

*Report Prepared by  
Pierce County Community Connections  
July 15, 2011*



**Pierce County**

# Pierce County Homeless Survey 2011

Summary and Detail Data from the One Night  
Survey of Homeless Households with and with-  
out Children conducted on January 27-28, 2011

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According to those surveyed, in 2011, there are 2,068 homeless men, women, and children in Pierce County. Including 1,243 individuals in 367 households with 698 children under the age of 18. There were 746 households without children for a total of 823 individuals. Of the individuals, 214 are chronically homeless on the streets or in emergency shelter. 93 veterans were chronically homeless.

- Homelessness increased by 14.4% (+262) overall.
- There was a 10% increase in the number of households with children (+34) compared to 2010.
- There was a 12% increase in the number of persons in households with children (+133) compared to 2010.
- There were 14.9% more children in households with children (+101) compared to 2010.
- A 24% increase in single population (+145).
- A 45% increase in chronic population (+72).
- The chronically homeless population represents 11% (does not include transitional housing) of all individuals that are homeless included in the homeless survey.
- There was a 65% (+60) increase in chronically homeless veterans on streets or in shelters compared to 2010, making up 40% of the chronically homeless on the streets or in emergency shelter.
- 6% of unsheltered and sheltered population report Alcohol and Substance abuse as issues.
- 7% of individuals that are homeless report mental health as an issue.
- Of the single persons living in shelters or on the streets, 33.7% are chronically homeless
- 1,115 total households are represented
- Households with children represent 70% of those in transitional housing programs, households without children represent 98% of those on the streets.
- There was one unaccompanied youth not sheltered.

<b>2011 Homeless Survey Data</b>							
	<b>Not Housed</b>		<b>Emergency Shelter</b>		<b>Transitional Housing</b>		<b>Total Count</b>
	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	
<b>Total Persons*</b>	222	10.69	510	24.45	1336	64.86	2068
Total Households with Children	4	1.08	37	10.08	326	88.82	367
Total People in Households with Children	13	1.04	118	9.49	1112	89.46	1243
Total Households without Children	191	25.60	369	49.46	186	24.93	746
Total People in Household without Children	208	25.27	392	47.63	224	27.09	824
<b>Children</b>							
Age 0-5	1	.28	30	8.52	321	91.19	352
Age 6-12	4	1.42	23	8.18	254	90.39	281
Age 13-18	4	2.75	18	12.41	123	84.82	145
<b>Singles</b>							
Male	150	29.58	287	58.21	70	14.19	507
Female	39	22.41	68	39.76	67	39.18	174
Gender Not Provided	7	87.5	0	0	1	13.5	8
<b>Special Needs - Individuals</b>							
Substance Abuse	54	41.86	29	22.48	46	35.65	129
Physical Disability	83	60.5	34	24.81	20	14.59	137
Mental Health	92	61.74	26	17.44	31	20.80	149
Domestic Violence	22	6.26	70	19.94	259	73.78	351
AIDS/HIV	1	25.0	1	25.0	2	50.0	4
Felony Convictions*	32	55.17	12	20.68	14	24.13	58
Veterans	1	2.27	31	70.45	12	27.27	44
<b>* Chronic Homeless</b>							
Males	102	59.3	70	40.69			172
Females	41	67.21	17	27.86			61
Gender Not Provided	2	100	0	0			2
<b>Veterans</b>							
Males	31	35.22	57	64.77			88
Females	1	20.0	4	80.00			5
Gender Not Provided	0	0	0				0
<b>* Unaccompanied Youth</b>							
Males	1	100	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gender Not Provided	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The 2011 Homeless Survey was conducted over a twenty-four hour period on January 27th and 28th, 2011. Individual information was collected for households, including month, day and year of birth, gender, race, and age. This data included whether or not anyone in the household was a veteran; how long the household had been homeless; the number of homeless episodes in the past year, and past three years; the cause of their homelessness; location of where they stayed the night of January 27th; and the sources of household income.

The template for the survey changed from prior years. Substantially more information on individual household members was collected. This year we required that individuals provide signatures for release of personal information.

Emergency shelters, transitional housing providers were asked to complete and maintain bed lists on the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Surveys from shelters and transitional housing providers were submitted if a release of information was not granted, the provider was not participating in HMIS, or if the provider served households affected by domestic violence.

The street census was conducted county-wide including Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula, Puyallup, East Pierce County, as well as urban areas including Tacoma, Lakewood, and Fife. Volunteers were mobilized and sites were set up in Key Peninsula, Puyallup, and Tacoma to provide items including coats, gloves, and toiletries. Food banks and hot meal sites also participated in the process.

Approximately 100 volunteers participated in this year's Homeless Survey. Volunteers represented the Tacoma/Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, Puyallup Homeless Coalition, Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Homeless Coalition, provider groups, private citizens, college and high school students, persons that are homeless, and former volunteers. Four safety and sensitivity trainings were conducted for the volunteers.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Definition of Homelessness:

The term "homeless" or "homeless individual or homeless person" includes:

1. an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is -
  - A. a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
  - B. an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
  - C. a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

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On May 20, 2009, President Obama signed the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH Act) of 2009. The HEARTH Act amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act with substantial changes including a change in HUD's definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness.

**Purpose of Data Collection**

The goal of the 2011 Homeless Survey required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Washington State Department of Commerce, was to identify and strengthen the planning process to meet the housing and supportive service needs of the homeless and at-risk households. There were households who were not engaged and did not participate.

The survey provides a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons from a recent annual survey. Surveys are based on:

Number of persons in households without children;

Number of persons in households with at least one adult and one child; and

Number of persons in households with only children. This includes only persons age 17 or under, including unaccompanied children, adolescent parents and their children, adolescent siblings, or other household configurations comprised of children.

Counts are further broken down into subpopulation categories including counts of persons who are chronically homeless, persons with severe mental illness, chronic substance abusers, veterans, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence and unaccompanied children.

1,425 surveys were entered. Of the 2,068 individuals who were identified as homeless, 1,113 heads of household filled out the survey, representing the total counted.

The data represents homeless households identified during the survey period. The data is only a snapshot of homelessness. It is important to keep in mind that the total number of individuals that are homeless fluctuates and the characteristics of homeless households may change month to month.

Most of the data was obtained from existing shelters and programs. It is likely there were individuals not located because they were living in the outlying areas of the county.

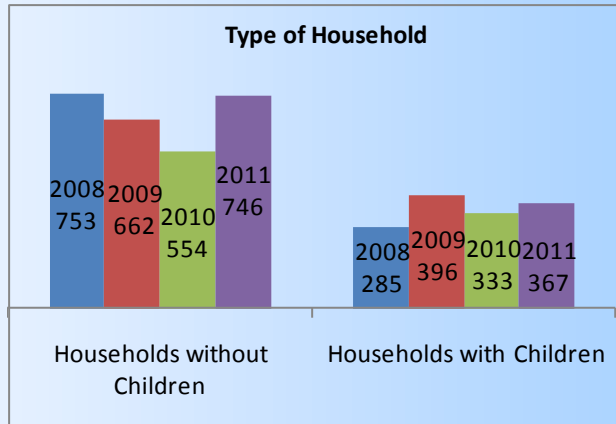
**Survey Response Rates**

Response Rates for Duration of Homelessness			
	Records	Responses	Response Rate
All Records	1,425	1,010	70.9%
All Homeless	1,113	757	67.9%
All Homeless Singles	691	459	66.4%

The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness and Pierce County Community Connections conducted a 24-hour survey in January 2011. 2,086 individuals met the HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) definition of homelessness.

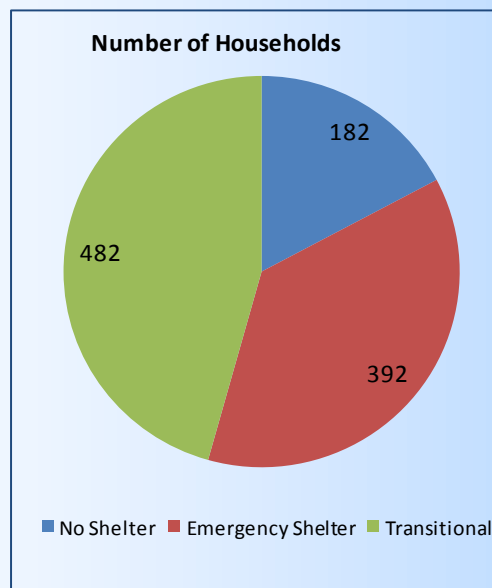
	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
<b>Total Persons</b>	222	10.69	510	24.45	1336	64.86	2,068

The 2011 survey shows a 12.6 % increase over the 2010 count. The emergency and transitional housing data reflects occupancy during the 24-hour period of the survey that is close to the known numbers of available beds and family units. In 2010, there were 284 families living in transitional housing, accounting for 942 individuals. The number of families living in transitional housing in 2011 was 326 , accounting for 1,112 individuals. The number of families in transitional housing in 2011 increased 18.05 % over 2010. The increase was due to an increase of units available to families and improved reporting through the Homeless Management Information System.



The number of individuals identified in transitional housing increased by 9.4%. 138 individuals were in emergency shelter in 2011 during the night of the survey versus 125 in 2010.

223 individuals in 182 households indicated they had no housing and were on the streets, 510 individuals in 392 households resided in emergency shelters, and 1,335 individuals in 482 households indicated they resided in transitional housing.



**Total Homeless**

# Households without Children

The total number of single individuals without children counted was 824. The majority were residing in emergency housing when the count was conducted (392 or 46.61 %). 208 individuals were not housed and 224 were identified as residing in transitional housing.

Of the 824 individuals identified as single without children, there were 689 single households and 57 households with 2 or more adult individuals (135 individuals)

There are fewer emergency, transitional, and permanent housing options for homeless individuals than for families in Pierce County. For singles with mental illness or an active drug or alcohol addiction, those options are further reduced.

No new units of housing for individuals have been developed in the last two years. Homeless housing units previously not included in past surveys have been included for 2011.

	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
<b>Total Singles</b>	208	24.73	392	46.61	224	27.1	824

There are few options for individuals over age 50 or for those that are more vulnerable. The population of single individuals aged 50 - 59 totals 189 . The population of single individuals age 60– 69 totals 40. There were 4 individuals identified as age 70 and above in emergency shelter and unsheltered. 23% (10) of individuals 60 and above were veterans. 16% of individuals 60 and above were homeless due to medical issues. 25% of individuals 60 and above were homeless due to job loss.

Individuals 60 +							
	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
<b>Total Seniors</b>	10	22.7	32	72.7	2	4.5	44

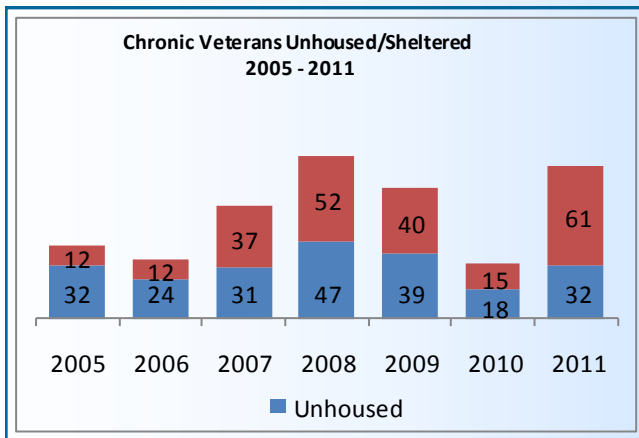
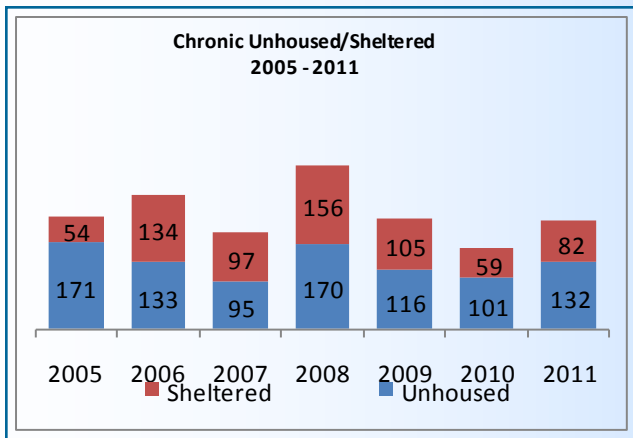
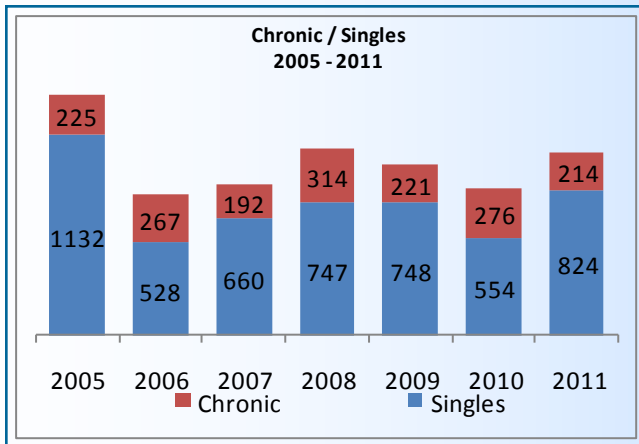
Where People Were Found		
Location	Last Lived	Stayed 1/27
American Lake	0	1
Bonney Lake	6	4
Buckley	6	0
Dupont	2	0
Eatonville	5	3
Edgewood	0	1
Fife	14	6
Firecrest	12	4
Ft. Lewis	2	0
Gig Harbor	15	9
Graham	15	5
Kapowsin	3	0
Lakebay	5	8
Lakewood	178	127
Longbranch	1	0
Midland	1	0
Milton	7	13
Orting	3	0
Parkland	3	59
Puyallup	221	220
South Prairie	8	1
Spanaway	54	8
Steilacoom	1	0
Sumner	27	14
Tacoma	949	1548
Tillicum	1	1
University Place	55	15
Vaughn	0	3
WA - Outside Pierce County	221	2
Other State	110	1
Unknown	161	33

# Homeless Seniors

Chronically homeless is defined as an individual with a disability who has been homeless for more than one year or 4 times or more in the past 3 years. In 2008, options for the chronically homeless increased with targeted effort by the Continuum of Care, Homeless Housing Assistance funds and the City of Tacoma’s encampment initiative to provide client directed housing to the chronically homeless. However, there are no new units due to open in the next year or so for permanent supportive housing. Units for this population are in development and may not be available for the next 2 to 3 years.

The number of individuals identified as being chronically homeless and not housed or living in emergency shelters has decreased from 276 in 2010, to 214 in 2011, a 22 % decrease. Chronically homeless veterans saw an increase of 60 (93) compared to 2010 (33).

**Chronically Homeless Population**



Total Chronic Homeless	214
Total Unsheltered Individuals	208
Total Unsheltered & Chronic	132
<b>Average Age—All Records</b>	
Male	44.5
Female	33.8
<b>Chronic Average Age</b>	
Male	48.2
Female	41.3
<b>Non-Chronic Average Age</b>	
Male	43.1
Female	33.0
<b>Average Age—Unsheltered</b>	
Male	46.9
Female	37.8
<b>Chronic Average Age</b>	
Male	47.9
Female	38.2
<b>Unsheltered Chronic Sub-Population</b>	
Mentally Disabled	68
Drug/Alcohol Problems	39
Drug/Alcohol & Mental Health Problems	32
Domestic Violence Victims	9
Senior Citizens (age 65+)	1
Veterans	32
HIV/AIDS	1
Felony Conviction	24

# Households with Children

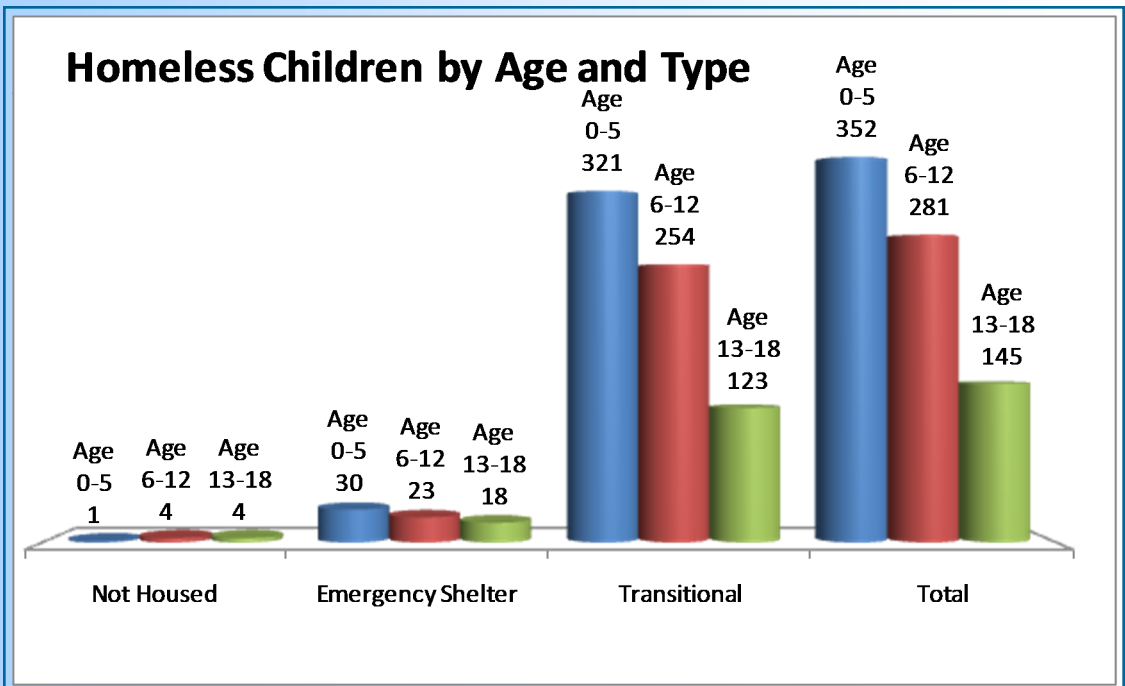
	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Total Families with Children	4	1.09	37	10.08	326	88.83	367
Total People in Families	13	1.05	118	9.49	1,112	89.46	1,243

367 families, totaling 1,243 individuals, are represented in the survey. 88.83 percent (326) of families resided in transitional housing. 10 percent (37) were identified in emergency shelters. About 1.1% (4) of families were identified as being without shelter (in automobiles, camps, under bridges, on the streets, etc.)

Children, age 0 – 18, living with their parent(s), accounted for 37% (778) of the total count, an increase of 14% from 2010. One person was identified as unaccompanied, under the age of 18, and on the street at the time of the survey.

With emphasis placed on the needs of chronically homeless individuals, data has been pulled to show that families can also be chronically homeless. Five families with 18 individuals, regardless of disability, have identified as homeless for more than one year and as being homeless multiple times. In this instance, the need to address issues of chronic homelessness is also compounded with the need to address family issues.

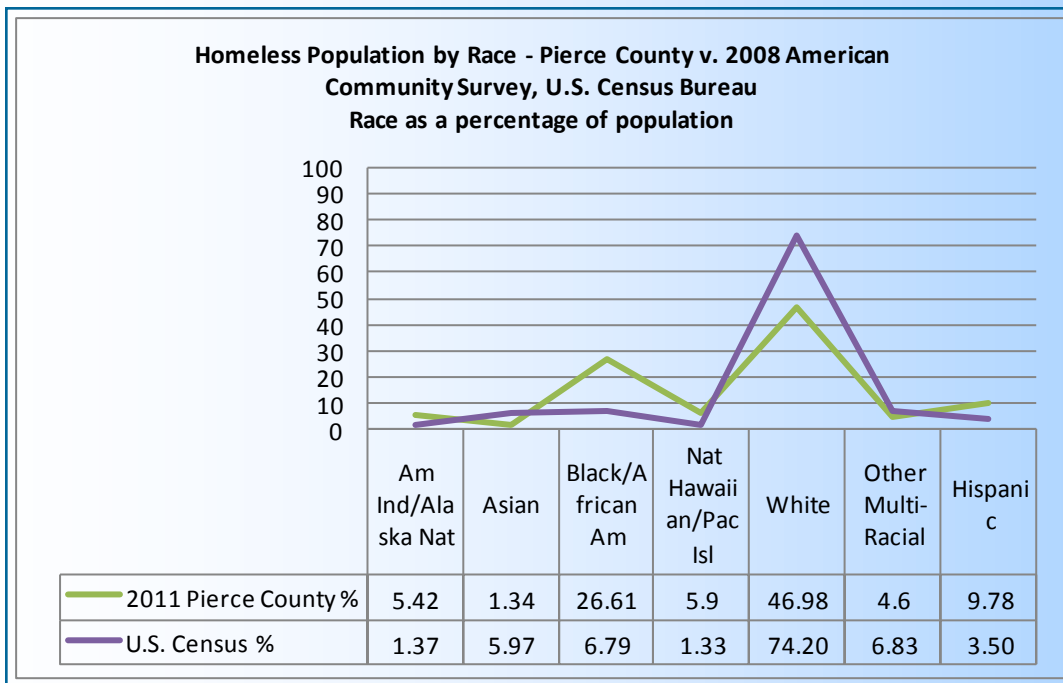
76.5% (281) of families are led by a single head of household. 70% (258) are female head of households. The average age of the female head of household is 35.73 years. Male head of household represents 6.2% (23) of total homeless families and their average age is 40.5. Average family size is 3.24% (88) of families were headed by two parents with an average age of 40, and average family size of 4.



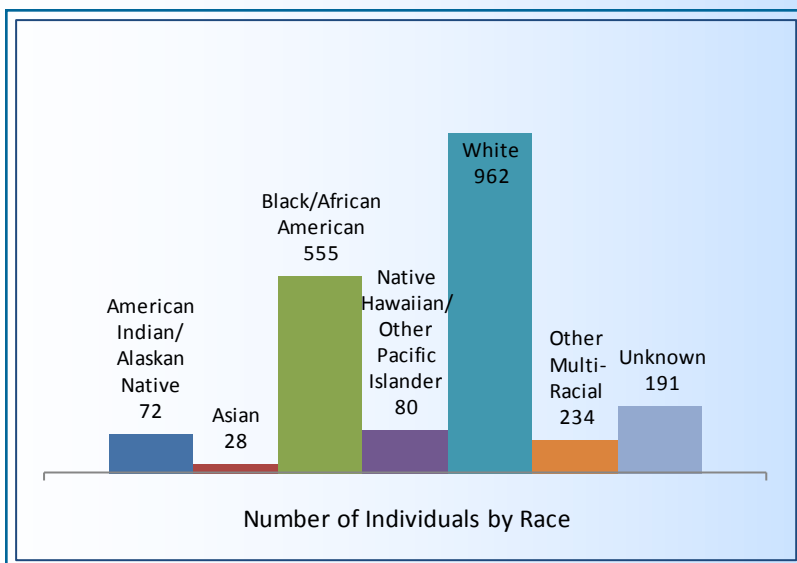
Among the population for all who identified as living in homelessness, 46.98 % are white as compared to 74.2 % of Pierce County’s overall population. Also underrepresented are the Asians who account for 1.34 % of the homeless population as compared to 5.97 % of the overall population.

The following groups are overrepresented in the homeless population: African Americans, 26.61 % as compared to 6.79 % of the overall population; American Indian or Alaskan Native, 5.42 % as compared to 1.37 % of the overall population; and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 5.9 % as compared to 1.3 % of the overall population.

204 or 9.78 % identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin as compared to 8.2% of the total county data from 2007 American Community survey U.S. Census Bureau.



**Race**



**Ethnicity**

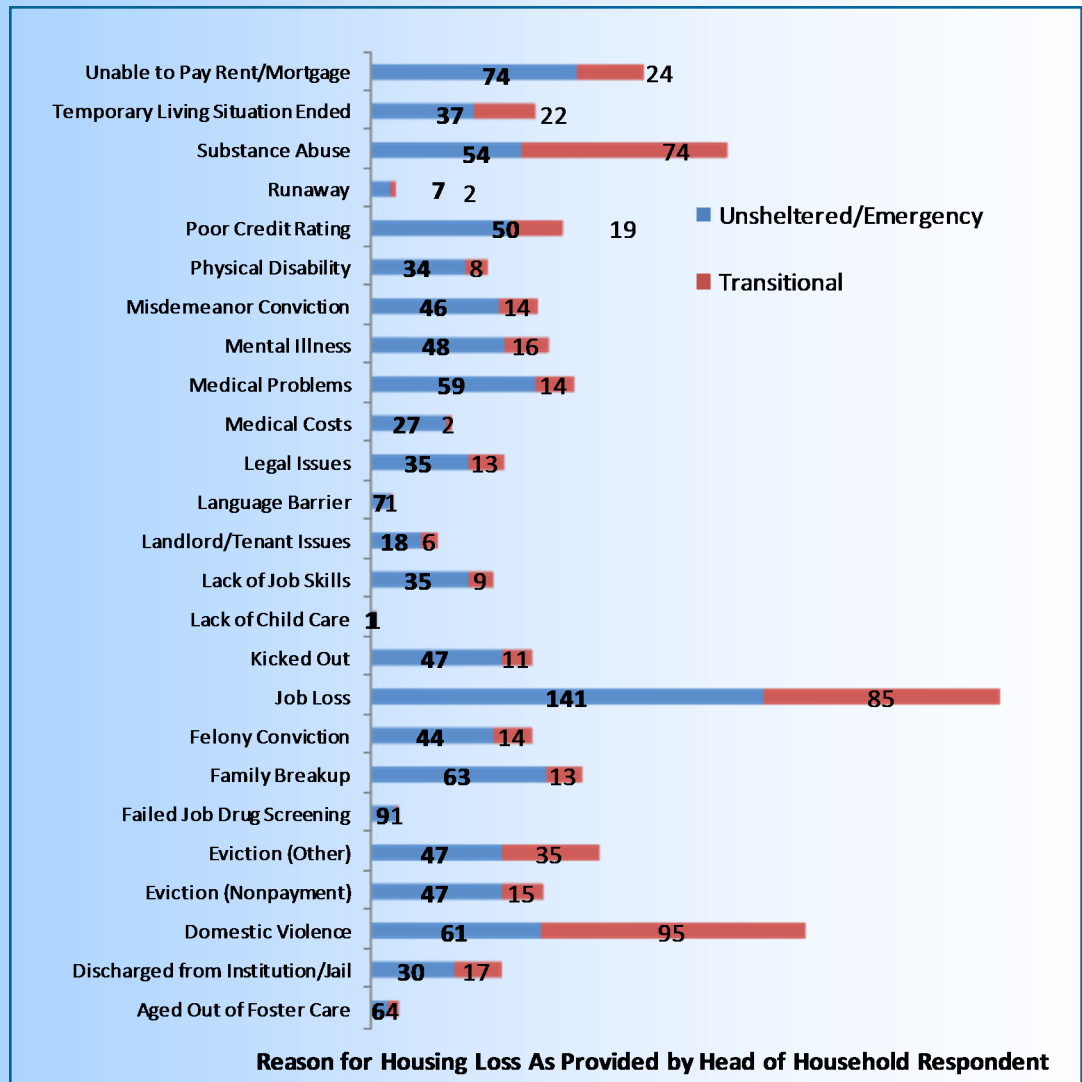
9.78 % of the homeless population identified as Hispanic/Latino of any race. 204 individuals were of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Special Needs

Households were asked to identify from a list of issues what may have been a contributing factor in their current circumstances. The following charts show the reasons for homelessness. The cause of homelessness may have happened as an isolated incidence or as in many cases a combination of reasons.

One of the major barriers faced by families and individuals exiting emergency shelters and transitional housing is an insufficiency of available permanent housing that is affordable for low and very low-income households.

Improving household stability, including gaining full-time employment, does not guarantee that household income will meet the demand of today’s housing market. Section 8 rental subsidy program changes and reductions further impact these households’ ability to obtain and retain housing.



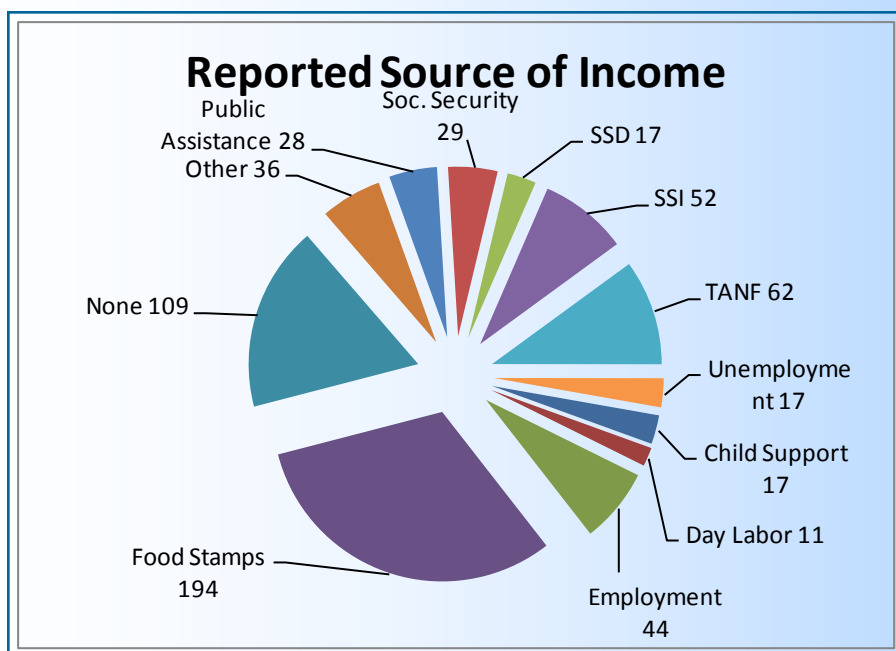
4.9% (55 ) head of households reported some type of employment, 9.8 % (109) had no income and 40.5% (452) relied on public assistance or benefit.

- Income source was not reported by 44.7% (498) respondents
- "Benefit" includes Unemployment Insurance, Public Assistance, Relatives or Friends; Workman's Compensation or Social Security

*Head of households reported that they lost their housing due to unemployment or lack of income.*

- 98 head of households were unable to pay rent/ mortgage
- 226 head of households lost their job

**Employment & Income**



## Barriers to Obtaining / Sustaining Housing

In addition to economic barriers facing a household's ability to stay housed, there is a list of disabilities and characteristics that are attributed to becoming or being homeless.

Head of households voluntarily reported that:

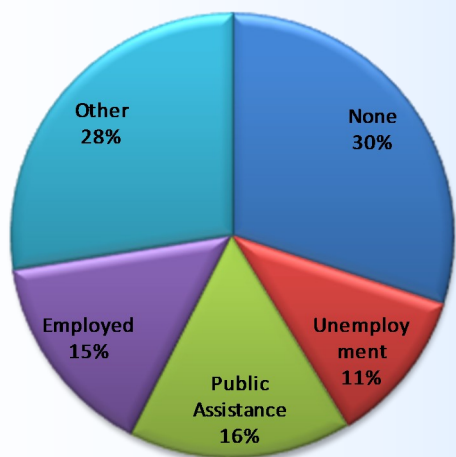
- 128 were affected by drugs and alcohol, including 54 unsheltered or in emergency shelter and 74 in transitional shelter
- 70 had a mental illness
- 39 had a physical disability
- 3 are affected with AIDS/HIV
- 156 reported they were victims of domestic violence
- 102 individuals have medical problems or costs associated with mental/physical disabilities or health crisis.

Outside of economic and barriers due to disabilities, individuals identified other issues that affect their ability to secure safe and affordable housing:

- 58 individuals had a felony conviction
- 168 individuals had poor tenancy or eviction history.

	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Male	32	23.35	88	64.2	12	8.8	132
Female	1	1.0	4	2.9	0	0	5

**Veterans- Source of Income**

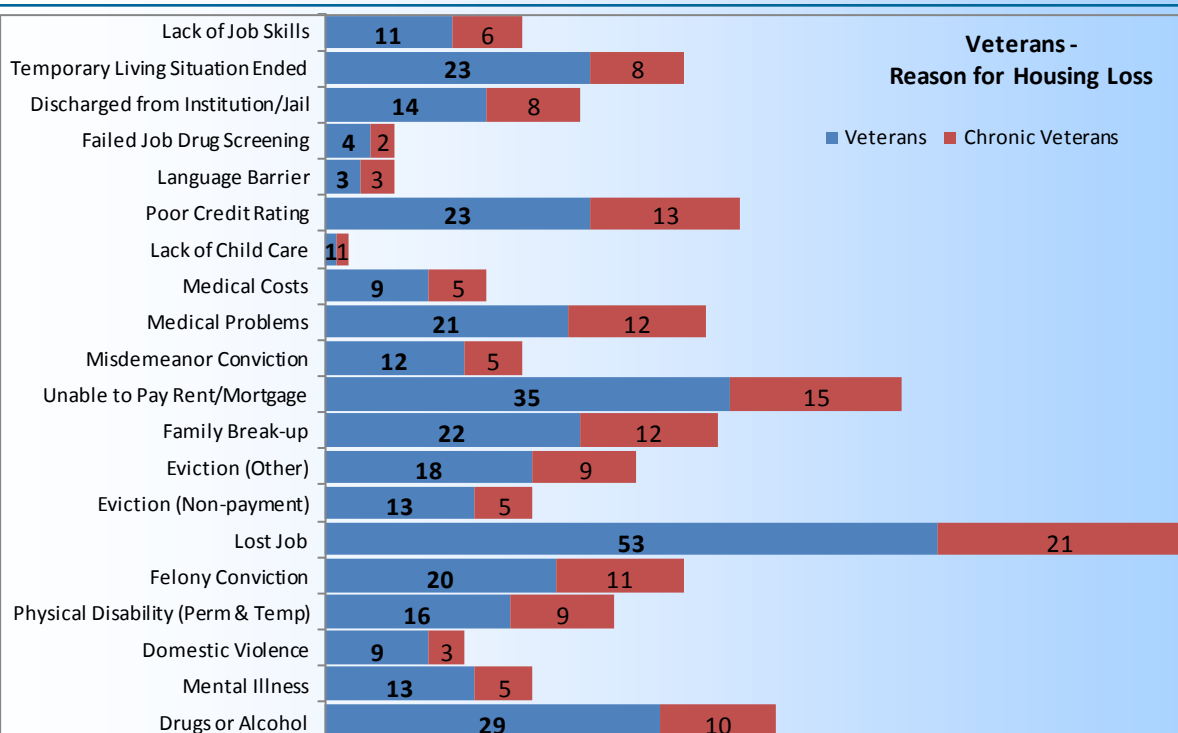


Nationally, approximately 23% of homeless men are veterans.

- Of those the adults surveyed, 137 individuals have identified as being a veteran (10.6%).
- Of those adults surveyed, 125 were identified as chronically homeless on the streets, and in emergency shelters, and 12 were in transitional housing.
- Chronically Homeless Veterans make up 40 % of the chronically homeless population that was surveyed.

The Forgotten Americans—  
Homelessness Programs and the  
People They Serve, US Interagency  
Council on Homelessness, December  
1999

**Homeless Veterans**



# Unaccompanied Youth Report

The majority of unaccompanied youth (youth who are not living with a parent or guardian) do not meet HUD’s definition of homelessness. In Pierce County, most unaccompanied youth are living with family or friends. According to HUD’s definition of homelessness, couch surfing or being doubled up does not constitute homelessness. Although, under the implementation of the HEARTH ACT, households that are couch surfing or doubled up will be defined as at-risk of homelessness. Also, due to issues of legal liability, shelters and transitional housing programs that are not licensed foster care facilities do not accept individuals under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

The following data was collected from Clover Park, Puyallup, Sumner, and Tacoma school districts. This data is not included in the survey numbers. Clover Park, Puyallup, Sumner, and Tacoma school districts reported 148 unaccompanied youth between the ages of 10 and 20. 11 unaccompanied youth were identified to be unsheltered, living in their vehicle, or other places not meant for human habitation. School districts reported approximately 580 youth aged 5-17 were living with friends or family.

Outside of the school district reports 72 households, aged 16 –22 were identified through the street and shelter surveys. 1 youth under the age of 18 was unaccompanied and unsheltered. 26 of the households were identified as homeless and were living on the streets or in shelters. 7 single individuals were unsheltered. 19 individuals were in emergency shelter, and 29 individuals were living in transitional housing. Of the single young adults living in transitional housing, 27 were housed through Pierce County Alliance: Independent Youth Housing and Transitional Living Programs and with Youth Resources.

In addition to the single households, there were 20 family households that included one or more infants and were headed by single females between the ages of 18–22. 18 of these family households were living in transitional housing and 2 of these were in emergency shelter.

***The Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP) is a pilot program (funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce through June 30, 2011) that provides rental assistance and case management to eligible youth aging out of the state foster care system.***

***These funds are intended to assist in meeting the state goal of ensuring that all such youth avoid experiencing homelessness by having access to decent, appropriate, and affordable homes in a healthy, safe environment.***

***Youth Resources offers emergency and transitional housing up to 24 months. To be eligible, youth must be homeless, between the ages of 18 and 21, alcohol and drug free, and a student of the Bethel School District.***

AIDS Housing Association
Alesek Institute
Allen Renaissance
Associated Ministries
Catholic Community Services
City of Lakewood
City of Tacoma
Comprehensive Mental Health
Exodus Housing
Fair Housing Center of WA.
FUSION Foundation
Good Samaritan Behavioral Health
Greater Lakes Mental Health
Guadalupe House
Helping Hand House
Korean Women's Association
Lakewood Area Shelter Association
Low Income Housing Institute
Metropolitan Development Council
Multi-Service Center
Network Tacoma
New Phoebe House Association
Pierce County Affordable Housing Association
Pierce County AIDS Foundation
Pierce County Alliance
Pierce County Housing Authority
Pierce County Veterans Bureau
Pierce County Community Connections
Pioneer Human Services
Salvation Army
Share and Care House
Shared Housing
South Sound Outreach Services
Step by Step Family Support Center
TACID
Tacoma Housing Authority
Rescue Mission
UW Parent Child Assistance
Veterans Administration
VIEW
WA Dept. Social & Health Services
WWEE
Youth Resources
YWCA Pierce County

Within Pierce County there are 44 non-profit community based agencies providing housing opportunities and services to homeless individuals and families. Services are targeted to certain geographic areas or are spread county-wide. Some agencies focus on families and others on sub-populations with special needs such as domestic violence victims and those living with AIDS/HIV.

Services cover the areas of prevention, outreach, housing, and housing support services. Activities could include:

- Alcohol and drug services
- Case management
- Mental health services
- Childcare
- Education
- Employment
- Health services
- Housing/Rapid Rehousing
- Prevention
- HIV/AIDS services
- Information and referral services
- Legal services
- Life skills
- Outreach
- Transportation

## Pierce County Housing Opportunities and Services

**Pierce County Shelter Inventory**

Each year, Pierce County Community Connections surveys known housing providers to confirm the number of beds and units available to the community. The actual number of beds and units may be more than the amount shown due to unknown, smaller providers of housing, seasonal beds and overflow beds.

	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Permanent Housing	
	Beds	Units	Beds	Units	Beds	Units
Families With Children	170	67	1250	451	82	26
Individuals	239		222		424	
TOTAL Beds	409		1472		506	
118 permanent beds are specifically for individuals who are chronically homeless.						

The homeless survey is a snapshot. It is not and never has been an actual representation of the real number of homeless in the community. At best, it can be considered today's estimate of a continually moving target. Those identified as chronic, singles, families and total homeless have all fluctuated due in part to the changing methodology over the years and due to the number of homeless. Ten surveys have been conducted since 1996 and have provided different sets of numbers.

Since the beginning of the homeless one-night survey process, we have averaged:

1,887 total homeless with a low of 1,138 (2003) and a high of 2,083 (2009)

259 unsheltered on the street with a low of 233 (2011) and a high of 724 (2005)

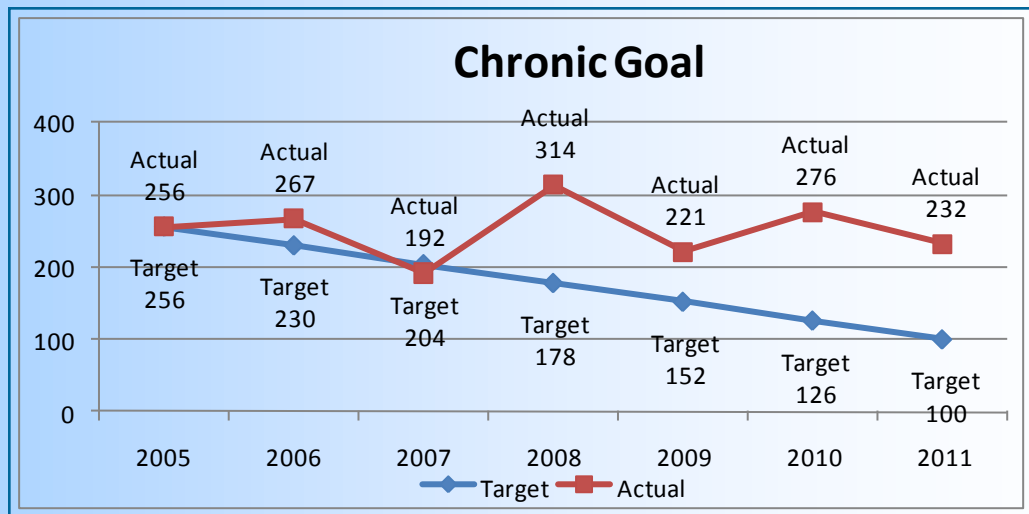
490 in emergency shelters with a low of 421 (2003) and a high of 524 (2005).

Based on the above survey numbers, this year's results show an above average number of homeless and a below average number on the streets and shelters. The current challenges include ending chronic homelessness within the next four years as identified in The Road Home (Ending Chronic Homelessness Plan) and reducing the overall homeless population by 50% as identified in State Law 2163 in the next five years. As of this date our community is falling behind in meeting the goals for both areas as shown in the following charts.

**Chronic Goal**

“The Road Home: Ending Chronic Homelessness—A Ten Year Plan for Pierce County” was inspired by a request from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Interagency Council on Homelessness for communities across the nation to focus on the issue of chronic homelessness. The request came at a time when the Pierce County community was dealing with the consequences of chronic homelessness on the streets of its largest metropolitan area and review of a Homeless Survey indicated tremendous gaps in housing and services.

The goal of the Road Home is to eliminate chronic homelessness. This goal has since been added as one of the objectives of the Pierce County 10 Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness as a response to Washington State SHB 2163 to reduce homelessness by July 2015 by 50%. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development continues to prioritize chronic homelessness. The federal definition of chronic homelessness has been changed to include households with children that has an adult that fits the original definition.



The target numbers represent the annual decrease in the number of chronically homeless individuals who are on the streets and in emergency shelters. The actual numbers fluctuate greatly with no known reasoning. Some explanation for past growth include a population aging in place, not being housed, and more reaching the threshold for identification as chronic.

*While on average the number of chronically homeless has not changed, since 2005, the number of beds available for chronic homeless has increased by 80 for a total of 118 beds.*

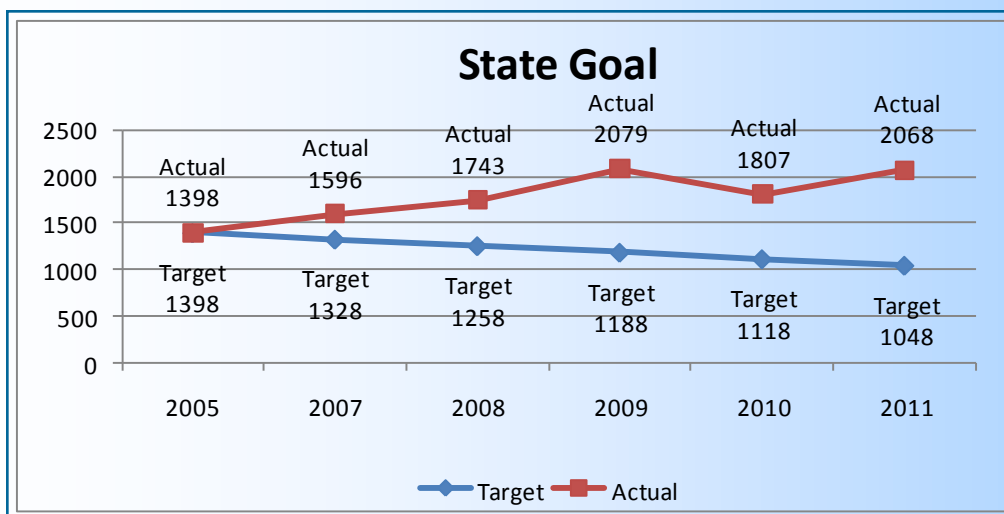
*Most of these beds were created in partnership between the city of Tacoma, Pierce County, Multicare, and Franciscan Foundation to address the encampments in Tacoma.*

*Currently there are 18 beds in production with an unknown availability date.*

In 2005, the state of Washington passed legislation requiring the reduction of individuals experiencing homelessness by 50% by July 2015. Pierce County responded by creating a companion piece to the previously published “The Road Home: Ending Chronic Homelessness—A Ten Year Plan for Pierce County.” The draft was the county’s plan to address the legislation known as the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act. The Pierce County Homeless Housing Plan has been updated in 2008.

The target numbers represent the annual decrease of individuals that are homeless. The actual numbers represent the individuals surveyed on the streets, in emergency shelters, and in transitional housing. The number of available emergency beds remains the same and is a known commodity. However, the number of transitional housing units continues to fluctuate as new beds/units come online, previously unknown organizations with housing are included in the survey data and the state of the economy has forced some state funded programs to close or reduce the number of beds due to funding cuts.

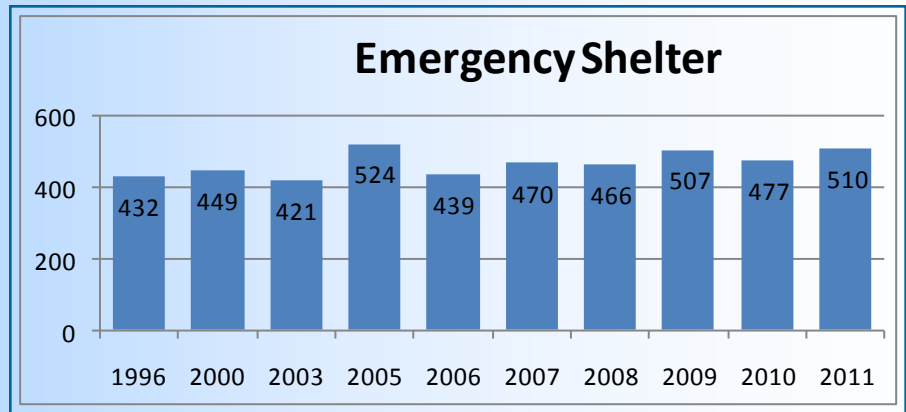
While we see an increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness, the increase is likely to be in transitional housing. Although these households are housed up to 24 months, they are still considered homeless yet housed.



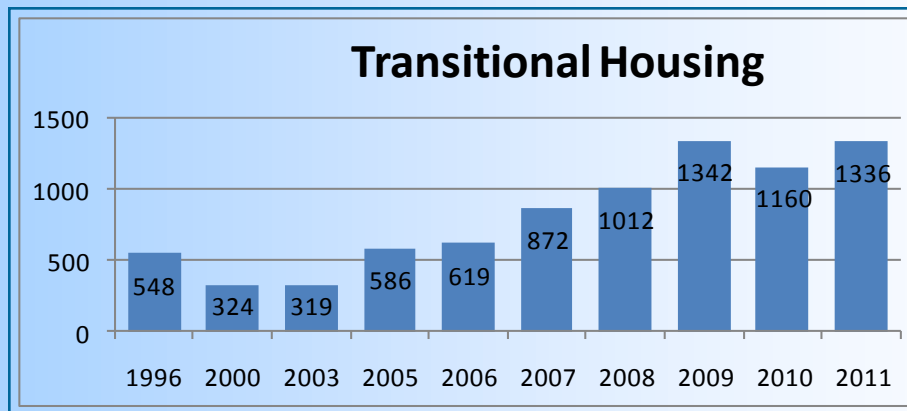
**State Goal**

**Housing Trends - 1996 to 2011**

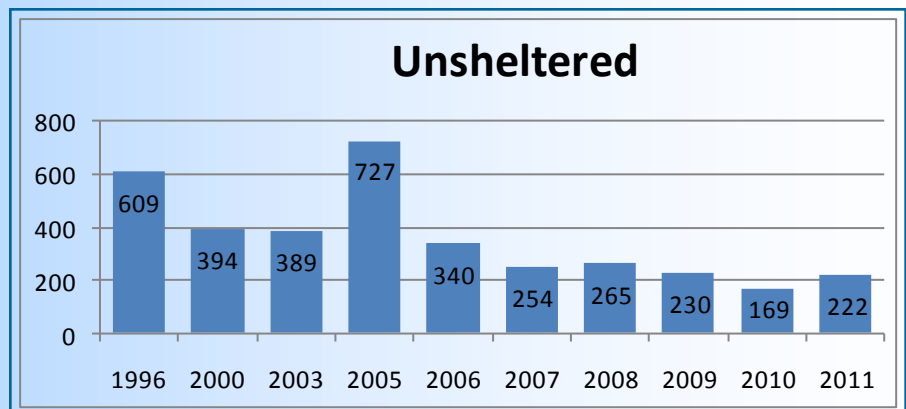
The number of available emergency shelter beds has not increased in the past 10 years. The slight increases we see can be due to the overflow or seasonal capacity of the shelters during periods of cold weather.



While the number is increasing, it may be a reflection of how community resources have been targeted over the past decade, when families were identified as Pierce County's largest and fastest growing subset.



The number has decreased since its high of 727 in 2005. This could be due to the fact that individuals are finding housing in permanent housing units or units for chronically homeless. The population on the streets are highly mobile and some may have left the area.



There is a countywide need of 30,000 units of affordable housing. Affordable housing units with appropriate supportive services for those with disabilities are crucial to any effort to end homelessness. At our current rate of production (approximately 100 new units per year on the average). It will take us 170 years to reach the goal. We currently have 18,394 publicly funded beds/units available for all populations as described below.

- 409 Emergency Shelter Beds for homeless individuals and families
- 450 Units of permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and families
- 673 Transitional Housing Units with Services for homeless individuals and families
- 10,762 units of low income housing serving all populations (non-homeless)
- 6,100 Housing Choice Voucher's (Section 8)

2010 - 2011 Units Coming On Line	Planned	Developed	Online	Total
Chronic		18		18
Singles	35			35
Family Emergency				
Family Transitional	50	2		50
Family Permanent				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>103</b>

2010 - 2011 Housing Unit Projection						
Program Name	Chronic	Single Home	Family	Transitional	Emergency Shelter	Total
Share and Care House— Independence House for Men	10					10
TACID—A Place for Us Too	8					8
Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare—PORCH		35				35
Tacoma Housing Authority— McCarver Project				50		50
FUSION Foundation				2		2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>52</b>		<b>105</b>

## Housing Unit Production

## Homeless Information Management System (HMIS)

In an effort to fully understand the issue of homelessness, Federal and State agencies that fund homeless programs require local jurisdictions to implement a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which is used to collect and analyze information about homeless persons and families, and the services they use. Pierce County has chosen to use the ServicePoint web-based system provided by Bowman Internet Systems of Shreveport, Louisiana. The HMIS database will assist us as we guide our efforts and document our progress of reducing homelessness.

Since May 2004, all homeless housing and service providers receiving funding from Pierce County and the City of Tacoma have been required to participate and enter data into the HMIS system. Over the past seven years there have been over 19,500 persons entered into the system by 31 agencies providing data for 170 programs that provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities. In an effort to protect victims of domestic violence, programs that serve this special need population are not entering data into the database system.

Data Collected from HMIS on January 27, 2011				
	Individual Beds	Family		Total Beds
		Beds	Units	
Emergency Shelter	206	118	48	323
Transitional Housing	140	907	320	1047

All HUD funded agencies must complete an Annual Performance Report (APR) for Supportive Housing Programs funded programs. This is annual data for January 29, 2010 through January 28, 2011.

Transitional Housing Definition: Housing and Services provided for individuals and families for a maximum of 2 years.

Permanent Housing definition: Housing and Services provided for adult individuals with disabilities with no time limit or service restrictions.

Data is compiled on an annual basis from APR's submitted through thirteen agencies that provide nine permanent housing programs and sixteen transitional housing programs.

APR data is provided to congress by HUD and provides information on overall performance and indicates trends in our local programs.

## **Annual Performance Report Summary**

## Living Situation Prior to Entry

Agencies were asked to answer the following questions in the APR.

How many participants slept in the following places in the week prior to entering the project? For each participant, choose one place. If a participant came from an institution (psychiatric facility, substance abuse treatment facility, hospital, or jail), but was there less than 30 days and was living on the street or in emergency shelter before entering the treatment facility, he/she should be counted in either the street or shelter category, as appropriate.

	Street	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Psychiatric Facility	Abuse Treatment Facility	Hospital	Jail/Prison	Domestic Violence Situation	Living w/ Friends or Relatives	Rental Housing	Other
<b>2005</b>											
Permanent	46.55%	18.97%	3.45%	5.17%	3.45%	1.72%	0%	3.45%	12.07%	0%	5.17%
Transitional	6.67%	55.83%	10.00%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.67%	15.83%	0.83%	9.17%
All	19.66%	43.82%	7.87%	1.69%	0.56%	0.56%	0%	2.25%	14.61%	0.56%	7.87%
<b>2006</b>											
Permanent	59.79%	17.53%	3.09%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8.25%	7.22%	3.09%	1.03%
Transitional	3.97%	70.86%	9.27%	0%	1.99%	0%	0%	0.66%	9.93%	1.32%	1.99%
All	25.81%	50%	6.85%	0%	1.21%	0%	0%	3.63%	8.87%	2.02%	1.61%
<b>2007</b>											
Permanent	60.34%	12.07%	8.62%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3.45%	0%	3.45%	12.07%
Transitional	14.86%	54.86%	10.29%	0%	1.71%	0%	0%	1.14%	9.14%	1.71%	6.29%
All	26.18%	44.21%	9.87%	0%	1.29%	0%	0%	1.72%	6.87%	2.15%	7.73%
<b>2008</b>											
Permanent	54.55%	18.18%	3.64%	0%	3.64%	1.82%	0%	3.64%	10.91%	3.64%	0%
Transitional	15.48%	50.60%	6.55%	0%	5.36%	0%	0%	4.17%	9.52%	2.98%	5.36%
All	25.11%	42.60%	5.83%	0%	4.93%	0.45%	0%	4.04%	9.87%	3.14%	4.04%
<b>2009</b>											
Permanent	55.17%	18.97%	12.07%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.72%	12.07%	0%	0%
Transitional	13.38%	40.85%	3.52%	0%	1.41%	0%	0%	7.04%	14.79%	2.11%	16.90%
All	25.50%	34.50%	6.00%	0%	1.00%	0%	0%	5.50%	14.00%	1.50%	12.00%
<b>2010</b>											
Permanent	42.8%	16.3%	4.08%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10.2%	0%	26.5%
Transitional	2.87%	35.25%	9.35%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	21.58%	5.03%	25.89%
All	13.44%	30.64%	8.06%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18.81%	3.76%	26.34%

Of those participants who left during the operating year, how many participants were at each monthly income level? Monthly income at entry refers to the participant's monthly income on the day he/she entered the program (i.e., on the program entry date or as close as possible to that day). Income received before entering the program or income received during the program stay is not included.

## Income Before Program (Entry)

	No Income	\$1—\$150	\$151—\$250	\$251— \$500	\$501— \$1,000	\$1,001— 1,500	\$1,501— \$2,000	\$2,000 +
<b>2005</b>								
Permanent	14.75%	0%	4.92%	45.90%	31.15%	3.28%	0%	0%
Transitional	15.79%	0%	1.50%	42.11%	33.83%	6.02%	0.75%	0%
All Programs	15.46%	0%	2.58%	43.30%	32.99%	5.15%	0.52%	0%
<b>2006</b>								
Permanent	15.25%	0%	6.78%	27.12%	50.85%	0%	0%	0%
Transitional	16.43%	0%	2.86%	40.71%	31.43%	3.57%	5%	0%
All Programs	16.08%	0%	4.02%	36.68%	37.19%	2.51%	3.52%	0%
<b>2007</b>								
Permanent	21.15%	0%	1.92%	42.31%	26.92%	7.69%	0%	0%
Transitional	20.61%	0%	1.21%	31.52%	35.76%	10.30%	0.61%	0%
All Programs	20.74%	0%	1.38%	34.10%	33.64%	9.68%	0.46%	0%
<b>2008</b>								
Permanent	5.45%	1.82%	0%	43.64%	36.36%	10.91%	1.82%	0%
Transitional	16.58%	0%	1.07%	30.48%	40.11%	6.42%	2.67%	2.67%
All Programs	14.05%	0.41%	0.83%	33.47%	39.26%	7.44%	2.48%	2.07%
<b>2009</b>								
Permanent	16.07%	0%	0%	42.86%	32.14%	7.14%	1.79%	0%
Transitional	11.36%	0.76%	1.52%	40.15%	37.12%	6.82%	2.27%	0%
All Programs	12.77%	0.53%	1.06%	40.96%	35.64%	6.91%	2.13%	0%
<b>2010</b>								
Permanent	46.8%	0%	0%	27.65%	21.27%	4.25%	0%	0%
Transitional	53.23%	0.71%	0%	10.07%	21.58%	12.23%	5.75%	0.71%
All Programs	51.16%	0.53%	0%	14.51%	21.5%	10.21%	4.3%	0.53%

## Income After Program (Exit)

Of those participants who left during the operating year, how many participants were at each monthly income level? Monthly income at exit refers to the participant's monthly income on the day he/she left the program (i.e., on the program exit date or as close as possible to that day). Income received during the program stay is not included.

	No In- come	\$1—\$150	\$151— \$250	\$251— \$500	\$501— \$1,000	\$1,001— 1,500	\$1,501— \$2,000	\$2,000 +
<b>2005</b>								
Permanent	6.15%	0%	0%	53.85%	33.85%	4.62%	0%	1.54%
Transitional	6.77%	0.75%	0%	34.59%	31.58%	13.53%	7.52%	5.26%
All Programs	6.57%	0.51%	0%	40.91%	32.32%	10.61%	5.05%	4.04%
<b>2006</b>								
Permanent	15.25%	0%	1.68%	18.64%	62.71%	0%	1.69%	0%
Transitional	5%	0.71%	8.57%	37.14%	24.29%	8.57%	12.14%	3.57%
All Programs	8.04%	0.50%	6.53%	31.66%	35.68%	6.03%	9.05%	2.51%
<b>2007</b>								
Permanent	19.23%	0%	0%	30.77%	42.31%	5.77%	1.92%	0%
Transitional	12.12%	0%	0.61%	27.27%	35.76%	15.15%	6.67%	2.42%
All Programs	13.82%	0%	0.46%	28.11%	37.33%	12.90%	5.53%	1.84%
<b>2008</b>								
Permanent	7.27%	0%	0%	29.09%	50.91%	9.09%	1.82%	1.82%
Transitional	5.85%	0%	6.91%	18.62%	39.89%	11.70%	11.17%	5.85%
All Programs	6.17%	0%	5.35%	20.99%	42.39%	11.11%	9.05%	4.94%
<b>2009</b>								
Permanent	3.51%	0%	1.75%	24.56%	45.61%	15.79%	7.02%	1.75%
Transitional	7.69%	0%	0%	26.92%	40.77%	13.08%	3.08%	8.46%
All Programs	6.42%	0%	0.53%	26.20%	42.25%	13.90%	4.28%	6.42%
<b>2010</b>								
Permanent	25.53%	0%	0%	23.4%	42.55%	4.25%	4.25%	0%
Transitional	49.64%	0%	0%	9.35%	23.02%	10.07%	6.47%	5.03%
All Programs	43.54%	0%	0%	12.9%	27.95%	8.6%	5.91%	3.76%

Of those participants who left during the operating year, how many were in the project for the following lengths of time? Compute each participant's length of stay using the participant's program entry date and program exit date. If the participant has only one program exit date during the operating year, calculate length of stay by subtracting the program entry date from the program exit date. If the participant has multiple program exit dates during the operating year, calculate the length of stay for each program stay and add them together to produce a cumulative length of stay. Each participant should be associated with only one length of stay category.

	0–6 Months	7–12 Months	13–23 Months	2 Years or More
<b>2005</b>				
Permanent	32.31%	23.08%	24.62%	20.00%
Transitional	28.57%	40.60%	24.06%	6.77%
All Programs	29.80%	34.85%	24.24%	11.11%
<b>2006</b>				
Permanent	44.44%	17.46%	17.46%	20.63%
Transitional	31.54%	41.61%	26.17%	0.67%
All Programs	35.38%	34.43%	23.58%	6.60%
<b>2007</b>				
Permanent	23.08%	23.08%	26.92%	26.92%
Transitional	41.72%	24.54%	30.67%	3.07%
All Programs	37.21%	24.19%	29.77%	8.84%
<b>2008</b>				
Permanent	14.55%	10.91%	41.82%	32.73%
Transitional	28.19%	29.26%	40.96%	1.60%
All Programs	25.10%	25.10%	41.15%	8.64%
<b>2009</b>				
Permanent	9.26%	25.93%	24.07%	40.74%
Transitional	35.61%	28.03%	31.82%	4.55%
All Programs	27.96%	27.42%	29.57%	15.05%
<b>2010</b>				
Permanent	10.64%	21.27%	23.4%	44.68%
Transitional	30.93%	20.86%	41.0%	11.51%
All Programs	25.8%	20.96%	36.56%	19.35%

## Length of Time in Housing by Program Type

## How Many Completed Program

Of those participants who left the project during the operating year, how many left for the following reasons? If a participant left for multiple reasons, include only the primary reason.

	Completed Program	Left Before Completing Program	Non-Compliance
<b>2005</b>			
Permanent	32.31%	36.92%	3.08%
Transitional	38.35%	28.57%	17.29%
All Programs	36.36%	31.31%	12.63%
<b>2006</b>			
Permanent	13.79%	15.52%	18.97%
Transitional	25.71%	30%	26.43%
All Programs	22.22%	25.76%	24.24%
<b>2007</b>			
Permanent	21.15%	21.15%	17.31%
Transitional	27.27%	20.61%	21.21%
All Programs	25.81%	20.74%	20.28%
<b>2008</b>			
Permanent	32.73%	14.55%	18.18%
Transitional	40.43%	18.62%	20.74%
All Programs	38.68%	17.70%	20.16%
<b>2009</b>			
Permanent	16.67%	18.52%	20.37%
Transitional	16.67%	33.33%	18.18%
All Programs	16.67%	29.03%	18.82%
<b>2010</b>			
Permanent	14.89%	14.89%	70.2%
Transitional	51.0%	10.79%	38.12%
All Programs	41.93%	11.8%	46.23%

Of those participants who left the project during the operating year, how many left for the following reasons? If a participant left for multiple reasons, include only the primary reason.

	Non-Payment of Rent	Non-Compliance	Criminal Activity / Violence	Maximum Time Reached	Needs Not Met	Disagree w/ Rules/ Persons	Death	Other	Unknown
<b>2005</b>									
Permanent	3.08%	3.08%	15.38%	0%	0%	1.54%	1.54%	3.08%	3.08%
Transitional	3.01%	17.29%	4.51%	0%	3.01%	1.50%	0%	3.76%	0%
All Programs	3.03%	12.63%	8.08%	0%	2.02%	1.52%	0.51%	3.54%	1.01%
<b>2006</b>									
Permanent	0%	18.97%	15.52%	0%	3.45%	3.45%	3.45%	22.41%	3.45%
Transitional	2.14%	26.43%	2.14%	0%	2.14%	2.86%	0%	6.43%	2.14%
All Programs	1.52%	24.24%	6.06%	0%	2.53%	3.03%	1.01%	11.11%	2.53%
<b>2007</b>									
Permanent	0%	17.31%	13.46%	0%	1.92%	5.77%	1.92%	15.38%	1.92%
Transitional	1.21%	21.21%	5.54%	0.61%	1.82%	7.27%	0%	6.06%	8.48%
All Programs	0.92%	20.28%	7.37%	0.46%	1.84%	6.91%	0.46%	8.29%	6.91%
<b>2008</b>									
Permanent	3.64%	18.18%	12.73%	0%	3.64%	1.82%	1.82%	7.27%	3.64%
Transitional	2.13%	20.74%	2.13%	0.53%	1.06%	5.32%	0.53%	4.79%	3.72%
All Programs	2.47%	20.16%	4.53%	0.41%	1.65%	4.53%	0.82%	5.35%	3.70%
<b>2009</b>									
Permanent	7.41%	20.37%	11.11%	0%	5.56%	1.85%	9.26%	7.41%	1.85%
Transitional	3.03%	18.18%	7.58%	0%	3.03%	8.33%	0.76%	9.09%	0%
All Programs	4.30%	18.82%	8.60%	0%	3.76%	6.45%	3.23%	8.60%	0.54%
<b>2010</b>									
Permanent	2.12%	34.04%	8.51%	0%	6.38%	6.38%	8.51%	4.25%	0%
Transitional	0.71%	15.82%	4.31%	0.71%	2.15%	5.03%	0%	10.07%	3.59%
All Programs	1.0%	20.43%	5.37%	0.53%	3.22%	5.37%	2.15%	8.6%	2.68%

## Reasons for Leaving Program

## Destination When Leaving Programs

Of those participants who left during the operating year, how many left for the following destination?

	Permanent Housing	Permanent—Family or Friends	Non-Permanent Housing
<b>2005</b>			
Permanent	46.15%	20.00%	33.85%
Transitional	59.40%	22.56%	18.05%
All Programs	55.05%	21.72%	23.23%
<b>2006</b>			
Permanent	36.21%	1.72%	41.38%
Transitional	58.57%	10.71%	8.57%
All Programs	52.02%	8.08%	18.18%
<b>2007</b>			
Permanent	36.54%	1.92%	48.08%
Transitional	48.48%	9.70%	27.27%
All Programs	45.62%	7.83%	32.26%
<b>2008</b>			
Permanent	43.64%	1.82%	41.82%
Transitional	58.51%	11.17%	18.09%
All Programs	55.14%	9.05%	23.46%
<b>2009</b>			
Permanent	42.59%	9.26%	48.15%
Transitional	49.24%	16.67%	34.09%
All Programs	47.31%	14.52%	38.17%
<b>2010</b>			
Permanent	21.27%	21.27%	57.44%
Transitional	55.39%	5.03%	39.56%
All Programs	46.77%	9.13%	44.08%

Each year in Pierce County an average of 2,600 households are legally evicted from their rental units. Some of these households most likely end up homeless.

In Pierce County, 12.3% of the population is in poverty. The majority of those households are cost burdened (paying more than 30% of their income towards housing expenses) leaving them at high risk of homelessness.

**Populations at Risk of Homelessness**

# 2011 Pierce County Homeless Survey Form

## Pierce County Homeless Survey 2011

Thursday, January 27, 2011

<p><b>1. Where did your household stay the night of Thursday, January 27, 2011?</b>                  City/Town: _____ Zip Code: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On the Street  <input type="checkbox"/> Camping  <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle or Car  <input type="checkbox"/> In an abandoned/unused building  <input type="checkbox"/> Jail  <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel or Motel  <input type="checkbox"/> Temporarily with family or friends  <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p><b>Emergency Shelter (ES):</b>                  Name of ES: _____</p> <p><b>Transitional Housing (TH):</b>                  Name of TH: _____</p> <p><b>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):</b>                  Name of PSH: _____</p> <p><b>Other: _____</b></p>	<p><b>2. Who is in the family/household with you?</b>                  # in Household _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Just myself  <input type="checkbox"/> My partner and me  <input type="checkbox"/> My children and me  <input type="checkbox"/> My partner, my children and me  <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied youth  <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
<p><b>3. Source(s) of household income (%) all that apply</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support  <input type="checkbox"/> Day Labor Job  <input type="checkbox"/> Employment  <input type="checkbox"/> Food Stamps  <input type="checkbox"/> Public Asst.  <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Social Security  <input type="checkbox"/> SSI  <input type="checkbox"/> SSD  <input type="checkbox"/> TANF  <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment  <input type="checkbox"/> Workers Comp.</p>	<p><b>4. Select all situations that caused household's homelessness</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aged out of system/foster care  <input type="checkbox"/> Evicted for non payment  <input type="checkbox"/> Evicted for other reasons  <input type="checkbox"/> Convicted of a felony  <input type="checkbox"/> Convicted of misdemeanor  <input type="checkbox"/> Discharged institution/jail  <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence  <input type="checkbox"/> Kicked out  <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of child care  <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of job skills  <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/tenant issues  <input type="checkbox"/> Language barrier  <input type="checkbox"/> Legal issues  <input type="checkbox"/> Medical costs  <input type="checkbox"/> Medical problems  <input type="checkbox"/> Mental illness  <input type="checkbox"/> Physically disabled  <input type="checkbox"/> Poor credit rating  <input type="checkbox"/> Runaway  <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse  <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary living situation ended  <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to pay rent/mortgage</p>

**5. What is the zip code and town where you last permanently lived in a home for six months or more?** Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Institute First & Last Name	Demographics (6.a. - 6.e.)				Disabilities (6.f. - 6.o.)							Length of Homelessness (6.p. - 6.r.)	Vet Status (6.s. - 6.t.)	Education/ Employed (6.u. - 6.v.)	
	Birth date month/day	Female	Race	Hispanic? Y/N	Medical? Y/N	Physical? Y/N	Substance Abuse	Mental	Developmental	HIV/AIDS	Visual				Learning

**7. PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF INFORMATION SIGNATURE:**

Thank you for completing this survey. Your responses will help us improve services to individuals that are homeless.

**NOTES**



Pierce County

We would like to thank the following organizations that provided valuable staff and volunteer time.

Pierce County • City of Lakewood • City of Tacoma • Clover Park School District • Pierce County • Pierce County Housing Authority • Tacoma Housing Authority • Tacoma School District • Veteran's Administration • Associated Ministries • Catholic Community Services SW • Comprehensive Mental Health • Exodus Housing • Friday Night Feed • Greater Lakes Mental Health Care • Helping Hand House • Hospitality Kitchen • Key Peninsula Community Services • Korean Women's Association • Lakebay Community Church • Lakewood Area Shelter Association • Metropolitan Development Council • Nativity House • Network Tacoma • New Phoebe House Association • Open Hearth Ministries • Parent Child Assistance Program • Pierce County Alliance • Puyallup Armory Thursday Night Dinner • Puyallup Church of the Nazarene • Puyallup School District • Salvation Army • Shared Housing • South Sound Outreach Services • St. Francis House • Sumner School District • Tacoma Rescue Mission • VIEW • Washington Women's Employment & Education • Youth Resources • YWCA • Washington State Department of Commerce • Puyallup Freezing Nights • Franciscan Health System • Share and Care House • Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Homeless Coalition • Puyallup Homeless Coalition • Tacoma/Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

Thank you to Catholic Community Services, Phoenix Housing Network for providing the location and staff support during the Survey.

A special thanks to the many organizations and individuals who collected and donated toiletries, blankets, clothing, socks, and shoes.

Many thanks goes to the dedicated and committed residents of Pierce County who volunteered their time to conduct the Homeless Survey.

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An electronic version of this document is available at:

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