
The 2019 Everybody Counts Point-in-Time Count effort is one way that the City of Spokane strives to utilize data and knowledge for action, in order to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens throughout the region.
This presentation is designed to share data collected during the 2019 Everybody Counts campaign’s Point-in-Time Count. This data provides a snapshot that captures the circumstances and situations of people experiencing homelessness in our region.
TODAY’S DISCUSSION

- The Methodology
- The Data (In Brief)
- The Knowledge
- The Action
The count date was January 24th
This date aligns with the rest of the state
The count of unsheltered homeless lasted for seven days from January 24th, however the surveys reflected where people stayed on the night of the count
The count is focused on two main categories for persons experiencing homelessness:
- Sheltered during the night of the count (emergency shelter, transitional housing)
- Unsheltered, or out-of-doors during the night of the count
Everyone that is homeless

- Unknowable
- PIT Count
- Those you know exist
  - Coordinated Entry List
  - Those that consent
  - Those engaged
    - Those you have all paperwork done
    - Priority List
- By Name List
Last year, we trained nearly 100 volunteers and had participation from three-quarters of them on campaign activities, including the count and donation drive efforts. This year, we held nine trainings for 142 people. More than two-thirds of those trained helped with counting events, while others became engaged in other ways.

For the second year, we utilized an app developed by Simtech Solutions. The app was updated and improved based on feedback provided from last year. Data collected is combined with HMIS data to give us a fuller landscape.

We coordinated with 79 service agencies and all outreach teams, worked with County rural outreach centers, and expanded our known location list. This year, we counted in 211 locations (38 more places than 2018).

This year, we held four youth-focused events to meet youth and young adults in places they already go and incentivize their participation. These events were designed and led by youth service providers and young people.

From mid-November to January, the City held a donation drive for winter clothing and essential needs items to distribute to people experiencing homelessness during the Count. In total, 4,021 items were donated by community members and 1,956 items were purchased by the City to create “Care Bags”.

**Volunteer Support**
*Community Involvement*

**Mobile Data Collection**
*Technology*

**Expanded Outreach**
*Service Connections*

**Youth-Focused Count**
*Targeted Efforts*

**Donation Drive**
*Engaged Citizens*
Questions Revised

Questions were added this year to learn more about reasons for homelessness and to better align with questions being asked in the HMIS work flow.

Additional Locations

We added additional counting locations for critical services serving people experiencing homelessness, such as The Needle Exchange, meal sites, and clothing banks.

Veteran-Focused Event

For the first time, we held a Magnet Event to ensure effective counting veterans. This event partnered with veteran service agencies, offering targeted resources and services, as well as provided a hot meal to incentivize participation.

Homeless Connect

While we overlapped with the Homeless Connect last year, this year we finished the Count with the Connect (rather than starting with it). This allowed us to better count people living in certain unsheltered locations, such as vehicles, etc.
THE DATA

Understanding the landscape of homelessness throughout Spokane County: A Snapshot.
1,309 people
which make up
1,070 households
GENERAL INFORMATION

ALL PEOPLE
WHO WAS COUNTED
(All People)

1,309 PEOPLE

People in HH with Adults Only, 985, 75%
People in HH with Adults and Children (Families), 302, 23%
People in HH with Children Only, 22, 2%

Average Household Size

- Households with Adults and Children: 3.1
- Households with Adults Only: 1.2
- Households with Children Only: 0.5

1,309 PEOPLE

3.1
1.2
0.5

- Households with Adults and Children: 302, 23%
- Households with Adults Only: 985, 75%
- Households with Children Only: 22, 2%
SHELTER TYPE
(All People)

People in Households with Adults and Children (Families):
- Emergency Shelter, 154, 51%
- Transitional Housing, 129, 43%
- Unsheltered, 19, 6%

People in Households with Adults Only:
- Emergency Shelter, 613, 62%
- Transitional Housing, 77, 8%
- Unsheltered, 295, 30%

People in Households with Children Only:
- Emergency Shelter, 8, 36%
- Unsheltered, 1, 5%
- Transitional Housing, 13, 59%
### DEMOGRAPHICS

(All People)

#### GENDER
- Male, 789, 60%
- Female, 511, 39%
- Transgender, 6, 1%
- Gender Non-Conforming, 3, 0%

#### AGE
- 17 and Under, 192, 15%
- 18 to 24, 106, 8%
- 25 and Over, 1011, 77%
SPOKANE COUNTY

ALL PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

White, 89.30%
Black or African American, 9%
American Indian and Alaska Native, 8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 2%
Multi-Racial, 4%
Asian, 2.40%

White, 73%
Black or African American, 2%
American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.80%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.60%
Multi-Racial, 8%
Asian, <0.1%

SHELTER TYPE BY RACE
(All People)

- **White**
  - Emergency Shelter: 560
  - Black or African American:
    - Emergency Shelter: 236
  - American Indian and Alaska Native:
    - Emergency Shelter: 160
  - Asian:
    - Unsheltered: 3
  - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander:
    - Unsheltered: 20
  - Multi-Racial:
    - Unsheltered: 71

- **Emergency Shelter**
- **Transitional Housing**
- **Unsheltered**
ETHNICITY
(All People)

SPOKANE COUNTY

- Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino, 84%
- Hispanic/Latino, 6%

ALL PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino, 92%
- Hispanic/Latino, 8%
SHELTER TYPE BY ETHNICITY
(All People)

- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Unsheltered
85 Veterans were counted, representing a 11.5% decrease from 2018.

- Sheltered, 66, 78%
- Unsheltered, 19, 22%
- Veterans in Households with Adults and Children, 2, 2%
- Veterans in Households with Adults Only, 83, 98%
CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
231 chronically homeless were counted, representing a 6.5% decrease from 2018.

- Sheltered, 147, 64%
- Unsheltered, 84, 36%

1. Minor youth, under 18, identified as chronically homeless and was staying in an Emergency Shelter.

23. Veterans identified as chronically homeless, 13 stayed in Emergency Shelter and 10 were Unsheltered.

Households with Adults Only, 231, 97%
Households with Children, 7, 3%
FAMILIES
302 people in families with minor children were counted, representing an 8% decrease from 2018.

Families are considered chronically homeless, of those: 6 families were in Emergency Shelter and 1 family was Unsheltered.
White, 59%
Black or African American, 15%
American Indian and Alaska Native, 9%
Asian, <0.1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 8%
Multi-Racial, 9%
SPOKANE COUNTY

White, 89.30%
Black or African American, 2%
American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.80%
Asian, 2.40%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.60%
Multi-Racial, 4%

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

MINOR YOUTH
22 unaccompanied minor youth were counted

Twice as many minors were in transitional housing in 2019 as compared to 2018
RACE
(Minor Youth)

SPOKANE COUNTY

- White, 89.30%
- Black or African American, 2%
- American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.80%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.60%
- Multi-Racial, 4%
- Asian, 2.40%

MINOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- White, 86%
- Multi-Racial, 14%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0%
- Asian, <0.1%
- American Indian and Alaska Native, 0%
- Black or African American, 0%

YOUNG ADULTS
106 young adults (18 to 24 years old) were counted

- Emergency Shelter, 43, 41%
- Unsheltered, 37, 35%
- Transitional Housing, 26, 24%
- Households with Children, 26, 25%
- Households with Adults Only, 80, 75%
SPOKANE COUNTY

White, 89.30%
Black or African American, 2%
American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.80%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.60%
Multi-Racial, 4%

RACE (Young Adults)

White, 71%
Black or African American, 12%
American Indian and Alaska Native, 7%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 1%
Multi-Racial, 9%
Asian, <0.1%
Asian, 2.40%


YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
DEMOGRAPHICS
(Young Adults)

GENDER

- Male, 51, 48%
- Female, 52, 49%
- Transgender, 2, 2%
- Gender Non-Conforming, 1, 1%

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

- Households with Children and Adults, 18, 17%
- Households with Adults Only, 87, 83%
## DEMOGRAPHICS
(Young Adults)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Minor Youth (17 and under)</th>
<th>Young Adults (18 to 24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Minor Youth (17 and under) increased by 10% from 2018 to 2019.
- Young Adults (18 to 24) increased by 7% from 2018 to 2019.
218 adults, aged 55 and over, were counted.
AGE
(55+)

NUMBER OF PEOPLE

AGE

55  56  57  58  59  60  61  62  63  64  65  66  67  68  69  70  71  72  73  74  75  76  77  78  85

28  22  23  21  18  13  10  9  13  8  8  4  3  2  2  3  2  1  1  2  1  0  0  0
### DEMOGRAPHICS

**Gender**
- Male, 158, 72%
- Female, 60, 28%

**Veteran Status**
- Not a Veteran, 123, 56%
- Veteran, 50, 23%
- Don't Know, 5, 2%
- Missing Information, 36, 17%
- Client Refused, 4, 2%
White, 173, 79%

American Indian or Alaska Native, 17, 8%

Black or African American, 17, 8%

Multi-Racial, 11, 5%

Asian, 2.40%

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.60%

American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.80%

Multi-Racial, 4%

315 Unsheltered Individuals (1.6%↑)

- Street or Sidewalk, 141, 45%
- Outdoor Encampment, 34, 11%
- Under Bridge/Overpass, 31, 10%
- Bus, Train Station, Airport, 5, 1%
- Abandoned Building, 15, 5%
- Park, 9, 3%
- Vehicle, 79, 25%
- Other, 1, 0%

PRIMARY REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS
(Unsheltered Homeless)

- Aged out of Foster Care: 2
- Alcohol Use: 7
- CPS involvement: 10
- Discrimination: 3
- Don't Know: 4
- Drug Use: 13
- Evicted: 25
- Family Conflict: 25
- Family Rejection: 48
- Fleeing Domestic Violence: 14
- Illness: 6
- Juvenile Justice: 9
- Lack of Affordable Housing: 28
- Lack of Income: 38
- Lost Job: 28
- Mental Health: 13
- Moved: 5
- Other: 14
- Physical Disability: 4
- Refused: 17
- Substandard Housing: 2
OTHER REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS
(Unsheltered Homeless)

- Aged out of Foster Care: 5
- Alcohol Use: 28
- Choose to be Homeless: 27
- CPS Involvement: 16
- Discrimination: 16
- Don't Know: 46
- Drug Use: 24
- Evicted: 15
- Family Conflict: 13
- Family Rejection: 25
- Fleeing Domestic Violence: 94
- Jail / Prison: 73
- Juvenile Justice: 70
- Lack of Affordable Housing: 37
- Lack of Income: 19
- LGBTQ Status: 23
- Lost Job: 13
- Mental Health: 16
- Moved: 11
- Other: 33
- Physical Disability: 16
- Partner Substance Abuse: 11
- Refused: 10
- Substandard Housing: 20

TOP 10 REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS
(Homeless System)

- Alcohol Use: 28
- Drug Use: 63
- Evicted: 45
- Family Conflict: 77
- Fleeing Domestic Violence: 35
- Lack of Affordable Housing: 37
- Lack of Income: 74
- Lost Job: 28
- Mental Health: 25
- Other: 31
OTHER COMMUNITY QUESTIONS
LAST PERMANENTLY HOUSED BY STATE
(Unsheltered Homeless)

Washington - Spokane County: 184
Other Parts of Washington: 40
Idaho: 14
All Other States: 43
LAST PERMANENTLY HOUSED BY WA COUNTY
(Unsheltered Homeless)
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SURVEYED

NUMBER OF EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

Sheltered Unsheltered

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

102 92 45 41 31 22 16 12 7 5 2 3 3 3 4 0 1 3 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 2 0 2 1

Point-in-Time Count data provides snapshot estimates used to inform collaborative solutions. The following slides include early impressions of successes and challenges.
For the second year in a row, Spokane County has seen a reduction in chronically homeless (21% decrease from 2017 to 2019). Of those, fewer people are unsheltered and more are coming inside and utilizing the shelter system.

8% fewer families are experiencing homelessness than in 2018.

Despite a slight increase in youth homelessness in 2019, 100% more young people are in transitional housing than in the previous year. Transitional housing, while not a permanent housing solution, is a safe and stable place for young people to stay for up to 2 years.

Spokane County continues to see a decrease in Veteran homelessness (28% since 2017), as we employ new best practice methodologies to end Veteran homelessness.
Over the last decade, Spokane County has seen a 46% increase in homelessness among single adults. Nearly one-third of single adults experience unsheltered homelessness, compared to only 6% of families and 5% of youth.

30% of those surveyed were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Racial minorities (specifically Black or African American, American Indian and Alaskan Natives, and Multi-Racial) make up a disproportionate share of the homeless population when compared to U.S. Census Data for the County.

While Veteran homelessness has decreased in Spokane County, homelessness among female Veterans has increased. This mimics a national trend.
What is next given what we have learned this year.
Improved access and coordination:

- Revisiting and redesigning the Coordinated Entry System
- Moving to a Diversion-First Model
- Outreach as a tool to prevent homelessness

Training and support for the entire Continuum of Care on racial equity, bias, and sensitivity

Engaging people with lived homeless experience to enhance the system and ensure it meets needs and is accessible to those who utilize it

Offering more targeted services to meet individualized needs
POVERTY REDUCTION

The Homeless Crisis Response System is exiting more people into permanent housing each year over the last three years. The challenge is new people entering homelessness for the first time. Focused attention on poverty reduction and homelessness prevention is critical.
THANK YOU

For questions, please contact:
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For the complete presentation, please go to:
https://my.spokanecity.org/endinghomelessness/everybody-counts/