

Report Prepared by
Pierce County
Department of Community Services
April 9, 2009



Pierce County

Pierce County Homeless Survey 2009

*Summary and Detail Data from the
One Night Survey of Homeless
Individuals
and Families Conducted on
January 29-30, 2009*

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2009 Homeless Survey Overview

According to those surveyed, in 2009, there are 2,083 homeless men, women, and children in Pierce County. Including 1,335 individuals in 398 families including 648 children under the age of 18. Singles individuals comprised of 488 males, 165 females and 10 (no gender) for a total of 748 singles. Of the singles, there are 221 chronic persons on the streets or in emergency shelter. In addition 41 individuals identified themselves as being chronically homeless before being housed in transitional housing. 79 veterans were chronically homeless.

- Homelessness increased by 19% (+336) overall with the vast majority of the increase in those housed in transitional units.
- There was a 39% increase in the number of families (+111) compared to 2008.
- There was a 43% increase in the number of persons in families (+111) compared to 2008.
- There were 21% more children in families (+113) compared to 2008.
- A 12% decrease in single population (-91).
- The unsheltered and sheltered population decreased by 13% (-74).
- Unsheltered women on the street stayed the same as 2008, but unsheltered men decreased 24%.
- A 30% decrease in chronic population (-93).
- The chronic population represents 11% (does not include transitional housing) of all homeless that were included in homeless survey.
- There was a 20% (-20) decrease in chronic veterans on streets or in shelters compared to 2008 making up 16% of the chronic homeless on the streets or in emergency shelter.
- 41 chronic homeless are housed in transitional housing programs, 24 of the 41 are veterans.
- 21% of unsheltered and sheltered population report Alcohol and Substance abuse as issues.
- 36% of chronic homeless report no income.
- 7.5% of the total homeless report mental health as an issue.
- Of the single persons living in shelters or on the streets, 45% are chronic homeless
- 1,097 total households are represented (single or families)
- Families represent 88% of those in transitional housing programs, Singles represent 80% of those on the streets.

2009 Homeless Count Numbers

	2009 Homeless						
	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional		Total
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count
Total Persons*	230	11.04%	507	24.34%	1346	64.62%	2083
Total Families w/Children	10	2.53%	50	12.63%	338	84.85%	398
Total People in Families	28	2.10%	185	13.86%	1122	84.04%	1335
Total Children							
Age 0-5	8	3.01%	46	17.29%	212	79.70%	270
Age 6-12	4	1.79%	39	17.41%	181	80.80%	224
Age 13-18	1	0.65%	29	18.83%	124	80.52%	154
Number of Households with Children	9	23.08%	4	10.26%	26	66.66%	39
Total People in Household without Children	19	22.09%	9	10.47%	58	67.44%	86
Singles	183	27.64%	313	47.28%	166	25.08%	662
Male	140	28.69%	238	48.77%	110	22.54%	488
Female	42	25.45%	66	40.00%	57	34.55%	165
Gender Not Provided	1	10.00%	9	90.00%	0	0.00%	10
Special Needs - Individuals							
Substance Abuse	55	14.40%	50	13.09%	277	72.51%	382
Physical Disability	88	32.59%	82	30.37%	100	37.04%	270
Mental Health	51	35.42%	37	25.69%	56	38.89%	144
Domestic Violence	18	7.00%	74	28.79%	165	64.20%	257
AIDS/HIV	2	28.57%	4	57.14%	1	14.29%	7
Felony Convictions*	36	38.71%	31	33.33%	26	27.96%	93
Veterans	61	32.11%	61	32.11%	68	35.79%	190
*Chronic Homeless							
Males	94	47.00%	78	39.00%	28	14.00%	200
Females	21	37.50%	22	39.29%	13	23.21%	56
Gender Not Provided	1	16.67%	5	83.33%	0	0.00%	6
Veterans							
Males	33	37.08%	35	39.33%	21	23.60%	89
Females	5	41.67%	4	33.33%	3	25.00%	12
Gender Not Provided	1	50.00%	1	50.00%	0	0.00%	2
*Unaccompanied Youth							
Males	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
Females	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
Gender Not Provided	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0

**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.

Methodology

The 2009 Homeless Survey was conducted over a twenty-four hour period on January 29th and 30th, 2009. Individual information was collected for households, including month and year of birth, gender, race, and age. The majority of the data was collected at the household level. 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 29th; and the sources of household income.

The template for the survey did not change much from prior years. However, initials were not included in this year's survey.

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 Eatonville, Ashford, Elbe, Buckley, South Prairie, Key Peninsula, Longbranch, Vaughn, Lakebay, and Home, as well as urban areas including Tacoma, Lakewood, Fife, and Puyallup. Volunteers were mobilized and sites were set up in Eatonville, Key Peninsula, Puyallup, and Tacoma to provide items including coats, gloves, and toiletries. Food banks and hot meal sites also participated in the process.

More than 50 volunteers participated in this year's Homeless Survey. Volunteers represented provider groups, private citizens, college and high school students, persons that are homeless, and former volunteers. Two safety and sensitivity trainings were conducted for the volunteers.

Purpose of Data Collection

The goal of the 2009 Homeless Survey required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) 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.

Survey Response Rates

1,481 surveys were entered. Of the 2,083 individuals who were identified as homeless, 1,097 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.

**Response Rates for Duration
of Homelessness**

	Records	Responses	Response Rate
All Records	1463	845	53.8%
All Homeless	1097	587	53.5%
All Homeless Singles	662	439	66.3%

Total Homeless

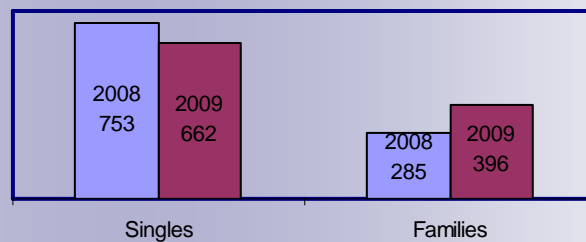
	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Total Persons*	230	11.04%	507	24.34	1346	64.62%	2083

Households = families, individuals, and couples without children

Families = households with children

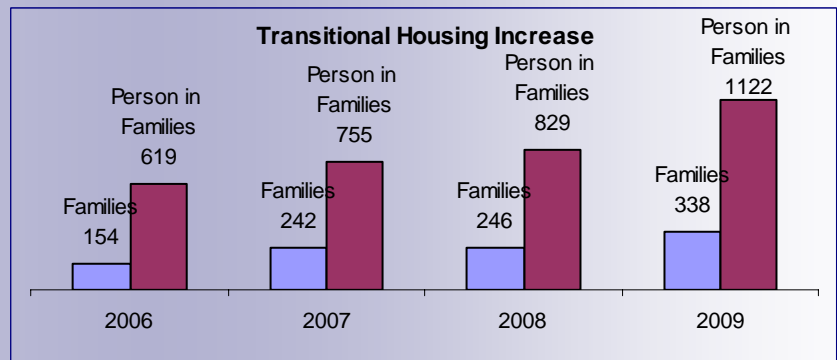
The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to end Homelessness and Pierce County Community Services conducted a 24-hour survey in January 2009. 2,079 individuals met the HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) definition of homelessness. (see page5)

Type of Household

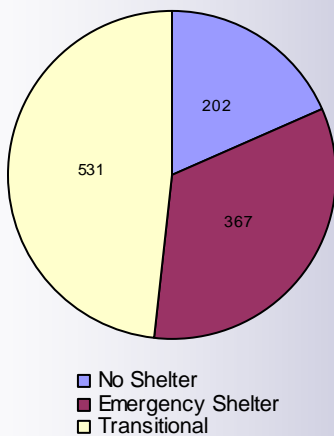


While the 2009 survey shows a 20% increase over the 2008 count. The emergency and transitional housing data reflects occupancy during the 24-hour period of the survey that is close to the known numbers of available beds and family units. In 2008, there were 246 families living in transitional housing, accounting for 829 individuals. The number of families living in transitional housing in 2009 was 338, accounting for 1,122 individuals. The number of families in transitional housing in 2009 increased 26 percent over 2008. The increase was due to the inclusion of 62 existing family units not previously included and the addition of 28 new units that were under development in 2008.

Transitional Housing Increase



Number of Households



Although the number of individuals identified in the transitional housing survey increased, the amount of individuals identified in the emergency shelter remained at the same levels. 507 individuals were in emergency shelter in 2009 during the night of the survey versus 466 in 2008.

202 households indicated they had no housing and were on the streets, 367 households resided in emergency shelters, and 531 households indicated they resided in transitional housing.

Homeless Individuals

Total Singles	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
	183	27.64%	313	47.28%	166	25.08%	

The total number of single individuals counted was 662. The majority were residing in emergency housing when the count was conducted (313 or 47%). 183 individuals were not housed and 166 identified as residing in transitional housing.

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 2009.

Where People Were Found		
Location	Orig From	Count In
Ashford	3	0
Bonney Lake	14	0
Buckley	11	0
Eatonville	7	5
Fife	1	19
Fort Lewis	1	0
Gig Harbor	8	0
Graham	4	10
Lakewood	202	16
McChord AFB	1	0
Orting	5	0
Parkland	36	8
Purdy	2	0
Puyallup	81	100
Roy	6	0
Spanaway	25	2
Sumner	21	21
Tacoma	506	766
University Place	7	19
Vaughn	1	1
WA—Outside Pierce	117	10
Other State	110	0
Unknown	910	1102

Homeless Seniors

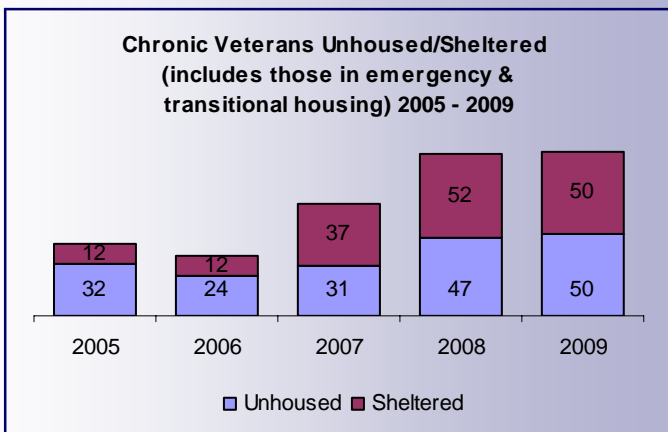
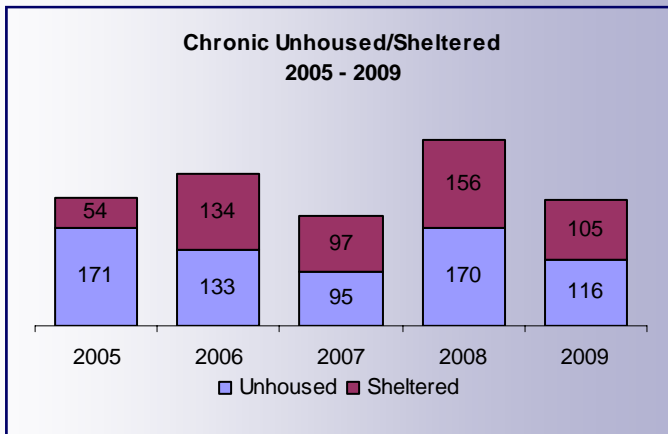
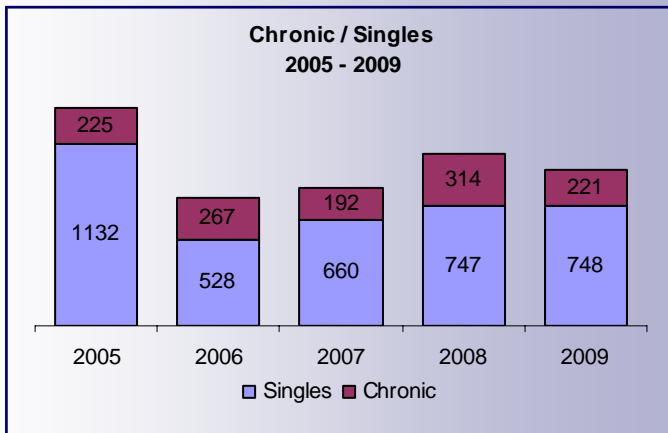
Total Seniors	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
	62	20.40%	131	43.09%	111	36.51%	

There are few options for seniors 55+ or for those that are more vulnerable. There were 8 individuals identified as age 70 and above in emergency or transitional housing, and 1 unsheltered. 49 individuals are 60+ with 12 unsheltered, 31 in emergency shelters, and 14 in transitional housing.

Chronic Homeless Population

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 314 in 2008, to 221 in 2009, a 30% decrease. Veterans decreased by 20% (-20) compared to 2008.



Total Chronic Homeless	221
Total Unsheltered Individuals	202
Total Unsheltered & Chronic	116
Average Age—All Records	
Male	45.5
Female	35
Chronic Average Age	
Male	47
Female	42.5
Non-Chronic Average Age	
Male	44.9
Female	34.3
Chronic Average Age	
Male	44.1
Female	40.0
Unsheltered Chronic Sub-Population	
Mentally Disabled	32
Drug/Alcohol Problems	37
Drug/Alcohol & Mental Health Problems	11
Domestic Violence Victims	11
Physically Disabled	49
Senior Citizens (age 65+)	2
Veterans	39
HIV/AIDS	2

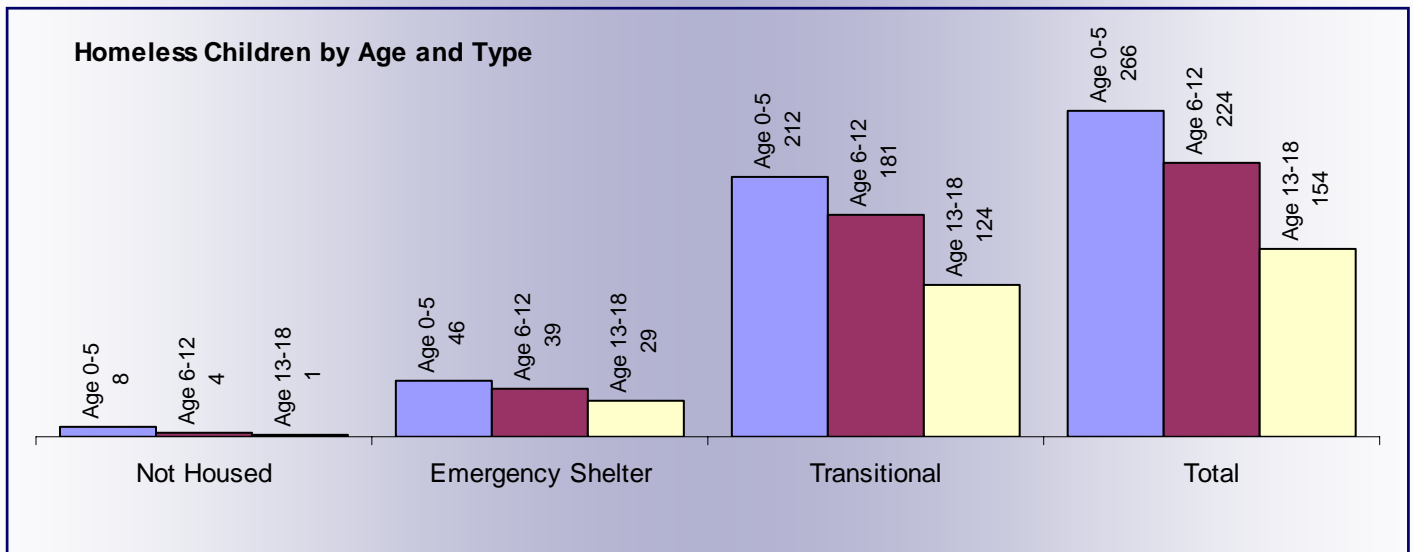
Homeless Families

	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Living with Family/Friends		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Total Families w/Children	10	2.37%	50	11.85%	338	80.09%	24	5.69%	422
Total People in Families	28	1.97%	185	13.00%	1122	78.85%	88	6.18%	1423

398 families, totaling 1335 individuals are represented in the survey. 85 percent (338) of families resided in transitional housing. 13 percent (50) were identified in emergency shelters. About 3% (10) of families were identified as being without shelter (in automobiles, camps, under bridges, on the streets, etc.)

The high percentage of families in transitional housing may be a reflection of how the community's resources have been targeted over the past decade, when families were identified as Pierce County's largest and fastest growing homeless subset. This year 52 existing family units not previously included in past surveys and the addition of 28 new units under development in 2008, increased the transitional housing system by 26% over the last year. Local agencies focused on development of transitional housing to provide families with relatively long-term opportunities to regain housing stability.

Children, age 0 – 18, living with their parent(s), accounted for 31% (644) of the total count, an increase of 1% from 2008. Only 4 youth were 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. 398 families, 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.

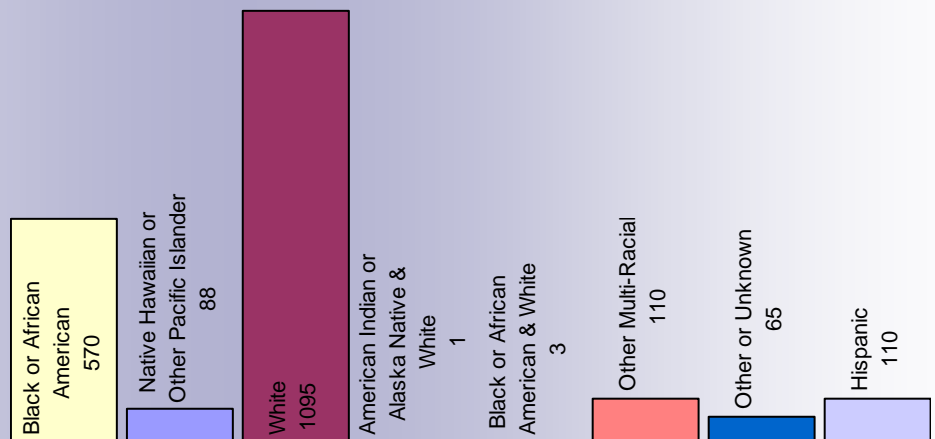
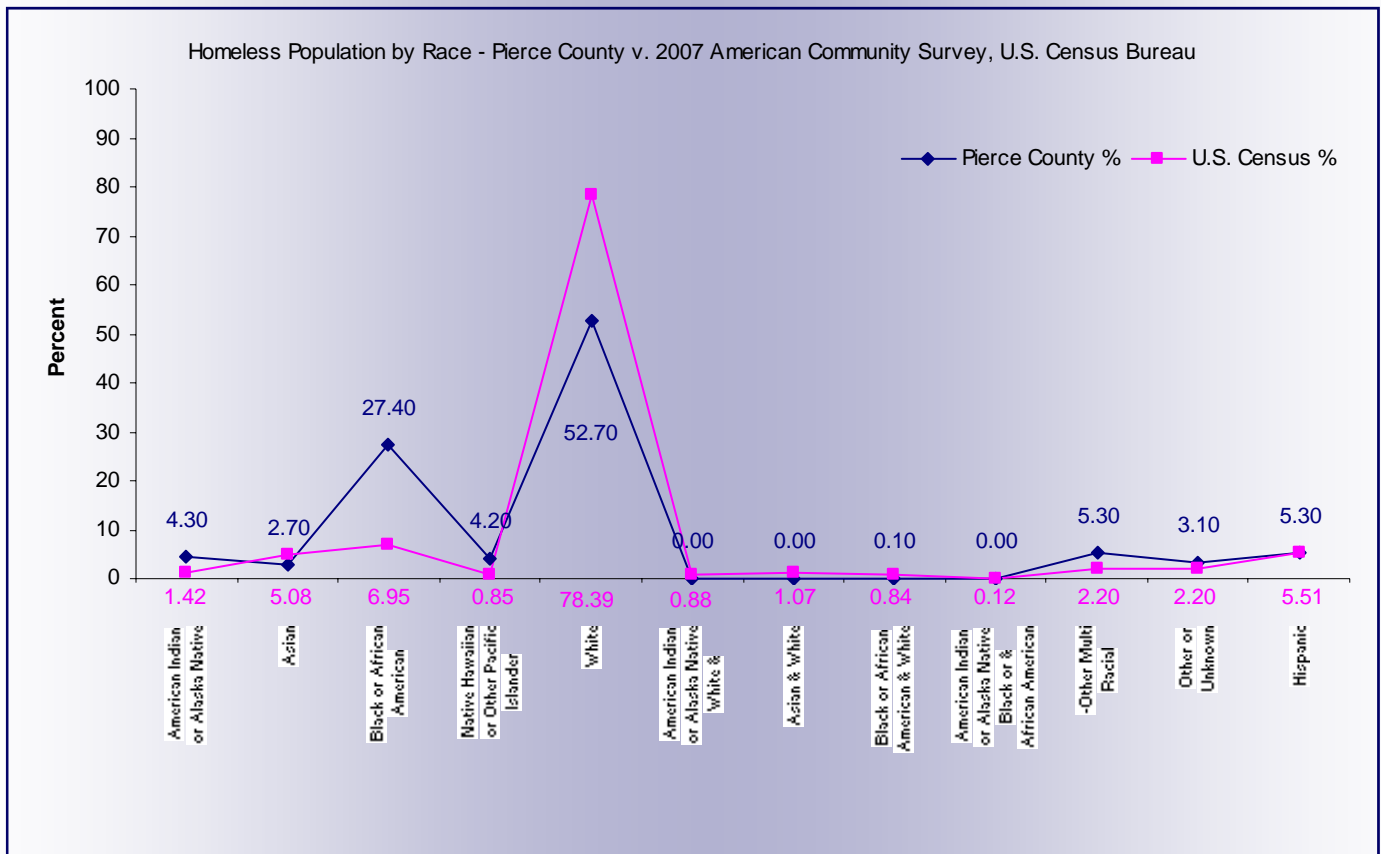
77% of families are led by a single head of household. 96% are female head of households. The average age of the head of household is 33.4 years. Male head of household represents 4% of total homeless families and their average age is 43. Average family size is 2.8. 23% of families were headed by 2 parents with an average age of 36, and average family size of 4.6.

Race

Among the population for all who identified as living in homelessness, 52.7% are white as compared to 77.7% of Pierce County's overall population. Also underrepresented are the Asians who account for 2.7% of the homeless population as compared to 5.9% of the overall population.

The following groups are overrepresented in the homeless population: African Americans, 27.4% as compared to 6.96% of the overall population; American Indian or Alaskan Native, 4.3% as compared to 1.4% of the overall population; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 4.2% as compared to .89% of the overall population and multi-racial, 5.4% as compared to 4.81% of the overall population.

110 or 5.3% identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin as compared to .07% of the total county data from 2007 American Community survey U.S. Census Bureau.



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.

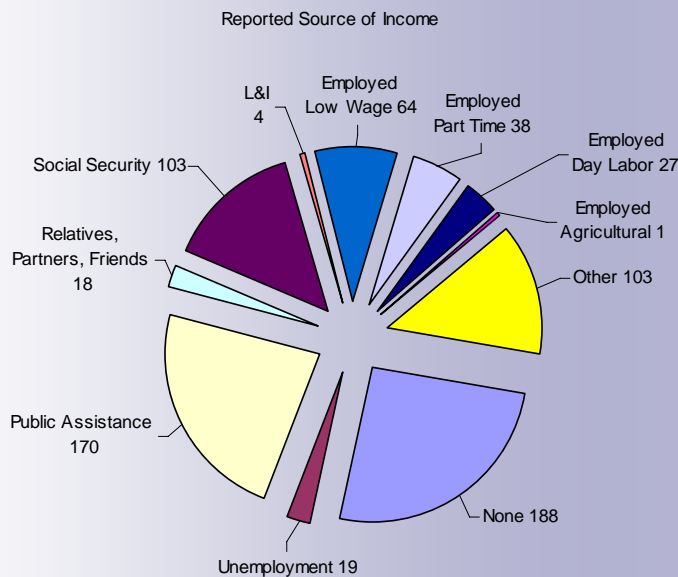
One of the major barriers faced by families and individuals exiting emergency shelters and transitional housing is an insufficiency of available permanent housing that is affordable for low and very low-income households. Improving household stability, including gaining full-time employment, does not 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.



Employment / Income

Only 12%, (130) head of households reported some type of employment, 17% (188) had no income and 28% (314) relied on public assistance or benefit.

- Income source was not reported by 103 (9%) respondents
- "Benefit" includes Unemployment Insurance, Public Assistance, Relatives or Friends; Workman's Compensation or Social Security
- While 120 respondents reported being employed, there were 130 reports of employment income



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

- 126 were unable to pay rent/mortgage
- 169 lost their job

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:

- 241 were affected by drugs and alcohol, including 98 unsheltered or in emergency shelter and 143 in transitional shelter
- 123 had a mental illness
- 281 had a physical disability
- 5 are affected with AIDS/HIV
- 115 reported they were victims of domestic violence
- 116 individuals have medical problems or costs associated with mental/physical disabilities or health crisis.

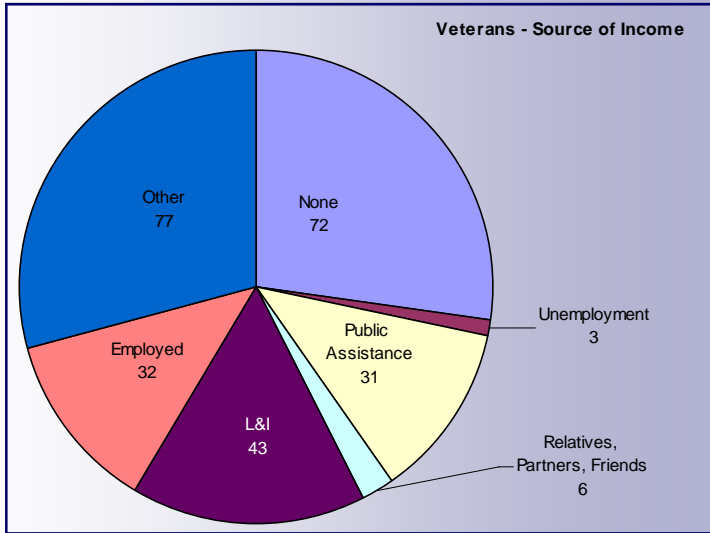
Outside of economic and barriers due to disabilities, individuals identified other issues that affect their ability to secure safe and affordable housing:

- 82 individuals had a felony conviction
- 97 individuals had poor tenancy or eviction history.

Homeless Veterans

National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness & Urban Institute, 1999)

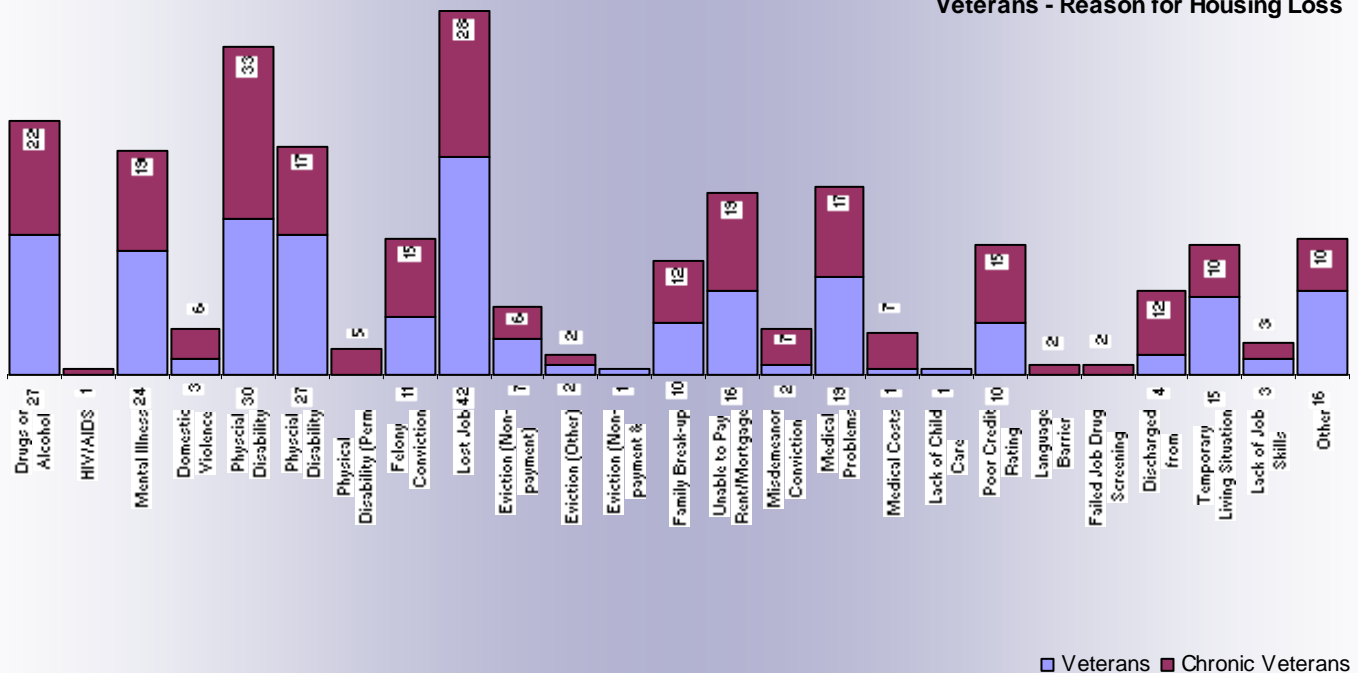
	Not Housed		Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Total Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Male	33	37.08%	35	39.33%	21	23.6%	89
Female	5	41.67%	4	33.33%	3	25%	12
Gender Not Provided	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	2



Nationally, approximately 23% of homeless men are veterans.

- Of those surveyed, 190 individuals have identified as being a veteran (9%).
- Of those surveyed, 74 were identified as chronically homeless on the streets, and in emergency shelters, and 24 were in transitional housing.
- Chronically Homeless Veterans make up 39% of the chronically homeless population that was surveyed.

Veterans - Reason for Housing Loss



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. 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.

Clover Park and Tacoma school districts reported 61 unaccompanied youth between the ages of 14 and 21. Three unaccompanied youth and two young adults were either identified to be unsheltered, living on the street, or in their vehicles. School districts reported the majority of unaccompanied youth (49) were living with friends or family. There were 31 unaccompanied youth between the ages of 14–17 and 30 young adults, aged 18–21.

Outside of the school district reports 45 households, aged 18–21 and one unaccompanied youth (14 years old) were identified through the street and shelter surveys. Thirty-nine of the households were identified as homeless and were living on the streets or in shelters. Six single individuals were unsheltered, including the unaccompanied youth. Six individuals were in emergency shelter, and 18 individuals were living in transitional housing. Of the single young adults living in transitional housing, 12 were housed with the Independent Youth Housing Program through Pierce County Alliance and six were housed with Youth Resources.

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

The Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP) is a pilot program (funded by the Washington State Community, Trade and Economic Department through June 30, 2009) 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.

		Total Youth	Unaccompanied	With Other Youth No Adults
Unsheltered	Male	3	3	0
	Female	1	1	0
Family/Friends	Male	24	8	0
	Female	25	19	0
Other	Male	6	2	4
	Female	4	2	2
Total	Male	34	13	4
	Female	30	20	2
Grand Total		63	35	6

Pierce County Housing Opportunities and Services

Within Pierce County there are 45 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 countywide. Some agencies focus on families and others on subpopulations 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
- HIV/AIDS services
- Information and referral services
- Legal services
- Life skills
- Outreach
- Transportation.

Pierce County Shelter Inventory

	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Permanent Housing	
	Beds	Units	Beds	Units	Beds	Units
Families With Children	151	56	1176	435	157	45
Individuals	209		181		294	
TOTAL Beds	360		1357		451	
102 permanent beds are specifically for individuals who are chronically homeless.						

Each year Pierce County Community Services 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.

AIDS Housing Association
Another Chance for Women
Associated Ministries
Camp Fire Boys and Girls
Catholic Community Services
City of Tacoma
CLEAR
Comprehensive Mental Health
Exodus Housing
Fair Housing Center of WA.
Guadalupe House
Greater Lakes Mental Health
Good Samaritan
Got Jesus? Ministries
Helping Hand House
Hospitality Kitchen
Intercommunity Mercy Housing
Korean Women's Association
LASA
Martin Luther King HDA
MDC
Nativity House
Network Tacoma
New Phoebe House Association
NW Legal Services
PC AIDS Foundation
PC Housing Authority
PC Veterans Bureau
Phoenix Housing
Pierce County Community Services
Salvation Army
Shared Housing
South Sound Outreach
Step by Step Family Support Center
TACID
Tacoma Housing Authority
Tacoma Rescue Mission
TPC Health Department
UW Parent Child Assistance
Veterans Administration
VIEW
WA Dept. Social & Health Services
WWEE
Youth Resources
YWCA Pierce County

Trends

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. Eight 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:

- 1,567 total homeless with a low of 1,138 (2003) and a high of 2,083 (2009)
- 401 un-sheltered on the street with a low of 230 (2009) and a high of 724 (2005)
- 464 in emergency shelters with a low of 421 (2003) and a high of 524 (2005).

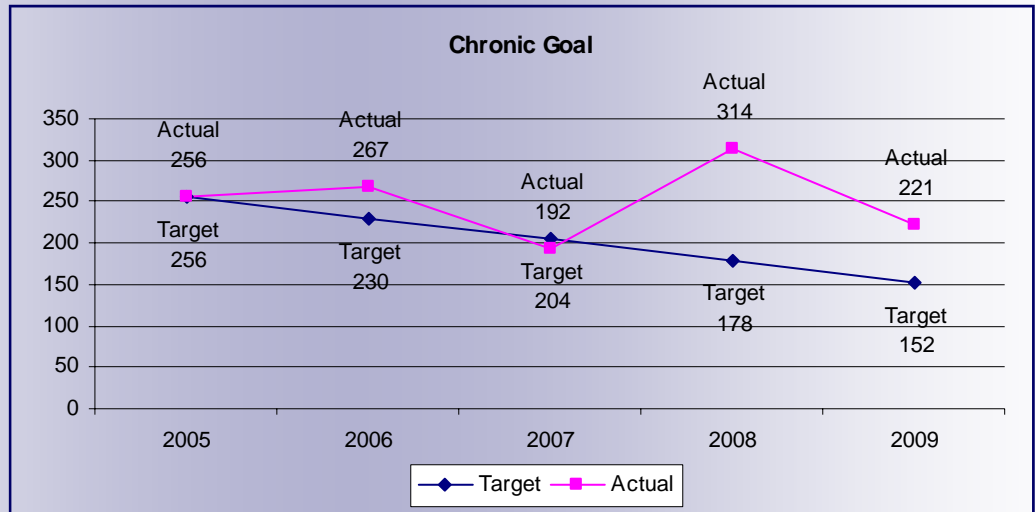
Based on the above survey numbers, this year's results show an average number of homeless and a below average number on the streets and shelters. The current challenges include ending chronic homelessness within the next five years as identified in The Road Home (Ending Chronic Homelessness Plan) and reducing the overall homeless population by 50% as identified in State Law 2163 in the next seven 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

While on average the number of chronically homeless has not changed, since 2005, the number of beds available for chronic homeless has increased by 64 for a total of 102 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 96 beds in production with an unknown availability date.

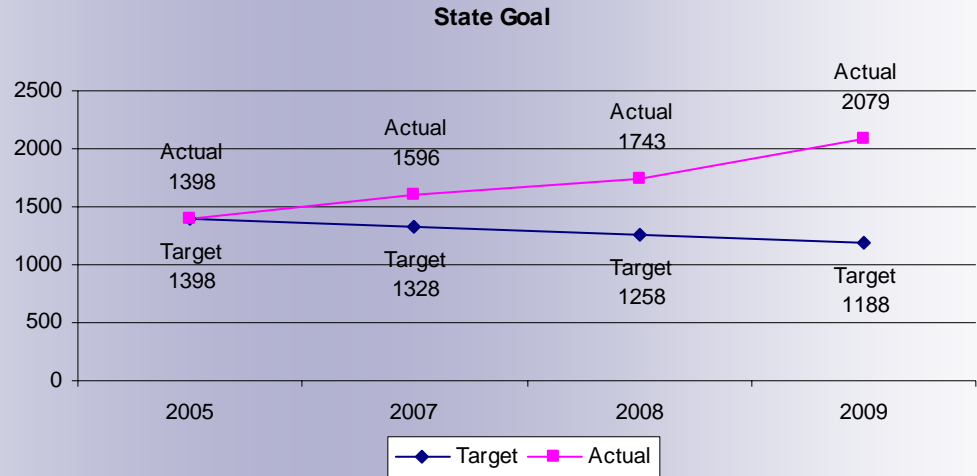


“The Road Home: Ending Chronic Homelessness—A Ten Year Plan for Pierce County” was inspired by a request from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Interagency Council on Homelessness for communities across the nation to focus on the issue of chronic homelessness. The request 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.

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 reach the threshold for identification as chronic.

State Goal



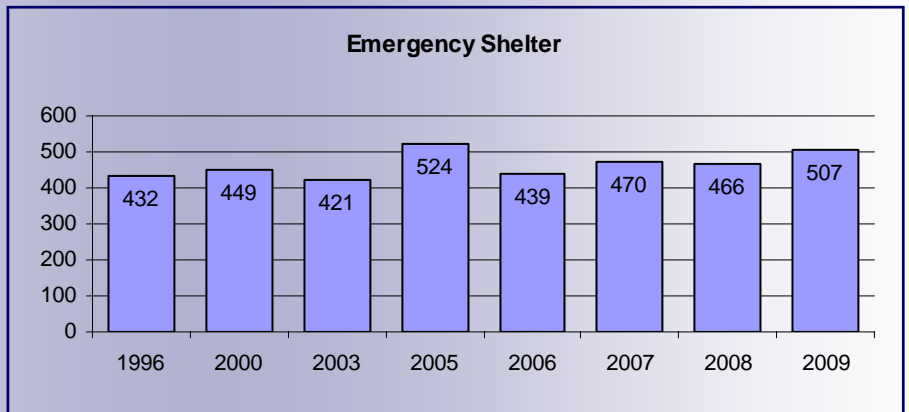
In 2005, the state of Washington passed legislation requiring the reduction of individuals experiencing homelessness by 50% by July 2015. Pierce County responded by creating a companion piece to the previously published “The Road Home: Ending Chronic Homelessness—A Ten Year Plan for Pierce County.” The 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 and previously unknown organizations with housing are included in the survey data.

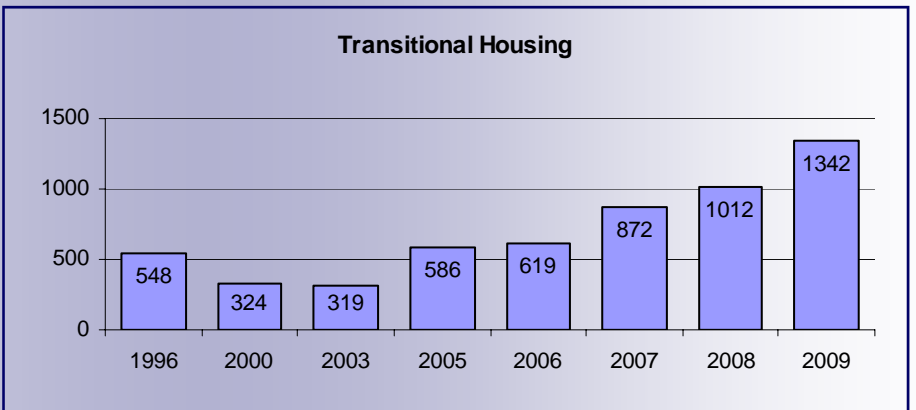
While we see an increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness, the increase is likely to be in transitional housing. Although these households are housed up to 24 months, they are still considered homeless yet housed.

Housing Trends—1996 to 2009

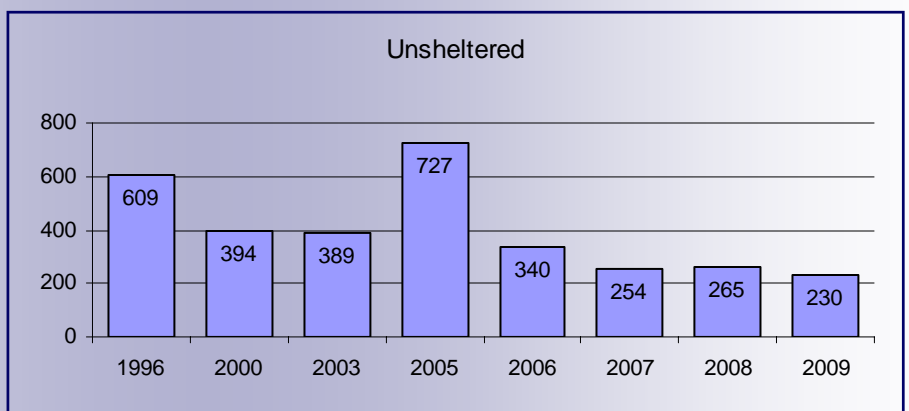
The number of available emergency shelter beds has not increased in the past 10 years. The slight increases we see can be due to the overflow or seasonal capacity of the shelters during periods of cold weather.



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.



Housing Unit Production

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 18,319 publicly funded beds/units available for all populations as described below. In addition, there are 471 units in the planning process, some of which are nearing the construction phase.

- 460 Emergency Shelter Beds (265 units) for homeless individuals and families
- 393 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and families
- 605 Transitional Housing Units with Services for homeless individuals and families
- 10,761 units of low income housing serving all populations (non-homeless)
- 6,100 Housing Choice Voucher's (Section 8)

<i>2007—2008 Units Coming On Line</i>				
	<i>Planned</i>	<i>Developed</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>Total</i>
Chronic	80	16	0	96
Singles	0	0	0	0
Family Emergency	15	0	0	15
Family Transitional	11	0	46	57
Family Permanent	0	50	40	90
Total	106	66	86	258

<i>2007—2008 Housing Unit Production</i>						
<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Chronic</i>	<i>Single Home</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Transitional</i>	<i>Emergency Shelter</i>	<i>Total</i>
Spanaway Commons	16					16
Garfield (Planned)	30					30
HS (Planned)	50					50
Alesek (Online)			10			10
Helping Hand House (Developed)			30			30
Catholic Community Services—St. Leo's (Developed)			50			50
Tacoma Rescue Mission (Planned)					15	15
Tacoma Rescue Mission (Planned)					11	11
Joseph Foundation (Online)				1		1
Total	96	0	90	1	26	213

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 five years there have been over 7,000 persons entered into the system by 18 agencies providing data for 65 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.

This year emergency shelters and transitional housing providers were asked to complete and maintain bed lists on the HMIS.

Data Collected from HMIS on January 29, 2009				
	Individual Beds	Family		Total Beds
		Beds	Units	
Emergency Shelter	110	98	24	208
Transitional Housing	45	719	219	764

Annual Performance Reports Summary

All HUD funded agencies must complete an Annual Performance Report (APR) for Supportive Housing Programs funded programs. This data is from reports filed from 2005-2008. Sample size: 590 Households in Transitional Housing Programs and 213 Households in Permanent Supportive Housing.

- 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 individuals with disabilities with no time limit or service restrictions.

Data compiled from 6 Agencies APR's, providing 8 Permanent Housing programs and 10 Agencies APR's providing 21 Transitional Housing Programs.

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

Living Situation Prior to Entry

	Street	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Psychiatric Facility	Abuse Treatment Facility	Hospital	Jail/ Prison	Domestic Violence Situation	Living w/ Friends or Relatives	Rental Housing	Other
2005											
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 Programs	19.66%	43.82%	7.87%	1.69%	0.56%	0.56%	0%	2.25%	14.61%	0.56%	7.87%
2006											
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 Programs	25.81%	50%	6.85%	0%	1.21%	0%	0%	3.63%	8.87%	2.02%	1.61%
2007											
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 Programs	26.18%	44.21%	9.87%	0%	1.29%	0%	0%	1.72%	6.87%	2.15%	7.73%
2008											
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 Programs	25.11%	42.60%	5.83%	0%	4.93%	0.45%	0%	4.04%	9.87%	3.14%	4.04%

Income Before Program (Entry)

	No In- come	\$1— \$150	\$151— \$250	\$251— \$500	\$501— \$1,000	\$1,001— 1,500	\$1,501— \$2,000	\$2,000 +
2005								
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%
2006								
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%
2007								
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%
2008								
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%

Income After Program (Exit)

	No In- come	\$1— \$150	\$151— \$250	\$251— \$500	\$501— \$1,000	\$1,001— 1,500	\$1,501— \$2,000	\$2,000 +
2005								
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%
2006								
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%
2007								
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%
2008								
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%

Length of Time in Housing by Program Type

	0—6 Months	7—12 Months	13—23 Months	2 Years or More
2005				
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%
2006				
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%
2007				
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%
2008				
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%

How Many Completed Program

	Completed Program	Left Before Completing Program	Non-Compliance
2005			
Permanent	32.31%	36.92%	3.08%
Transitional	38.35%	28.57%	17.29%
All Programs	36.36%	31.31%	12.63%
2006			
Permanent	13.79%	15.52%	18.97%
Transitional	25.71%	30%	26.43%
All Programs	22.22%	25.76%	24.24%
2007			
Permanent	21.15%	21.15%	17.31%
Transitional	27.27%	20.61%	21.21%
All Programs	25.81%	20.74%	20.28%
2008			
Permanent	32.73%	14.55%	18.18%
Transitional	40.43%	18.62%	20.74%
All Programs	38.68%	17.70%	20.16%

Reasons for Leaving Program

	Non-Payment of Rent	Non-Compliance	Criminal Activity / Violence	Maximum Time Reached	Needs Not Met	Disagree w/ Rules/ Persons	Death	Other	Unknown
2005									
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%
2006									
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%
2007									
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%
2008									
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%

Destination When Leaving Programs

	Permanent Housing	Permanent—Family or Friends	Non-Permanent Housing
2005			
Permanent	46.15%	20.00%	33.85%
Transitional	59.40%	22.56%	18.05%
All Programs	55.05%	21.72%	23.23%
2006			
Permanent	36.21%	1.72%	41.38%
Transitional	58.57%	10.71%	8.57%
All Programs	52.02%	8.08%	18.18%
2007			
Permanent	36.54%	1.92%	48.08%
Transitional	48.48%	9.70%	27.27%
All Programs	45.62%	7.83%	32.26%
2008			
Permanent	43.64%	1.82%	41.82%
Transitional	58.51%	11.17%	18.09%
All Programs	55.14%	9.05%	23.46%

Populations at Risk of Homelessness

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, 12.1% 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.

2009 Pierce County Homeless Survey Form

2009 PIERCE COUNTY HOMELESS SURVEY

Please give us the **month & year of birth** for all people (including children) in your household, including yourself. **This information will be kept confidential**; it's just a way for us to make sure people are only surveyed once.

	Month/Year of Birth	Male / Female	Race* see back page	Hispanic / Non
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

1 Head of household Are you an unaccompanied youth (under 18)?

Where will you stay tonight, January 29? If today is Friday, where did you stay last night, January 29?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outside: under a bridge, in the woods, on the street, in a park, in a tent
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside: in an abandoned or unused building (garage, barn, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Shelter
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporarily with friends or relatives
Zip Code: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> In a hotel or motel
<input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> In a vehicle
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
City/Town: _____ |
|--|---|

How long have you been homeless? Less than one year More than 1 year (Continuously)
 At least 4 times in the past 3 years (Not Continuously) If so, how many times? _____

What situations caused you to become homeless? Please check all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs or alcohol
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Illness
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence
<input type="checkbox"/> Felony Conviction
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost job
<input type="checkbox"/> Eviction for non-payment
<input type="checkbox"/> Eviction for other reasons | <input type="checkbox"/> Aged out of foster care
<input type="checkbox"/> Family break-up
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to pay rent/mortgage
<input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor conviction
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical problems
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of child care | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor credit rating
<input type="checkbox"/> Language barrier
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed job drug screening
<input type="checkbox"/> Discharged from institution/jail
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary living situation ended
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of job skills
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|---|

What is the zip code or town where you last lived in a home for six consecutive months or more?

Zip Code: _____ City/Town: _____

Have you or anyone in your household ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces? Yes No
If so, is anyone in your household receiving VA benefits? Yes No

Is head of household employed? Yes No **What is highest grade completed?** _____

Source(s) of household income (please check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None
<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment insurance
<input type="checkbox"/> Public assistance
<input type="checkbox"/> Relatives/partners/friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security
<input type="checkbox"/> L&I/worker's compensation
<input type="checkbox"/> Employed at low wage job
<input type="checkbox"/> Part-time work | <input type="checkbox"/> Day laborer-type jobs
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm or other migrant agricultural work)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|---|--|--|

Are there any disabilities in the household? Please check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical/medical (permanent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health
<input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS
<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol or drug abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical/medical (temporary)
<input type="checkbox"/> Visual (Uncorrected)
<input type="checkbox"/> Untreated dental | <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Developmental
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|---|---|

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

