SEATTLE/KING COUNTY
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PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

2019

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT PRODUCED BY ASR

Over three-quarters (78%) of individuals experiencing homelessness were in households comprised of single adults or adult households with no children. Twenty-one percent (21%) of individuals were in family households comprised of at least one adult (including young adults between 18 and 24 years old) and one child under 18 years old. Unaccompanied youth under 18 years old or individuals in households with only children represented less than 1% of the total count population.

FIGURE 10. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY AGE, SHELTER STATUS, AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE

2019					
	Youth Under 18	Young Adults 18-24	Adults Over 24	Total	% Of Total
Sheltered	1,466	543	3,962	5,971	53%
Individuals in family households	1,439	156	793	2,388	21%
Individuals in households with no children	-	387	3,169	3,556	32%
Individuals in households with only children	27	-	-	27	<1%
Unsheltered	84	686	4,458	5,228	47%
Individuals in family households	29	5	29	63	<1%
Individuals in households with no children	-	681	4,429	5,110	46%
Individuals in households with only children	55	-	-	55	<1%
Total	**1,550**	**1,229**	**8,420**	**11,199**	**100%**
Percent	**14%**	**11%**	**75%**	**100%**	**-**

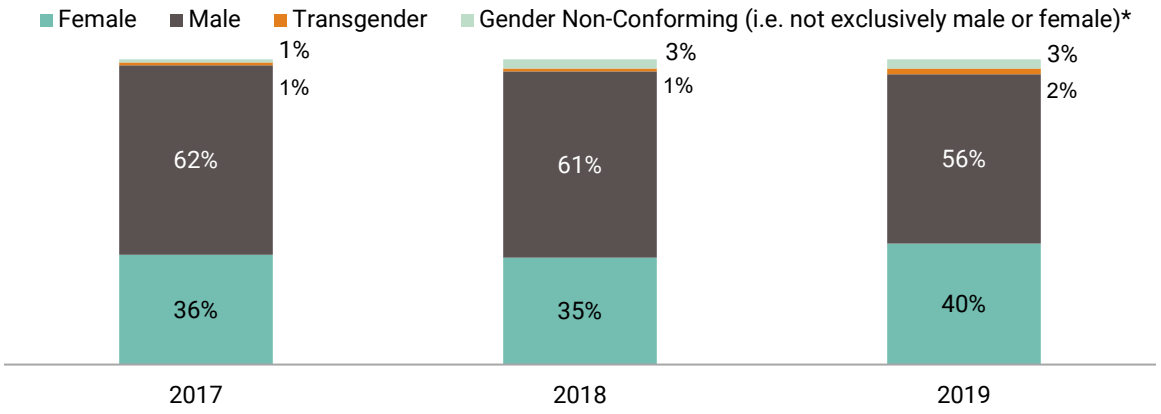
2018					
	Youth Under 18	Young Adults 18-24	Adults Over 24	Total	% Of Total
Sheltered	1,579	541	3,672	5,792	48%
Individuals in family households	1,541	182	822	2,545	21%
Individuals in households with no children	--	359	2,850	3,209	26%
Individuals in households with only children	38	--	--	38	<1%
Unsheltered	180	1,006	5,134	6,320	52%
Individuals in family households	42	10	27	79	1%
Individuals in households with no children	--	996	5,107	6,103	50%
Individuals in households with only children	138	--	--	138	1%
Total	**1,759**	**1,547**	**8,806**	**12,112**	**100%**
Percent	**15%**	**13%**	**73%**	**100%**	**--**

2017					
	Youth Under 18	Young Adults 18-24	Adults Over 24	Total	% Of Total
Sheltered	1,677	535	3,946	6,158	53%
Individuals in family households	1,647	205	900	2,752	24%
Individuals in households with no children	--	330	3,046	3,376	29%
Individuals in households with only children	30	--	--	30	>1%
Unsheltered	237	953	4,295	5,485	47%
Individuals in family households	42	6	33	81	1%
Individuals in households with no children	--	947	4,262	5,209	45%
Individuals in households with only children	195	--	--	195	2%
Total	**1,914**	**1,488**	**8,241**	**11,643**	**100%**
Percent	**16%**	**13%**	**71%**	**100%**	**--**

Note: Family households are defined by households with at least one adult and one child under 18 years old. Households without children include households with one or more adults, but no children. Households with only children include households with one or more children, but no adults. Please see Appendix F: Terms and Abbreviations *for complete definitions of all household types. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.*

An estimated 56% of individuals experiencing homelessness identified as male. Forty percent (40%) of individuals identified as female, 2% identified as transgender, and 3% identified with another gender.

FIGURE 11. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER

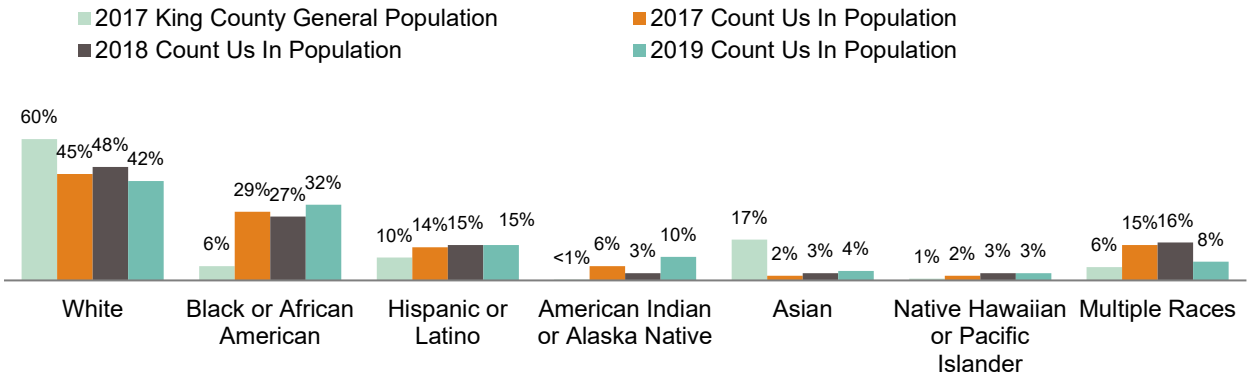


2017 n= 11,643; 2018 n= 12,112; 2019 n=1,199
Note: In 2018, HUD updated reporting categories for gender. In 2017, the reporting categories for gender included Female, Male, Transgender, and Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender. In 2018, the categories included Female, Male, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female). For federal reporting purposes, survey respondents identifying as Gender-Queer; Gender Non-Conforming; Non-Binary; Neither Male, Female, or Transgender; or Other Not Listed were included in the Gender Non-Conforming category. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

In 2019, a majority of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County identified as people of color. An estimated 42% of individuals identified as White, 32% identified as Black or African American, 10% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 4% identified as Asian, and 3% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Eight percent (8%) of individuals identified with multiple races. Additionally, an estimated 15% of individuals identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

When compared to the demographic racial profiles of Seattle/King County's general population, disparities were observed among those identifying as Black or African American (32% compared to 27%), as American Indian or Alaska Native (10% compared to 3%), and with Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (3% compared to 1%).

FIGURE 12. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



2017 n= 11,643; 2018 n= 12,112; 2019 n= 11,199
2017 King County General Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2017). American Community Survey 2017 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
Note: HUD gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Count Us In Survey Findings

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of Count Us In 2019. Surveys were administered to a randomized sample of individuals experiencing homelessness in the weeks immediately following the general street count. Data collected through this survey effort were used to estimate the characteristics of the local population experiencing homelessness in order to inform local service delivery and strategic planning efforts and to fulfill HUD reporting requirements. Please note that the findings presented in this section only include individuals responding to the Count Us In Survey.

The 2019 Count Us In Survey effort resulted in 1,171 complete and unique surveys, which included 190 eligible surveys completed as part of the youth and young adult count effort. Based on a point-in-time estimate of 11,199 individuals experiencing homelessness, these 1,171 surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 2.71% with a 95% confidence level when generating the results of the survey to the estimated population of persons experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be 95% certain that the results would be within 2.71 percentage points of the reported results. Since confidence intervals increase as the sample size decreases, more granular analyses are not presented.

In order to respect the privacy and ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Missing values are intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted.

Count Us In Survey data are 100% self-reported. While self-reported data allow individuals to represent their own experience, they are often more variable than clinically reported data. For example, respondents who report a health condition may not have received a formal diagnosis or may be more or less likely to report the condition based upon their current symptoms.

For more information regarding the survey methodology, please see *Appendix A: Methodology.* For complete survey findings, please see *Appendix C: Survey Results*.

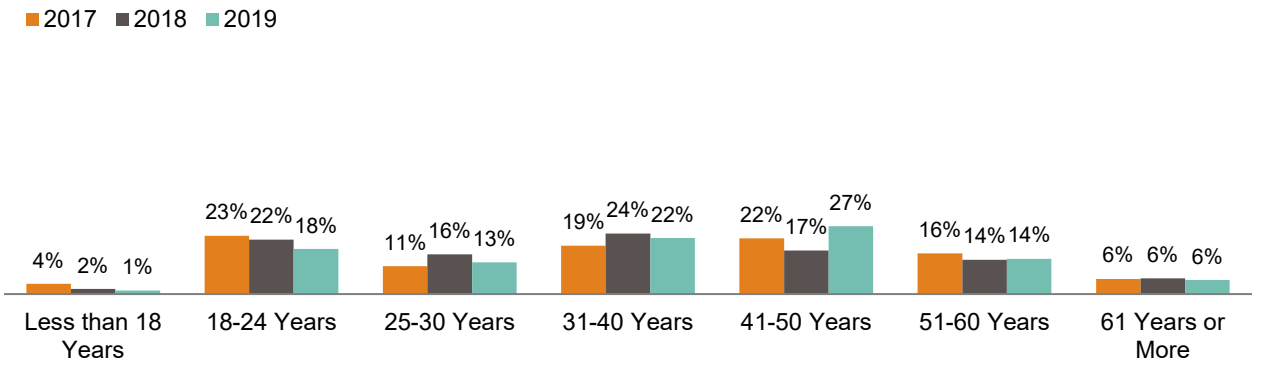
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, respondents were asked basic demographic questions regarding their age, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

AGE

Over three-quarters (81%) of Count Us In Survey respondents were over 24 years of age, similar to the general 2017 King County population (77%)[3]. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 represented less than one-quarter (18%) of all survey respondents. Youth under the age of 18 represented 1% of all survey respondents.

FIGURE 13. AGE OF COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,158; 2018 n= 1,056; 2019 n=1,171

[3] 2017 King County General Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2017). American Community Survey 2017 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov.

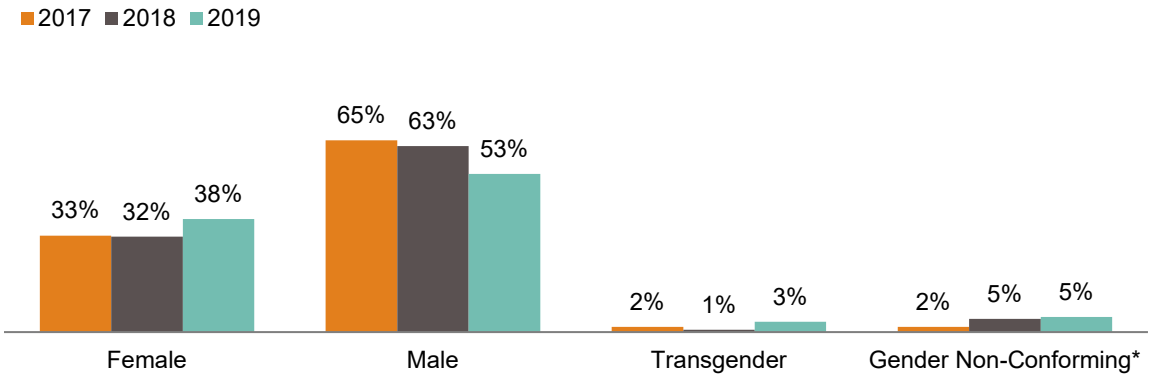
GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Fifty-three percent (53%) of survey respondents identified as male, 38% identified as female, 3% identified as transgender, and 5% identified with another gender (e.g., gender-queer, gender non-conforming, or non-binary). Across King County's general population 50% identified as male, and 50% as female when asked about their sex. [4]

A 2015 Gallup U.S. Daily survey found that 4.8% of the general population living in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue region identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.[5] Approximately twenty-three percent (21%) of Count Us In Survey respondents across Seattle/King County identified their sexual orientation as either lesbian or gay (7%), bisexual (6%), pansexual (3%) queer (2%), questioning (1%), or other (2%).

While limited data are available on the number of LGBTQ+ individuals experiencing homelessness, available data suggest LGBTQ+ individuals experience homelessness at higher rates – especially among those under 25 years of age. One-third (34%) of unaccompanied youth and young adult survey respondents identified as LGBTQ+, compared to 20% of all other survey respondents.

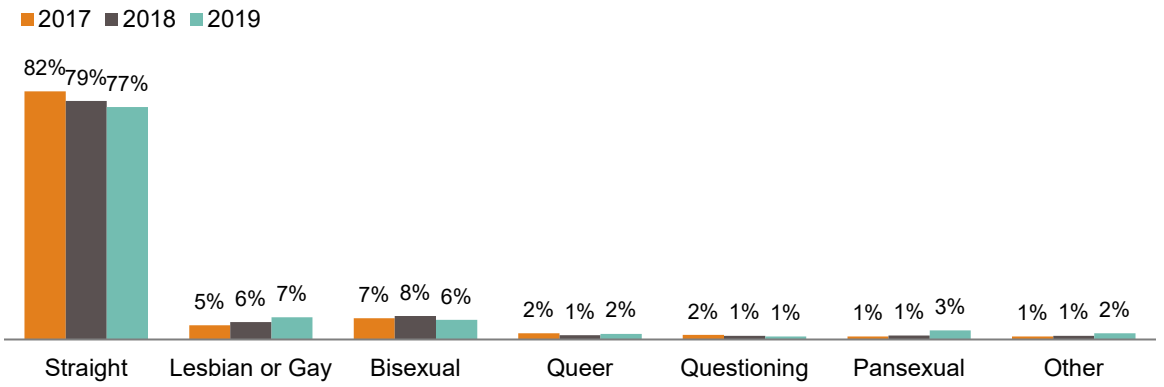
FIGURE 14. GENDER, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,142; 2018 n= 1,046; 2019 n=1,147
Note: In 2018, HUD updated reporting categories for gender. In 2017, the reporting categories for gender included Female, Male, Transgender, and Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender. In 2018, the categories included Female, Male, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female). For federal reporting purposes, survey respondents identifying as Gender-Queer; Gender Non-Conforming; Non-Binary; Neither Male, Female, or Transgender; or Other Not Listed were included in the Gender Non-Conforming category. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

[4] 2017 King County General Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2017). American Community Survey 2017 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
[5] Newport, F. Gates, GJ. (2015, March 20). San Francisco Metro Area Ranks Highest in LGBT Percentage. Retrieved from http://www.gallup.com/poll/182051/san-francisco-metro-area-ranks-highest-lgbt-percentage.aspx?utm_source=genericbutton&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=sharing

FIGURE 15. SEXUAL ORIENTATION, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS

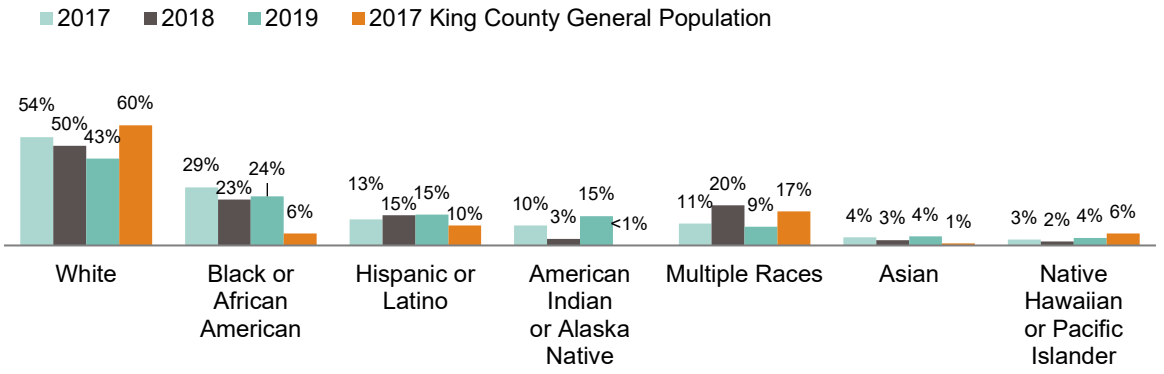


2017 n= 1,135; 2018 n= 1,037; 2019 n= 1,130
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Slightly less than half (43%) of 2019 Count Us In Survey respondents identified as White and 24% identified as Black or African American. Fifteen percent of survey respondents identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 4% as Asian, and 4% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Twenty percent (20%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, fifteen percent (15%) of survey respondents identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino. When Count Us In Survey respondents are compared to the general population of King County, disparities exist. For example, 24% of survey respondents are Black or African American compared to 6% of the general population; 15% of respondents were American Indian/Alaskan Natives compared to less than 1% of the general population. Only 4% of Count Us in Survey respondents were Asian, while 17% of the general population identified as Asian.[6]

FIGURE 16. RACE AND ETHNICITY, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,115-1,143; 2018 n= 1,016-1,056; 2019 n= 1,045-1,171
Note: HUD gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

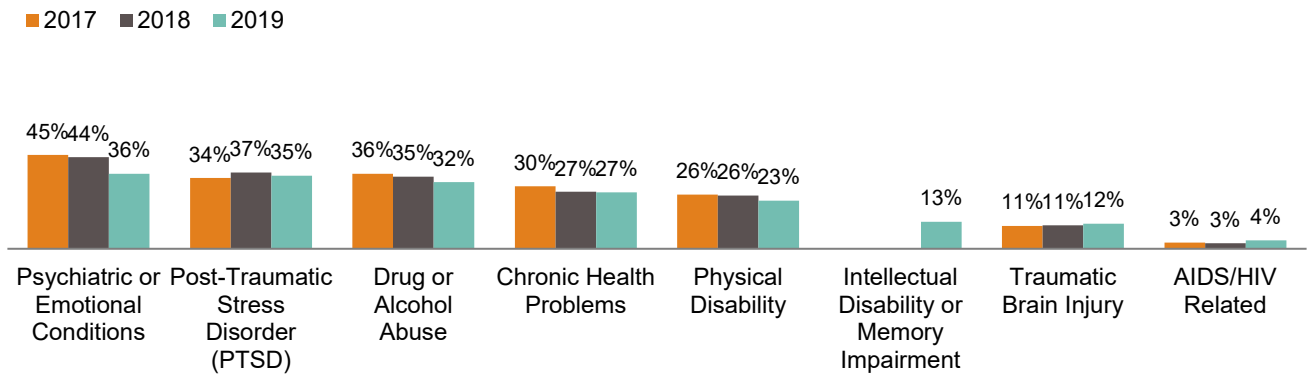
[6] 2017 King County General Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2017). American Community Survey 2017 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov.

HEALTH AND DISABLING CONDITIONS

In Seattle/King County, approximately 64% of individuals surveyed during Count Us In reported living with one or more health conditions. These conditions included physical disabilities, chronic substance use disorder, and severe mental health conditions.

Behavioral health conditions (i.e., mental health and/or substance abuse) were the most frequently reported health conditions among survey respondents. Thirty-six percent (36%) of survey respondents reported psychiatric or emotional conditions, 35% reported post-traumatic stress disorder, and 32% reported drug or alcohol abuse. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents reported chronic health problems. Twenty-three percent (23%) reported a physical disability. In 2018, it is estimated that only 6.4% of people under the age of 65 in the general King County population are people living with a disability.[7]

FIGURE 17. HEALTH CONDITIONS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,086-1,129; 2018 n= 1,036-1,040; 2019 n=1,171
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.
Note: Intellectual Disability and Memory Impairment was added in 2019.

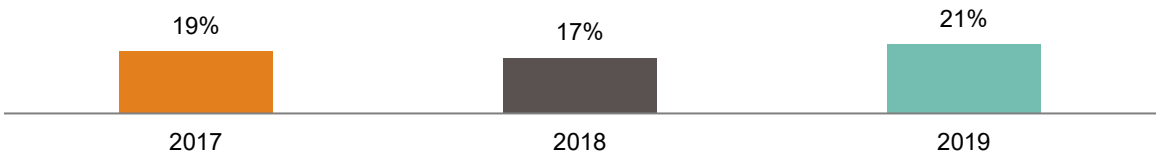
[7] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/kingcountywashington,seattlecitywashington/PST045218

FOSTER CARE

Nationally, it is estimated that at least 20% of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.[8]

In 2019, one in five (21%) Count Us In Survey respondents reported a history of foster care. Approximately 1% of respondents indicated that they were living in a foster care placement prior to their housing loss. One percent (1%) of respondents reported that aging out of foster care was the primary event that led to their homelessness. When compared to other survey respondents, unaccompanied youth and young adults as well as individuals identifying as LGBTQ+ reported the highest rates of foster care involvement.

FIGURE 18. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,116; 2018 n= 1,018; 2019 n=1,110

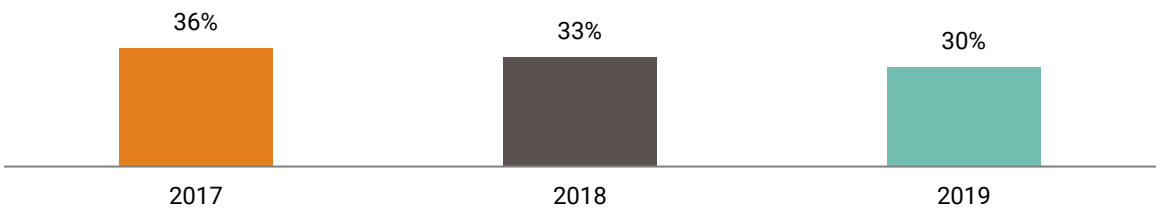
[8] Fernandes, AL. (2007). Runaway and Homeless Youth: Demographics, Programs, and Emerging Issues. Congressional Research Services, January 2007, https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33785.pdf.

DURATION AND RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Over two-thirds (70%) of Count Us In Survey respondents reported experiencing homelessness prior to their current episode. Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness four or more times in the past three years. Over half (61%) reported their current episode of homelessness lasting for a year or longer.

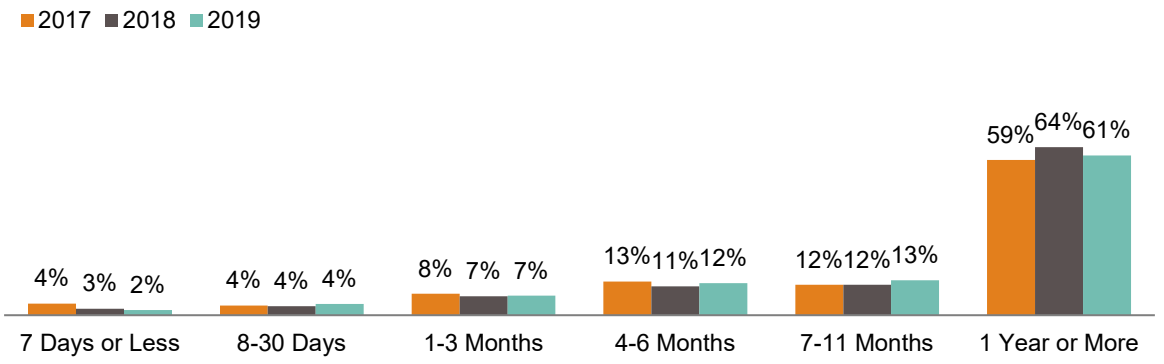
When asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness, 18% of survey respondents (whether sheltered or unsheltered) were children under the age of 18, 27% were young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, and 55% were adults over the age of 24.

FIGURE 19. FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



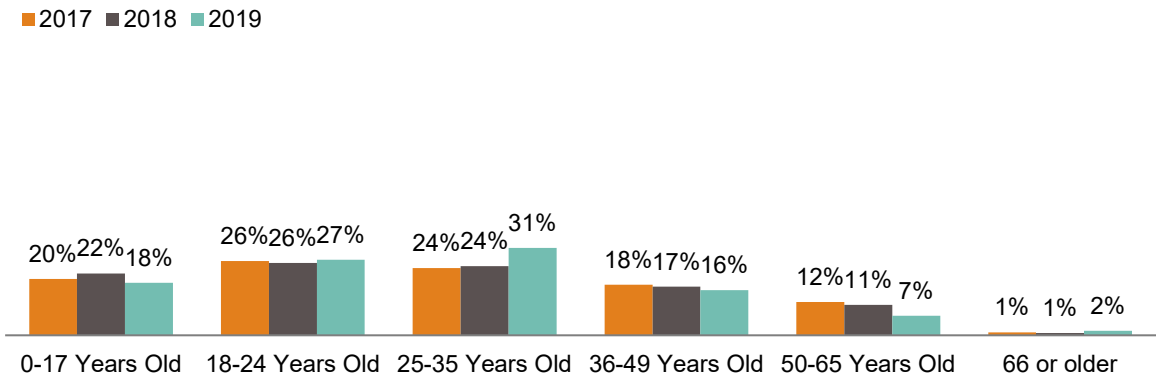
2017 n= 1,138; 2018 n= 1,036; 2019 n=1,006

FIGURE 20. LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,035; 2018 n= 970; 2019 n=1,037
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 21. AGE FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS OCCURRED, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,103; 2018 n= 1,020; 2019 n=1,039
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

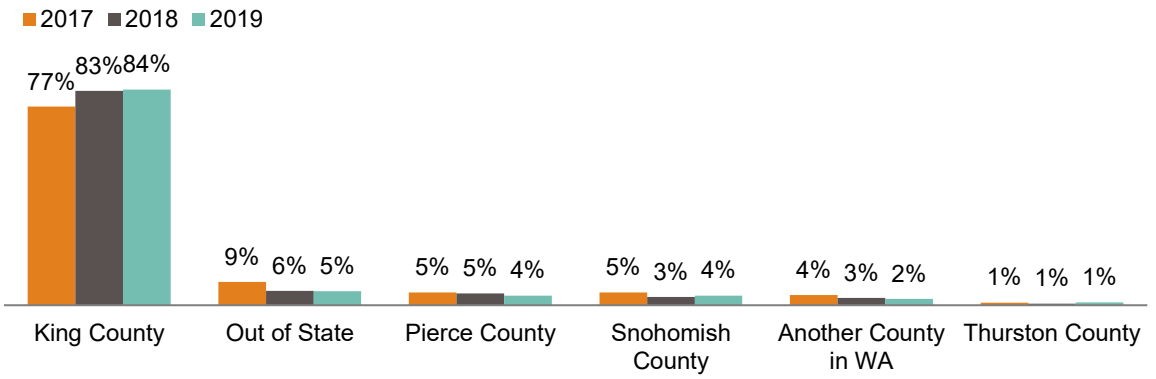
PLACE OF RESIDENCE

During the 2019 Count Us In Survey, approximately 84% of respondents reported living in Seattle/King County immediately prior to loss of housing. Eleven percent (11%) of survey respondents lived in another Washington county prior to loss of housing, while 5% were residing out of state.

Fifty-two percent (52%) of survey respondents reported living in Seattle at the time of their housing loss, followed by Renton (6%), Kent (5%), Burien (5%) and Federal Way (4%).

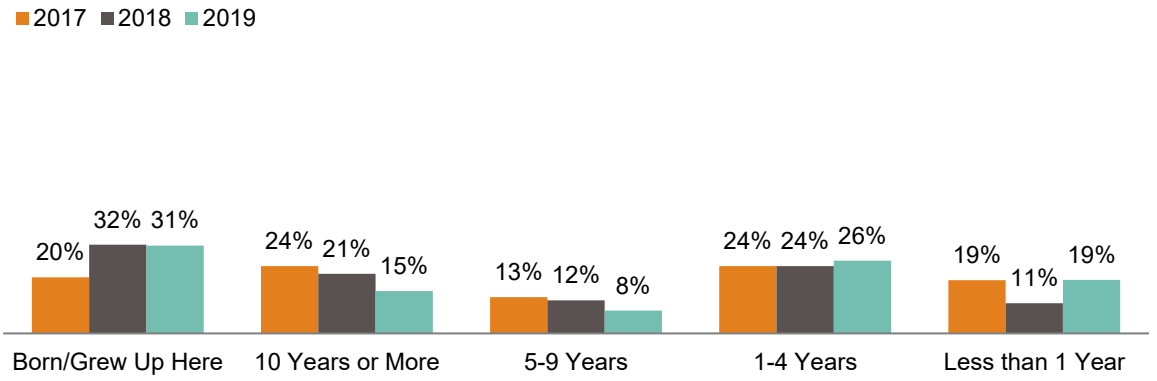
Nearly half (46%) of survey respondents indicated they were born in King County or had lived in King County for ten years or more.

FIGURE 22. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 866; 2018 n= 888; 2019 n=866
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 23. LENGTH OF TIME SPENT LIVING IN KING COUNTY, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



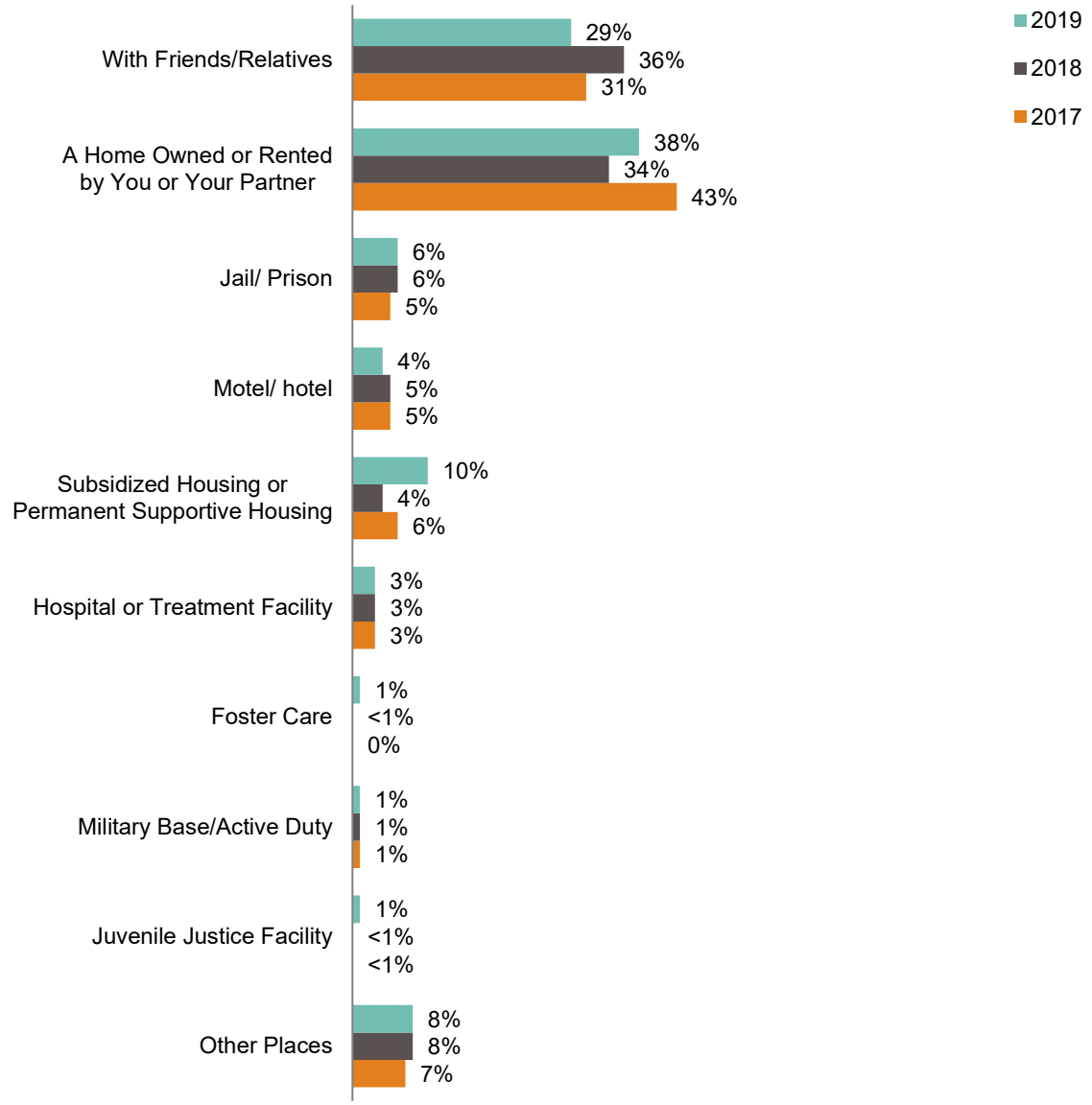
2017 n= 845; 2018 n= 862; 2019 n=752
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of Count Us In Survey respondents indicated living in a home owned or rented by themselves or their partner prior to experiencing homelessness. Twenty-nine percent (29%) reported living with friends or relatives, 10% reported living in subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing, while smaller percentages reported residing in jail or prison (6%), in a motel or hotel (4%), or in a hospital or treatment facility (3%).

Other living arrangements of survey respondents prior to experiencing homelessness included foster care placement (1%), military base or active duty (1%), and juvenile justice facility (1%).

FIGURE 24. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS THIS TIME, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



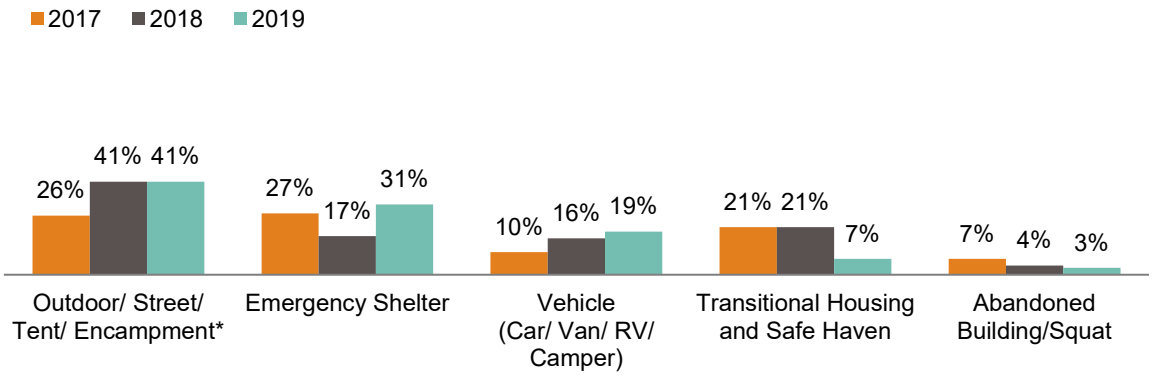
2017 n= 842; 2018 n= 846; 2019 n=815
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

While the general street count collected basic information regarding the type of location where individuals were observed, survey respondents were also asked about their usual nighttime accommodations. Thirty-one percent (31%) of Count Us In Survey respondents reported staying in emergency shelter while 7% reported staying in transitional housing. Forty-one percent (41%) reported sleeping outdoors, including on the streets, in parks, or in tents. Nineteen percent (19%) of respondents reported sleeping in a vehicle, and 3% reported sleeping in an abandoned building or squat.

When comparing the current living arrangements of individual survey respondents to the overall count population, it is important to note that the survey population includes only heads of household while the count population includes all household members.

FIGURE 25. USUAL NIGHTTIME ACCOMMODATIONS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,158; 2018 n= 1,056; 2019 n=1,171
Note: Respondents categorized as "Outdoors/Streets/Tent/Encampments" include persons residing in outdoor locations, public facilities, single tents, sanctioned encampments, and unsanctioned encampments. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

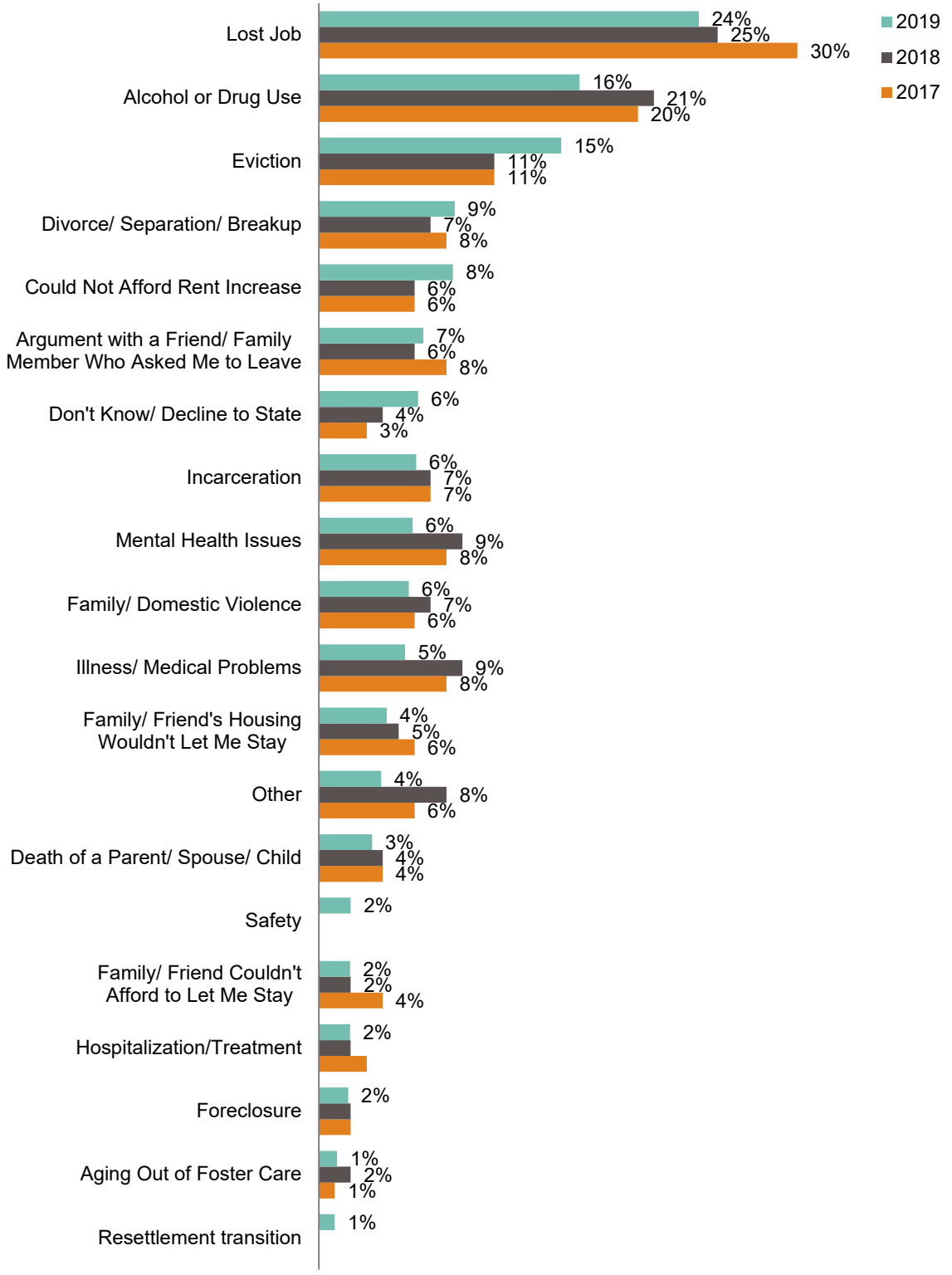
SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

When asked to identify the primary event or condition that led to their current experience of homelessness, approximately 24% of Count Us In Survey respondents reported the loss of a job. Other top responses included alcohol or drug use (16%), eviction (15%), and divorce or separation (9%).

Other self-reported causes of homelessness included: inability to afford rent increase (8%); an argument with a friend or family member who asked them to leave (7%); incarceration (6%); and family/domestic violence (6%).

It should be noted that these responses are the result of a self-assessment, not from a clinical source. Still, while these self-identified causes may have contributed to an individual or household's immediate experience of homelessness, these causes do not reflect the structural and institutional factors that contribute to such housing crises and the lack of an adequate safety net.

FIGURE 26. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



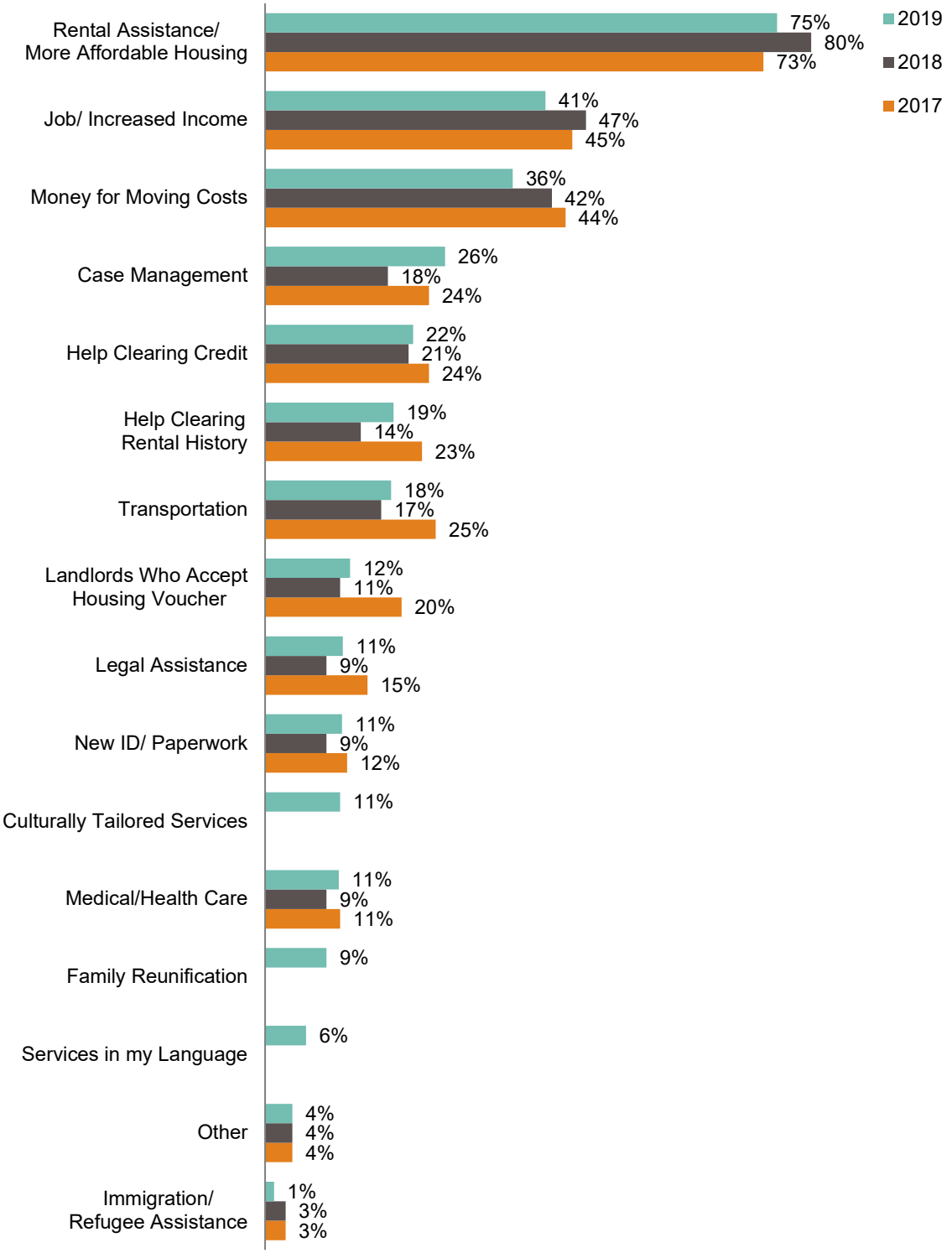
2017 n= 864 respondents providing 1,194 responses; 2018 n= 889 respondents providing 1,216 responses; 2019 n= 869 respondents providing 1,127 responses
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

SUPPORT IN OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING

Seventy-five percent (75%) of Count Us In Survey respondents indicated that rental assistance and more affordable housing would help them to obtain permanent housing. Employment or increased income (41%), money for moving costs (36%), and case management (26%) were also frequently mentioned as types of support needed.

Additional supports cited by survey respondents included help clearing their credit (22%), help clearing rental history (19%), transportation (18%), and locating landlords that would accept housing vouchers (12%).

FIGURE 27. SUPPORT NEEDED TO OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 867 respondents providing 3,728 responses; 2018 n= 862 respondents providing 2,964 responses; 2019 n=835 respondents providing 2,683 responses.
Note: In 2019 three response options were added, "Services in my language", "culturally tailored services", and "family reunification." Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

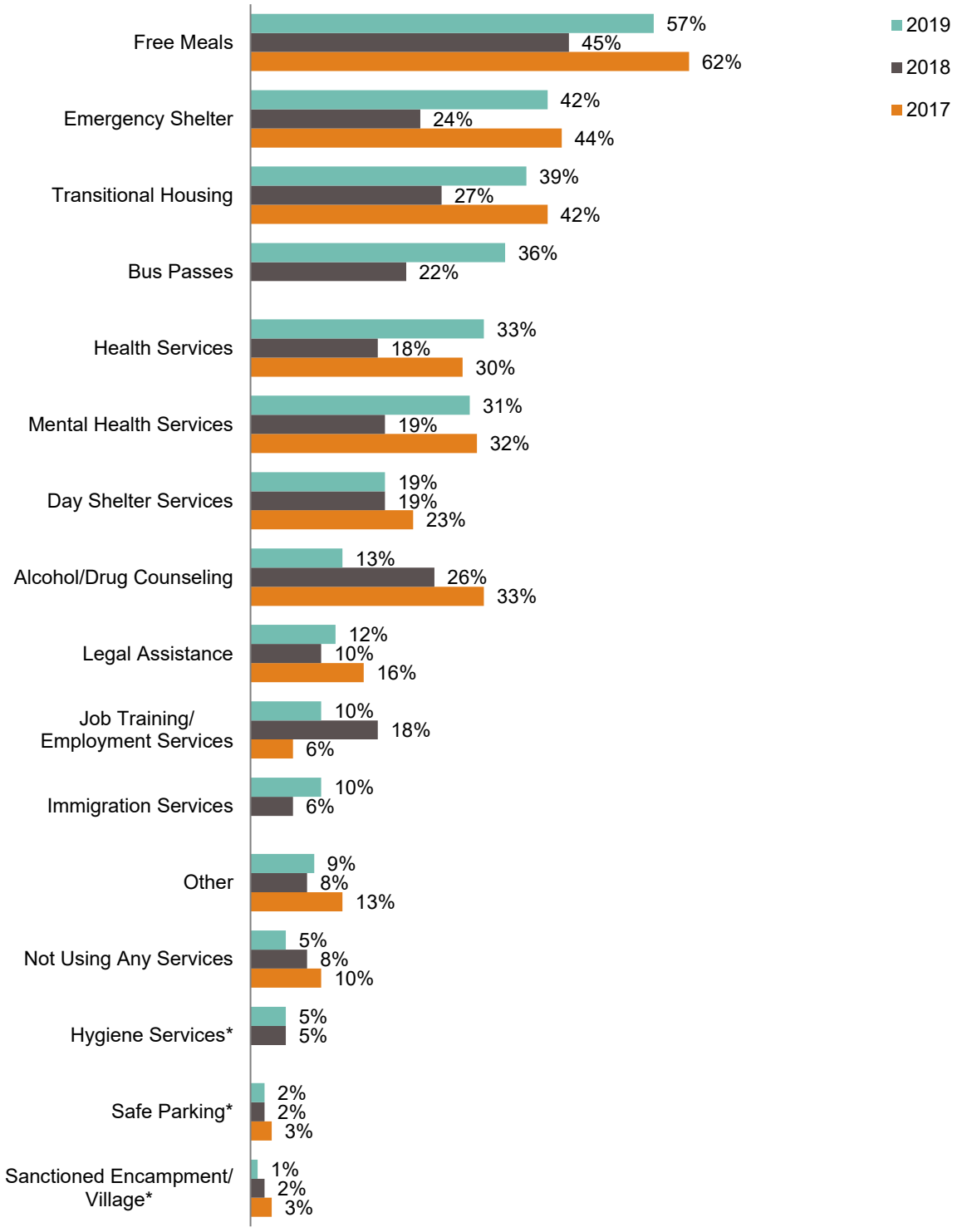
SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

The majority of Count Us In Survey respondents (82%) indicated using local, community-based services. These services are funded publicly or privately, aside from any state or federal assistance. The most frequently cited services included free meals (57%), emergency shelter (39%), bus passes (42%), hygiene services (36%), day shelter services (33%), and health services (31%).

Ten percent (10%) of all survey respondents indicated they were not currently accessing any services or assistance—lower than the 2018 Count Us In Survey findings (18%).

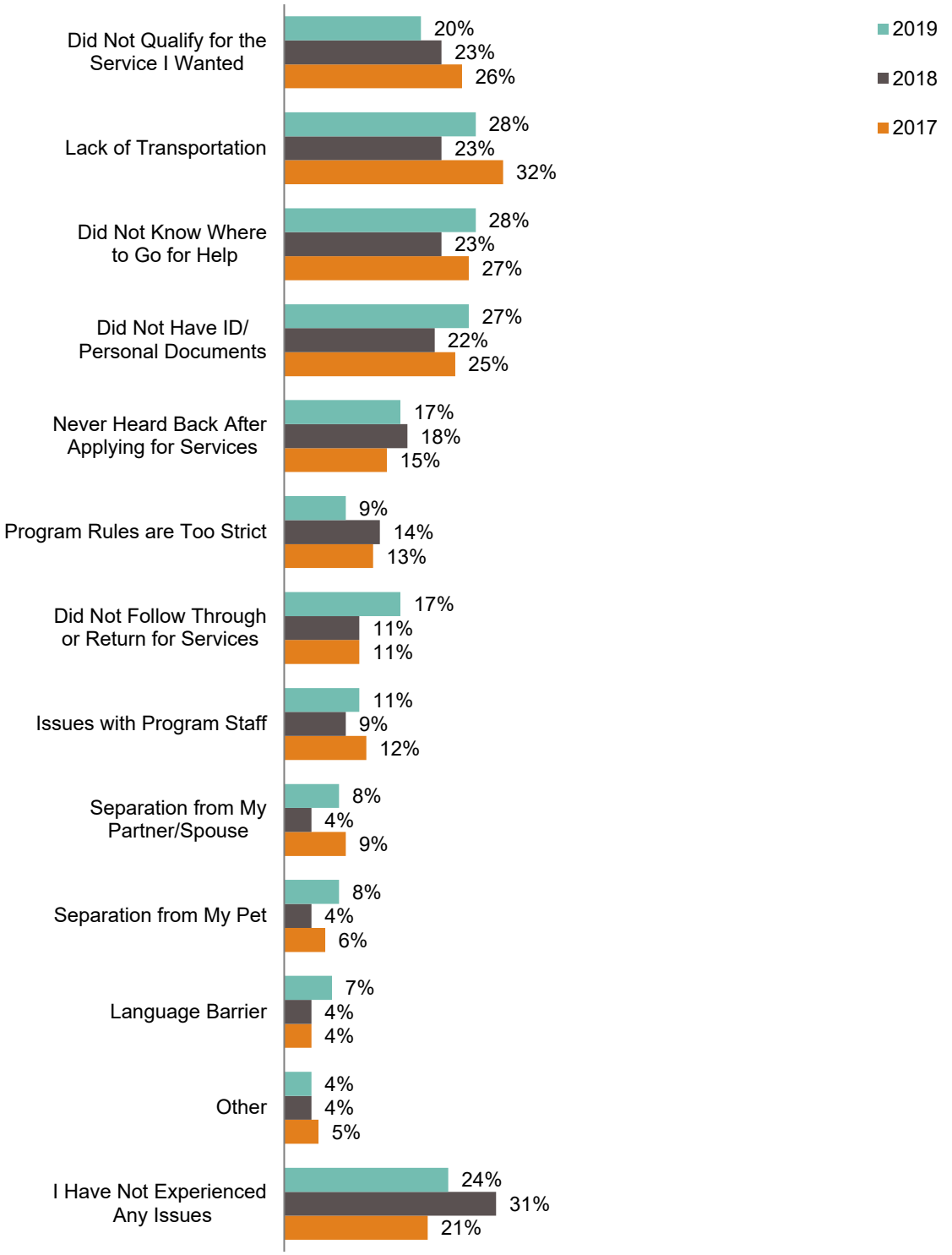
In trying to access community services, the majority of survey respondents (76%) reported encountering obstacles when seeking help. Lack of transportation to access services was the top barrier (28%), along with not knowing where to go for help (28%). Other reasons included not having their identification or personal documents (27%) and not qualifying for services they wanted (20%). Among survey respondents who were not using any type of shelter services, safety (44%), bugs (41%), and germs (39%) were top concerns.

FIGURE 28. SERVICES AND PROGRAMS ACCESSED, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 872 respondents providing 2,762 responses; 2018 n= 858 respondents providing 2,217 responses; 2019 n= 827 respondents providing 2,683 responses.
Note: Comparison data for "Hygiene Services," "Safe Parking," and "Sanctioned Encampment/Village" are not available, as these answer choices were added to the Count Us In Survey instrument beginning in 2018. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 29. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 814 respondents providing 1,686 responses; 2018 n= 800 respondents providing 1,499 responses; 2019 n=786 respondents providing 1,650 responses.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

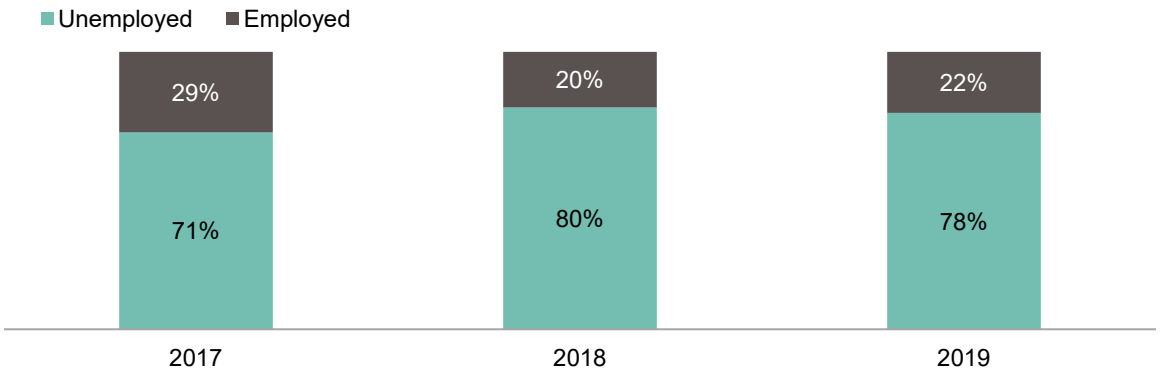
EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

The overall unemployment rate in King County was 4.1% for January 2019.[9] It is important to note that the unemployment rate only represents those who are unemployed and actively seeking employment; it does not represent all joblessness.

The majority of 2019 Count Us In Survey respondents (78%) reported being unemployed, similar to 80% of survey respondents the previous year. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents were looking for work, 16% were not looking for work, 18% were unable to work due to disability or retirement, and 7% were unauthorized to work. Employed survey respondents reported their current job status as seasonal or sporadic (5%), part-time (11%), or full-time (6%).

When asked how long it had been since they last received payment for work, over one-third (37%) reported receiving payment within the past six months. Seventeen percent (17%) reported that more than 5 years had passed since they last received payment for work.

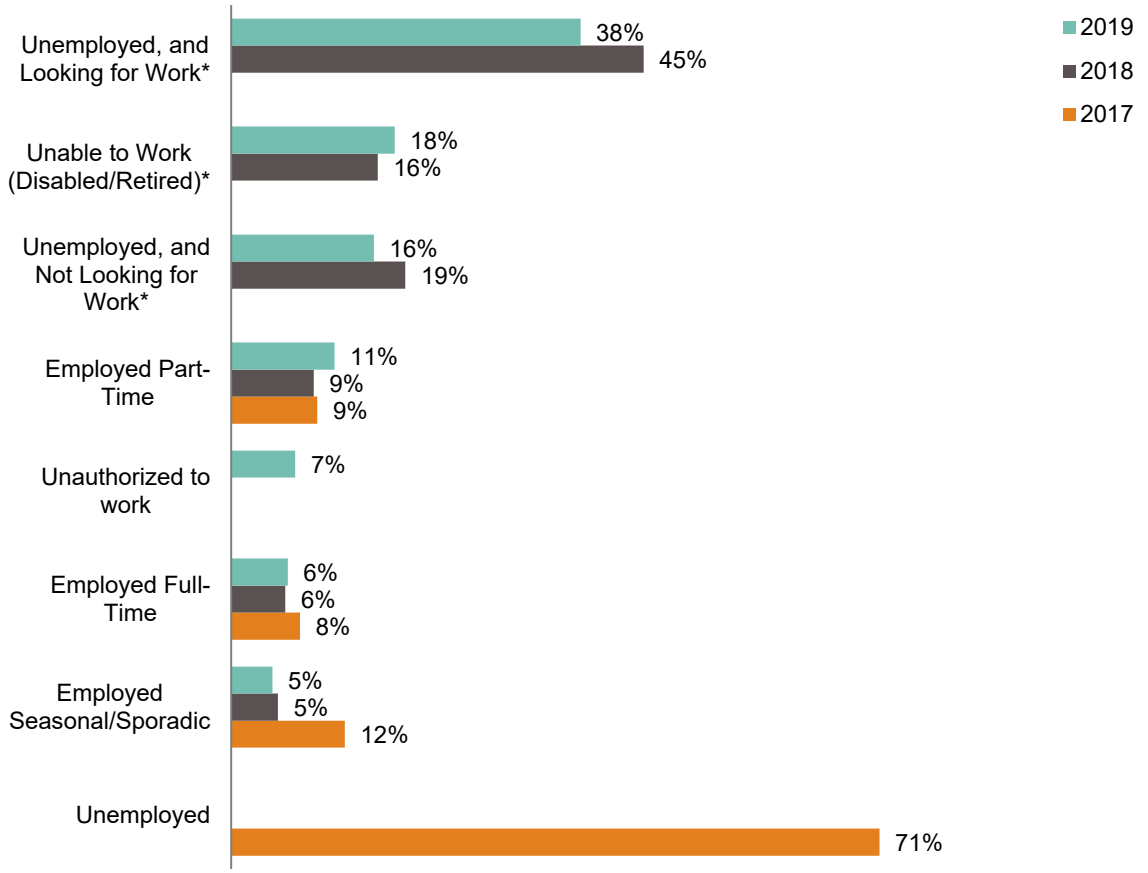
FIGURE 30. EMPLOYMENT STATUS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n=863; 2018 n= 1,035; 2019 n=1,021

9 Washington State Employment Security Department. (2018). Labor Area Summaries. Retrieved from https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications

FIGURE 31. EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY EMPLOYMENT TYPE, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 863; 2018 n= 1,035; 2019 n=1,021
Note: Comparison data are unavailable for "Unemployed, and Looking for Work," "Unemployed, and Not Looking for Work," and "Unable to Work (Disabled/Retired)," as these answer choices were added to the Count Us In Survey instrument beginning in 2018. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 32. TIME PASSED SINCE LAST RECEIVED PAYMENT FOR WORK, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS

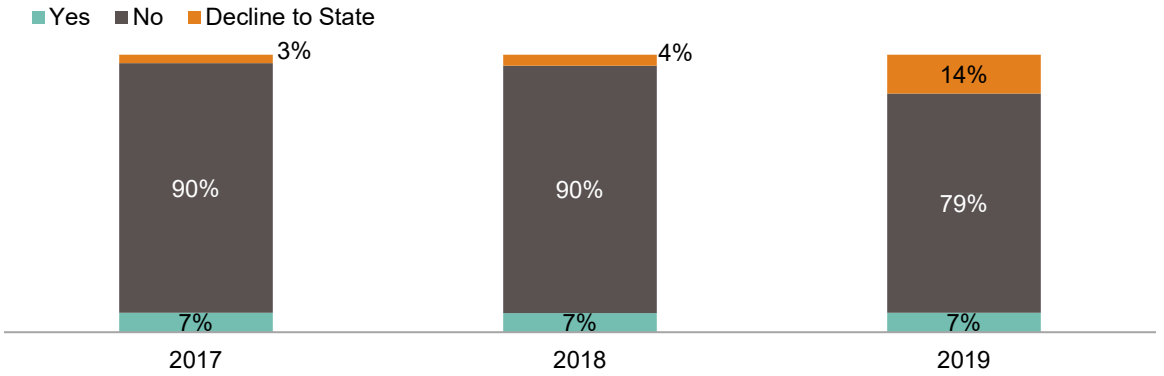
TIME PASSED SINCE LAST PAYMENT RECEIVED FOR WORK	2017	2018	2019
Less than 1 Month	*	20%	18%
1 to 6 Months	37%	19%	19%
7 to 12 Months	20%	11%	11%
1 to 2 Years	*	19%	18%
2 Years	14%	6%	7%
3 to 5 Years	12%	8%	11%
More than 5 Years	17%	18%	17%

2017 n= 803; 2018 n= 847; 2019 n=807
Note: Comparison data are unavailable for "Less than 1 Month" and "1 to 2 Years," as these answer choices were added to the Count Us In Survey instrument beginning in 2018.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PARTNER ABUSE

Seven percent (7%) of all Count Us In Survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic violence or abuse. Thirteen percent (13%) of female surveys were currently experiencing domestic violence, compared to 3% of male respondents.

FIGURE 33. CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,009; 2018 n= 903; 2019 n=886
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Count Us In Subpopulation Findings

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness outlines national objectives and evaluative measures for ending homelessness in the United States. In order to adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identifies four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs: individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied youth and young adults. These subpopulations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress towards ending homelessness. The following section examines the number and characteristics of individuals identified within each of these subpopulations estimated during Count Us In.

The 2019 Count Us In Survey effort resulted in 1,171 complete and unique surveys, including 190 eligible surveys completed as part of the youth and young adult count effort. Based on a point-in-time estimate of 11,199 individuals experiencing homelessness, these 1,171 surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 2.71% with a 95% confidence level when generating the estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. Gathering complete and unique surveys from populations that are hard to reach poses further challenges. Confidence intervals increase as the sample size decreases, meaning there is a greater probability that results would vary from these findings if the study were conducted again. In other words, a smaller population requires a higher ratio of surveys to total population in order to maintain or improve confidence. The following table displays the confidence intervals for each subpopulation featured in this section.

Subpopulation	Complete and Unique Surveys	Estimated Population	Confidence Interval
Chronically Homeless	182	2,213	+/- 6.96%
Veterans	103	830	+/- 9.04%
Families with Children (by Household)	60	2,451	+/- 12.15%
Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults	214	1,089	+/- 6.01%
Vehicle Residents	218	2,147	+/- 6.29%

However, the results presented in the following section continue to provide important insights into each of these subpopulations experiencing homelessness.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

HUD defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer—or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months in the last three years—and also has a disabling condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as to heads of household who meet the definition.

HUD reported that roughly 24% of the national homeless population was chronically homeless in 2017, representing 86,962 individuals.[10] Chronic homelessness increased 12% nationally over 2016 numbers despite communities across the country increasing the capacity of their permanent supportive housing programs and prioritizing those with the greatest barriers to housing stability. Federal budget constraints limit the amount of money available to support housing programs and services.

In 2019, Count Us In estimated 2,213 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in Seattle/King County. These individuals comprised 20% of the total count population. Compared to 2018, the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness decreased by 38% (1,339 persons).

Forty-one percent (41%) of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were unsheltered on the night of the count while 59% were residing in sheltered locations. This represents a change from the past two years, when at least 60% of the population experiencing chronic homelessness was unsheltered.

Across household types, approximately 89% of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were in adult households without children. Eight percent (8%) were in family households with children, an increase from 3% in 2018. Less than 1% of individuals were in households comprised only of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18.

[10] Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2017). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2018 from https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf

FIGURE 34. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

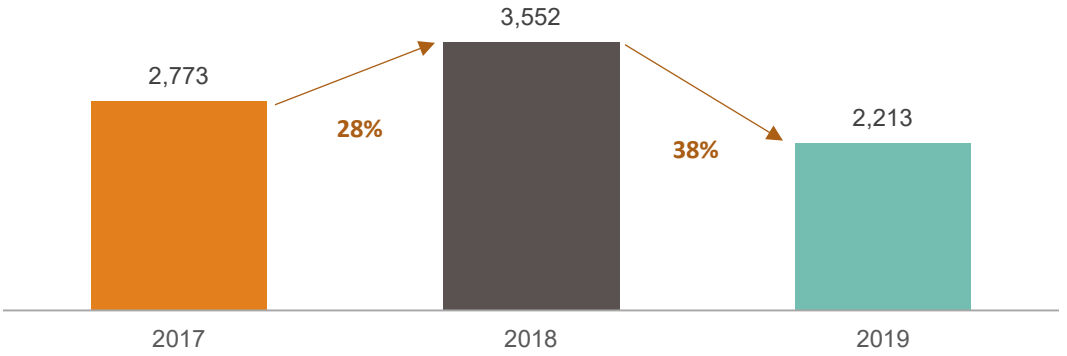


FIGURE 35. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

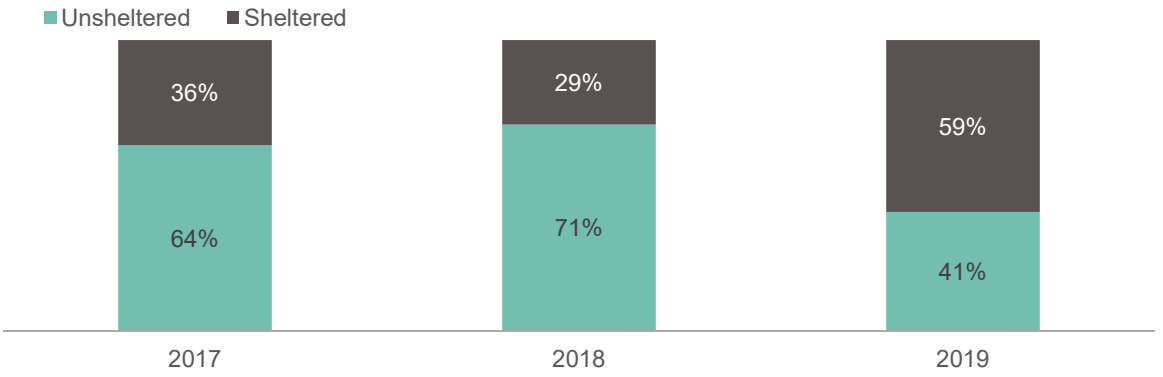


FIGURE 36. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

		Household Type			
		Persons in Family Households	Persons in Households Without Children	Persons in Households With Only Children	Total
Number of Chronic Persons	2017	290	2,481	2	2,773
	2018	115	3,434	3	3,552
	2019	179	2,208	6	2,213
% of Chronic Total	2017	10%	89%	<1%	100%
	2018	3%	97%	<1%	100%
	2019	8%	92%	<1%	100%
Number of Non-Chronic Persons	2017	2,543	6,104	223	8,870
	2018	2,509	5,878	173	8,560
	2019	2,272	6,638	76	8,986
% of Non-Chronic Total	2017	29%	69%	3%	100%
	2018	29%	69%	2%	100%
	2019	25%	65%	1%	100%
Total	2017	2,833	8,585	225	11,643
	2018	2,624	9,312	176	12,112
	2019	2,451	8,666	82	11,199

Note: Family households are defined as households with at least one adult and one child. Households without children include households with one or more adults but no children. Households with only children include households with one or more children but no adults. Please see Appendix F: *Terms* and Abbreviations *for complete definitions of all household types. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.*

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS SURVEY FINDINGS

Over half (55%) of Count Us In Survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness were over 40 years old. Twenty-seven percent (27%) were between 41 and 50 years old, 18% were between 51 and 60 years old, and 10% were 61 years old or older.

Fifty-five percent (55%) of survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness identified as male. Forty percent (40%) identified as female, 2% identified as transgender, and 3% identified with another gender.

Nearly half (49%) of survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness identified as White. Sixteen percent (16%) of survey respondents identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, and 12% identified as Black or African American. Eight percent (8%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, 11% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

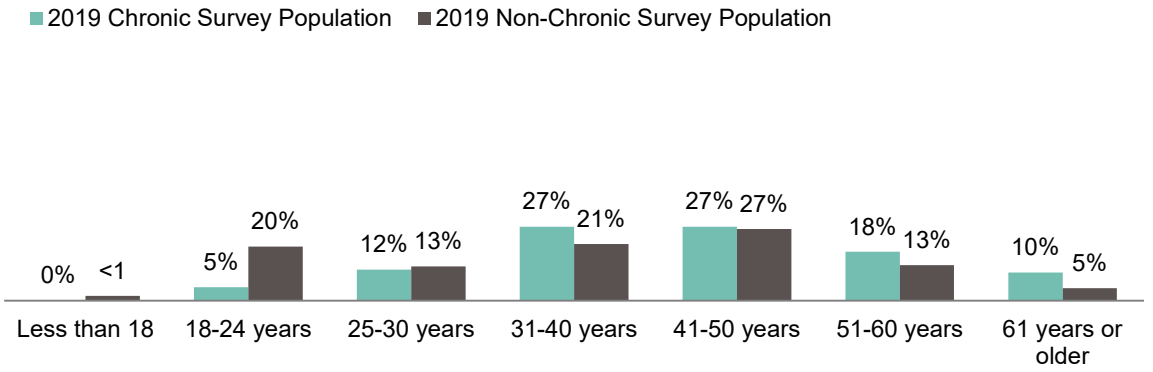
Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness most frequently reported living with drug or alcohol abuse (64%), psychiatric or emotional conditions (61%), or post-traumatic stress disorder (58%). Over one third (38%) of survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness indicated that mental health or drug or alcohol use was a primary cause of their homelessness.

Emergency shelter, free meals, day shelter services, and hygiene services were among the top services accessed by Count Us In Survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of all survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness reported issues when trying to access services in the community,

including not having an ID or personal documentation, lacking transportation, and never hearing back after applying for services.

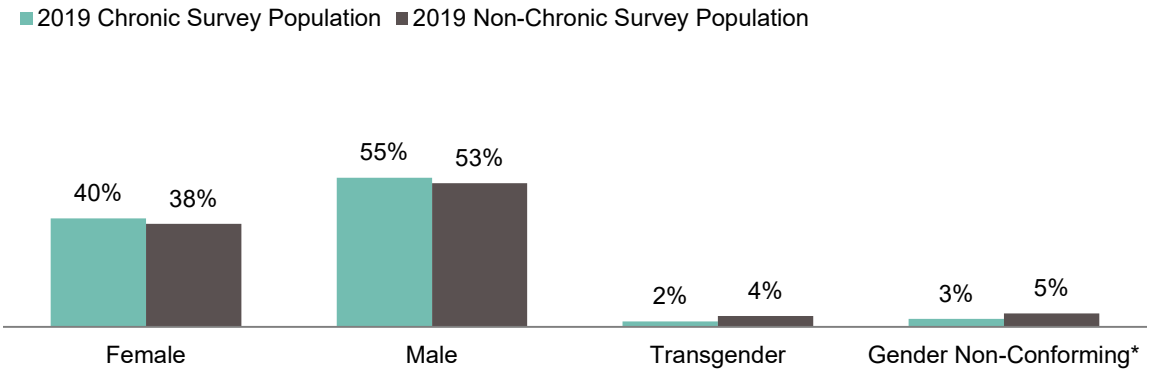
Similar to all other survey respondents, Twenty-one percent (21%) of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness reported a history of foster care.

FIGURE 37. AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



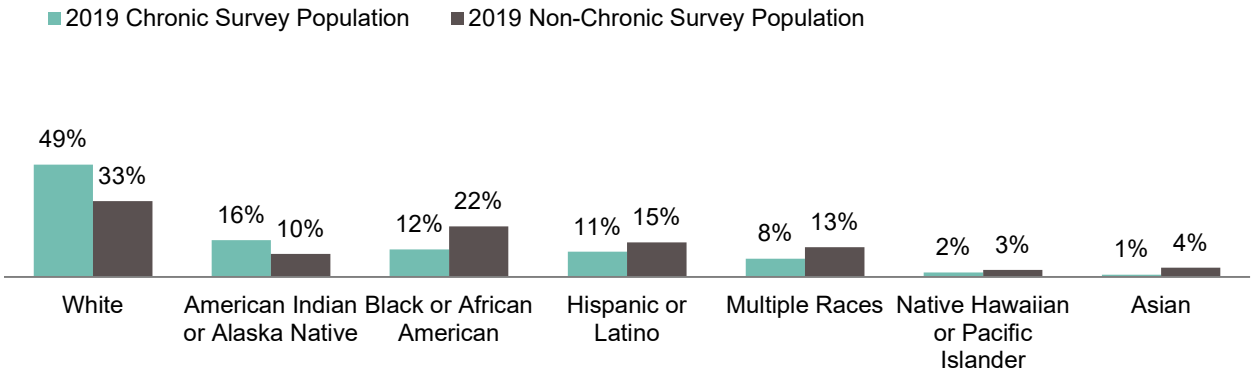
2019 Chronic Survey Population n=182; Non-Chronic Survey Population n=989

FIGURE 38. GENDER OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



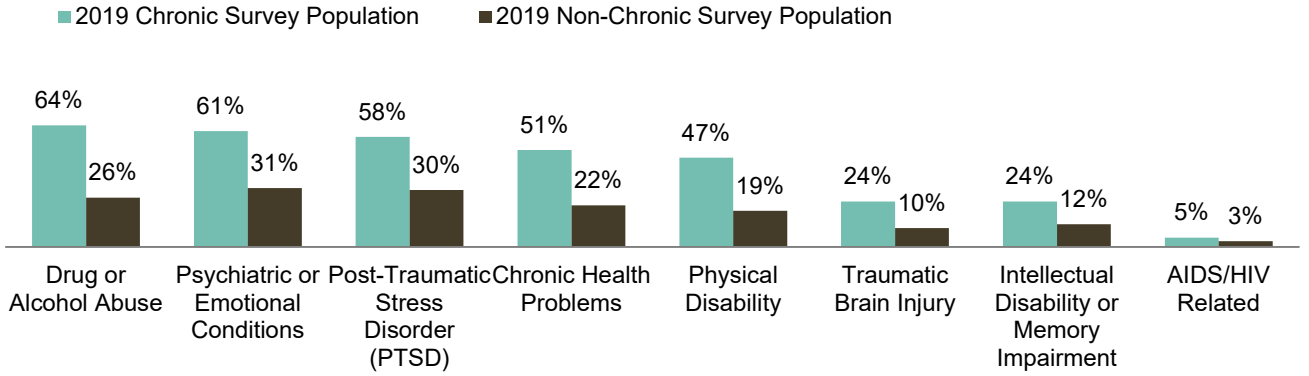
2019 Chronic Survey Population n=182; Non-Chronic Survey Population n=965
Note: In 2018, HUD updated reporting categories for gender. In 2017, the reporting categories for gender included Female, Male, Transgender, and Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender. In 2018, the categories included Female, Male, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female). For federal reporting purposes, survey respondents identifying as Gender-Queer; Gender Non-Conforming; Non-Binary; Neither Male, Female, or Transgender; or Other Not Listed were included in the Gender Non-Conforming category. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 39. RACE AND ETHNICITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



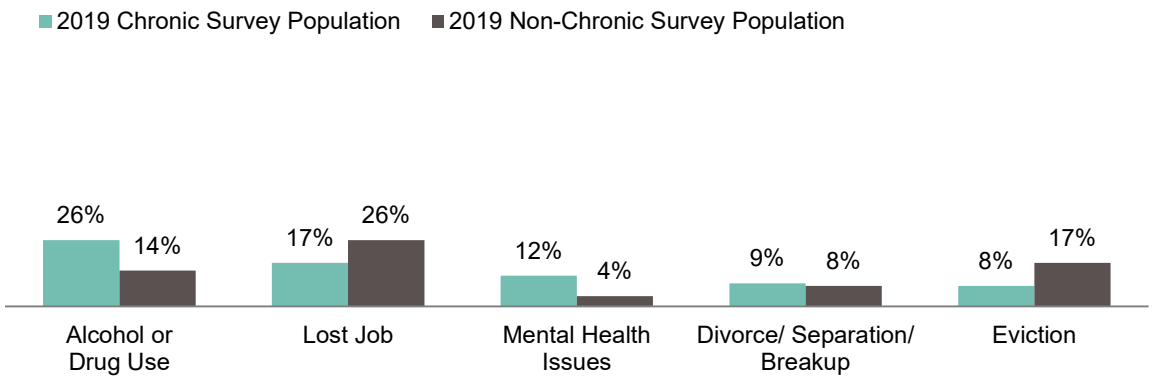
2019 Chronic Survey Population n=182; Non-Chronic Survey Population n=989

FIGURE 40. HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



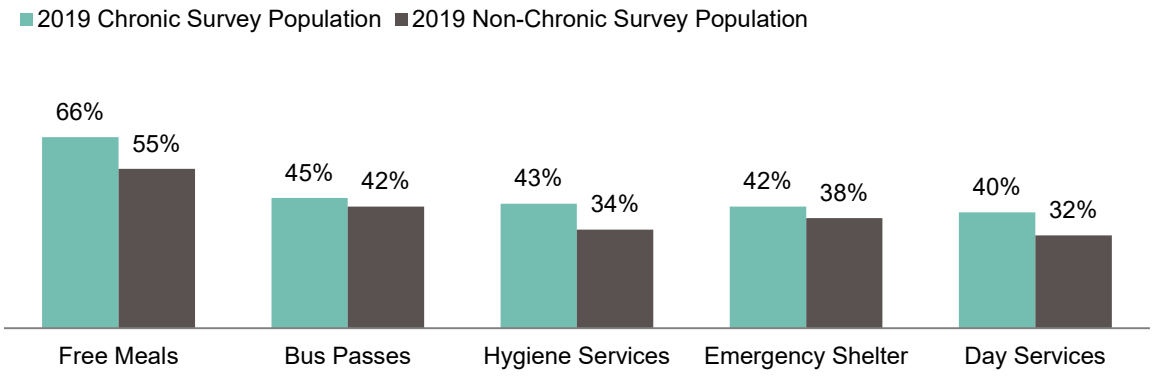
2019 Chronic Survey Population n=166-182; Non-Chronic Survey Population n=720-989
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.
Note: Intellectual Disability or Memory Impairment added in 2019.

FIGURE 41. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



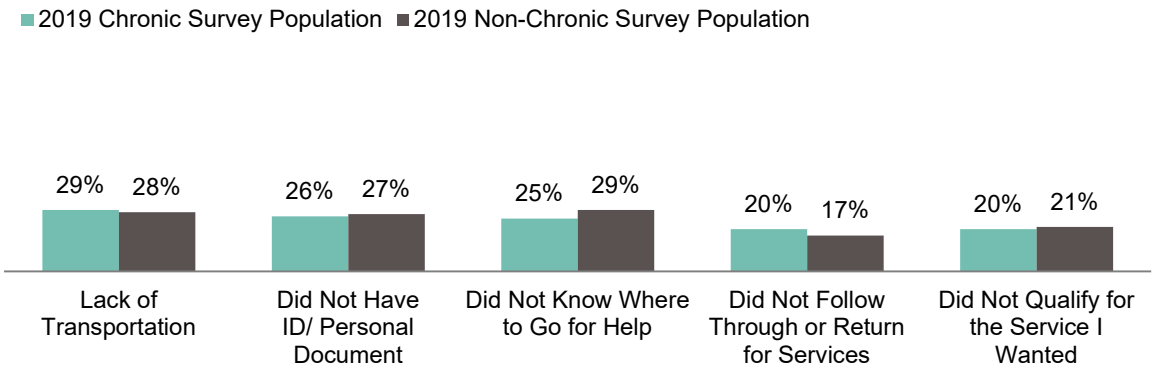
2019 Chronic Survey Population n=180 respondents providing 237 responses; Non-Chronic Survey Population n=689 respondents providing 890 responses

FIGURE 42. SERVICES ACCESSED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



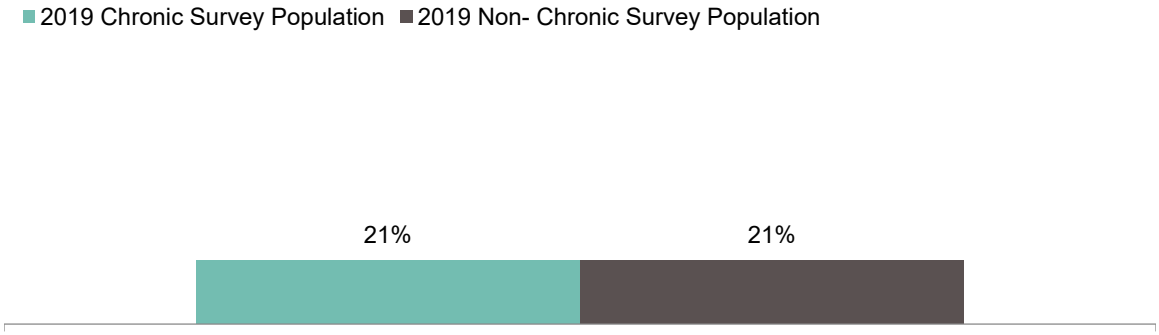
2019 Chronic Survey Population n= 179 respondents providing 634 responses; Non-Chronic Survey Population n= 648 respondents providing 2,049 responses

FIGURE 43. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



2019 Chronic Survey Population n= 174 respondents providing 356 responses; Non-Chronic Survey Population n= 612 respondents providing 1,294 responses

FIGURE 44. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



2019 Chronic Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 177; Non-Chronic Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 933

VETERANS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a broad range of benefits and services to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. These benefits can involve different forms of financial assistance, including monthly cash payments to disabled veterans, health care, education, and housing benefits. In addition to these supports, the VA and HUD partner to provide additional housing and support services to veteran's currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homeless.

In 2019, Count Us In estimated there were 830 veterans experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. These individuals represented 7% of the total count population. This continues a downward trend that began in 2018, and the number of veterans has fallen by 38% since 2017.

There were 465 veterans (56% of veterans experiencing homelessness) who were unsheltered on the night of the count and 365 veterans (44%) who were sheltered.

An estimated 74% of veterans experiencing homelessness identified as male, 18% identified as female (up from 4% in 2017), 6% as transgender, and 2% identified with another gender. 2019 saw the largest percentage of veteran survey respondents identifying as female in the last 3 years.

An estimated 48% of veterans experiencing homelessness identified as White. Twenty-four percent (23%) identified as Black or African American, 22% identified as Hispanic or Latino, 10% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 5% identified as Asian. Eleven percent (11%) identified with multiple races.

There were 155 veterans (19% of veterans experiencing homelessness) who were experiencing chronic homelessness. This represents a decrease since 2018 and is the second consecutive year there were fewer veterans experiencing homelessness.

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of veterans experiencing homelessness were in households without children, while 20 veterans were members of family households.

FIGURE 45. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

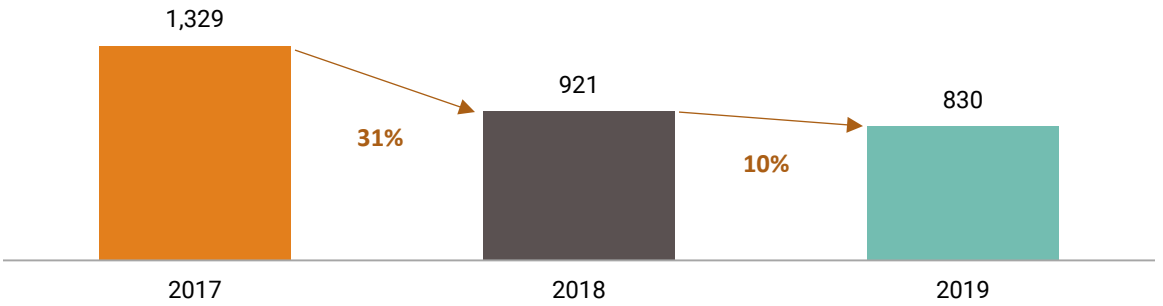


FIGURE 46. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

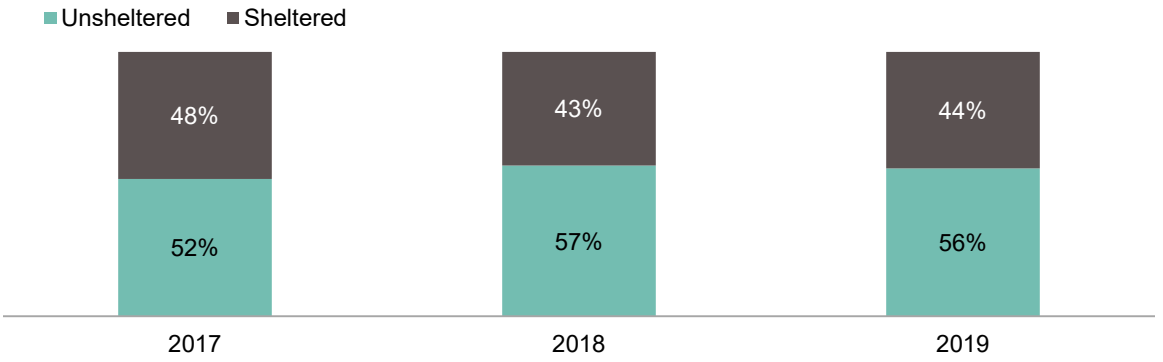
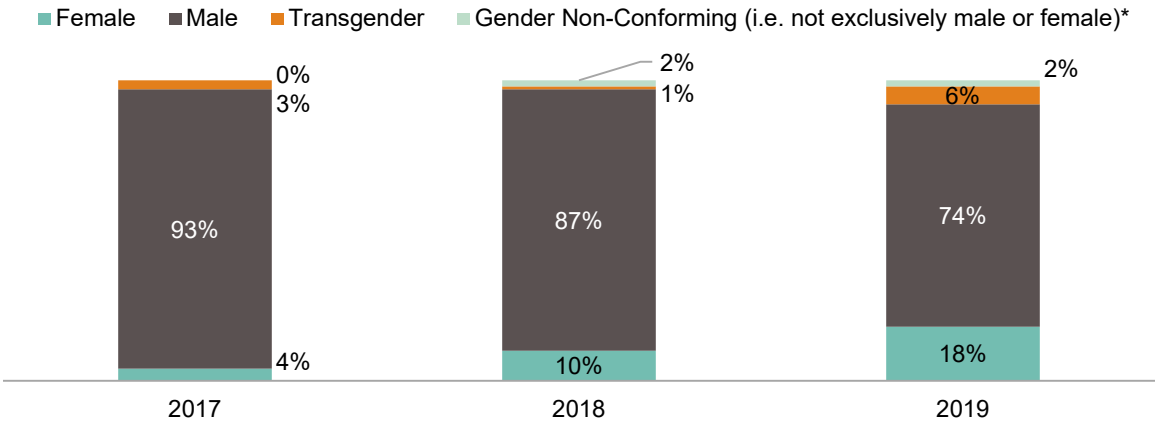
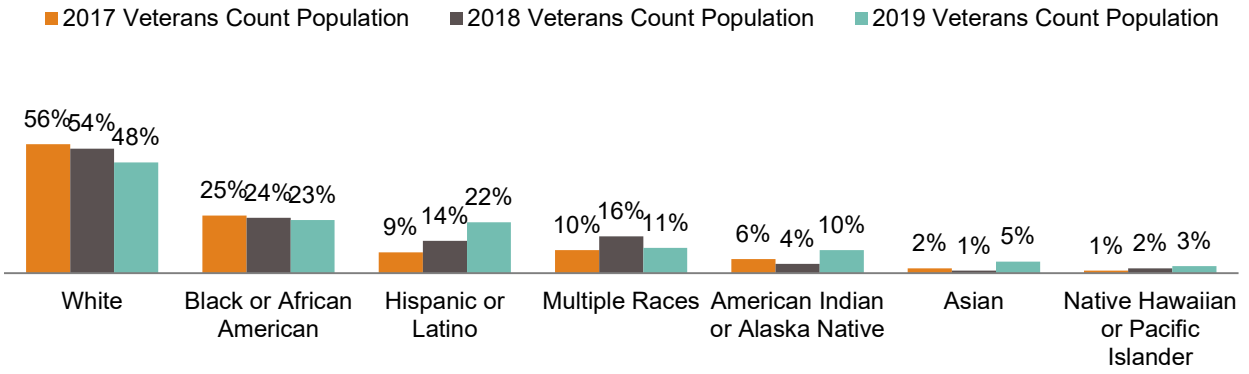


FIGURE 47. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER



2017 n= 1,329; 2018 n= 921; 2019 n=830
Note: In 2018, HUD updated reporting categories for gender. In 2017, the reporting categories for gender included Female, Male, Transgender, and Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender. In 2018, the categories included Female, Male, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female). For federal reporting purposes, survey respondents identifying as Gender-Queer; Gender Non-Conforming; Non-Binary; Neither Male, Female, or Transgender; or Other Not Listed were included in the Gender Non-Conforming category. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 48. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



2017 Veterans Count Population n= 1,329; 2018 Veterans Count Population n= 921; 2019 Veterans Count Population n=830
Note: HUD gathers data on ethnicity and race through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

VETERANS SURVEY FINDINGS

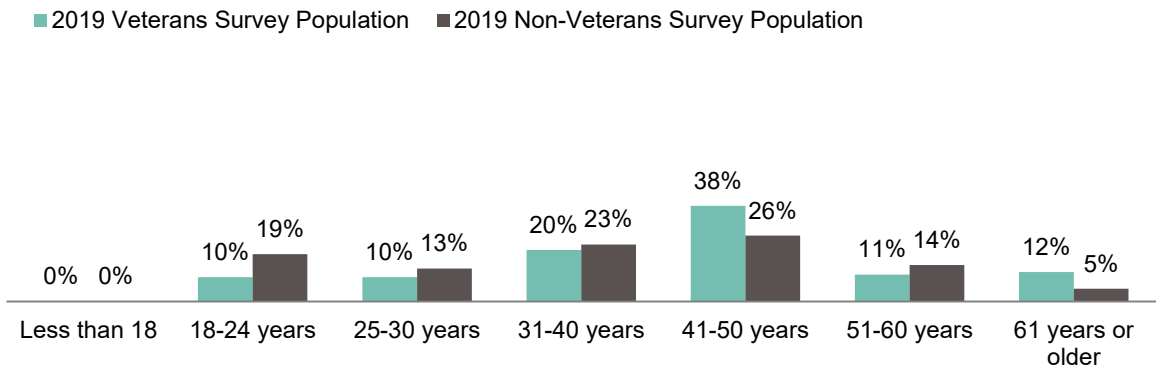
Nearly 61% of veterans responding to the Count Us In Survey were over 40 years old. Twenty percent (20%) were between 31 and 40 years old and 10% were between 25 and 30 years old.

When compared to other Count Us In Survey respondents, veterans reported notably higher rates of living with post-traumatic stress disorder and similar rates of physical disabilities.

Job loss was the most frequently cited cause of homelessness among veterans (27%), followed by eviction (19%) and alcohol or drug use (13%).

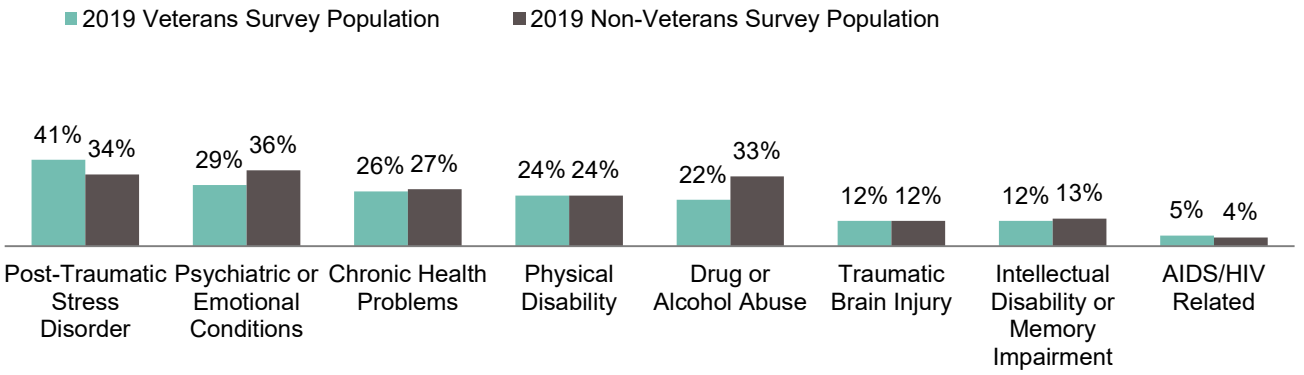
Overall, survey respondents identifying as veterans reported accessing services at the same rate compared to non-veterans (90%). Free meals, bus passes, and emergency shelter were among the top services accessed by veterans. Similar to non-veterans, the top barriers encountered by veterans in seeking services included not having an ID or personal documentation, lack of transportation, and respondents reporting never hearing back after applying for services. Veterans also reported a higher rate of qualifying for services (86% compared to 79%).

FIGURE 49. AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VETERANS AND VETERANS COMPARISON



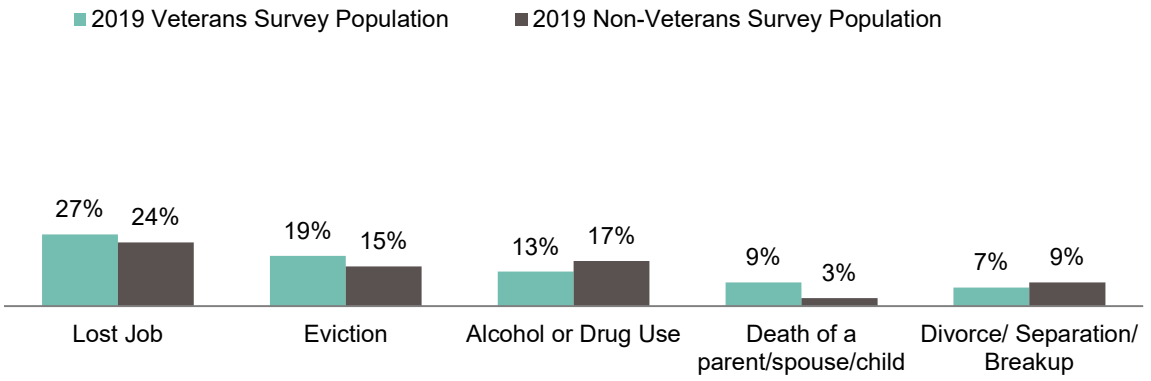
2019 Veterans Survey Population n= 103; Non-Veterans Survey Population n= 1,051

FIGURE 50. HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VETERANS AND VETERANS COMPARISON



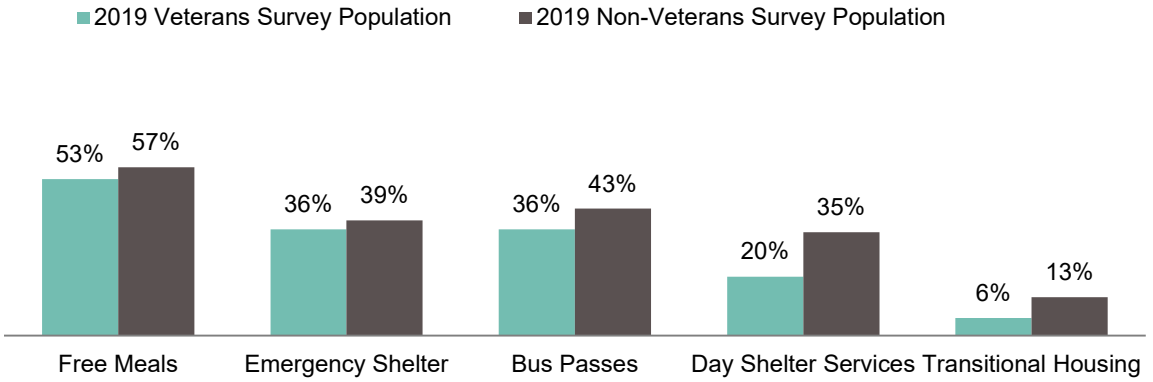
2019 Veterans Survey Population w. Health Condition n= 103; Non-Veterans Survey Population w. Health Condition n= 1,051
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 51. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-VETERANS AND VETERANS COMPARISON



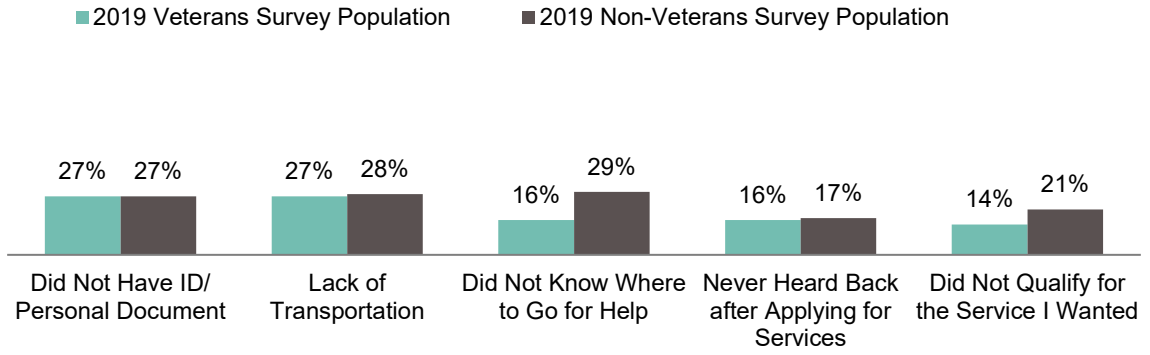
2019 Veterans Survey Population n= 75 respondents providing 98 responses; Non-Veterans Survey Population n= 790 responses providing 1,025 responses

FIGURE 52. SERVICES ACCESSED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-VETERANS AND VETERANS COMPARISON



2019 Veterans Survey Population n= 70 respondents providing 194 responses; Non-Veterans Survey Population n= 753 respondents providing 2,476 responses

FIGURE 53. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-VETERANS AND VETERANS COMPARISON



2019 Veterans Survey Population n= 64 respondents providing 111 responses; Non-Veterans Survey Population n= 718 respondents providing 1,525 responses

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

National data from 2017 suggest that 33% of all people experiencing homelessness are persons in families.[11] Very few families experiencing homelessness are unsheltered, as public shelters serve more than 90% of homeless families in the United States; this is a significantly higher proportion of the population compared to other subpopulations, including unaccompanied children and transition-age youth.

Nationally, the majority of families experiencing homelessness are households headed by single women and families with children under the age of six.[12] Children in families experiencing homelessness report increased incidence of illness and are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems than children with stable living accommodations.[13]

In 2019, Count Us In identified 2,451 persons in 763 families with children experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County; 1,583 were children under the age of 18. These individuals comprised approximately 22% of the total population experiencing homelessness. The number of persons experiencing homelessness in families with children decreased by seven percent from 2018 to 2019.

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of persons in families with children identified during Count Us In were sheltered and 3% were unsheltered.[14] This percentage has remained unchanged since 2017. Of those that were sheltered, 51% were living in transitional housing, similar to 2018 (54%).

Of the 763 families with children experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, 72 were households headed by a young parent under the age of 25. There were 105 children living in these young families.

An estimated sixty-two percent (62%) of persons in families with children identified as female and 38% identified as male.

When compared to the remainder of the count population, individuals in families with children identified as persons of color at higher rates. An estimated 55% of persons in families with children identified as Black or African American, 22% identified as White, 3% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 5% identified as Asian, and 2% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native. Thirteen percent (13%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, 15% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino. The percentage of persons in families identifying as Black or African American increased from 38% in 2017.

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11 Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2017). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2018 from https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf

12 U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). Characteristics and Dynamics of Homeless Families with Children. Retrieved 2018 from http://aspe.hhs.gov/

13 U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2015). Opening Doors. Retrieved 2018 from http://www.usich.gov/

14 Identifying unsheltered families with children is extremely difficult in the Point-in-Time Count setting, and the number of reported unsheltered families is likely an undercount. For more information, please see *Appendix A: Methodology*.

Five percent (5%) of family households were experiencing chronic homelessness.

FIGURE 54. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

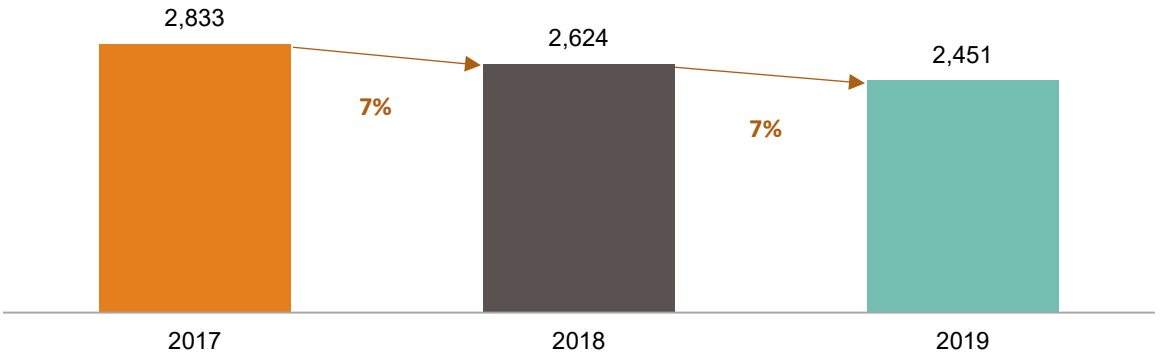


FIGURE 55. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

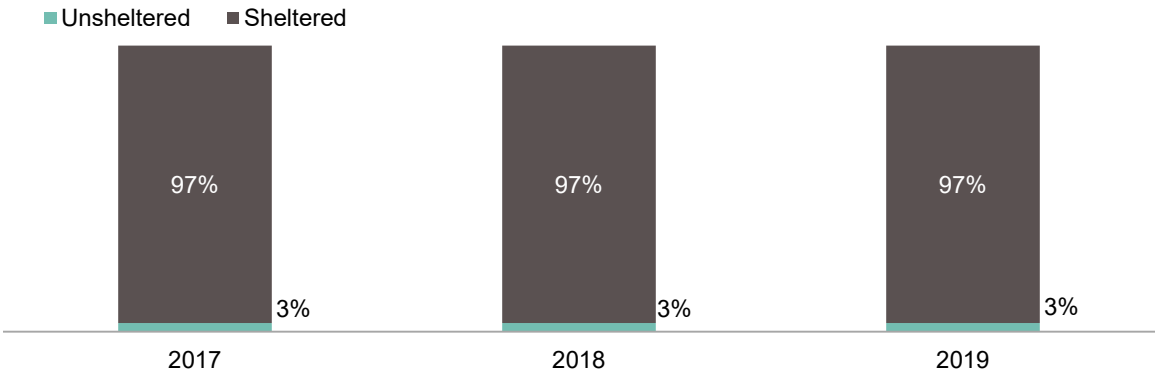


FIGURE 56. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY AGE OF PARENT

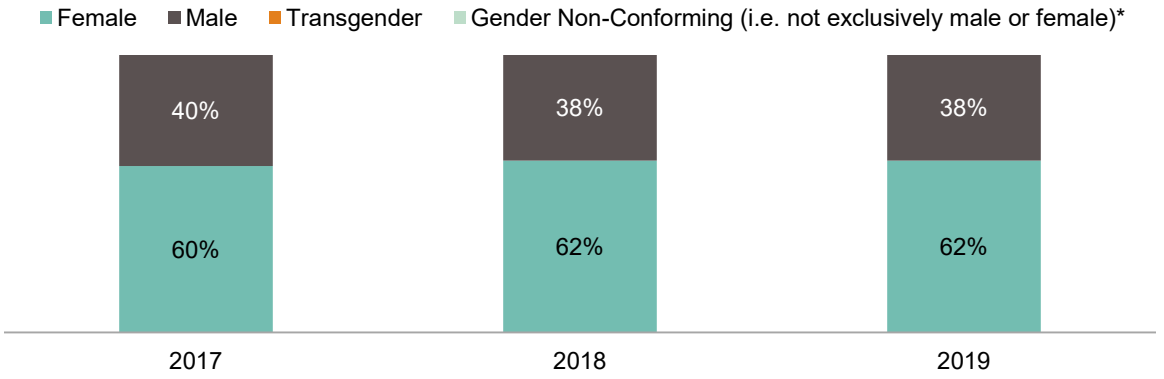
2019						
	Children Under Age 18	Parents Under Age 25	Family Members Age 18-24	Family Members Over Age 24	Total Number Of Persons	% Of Total
Persons in Households with Parent Age 25 or Older	1,363	-	161	822	2,263	92%
Persons in Households with Parent Age 24 or Younger	105	83	-	-	188	8%
TOTAL	**2,451**	**83**	**161**	**822**	**2,451**	**100%**

2018						
	Children Under Age 18	Parents Under Age 25	Family Members Age 18-24	Family Members Over Age 24	Total Number Of Persons	% Of Total
Persons in Households with Parent Age 25 or Older	1,453	--	90	849	2,392	91%
Persons in Households with Parent Age 24 or Younger	130	102	--	--	232	9%
TOTAL	**1,583**	**102**	**90**	**849**	**2,624**	**100%**

2017						
	Children Under Age 18	Parents Under Age 25	Family Members Age 18-24	Family Members Over Age 24	Total Number Of Persons	% Of Total
Persons in Households with Parent Over Age 24	1,467	--	69	933	2,469	87%
Persons in Households with Parent Under Age 25	222	142	--	--	364	13%
TOTAL	**1,689**	**142**	**69**	**933**	**2,833**	**100%**

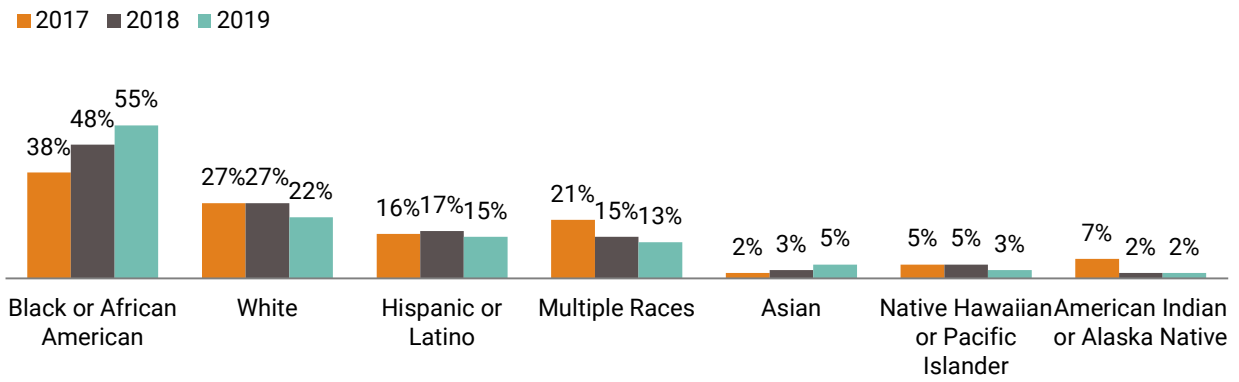
Note: Family households are defined by households with at least one adult and one child. Please see Appendix F: Terms and Abbreviations for complete definitions of all household types.

FIGURE 57. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER



2017 n= 2,833; 2018 n= 2,624; 2019 n=2,451
Note: In 2018, HUD updated reporting categories for gender. In 2017, the reporting categories for gender included Female, Male, Transgender, and Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender. In 2018, the categories included Female, Male, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female). For federal reporting purposes, survey respondents identifying as Gender-Queer; Gender Non-Conforming; Non-Binary; Neither Male, Female, or Transgender; or Other Not Listed were included in the Gender Non-Conforming category. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 58. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



2017 n= 2,833; 2018 n= 2,624; 2019 n=2,451
Note: HUD gathers data on ethnicity and race through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN SURVEY FINDINGS

Compared to Count Us In Survey respondents with no children, families with children reported experiencing notably higher rates of domestic violence. Furthermore, they attributed experiencing homelessness to domestic violence at more than two times the rate of all other survey respondents (13% compared to 5%). Twenty-two percent (22%) of families cited the loss of a job as the primary cause of their homelessness. Survey respondents with children were also more likely than non-family respondents to indicate that rent increases, eviction, and family/friends no longer letting them stay with them led to their homelessness.

Immediately prior to experiencing homelessness, 50% of families with children reported living in a home owned or rented by either themselves or their partner. Thirty percent (30%) reported living in a home owned or rented by relatives or friends and another 2% reported living in a hotel or motel.

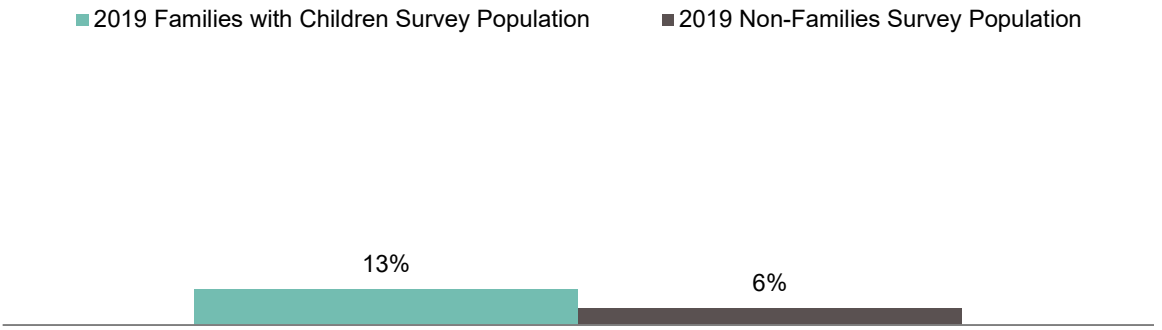
Nearly all survey respondents living in families with children (90%) reported currently accessing services, most frequently citing transitional housing, bus passes, health services, mental health services, and job/employment services. Twenty percent (20%) of families with children reported not experiencing any issues trying to access services in the community. For families with children that did indicate encountering problems in seeking services, the most frequently cited issues included lack of transportation and not knowing where to go for help.

Compared to all other survey respondents, families with children reported a slightly higher rate of psychiatric or emotional conditions and physical disabilities and a markedly lower rate of drug or alcohol abuse. Thirty-three percent (33%) of families with children indicated that they were living with psychiatric or emotional conditions and physical disabilities respectively, compared to 23% of nonfamily survey respondents.

Families with children also reported lower rates of having ever been in foster care when compared to all other survey respondents (14% compared to 21%).

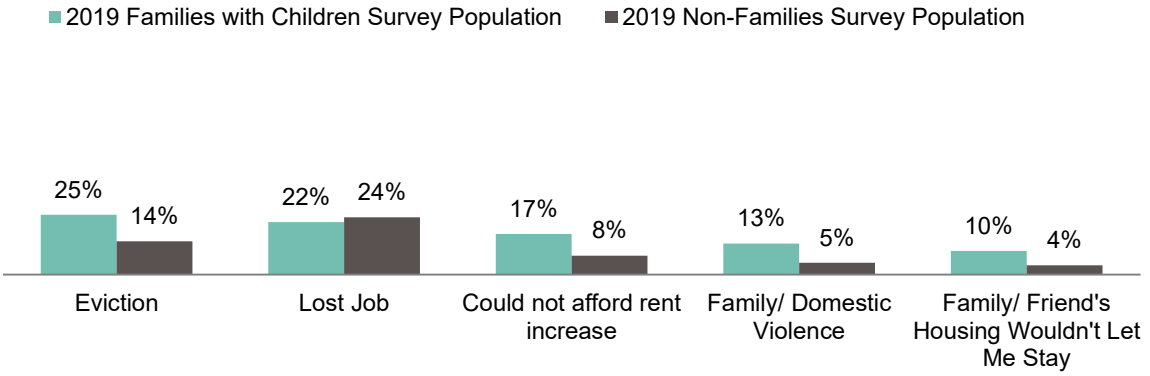
Note: The majority of survey respondents representing families with children were residing in transitional housing at the time of the survey, due to challenges in identifying unsheltered families. Please see Appendix A: Methodology *for additional information.*

FIGURE 59. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



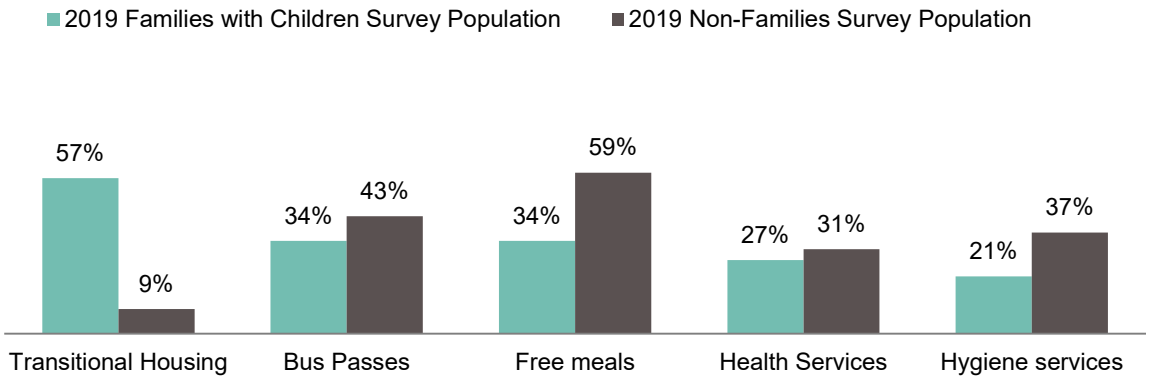
2019 Families with Children Survey Population n= 54; Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 832

FIGURE 60. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



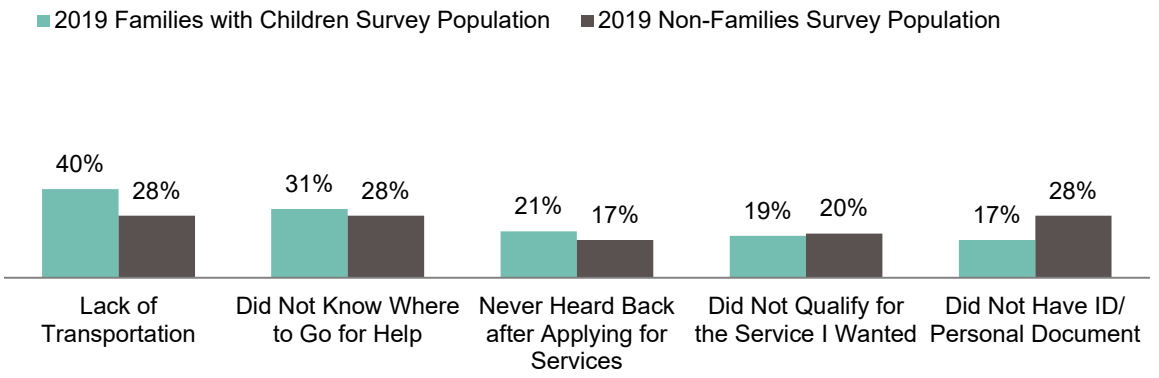
2019 Families with Children Survey Population n= 60 respondents providing 77 responses; Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 809 respondents providing 1,050 responses

FIGURE 61. SERVICES ACCESSED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



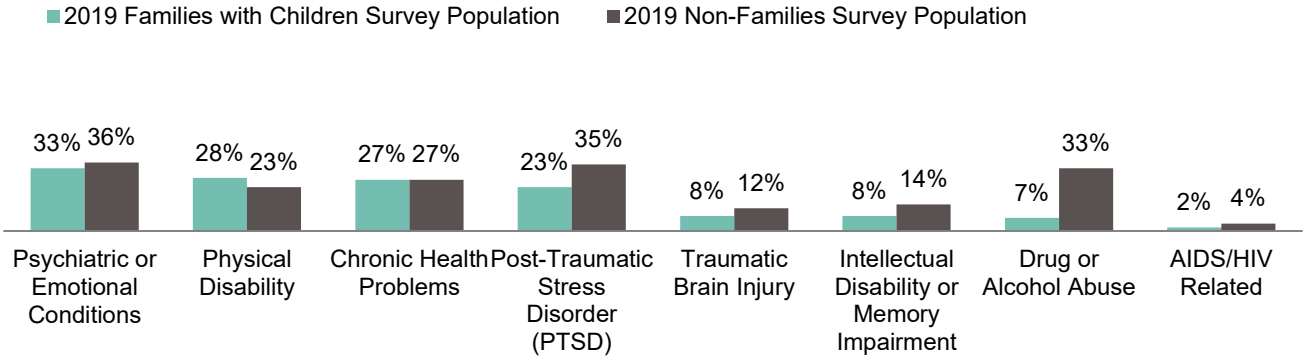
2019 Families with Children Survey Population n= 56 respondents providing 144 responses; Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 771 respondents providing 2,539 responses

FIGURE 62. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



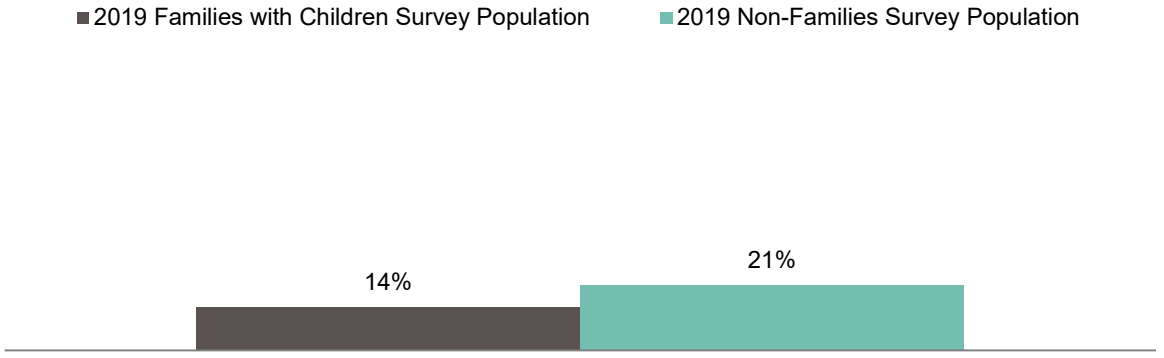
2019 Families with Children Survey Population n= 52 respondents providing 133 responses; Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 734 respondents providing 2,016 responses

FIGURE 63. HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



2019 Families with Children Survey Population n= 60; Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 1,111
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 64. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



2019 Families with Children Survey Population n= 56; Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 1,012;

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Of individuals counted during Count Us In, an estimated 1,089 (10% of the total count population) were unaccompanied youth and young adults. This includes 82 children under the age of 18 (a decrease from 172 in 2018) and 1,007 young adults between the ages of 18 and 24. These numbers do not include young people under 25 years of age who are in families or have children; these young people are included in the data on families with children.

Compared to 2018, the number of unaccompanied youth and young adults decreased by 28% (429 persons).

Slightly more than two-thirds (68%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults were unsheltered and 32% were sheltered on the night of the count.

An estimated 60% of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness during Count Us In identified as male. Thirty-one percent (31%) identified as female, 3% identified as transgender, and 6% identified with another gender.

An estimated 38% of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness identified as White. Thirty-four percent (34%) identified as Black or African American, 10% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% identified as Asian, and 3% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Twelve percent (12%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, 20% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

Four percent (4%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults were experiencing chronic homelessness, down from 19% in 2018.

FIGURE 65. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

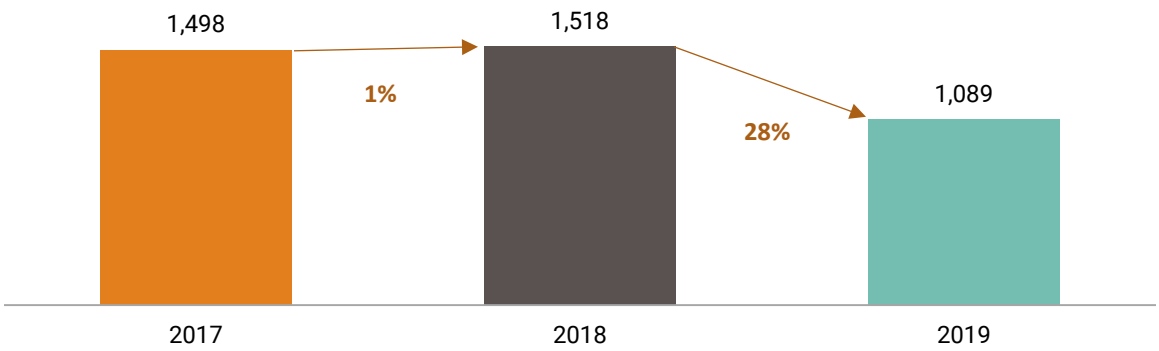


FIGURE 66. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

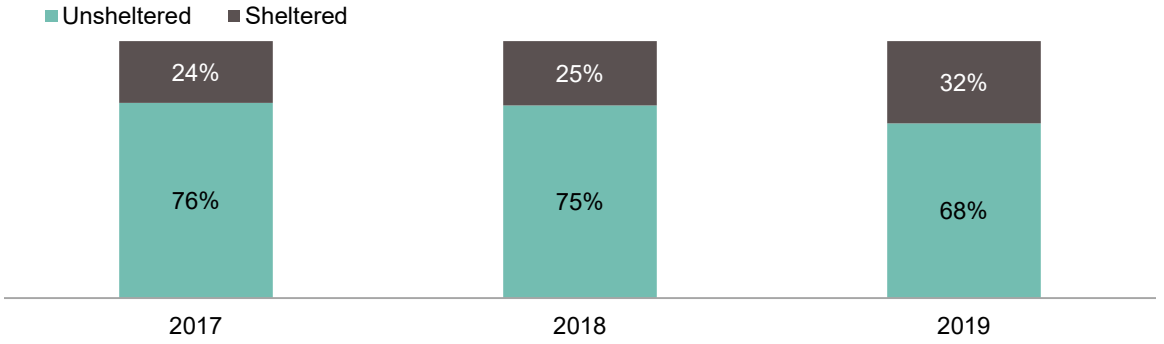


FIGURE 67. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY AGE

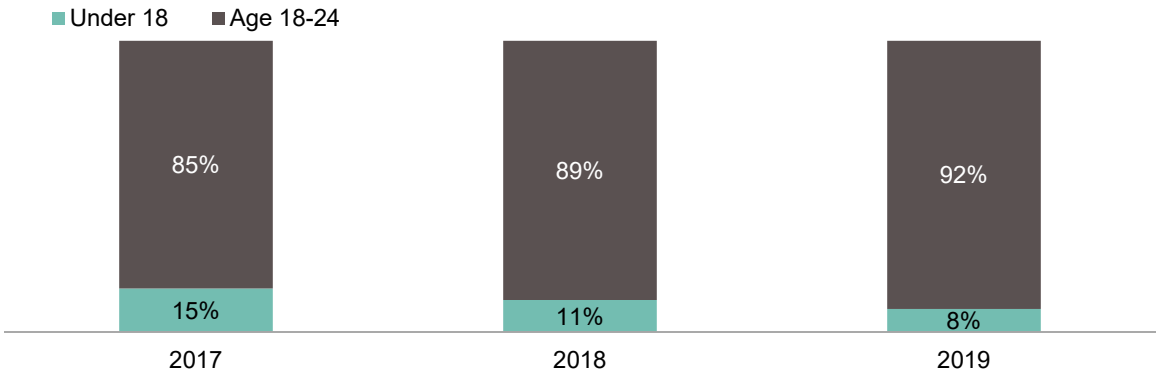
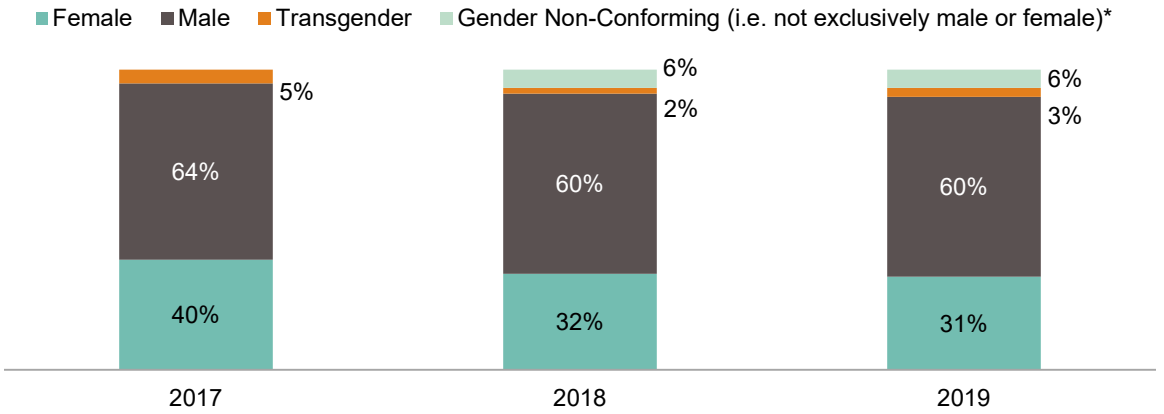


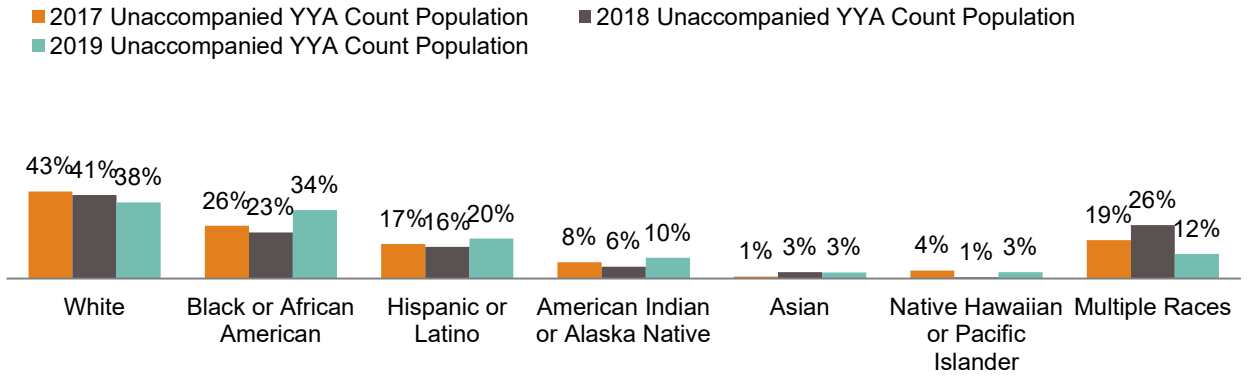
FIGURE 68. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER



2017 n= 1,498; 2018 n= 1,518; 2019 n=1,089

Note: In 2018, HUD updated reporting categories for gender. In 2017, the reporting categories for gender included Female, Male, Transgender, and Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender. In 2018, the categories included Female, Male, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female). For federal reporting purposes, survey respondents identifying as Gender-Queer; Gender Non-Conforming; Non-Binary; Neither Male, Female, or Transgender; or Other Not Listed were included in the Gender Non-Conforming category. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 69. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



2017 n=1,498; 2018 n= 1,518; 2019 n=1,089
Note: HUD gathers data on ethnicity and race through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SURVEY FINDINGS

Unaccompanied youth and young adults identified as LGBTQ+ at nearly twice the rate as survey respondents age 25 and older (34% compared to 20%). Thirty-eight percent (38%) of young people identifying as LGBTQ+ identified as bisexual and 24% identified as lesbian or gay.

Fifty-nine percent (59%) of young people identified as male. Twenty-nine percent (29%) identified as female, 9% identified as gender non-conforming (e.g., gender-queer, gender non-conforming, or non-binary), and 3% transgender.

Five percent (5%) of unaccompanied young people responding to the Count Us In Survey reported that either they or their partner were currently pregnant, compared to 3% of survey respondents age 25 and older.

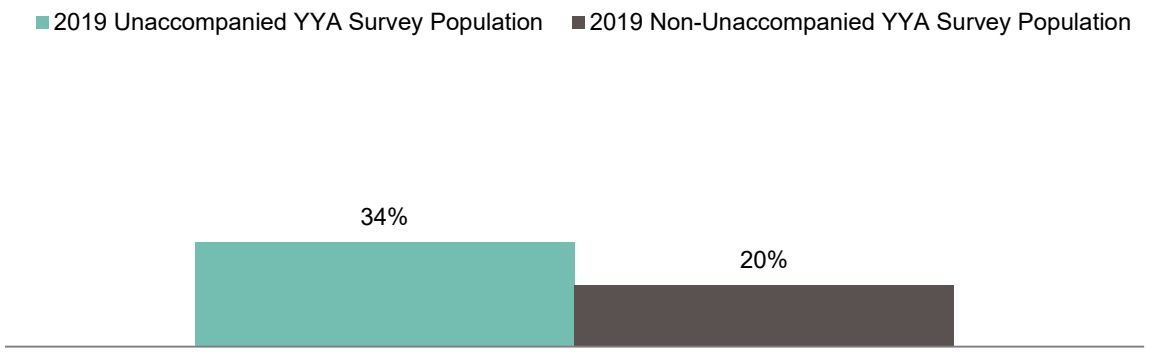
Thirty-two (32%) of unaccompanied young people indicated ever having been in foster care.

When asked to identify the primary cause of their homelessness, unaccompanied young people most frequently cited alcohol or drug use, eviction, argument with family or friends, family or friends asked them to leave, and job loss.

Unaccompanied young people reported accessing services at a similar rate when compared to all other survey respondents (89% compared to 90%). Free meals, mental health services, emergency shelter, bus passes, and day shelter services were among the top services accessed. Eighteen percent (18%) of unaccompanied young people reported not experiencing any issues trying to access services in the community. For young people who did indicate encountering problems in seeking services, the most frequently cited issues included not knowing where to go for help, and not having their ID or personal documents.

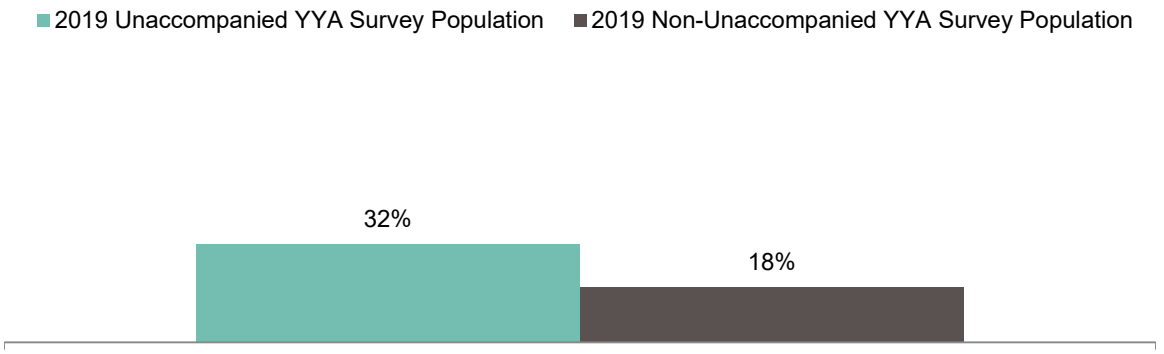
When compared to survey respondents age 25 and older, unaccompanied young people reported higher rates of psychiatric or emotional conditions and post-traumatic stress disorder, but lower rates of chronic health problems and physical disability.

FIGURE 70. SURVEY RESPONDENTS IDENTIFYING AS LGBTQ+, NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



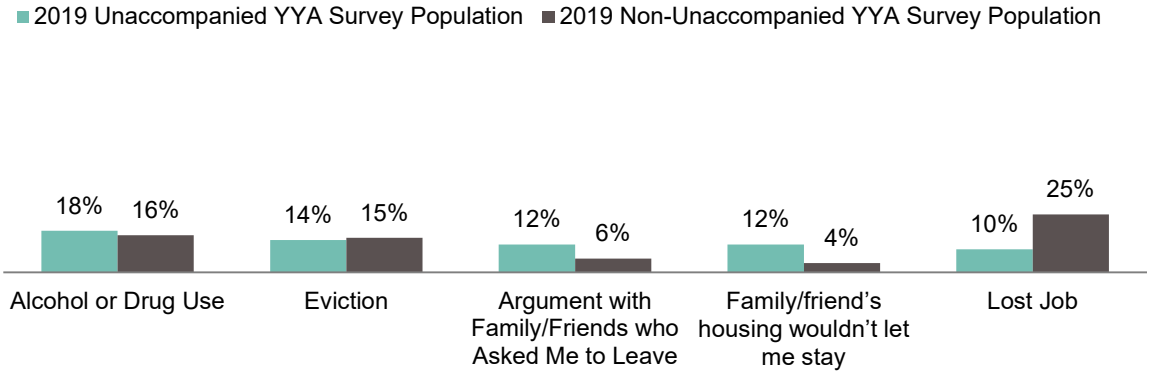
2019 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 214; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 957

FIGURE 71. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



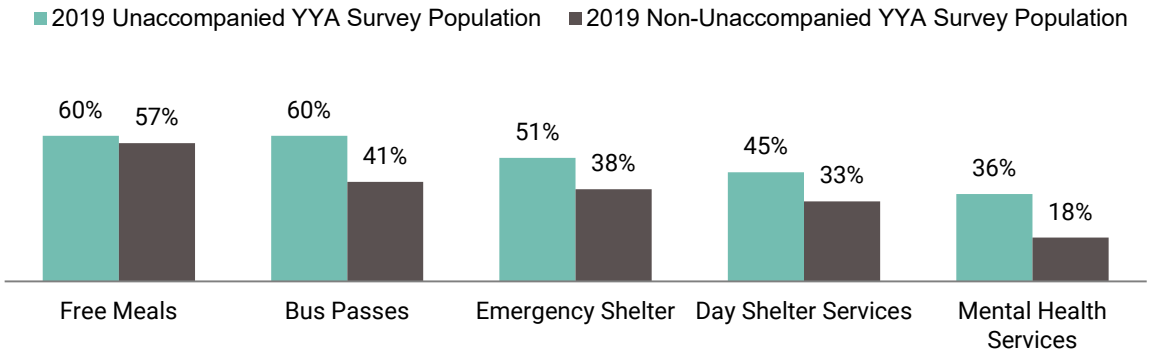
2019 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 206; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 862

FIGURE 72. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



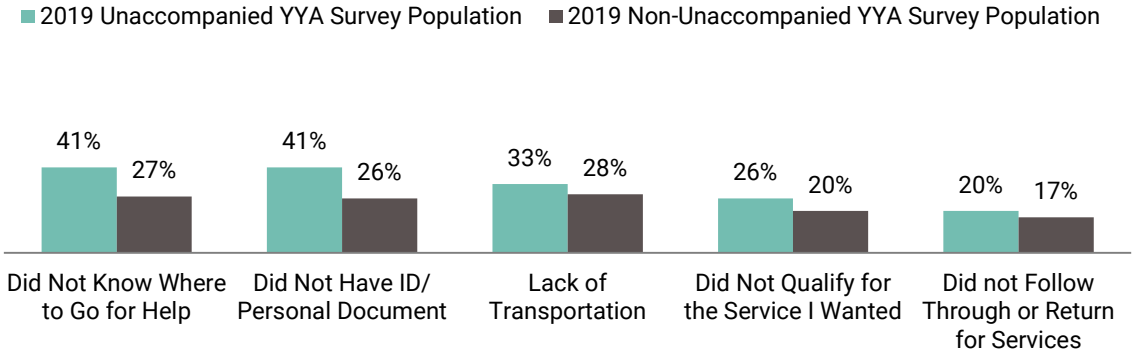
2019 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 49 respondents providing 58 responses; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 820 respondents providing 1,069 responses

FIGURE 73. SERVICES ACCESSED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



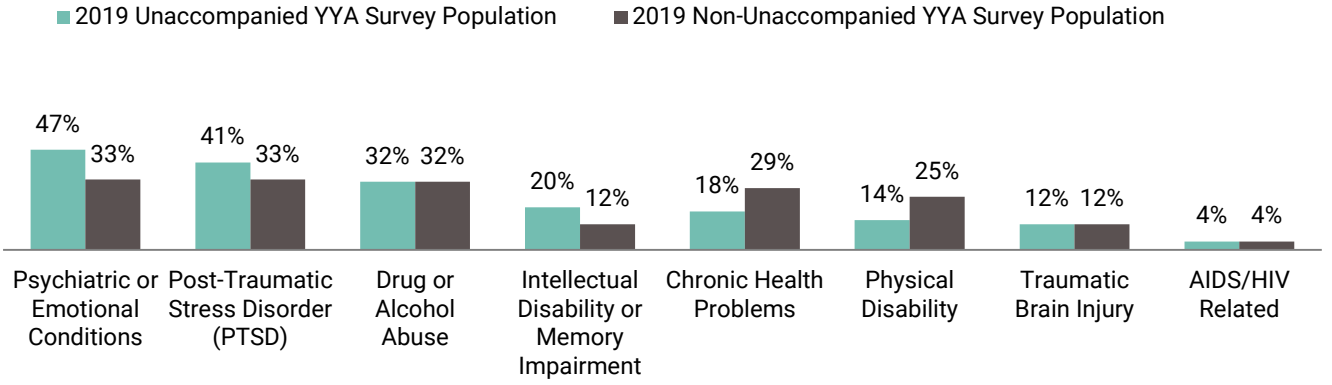
2019 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 47 respondents providing 177 responses; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 780 respondents providing 2,506 responses

FIGURE 74. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



2019 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 46 respondents providing 107 responses; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 740 respondents providing 1,543 responses

FIGURE 75. HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



2019 Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 214; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 957;
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

VEHICLE RESIDENTS

For the purposes of the Point-in-Time Count, vehicle residents are defined as persons sleeping in a car, RV, or van.

In 2019, Count Us In estimated 2,147 individuals living in vehicles. These individuals comprised 19% of the total count population and 41% of the unsheltered population. Compared to 2018, the number of individuals residing in vehicles decreased by 36% (1,225 persons), with the most marked decrease observed among individuals residing in RVs.

FIGURE 76. INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN VEHICLES, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

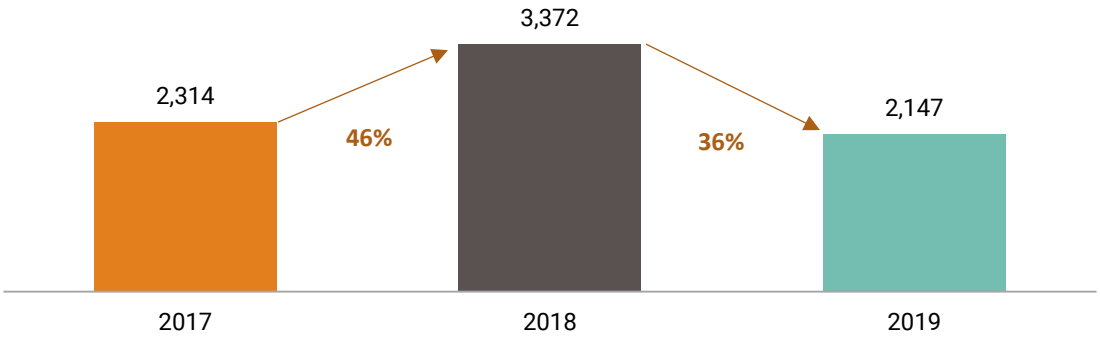
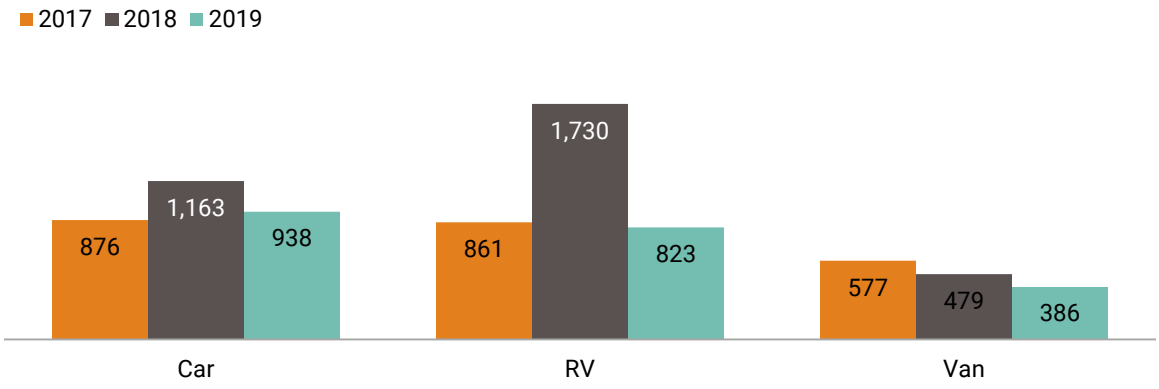


FIGURE 77. INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN VEHICLES, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY VEHICLE TYPE



VEHICLE RESIDENT SURVEY FINDINGS

Forty-three percent (43%) of Count Us In Survey respondents living in vehicles were 40 years old or younger compared to 68% in 2018. Nearly one-quarter (24%) were between 31 and 40 years old, 11% were between 25 and 30 years old, and 8% were young adults between 18 and 24 years old.

Fifty percent (50%) of vehicle resident survey respondents identified as male. Forty-one percent (41%) identified as female, 3% identified as transgender, and 6% identified with another gender.

Nearly half of survey respondents living in vehicles (46%) identified as White. Eleven percent (11%) identified as Black or African American, 13% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, and 3% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Nine percent (9%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, 12% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

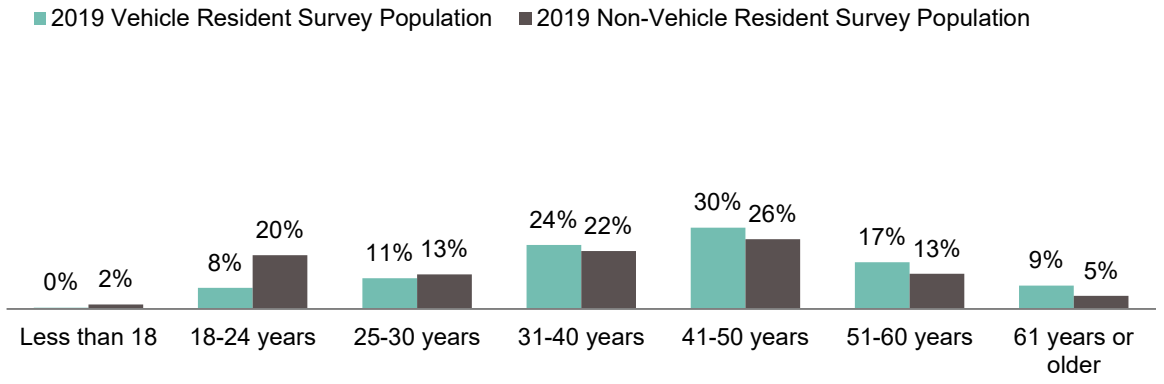
Compared to all other survey respondents, vehicle residents reported a notably higher rate of attributing their homelessness to an inability to afford rent increases.

Fifteen percent (15%) of vehicle residents reported a history of foster care, compared to 22% of all other survey respondents.

Overall, Count Us In Survey respondents living in vehicles reported a lower rate of accessing community-based services compared to all other survey respondents (83% compared to 92%). Sixty percent (60%) of vehicle resident survey respondents reported issues in trying to access services in the community, including not having ID/personal documents, lack of transportation, not qualifying for the service(s) they wanted, never hearing back after applying for services, and not knowing where to go for help. Among those accessing services, health services were of particular interest among survey respondents (35% compared to 30%). Survey respondents living in vehicles indicated accessing Safe Parking sites at higher rates than all other survey respondents (25% compared to 6%).

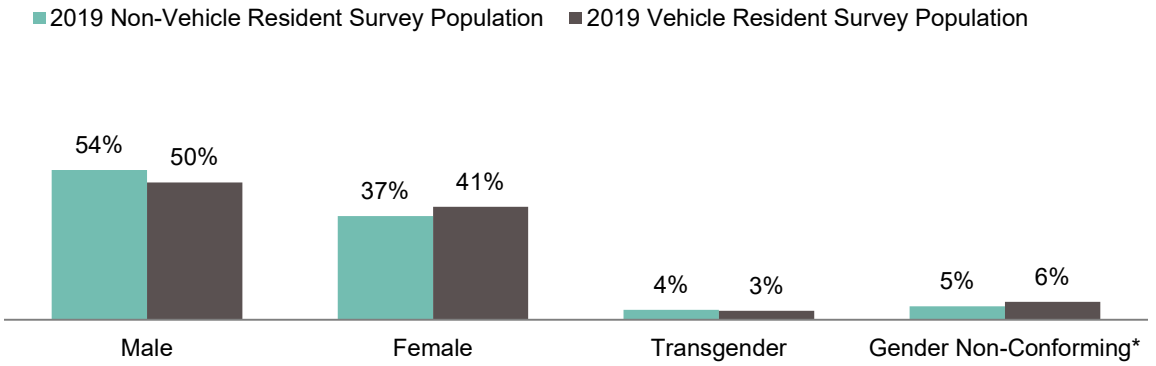
Note: Further analyses, such as by vehicle type, are not presented due to increased margins of error within a small sample population.

FIGURE 78. AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



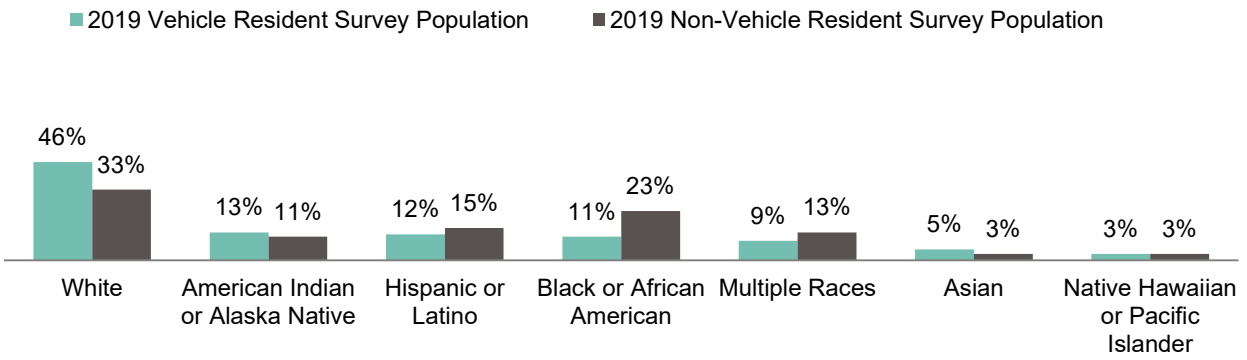
2019 Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 218; Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 953

FIGURE 79. GENDER OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



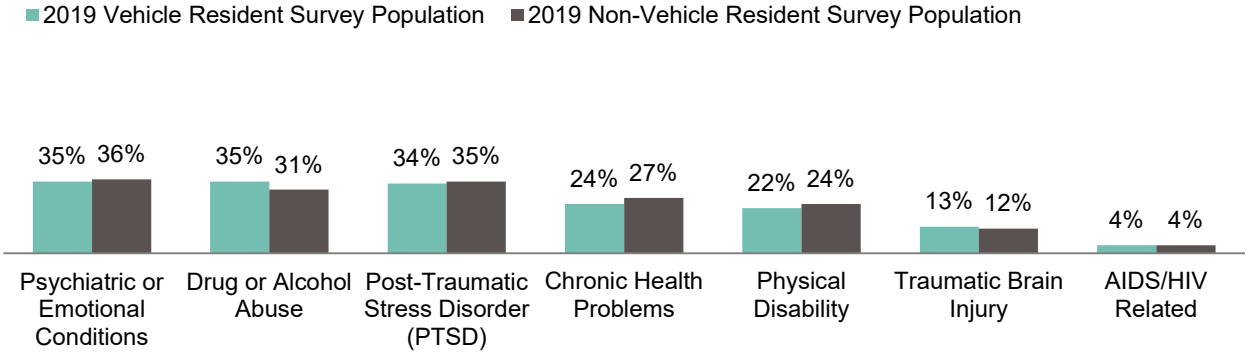
2019 Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 216; Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 931
Note: In 2018, HUD updated reporting categories for gender. In 2017, the reporting categories for gender included Female, Male, Transgender, and Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender. In 2018, the categories included Female, Male, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female). For federal reporting purposes, survey respondents identifying as Gender-Queer; Gender Non-Conforming; Non-Binary; Neither Male, Female, or Transgender; or Other Not Listed were included in the Gender Non-Conforming category. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 80. RACE AND ETHNICITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



2019 Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 218; Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 953
Note: HUD gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together.

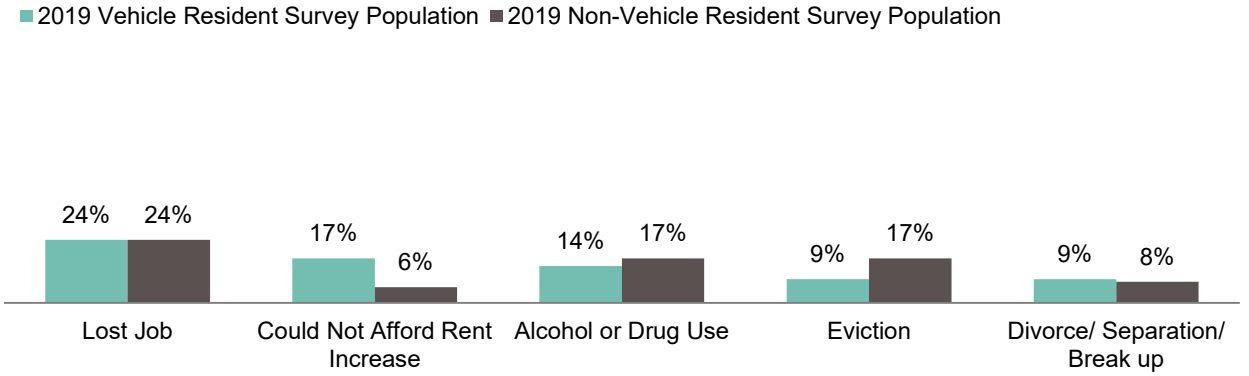
FIGURE 81. HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



2019 Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 218; Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n=953

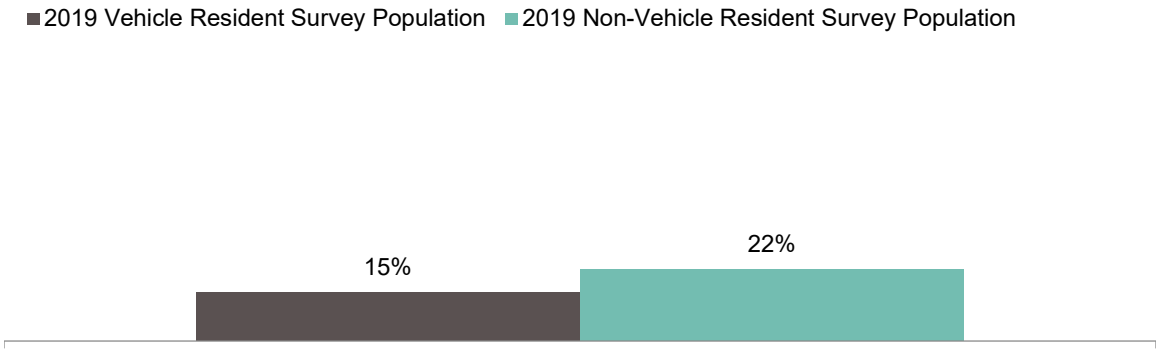
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 82. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



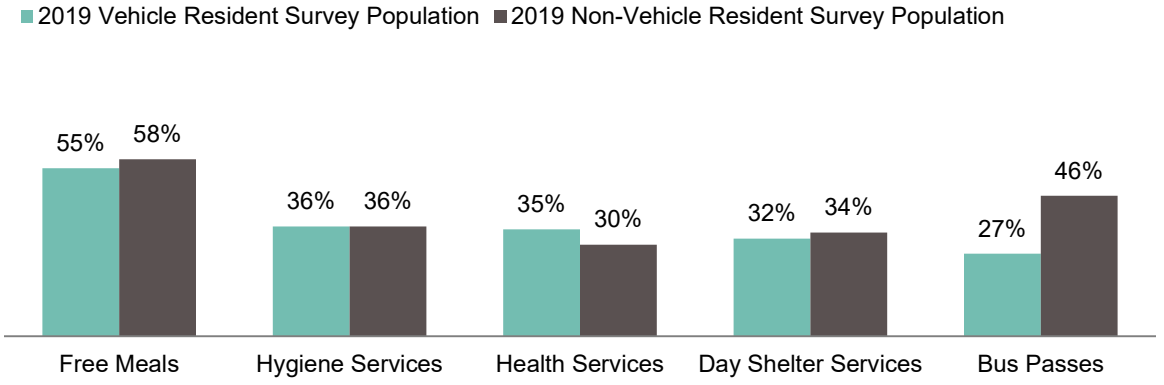
2019 Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 180 respondents providing 247 responses; Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 689 respondents providing 880 responses

FIGURE 83. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



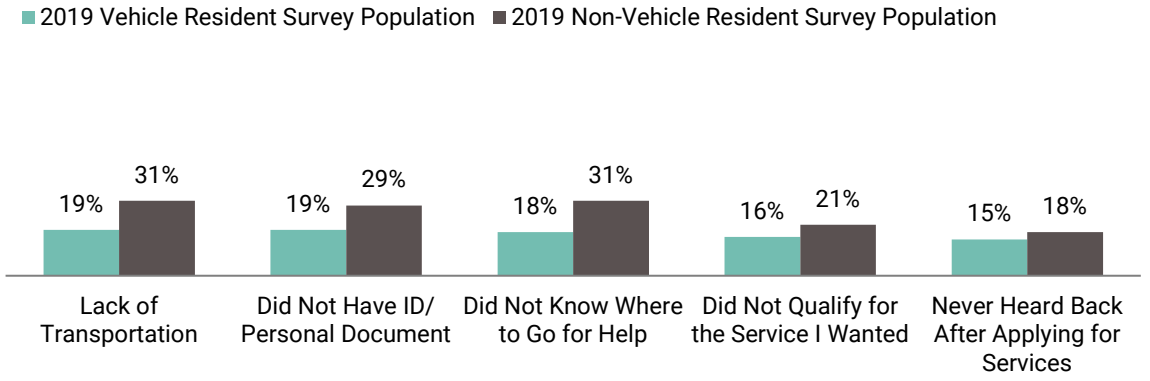
2019 Vehicle Resident Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 199; Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 869

FIGURE 84. SERVICES ACCESSED AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



2019 Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 171 respondents providing 502 response; Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 656 respondents providing 2,181 responses;

FIGURE 85. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



2019 Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 167 respondents providing 311 responses; Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 619 respondents providing 1,339 responses

Appendix A: Methodology

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2019 Seattle/King County Count Us In was to produce a point-in-time estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. The methodology used is commonly described as a "blitz count" since it is conducted by a large team over a very short period of time. As this method was conducted in Seattle/King County, the result was an observation-based count of individuals and families who appeared to be experiencing homelessness. The results of the street count were combined with the results of the sheltered count to produce a total number of people experiencing homelessness at one point in time in Seattle/King County. The count was then followed by an in-person representative survey, the results of which were used to profile and estimate the condition and characteristics of the local population experiencing homelessness.

A more detailed description of the methodology employed for Count Us In follows.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS COUNT AND SURVEY METHOD

The 2019 Seattle/King County Count Us In was comprised of four primary components:

1. General Street Count—a visual enumeration of unsheltered individuals conducted between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM on the day of the count;
2. Youth and Young Adult Count—a focused, survey-based count of unsheltered young people under the age of 25 conducted throughout the day of the count at both site-based and street-based locations;
3. Sheltered Count—a count of individuals residing in emergency shelter or transitional housing programs the night prior to the street count as reported directly by each program; and
4. Survey—an in-person representative survey of unsheltered and sheltered individuals conducted by peer surveyors and service providers in the weeks following the general street count.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

To ensure the success of Seattle/King County Count Us In, many county and community agencies collaborated in community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical planning, methodological decision-making, and interagency coordination efforts. ASR provided technical assistance with these aspects of the planning process. All Home designated their staff to provide project management support, coordinate guide recruitment, support general street count logistics, and assemble members of the Action Group. The Action Group was convened on a monthly basis to provide community oversight and feedback on various elements of count coordination. For a complete list of Action Group participants, see Appendix G.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Local homeless service providers and advocates were active and valued partners in the planning and implementation of the 2019 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count. County and jurisdictional representatives, local service providers, system partners, and unaffiliated community members dedicated to efforts to end homelessness in Seattle/King County served on the Action Group, assisted in local count and survey coordination activities, and volunteered as street count team members and surveyors.

Persons with lived experience of homelessness were important partners in the planning and implementation of 2019 Count Us In. They participated in planning meetings, recruited, and served as guides for the general street count as well as the youth and young adult count, and conducted surveys.

STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the general street count was to obtain an accurate count of persons sleeping outside, in vehicles, in tents, or in other places not meant for human habitation throughout Seattle/King County.

DEFINITION

For the purposes of the Point-in-Time Count, the HUD definition of unsheltered homelessness was used. This definition includes individuals and families with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed, or ordinarily used, as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground (including sanctioned and unsanctioned encampment locations).

RESEARCH DESIGN

In order to minimize potential duplicate counting, the counts of unsheltered and sheltered individuals were coordinated to occur within the same time period. This included coordinating the timing of the count prior to morning release times of any local shelter programs—ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness were not expected to migrate across count areas—and instructing street count teams to prioritize high density areas. The majority of general street count activities took place between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM, with exceptions made for rural communities in the eastern and southern regions of Seattle/King County. Due to increased visibility and safety concerns in navigating large open spaces, remote encampments, and more rugged terrain, these communities conducted their counts closer to daybreak and completed their counts by 10:00 AM.

Street count teams were generally comprised of at least one guide with lived experience of homelessness and up to three community volunteers. Guides assisted the team in navigating the count area, identifying locations where unsheltered individuals were likely to be encountered, while providing additional guidance on identifying individuals experiencing homelessness. Volunteers assisted with transporting the team through their count area

and performing the tally. Guides were compensated $15 per hour for their time spent in the field on the night of the count and an additional $15 for attending an in-person training session the week prior to the count.

Depending on the size and density of the areas, each team was assigned up to three contiguous census tract maps. Census tracts served as a method of organizing the general street count; their boundaries are based on population density and determined by the federal government. Teams were instructed to canvas all accessible streets, roads, and highways within the boundaries of their assigned census tracts by foot, car, or a combination of both. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their count assignment during the hours of the street count and to communicate with deployment center staff if they required additional assistance or time.

In some cases, census tracts were pre-assigned to designated team captains in advance of the count. This approach was taken for logistical reasons as well as to continue traditions of previous Point-in-Time Count efforts in Seattle/King County. Team captains were seasoned count volunteers or street outreach workers who were familiar with specific areas of the county. These individuals often scouted their assigned areas in advance of the count, assisted with recruiting the volunteers and guides required for their team, and were ultimately responsible for leading their team through their assigned area. In the 2019 general street count, team captains were frequently utilized in areas counted in prior years, at sites of regular street outreach, and in locations with special safety or access considerations. In all other cases, teams were brought together and assigned census tract areas at the deployment center on the morning of the count. While nearly all census tracts deployed from the City of Seattle deployment centers were pre-assigned to designated team captains, this strategy took place on a notably smaller scale in other regions, such as in East County, North County, and Southwest County. Team captains determined on their own if scouting their assigned location was beneficial to being able to conduct a thorough count.

All street count teams were equipped with their assigned census tract map area(s), tally sheets, training guidelines, deployment center staff contact information, and other supplies.

In performing the tally, teams were not to initiate direct contact with or to otherwise disturb individuals experiencing homelessness observed during the count. Leveraging the knowledge and expertise of their guide and other team members, count volunteers were instructed to only observe and record basic demographic and location information.

Upon their return from the field, count teams submitted their tally sheets and maps, then were debriefed by the deployment center staff. Observational comments and the integrity of the count effort were reviewed and assessed. This process functioned to check for double-counting and to verify that every accessible road and area (e.g., parks, walkways, etc.) within their map assignment had been counted.

METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The 2019 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count methodology was consistent with the 2017 and 2018 counts, with improvements made in implementation and participation.

Special outreach efforts to count safe parking locations, sanctioned and unsanctioned encampments, late-night bus routes, and unaccompanied youth and young adults continued to improve and remained consistent with the previous year. A new strategy for improving outreach to unsheltered families during the count was introduced in 2018 through the existing family emergency shelter access line in Seattle/King County, a program that coordinates emergency shelter for single-families with children, two-parent families with children, and pregnant women, ensuring an ongoing nightly spot in a shelter.

GUIDE AND VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

The assistance of those who possess an intimate knowledge of the activities and locations of individuals experiencing homelessness is critical to the success of the count. Individuals with lived experience of homelessness

were recruited to serve as guides through local and regional homeless services provider organizations in coordination with a staff member from All Home. Partner organizations were instructed to focus recruitment on individuals who possessed current knowledge of where individuals were sleeping outside in their community. These organizations were also asked to help facilitate guide participation in training and on the day of the count. Regional quotas for guide recruitment were developed based on the number of census tracts and estimated number of teams required to cover the count area, then adjusted based on input from local partners involved in count planning. Recruitment primarily took place in the weeks immediately prior to the count in order to safeguard against attrition. In all, 129 guides worked on the day of the count.

Recruitment of community volunteers included outreach by All Home to prior count participants, local and regional service provider organizations, county agencies, jurisdictional partners, local media, funding collaborators, and other community stakeholders. Regional volunteer recruitment quotas were established in a similar manner as the guide recruitment quotas. These quotas were determined by the number of census tracts assigned to the deployment center and the ideal number of volunteers needed to complete a team. Adjustments were made to account for expected rates of volunteer attrition and to accommodate recommendations of local partners involved in count planning. Volunteers were directed to register online beginning in November 2018, and to indicate the areas of Seattle/King County in which they had previous experience counting or were otherwise interested. ASR maintained the volunteer database and managed volunteer communications. In all, approximately 602 volunteers assisted with the adult count, with many more helping plan, prepare, and organize various pre-count and post-count.

All prospective guides and volunteers were asked to participate in training in advance of the count. Training covered the purpose of Count Us In, the definition of homelessness, guidelines on how to safely and respectfully count individuals and families observed sleeping outside, and how to effectively use the tally sheets and census tract maps to complete the count. Beginning in December 2018, a streaming version of the training became available online for prospective volunteers to view in lieu of attending an in-person session. In-person training sessions were facilitated by ASR the week prior to the count and were held in multiple locations throughout Seattle/King County. ASR also held a virtual office hour in the days immediately prior to the count in order to answer questions from volunteers unable to attend in-person training. On the morning of the general street count, deployment center staff delivered an abbreviated refresher training to all participants.

Please note that the numbers featured in the table below do not include the approximately 40 youth guides and 20 team leaders who served the youth and young adult count.

	2017	2018	2019
Guide	110	206	129
Volunteer	520	609	602

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. All count participants were advised to take every safety precaution possible, including refraining from entering areas where they were uncomfortable, staying together with their team, and maintaining a respectful distance from those they were counting. The observational nature of the count was emphasized, which is generally successful in minimizing potentially dangerous situations. Deployment center staff verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the count, then recorded the cell phone number on a volunteer deployment log sheet used for tracking teams in the field. Deployment center staff also provided each team with a contact cell phone number so that count teams could communicate any issues or questions they had while counting.

In addition to not initiating contact with persons encountered on their route, count participants received guidance on respecting the space and maintaining the confidentiality of people experiencing homelessness in the community. This included refraining from taking photos or posting details of their observations or count location to social media; keeping a respectful distance from individuals, tents, and vehicles; not shining flashlights into tents or vehicles; and recording only partial license plate numbers on inhabited vehicles.

During planning, a number of areas were identified as unsuitable for general street count teams due to accessibility challenges, safety concerns, or the need for more established relationships to enter certain areas. Consequently, these areas were assigned to teams comprised of experienced outreach workers, seasoned volunteers, and expert guides. Further, rural eastern and southeastern parts of the county were counted shortly after daybreak to ensure count teams could safely navigate difficult terrain.

Immediately before the count, law enforcement was notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. Law enforcement were only alerted to the fact that street count teams would be performing the census on foot and by car from approximately 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM. Specific count areas, encampment locations, or other route details were not disclosed.

No official reports were received in regard to unsafe or at-risk situations during the street count in any area of the county.

GENERAL STREET COUNT DEPLOYMENT CENTERS

To achieve complete coverage of Seattle/King County within the four-hour count period, eight primary deployment centers were identified and selected in Seattle, Shoreline, Bellevue, Tukwila, Renton, Kent, and Federal Way. These deployment centers served as central meeting locations for count participants to meet the rest of their team, receive a brief refresher training, and to obtain and return their count materials. Volunteers and guides were assigned to a deployment center prior to the night of the count based on their familiarity with particular areas of the county, their desire to count alongside a specific volunteer group or organization, or convenience. The planning team allocated count routes to the deployment center closest or most central to the coverage area in order to facilitate the timely deployment of count teams into the field.

An additional seven remote deployment centers were located in Auburn, Bothell, Enumclaw, Issaquah, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, and Vashon Island. Partners local to these communities engaged in more focused volunteer and guide recruitment and managed smaller, concentrated deployments to cover specific areas of the county.

SPECIAL OUTREACH STRATEGY: ENCAMPMENTS

A special planning meeting with organizations conducting regular street outreach aided in formulating a special strategy for counting individuals in larger or more difficult to access encampments. While easily accessible unsanctioned encampments comprised of three or more tents or makeshift shelters were counted by general street count teams, unsanctioned encampments requiring special access were identified on and redacted from general street count maps. These sites were counted separately by encampment residents, camp managers, or outreach workers during the same time as general street count activities. This special outreach strategy ensured both the accuracy of the data and the privacy of encampment residents. Residents of sanctioned encampments were counted by accessing data reported in the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

SPECIAL OUTREACH STRATEGY: VEHICLES

During planning for the general street count, the need for a strategy to count individuals living in vehicles across Seattle/King County, and within the City of Seattle in particular, was evaluated as part of our continuous improvement initiative at CUI. In 2017 and 2018 special vehicle teams were organized to focus on vehicle “hot

spots" in the City of Seattle that were deemed active by local advocates. Vehicle teams were assigned to specific "hot spots." Vehicle specialists assembled with their teams to determine the best route to cover their assigned hot spots, emphasizing routes that would minimize duplication with general street count teams and concentrate on more challenging locations. Vehicle teams were asked to collect the same data as general street count teams, including the last four digits of license plates to allow for de-duplication across efforts.

The results of the effort were substantial. In 2017, 779 vehicles were identified by the special teams and in 2018 610 vehicles were identified by the special teams. During the de-deduplication process, however, we found high levels of duplication with the general street count teams who were also instructed to count vehicles and note the last 4 digits of the license plates.

While the expansion of the vehicle outreach strategy was explored in other areas of Seattle/King County, it was determined that vehicle identification was better suited universally to general street count teams and even in the City of Seattle the general route teams would identify all vehicle dwellers using our ID eligibility criteria and capturing the last four digits of the license plate for duplication review. Once the de-duplication process was complete, the file of license plate information was deleted for privacy considerations. License plate information was not made available to any persons other than the data analysis team at ASR.

As mentioned above, to aid in identifying vehicles eligible for reporting, vehicle count teams consulted the following vehicle identification schema outlined in the *Seattle Vehicular Residency Research Project 2012 Advisory Report*. These guidelines were also distributed to all general street count teams prior to deployment:

A vehicle should be considered a vehicle residence if it exhibits three of the following six characteristics:

1. The view through the front to rear windows is blocked
2. The side and/or rear windows are blocked by sheeting, panels, and/or curtains to restrict visibility on both sides
3. There is evidence of unfrozen condensation on windows
4. At least one window is partially open
5. There are items often associated with vehicular residency such as generators, bicycles, or storage containers externally secured
6. There are unusually large volumes of possessions, sometimes *appearing* to be "refuse" (often in bags), within or near the vehicle [15]

SPECIAL OUTREACH STRATEGY: NIGHT OWL BUSES

As in prior count years, special teams comprised of volunteer pairs were assigned to ride the King County Night Owl Bus routes during the hours of the general street count. Volunteers were instructed to tally individuals observed sleeping on the buses during a single round-trip journey, following the same protocols for identification as general street count teams.

ESTIMATING THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN VEHICLES, TENTS, AND ABANDONED BUILDINGS

During the street count, teams were instructed to tally individuals living in vehicles, tents, or abandoned buildings using the following protocol:

15 Pruss, G. (2012). Seattle Vehicular Residency Research Project 2012 Advisory Report. Seattle University, September 2012. Retrieved from http://clerk.seattle.gov/~public/meetingrecords/2012/hhshc20120926_8a.pdf

When the number of individuals currently residing in the vehicle, tent, or abandoned building was known by the team or was visible, the team was to fill in the appropriate information on the tally sheet including their approximate age category (under 18, age 18-24, or 25 and older), dwelling or vehicle type, and whether they were part of a family household with children.

If the vehicle, tent, or abandoned building appeared to be occupied but the number of individuals living there was unknown, the team was to only tally the vehicle type, tent, or abandoned building.

In estimating the number of individuals living in vehicle, tents, and abandoned buildings in Seattle/King County, a multiplier—described below—was applied to structures and vehicles tallied during the street count where the number of individuals was unknown. This number was subsequently combined with the known number of individuals who were observed residing in these location types during the street count.

Vehicle, tent, and abandoned building multipliers were developed using responses from the Count Us In Survey along with a specialty count of persons living in vehicles conducted in the months prior to the day of the count. This multiplier, produced from a larger number of surveys, allows for greater accuracy and a smaller margin of error. The survey questions asking where respondents were residing on the night of the count and how many people (including themselves) were staying there produced a more reliable all-county multiplier to estimate the number of individuals residing in vehicles, tents, and abandoned buildings in Seattle/King County. Data across years and counties were compared to assess for variability. Ultimately, individual multipliers for those residing in a van, automobile/car, camper/RV, tent, or abandoned building/squat developed from the surveys were applied. Prior to 2017, a generic multiplier of "2 persons per" location type was applied. Data from 2018 was compiled using responses from the Count Us In Survey and compiled with 10 California counties. The utilization of the pre-count of vehicles in conjunction with the responses of the 2019 Count Us In Survey allow for an exclusive Seattle/King County multiplier that best accounts for local vehicularly-housed habits.

The following table summarizes the multipliers applied in 2018 and 2019:

Vehicle/Location Type	2018 Multiplier	2019 Multiplier
Van	1.8	1.27
Automobile/Car	1.42	1.51
Camper/RV	1.8	1.45
Tent	1.31	1.50
Abandoned Building/Squat	1.69	2.05

Additionally, demographic characteristics were extrapolated for individuals residing in these locations using data collected during the street count and through the 2019 survey, including age and gender.

DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN ENCAMPMENTS

For the purpose of the count, encampments were defined as three or more tents or makeshift shelters. General street count teams were instructed to tally persons or tents/makeshift shelters as part of an encampment if they observed three or more tents/makeshift shelters grouped together on their route. This observation was recorded on the tally sheet under a category separate from dwelling or vehicle type. Therefore, teams followed the same protocol for observed individuals, tents, or makeshift shelters, only completing the additional field to indicate the person or tent/makeshift shelter was included in an encampment when applicable. In cases where only the tent/makeshift shelter was identified because the number of persons living inside was uncertain, the number of individuals residing in these structures was estimated using the same procedure and multiplier described in the preceding section—regardless of whether the tent/makeshift shelter was identified as part of an encampment.

It should be noted that general street count teams only collected information on unsanctioned encampments, as sanctioned encampment numbers were collected directly through HMIS reporting and redacted from general street count maps. A few unsanctioned encampments were covered by special encampment outreach teams; these areas were also redacted from general street count maps. General street count teams were found to be somewhat inconsistent in recording persons or tents/makeshift shelters as belonging in encampments. As such, caution is advised when considering the number of persons in unsanctioned encampments reported.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Many challenges exist in any homeless count, especially when implemented in a community as large and diverse as Seattle/King County. Count Us In is a "snapshot" that quantifies the size of the population experiencing homelessness at a given point during the year. Hence, the count may not be representative of fluctuations and compositional changes in the population either seasonally or over time. It does not calculate the number of unique persons who experience homelessness over a calendar year, which is much higher than those who are experiencing homelessness at any given time. Point-in-Time Counts significantly underrepresent those whose homelessness does not last very long but who nevertheless need and access emergency shelter and services. From HMIS data available in other jurisdictions, including New York, Philadelphia, and Columbus, as many as 5 to 10% of those living in poverty in a jurisdiction may experience homelessness over the course of a year.[16]

For a variety of reasons, many individuals experiencing homelessness generally do not want to be located, and thus make concerted efforts to avoid detection. Regardless of how successful outreach efforts are, an undercount of those experiencing homelessness will persist, especially of hard-to-reach subpopulations such as unsheltered families, undocumented individuals, and unaccompanied youth and young adults.

The methods employed in non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers and individuals with lived experience, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. Many factors may contribute to missed opportunities, including:

- Individuals who may be sleeping in vans, cars, recreational vehicles, abandoned buildings, or structures unfit for human habitation are difficult to identify.
- Individuals residing in isolated rural areas are difficult to access or otherwise identify for the purposes of the count.
- Individuals experiencing homelessness whose physical appearance differs from traditional visual cues associated with people experiencing homelessness can be mistaken for housed individuals. This is especially true of unaccompanied youth and young adults, who often "hide in plain sight" and present similarly to their stably housed peers.
- Families with children experiencing homelessness often seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the streets, in vehicles, or in makeshift shelters.
- Guide and volunteer recruitment can be particularly difficult in suburban and rural communities, where the existing homeless services system or infrastructure is less robust than in urban communities.

By counting the number of individuals experiencing homelessness during a given point in time, the count methodology was conservative and therefore resulted in an undercount of certain unsheltered individuals. A margin of error on the final count is not available, although the data presented is to be considered a minimum estimate. This conservative approach was necessary to preserve the integrity of the data collected. Even though

[16] Burt, MR. Wilkins, C. (March 2005). Estimating the Need: Projecting from Point-in-Time to Annual Estimates of the Number of Homeless People in a Community and Using the Information to Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing. Retrieved from http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Estimating-the-Need.pdf

Count Us In was an undercount of the population experiencing homelessness, the methodology employed was one of the most comprehensive approaches available and provides invaluable data for local and federal service agencies.

GUIDE AND VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

Count Us In is a community-driven effort that utilizes a broad range of partners for all count activities. Approximately 129 guides with current or recent experience of homelessness and approximately 602 community volunteers participated in the 2019 general street count. Both guides and volunteers were invited to submit feedback through a survey following the count.

The majority of guides reported being extremely satisfied with the recruitment process, their deployment location, communication, and their team assignment. The vast majority of respondents had positive experiences—both first time guides and returning guides—to the count. The following are some of the responses we received about what the guides most liked about their experience with Count Us In,

- "Meeting others who care about homelessness"
- "I like the interaction with community neighbors"
- "Meeting and solving answers together—I really missed that since high school"
- "To show others how to help the homeless"
- "Everyone was so nice and just to know people care about us homeless"
- "The compassion behind the county us in and making an effort by reducing homelessness"

Volunteer surveys reported positive experiences with registration, communications, training, deployment, and conducting the count. Sixty percent (60%) of respondents indicated 2019 was the first year they had participated in Seattle/King County's Point-in-Time Count. The vast majority of respondents had positive experiences during their participation in the count. The following are some of the responses we received,

- "Our guide was amazing! He was knowledgeable about our count area and was friendly and honest about his experience being unsheltered in Seattle."
- "Clear training guidelines and instructions made it easy for a group of complete strangers to work together."
- "Our volunteer point person in Sammamish was amazing! She had the sparkliest middle of the night energy and really jazzed me up. We didn't count anyone, but still felt that we had contributed."
- "Pairing up with a homeless individual made for a great experience!"

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the youth and young adult count was to be more inclusive of youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who were unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness. While Seattle/King County has conducted a dedicated youth and young adult count annually since 2010, the 2017 youth and young adult count marked the first year that results were integrated into overall estimates of individuals, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County.

In 2013, HUD asked communities across the country to improve efforts to include young people in the Point-in-Time Count. Unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness are traditionally underrepresented due to the frequently hidden nature of youth homelessness. Many of these young people avoid

traditional homeless services, stay in unsheltered locations that can be difficult to find or access, and are more difficult for adult street count volunteers to identify as they often appear similar to their stably housed peers.

In 2019, the goal was to reproduce and improve upon the youth and young adult count efforts of the previous two years.

DEFINITION

For the purposes of the count, the HUD definition of unaccompanied youth for the Point-in-Time Count was used. This definition includes youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian, and also are not parents presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their child(ren). Unaccompanied youth are single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth presenting together as a household. Unaccompanied youth are more likely than their adult counterparts to report staying with friends and family in doubled up or on couches. Although these "precariously housed" statuses don't qualify for inclusion in the HUD definition of unaccompanied youth, it should be noted when considering the unaccompanied youth results.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Similar to the 2017 and 2018 methodology, the 2019 youth and young adult count methodology was comprised of two primary components:

1. A site-based survey of youth and young adults under the age of 25 at youth shelters, drop-in centers, libraries, schools, community centers, and other organizations serving young people across Seattle/King County; and
2. A street-based survey of unsheltered and unaccompanied youth and young adults under the age of 25 conducted in specific areas throughout Seattle/King County by young people (age 18-24) with lived experience of homelessness and outreach workers.

Partner locations for the site-based survey component had access to small stipends from the United Way of King County to support survey activities, including incentives to encourage the participation of young people. Agency staff and volunteers participated in training sessions prior to the count and were instructed to administer surveys to young people under the age of 25 who sought to participate, regardless of housing status or self-identification as experiencing homelessness. However, only respondents who indicated sleeping in an unsheltered location on the night of the count were included in the estimates discussed in this report.

Planning for the street-based survey component of the 2019 youth and young adult count included representatives from several youth homeless service providers as well as young people with lived experience. In early January, ASR facilitated a focus group wherein young people identified locations unsheltered youth were known to congregate. This information was supplemented with additional hot spots identified by youth outreach workers. Local youth service providers recruited young people with lived experience of homelessness and line staff to participate in planning and implementing the youth street count.

ASR provided training immediately prior to the count, which covered data collection procedures, confidentiality, safety protocols, and count day logistics. Participating organizations were assigned general count areas where "hot spots" for unsheltered youth were identified prior to the day of the count based on the familiarity staff and their young people had with these areas. Youth and young adult street count teams met at deployment locations throughout Seattle/King County on Thursday, January 24, 2019. Teams were comprised of one team leader (a youth outreach worker or service provider) and 2-3 youth guides with lived experience. Approximately 50 youth guides and 30 team leaders participated in the youth street count. Teams were instructed to survey any young person under the age of 25 who was unsheltered and to provide young people who completed the survey with a $5 grocery card incentive. Teams were also given tally sheets to count any young person determined to be

unsheltered but unable to complete a survey due to refusal or safety concerns. Young people who participated in planning and conducting the street-based youth survey were paid $15 per hour for their time, including their time spent in training.

DATA COLLECTION

Agency staff and volunteers conducted site-based surveys of young people under the age of 25 throughout the day and evening of January 24, 2019. Partner sites included youth shelters, drop-in centers, libraries, schools, and community centers. For the third year, New Horizons Ministries hosted the Community Resource Exchange, an opportunity for young people to participate in the survey while accessing a variety of services and resources.

Street-based surveys of unsheltered, unaccompanied youth and young adults were conducted on January 24, 2019 from approximately 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM. During youth and young adult count planning, young people with lived experience and youth service providers determined unsheltered young people would be more prominent and the safety of outreach teams would be ensured between these times.

Care was taken by all interviewers to ensure that young people felt comfortable regardless of the street or service location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, young people were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any one individual.

DATA ANALYSIS

The survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey. Surveys were also processed according to the housing status of young people. In total, 190 valid surveys were left for the analysis.

To address potential duplication between the youth and young adult count and general street count, all visual count data were analyzed at the census-tract level, and young people under the age of 25 counted in the general street count were subtracted, the same as previous years.

ESTIMATING THE NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

In producing an estimate of the number of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, count data were collected and integrated from the following sources:

- Youth and young adult count
- General street count (visual) and survey
- Sheltered count

Young people surveyed during the site- and street-based survey efforts of the youth and young adult count were de-duplicated based on the unique identifier collected through the survey instrument. Young people who were surveyed through the general Count Us In survey effort in the weeks following the count were not included in the count; their surveys, however, were included in the survey data presented in this report.

Counts of young people obtained through the youth and young adult count were de-duplicated at the census tract level from young people under the age of 25 tallied during the general street count. Youth and young adult

numbers included from the general street count effort also reflect extrapolated age detail applied to the observed street count population, which took place after de-duplication.

For data reported as unknown by count teams due to access or privacy concerns (e.g., individuals residing in vehicles, tents, abandoned buildings, etc.), extrapolation percentages were derived from a review of both survey and count sources and applied to this segment of the general street count population.

These two counts were subsequently combined to produce an overall estimate of unsheltered unaccompanied youth and young adults. Additional data on young people residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, collected through the sheltered count, were included in the total number of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The 2019 youth and young adult count methodology featured the same methodology utilized in 2017 and 2018 with some differences in timing and participation. In 2017, the youth and young adult count was conducted on the same day as the general street count. In 2018 and 2019, the youth and young adult count took place the day before in order to maximize the participation of youth-serving organizations and while still ensuring all Point-in-Time Count activities took place within a 24-hour period. Youth and young adult street count activities took place during the same timeframe as 2017 and 2018—between 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM—with the help of increased coverage and increased participation of service provider staff across Seattle/King County.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT COUNT CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

In addition to the overall challenges and limitations applicable to Point-in-Time Counts discussed previously, one of the challenges specifically facing the youth and young adult count in Seattle/King County was the involvement of exclusively youth-specific service providers. Approximately 40% of young adults in Seattle/King County are served solely by the single adult or family systems. Local data reveal that these are essentially non-overlapping groups of young people that have little or no contact with youth-specific service providers. Consequently, counts obtained through the youth and young adult count were significantly lower than estimates from HMIS and the local coordinated entry system. This was partially mitigated by the integration of youth and young adult estimates derived from the all-population general street count and survey effort. Further, the “snapshot” element of conducting Point-in-Time Counts is compounded by the often transitory and cyclical nature of youth homelessness.

SHELTERED COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the sheltered count was to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily residing in sheltered locations across Seattle/King County, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens. These data were vital in gaining an accurate overall count of the local population experiencing homelessness and in understanding where individuals and families access shelter.

DEFINITION

For the purposes of the count, the HUD definition of sheltered homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count was used. This definition includes individuals and families living in supervised publicly or privately operated shelters designated to provide a temporary living arrangement, which may include emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven programs.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Most shelter facilities reported their occupancies for the night of January 24, 2019 through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). BitFocus, the administrators of the local HMIS system, then reported shelter data in aggregate to ASR. For shelter facilities not included in the HMIS, ASR collected their data through a web-based survey. For data with unknown demographic information, the HUD Point-in-Time Count Data Extrapolation Tool was used to produce estimates. Only programs listed on the Housing Inventory Count reported to HUD are included in the shelter report, which was developed with review by BitFocus.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the survey was to conduct an in-person representative survey of unsheltered and sheltered persons experiencing homelessness in order to gather all federally required reporting elements. Results of the survey were also used to aid in estimating the number of individuals residing in vehicles, tents, and abandoned buildings and to further characterize the population experiencing homelessness.

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The survey of individuals experiencing homelessness in the weeks following the general street count was conducted in order to yield qualitative data on the homeless community in Seattle/King County.[17] The survey collected information such as basic demographics, household composition, military service, length and recurrence of homelessness, usual nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted by peer surveyors with current or recent experience of homelessness in addition to service provider volunteers who were trained on the project background information and instructed on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Peer surveyors were compensated at a rate of $7 per completed survey.

Socks supplied by ASR were given as an incentive for completing the survey. The socks were easy to obtain and distribute, were thought to have wide appeal, and could be provided within the project budget. The gift proved to be a successful incentive and was widely accepted among survey respondents.

SURVEY SAMPLING

Based on the point-in-time estimates of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, with all attempts made at a randomized survey sampling process, the 1,171 valid surveys (including 190 HUD-eligible surveys conducted during the youth and young adult count component) represent a confidence interval of +/- 2.71% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the total estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. Data collected from the survey effort were used to estimate characteristics of the unsheltered population experiencing homelessness by applying percentages of respondents to the number of individuals tallied during the general street count. This included producing estimates of certain subpopulations (i.e., chronically homeless, veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied youth and young adults) and of individuals living in vehicles, tents, and abandoned buildings.

17 Please note that the methodology described here applies only to the general Count Us In Survey of all populations experiencing homelessness, during which 898 unique surveys were completed. However, in the final analysis, an additional 158 eligible surveys conducted during the youth and young adult count were included for a total of 1,056 surveys.

The 2019 Count Us In Survey was administered both in unsheltered locations and in transitional housing programs. Unsheltered quotas were developed based on preliminary results from the general street count as well as previous years' data including quotas set for each of the twelve regions covered by deployment centers during the general street count and six encampment locations and four special vehicle outreach teams. Quotas for emergency shelter and transitional housing programs were based on the previous year's housing inventory count, which focused similarly on ensuring geographic and subpopulation representation across programs countywide. Emergency shelter and unsheltered quotas were met by selecting respondents from general street locations throughout the county. Transitional housing quotas were met by program staff selecting residents and administering the survey to heads of household.

Strategic attempts were made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subsets such as vehicle residents, encampment residents, families, domestic violence survivors, veterans, Native Americans, and unaccompanied youth. These strategic attempts to increase the participation of these groups included recruiting peer surveyors to engage them in the survey, partnering with a number of local service providers throughout the county with specific knowledge of certain regions or subpopulations, and establishing specific regional and subpopulation quotas to help achieve geographic and subpopulation representation.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, peer surveyors were instructed to employ an "every third encounter" survey approach. Peer surveyors were to approach every third person they encountered whom they considered to be an eligible survey respondent. If the person declined to take the survey, the peer surveyor could approach the next eligible person they encountered. After completing a survey, the randomized approach was resumed. It is important to recognize that while efforts were made to randomize the respondents, it was not a random sample methodology.

It is also important to recognize that the populations of individuals experiencing homelessness is considered an estimate as most populations are actually unknown and there are known limitations to population census efforts. The sampling method used in 2019 Count Us In lay somewhere between simple random sampling (SRS) and selective sampling (SS).

Selective sampling assures an even, random sampling of the population. This method was used in unsheltered locations where individuals in any one neighborhood or location were not static, making simple random sampling difficult or impossible. Simple random sampling was used in sheltered locations in order to ensure any one head of household or individual was as likely as any other to be included in the sample.

DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any one individual.

DATA ANALYSIS

The survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined respondents' date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey. This process was also inclusive of the surveys completed as part of the youth and young adult count efforts. This left 1,171 valid surveys for analysis. Due to the sensitive nature of the survey, respondents were not required to answer every survey question and were asked to skip questions that were not applicable. Additionally, the youth and young adult count survey featured fewer questions than the general Count Us In Survey, with only questions

required for HUD reporting and youth-specific questions of local interest included. For this reason, the number of respondents for each survey question may not total 1,171.

ESTIMATING UNSHELTERED SUBPOPULATIONS: CHRONICALLY HOMELESS, VETERANS, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, AND UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

In order to estimate the number of individuals belonging to the key subpopulations identified by HUD, the following methods were employed for unsheltered subpopulations in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Chronically Homeless

Individuals—Percentage of single survey respondents meeting the definition of chronic homelessness were applied to the population of individuals of the same age category (under 18, 18-24 years old, and over 24 years old) counted during the general street count.

Families with children—Percentage of family survey respondents meeting the definition of chronic homelessness were applied to the number of families counted during the general street count. The total number of individuals in family households experiencing chronic homelessness was estimated based on the mean household size of family survey respondents meeting the definition of chronic homelessness.

Veterans

Individuals—Percentage of single survey respondents identifying as veterans was applied to the number of young adults (18-24 years old) and adults (older than 24 years old) counted during the general street count.

Families with children—Percentage of family survey respondents identifying as veterans was applied to the total number of family households counted during the general street count. The total number of individuals in veteran family households was estimated based on the mean household size of veteran family survey respondents.

Families with Children

The number of families with children and the total number of individuals in these households comes from the general street count. Count volunteers tallied individuals in families observed, recording the age category of each family member (under 18, age 18-24, or older than 24) and grouping these individual tallies together to indicate a single-family household. Estimates of unsheltered families with children were not extrapolated from survey data due to the small sample size of unsheltered family survey respondents. Identifying unsheltered families with children is extremely difficult in the Point-in-Time Count setting. As such, the number of reported families is likely an undercount.

Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults

Estimates of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 were produced through a combination of young people counted through the survey-based youth and young adult count and young people observed during the general street count. Following de-duplication of young people counted across these two components, extrapolation of reported age derived through the general street count and survey was applied to individuals whose ages were recorded as unknown during the street count. For more information, please see the *Youth and Young Adult Count* section in *Appendix A: Methodology*.

SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The Count Us In methodology relies heavily on self-reported survey data collected from peer surveyors and program staff. While self-reporting allows individuals to represent their own experience, self-reported data are often more variable than clinically reported data. However, using a peer-to-peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow respondents to be more candid with their answers and to help reduce the uneasiness of

revealing personal information. Approximately 70% of surveys were conducted by peers, with the remainder conducted by service providers. Furthermore, service providers and survey coordinators recommended individuals who would be best suited to conduct interviews. The service providers and survey coordinators also reviewed surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted, the process for which included reviewing individual survey responses and patterns in survey responses for inconsistencies.

It is important to recognize that slight variations between survey years may result from shifts in the demographic profiles of surveyors and accessibility to certain populations. Survey confidence intervals are presented in each survey findings section of this report to provide additional information on how variably these data can be interpreted and the level of variability that may occur from year to year. While every effort was made to collect surveys from a random and diverse sample of sheltered and unsheltered individuals, the hard-to-reach nature of the population experiencing homelessness prevents a true random sampling. Every effort was made to recruit a diverse and geographically dispersed group of surveyors and to provide them with survey quotas. However, equal participation across all populations may be limited by the level of participation and representation of subpopulation advocates in the initial planning and implementation process.

Consequently, survey data and data derived from survey responses may shift from year to year. It is for this reason that Point-in-Time Count data should be used in conjunction with other community sources of data on individuals and families experiencing homelessness to gather a comprehensive understanding of the community.

Appendix B: Point-in-Time Count Results

The following tables include the 2019 Point-in-Time Count data submitted to HUD for individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. Data are reported by three household types (households with at least one adult and one child, households with no children, and households with only children) and by shelter status (emergency shelter, transitional housing, safe haven, and unsheltered). Specific data on veteran households, youth and young adult households, and various subpopulations are also reported and included in the tables found in this section.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT SUMMARY BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE ADULT AND ONE CHILD

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	375	369	0	19	763
Total number of persons (adults & children)	1,149	1,239	0	63	2,451
Number of children (under age 18)	677	762	0	29	1,468
Number of young adults (age 18-24)	60	96	0	5	161
Number of adults (over age 24)	412	381	0	29	822
Gender (adults and children)					
Female	691	764	0	54	1,511
Male	458	474	0	6	937
Transgender	0	1	0	0	1
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	3	3
Ethnicity (adults and children)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	964	1,058	0	51	2,073
Hispanic/Latino	185	181	0	12	378
Race (adults and children)					
White	194	324	0	9	527
Black or African-American	581	755	0	13	1,349
Asian	22	28	0	3	53
American Indian or Alaska Native	86	11	0	32	129
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	54	26	0	3	83

Multiple Races	212	95	0	3	310
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of households	33	0	0	3	36
Total number of persons	170	0	0	9	179

HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CHILDREN

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	2,880	609	43	4,257	7,789
Total number of persons	2,895	618	43	5,110	8,666
Number of young adults (age 18-24)	191	195	1	681	1,068
Number of adults (over age 24)	2,704	423	42	4,429	7,598
Gender (only adults)					
Female	828	178	15	1,904	2,926
Male	2,037	421	28	2,756	5,242
Transgender	23	13	0	177	214
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	7	6	0	273	286
Ethnicity (only adults)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	2,524	547	39	4,315	7,426
Hispanic/Latino	371	71	4	795	1,240
Race (only adults)					
White	1,572	343	20	2,249	4,184
Black or African-American	788	167	18	1,219	2,192
Asian	123	10	3	242	379
American Indian or Alaska Native	160	63	0	802	1,025
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	64	7	0	235	306
Multiple Races	188	28	2	363	581
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	1,101	0	40	887	2,028

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH (HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONLY CHILDREN UNDER 18)

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	21	6	0	43	70
Total number of children (persons under age 18)	21	6	0	55	82
Gender (children only)					
Female	7	6	0	18	31
Male	10	0	0	32	42
Transgender	2	0	0	1	3
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	2	0	0	4	6
Ethnicity (children only)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	20	6	0	43	69
Hispanic/Latino	1	0	0	12	13
Race (children only)					
White	9	3	0	19	31
Black or African-American	10	1	0	18	29
Asian	0	0	0	2	2
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	7	7
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	2	2
Multiple Races	2	2	0	7	11
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	2	0	0	4	6

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS (SUBSET OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS)

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE ADULT AND ONE CHILD

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	8	3	0	9	20
Total number of persons	28	12	0	32	72
Total number of veterans	8	3	0	9	20
Gender (veterans only)					
Female	1	1	0	3	5
Male	7	2	0	6	15
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity (veterans only)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	6	3	0	6	15
Hispanic/Latino	2	0	0	3	5
Race (veterans only)					

White	4	2	0	5	10
Black or African-American	4	1	0	1	6
Asian	0	0	0	1	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	1	1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	0	0	0	1	1
Chronically Homeless (Veteran Households)					
Total number of persons	6	0	0	3	9
Total number of households	2	0	0	1	3

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CHILDREN

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	239	113	2	456	810
Total number of persons	239	113	2	577	931
Total number of veterans	239	113	2	456	810
Gender (veterans only)					
Female	22	4	0	121	147
Male	212	109	2	275	598
Transgender	4	0	0	47	51
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	1	0	0	13	14
Ethnicity (veterans only)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	227	107	2	298	635
Hispanic/Latino	12	6	0	158	176
Race (veterans only)					
White	125	67	1	192	385
Black or African-American	78	34	1	73	186
Asian	11	1	0	30	42
American Indian or Alaska Native	14	4	0	66	84
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3	1	0	22	26
Multiple Races	8	6	0	73	88
Chronically Homeless (Veteran Households)					
Total number of persons	91	0	2	59	152

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOUSEHOLDS (SUBSET OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS)

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOUSEHOLDS

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of unaccompanied youth households	197	155	1	576	929
Total number of unaccompanied youth	197	155	1	736	1,089
Number of unaccompanied children (under age 18)	21	6	0	55	82
Number of unaccompanied young adults (age 18 to 24)	176	149	1	681	1,007
Gender (unaccompanied youth)					
Female	52	61	0	230	343
Male	132	79	1	439	651
Transgender	7	9	0	13	29
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	6	6	0	54	66
Ethnicity (unaccompanied youth)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	165	127	1	581	875
Hispanic/Latino	32	28	0	155	214
Race (unaccompanied youth)					
White	94	65	0	250	409
Black or African-American	62	55	1	250	368
Asian	2	3	0	28	33
American Indian or Alaska Native	10	8	0	93	111
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	2	0	29	35
Multiple Races	25	22	0	86	133
Chronically Homeless (unaccompanied youth)					
Total number of persons	2	0	0	47	49

PARENTING YOUTH HOUSEHOLDS

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of parenting youth households	21	47	0	4	72
Total number of persons in parenting youth households	64	114	0	10	188
Total Parenting Youth (youth parents only)	27	52	0	4	83
Total Children in Parenting Youth Households	37	62	0	6	105
Number of parenting youth under age 18	0	0	0	0	0

Children in households with parenting youth under age 18	0	0	0	0	0
Number of parenting youth age 18 to 24	27	52	0	4	83
Children in households with parenting youth age 18 to 24	37	62	0	6	105
Gender (youth parents only)					
Female	21	46	0	1	68
Male	6	6	0	3	15
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity (youth parents only)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	21	44	0	3	68
Hispanic/Latino	6	8	0	1	15
Race (youth parents only)					
White	4	14	0	1	19
Black or African-American	18	29	0	1	48
Asian	0	2	0	0	2
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	3	0	1	5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	1	0	0	1
Multiple Races	3	3	0	1	7
Chronically Homeless (parenting youth households)					
Total number of households	2	0	0	0	2
Total number of persons	10	0	0	0	10

ADDITIONAL POPULATIONS

In 2019, HUD required that data reported on survivors of domestic violence should be limited to reporting on those who are currently experiencing homelessness because they are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as opposed to reporting on survivors who have ever experienced these circumstances.[18]

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	723	260	11	1,109	2,103
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	449	144	5	833	1,432
Adults with HIV/AIDS	12	5	0	72	89
Adult Survivors of Domestic Violence (optional)	171	100	0	262	533

[18] US Department of Housing and Urban Development. (Sept 2017). Notice CPD-17-08: 2018 HIC and PIT Data Collection for CoC and ESG Programs. Retrieved 2018 from https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Notice-CPD-17-08-2018-HIC-PIT-Data-Collection-Notice.pdf.

Appendix C: Survey Results

The following tables include the aggregate results of each question asked of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County during the 2019 Count Us In Survey.

Section A: Demographics		Count	Column N %
Age	Less than 18 years	17	1%
	18 - 24 years	208	18%
	25 - 30 years	147	13%
	31 - 40 years	258	22%
	41 - 50 years	313	27%
	51 - 60 years	163	14%
	61 years or more	65	6%
	Total	**1,171**	**100%**
Which of the following best represents how you think of your gender?	Male	617	54%
	Female	444	39%
	Transgender	40	3%
	Don't identify as male, female, or transgender	11	1%
	Gender-queer	9	1%
	Gender non-conforming	12	1%
	Non-binary	7	1%
	Refused	20	2%
	Other not listed	6	1%
	Agender	3	0%
	Total	**1,147**	**100%**
Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Yes	168	15%
	No	858	79%
	Don't know	62	6%
	Total	**1,088**	**100%**
Which racial group do you identify with most?	White	453	43%
	Black or African American	256	24%
	Asian	47	4%

	American Indian or Alaska Native	153	15%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	39	4%
	Multiracial/Other	97	9%
	Total	**1,045**	**100%**
Which of the following best represents how you think of your sexual orientation?	Straight	867	77%
	Queer	21	2%
	Bisexual	73	6%
	Pansexual	34	3%
	Lesbian or Gay	83	7%
	I don't know/questioning	11	1%
	Refused	28	2%
	Other	25	2%
	Total	**1,130**	**100%**
Are you or your partner currently pregnant?	Yes	42	4%
	No	1030	92%
	Don't know	46	4%
	Total	**1,118**	**100%**
Have you ever been in foster care?	Yes	224	21%
	No	844	79%
	Total	1068	100.00%

Section B: Veterans Status		Count	Column N %
Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces? (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard)	Yes	91	8%
	No	1,013	90%
	Don't know	27	2%
	Total	**1,131**	**100%**
Were you ever called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?	Yes	42	5%
	No	838	93%
	Don't know	25	3%
	Total	**905**	**100%**
Have you ever received health care or benefits from a VA (Veterans Administration) center?	Yes	63	7%
	No	811	90%
	Don't know	29	3%
	Total	**903**	**100%**
Is anyone else in your household a Veteran?	Yes	64	7%
	No	804	89%

	Don't know	35	4%
	Total	**903**	**100%**

Section C: Accommodation		Count	Column N %
Where were you staying on the night of January 25th?	Outdoors/streets/parks/tent	181	15%
	Backyard or storage structure	29	2%
	Motel/hotel	70	6%
	Emergency shelter	296	25%
	Transitional housing	80	7%
	A place in a house not normally used for sleeping	34	3%
	Public facility (train station, transit center, bus depot)	9	1%
	Van	43	4%
	Automobile/car	102	9%
	Camper/RV	73	6%
	Abandoned building/squat	31	3%
	Tent	167	14%
	Drug/alcohol treatment/detox center	0	0%
	Hospital	0	0%
	Jail/juvenile detention/prison	0	0%
	Foster care placement	0	0%
	Authorized encampment/Village	24	2%
	A friend's home/apartment	0	0%
	Your home/apartment	0	0%
	Other	23	2%
	Don't know	9	1%
	Total	**1,171**	**100%**
Do you feel safe where you stayed last night?	Yes	121	81%
	No	29	19%
	Total	**150**	**100.0%**
Is this the first time you have been homeless?	Yes	297	30%
	No	709	70%
	Total	**1,006**	**100.0%**
How long have you been homeless this current time?	7 days or less	20	2%
	8-30 days	44	4%
	1-3 months	77	7%
	4-6 months	127	12%

	7-11 months	138	13%
	1 year	134	13%
	More than 1 year	497	48%
	Total	**1,037**	**100%**
How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years, including this current time?	Less than 4 times	770	74%
	4 or more times	253	24%
	Don't know	21	2%
	Total	**1,044**	**100.0%**
Have you been living in an emergency shelter and/or on the streets (including bus stations, underpasses, encampments, abandoned buildings, etc.) for the past year (12 months) or more?	Yes	376	46%
	No	284	34%
	Decline to state	165	20%
	Total	**825**	**100%**
C6. In addition to right now, how long would you say you have stayed in these kinds of places total in the past 3 years?	Less than a year	191	26%
	1 - 3 years	358	48%
	4 years or more	200	27%
	Total	**749**	**100%**
How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?	0-17 years	192	18%
	18-24 years	276	27%
	25-35 years	319	31%
	36-49 years	165	16%
	50-65 years	71	7%
	66 or older	16	2%
	Total	1,039	100%

Section D: Household Members		Count	Column N %
How many people are in your household, including yourself?	1	771	81%
	2	122	13%
	3	38	4%
	4	10	1%
	5	4	0%
	6	5	1%
	7	2	0%

	8	1	0%
	9	3	0%
	Total	**956**	**100%**
Do you have any children under age 18?	Yes	200	24%
	No	602	72%
	Don't know	37	4%
	Total	**839**	**100%**
Are any of your children under 18 currently living with you?	Yes	66	9%
	No	633	89%
	Don't know	15	2%
	Total	**714**	**100%**
Do you live alone or with other household members?	Alone	785	83%
	With other household members	164	17%
	Total	**949**	**100%**

Section D1: Demographic Household Members		Count	Column N %
How they are related to you?	Child	63	41%
	Spouse	37	24%
	Non-married partner	40	26%
	Other family member	13	9%
	Other non-family member	15	10%
	Total	**152**	**100%**
How old are they?	Under 18	60	41%
	18 - 24	25	17%
	25 or older	81	55%
	Total	**147**	**100%**
How do they Identify their gender?	Male	87	58%
	Female	87	58%
	Transgender	3	2%
	Don't identify as male, female, or transgender	1	1%
	Total	**150**	**100%**
Are they Hispanic or Latino?	Yes	25	17%
	No	119	79%
	Don't know	8	5%
	Total	**150**	**100%**
Which racial group do they identify with the most?	White	453	43%
	Black or African American	256	24%

	Asian	47	4%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	153	15%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	39	4%
	Multiracial/Other	97	9%
	Total	**1,045**	**100.0%**

Section E: Residency		Count	Column N %
Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?	Out of State	47	5%
	King County	724	84%
	Pierce County	32	4%
	Thurston County	10	1%
	Snohomish County	32	4%
	Another County in WA	21	2%
	Total	**866**	**100%**
If in King County, how long were you living in King County before you became homeless?	Less than 1 year	144	19%
	1-2 years	119	16%
	3-4 years	78	10%
	5-9 years	61	8%
	10+ years	114	15%
	Born/grew up here	236	31%
	Total	**752**	**100%**
Immediately before you became homeless, where were you living?	A home owned or rented by you or your partner	311	38%
	Subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing	80	10%
	Hospital or treatment facility	22	3%
	A home owned or rented by friends/relatives	234	29%
	Juvenile Justice Facility	5	1%
	Foster care	8	1%
	Jail or prison	45	6%
	Motel/hotel	35	4%
	Military base/active duty	6	1%
	Resettlement placement	4	0%
	Other: _____	65	8%
	Total	**815**	**100%**

Section F: Cause and Prevention		Count	Column N %
What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness?	Lost job	207	24%
	Eviction	132	15%
	Foreclosure	16	2%
	Incarceration/detention	53	6%
	Alcohol or drug use	142	16%
	Illness/medical problem	47	5%
	Divorce/separation/break up	74	9%
	Argument with family/friend/	57	7%
	Family/domestic violence	49	6%
	Mental health issues	51	6%
	Hospitalization/treatment	17	2%
	Aging out of foster care	10	1%
	Could not afford rent increase	73	8%
	Family/friend's housing wouldn't let me stay	37	4%
	Family/friend couldn't afford to let me stay	17	2%
	Resettlement transition	13	1%
	Safety	15	2%
	Death of a parent/spouse/child	29	3%
	Other	34	4%
	Don't know/decline to state	54	6%
	Total	**869**	**100%**
What would help you obtain permanent housing?	Rental assistance / More affordable housing	629	75%
	Job/increased income	343	41%
	Money for moving costs	303	36%
	Legal assistance	95	11%
	New ID/Paperwork	94	11%
	Services in my language	54	6%
	Transportation	154	18%
	Help clearing my credit	181	22%
	Help clearing my rental history	157	19%
	Medical/health care	90	11%
	Immigration/refugee assistance	11	1%
	Case management	220	26%

	Safe parking location while seeking housing	52	6%
	Culturally tailored services	91	11%
	Landlords who accept my housing voucher	104	12%
	Family reunification	77	9%
	Other	28	3%
	Total	**835**	**100%**

Section G: Income and Employment		Count	Column N %
What is your current employment status?	Employed full-time	63	6%
	Employed part-time	115	11%
	Employed seasonal/sporadic	46	5%
	Unemployed, and looking	389	38%
	Unable to work (disabled/retired)	182	18%
	Unemployed, and not looking	159	16%
	Unauthorized work	67	7%
	Total	**1,021**	**100%**
How long has it been since you received payment for work?	Less than 1 month	147	18%
	1- 6 months	152	19%
	7- 12 months	87	11%
	1-2 years	142	18%
	2 years	54	7%
	3-5 years	87	11%
	More than 5 years	138	17%
	Total	**807**	**100%**

Section H: Health *1. Do you experience any of the following:*	Yes	Row %	No	Row %	Refuse	Row %	Total	Row %
Any chronic health problem or medical condition	312	27%	601	51%	258	22%	1,171	100%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	406	35%	506	43%	259	22%	1,171	100%
Any psychiatric or emotional conditions	419	36%	481	41%	271	23%	1,171	100%
A physical disability	275	23%	620	53%	276	24%	1,171	100%
A traumatic brain injury	140	12%	748	64%	283	24%	1,171	100%
Drug or alcohol abuse	375	32%	511	44%	285	24%	1,171	100%
An AIDS or an HIV related illness	43	4%	849	73%	279	24%	1,171	100%
An intellectual disability or memory impairment	157	13%	726	62%	288	25%	1,171	100%

Section H: Health *2. Does it keep you from holding a job, living in stable housing or taking care of yourself?*	Yes	Row %	No	Row %	Refuse	Row %	**Total**	**Row %**
Any chronic health problem or medical condition	168	55%	99	33%	37	12%	**304**	**100%**
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	193	49%	147	37%	53	13%	**393**	**100%**
Any psychiatric or emotional conditions	216	53%	135	33%	55	14%	**406**	**100%**
A physical disability	177	67%	61	23%	27	10%	**265**	**100%**
A traumatic brain injury	65	49%	45	34%	24	18%	**134**	**100%**
Drug or alcohol abuse	189	51%	136	37%	45	12%	**370**	**100%**
An AIDS or an HIV related illness	17	40%	13	31%	12	29%	**42**	**100%**
An intellectual disability or memory impairment	83	55%	40	26%	28	19%	**151**	**100%**

Section H: Health Additional Questions		Count	Column N %
If you live with a spouse, a significant other or parent, do any of the following conditions prevent them from maintaining work or housing?	Chronic health problem	17	9%
	PTSD	12	7%
	Drug or alcohol abuse	23	13%
	Physical disability	26	14%
	Traumatic brain injury	6	3%
	Psychiatric or emotional condition	8	4%
	HIV/AIDS	2	1%
	None of the above	132	73%
	Intellectual disability or memory impairment	8	4%
	Total	**181**	**100%**
Are you currently experiencing home/domestic violence or abuse?	Yes	61	7%
	No	703	79%
	Decline to state	122	14%
	Total	**886**	**100%**

Section I: Services and Assistance		Count	Column N %
Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance?	Emergency shelter	323	39%
	Free meals	472	57%
	Bus passes	349	42%
	Job training/employment services	78	9%
	Shelter day services	276	33%
	Legal assistance	44	5%
	Transitional housing	104	13%
	Immigration services	12	1%
	Health services	254	31%
	Mental health services	160	19%
	Alcohol/drug counseling	98	12%
	Safe Parking site	81	10%
	Tiny Home/sanctioned encampment	40	5%
	Hygiene services	297	36%
	Other	13	2%
	Not using any services	82	10%
	Total	**827**	**100%**
If you are not using any type of shelter services, why not?	They are full	86	17%
	They are far away	59	12%
	They are too crowded	138	28%
	There are germs	195	39%
	There are bugs	204	41%
	I can't stay with my partner/family	40	8%
	I can't stay with my friends	34	7%
	There is nowhere to store my stuff	109	22%
	There are too many rules	57	11%
	They don't accept my pet	33	7%
	I don't feel culturally accepted	93	19%
	I feel unsafe	220	44%
	I am barred from services	15	3%
	I am not eligible (e.g. criminal record)	18	4%
	Other	75	15%
	Total	**499**	**100%**

Have you recently experienced any of the following issues trying to get help or access services in the community?	Did not have an ID or personal document	211	27%
	Did not know where to go for help	222	28%
	Did not qualify for the service I wanted	160	20%
	Did not follow through or return for services	136	17%
	Separation from my pet	66	8%
	Lack of transportation	224	28%
	Language barrier	52	7%
	Issues with program staff	87	11%
	Program rules are too strict	71	9%
	Never heard back after applying for services	134	17%
	Separation from my partner/spouse	63	8%
	I have not experienced any issues	191	24%
	Other	33	4%
	Total	**786**	**100%**

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Appendix E: Regional Definitions & Unsheltered Counts

EAST COUNTY
Beaux Arts Village
Bellevue
Clyde Hill
Hunts Point
Issaquah*
Kirkland
Medina
Mercer Island
Newcastle
Redmond
Sammamish*
Yarrow Point
Unincorporated Areas

NORTH COUNTY
Bothell
Kenmore
Lake Forest Park
Shoreline
Woodinville
Unincorporated Areas

NORTHEAST COUNTY
Carnation
Duvall
North Bend
Skykomish
Snoqualmie
Unincorporated Areas

SEATTLE

SOUTHEAST COUNTY
Black Diamond
Covington
Enumclaw
Maple Valley
Unincorporated Areas

SOUTHWEST COUNTY
Algona
Auburn
Burien
Des Moines
Federal Way
Kent
Milton
Normandy Park
Pacific
Renton
SeaTac
Tukwila
Vashon Island
Unincorporated Areas

Note: In 2017, these cities were assigned to the Northeast County region. Data from 2017 presented in this report have been updated to reflect these shifts in the regional definitions, and resulted in the movement of data representing 35 persons.

2019								
REGION	PERSONS ON STREETS/ OUTSIDE	PERSONS IN TENTS	PERSONS IN BUILDINGS	PERSONS IN CAR	PERSONS IN RV	PERSONS IN VAN	TOTAL UNSHELTERED PERSONS	% OF TOTAL
East County	40	16	2	203	35	41	**337**	**6%**
North County	23	16	2	13	15	16	**85**	**2%**
Northeast County	6	39	13	9	28	4	**99**	**2%**
Seattle	1,105	1,162	46	385	621	239	**3,558**	**68%**
Southeast County	0	7	20	25	9	4	**65**	**1%**
Southwest County	332	195	57	303	115	82	**1,084**	**21%**
Total	**1,506**	**1,435**	**140**	**938**	**823**	**386**	**5,228**	**100%**

2018								
REGION	PERSONS ON STREETS/ OUTSIDE	PERSONS IN TENTS	PERSONS IN BUILDINGS	PERSONS IN CAR	PERSONS IN RV	PERSONS IN VAN	TOTAL UNSHELTERED PERSONS	% OF TOTAL
East County	30	36	25	167	63	72	**393**	**6%**
North County	26	33	8	55	97	32	**251**	**4%**
Northeast County	18	80	1	4	28	6	**137**	**2%**
Seattle	1,120	1,034	55	592	1,375	312	**4,488**	**71%**
Southeast County	12	25	15	12	13	0	**77**	**1%**
Southwest County	259	129	42	333	154	57	**974**	**15%**
Total	**1,465**	**1,337**	**146**	**1,163**	**1,730**	**479**	**6,320**	**100%**

2017								
REGION	PERSONS ON STREETS/ OUTSIDE	PERSONS IN TENTS	PERSONS IN BUILDINGS	PERSONS IN CAR	PERSONS IN RV	PERSONS IN VAN	TOTAL UNSHELTERED PERSONS	% OF TOTAL
East County	37	74	4	118	41	45	**319**	**6%**
North County	22	0	1	23	8	4	**58**	**1%**
Northeast County	18	38	2	6	18	2	**84**	**2%**
Seattle	1,070	1,152	79	412	666	462	**3,841**	**70%**
Southeast County	22	9	0	14	24	1	**70**	**1%**
Southwest County	313	278	52	303	104	63	**1,113**	**20%**
Total	**1,482**	**1,551**	**138**	**876**	**861**	**577**	**5,485**	**100%**

Note: The Seattle region is based on jurisdictional boundaries, while all other regions were defined by census tracts and include both incorporated and unincorporated areas. The Seattle region was updated in 2018 to reflect jurisdictional boundaries for the City of Seattle; unincorporated areas located within census tract areas of the Seattle region were removed and reassigned to adjacent regions as appropriate. The 2017 unsheltered data have been updated in order to make consistent comparisons between count years. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Appendix F: Terms & Abbreviations

Building—An unsheltered location type that includes abandoned buildings, public buildings, and storefronts.

Chronic homelessness—Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as "an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years." This definition also applies to heads of household who meet the definition.

Disabling condition—A physical disability, mental illness, depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or a developmental disability.

Emergency shelter—The provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility or through the use of stabilization rooms. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 90 days or fewer. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for survivors and their children.

Families with children—A household comprised of at least one adult (including young adults between 18 and 24 years old) and one child under 18 years old.

Homeless—Under the Category 1 definition of homelessness in the HEARTH Act, includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, or with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

Households with children—Households comprised of at least one adult (including young adults between 18 and 24 years old) and one child under 18 years old. Also referred to as "Families with children."

Households with no children—Households comprised of only adults over 18 years old. Includes single adults, unaccompanied young adults between 18 and 24 years old, adult couples, and other groups of adults presenting together as a household.

Households with only children—Households comprised of only children under 18 years old. Also referred to as Unaccompanied Youth.

HUD—Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Individual—An unaccompanied adult or youth.

Pansexual — An attraction towards people regardless of their sex or gender identity.

Safe haven—A form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach persons experiencing homelessness with severe mental illness, who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.

Sanctioned encampment—Temporary, permitted village/encampment operating on public property with city funding to support services, security, and operations.

Sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness—Individuals who are living in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.

Transitional housing—Housing in which individuals experiencing homelessness may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Supportive services – which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination – may be provided by the organization managing the housing or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Unaccompanied young adult—Unaccompanied young person between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who is not accompanied by a parent or guardian and is not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their child(ren).

Unaccompanied youth—Child under the age of 18 who is not accompanied by a parent or guardian and is not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their child(ren).

Unsanctioned encampment—Groups of three or more tents or makeshift shelters that are not authorized by a local jurisdiction.

Unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness—Individuals who are sleeping on the streets, on public transit, in abandoned buildings, public facilities, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.

Vehicle residents—Individuals who are sleeping in cars, RVs, campers, vans, or other vehicles.

Veterans—Adults who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard, unless the person was called up to active duty.

Appendix G: Acknowledgements

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COUNT US IN

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