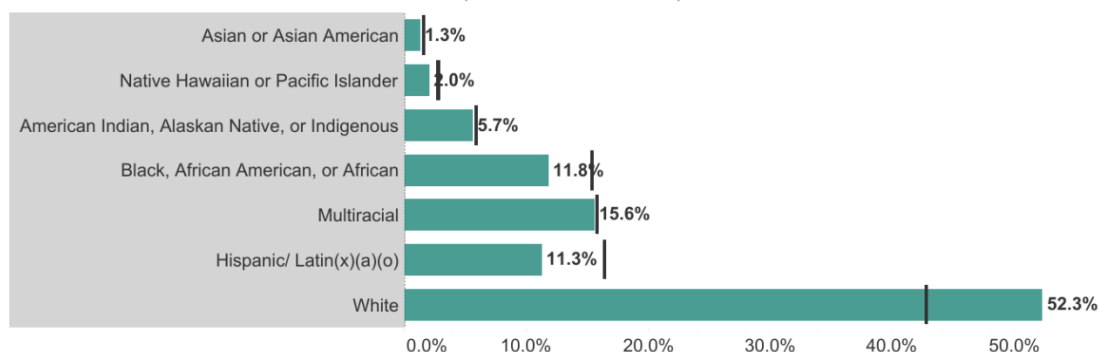
Domestic Violence Survivors

Like any disability – physical or mental – and SUD, assessing the rate of *Domestic Violence* (DV) among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness can inform system capacity needs. People who are fleeing unstable and dangerous situations of DV require specific shelter programs and resources to navigate the homelessness system. Those programs require additional layers of privacy and protection compared to non-DV programs in shelters. This section summarizes data for people who answered affirmatively to the question, "*Are you experiencing homelessness because you are currently fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking?*"

Among people experiencing DV, over half identified as Women (57%). By age, nearly 80% of those who reported experiencing DV were between the ages of 25 and 64, and the population with the highest percentage of DV reports (29%) was those aged 35 to 44 years old. The proportion of people in this group who also meet the criteria to be considered *chronically homeless* is high, indicating a relationship between disability and DV[15].

By Racial and Ethnic Identity categories, both Black, African American, or African and Multiracial people reported experiencing DV at the highest rates, relative to what was expected. People who identified as White made up most reports of DV (38%) but were underrepresented relative

[15] For more information, see statistics from the National Domestic Violence Hotline (https://www.thehotline.org/resources/people-with-disabilities-and-domestic-violence/).

to their population prevalence. Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o); Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; and Asian American groups reported the lowest relative rates of DV.

Figure 24: *Unsheltered People who Report Experiencing Domestic Violence*
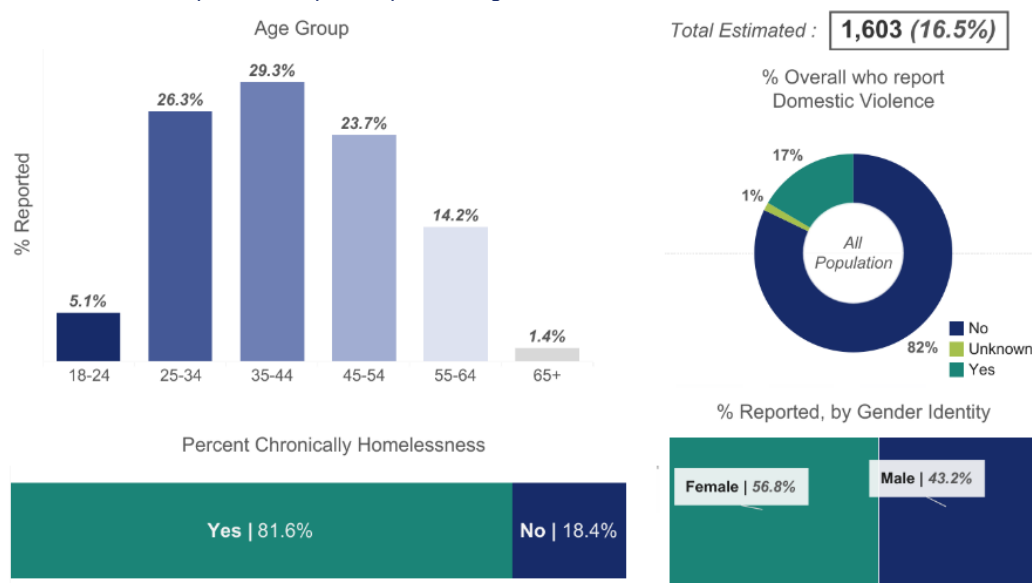
Figure 25: *Unsheltered People Who Report Experiencing Domestic Violence, by Race and Ethnicity*

Subpopulations

The next section features summaries of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by specific subpopulations of interest. This type of focused reporting helps to ensure that our Homeless Response System (HRS) is equipped to accommodate people and households with widely varying requirements and from diverse backgrounds.

The groups are not distinct from one another, meaning a person can be represented in more than one of the following subpopulations. Demographics, such as age and gender, are provided when appropriate, with emphasis on maintaining privacy of respondents.

For this report, the following subpopulations are defined as:

    i.   *Chronically homeless*[16]
   ii.   *Households with Children* (Minors)
  iii.   *Veterans* (of the United States Armed Forces)
  iv.   *Unaccompanied Youth* (0-17 years old) *and Young Adults* (18-24 years old)
   v.   *Refugees* (self-reported)
  vi.   *Vehicle Residents* (cars, trucks, boats, trailers, RVs)

Chronic Homelessness

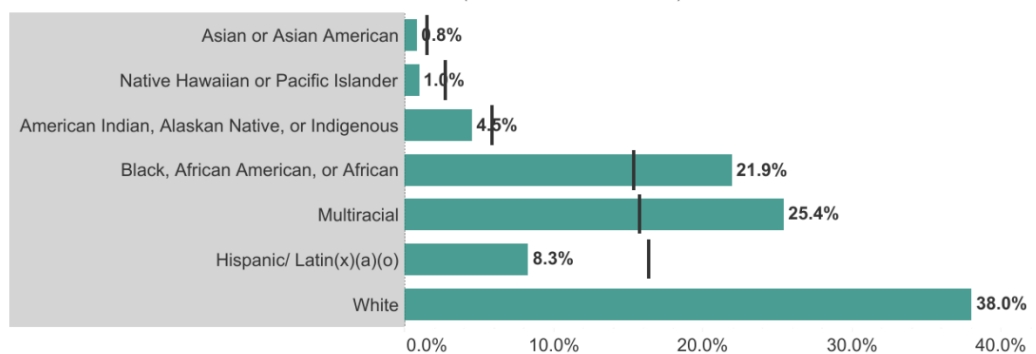66% of all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in 2024 also met the criteria to be considered *chronically homeless* (PIT Count 2024). *Chronically homeless* people experience multiple, extended episodes of homelessness in addition to the experience of having at least one seriously limiting disability. From 2022 to 2024, the estimated number of people experiencing chronic, unsheltered homelessness in the Seattle/King County CoC increased from 2,954 to

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[16] HUD Definition for *Chronically Homeless*: ''Chronically homeless'' is defined in section 401(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11360 (McKinney-Vento Act or Act), as an individual or family that is homeless and resides in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and has been homeless and residing in such a place for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years. The statutory definition also requires that the individual or family has a head of household with a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, posttraumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability (https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4847/hearth-defining-chronically-homeless-final-rule/).

6,406, or by about 117%. This is above the national average increase in people experiencing chronic, unsheltered homelessness of 36%.

To better understand the breadth of services needed to support the population of people who are experiencing chronic, unsheltered homelessness, we look at the distribution of health and well-being characteristics *within this group* (***Table 8***).

Among people who meet the criteria for *chronic homelessness*, 69% report having a disability[17]. This figure is more than five times higher than the 13% reported for the general population of the *United States* (Leppert & Schaeffer, 2023) and is more than 16% higher than the rate reported for the overall population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County. Additionally, more than 46% reported experiencing a serious mental illness, and approximately 63% identify as experiencing a SUD.

Survivors of DV made up 21% of people experiencing unsheltered, *chronic homelessness*. Being a survivor of DV is not explicitly part of the criteria to be considered *chronically homeless*, since it is not a form of disability. However, the high proportions of survivors that are also *chronically homeless* suggest that DV and disability often co-occur among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

For King County, nearly 28% of people experiencing unsheltered and *chronic homelessness* were between the ages of 45 and 54 years old, closely followed by 35 and 44 (27%) and 25 and 34 years old (22%). By gender, 74% identified as Men, and 25% as Women.

By Racial and Ethnic Identities, nearly half (49%) identified as White, followed by Multiracial (17%) then Black, African American, or African (16%). People who identified as Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o), Asian or Asian American, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander were

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[17] Due to the nature of self-reporting, people who identified themselves as having any disability may also have identified as having additional/other health and well-being characteristics asked about in the survey. Therefore, we do not consider these estimates to be exclusive of one another, nor do we consider them to represent the full array of disabling conditions experienced by people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

underrepresented with respect to their general prevalence among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. People who identified as White were the most overrepresented.

Figure 26: Nationwide CoCs, by Percent Change in Unsheltered Chronically homeless
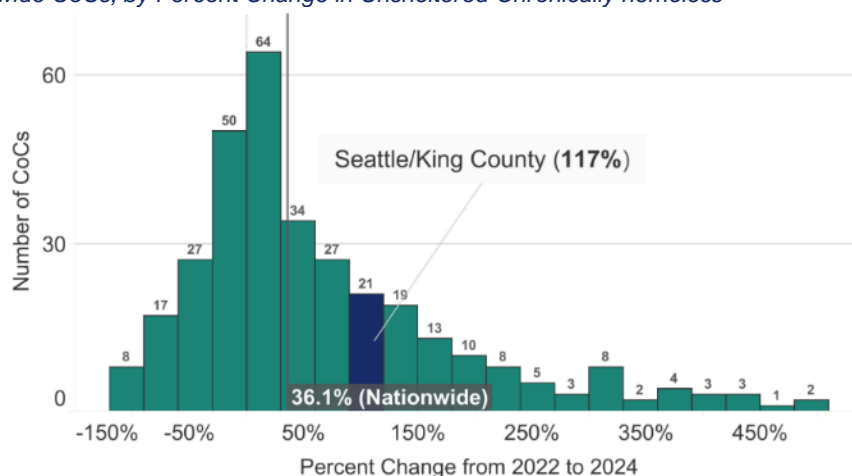
Table 8: Prevalence of Health and Well-Being Characteristics among People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Health and Well-Being	% of Overall *Chronically homeless*[18]
Any Disability	69%
Mental Health Disability	46%
Substance Use Disorder	63%
Domestic Violence Survivors	21%

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[18] Because people may experience any of these health and well-being characteristics concurrently, they are not mutually exclusive, and we do not expect these proportions to add to 100%.

Figure 27: *Unsheltered People Who Meet Criteria for Chronic Homelessness, by Demographics*

Age Group

Total Estimated : **6,364 *(65.7%)***

% Chronically Homeless

Yes
100.0% (6,364)

- **1.9%** (119) — 18-24
- **22.4%** (1,426) — 25-34
- **26.6%** (1,697) — 35-44
- **27.7%** (1,768) — 45-54
- **19.1%** (1,220) — 55-64
- **2.3%** (145) — 65+

Gender Identity

Female 25.2% (1,609) | **Male** 74.0% (4,720)

■ Male
■ Female
■ Different Identity
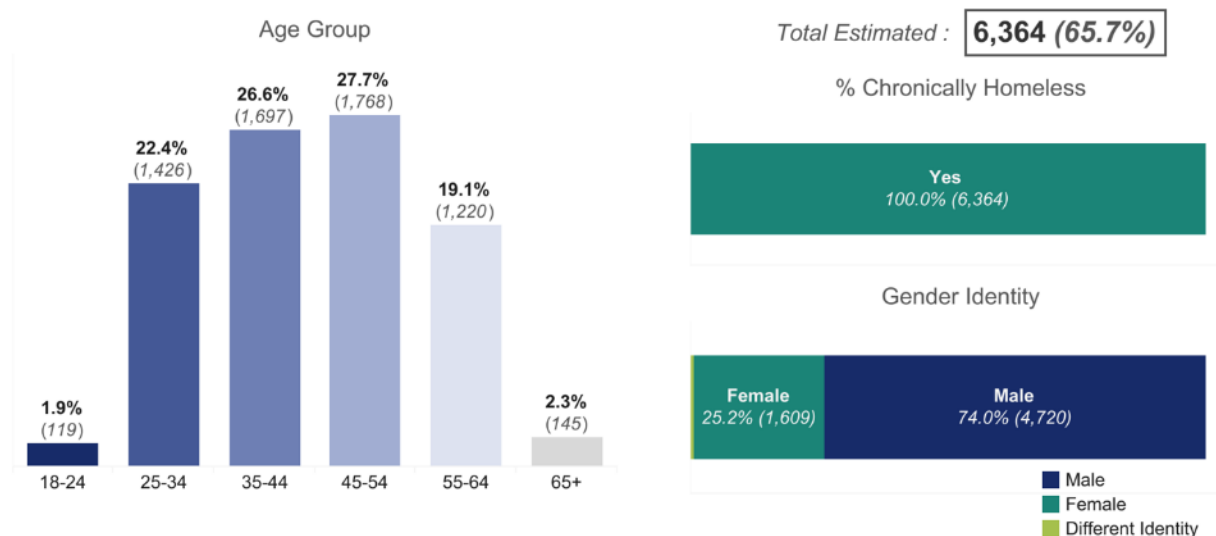
Figure 28: *Unsheltered People who Meet Criteria for Chronic Homelessness, by Race and Ethnicity*

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
White	48.9%
Hispanic/ Latin(x)(a)(o)	10.1%
Multiracial	16.6%
Black, African American, or Af..	15.5%
American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous	5.9%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Isla..	1.8%
Asian or Asian American	0.8%
Middle Eastern or North African	0.4%
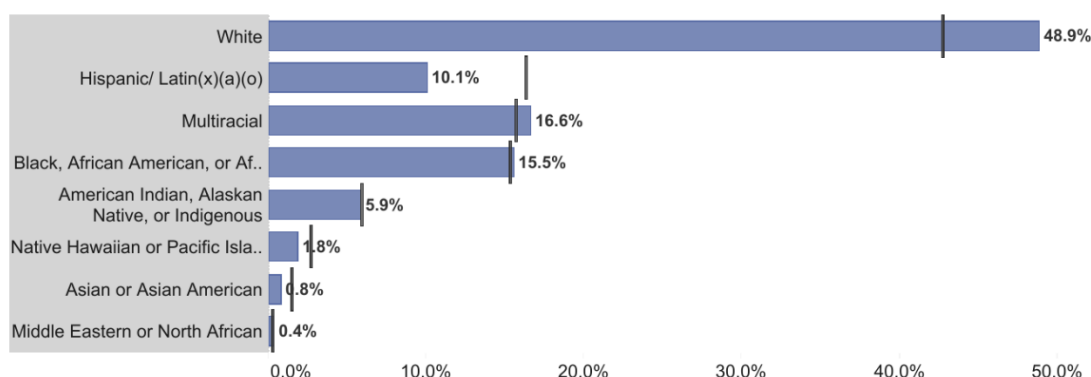
Households with at Least One Adult and One Child ('Families')

Households with children are defined as households with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18 (minor). Data was reported by one respondent, represented here as the de facto head of the household. An estimated 526, or about 5.4%, of all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness belong to households with at least one adult and one child (***Figure 29***).

Figure 29 shows summaries of age, *chronic homelessness* (status), and gender for all people in households with minor children. Nearly half were children under the age of 18 (41%), followed

by people between the ages of 35 and 44 (18%). The estimates for those aged 0-17 years come from HMIS data ([RDS Methodology](#)) and reported household information. Nearly a third (30%) of people in unsheltered households with children were also *chronically homeless*, which is the lowest estimated proportion of *chronically homeless* people among any of the specific subpopulations considered in this section. Gender distribution is similar to the general population, with about 75% Male and 25% Female.

By Racial and Ethnic Identities, White; Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o); Multiracial; and Black, African American, or African people made up the largest fractions (between 15-30%), with the greatest overall number and proportion being people who identified as White (27%). People who identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander were most disproportionately overrepresented, while White people were most underrepresented (relative to all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness).

Figure 29: Unsheltered People in Households with at Least One Adult and One Child

Age Group

- 0-17: 41.1% (216)
- 18-24: 2.1% (11)
- 25-34: 14.1% (74)
- 35-44: 18.1% (95)
- 45-54: 13.5% (71)
- 55-64: 9.7% (51)
- 65+: 1.5% (8)

Total Estimated : **526 (5.4%)**

% Chronically Homeless
- Yes 30.2% (159)
- No 69.8% (367)

Gender Identity
- Female 24.9% (130)
- Male 75.1% (392)

Legend:
- Male
- Female
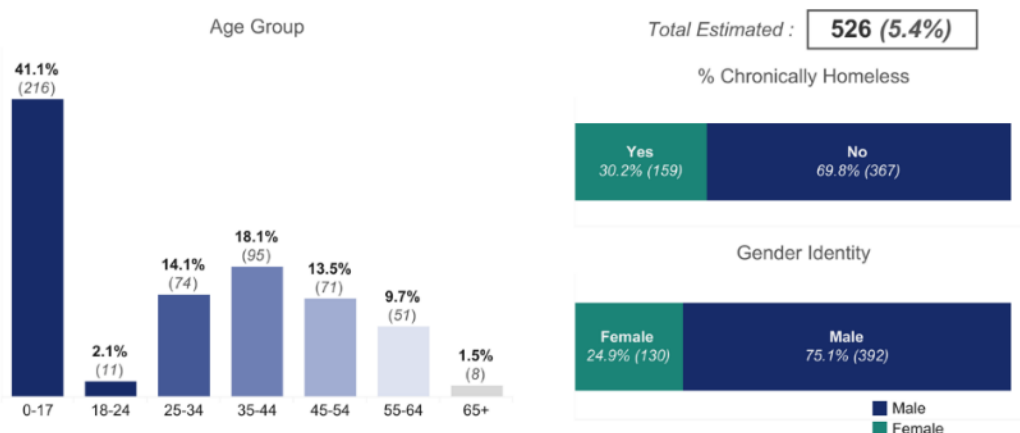
Figure 30: Unsheltered People in Households with Children, by Race and Ethnicity
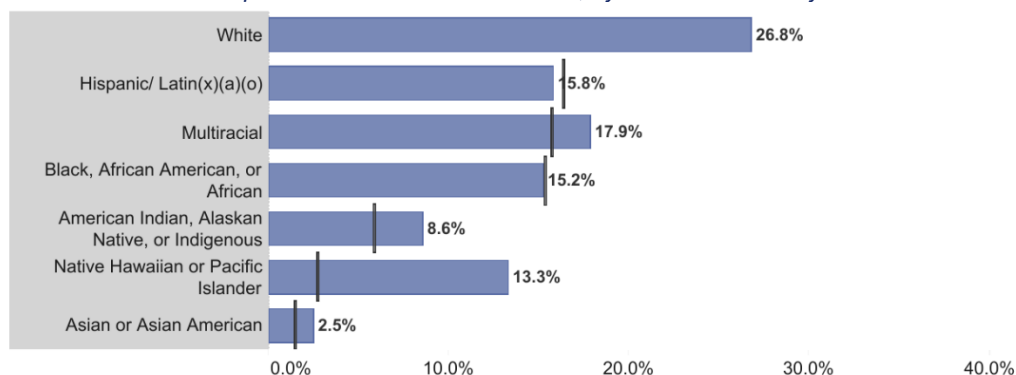
Veterans

Much like households with children, the HRS provides specific support for housing veterans and their families. This section summarizes responses to the question "*Are you or a member of your immediate family a Veteran?*", which included the following response options:

1. "*Yes, I am a veteran, and a member of my immediate family is a veteran*"
2. "*Yes, I am a veteran*"
3. "*Yes, a member of my immediate family is a veteran*"
4. "*No, neither I nor a member of my immediate family are veterans*"

Respondents were also offered the option to answer that they *did not know*, or to simply refuse to provide a response.

Approximately 8.2% or 792 total estimated people experiencing unsheltered homelessness reported being a Veteran, with most identifying as Men (80%). More than half (58%) were *chronically homeless*. By age, most were between the ages of 35 and 44 (30%), followed by 55 and 64 years old, then 45 and 54 years old.

By Racial and Ethnic Identities, most Veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness identified as White (43%), followed by Multiracial (24%), then Black, African American or African (21%). The greatest disproportionality was observed for Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) and American Indian, Alaskan Native or Indigenous People (both underrepresented), followed by Multiracial people (overrepresented).

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Figure 31: Unsheltered People Who are Also Veterans (US Armed Forces)
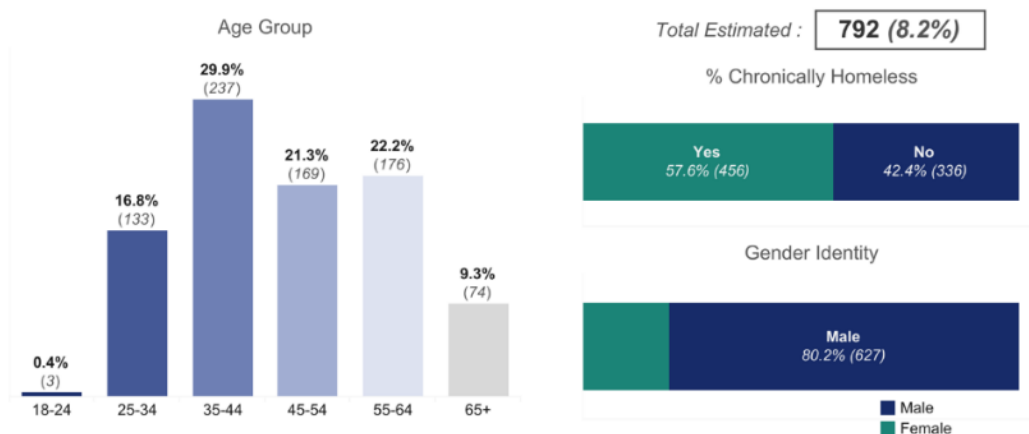
Figure 32: Unsheltered People Who are Also Veterans (US Armed Forces), by Race and Ethnicity
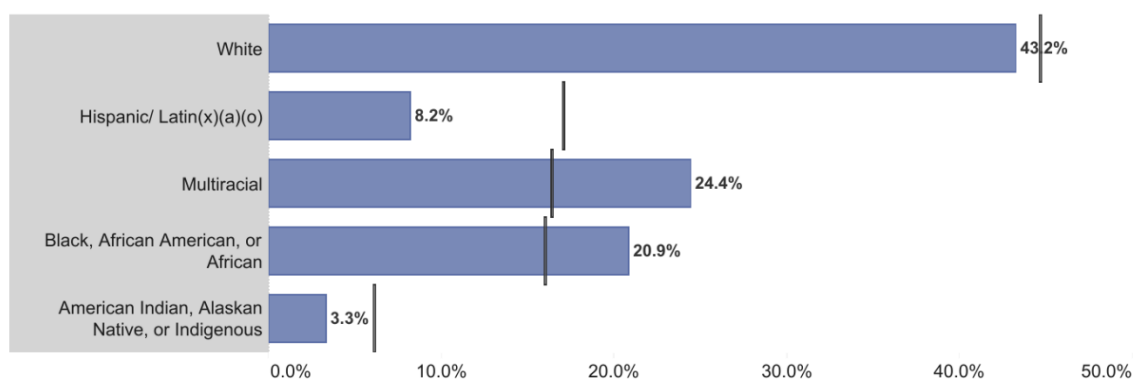
Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults

Like people experiencing unsheltered homelessness aged 0-17 years and households with children, data for *Unaccompanied Youth* (those under the age of 18) were not directly measured. The data were estimated based on corresponding shelter data from the HMIS. This is because people under 18 are unable to provide legal informed consent (except in rare cases). This practice of estimation by proxy is aligned with best practices for RDS methodology (Almquist et al., 2024b) and is necessary to protect the rights of this vulnerable group. *Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults* are defined as people under the age of 25 who are not under the care of a responsible adult. This can include children and youth who are also parenting minors.

Among the people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, approximately 4.5% or 438 total are unaccompanied youth and young adults (*Figure 33*). Nearly three quarters (74%) identified as Men or Boys, followed by 25% identified as Women or Girls. Fewer than 1% identified as *Different Identity* (inclusive of *Transgender*, *Non-Binary*, *Questioning*, and *Different Identity*). Gender identity was most varied within this group compared to the other subpopulations of interest in this section. Most people in this group (76%) were between the ages of 18 and 24.

By Racial and Ethnic Identities, 41% were identified as White, followed by Multiracial (20%), then Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) at nearly 16% (*Figure 34*). Here we see fewer cases of disproportionality with respect to overall population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, with only people identifying as Multiracial being overrepresented.

Figure 33: Unsheltered People who are Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults

Age Group

Total Estimated : **438 (4.5%)**

% Chronically Homeless

Yes 35.2% (154)	No 64.8% (284)

75.6% (331)

24.4% (107)

0-17 18-24

Gender Identity

Female 24.9% (109)	Male 74.4% (326)

■ Male
■ Female
■ Different Identity
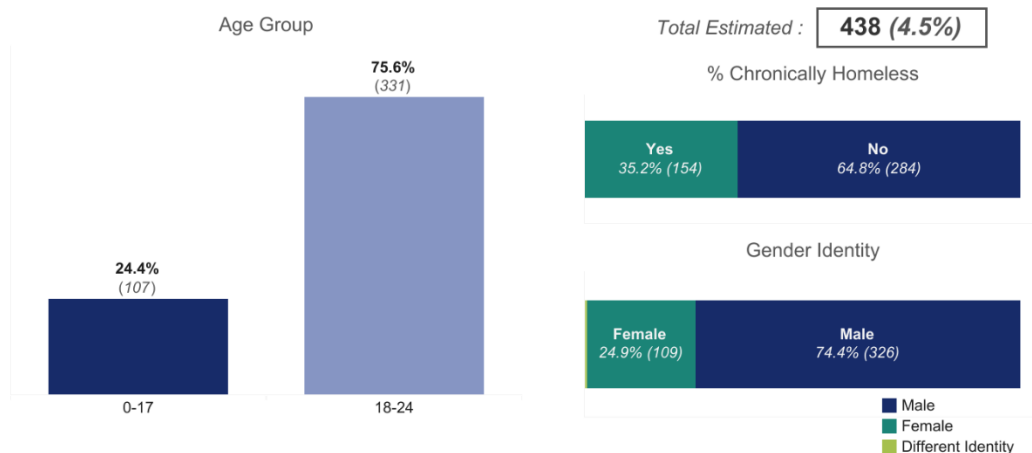
Figure 34: Unsheltered Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults, by Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	%
White	40.9%
Hispanic/ Latin(x)(a)(o)	15.5%
Multiracial	20.1%
Black, African American, or Af..	14.4%
American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous	5.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Isla..	2.5%
Asian or Asian American	1.4%
Middle Eastern or North African	0.2%

0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0%
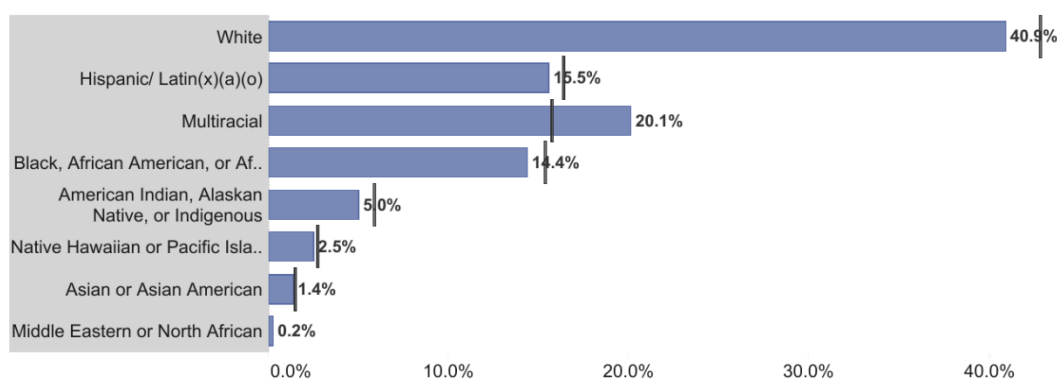
Vehicle Residents

The HRS also accounts for resources and capacity needed for people who live and sleep in a vehicle, such as a car, truck, trailer, small boat, or recreational vehicle (RV).

Among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, approximately 27% (2,569) are *Vehicle Residents.* More than half (approximately 58%) are Men, followed by Women (41%). By age, roughly a quarter were between 35 and 44 years, followed closely by those who were either 55 to 64 years old or 25 to 34 years old (24%). An additional 6% were 65 years or older.

KCRHA

Nearly half of the unsheltered people living in vehicles identified as White, with little disproportionality across Racial and Ethnic Identity groups. The greatest overrepresentation was among people who identify as Asian or Asian American, followed by Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders.

Figure 35: Unsheltered People who are Residing Primarily in Cars, Trucks, Vans, RVs, or Boats
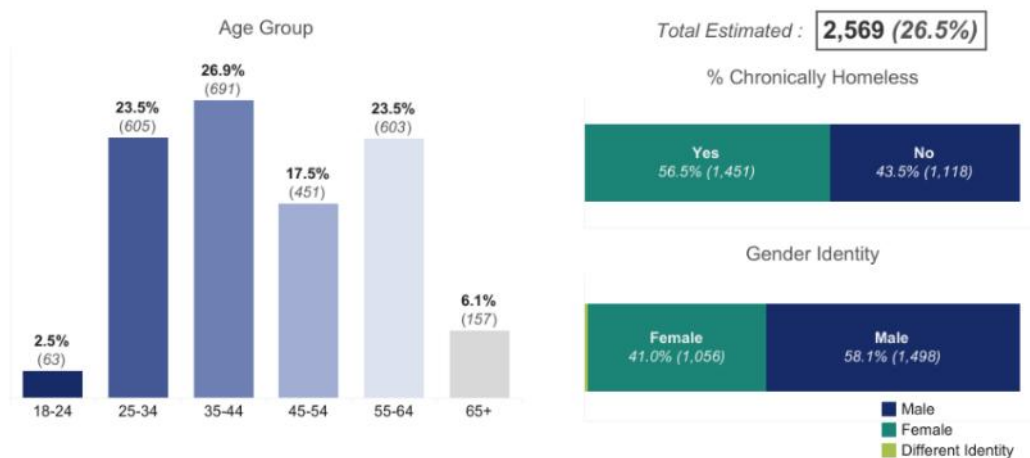
Figure 36: Unsheltered People who are Residing Primarily in Vehicles, by Race and Ethnicity
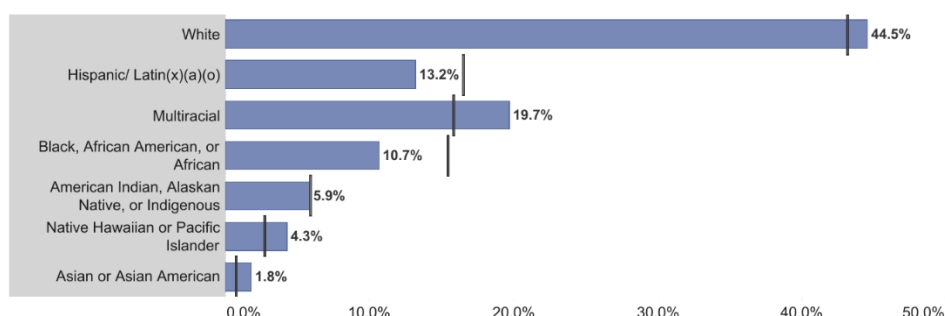
Refugees

Efforts were made in PIT Count recruitment to survey people experiencing unsheltered homelessness who were *Refugees*. Unfortunately, the number of respondents who self-identified as Refugees was too small for accurate disaggregation and extrapolation to support a complete analysis. People in this group have unique concerns, and concerns for privacy regarding status and self-reporting can lead to underreporting. Refugee status is only recorded in the

unsheltered survey, and no comparison group from HMIS (people experiencing sheltered homelessness) is available. Based on this limited data, approximately 7% of people (660) among individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness are Refugees. Most people among this group (approximately 83%) identified as Men, and more than half (60%) were *chronically homeless*. Among these individuals, most were over 35.

Racial and Ethnic Identity Groups

Like subpopulations, for the HRS to equitably serve all of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness we must understand where particular needs are most acute. In this section, we provide summaries of each Racial and Ethnic Identity group for which data were collected with respect to age, *chronic homelessness* status, sleeping conditions, disability, household type or composition, and gender. To better understand each group individually, we provide reference figures for the overall proportions considered for each.

Figure 37 illustrates overall trends in age, gender, and *chronic homelessness*. These figures apply to the entire population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County.

Figure 38 illustrates the distribution of health and well-being characteristics reported for all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County.

Figure 39 shows the prevalence of household types, as well as the distribution of sleeping conditions reported by respondents. It also represents the countywide population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Figure 37: *Unsheltered People (Overall)*

% Estimated Unsheltered by Age Group

Total Estimated: **9,692 (100.0%)**

% Chronically Homeless

| Yes 65.7% (6,364) | No 34.3% (3,328) |

Gender Identity Distribution

Male | 74.4%   Female | 24.9%

Different Identity | 0.7%

Age group bars:
- 18-24: 3.4% (333)
- 25-34: 23.6% (2,291)
- 35-44: 30.9% (2,990)
- 45-54: 23.0% (2,233)
- 55-64: 16.5% (1,602)
- 65+: 2.5% (243)
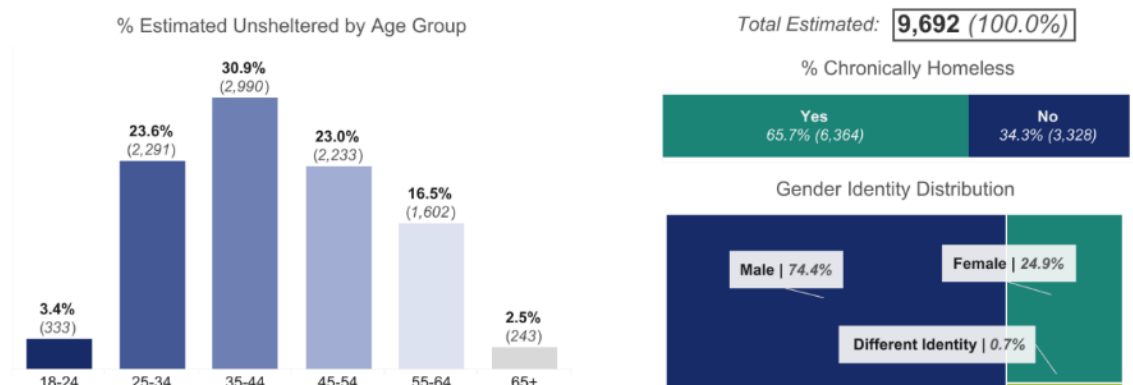
Figure 38: *All Unsheltered People, by Health and Well-Being*

Any Disability: No 48%, Unknown 1%, Yes 51%

Mental Health Disability: No 64%, Unknown 2%, Yes 34%

DV Survivors: No 82%, Unknown 1%, Yes 17%

Substance Use Disorder: No 51%, Unknown 2%, Yes 47%

Legend: No, Unknown, Yes
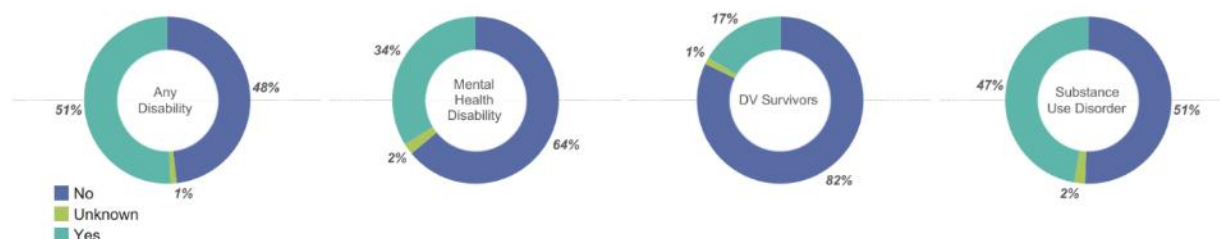
Figure 39: *All Unsheltered People by Household Types and Sleeping Situation*

Household Types
- Adult(s), no Children: 93.5%
- Adult(s) and Child(ren): 5.4%
- Children only: 1.1%

Reported Sleeping Situation
- Unknown: 1.7%
- Inside - Not for Habitation: 7.4%
- Vehicle: 26.7%
- Outside: 64.3%
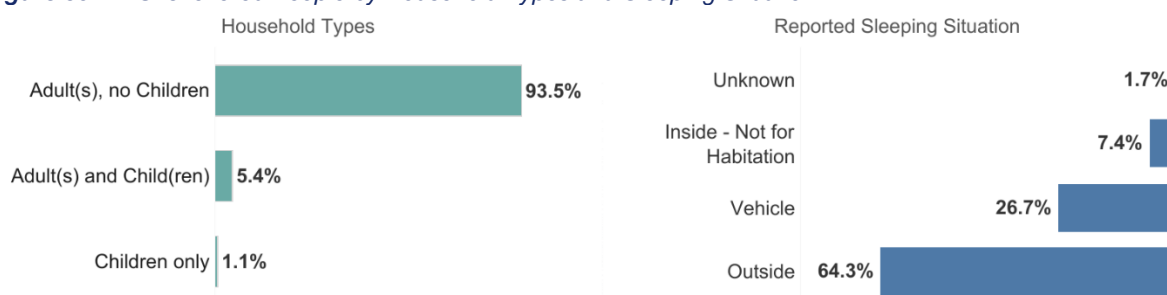
American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous

Among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, approximately 5.6% identified as American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous. Of this group, nearly 66% met the criteria for *chronic homelessness*. Gender distribution is slightly more balanced, with 69% identifying as

Men and nearly 31% identifying as Women. Age distribution is nearly even for those between 25 and 54 years old, with most people reporting ages in that range (82%).

People in this group reported the highest level of general disability of all Racial and Ethnic groups, followed by people identifying as Black, African American or African, and Multiracial. For all other health and well-being characteristics reported on here, rates of reporting for this group were lower than overall.

Most were adults over the age of 18 (90%), followed by households with minor children (9%). Nearly 70% of the respondents were Men, with most ages falling between 25 to 54 years (inclusive). Nearly two-thirds (64%) reported experiencing a disabling condition, and 67% reported sleeping outside.

Figure 40: *Unsheltered People Who Identify as American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous*
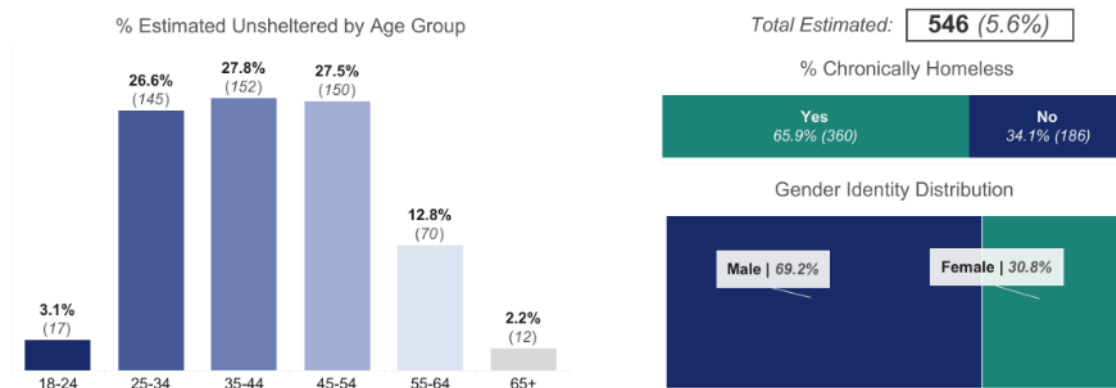
Figure 41: American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous Unsheltered People, by Health and Well-Being
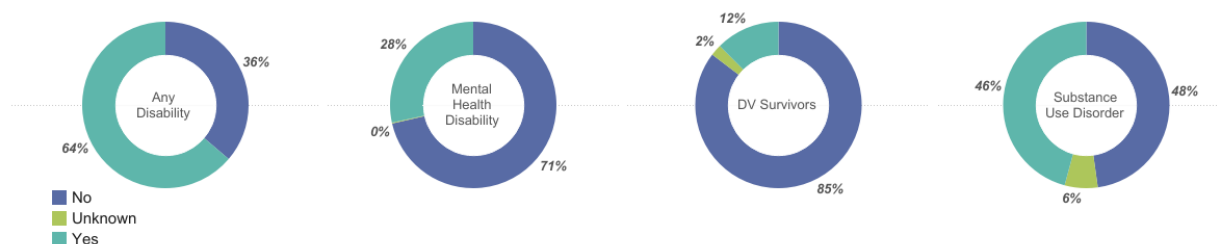
Figure 42: American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous People, by Household Types and Sleeping Situation

Asian or Asian American

Among individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, approximately 1% identified as Asian or Asian American. Of this group, just under 35% report being *chronically homeless* (***Figure 43***), which is the lowest proportion of any of the Racial or Ethnic groups reported on here that meet the criteria for *chronic homelessness*. Gender distribution within this group is more equal than the othe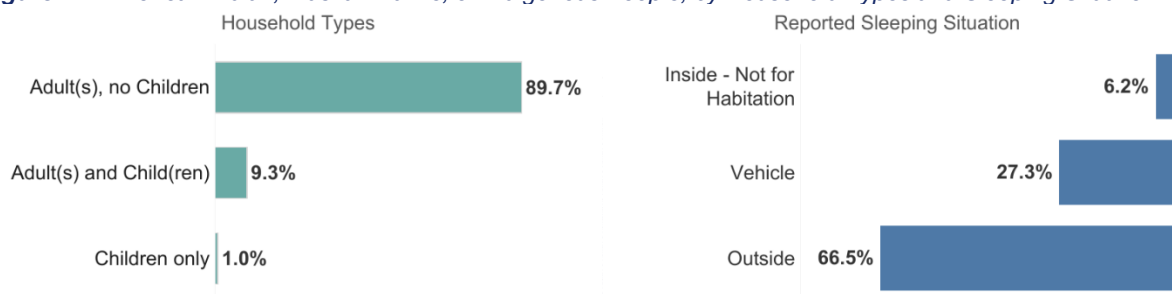rs as well, with 52% identifying as Men and 48% as Women. With respect to age, this group tended to be younger than the others, except for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Most Asian or Asian Americans reported being between the ages of 25 and 44 (63%).

While 48% of people in this group reported experiencing a disabling condition, for all considered conditions the reported rates among this group were lower than overall reported rates among unsheltered people.

As shown in ***Figure 45***, the majority of Asian or Asian American respondents reported sleeping outdoors (66%). The group was largely made up of individuals over the age of 18 (89%),

followed by households with minor children (10%), and the remaining fraction (<2%) of households comprised of children only.

Figure 43: *Unsheltered People who Identify as Asian or Asian American*
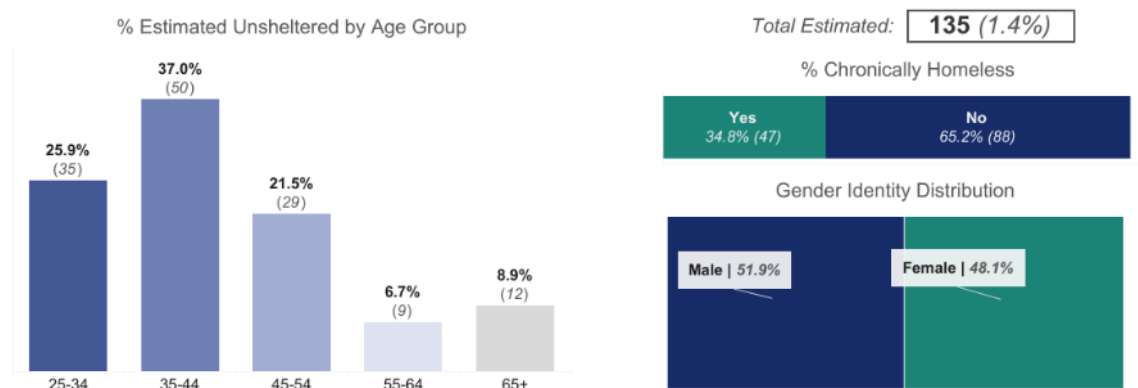
Figure 44: *Asian or Asian American Unsheltered People, by Health and Well-Being*
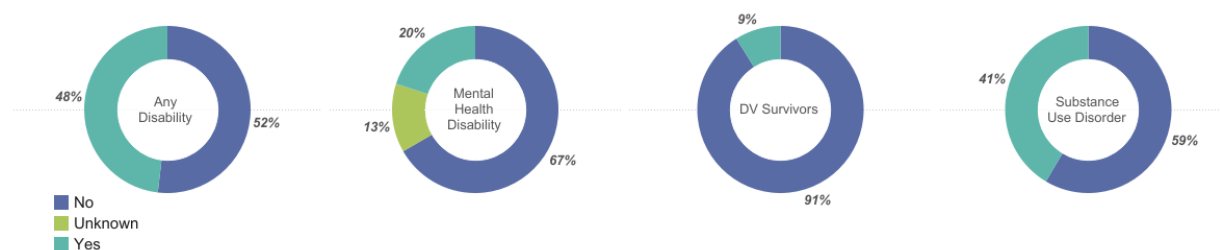
Figure 45: *Asian or Asian American Unsheltered People, by Household Types and Sleeping Situation*
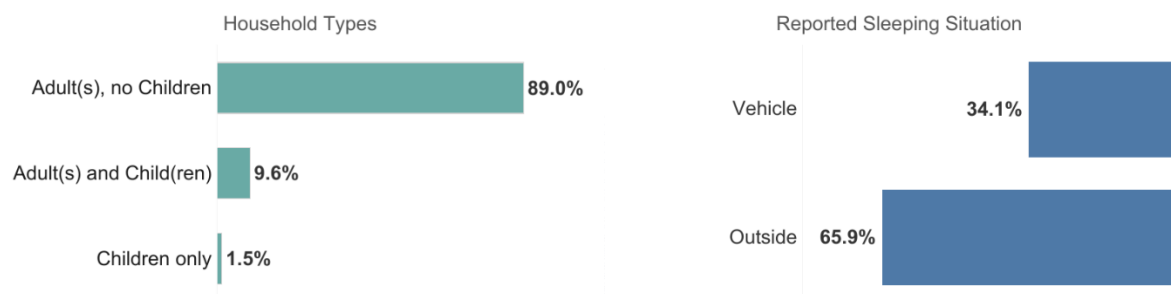
Black, African American, or African

Among individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, approximately 15% identified as Black, African American, or African, with 67% meeting the criteria to be considered *chronically homeless* (**Figure 46**). Most of this group were Men (87%). By age, approximately 30% were between the ages of 55 and 64, followed by 35 and 44 (27%) and 25 and 34 (25%).

More than half (57%) of respondents reported experiencing a disabling condition (***Figure 47***). Additionally, both the rate of reported SMI (42%) and DV (23%) were slightly higher when compared to all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (34% and 17%, respectively).

Figure 48 shows more than half of Black, African American, or African respondents reported sleeping outdoors (66%), with an additional 19% reporting sleeping in a vehicle. Most households consisted of people over the age of 18 (93%), followed distantly by households with minor children (6%), and households with only children (1%).

Figure 46: Unsheltered People who Identify as Black, African American, or African
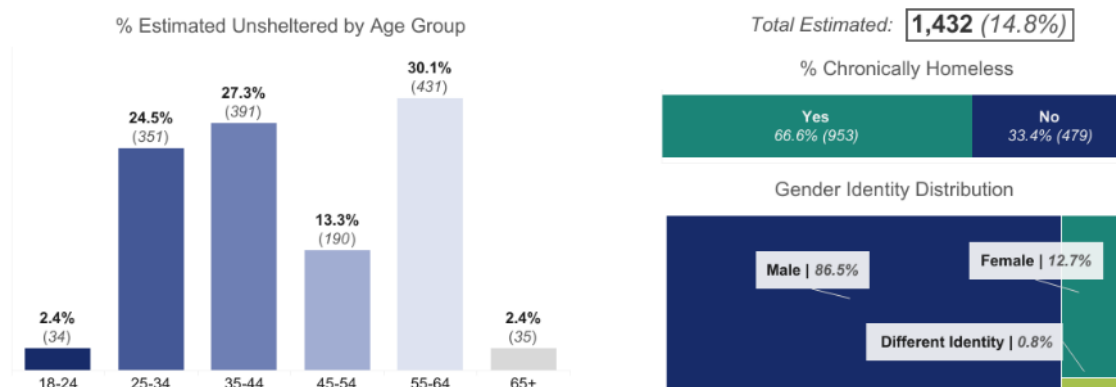
Figure 47: Black, African American, or African Unsheltered People, by Health and Well-Being

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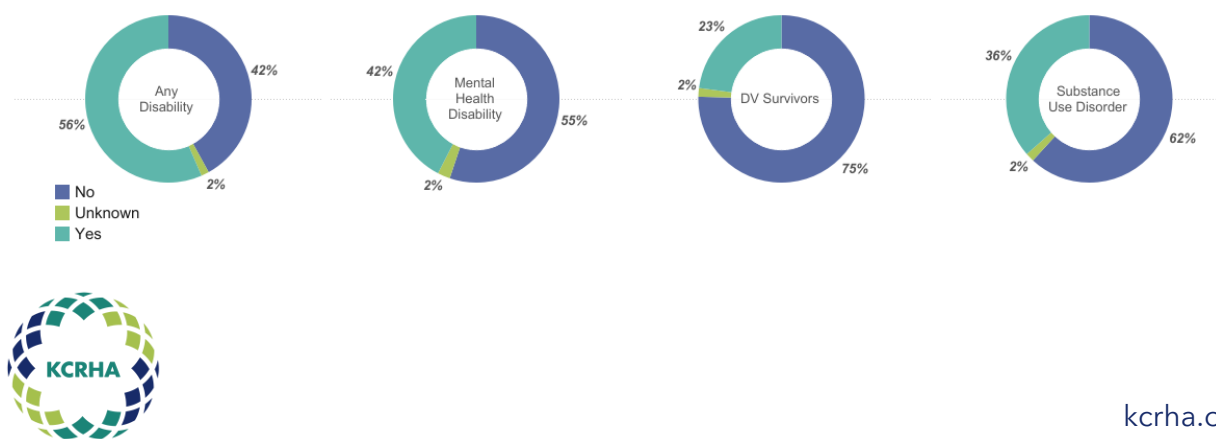
Figure 48: *Black, African American, or African Unsheltered People, by Household Types and Sleeping Situation*

Household Types

- Adult(s), no Children — 93.2%
- Adult(s) and Child(ren) — 5.7%
- Children only — 1.1%

Reported Sleeping Situation

- Unknown — 3.1%
- Inside - Not for Habitation — 12.7%
- Vehicle — 18.9%
- Outside — 65.3%
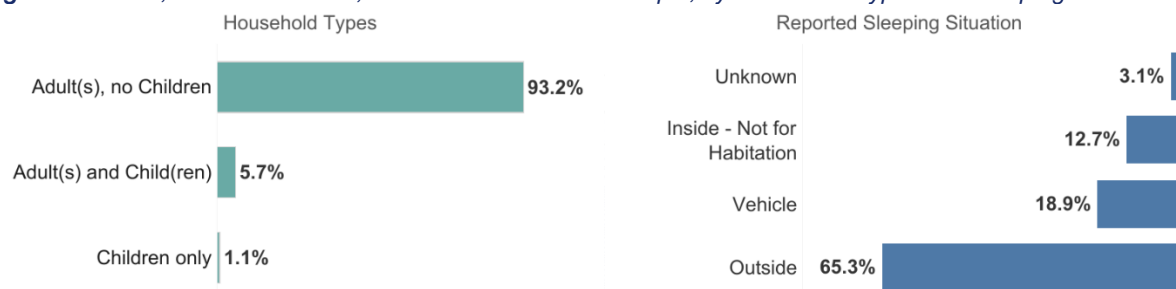
Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o)

Among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, nearly 16% identified as Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o). Of these, approximately 40% report being *chronically homeless* (**Figure 49**). Of this group, roughly 82% identified as men, and 56% were between 25 and 44 years old. This group reported among the lowest rates of disabling conditions or health and well-being characteristics considered in this report (**Figure 50**).

Figure 51 shows the majority of Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) respondents reported sleeping outside (69%), and 94% of households consisted of people over the age of 18. The rates for *household types* and *reported sleeping situations* were unremarkable when compared to the general population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Figure 49: *Unsheltered People who Identify as Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o)*

% Estimated Unsheltered by Age Group

- 18-24: 9.0% (137)
- 25-34: 26.0% (397)
- 35-44: 30.0% (458)
- 45-54: 14.4% (219)
- 55-64: 16.8% (257)
- 65+: 3.8% (58)

Total Estimated: 1,526 (15.7%)

% Chronically Homeless
- Yes: 40.5% (618)
- No: 59.5% (908)

Gender Identity Distribution
- Male | 82.1%
- Female | 17.1%
- Different Identity | 0.8%

kcrha.org
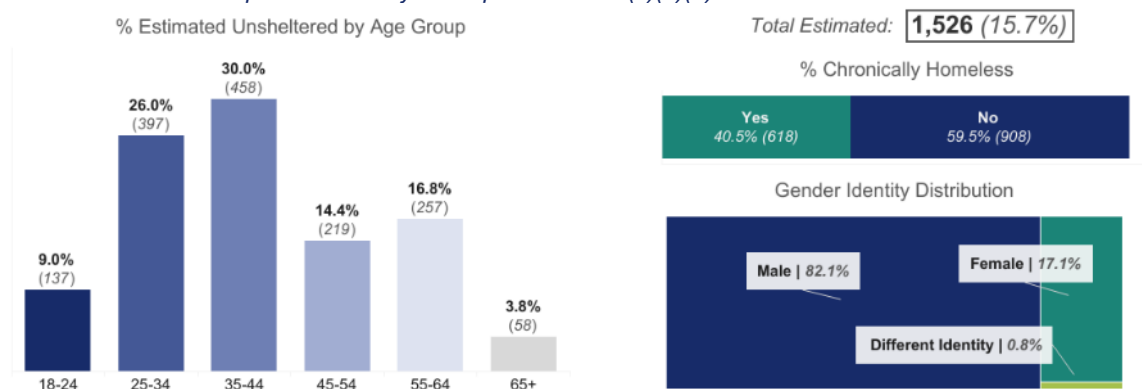
Figure 50: *Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) Unsheltered People, by Health and Well-Being*

- No
- Unknown
- Yes
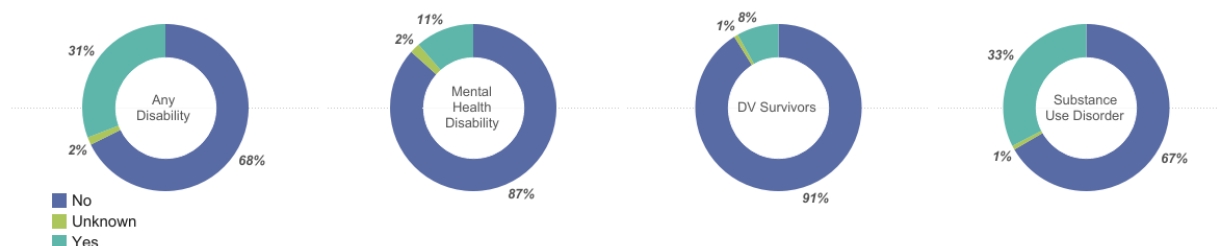
Figure 51: *Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) Unsheltered People, by Household Types and Sleeping Situation*
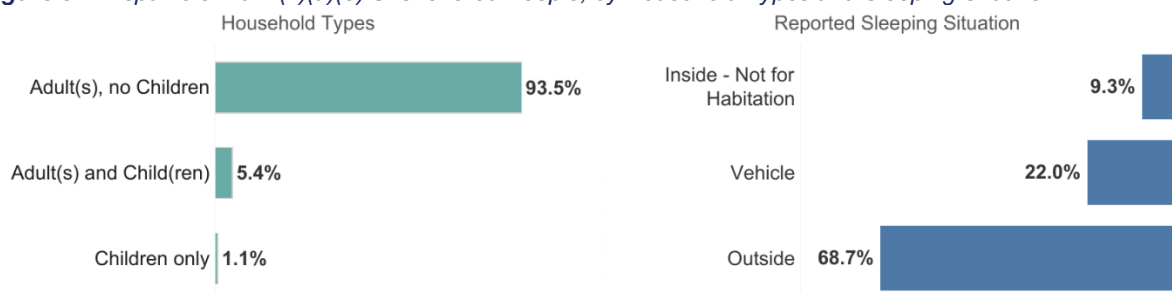
Middle Eastern or North African[19]

Middle Eastern or North African respondents represented the smallest Racial or Ethnic group among individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, comprising nearly 1% of the sample. Our estimates included only Male individuals aged 35 to 44 years old, and all households consisted of individuals over the age of 18.

Multiracial

Respondents who endorsed more than one race were reported as having Multiracial identity. This group accounts for about 15% of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County. Approximately 70% of this group are *chronically homeless*, with most respondents between the ages of 35 to 44 years old (37%), and 66% identified as Men.

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[19] Due to the small sample size, no other data is available for this group currently. As this Racial and Ethnic category is incorporated into future sampling, the body of available data will grow and provide us with the ability to accurately extrapolate characteristics alongside remaining reported categories.

More than half of respondents (55%) of this group reported having experienced a disabling condition (*Figure 53*), which is slightly higher than the overall proportion (51%). This group also reported higher than average rates for all but SUD, which was equal to the overall rate at 47%.

Figure 54 shows 58% of Multiracial respondents reported sleeping outside, with the third-highest rate of vehicle residency compared to Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders and Asian or Asian American people. The distribution of household types is unremarkable, with most households comprised of people over 18 (94%).

Figure 52: Unsheltered People who Identify with Multiracial and/or Ethnic Groups (Multiracial)
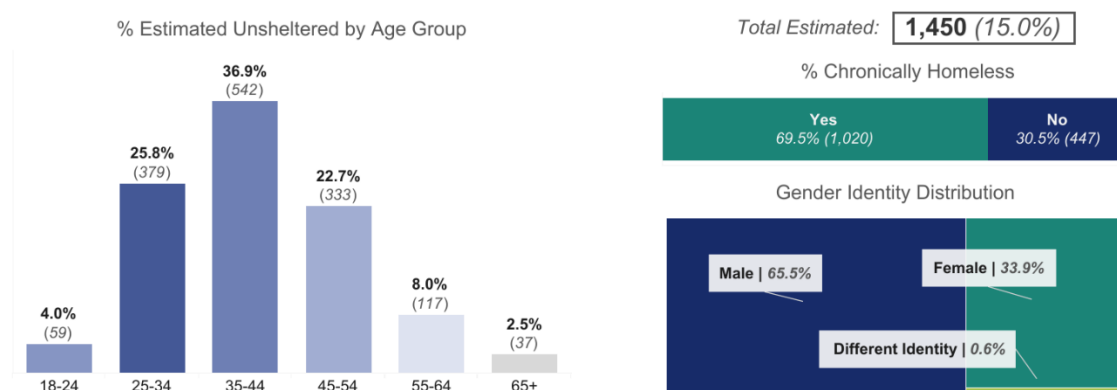
Figure 53: Multiracial Unsheltered People, by Health and Well-Being
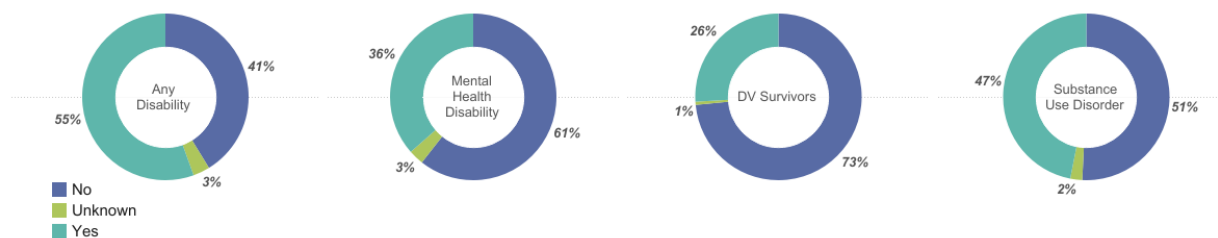
Figure 54: Multiracial Unsheltered People, by Household Types and Sleeping Situation
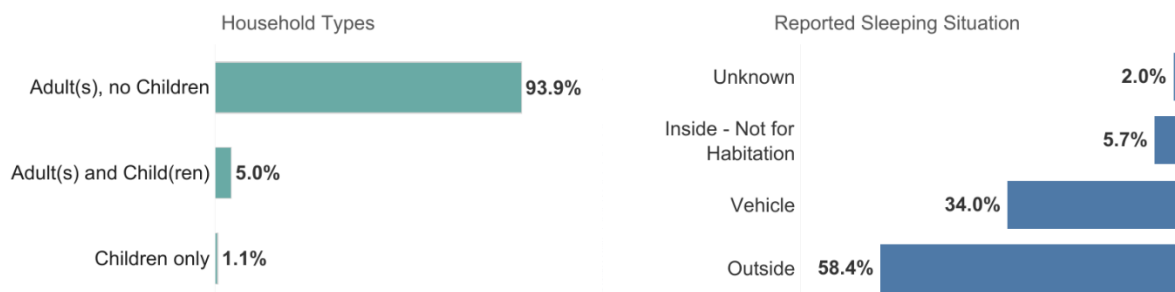
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, fewer than 2% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Of these, less than half (45%) were *chronically homeless*. Among Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders experiencing unsheltered homelessness, 72% identified as men, and about 39% were between the ages of 25 and 34.

An estimated 36% reported experiencing a SUD (as shown in **Figure 56**), which is well below the 47% reported overall. Rates of reporting for general disability and DV were also lower than overall rates. SMI was reported at about the same rate as the overall rate (32% compared to 34% overall).

Only 57% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders reported sleeping outside, which is the lowest among all Racial and Ethnic identity groups. Vehicle residency was more common in this group (43%) in comparison to all other Racial and Ethnic identity groups in this section. Most households consisted of people over the age of 18 (71%), but the proportion was well below the overall proportion of 84%. In addition, this group had the highest relative proportion of households with adults and minor children (28%).

Figure 55: *Unsheltered People who Identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*

% Estimated Unsheltered by Age Group

- 38.4% (96) — 25-34
- 33.6% (84) — 35-44
- 18.8% (47) — 45-54
- 9.2% (23) — 55-64

Total Estimated: **188** *(1.9%)*

% Chronically Homeless

Yes 45.2% (113)	No 54.8% (137)

Gender Identity Distribution

Male | 72.0%   Female | 28.0%
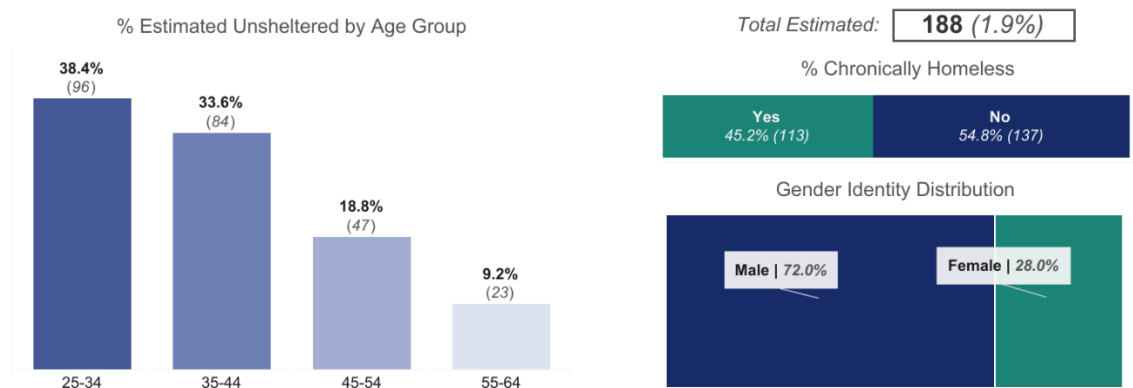
Figure 56: *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Unsheltered People, by Health and Well-Being*

Any Disability: 28% Yes, 72% No

Mental Health Disability: 32% Yes, 63% No, 5% Unknown

DV Survivors: 6% Yes, 94% No

Substance Use Disorder: 36% Yes, 64% No

- No
- Unknown
- Yes
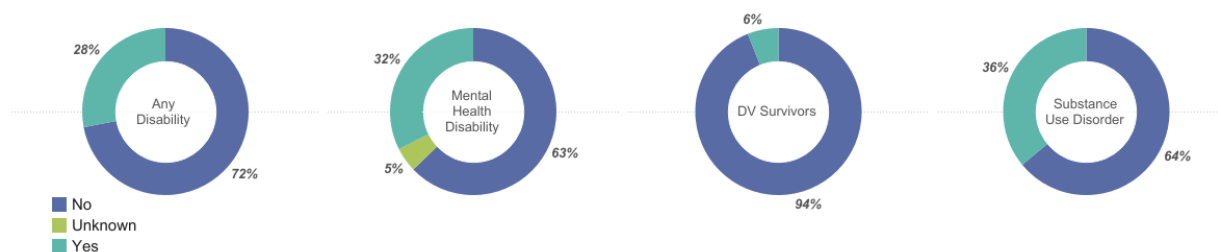
Figure 57: *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Unsheltered People, by Household Types and Sleeping Situation*

Household Types

- Adult(s), no Children: 70.8%
- Adult(s) and Child(ren): 28.0%
- Children only: 1.2%

Reported Sleeping Situation

- Vehicle: 43.2%
- Outside: 56.8%
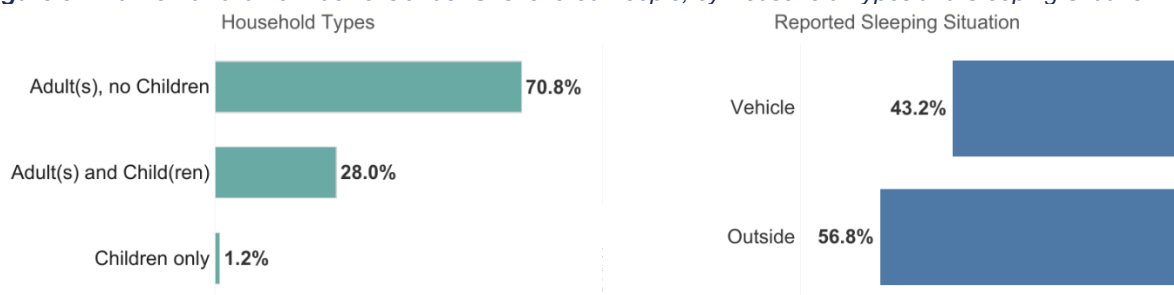
White

Among individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, the largest proportion (42%) identified as White. Nearly 75% of this group met the criteria to be considered *chronically homeless* (**Figure 58**), which is the highest proportion of *chronic homelessness* by Racial and

Ethnic Identity group. Men account for about three out of every four White unsheltered people (72%), with most between 25 and 54 years old (79%).

58% reported having a SUD, the largest proportion by Race and Ethnicity, and more than 10 percentage points higher than the overall rate (47%). With respect to the other health and well-being characteristics (*Figure 59*), this group was nearly even with the overall rates. Given that this was the most abundant sample, these estimates are more precise than, for example, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, which had a much smaller number in the representative sample.

Additionally, *Figure 60* shows that majority of White people experiencing unsheltered homelessness reported sleeping outside (65%), and most were households consisting of people over the age 18 (95%). Vehicle residency rates were at a level that would be expected, given the overall rate (*Figure 39*).

Figure 58: Unsheltered People who Identify as White

% Estimated Unsheltered by Age Group

- 18-24: 2.2% (86)
- 25-34: 20.9% (837)
- 35-44: 29.6% (1,184)
- 45-54: 28.1% (1,123)
- 55-64: 17.0% (681)
- 65+: 2.2% (89)

Total Estimated: **4,085** *(42.1%)*

% Chronically Homeless

| Yes 74.9% (2,995) | No 25.1% (1,005) |

Gender Identity Distribution

Male | 71.7%   Female | 27.8%   Different Identity | 0.5%
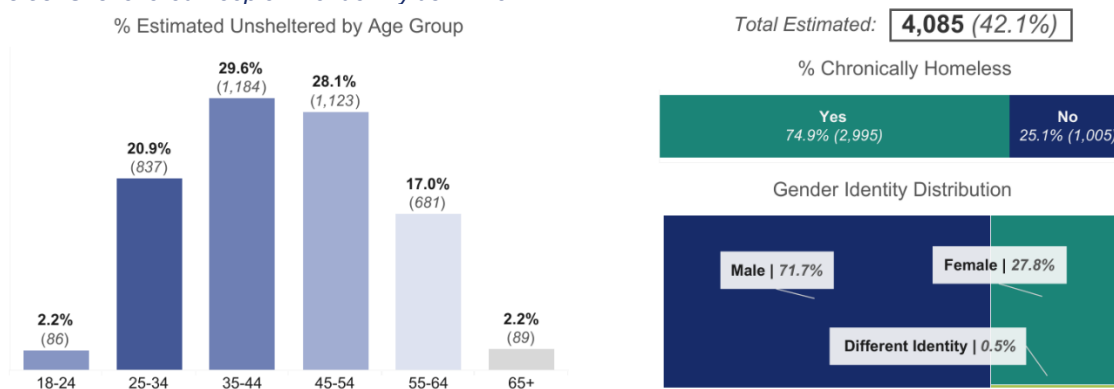
Figure 59: White Unsheltered People, by Health and Well-Being

Any Disability: No 47%, Yes 52%, Unknown 0%

Mental Health Disability: No 61%, Yes 38%, Unknown 1%

DV Survivors: No 85%, Yes 14%, Unknown 1%

Substance Use Disorder: No 40%, Yes 58%, Unknown 2%

Legend: No (blue), Unknown (green), Yes (teal)

KCRHA
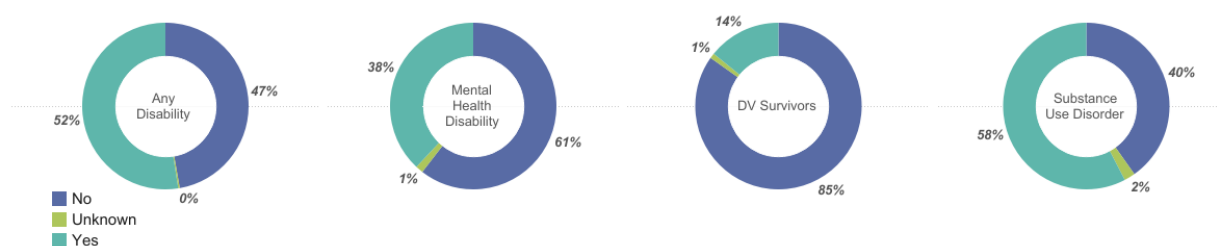
Figure 60: White Unsheltered People, by Household Types and Sleeping Situation

Household Types

Adult(s), no Children	95.4%
Adult(s) and Child(ren)	3.5%
Children only	1.1%

Reported Sleeping Situation

Unknown	1.2%
Inside - Not for Habitation	5.9%
Vehicle	28.2%
Outside	64.7%
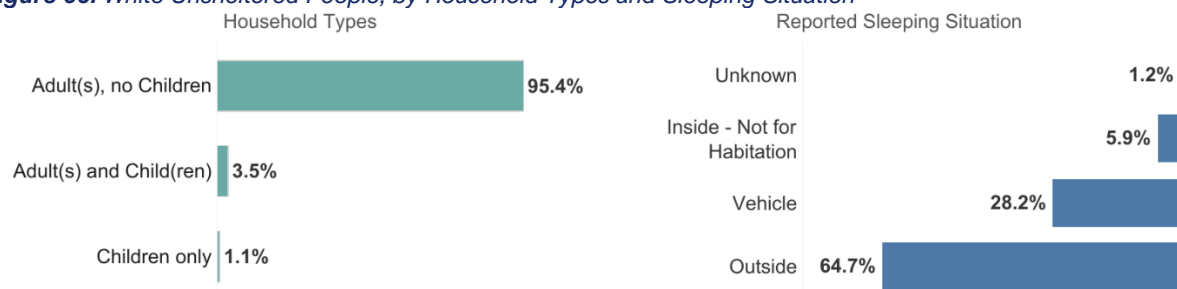
Subregions of King County

King County is the 11th largest county in *Washington State* by land area and has the largest population of all 39 counties. In ***Table 9***, we see that King County's population (2023 est.) is nearly equal to those of *Pierce*, *Snohomish*, and *Spokane counties* combined (U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2023).

The region centers around a major port for international trade and commerce, and has a remarkable level of geographic, social, and economic diversity, which is reflected in the characteristics of its people. There is a notable concentration of the population in the coastal subregions, including the *Greater Seattle Metro area*. This concentration can be seen in ***Figure 61***, below.

The Seattle/King County CoC – which spans all of King County and is managed in part by KCRHA – is one of the largest CoCs in the nation. KCRHA, with community input, has defined six subregions [20] to better understand and address the varying shelter and housing needs across King County. The subregions – defined as of September 2024 (***Figure 61***) – are described in ***Table 10*** in terms of their population estimates by subregion, economic characteristics, and population density (ACS, 2023).

Nearly all subregions (except for *Snoqualmie Valley* and *South East King County*) produced sufficiently large collections of survey responses (sample sizes) to confidently estimate multiple demographic characteristics, including the proportion of sheltered and unsheltered people

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[20] KCRHA also recognizes as an additional subregion the Urban Unincorporated Areas between South King County and Seattle Metro subregions. These include the Skyway and White Center areas of Seattle.

(*Table 11*). *North King County* currently has the highest estimated level of unsheltered homelessness, but we note that all sample data was gathered at one sampling site while other subregions (*Seattle Metro*, *East King County*, *South King County*, and *South East King County*) had multiple hub sites. It is likely that this had an impact on the proportion of people who reported experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and it should be considered a limitation for inference.

To help understand basic economic conditions for each subregion, *Table 12* shows data on regional income and poverty levels (U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2023). Both Seattle Metro and South King County have higher levels of individuals in poverty than all other subregions. These represent the most populous subregions. East King County, in comparison, has a population equal to 63% of Seattle Metro's and 71% of South King County's, one of the lowest income gaps and poverty levels in the area, and the highest median household income.

In addition to having lower income gaps, lower poverty, and higher median income, East King County was also one of the *least often reported* subregions in which the respondent was *last stably housed*. This contrasts with both Seattle Metro and South King County (**Table 14**). Among subregions of comparable sizes, differences between these statistics are noteworthy.

Table 9: Characteristics of Washington State by County[21]

County	Population (ACS 5-Yr, 2023)	Land Area (Sq Miles)	People per Square Mile (Population Density)
King County	2,271,380	2115.7	1073.6
Pierce County	928,696	1668.0	556.8
Snohomish County	844,761	2086.5	404.9
Spokane County	551,455	1764.2	312.6
Clark County	521,150	628.5	829.2

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[21] Data shown here for King County will be slightly different than the sum of populations of all subregions. The ACS 5-Year population estimates reported here are approximately 1.8% greater than the sum of subregion populations, which reflects the difference between decennial census data and the data by census tract using the ACS 2023 data.

Figure 61: Major Cities and Metro Areas by Subregion, for 2024
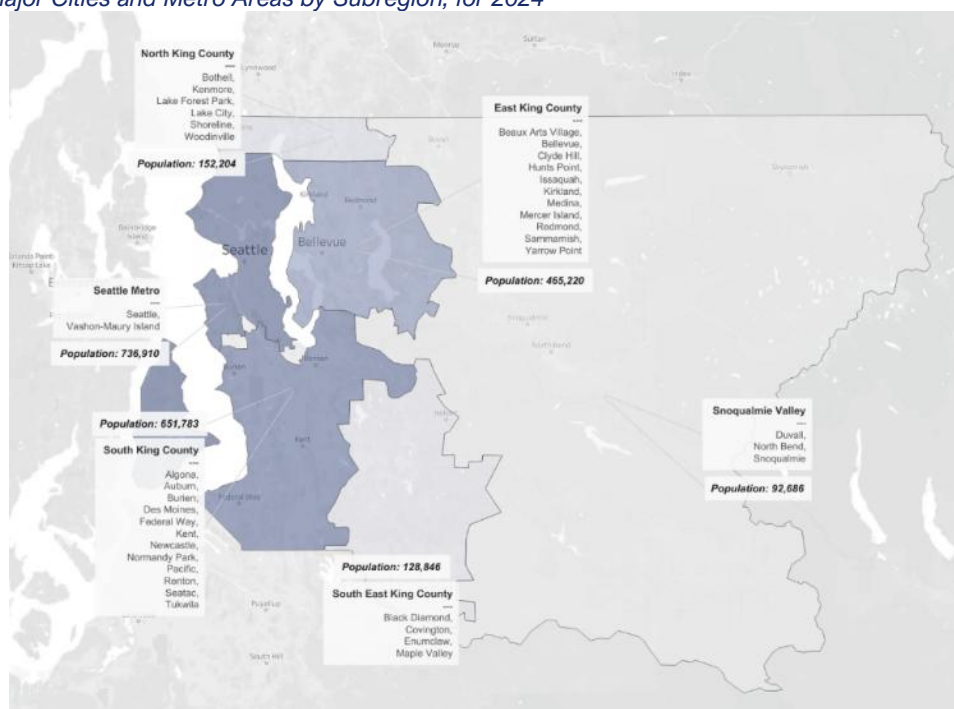
Table 10: Subregions by ACS Population Estimates, with Sheltered and Unsheltered Estimates[22] from PIT Count

Subregion	Population Estimate	People per Square Mile	Household Income (M)	People in Poverty (%)
Seattle Metro	736,910	6,210	$125,819	10.68%
South King County	651,783	3,534	$92,292	10.29%
East King County	465,220	2,974	$176,580	5.61%
North King County	152,204	3,685	$126,848	6.16%
Southeast King County	128,846	900	$126,143	5.40%
Snoqualmie Valley	92,686	63	$154,534	4.17%
Total	**2,227,649**	**3,254**	**$126,496**[23]	**7.05%**[24]

[22] Estimates by subregion are based on census tract approximations and may differ slightly from county-wide estimates in sum.

[23] Represents the median household incomes for each subregion

[24] Represents the mean of the average levels of (individual) poverty for each subregion

Table 11: Total Estimated People Experiencing Homelessness, by Subregion for 2024[25]

Subregion	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Unsheltered (%)	Sheltered (%)	Total
Seattle Metro	4,585	4,855	49%	51%	9,440
South King County	2,059	1,123	65%	35%	3,182
East King County	1,114	796	58%	42%	1,910
North King County	1,730	170	91%	9%	1,900
South East King County	155	48	76%	24%	203
Snoqualmie Valley	49	66	43%	57%	115
Total	9,692	7,058	58%	42%	16,750

Table 12: Key Economic Indicators of Well-Being, by Subregion

Subregion	Household Income	Income Gap[26]	Percent in Poverty
East King County	$177K	$159K	5.61%
Snoqualmie Valley	$155K	$114K	4.17%
North King County	$127K	$164K	6.16%
South East King County	$126K	$93K	5.40%
Seattle Metro	$126K	$225K	10.68%
South King County	$92K	$191K	10.29%

Networks by Last Stably Housed Location

Respondents were asked to provide the location (city or major metropolitan area) where they were *last stably housed*. Of the 1,466 people surveyed directly, a total of 821 responses (56%) included information on the last city or location in which the respondent had last had stable housing. It is important to note that the *date when they were last stably housed* was not provided as part of the response. Given the number of people experiencing *chronic homelessness*, there are potentially long intervals of time between being last stably housed and the time of interview. In that way, this measure is a good general indicator of patterns of movement between our

[25] Differences between overall reported estimates and this figure are due to data from the Family Phone Line, which did not include information about the respondents' current locations.

[26] Income Gap is measured as the difference between the maximum and minimum measured incomes for each subregion.

subregions in King County and beyond, but only indirectly. There are multiple other possible places people could have moved between time of last stable housing and data collection.

Figure 62 shows the number of surveys completed (sample size) at each hub site by subregion. Samples of fewer than 30 limit our ability to make the most granular estimates of population and regional characteristic (e.g., Snoqualmie Valley and South East King County). Subregional characteristics were estimated based on the locations of each sampling site, and we acknowledge that the high level of mobility among the population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness means that these summaries represent *estimates based on available data*. Care should be taken to account for other relevant factors and alternative hypotheses when applying inference.

Table 13: Unsheltered People by Last Region in which They Reported Being Stably Housed

Last Region Stable	Responses	Percent of Total
Seattle Metro	217	26.40%
South King County	186	22.70%
East King County	37	4.50%
North King County	32	3.90%
Unincorporated Areas	9	1.10%
South East King County	6	0.70%
Snoqualmie Valley	4	0.50%
Washington State	163	19.90%
United States	150	18.30%
International	10	1.20%
Unknown	7	0.90%

Hub Sites by Subregion (Map) | *All*

Subregion	Hub	Initial Seeds	Total Surveys	Surveys/ Seed	Max Wave Length
East King County	(a)	20	80	4.00	20
	(b)	18	52	2.89	15
	(c)	13	<30	1.77	9
	(d)	<10	<30	7.00	15
	(e)	<10	<30	1.00	0
North King County	(f)	24	225	9.38	19
Seattle Metro	(g)	29	253	8.72	13
	(h)	18	242	13.44	20
	(i)	25	146	5.84	16
	(j)	39	56	1.44	3
	(k)	<10	49	9.80	3
	(l)	<10	33	5.50	14
Snoqualmie Valley	(m)	11	<30	1.55	2
South East King County	(n)	<10	<30	1.56	16
South King County	(o)	27	126	4.67	18
	(p)	28	78	2.79	19
	(q)	29	51	1.76	4

Seattle Metro

The *City of Seattle* is made up of 78 neighborhoods within seven council districts. As the largest city in King County, Seattle has the most robust services landscape with more than 250 programs supporting people experiencing homelessness. Despite this apparent abundance, Seattle lacks medical respite resources, services for youth and young adults, and has few programs that allow for drop-in services. While *Vashon-Maury Island* (*Vashon*) is not in the city limits of Seattle, for this report we have defined *Vashon* as part of the Seattle Metro subregion. This is because most unsheltered people report receiving services in Seattle, and care was taken to ensure that there were no biasing effects evident in the resulting pooled data.

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[27] The Family Phone Line is included here as a sampling site, but we note that due to the unavailability of location information in those surveys, that data is not represented in the subregional summaries.
[28] Vashon Island and Snoqualmie Valley had multiple hubs that were combined for this visualization. All other locations were as shown in *Figure 62*.

Seattle Metro and Vashon Island have an estimated combined total of 4,585 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, representing 57% of the total across all subregions (*Figure 63*). Notably, this subregion also had one of the lowest proportions[29] of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness (49%).

Both age and gender identity distributions are unremarkable for this subregion. Among those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in this subregion, 31% reported being between 35 and 44 years old, with people identifying as Men making up 77%.

In comparison to the ACS 5-Year estimates, individuals who identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous; Multiracial; Black, African American, or African; and Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) are disproportionately overrepresented among those experiencing unsheltered homelessness within this subregion.

About three out of 10 individuals (31%) experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the Seattle Metro subregion reported Seattle as their place of most recent stable residence (*Figure 64*), followed by locations outside of Washington State but within the United States (24%) and then by locations within Washington State but outside of King County (16%).
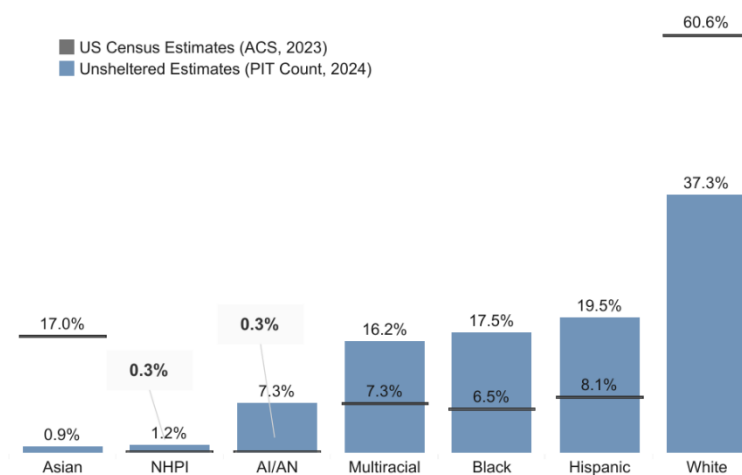
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[29] While Snoqualmie Valley had an estimated sheltered proportion of 57.4%, data for that subregion was sparse, so we consider its point estimates to be less reliable than those for subregions with sufficiently large number of survey responses. For more on these considerations, see the section on limitations.

Figure 63: *Summary of Seattle Metro Subregion*

Race and Ethnicity (Unsheltered Estimates)
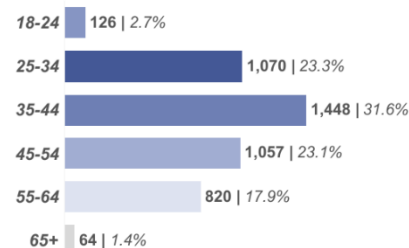*Unsheltered Estimates with Census Population Benchmarks*

- US Census Estimates (ACS, 2023)
- Unsheltered Estimates (PIT Count, 2024)

	Asian	NHPI	AI/AN	Multiracial	Black	Hispanic	White
Census	17.0%		0.3%				60.6%
	0.9%	0.3% / 1.2%	7.3%	16.2% / 7.3%	17.5% / 6.5%	19.5% / 8.1%	37.3%

Unsheltered by Age Group

Age	Count	Percent
18-24	126	2.7%
25-34	1,070	23.3%
35-44	1,448	31.6%
45-54	1,057	23.1%
55-64	820	17.9%
65+	64	1.4%

Unsheltered and Sheltered Proportions by Subregion

Unsheltered	49% (n = 4,585)	Sheltered	51% (n = 4,855)

Unsheltered Chronic Proportion by Subregion

Yes	63.7% (n = 2,922)	No	36.3% (n = 1,663)

Unsheltered by Gender Identity

Different Identity | 0.7%
Female | 22.1%
Male | 77.1%
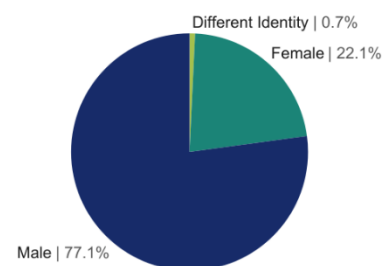
Sampling Summary and Estimates

Total Surveys Collected	779
Max Network Depth	20
Number of Survey Sites	6
Unsheltered Total	4,585
Sheltered Total	4,855
Total Estimated Homeless	9,440

KCRHA

Figure 64: *Responses by Reported Place of Last Stable Residence, for Seattle Metro*
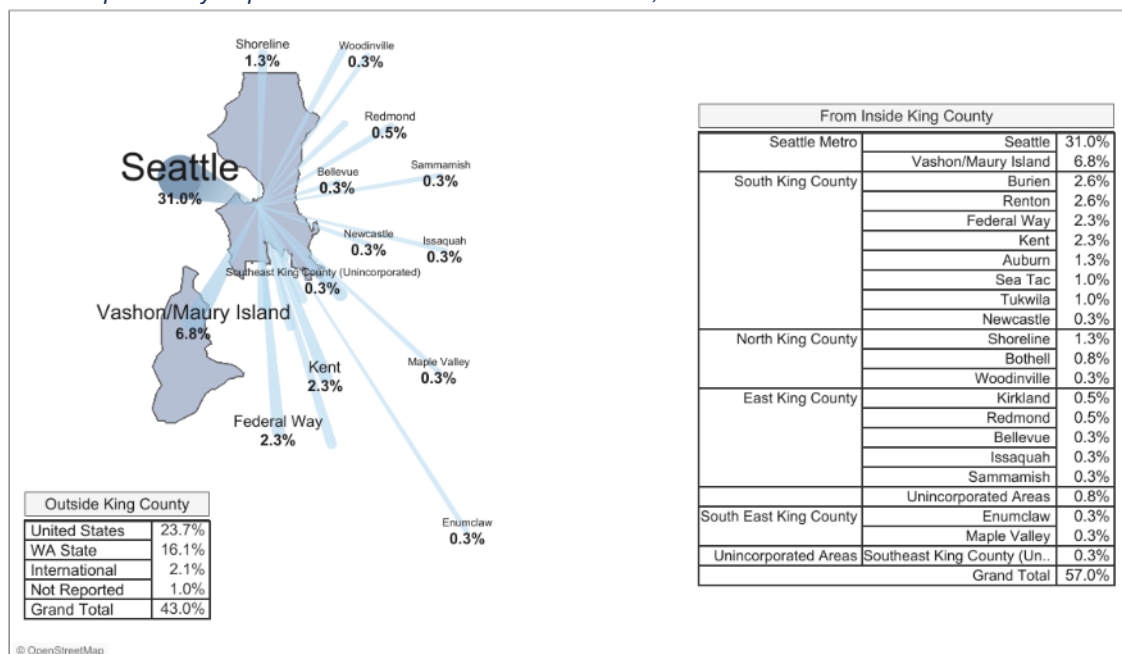
North King County

The North King County subregion includes *Bothell*, *Kenmore*, *Lake Forest Park*, *Shoreline*, and *Woodinville*. In January 2023, an interlocal agreement between these five cities and KCRHA took effect, marking the first formal agreement between King County jurisdictions and KCRHA outside of Seattle. This agreement enabled KCRHA to administer homelessness funding and contracts previously held by the cities. With only five organizations providing 10 programs and an inter-jurisdictionally funded severe weather shelter, the service landscape in North King County is very limited. While there are outreach teams present in the area, there are currently no drop-in services available to community members experiencing homelessness and no emergency shelters for Single Adult Men or couples who wish to stay together.

North King County has an estimated *total* homeless population of 1,900, or about 11% of the total for the entire CoC (**Figure 65**). Notably, this region has the highest overall proportion of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (91%). Compared to ACS 5-Year estimates, people who identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous; Multiracial; Black, African American or African; or Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) are

disproportionally represented among those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, although somewhat less than in the Seattle Metro subregion. An estimated 37% of these people are between the ages of 35 and 44 years old. With respect to gender, most identified as Men (71%), which is unremarkable given the general distribution of gender across this population.
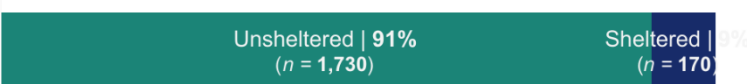
Nearly a third of respondents in North King County reported their place of last stable residence to be within Washington State but outside of King County (30%), followed by 25% reporting Seattle (*Figure 66*).
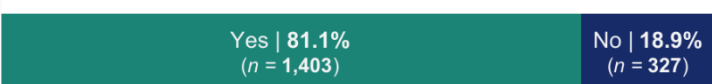
Figure 65: Summary of North King County
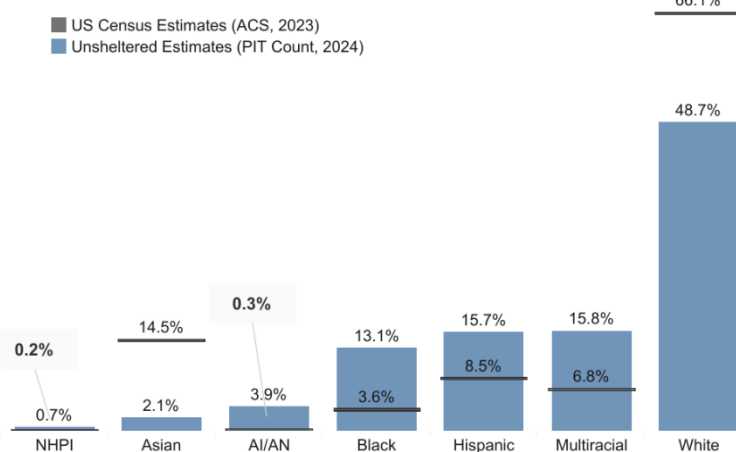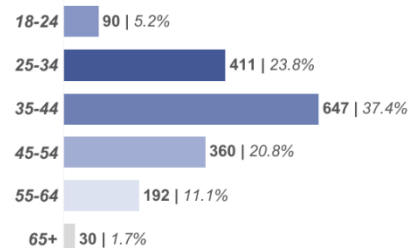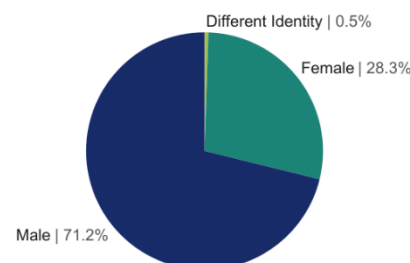
Figure 66: *Responses, by Reported Place of Last Stable Residence for North King County*

From Inside King County		
Seattle Metro	Seattle	24.5%
South King County	Federal Way	2.7%
	Kent	2.7%
	Auburn	2.0%
	Renton	2.0%
	Burien	1.4%
	Des Moines	0.7%
	Sea Tac	0.7%
North King County	Shoreline	7.5%
	Bothell	1.4%
East King County	Redmond	2.0%
	Bellevue	1.4%
	Kirkland	0.7%
	Unincorporated Areas	0.7%
Snoqualmie Valley	Skykomish	0.7%
South East King County	Covington	0.7%
Unincorporated Areas	North Highline (Unincorpor..	0.7%
	Grand Total	52.4%

Outside King County	
WA State	29.9%
United States	15.6%
Not Reported	2.0%
Grand Total	47.6%

South King County

South King County is the largest suburban area in King County and includes the cities of *Algona*, *Auburn*, *Burien*, *Des Moines*, *Federal Way*, *Kent*, *Newcastle*, *Normandy Park*, *Pacific*, *Renton*, *SeaTac*, *Tukwila*, and many *Unincorporated Areas*. South King County has the highest rate of people in poverty in King County, but it also has some of the most affordable housing options. With about 20 service providers offering about 60 homelessness services, South King County has limited emergency shelter options for Single Adults, including Single Adult Men and Unaccompanied Youth.

South King County has an estimated homeless population of 3,182 people, contributing 19% of the total people experiencing homelessness countywide (**Figure 67**). Notably, the unsheltered portion of this population comprises approximately 65%. By gender identity, 77% of people in experiencing unsheltered homelessness in this subregion identified as men, with most people reporting being between 35 and 54 years old. Compared to the ACS 5-Year estimates, the PIT Count estimate disproportionately represents Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; Multiracial; Black, African American or African; and White individuals. This subregion stands out as the only

one where people identifying as White are disproportionately overrepresented within the population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This is due in part to the lower expected proportion of White people in South King County. Based on ACS data, South King County is comprised of only 41% people who identify as White, compared to the countywide proportion of 63%. Furthermore, this region is the only one where the disproportionality in unsheltered homelessness is reversed for Hispanic and Latin(x)(a)(o).

Figure 68 shows most respondents (55%) reported their place of last stable residence as within South King County, followed by locations inside Washington State but outside King County (25%). This subregion stands out as having the most people surveyed that also reported having been last stably housed in the subregion and the least people [30]reporting Seattle as their place of last stable residence.
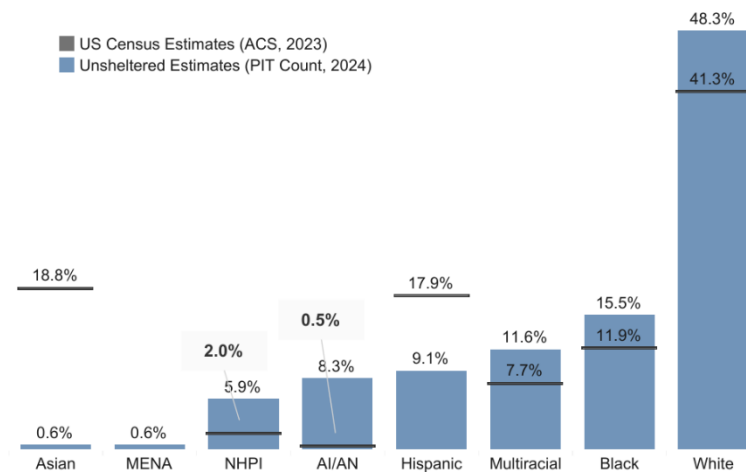
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[30] Data from the Snoqualmie Valley subregion was not sufficiently varied. Although no people surveyed there indicated Seattle as their last place of stable residence, we do not consider the comparisons to be reliable or level. See the **Limitations** section for more information on data and sample quality.

Figure 67: *Summary of South King County Subregion*

Race and Ethnicity (Unsheltered Estimates)
Unsheltered Estimates with Census Population Benchmarks

■ US Census Estimates (ACS, 2023)
■ Unsheltered Estimates (PIT Count, 2024)

Unsheltered and Sheltered Proportions by Subregion

| Unsheltered | 65%
(*n* = 2,059) | Sheltered | 35%
(*n* = 1,123) |

Unsheltered Chronic Proportion by Subregion

| Yes | 73.1%
(*n* = 1,505) | No | 26.9%
(*n* = 554) |

Unsheltered by Age Group

18-24	85	4.1%
25-34	425	20.6%
35-44	571	27.7%
45-54	574	27.9%
55-64	389	18.9%
65+	15	0.7%

Unsheltered by Gender Identity

Different Identity | 0.6%
Female | 22.0%
Male | 77.4%
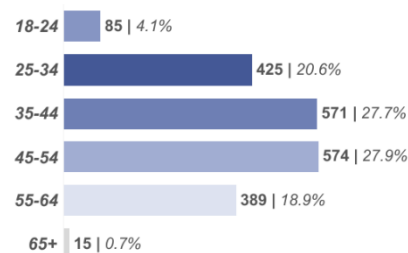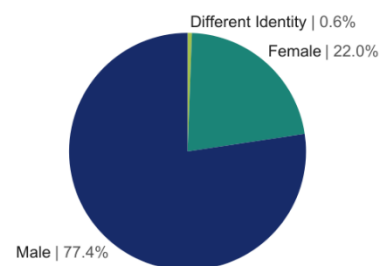
Sampling Summary and Estimates

Total Surveys Collected	255
Max Network Depth	19
Number of Survey Sites	3
Unsheltered Total	2,059
Sheltered Total	1,123
Total Estimated Homeless	3,182

KCRHA

Figure 68: *Responses, by Reported Place of Last Stable Residence for South King County*

From Inside King County		
South King County	Federal Way	14.9%
	Burien	13.3%
	Auburn	9.9%
	Kent	7.2%
	Des Moines	3.9%
	Renton	2.8%
	Tukwila	1.7%
	Sea Tac	1.1%
	Milton	0.6%
Seattle Metro	Seattle	8.3%
North King County	Shoreline	1.1%
	Bothell	0.6%
South East King County	Enumclaw	1.1%
	Maple Valley	0.6%
Snoqualmie Valley	North Bend	0.6%
	Grand Total	67.4%

Outside King County	
WA State	25.4%
United States	6.6%
International	0.6%
Grand Total	32.6%

© OpenStreetMap

East King County

The East King County subregion includes *Beaux Arts Village*, *Bellevue*, *Clyde Hill*, *Hunts Point*, *Issaquah*, *Kirkland*, *Medina*, *Mercer Island*, *Redmond*, *Sammamish*, and *Yarrow Point*. East King County cities have cultivated an interjurisdictional partnership to address human service needs, including those specifically targeting homelessness. East King County has 18 providers and more than 60 programs serving their population of people experiencing homelessness, however there is a notable gap in services available for couples. The cost of living in East King County is very high, which can leave some provider staff and clients priced out of the housing market.

East King County has an estimated population of 1,910 people experiencing homelessness (11% of total countywide) with 58% experiencing unsheltered homelessness (***Figure 69***). By age, this subregion tends to be older, with approximately 53% of the population over the age of 45 and the second-largest observed proportion of individuals 65 years or older. An overwhelming majority of the population identified as Men (82%), followed by Women (16%), and people who reported a Different Identity (1%).

With respect to the distribution of Racial and Ethnic Identities among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in East King County, while Asian or Asian American people have the highest proportion here relative to other subregions, they are still underrepresented by comparison to general population prevalence (ACS 2023 estimates). Similar to the entire county, we see an overrepresentation of people who are not Asian or Asian American or White. It is notable here that people who identified as White, while not technically overrepresented, were nearly in parity with expected proportions based on their prevalence within the general population.
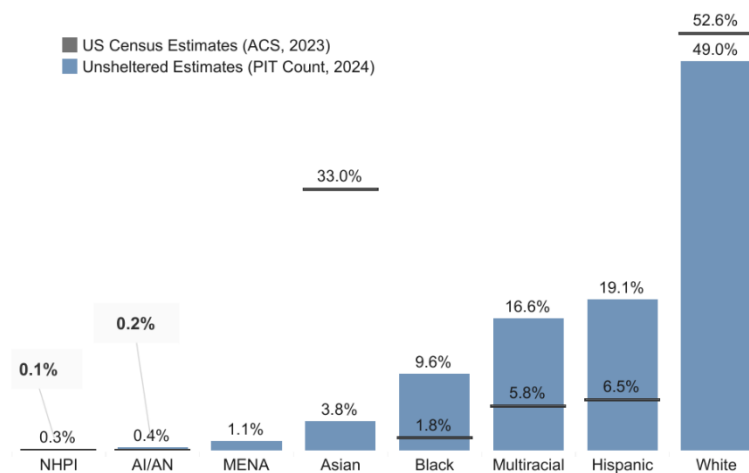
In *Figure 70*, respondents reported several King County cities and subregions as places of last stable residence with the most being from Seattle (19%) followed by Bellevue (17%) and other cities within East King County. Additionally, 19% also reported coming from outside of Washington State but within the United States.

Figure 69: *Summary of East King County Subregion*

Race and Ethnicity (Unsheltered Estimates)
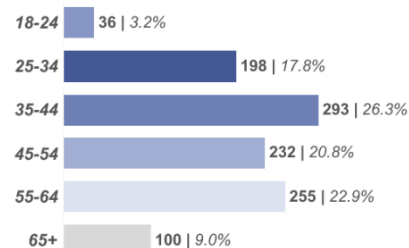*Unsheltered Estimates with Census Population Benchmarks*

■ US Census Estimates (ACS, 2023)
■ Unsheltered Estimates (PIT Count, 2024)

	NHPI	AI/AN	MENA	Asian	Black	Multiracial	Hispanic	White
Census	0.1%	0.2%						33.0%
	0.3%	0.4%	1.1%	3.8%	1.8%	5.8%	6.5%	52.6%
Unsheltered					9.6%	16.6%	19.1%	49.0%

Unsheltered and Sheltered Proportions by Subregion

Unsheltered | **58%** (*n* = **1,114**)	Sheltered | **42%** (*n* = **796**)

Unsheltered Chronic Proportion by Subregion

Yes | **61.0%** (*n* = **679**)	No | **39.0%** (*n* = **435**)

Unsheltered by Age Group

18-24	**36** | *3.2%*
25-34	**198** | *17.8%*
35-44	**293** | *26.3%*
45-54	**232** | *20.8%*
55-64	**255** | *22.9%*
65+	**100** | *9.0%*

Unsheltered by Gender Identity

Different Identity | 1.1%
Female | 16.6%
Male | 82.3%
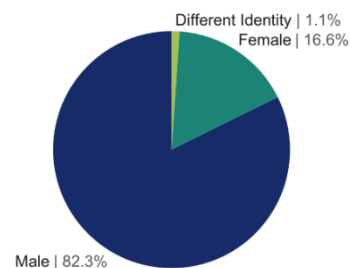
Sampling Summary and Estimates

Total Surveys Collected	176
Max Network Depth	20
Number of Survey Sites	5
Unsheltered Total	1,114
Sheltered Total	796
Total Estimated Homeless	1,910

Figure 70: *Responses by Reported Place of Last Stable Residence for East King County*
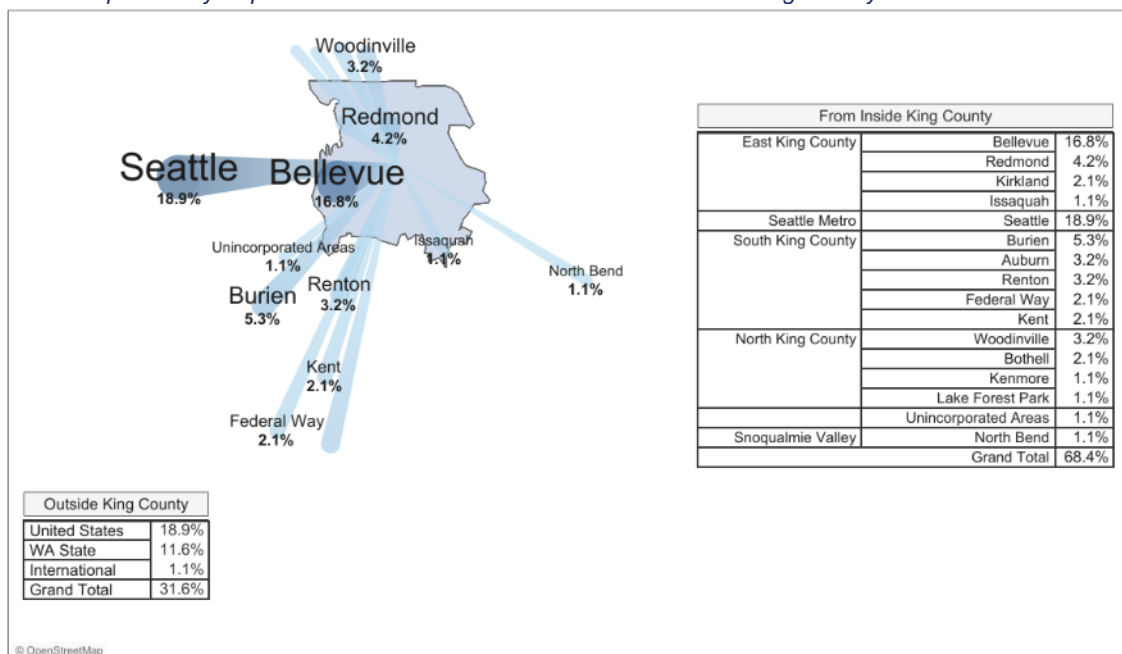
South East King County

South East King County is comprised of four small, incorporated cities: *Black Diamond*, *Covington*, *Enumclaw*, and *Maple Valley*. The homeless response system in this area is sparse, with just one established shelter. The subregion relies on a collection of faith-based groups, community organizations (primarily food banks), and libraries to provide the bulk of services to the people experiencing homelessness.

Sample data for South East King County was limited[31], with an estimated total of just 203 individuals (1% of all subregions). We estimate the proportion of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness to be 76%. They are predominately Men (96%), and approximately 35% aged from 45 to 54 years.

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[31] The number of survey responses collected from sites within this subregion was insufficient to provide reliable estimates for most detailed estimates. We have the most confidence in estimates of total people experiencing homelessness, with limited confidence in the proportions of sheltered and unsheltered.
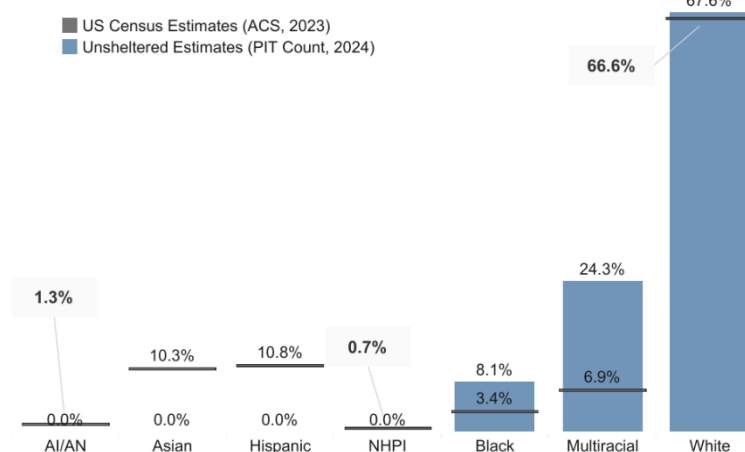
Other statistics for this subregion, such as the relative proportions of people by Race and Ethnicity, are not good estimators due to the limited variance and small sample size, but they are included in the visualizations for reporting completeness.

Most people surveyed in South East King County reported having been last stably housed outside of Washington State (44%). An additional third reported having been last stably housed in Seattle. Given the number of people surveyed was only 14, it is unlikely that all locations are represented here.

Figure 71: *Summary of South East King County Subregion*

Race and Ethnicity (Unsheltered Estimates)
*Unsheltered Estimates with Census Population Benchmarks*

- US Census Estimates (ACS, 2023)
- Unsheltered Estimates (PIT Count, 2024)

AI/AN	Asian	Hispanic	NHPI	Black	Multiracial	White
1.3% / 0.0%	10.3% / 0.0%	10.8% / 0.0%	0.7% / 0.0%	8.1% / 3.4%	24.3% / 6.9%	67.6% / 66.6%

Unsheltered by Age Group

Age Group	Value
25-34	40	25.8%
35-44	48	31.0%
45-54	55	35.5%
55-64	12	7.7%

Unsheltered by Gender Identity

Female | 4.5%
Male | 95.5%

Unsheltered and Sheltered Proportions by Subregion

Unsheltered	76% (n = 155)	Sheltered	24% (n = 48)

Unsheltered Chronic Proportion by Subregion

Yes	17.4% (n = 27)	No	82.6% (n = 128)
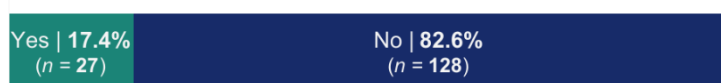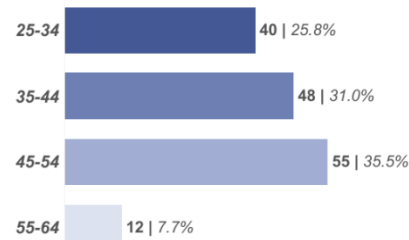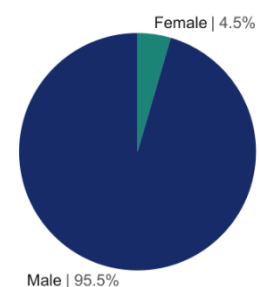
Sampling Summary and Estimates

Total Surveys Collected	14
Max Network Depth	16
Number of Survey Sites	1
Unsheltered Total	155
Sheltered Total	48
Total Estimated Homeless	203

Figure 72: *Responses by Reported Place of Last Stable Residence for South East King County*

From Inside King County		
Seattle Metro	Seattle	33.3%
East King County	Redmond	11.1%
South King County	Kent	11.1%
	Grand Total	55.6%

Outside King County	
United States	44.4%
Grand Total	44.4%

© OpenStreetMap
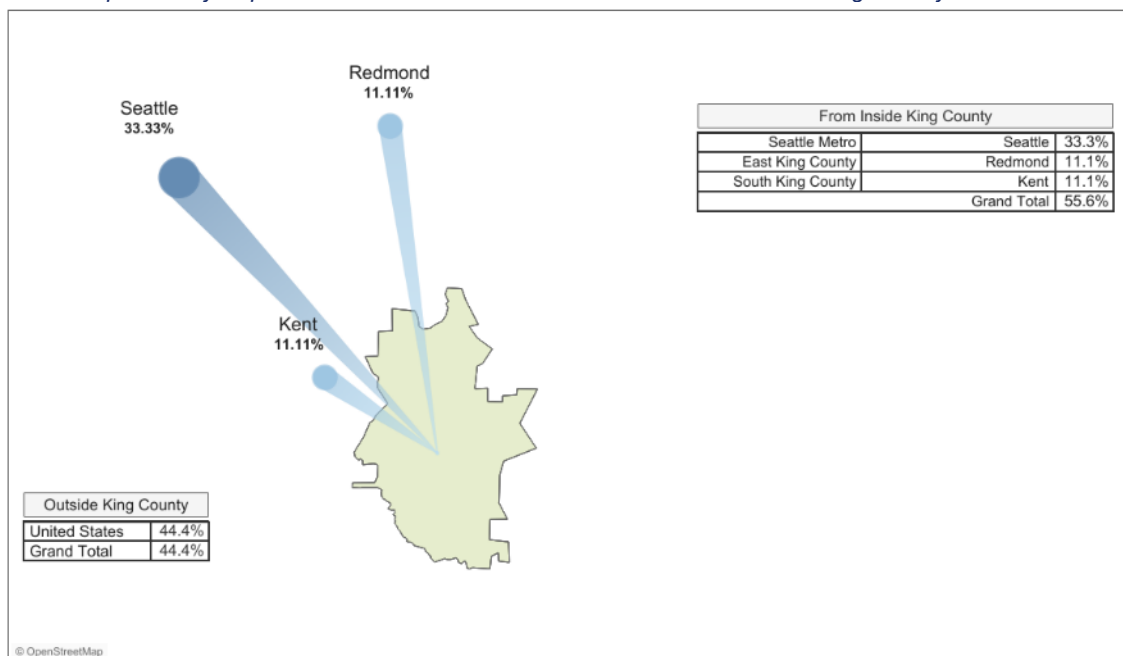
Snoqualmie Valley

A largely rural subregion, Snoqualmie Valley is comprised of a large area of unincorporated land and the cities of *Snoqualmie*, *North Bend*, *Carnation*, *Duvall*, and *Preston*. There is one shelter program which serves single adults, families, and couples and has recently transitioned fully to a motel (voucher) model. Due to the distinct topography, Snoqualmie Valley typically experiences more severe weather conditions than those of urban centers such as Seattle but also lacks sufficient capacity to stand up adequate severe weather response facilities. This PIT Count came shortly after a severe weather event that may have contributed to an undercount, as individuals may have still been in motels or other temporary accommodations, away from hub locations (survey sites).

Similar to South East King County, Snoqualmie Valley produced a very small sample of survey responses. We estimate a total of 115 people experienced homelessness on the night of the PIT Count (less than 1% of the countywide total). More than half (57%) were sheltered (**Figure 73**). As in most clusters in this report, approximately a quarter of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness identified as Women, with most (63%) aged 65 years or older. Other statistics for
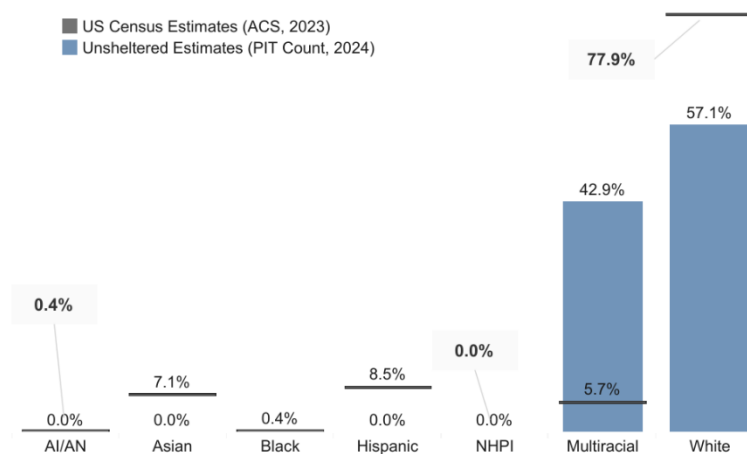
this subregion, such as the relative proportions of people by Race and Ethnicity, are not good estimators due to the limited variance and small sample size, but they are included in the visualizations for reporting completeness.

We cannot estimate the true distribution of responses to the question "*What city did you live in the last time you had stable housing such as an apartment or house?*" due to an insufficiently large and varied sample*,* but we include the findings here for transparency and completeness.

Figure 73: *Summary of Snoqualmie Valley Subregion*

Race and Ethnicity (Unsheltered Estimates)
*Unsheltered Estimates with Census Population Benchmarks*

- US Census Estimates (ACS, 2023)
- Unsheltered Estimates (PIT Count, 2024)

	AI/AN	Asian	Black	Hispanic	NHPI	Multiracial	White
US Census	0.4%	7.1%	0.4%	8.5%	0.0%	5.7%	77.9%
Unsheltered	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	42.9%	57.1%

Unsheltered by Age Group

35-44	9	18.4%
45-54	9	18.4%
65+	31	63.3%

Unsheltered by Gender Identity

Female | 24.5%
Male | 75.5%

Unsheltered and Sheltered Proportions by Subregion

| Unsheltered | 43% (n = 49) | Sheltered | 57% (n = 66) |

Unsheltered Chronic Proportion by Subregion

| Yes | 57.1% (n = 28) | No | 42.9% (n = 21) |
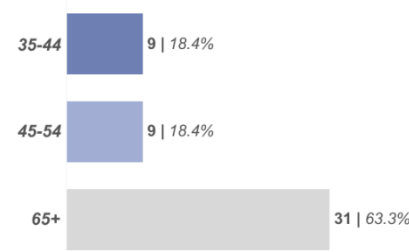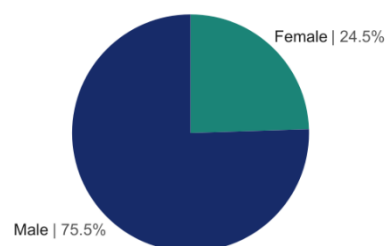
Sampling Summary and Estimates

Total Surveys Collected	17
Max Network Depth	2
Number of Survey Sites	1
Unsheltered Total	49
Sheltered Total	66
Total Estimated Homeless	115

Figure 74: Responses, by Reported Place of Last Stable Residence for Snoqualmie Valley
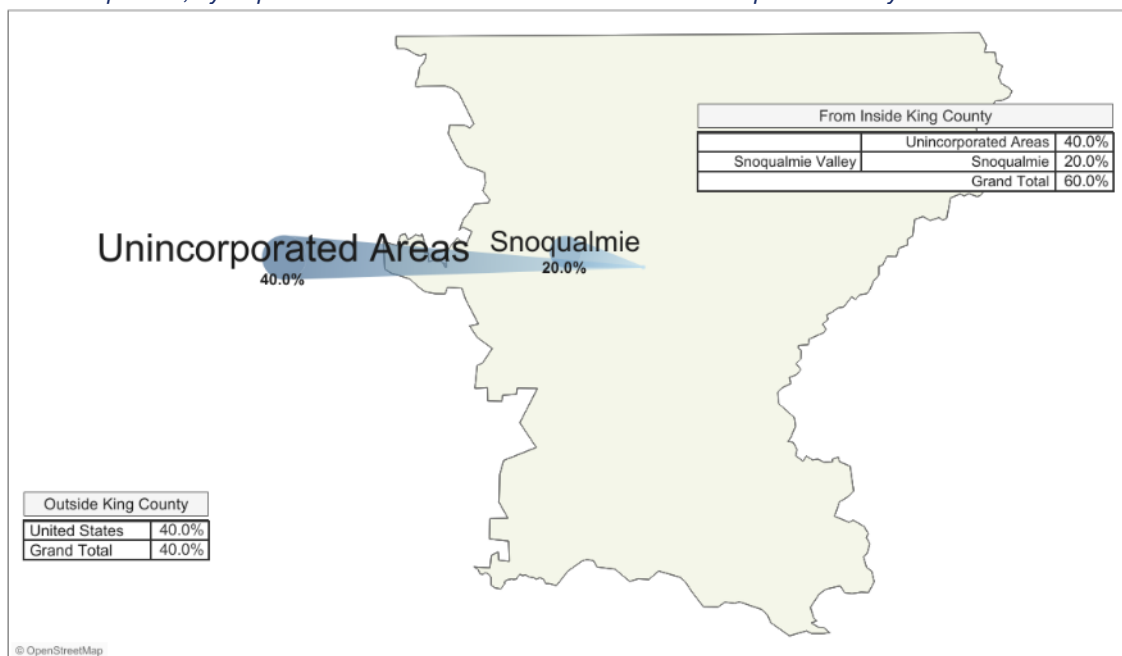
Supplemental Question Results

Respondents were asked additional questions to gain a deeper understanding of their experiences. These questions were presented with a list of suggested options (refer to **Appendix I**) as well as the option to write freely. Below are the top responses most frequently reported overall with respect to the given dimension (e.g., Veteran status, Age, Race and Ethnicity, etc.). We note that we are only presenting the top 11 responses for each selection so that the columns are not expected to total 100%.

Precipitating Events or Conditions

This section summarizes the 11 most frequent responses chosen for the question "*What events or conditions contributed to your experience of homelessness?*" by Veteran status, Gender Identity, Racial and Ethnic Identity, Age Group, and subregion. A total of 20 response options were available to choose from, including a write-in option (Other) and *Do Not Know*. Of the responses supplied, we chose the top ones by overall frequency, taking care to identify any

cases where a particular subgroup of the group (e.g., for Age Group, a particular subgroup might be people aged 18 to 24, etc.) reported substantial differences from the other subgroups.

Options for responding included:

- Lost job
- Eviction
- Foreclosure
- Incarceration/ detention
- Illness/ medical problem
- Mental health issues
- Hospitalization/ treatment
- Divorce/ separation/ breakup
- Could not afford rent increase
- Argument with family/ friend/ roommate
- Family domestic violence
- Family/ friend's housing wouldn't let me stay
- Family/ friend couldn't afford to let me stay
- Safety
- Resettlement transition
- Aging out of foster care
- Death of a parent/ spouse/ child
- Choose not to answer
- Do not know
- Other (write in)

Table 14 shows *loss of job* and *eviction* as the most reported causes for Veteran and non-Veteran people. People who didn't report a Veteran status emphasized eviction less, with more responses that fell outside the provided choices (Other). People in the Unknown category cited mental health issues and relationship destruction more often than those who explicitly identified as Veterans or non-Veterans. Veterans reported *medical illness* as the third most common reason for their experience of homelessness.

Table 15 shows that, by gender identity, about half (50%) of people identifying as Men reported job loss as the contributing condition to homelessness compared to 28% for people who identified as women. By gender identity, people who identified as a Different Identity reported mental health issues as their top contributing condition (26%). This proportion was much lower for both Women (6%) and Men (3%). Women and people who have a Different Identity reported eviction as a contributing condition (18% and 14% respectively) at higher rates than people who identified as Men (7%).

We note that the total estimated number of people with Different Identities was very low (~65), so that we expect to see more variation not only within this group but also between it and other groups. This is due to the small number of people reporting identities that are considered part of this group (see *Table 4*).

Table 16 shows that job loss was the most frequently reported contributing condition for people experiencing homelessness regardless of Race or Ethnicity, with the highest frequency reported among those who identify as Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) (66%) or Asian or Asian American (58%). The lowest reported frequency of job loss by group was 31% for those identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Following job loss, eviction was the next most often reported contributing condition for all but Asian or Asian American people and people who identified with a category that was not explicitly offered for selection (Other). Eviction was cited at a particularly high rate among those who identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (24%). American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous People reported arguments with household members as second to job loss (13%), while Asian or Asian American people reported difficulty securing housing with friends or family as the second leading contributing condition (17%).

We note that the total number of people who identified as American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; and Asian or Asian American was low (5.6% and 1.4% of the total overall estimated unsheltered, as seen in *Figure 10*), meaning that the distributions of reasons for these groups are unlikely to represent the true prevalence of answers for all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County who share these identities.

Table 17 shows that by age group, job loss was most frequently cited among people ranging from 35 to 64 years old, with slightly fewer people aged 18 to 34 citing it as a contributing condition to their current experience of homelessness. Of people experiencing homelessness who were 65 years old or older, job loss was still commonly cited (20%), but eviction (15%) and *not being able to afford rent increase* (13%) were also common. Of all age groups, people 65 and older reported not being able to afford a rent increase most, followed by those 25 to 34 years old (10%).

Table 18 shows the most frequently reported contributing conditions by each of the four subregions for which there was sufficient data. The most frequently reported condition was job loss, followed by eviction, for all but East King County, which reported medical illness as the second-most frequent condition. Snoqualmie Valley and South East King County did not produce samples large enough to directly compare to the other subregions, but eviction and Other reasons ranked as the most frequently reported contributing conditions in both.

Table 14: *Most Frequently Reported Contributing Conditions, by Veteran Status*

	Non-Veteran	Veteran	Unknown
Lost job	44.8%	40.4%	36.8%
Eviction	9.3%	13.0%	2.6%
Other	6.2%	5.4%	20.5%
Could not afford rent increase	4.7%	1.5%	6.0%
Incarceration or Detention	4.5%	2.3%	
Mental health issues	4.0%	4.9%	14.5%
Divorce/ Separation/ Breakup	3.9%	5.6%	9.4%
Illness/ Medical problem	3.6%	9.6%	
Argument with family/ Friend/ Roommate	3.7%	1.1%	
Death of a Parent/ Spouse/ Child	3.4%	4.0%	
Family/ Friend's housing wouldn't let me stay	3.3%	1.5%	

Table 15: *Most Frequently Reported Contributing Conditions, by Gender Identity*

	Man	Woman	Different Identity
Lost job	50.4%	27.7%	
Eviction	6.5%	18.2%	13.8%
Other	6.0%	6.9%	
Could not afford rent increase	4.9%	3.5%	
Incarceration or Detention	5.0%	2.0%	
Mental health issues	3.4%	6.2%	26.2%
Divorce/ Separation/ Breakup	4.1%	4.1%	
Illness/ Medical problem	3.3%	5.9%	18.5%
Argument with family/ Friend/ Roommate	2.8%	5.0%	16.9%
Death of a Parent/ Spouse/ Child	3.3%	3.5%	
Family/ Friend's housing wouldn't let me stay	3.1%	3.7%	6.2%

Table 16: *Most Frequently Reported Contributing Conditions, by Race and Ethnicity*[32]

	White	Hispanic	Multiracial	Black	AI/AN	Other	NHPI	Asian
Lost job	40.1%	66.1%	40.8%	39.1%	38.5%	45.7%	31.2%	57.8%
Eviction	10.5%	8.1%	10.4%	8.9%	4.4%		24.0%	9.6%
Other	7.5%	6.4%	6.7%	3.9%		15.0%	4.8%	
Incarceration or Detention	5.1%	1.2%	2.8%	8.1%	2.9%	5.1%		
Mental health issues	5.2%	1.6%	5.4%	4.7%	2.2%	5.4%	1.2%	
Could not afford rent increase	4.0%	0.8%	5.9%	4.5%	8.4%		9.2%	6.7%
Divorce/ Separation/ Breakup	5.3%	1.9%	5.4%	0.8%	8.4%	2.2%	4.8%	
Illness/ Medical problem	3.2%	2.8%	6.3%	4.4%	8.6%	2.2%	4.8%	
Argument with family/ Friend/ Roommate	4.3%	2.7%	0.8%	1.6%	12.8%		6.0%	
Death of a Parent/ Spouse/ Child	4.4%	1.5%	1.9%	5.2%		9.3%		
Family/ Friend's housing wouldn't let me stay	2.0%	3.7%	2.9%	4.3%	4.2%	3.8%	9.2%	17.0%

Table 17: *Most Frequently Reported Contributing Conditions, by Age Group*

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Lost job	29.3%	39.9%	50.2%	46.6%	43.3%	19.8%
Eviction	12.4%	11.6%	11.8%	5.5%	6.1%	14.5%
Other	2.1%	7.3%	6.4%	3.8%	8.2%	12.0%
Could not afford rent increase	5.3%	9.6%	3.0%	0.9%	3.4%	13.2%
Mental health issues	7.1%	6.4%	1.8%	5.4%	4.1%	
Incarceration or Detention	6.5%	3.6%	2.6%	8.7%	2.0%	
Divorce/ Separation/ Breakup		3.1%	6.3%	3.7%	3.0%	1.2%
Illness/ Medical problem		1.0%	2.2%	3.0%	13.2%	9.5%
Argument with family/ Friend/ Roommate	3.6%	2.6%	3.3%	6.7%	0.7%	
Death of a Parent/ Spouse/ Child	3.6%	1.3%	2.4%	5.5%	5.2%	5.0%
Family/ Friend's housing wouldn't let me stay	7.1%	6.0%	1.6%	2.3%	1.4%	14.5%

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[32] Middle Eastern or North African excluded due to insufficient sample variance (small sample size).

- Ability to move in with a friend
- Minimal rules so I can do as I please

Table 19 shows that the most frequently reported sheltered needs for Veterans were *easy enrollment*, *adequate personal space*, *clean and sanitary conditions*, *located near or in one's community*, and *secure storage*. Those who did not report any Veteran status chose clean and sanitary conditions the most often (33%) followed by located near or in one's community (15%). Veterans chose clean and sanitary conditions (21%), even over easy enrollment (18%). For non-Veterans, the most frequently reported shelter need was easy enrollment (32%) followed by personal space (16%).

Table 20 shows that Men (32%) and Women (26%) reported easy enrollment most often as a shelter need, while people with Different Identities chose personal space most frequently (45%). Across gender, easy enrollment, personal space, and secure storage were the top-reported shelter needs. Women tended to report a desire to be in private spaces with companions more often than men, but, otherwise, the distribution of responses between these gender identities was similar across responses.

Table 21shows that across Racial and Ethnic Identities, easy enrollment was the most frequently reported shelter need for all except Asian or Asian American, who reported a desire for clean and sanitary conditions (33%) and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (27%) who generally reported a desire to be located near or in one's community.

Middle Eastern and North African are not included here due to a very low sample size and the inability to accurately generalize. However, among the people who reported that identity, personal space and Other were the most frequently reported needs.

Table 22 shows that by age group, those who are 65 or older chose personal space most frequently, while all other age groups (18 to 64) chose easy enrollment most often. In general, across all age groups, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness indicated a desire for clean and sanitary shelter that is accessible, provides personal space and privacy, and is located in or near their home communities.

Table 23 shows the most frequently reported shelter need across the four subregions was easy enrollment. Snoqualmie Valley and South East King County lacked sufficient responses to be

accurately compared here (see notes on sampling in the **Methodology** and **Limitations** sections). The general profile of people desiring clean and sanitary housing that is accessible, located in or near their home communities, and offers adequate personal space and secure storage is similar to the results by age group.

Table 19: *Most Frequently Reported Shelter Needs, by Veteran Status*

	Non-Veteran	Veteran	Unknown
Easy enrollment	32.0%	17.9%	10.3%
Personal space	16.4%	14.3%	12.0%
Clean and sanitary	13.8%	20.8%	32.5%
In my community	12.3%	12.4%	15.4%
Secure storage	6.3%	10.0%	9.4%
Other	5.8%	8.9%	10.3%
Be with partner	3.3%	6.0%	
Private room	2.5%	6.0%	
Keep my pet(s)	2.3%		
Meals available	1.0%	3.7%	10.3%
Autonomy	1.3%		

Table 20: *Most Frequently Reported Shelter Needs, by Gender Identity*

	Man	Woman	Different Identity
Easy enrollment	32.5%	25.5%	13.8%
Personal space	14.9%	18.9%	44.6%
Clean and sanitary	15.3%	14.2%	
In my community	12.6%	11.6%	
Secure storage	7.4%	4.0%	16.9%
Other	5.7%	6.3%	
Be with partner	2.7%	5.9%	
Private room	2.1%	4.7%	6.2%
Keep my pet(s)	1.5%	4.2%	
Meals available	1.5%	1.0%	
Autonomy	0.9%	2.0%	

Table 21: *Most Frequently Reported Shelter Needs, by Race and Ethnicity*

	White	Hispanic	Multiracial	Black	AI/AN	Other	NHPI	Asian
Easy enrollment	34.9%	29.5%	26.4%	29.7%	22.0%	41.5%	22.0%	9.6%
Personal space	15.1%	13.6%	20.7%	16.1%	19.2%	11.2%	19.6%	8.9%
Clean and sanitary	13.5%	15.1%	17.3%	17.1%	13.0%	13.4%	9.6%	32.6%
In my community	12.3%	9.5%	10.6%	10.6%	14.8%	11.2%	26.8%	23.7%
Secure storage	7.0%	5.4%	8.3%	5.0%	7.5%	3.8%	9.6%	8.9%
Other	4.1%	8.8%	3.4%	8.4%	10.8%	16.6%		
Be with partner	4.4%	4.0%	1.2%	1.1%	6.6%		9.6%	
Private room	1.2%	4.6%	7.4%	1.5%	2.2%			8.1%
Keep my pet(s)	3.6%	0.8%	1.9%		2.2%	2.2%	1.2%	
Meals available	1.0%	2.4%		3.8%				
Autonomy	1.7%		1.6%	0.8%	1.6%			

Table 22: *Most Frequently Reported Shelter Needs, by Age Group*

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Easy enrollment	35.8%	24.7%	31.0%	37.2%	29.4%	18.2%
Personal space	7.7%	16.3%	17.0%	12.0%	20.5%	23.6%
Clean and sanitary	13.9%	15.9%	11.0%	16.9%	18.4%	12.4%
In my community	7.4%	16.0%	12.7%	10.7%	10.2%	5.0%
Secure storage	7.4%	6.4%	7.7%	6.8%	4.4%	6.6%
Other	3.8%	4.3%	6.2%	4.1%	10.2%	15.3%
Be with partner	5.9%	5.1%	3.0%	3.8%	0.7%	5.0%
Private room		5.1%	2.9%	1.4%	0.7%	7.9%
Keep my pet(s)	3.6%	0.3%	2.9%	2.8%	2.2%	
Meals available	7.4%	0.8%	2.6%	0.5%		
Autonomy	3.6%	2.1%	0.7%	1.4%		

Table 23: *Most Frequently Reported Shelter Needs, by Subregion[33]*

	Seattle Metro	South King County	North King County	East King County
Easy enrollment	25.9%	41.0%	33.8%	28.4%
Personal space	14.6%	13.9%	22.5%	16.4%
Clean and sanitary	16.1%	15.4%	13.7%	16.4%
In my community	11.8%	11.9%	17.5%	5.6%
Secure storage	6.4%	7.0%	7.6%	8.3%
Other	8.7%	3.1%	0.8%	9.5%
Be with partner	3.0%	2.7%	1.0%	5.4%
Keep my pet(s)	2.7%	1.7%	1.0%	3.5%
Private room	2.8%	0.6%	0.8%	1.7%
Meals available	1.6%		0.8%	3.2%
Autonomy	1.8%	1.0%	0.8%	

Limitations

It is commonly understood that the biennial census of people experiencing homelessness, regardless of shelter status, is expected to be an undercount due to the difficulty of engaging individuals across the varied experiences of homelessness (including incarceration and unstable housing, such as couch-surfing). With this in mind, the Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) performed effectively to estimate the total proportion of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well as demographic characteristics, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) still strives to improve its representation of people experiencing homelessness. This large, multi-faceted study consisted of a novel methodology to conduct the Unsheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Count for *King County*. There were numerous limitations, some of which have been mentioned in the **Methodology** and **Results** sections. Provided below are all limitations broken down in the following sections:

- Survey and Methodology
- Seeding and Coupons

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[33] Both the Snoqualmie Valley and South East King County subregions are excluded from this table due to insufficient sample sizes for this response.

Survey and Methodology

Surveys are a vital tool to create a representative sample population, yet they are reliant on respondents' trust in sharing personal details accurately or even at all (i.e., respondents' bias or non-response bias) (Raifman, DeVost, Digitale, Chen & Morris, 2022). Moreover, although there were only 11 duplicative survey entries collected from four respondents (less than 1%), survey respondents were anonymous. Given the volume of surveys completed and the nature of having numerous hub site locations, often staffed with different surveyors and hub leads, it is likely we were not able to account for all repeat survey respondents with de-duplication techniques mentioned in our methodology.

The survey process was greatly impacted by the *Unaccompanied Youth* population (those under the age of 18). Unsheltered PIT Count estimates rely on Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data from shelter programs due to regulatory and ethical considerations such as the research consenting process and Institutional Review Board The impact of these methodological considerations was evident in the comparative decrease of *Families with Children* by household composition between 2022 and 2024.

Subregional data was closely related to the hub site(s) and were representative of the sampled populations for that subregion. This is due to methodology requiring respondents to travel to a site to complete a survey rather than the survey being conducted in the city or area a person spent the night the night before. Similarly, due to the sheer land area King County encompasses, the estimate of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in rural subregions was greatly impacted by a low number of completed surveys in those subregions (*South East King County* and *Snoqualmie Valley*). This could be due to a large area only having one hub site or the weather — the week prior to data collection, King County experienced a severe weather event. In combination with limited hub site locations for rural areas and weather, there were encampment resolutions that could have further displaced this already hard-to-reach population to areas that weren't contacted during recruitment. Due to the varied degrees of encampment resolution across the county, there is a potential for limited ability to uniformly prescribe a methodology for respondent recruitment across King County.

Lastly, related to the survey, providing incentives for those who completed surveys was particularly challenging. During community feedback, people with lived experience provided considerations and suggestions for survey incentives. Salient insights were that folks living unsheltered do not always have an easily accessible phone or email account. Instead, they may rely on a friend or family member's email or phone number for their referral bonuses. Also, the virtual gift card itself may be more difficult to use than a physical one since one needs a device on hand to buy something with it. Moreover, during data collection, human error when transcribing the contact information into Power Apps made some gift cards undeliverable.

Seeding and Coupons

Overall, only 20% of the outreach seed coupons distributed resulted in a completed survey at a hub site (excluding Family Phone Line). Hub site traffic was also slower than expected, and coupons dispersed earliest were less likely to be used. For example, at the Arcadia Young Adult Shelter (South East King County), turnout was low. In response, KCRHA staff worked with outreach staff in and around the Arcadia Young Adult Shelter to hand out more outreach seeds on the third and fourth days of data collection. Almost half (44%) of those who received these seeds completed a survey, and their subsequent referral trees helped create a stream of respondents in South East King County for the remainder of the count.

Largely, limitations for the 2024 Unsheltered PIT Count involved the survey, methodology, seeding, coupons, and analysis. Throughout the reported limitations, staff and volunteers quickly mobilized and tailored data collection procedures to improve the methodology (e.g., adaptations made for Family Phone Line to additional seeding near Arcadia Young Adult Shelter). Change in household composition of unsheltered homelessness emphasizes the need for continuous improvement in sampling, collection, and analysis. KCRHA will evaluate how it can more quickly and equitably distribute referral incentives during the Unsheltered PIT Count with communities and their members, including governments, civic leaders, service providers, and community advocates. Improvements for future years should include improved hub site location analysis, such as a mobile hub, targeted seeding, survey instrument design, and application improvements.

Recommendations

Following the 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) recommends four areas of improvement for subsequent counts. First, there needs to be refinement of targeted seeding, both in the initial wave and throughout data collection. One in five outreach seeds resulted in a completed survey (initial), but interventions at the site (such as Arcadia Young Adult Shelter and surrounding outreach staff seeding in the immediate area and during the first three days of data collection) demonstrated a subsequent improvement in survey completion and referral. This responsive approach to the Respondent-Driven Survey (RDS) model allows for greater confidence in the information collected about demographic composition of proportions of unsheltered homelessness by *Age Group*, *Household Type*, *Gender Identity*, and *Racial and Ethnic* identities.

Second, there should be further improvements to hub site location and the type (physical or phone) to include a mobile option to improve targeted seeding. *South East King County* and *Snoqualmie Valley* were limited to one site representative of the catchment area and anticipated reduced traffic. To improve sampling in that subregion, offering a mobile hub location could bring surveyors to a physical location that is convenient for respondents. Unlike the Family Phone Line, a mobile hub would assist in linking responses to a subregion.

Third, hub site improvements should involve operations, specifically volunteer training and support. Immediately following the PIT Count, KCRHA staff requested feedback from roughly half of all volunteers that consisted of technical improvements to data collection, such as the accessibility of Microsoft tools and tablets and a greater saturation of Wi-Fi hotspots. Additionally, feedback included suggestions for enhanced training on data collection methods and using the survey instrument, especially regarding clients potentially completing more than one survey using QR codes. Training would also include the adaptations made to the Family Phone Line and potential mobile alternatives to fixed hub sites (such as mobile) and a focus on reliability and validity measures to data collection to increase volunteer confidence and provide proper oversight.

Lastly, the 2024 Unsheltered PIT Count survey used both Department of Housing and Urban Development-required and community-developed questions. Questions that were derived from 2022 PIT Count feedback from staff and community members were new and should be

improved upon. Similarly, RDS-related questions, such as network questions, should undergo adjustments to language and refinement for clarity and increase inclusivity to the lived experiences of respondents.

Summary Findings and Conclusion

This report provided an analytical overview of unsheltered homelessness in *King County* based on data collected during the Point-in-Time Count in 2024. In 2024, King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) partnered with regionwide service providers and community groups to improve the depth and breadth of sampling and survey accessibility to obtain a more complete and accurate portrait of our neighbors who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Over the course of two weeks, more than 140 volunteers and staff administered more than 1,400 surveys from 20 sites scattered across King County, including a first-of-its-kind Family Phone Line designed to facilitate surveying for *Families with Minor Children* who may have difficulty traveling to a survey site. Our volunteers and staff, of whom more than 12% represented people with lived experience, contributed a combined 1,884 hours of data collection for this analysis. This represents a watershed survey effort in terms of scale and scope of information collected.

The results of this analysis are clear. Homelessness remains a serious crisis in King County, and while the system has demonstrated an exceptional resilience and flexibility in managing the crisis response, there is no doubt that its scale is growing in King County and across the nation. Since the last comparable count in 2022, we saw an increase in homelessness of about 26% compared to an increase nationally of about 20% on average (by Continuums of Care). The share of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness versus sheltered remained stable at about 58% of the total estimated for both years. Among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, the number of people who experienced *chronic homelessness* (homelessness over longer periods of time, who experience more frequently, and have a disabling condition) increased by 117% compared to the corresponding nationwide increase of about 36%.

Of all Racial and Ethnic Identities accounted for in the data collection and analysis, people who identified as *American Indian*, *Alaskan Native or Indigenous People*; *Black*, *African American* or *African*; *Native Hawaiian* or *Pacific Islander*; *Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o)*; or *Multiracial* experience

unsheltered homelessness at much higher rates than those at which they are represented in the overall population in King County (e.g., American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous People make up 0.4% of the population but 5.6% of the people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, which is 14 times higher than expected). This disproportionate overrepresentation is evidence of racial inequities contributing to the likelihood of an individual experiencing homelessness and are consistently observed across our Homeless Response System. More than 100 of the people surveyed were members of a federally recognized tribe of Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, or Indigenous People, representing 42 distinct tribal affiliations. People who identified as *White* or *Asian or Asian American* were consistently underrepresented among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Most people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County identify as *Male*, with 75% of all respondents across most categories of special population, Racial and Ethnic Identity, and subregion identifying as Male. We observed that the number of people who reported identifying as *Transgender* or *Questioning* decreased substantially from 2022 to 2024 (-95%), and while some difference was expected due to shifting data standards around gender identity, the full measure of decrease was not explained in terms of changing designations or shifting terminology. Most people were between 35 and 44 years old, and most reported first experiencing homelessness before the age of 45, with 25% reporting experiencing homelessness *Before the Age of 18*. A slightly greater percentage were over 25 compared to 2022, but generally, in terms of age, the unsheltered population stayed very similar between 2022 and 2024.

Most households experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County are comprised of single adults or couples, but there are a small number of households with minor children in addition to *Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults*. *Families with Minor Children* remained a difficult group to reach, despite the implementation of the Family Phone Line, which was designed to provide survey access to those who may have had difficulty traveling to a survey site.

To better understand the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, we asked a series of questions about disability, *Serious Mental Illness* (SMI), *Substance Use Disorder* (SUD), and *Domestic Violence* (DV). More than half of the people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are estimated to experience some form of disability, with nearly that proportion reporting experiencing SUD and more than a third experiencing some form of SMI. Of those

reporting experiencing DV, nearly 57% identified as *Women*, making this group the only one under consideration wherein Women appear in greater proportion than men.

Our analysis found that about 66% of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness also meet the criteria to be considered *chronically homeless*, implying longer episodes, more frequency, and a significant disabling condition. Among those considered *chronically homeless,* 69% reported a disabling condition with 46% reporting SMI and 63% reporting SUD. People who reported experiencing DV represented the smallest proportion of *chronically homeless* individuals (21%).

There was an apparent decrease in the proportion of people who were members of households with minor children and children alone since 2022, from 20.1% to 6.5% of the total. Among this group, people who identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander were the most overrepresented (13.3%), followed by Asian or Asian American; American Indian or Alaska Native; and Multiracial individuals. Historically, households with minor children are a difficult population segment to reach during sampling, and we rely on information stored in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to support estimates. Additionally, the HMIS information indicates that shelters that accommodate households with children, youth and young adults, and people over 55 have fewer beds and units than needed, underscoring the continued need to acknowledge and provide for all subpopulations.

Veterans made up 8.2% of the total number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Among the group who identified as Veterans, more than half (54%) reported experiencing a significant disability, with 48% of the group reporting SMI and 44% experiencing SUD. 80% identified as men, and more than half also met the criteria to be considered *chronically homeless*.

More than a quarter (26.5%) of the people experiencing unsheltered homelessness reported living in cars, trucks, small boats, trailers or RVs (*Vehicle Residents*). While most of this group identify as White, the greatest disproportionality (overrepresentation) within this group was by people who identified as Asian or Asian American.

We also examined each subregion in terms of the characteristics of the people who were surveyed there. While we were unable to obtain sufficient sample data for reliable portraits of the most rural subregions, *Snoqualmie Valley* and *South East King County*, we did observe striking differences between others. *South King County* represents the only subregion wherein people

who identified as White were disproportionately overrepresented among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and where people who identified as Hispanic or Latin(x)(a)(o) were underrepresented. South King County also had the most respondents who indicated that they were last stably housed in a location inside this subregion. *North King County* had the highest proportion of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and the highest proportion of unsheltered people who are *chronically homeless*. People who identified as Asian or Asian American in *East King County* exhibited the next greatest disproportionate underrepresentation among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, second to the *Seattle Metro* subregion. Seattle Metro also had the lowest overall proportion of people who identified as White among the unsheltered population.

Across all subregions, most people reported having been last stably housed in the Seattle Metro subregion (26.4%) followed by South King County (22.7%); then locations in *Washington State* but outside of King County (19.9%); and finally by locations in the *United States*, but outside of Washington State (18.3%).

When asked about conditions that contributed to their current experience of homelessness, regardless of Racial and Ethnic identity, Age, Gender Identity, Veteran status, or subregion, it was clear that most people were experiencing homelessness due to the *loss of a job* or *eviction*. Similarly, when asked about their particular needs and preferences for a shelter situation, people across all categories prized *ease of enrollment*, *adequate personal space*, and *clean and sanitary conditions* above most other factors.

Overall, across King County, we see not just tremendous diversity within the group of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness but also striking similarities in terms of needs and experiences. We observed that primary causes for homelessness are very different across the population, but some themes resounded for all (job loss and eviction). Our findings underscore the need for safe shelters and services in each community that are equipped to accommodate a variety of household compositions. We saw that the experience of homelessness is made more complicated, and more challenging, by the co-occurrence of significant disabling conditions, such as struggles with mental health and SUDs and, for many, the experience of fleeing an unsafe or violent home.

As KCRHA moves to equitably address the need for shelter in King County, we center ourselves and our efforts on the diversity that makes our region so incredibly rich in culture and human

potential, and we are committed to honoring the trust that our neighbors experiencing homelessness have placed in us as we fulfill our mission to find stable housing and needed services for everyone.

Glossary

ACS 2023 Data: Refers to data collected and released by the **American Community Survey (ACS)** for the year 2023. The ACS is a continuous, detailed survey conducted by the **U.S. Census Bureau** that collects vital demographic, social, economic, and housing data for communities across the United States. Unlike the decennial census the ACS is conducted annually and provides more frequent updates on population characteristics.

Adults: People aged 18 and older.

Adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI): This population category of the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count includes adults with a severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits a person's ability to live independently. Adults with SMI must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for "disability" (e.g., "is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration").

Adults with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD): This population category of the PIT Count includes adults with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both). Adults with a substance use disorder must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for "disability" (e.g., "is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration").

Child: People under age 18.

Child Coupon Id: All coupons that follow the parent coupon.

Coupon Id: The QR code listed on the coupon that is used to identify the ticket as a parent or child and links the waves together.

Disability: An individual with one or more of the following conditions:

A. A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that:

      a. Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration
      b. Substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently
      c. Could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions

B. A developmental disability, as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights of 2000

C. The disease of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or any condition arising from the etiologic agency of AIDS

Family with Minor Children: At least one adult and at least one household member under the age of 18 who is with the adult at least 51% of the time, on average.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data: A count of sheltered individuals and households experiencing homelessness as reported by shelter providers, transitional programs, and safe havens. Collected for the night of the PIT Count.

Households: Groups of people connected by family or choice.

Hub (Hub Site): Location in the community where Unsheltered PIT Count surveys are completed.

HUD: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The federal department that mandates the PIT Count and sets guidelines and methodology.

Individual: A single person who is not part of a household at the time of data collection.

Non-HMIS Sheltered Data: A survey for homeless service providers that provided temporary lodging for individuals and households on the night of the PIT Count that do not report data through HMIS. The survey consists of HUD-required questions, and mirrors data collected from HMIS.

Respondent: Person completing the survey.

Parent Coupon Id: The initial seeded coupon.

Person Experiencing Chronic Homelessness:
    A. Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter

B. Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years where the combined length of time while homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months
C. Has a disability

Note: When a household with one or more members includes an adult or minor head of household who qualifies as *chronically homeless*, then all members of that household should be counted as a person experiencing *chronic homelessness*.

Point-In-Time Count Dataset: This dataset represents survey responses provided by people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County collected between January 22 and February 2, 2024, using Respondent-Driven Sampling to engage respondents. Responses were extrapolated using a weighted model based on data from shelters from the HMIS, collected for January 25, 2024. For more on sampling methodology, see the **Methodology** section.

Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS): A survey sampling method where respondents are selected from a social network of existing members of the sample rather than a sampling frame. Incentives are provided for participation and for the recruitment of others.

Respondents (surveyed individuals): The respondents of the sample consisted of individuals experiencing homelessness as defined by HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2012) at the time of the survey. Data was also collected on family members/ household units when relevant.

Seed or Seeding: The process of starting a RDS sample using a small number of seeds from the target population.

Sheltered Dataset: This dataset is approximately 90% made up of data collected on programs that actively use our HMIS to manage service activities and enrollments and 10% from programs that supply enrollment and services data on request as part of the PIT Count process (our non-participating programs):

- **Congregate Shelter:** Shelter is within a single building, individuals/ households do not have a private spot to sleep
- **Non-Congregate Shelter:** Shelter is within a single building, individuals/ households get a private and enclosed space to sleep

- **Micro Shelter:** Individuals/ households get a private place to sleep, typically in a stand-alone structure, such as a tiny home or pallet shelter
- **Hotel/ Motel:** A voucher to pay for nightly stay at a hotel or motel
- **Transitional Program:** Temporary lodging designed to facilitate the movement of individuals and households experiencing homelessness into permanent housing in a specified period
- **Safe Haven:** Temporary lodging that serves hard-to-reach individuals experiencing homelessness, as in the case of severe mental illness

Subregions: KCRHA defines seven subregions[34] of King County to support a regional approach to ending homelessness. These include Seattle Metro, North King County, East King County, South King County, South East King County, Snoqualmie Valley, and Urban Unincorporated. The subregions were defined in 2022 based on the general areas where individuals experiencing homelessness in different parts of the county seek services.

Survey Validation: The process of verifying that the respondent is unique to the dataset, and there isn't an existing record of them completing the survey.

Unoccupied Youth: Unaccompanied youth are people under age 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian or any other household member aged 25 or older and who 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.

Unsheltered Dataset: This dataset uses the RDS sampling method from survey data gathered from those self-reporting as experiencing unsheltered homelessness in King County. See **Methodology** for more information.

- **Unsheltered:** Individuals and households that do not have access to any type of shelter that is considered "safe, stable, and adequate." Specifically, unsheltered individuals are those who live in places not meant for human habitation, such as:
  - o Streets, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, cars or other vehicles, campgrounds, or other outdoor spaces

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[34] For the purposes of this report, Urban Unincorporated was included in Seattle Metro, so that throughout this report, we most often refer to six subregions.

o   Typically referring to people who are visibly homeless and living in public or open spaces

Veteran: This population category of the PIT Count includes adults who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

Veteran Family: A household with at least one immediate member who is a veteran.

Youth: Any person under the age of 18 is considered a *youth* for this report, per HUD guidance.

Young Adult: Any person 18 years of age, and up to but not including 25 years of age is considered a young adult for the purposes of this report, per HUD guidance.

Youth or Young Adults: Any persons who are either youth or young adults, as defined above.

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Appendices Contents

Appendix I Survey Instrument

INTRO: As part of work with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA), I'd like to ask you some questions we're required to ask and collect for our federal funder (HUD) about unsheltered homelessness in our region. Your participation is voluntary and will not affect any services you or your family are seeking or currently receiving. We are surveying many people and will put all responses together, so it will not be possible to identify you from the information you provide here. As a token of appreciation for your time, we will give you a $20 preloaded debit card at the end. Would you be willing to talk with me for about 30 min?

Have you already completed this survey in 2024?

Yes (STOP HERE)	***No*** (Proceed to Section 1)

Section 1 - Survey Validation:

Are you 18 year or older?	**Yes** (Proceed)	**No** (STOP HERE)

First two Letters of First Name: _____	**First two letters of Last Name:** _____	**Date of Birth (MM/YYYY):** _____

Section 2 – Network:

Outside of your family living with you, how many people do you personally know who are unhoused or experiencing homelessness?
##
Outside of your family living with you, please list the first name, pseudonyms/nickname/street name or initials of the person and their relation (e.g. friend, family, etc.) of people you personally know who are unhoused or experiencing homelessness? Please answer for as many people as you know.
[List of all names]
What is your relationship to [name]

• Friend • Acquaintance • Partner (husband/wife, fiancé/fiancée, boyfriend/girlfriend) • Immediate Family (parent/father/mother, sibling/brother/sister, child/son/daughter)	• Extended Family (cousin/nephew, uncle/aunt, grandfather/grandmother) • Neighbor (people you live near) • Other (write in):_____

Where did [name] sleep last night?	
• Outside in a tent (or tent-like structure) • Outside, not in a tent • In a car, truck, or van (smaller vehicle) • In an RV, trailer, or bus/boat (larger vehicle) • In a park (uncovered, like on a bench) • In an overnight shelter (e.g. mission, church, resource shelter, etc.) • In a hotel or motel • In an abandoned building/backyard or storage structure • In a public facility or transit (bus/train station, transit center, airport, hospital waiting room)	• In a tiny home • In another place not listed (write below) • On public transit (e.g. slept on bus, train, etc.) • In jail or prison • In a hospital (stayed as patient overnight) • In a drug or alcohol treatment/detox center • In a friend or family member's house/apartment • Deceased • Choose not to answer • Do not know

Section 3.0 – Living Situation:

Where did you sleep last night?	
• Outside in a tent (or tent-like structure) • Outside, not in a tent • In a car, truck, or van (smaller vehicle) • In an RV, trailer, or bus/boat (larger vehicle) • In a park (uncovered, like on a bench) • In an overnight shelter (e.g. mission, church, resource shelter, etc.) • In a hotel or motel • In an abandoned building/backyard or storage structure • In a public facility or transit (bus/train station, transit center, airport, hospital waiting room)	• In a tiny home • In another place not listed (write below) • On public transit (e.g. slept on bus, train, etc.) • In jail or prison • In a hospital (stayed as patient overnight) • In a drug or alcohol treatment/detox center • In a friend or family member's house/apartment • Choose not to answer • Do not know

Does your vehicle lack ANY of the following amenities: Drinking water, restroom, heat, ability to cook hot food, ability to bathe?	
• Yes • No	• Choose not to answer, • Do not know

How long have you been homeless this time?	
• 1 night or less • 2-6 nights • 1 week or more but less than one month • 1 month of more, but less than 90 days	• 90 days or more, but less than 1 year • 1 year or longer • Choose not to answer • Do not know

Including this time, how many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years, that is since January 2021?	
• 1 time • 2 times • 3 times	• 4 or more times • Choose not to answer • Do not know

If you added up all the times you have been homeless in the last 3 years, about how long have you been homeless?	
	## (Years, Months. Days)

Section 3.1 – Demographic Information:

How old are you?	
• 18-24 • 25-34 • 35-44 • 45-54	• 55-64 • 65 or older • Choose not to answer • Do not know

Which of the following best describes your gender? (Select all that apply)	
• Woman (Girl if, child) • Man (Boy if, child) • Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-spirit) • Transgender	• Non-binary • Questioning • Different identity • Choose not to answer • Do not know

Are you Hispanic/Latina/e/o?		
• Yes	• No	• Choose not to answer

Which of the following best describes your racial identity? Select all that apply	
• American Indian, Alaskan Native or Indigenous	• Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
• Asian or Asian American	• White
• Black, African American, or African	• Other [type in answer]
• Hispanic/Latina/e/o	• Choose not to Answer
• Middle Eastern or North African	• Do not Know
	•

Do you have a Tribal Affiliation? If so, what is your Tribal Affiliation?
[See Tribal Affiliation List]

Are you or a member of your immediate family a veteran?	
• Yes I am a veteran,	• No neither I nor a member of my immediate family are veterans,
• Yes a member of my immediate family is a veteran,	• Choose not to answer,
• Yes I am a veteran and a member of my immediate family is a veteran,	• Do not know

Have you ever received health care or other benefits from a Veterans Administration (VA) center?	
• Yes	• No
•	•

Section 3.2 – Health Information:

Are you experiencing homelessness because you are currently fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,
• No	• Do not know

Do you identify as having a disability?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,
• No	• Do not know

Do you identify as having a severe mental illness?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,
• No	• Do not know

Do you identify as having a substance use disorder?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,
• No	• Do not know

Section 4 – Household Questions:

Please list the initials of all the people in your household	
[Answer the following section for each person]	

How is [name] related to you?	
• Parent/Legal guardian	• Spouse
• Other adult family member	• Non-married partner
• Sibling	• Other non-family member
• My own child	

How old is [name]?		
• Under 18 years old	• 18 - 24 years old	• 25 years or older

Which of the following best describes the gender of [name]?	
• Woman (Girl if, child)	• Non-binary
• Man (Boy if, child)	• Questioning
• Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-spirit)	• Different identity
• Transgender	• Choose not to answer
	• Do not know

Is [name] Hispanic/Latina/e/o?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,
• No	• Do not know

Which of the following best describes the racial identity of [name]?	
• American Indian, Alaskan Native or Indigenous	• Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
• Asian or Asian American	• White
• Black, African American, or African	• Other [type in answer]
• Hispanic/Latina/e/o	• Choose not to Answer
	• Do not Know

• Middle Eastern or North African

Does [name] have a Tribal Affiliation? If so, what is their Tribal Affiliation?
[See Tribal Affiliation List]

Is [name] a veteran?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,
• No	• Do not know
	•

Does [name] identify as having a disability?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,
• No	• Do not know

Does [name] identify as having a severe mental illness?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,
• No	• Do not know

Does [name] identify as having a substance use disorder?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,
• No	• Do not know

Section 5 – Special Questions:

What transportation did you use to come to [hub]? [Check all that apply]	
• Bus	• Bicycle / Bike
• Link light Rail	• Walking
• Ferry	• Other (write in)_____
• Car	

How long did it take you to get to [hub]?

About how many miles did you travel to get to [hub]?		
• Less than half a mile	• Less than a mile	• _____Miles (write in number)

Are you a refugee or currently seeking asylum in the United States?	
• Yes	• Choose not to answer,

• No	• Do not know

What city did you live in the last time you had stable housing such as an apartment or house?

- Algona
- Auburn
- Bear Creek/Sammamish (Unincorporated)
- Beaux Arts
- Bellevue
- Black Diamond
- Bothell
- Burien
- Carnation
- Clyde hill
- Covington
- Data not collected
- Des Moines
- Duvall
- East Federal Way (Unincorporated)
- East Renton (Unincorporated)
- Unincorporated King County Other (includes any community not otherwise listed)
- Vashon/Maury Island
- Enumclaw
- Fairwood (Unincorporated)
- Federal Way
- Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain (Unincorporated)
- Hunts Point
- Issaquah
- Kenmore
- Kent
- Kirkland
- Lake Forest Park
- Maple Valley
- Medina
- Mercer Island
- Milton
- Newcastle
- Normandy Park
- West Hill (Unincorporated)
- Woodinville
- Yarrow Point
- Washington State (outside of King County)
- North Bend
- North Highline (Unincorporated)
- Pacific
- Renton
- Sammamish
- SeaTac
- Seattle
- Shoreline
- Skykomish
- Snoqualmie
- Redmond
- Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast
- King County (Unincorporated)
- South East King County (Unincorporated)
- Tukwila
- United States (outside of Washington State)
- Outside the United States
- Choose not to answer
- Do not know

How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

- 0-17
- 18-24
- 25-35
- 36-49
- 50-65
- 66 or older
- Choose not to answer
- Do not know

What events or conditions contributed to your experience of homelessness?

- Lost job
- Eviction
- Foreclosure
- Incarceration/detention
- Illness/medical problem
- Mental health issues
- Hospitalization/treatment
- Divorce/separation/breakup
- Could not afford rent increase
- Argument with family/friend/roommate

- Family domestic violence
- Family/friend's housing wouldn't let me stay
- Family/friend couldn't afford to let me stay
- Safety
- Resettlement transition
- Aging out of foster care
- Death of a parent/spouse/child
- Choose not to answer
- Do not know
- Other (write in)

If you were to seek out a shelter program, what top shelter features would be most important to you? Please select up to five.

- Ease of access/enrollment
- Close to where I stay now/ In my current community
- Enough space to keep my distance from others
- Clean facilities free of germs/illness
- Ability to store my belongings
- Ability to bring my pet/service animal
- Ability to bring my partner
- Ability to move in with a friend
- Minimal rules so I can do as I please

- Culturally specific services
- Meals provided daily
- A private room
- Ability to return if I don't stay there one night
- Support to find permanent housing
- Support for decreasing substance use
- Support for mental health conditions
- On-site health services such as a nurse
- Other (write in)_____

OUTRO: That completes the questions for today's survey. Thank you so much for your responses and your time. We will now issue the gift card and prepare your coupons to pass out to others in your network who are unsheltered.

Appendix II Coupon

KCRHA
King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Coupon – Unsheltered Point-in-Time Count

Bring this coupon to one of the locations below to complete a survey about your experience being unsheltered (including living in an RV or car/vehicle) and to receive a $20 Visa Gift Card. All Locations are accessible with free parking and bike racks unless marked otherwise. Language translation (including ASL) will be available. Pets and service animals welcome.

Seattle/Vashon

The Compass Day Center
210 Alaskan Way, Seattle WA 98104
Monday - Friday 1/22-1/26
10:30am to 2:30 pm (no free parking)

Georgetown Food Bank St. Vincent de Paul
5972 4th Ave S, Seattle WA 98108
Mon, Thurs, Fri 1/22-2/2
10am to 2pm

Seattle Veteran Center
305 Lucile St. #140, Seattle WA 98108
Monday – Friday 1/29-2/2
9:30am to 12pm

Aurora Commons
8914 Aurora Ave N, Seattle WA 98103
Monday-Thursday 1/22-2/2
10am to 2pm
*1/24 and 1/31 6pm-8pm
*(Female-Identifying only)

Vashon Island United Methodist Church
17928 Vashon Hwy SW
Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 1/22-1/26
10:30am to 3:30pm

Vashon Island Presbyterian Church
1708 Vashon Hwy SW
Wed 1/24 5pm to 6pm

Vashon Island Food Bank
10030 SW 210th St
Wed 1/24 10:30am-6:30pm

North King County

Ronald United Methodist Church
17839 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline WA 98133
Monday – Friday 1/22-2/2
3pm to 7pm (no accessible bathroom)

RV–199

South King County

Highline United Methodist Church
13015 1st Ave S
Burien WA 98168
Monday – Friday 1/22-1/26
10:30am to 2:30 pm

Maple Valley Foodbank
21415 Renton-Maple Valley Rd, Maple Valley WA 98038
Monday – Friday 1/22-2/2
10:30am to 1pm

Arcadia Young Adult Shelter – YMCA
932 Auburn Way S, Auburn WA 98002
Monday – Friday 1/22-2/2
11:30am to 5pm

CCS Federal Way Day Center
33505 13th Pl S STE D, Federal Way, WA 98003
Monday – Friday 1/22-2/2
10:30am to 2:30pm

East King County

Together Center
16305 NE 87th St STE 110, Redmond WA 98052
Monday - Friday 1/22-2/2
10am to 3:30pm

Bellevue Library
1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004
Monday – Friday 1/22-2/2
12pm to 5pm

Kirkland Library
308 Kirkland Ave, Kirkland WA 98033
Monday – Friday 1/29-2/2
12:30pm-5:30pm

Issaquah Community Hall
180 E Sunset Way, Issaquah WA 98027
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 1/22-2/2
10:30am to 3:30 pm

YMCA Snoqualmie Valley
35018 SE Ridge ST, Snoqualmie, WA 98065
Monday – Friday 1/22-2/2
9:30am to 3:30 pm
*9am-11am 1/23 and 1/25

Data will be used to report to Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For more information, visit kcrha.org/data-overview/king-county-point-in-time-count

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Appendix III Hub Selection Criteria

HUB SITE CHECKLIST
2024 Point-in-Time Count

Site name: _____

Use the checklist to determine if the site meets the necessary requirements.

☐ **Visited Location** *Notes:*
Physically inspect the site to assess its suitability.

☐ **Near a Bus Line** *Notes:*
Accessibility is crucial. Ensure that the location is easily reachable by public transportation, considering the needs of the homeless population.

☐ **Is there a safe or designated waiting area for service animals or pets.** *Notes:*

☐ **Capacity** *Notes:*
Determine if the site can comfortably accommodate at least 30 people at once. This is important for managing potential crowds.

☐ **Indoor Space to Conduct Interviews** *Notes:*
Have a suitable indoor space to conduct interviews, ensuring privacy and protection from weather conditions.

☐ **Safe Space to Conduct Private Interviews** *Notes:*

☐ **Is there a space or area for individuals to store their belongings while waiting to be interviewed?** *Notes:*

☐ **Well-Lighted Area** *Notes:*
Adequate lighting is essential for safety and visibility, especially during evening hours.

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☐ **Bathroom(s) available** *Notes:*
Access to clean and functional bathrooms is a necessity.

☐ **Wheelchair accessibility (ADA)** *Notes:*
Ensure the site is accessible for those using wheelchairs (ADA): Include bathroom, entrance/exit ramp, and waiting locations.

☐ **Waiting area and seating available.** *Notes:*
Is there an adequate sitting and waiting area.

☐ **WIFI**   *Notes:*
Access to the internet can be valuable for communication and resource searches.

☐ **Phone/ Device Charging Availability** *Notes:*
Provide a secure place for individuals to charge their phones.

☐ **Desk/ Table with Wall Outlets Nearby** *Notes:*
A designated area for interviews equipped with electricity for electronic devices.

☐ **Sharps Container Kits – Can be provided if not present** *Notes:*
Address the safe disposal of sharps to ensure the safety of both clients and staff.

☐ **Free Water Source** *Notes:*
Have a reliable source of clean water available.

☐ **Does the site allow refreshments for individuals waiting for interviews.** *Notes:*

☐ **Working Hours** *Notes:*
Consider the operating hours of the site to ensure alignment with the needs of those being surveyed and methodology.

☐ **Bike Solutions** *Notes:*

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Address the needs of individuals with bikes, including secure storage options and guidance on what to do with bikes during interviews. Solution Bike Lock (Liability) If providing bike storage, ensure a secure solution to minimize liability concerns.

☐ **Is there an area where signage can be placed and viewed easily to identify the HUB indoors and outdoors.** *Notes:*

☐ Other_____

☐ **Onsite Contact Person**:_____Phone:_____

☐ **SITE PASSED**

Site Assessor Name: _____

NOTES:

Appendix IV Hub Site Locations

Table 3: Hub Sites by Subregion

Subregion	Hub Site Name	Hub Site Type	Dates	Total Hours
King County	Family Phone Line	Over-the-phone	1/22 – 2/2	80 hours
North King County	Ronald United Methodist Church	Community Resource	1/22 – 2/2	40 hours
Seattle Metro	Aurora Commons	Service Provider	1/22 – 2/1	36 hours
	Compass Center Day Center	Service Provider	1/22 – 1/26	20 hours
	Georgetown Food Bank St. Vincent de Paul	Community Resource	1/22 – 2/2	24 hours
	Seattle Veteran Center	Service Provider	1/29 – 2/2	12.5 hours
Vashon Island[35]	Vashon Island	Community Resource	1/22 – 2/2	29 hours
East King County[36]	Bellevue Library	Community Resource	1/22 – 2/2	50 hours
	Issaquah Community Hall	Community Resource	1/22 – 2/2	50 hours
	Kirkland Library	Community Resource	1/29 – 2/2	25 hours
	Overlake Christian Church	Community Resource	1/29 – 2/2	40 hours
	Together Center	Service Provider	1/22 – 1/26	27.5 hours
Snoqualmie Valley[37]	YMCA Snoqualmie Valley	Community Resource	1/22 – 2/2	52 hours

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[35] Sites included food banks, churches, and direct outreach.

[36] Two new sites were added to expand reach: Together Center relocated to Overlake Christian Church.

[37] Two new sites were added to expand reach: North Bend Library opened concurrently with YMCA Snoqualmie Valley.

	North Bend Library	Community Resource	1/31 – 2/2	12 hours
South King County	**Federal Way Day Center**	Service Provider	1/22 – 2/2	40 hours
	Highline United Methodist Church	Community Resource	1/22 – 1/26	20 hours
South East King County	**Maple Valley Food Bank**	Community Resource	1/22 – 2/2	46 hours
	Arcadia Young Adult Shelter	Service Provider	1/22 – 2/2	55 hours

Appendix V Methodology and Data Collection FAQ

Methodology FAQ

Why use RDS over other methodologies?

This [methodology](#) is often used to reach "hard-to-reach" populations such as people living unsheltered, drug users, and people with HIV/ AIDS. It's been used across the world for various research and is adopted here in King County by University of Washington researchers to be applied to reach those living unsheltered in King County and account for our terrain, transportation, subpopulations, and local political climate to reach as representative sample as we possibly can.

How is RDS better than the traditional (street count) volunteer PIT Count?

The traditional unsheltered Point-In-Time Count relied on volunteers to spread out across the county on one night in January and count the number of people that they physically see living unsheltered, multiplied by a number that's meant to estimate the people they didn't see (such as people in abandoned buildings).

Because it relies on volunteers seeing unsheltered people during a few hours in the early morning in a neighborhood or area that may be unfamiliar to them and record that data on a paper tally sheet at a time when there may be heavy rain or cold, there are many ways for data to be missed.

Most people in the data science and homeless services sector agree that this traditional hand count results in an undercount, which may mask the full scale of the problem.

Where can I learn more about Respondent-Driven Sampling?

*The **References** section of this paper provides a list of resources with additional information and references for a deep dive into RDS.*

Where else has this methodology been used with hard-to-reach populations?

California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness 2023
https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/our-impact/studies/california-statewide-study-people-experiencing-homelessness

How is lived experience incorporated into the methodology?

People with lived experience (including some returning volunteers from 2022) helped develop the survey instrument, provided input on hub site locations decisions and assist with both seeding and survey collection. We will again seek their feedback when data collection is complete.

With the shift in methodology, how can the community establish a baseline census of people experiencing homelessness to ensure progress is being made?

The methodology has been used for the 2022 and 2024 PIT Counts. KCRHA is preparing for 2026 now with the same methodology, thus allowing for trend data to be calculated over those reporting periods.

Data Collection FAQ

A hub wasn't located in my city. How do I know if my community is included in the count?

*Hubs were carefully selected by the local community to be accessible for all who are in the area. The estimate for the region was generated from the people who came to the hub to complete the survey. See **Appendix III** for Hub Selection and https://kcrha.org/community-data/research-reports/ for how subregion boundaries were decided.*

You did not include unaccompanied children only/ youth under 18 in the unsheltered interviews. How are you accounting for this subgroup?

We are working on building an unaccompanied minor version of this survey and methodology for future years. A special data collection design must be created due to the nature of surveying minors to ensure proper protections and considerations are put in place. Currently, we estimate the accompanied youth directly from Homeless Management Information System sheltered data.

How is the data representing the RV and Cars collected, because I don't feel like they will be able to make it to the hubs to complete the survey.

Overall, we interviewed 270 people living in their vehicles, and the unsheltered dataset showed 25% of people living in their vehicles. We also seeded RVs early in the Seattle area and sought out hub locations that would have parking or were near transit centers. We seeded with the Seattle Utilities RV Wastewater Collection program and Kirkland Safe Parking program, as well as other outreach providers that serve not only those unsheltered populations living in RV and vehicles but all who are unsheltered.

Is this representative or just surveying those able to come to a hub?

Each hub would need to generate at least 30 individual surveys to be able to generate reliable networks. Hubs were selected to be sited within the communities and areas that people experiencing homelessness frequent. In the future, we will work to evaluate those hub locations to determine if they are in the best location. We will also improve the survey to capture the location where the respondent spent the previous night.

Those with high acuity needs would not be able to attend or sit through a survey. Will this report be accurate to account for those situations?

People did not need to finish the survey to help provide information that goes into the final count. Questions are optional, and the respondent did not need to finish the survey to receive compensation and network coupons to distribute.

Because it is anonymous, how are you going to deduplicate?

We used reports from survey takers, asked a set of limited questions geared towards finding duplicates, examined network information, and used statistical methods to remove duplicates.

How do you make sure people are actually outside experiencing homelessness if they are coming inside a hub?

As with all surveys, we are relying on self-reporting. This is one of the reasons we do not limit getting an incentive to just those who are sleeping unsheltered. Most people answer honestly, and our method can handle a certain amount of error in the answers.

How does the PIT Count impact King County's funding for homelessness response?

The PIT Count numbers are used as part of systemwide planning of the resources needed to address homelessness. This is part of understanding unsheltered homelessness in order to advocate for additional resources and appropriately allocate those resources to have the greatest impact. The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that King County conduct an unsheltered count every two years for the Continuum of Care funding it already receives and uses to address homelessness.

Why isn't the Unsheltered PIT Count completed each year?

Due to the impact on the community of providers, the extent of the body of work that is needed, and the advancement of other methodologies, a count every year doesn't lend itself to producing the results that are needed for policy makers or community planners. The KCRHA team is committed to understanding the unsheltered population and is currently working on reliable and cost-effective measurements that will aid in measurement between PIT Count years.