

Homelessness Facts for King County

(Updated April 2015)

One Night Count / Point-in-Time Census

The 2015 Point in Time (PIT) Census was held January 23, 2015. The count includes a street count of unsheltered individuals in portions of Seattle, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Shoreline, Kenmore, Bothell, Woodinville, Kent, Federal Way, Renton, Auburn, White Center, Vashon and Night Owl Buses, along with a survey of homeless shelters and transitional programs throughout King County. The 2015 PIT found:

- 10,047 individuals were unsheltered or in crisis response housing.
- Of these individuals, 6,275 people were found in shelters and transitional programs;
- 3,722 people were surviving outside without shelter. This is an increase of 21% over those found without shelter the previous year. (Note: this increase is due, in part, to an expanded count area. When comparing the same count areas of 2014 to 2015, the increase is ~17%.)

	<u>Individuals Counted</u>	<u>Percent of Count</u>
Seattle	2,813	75%
North + East KC	182	5%
South KC	660	17%
Vashon Island	10	.3%
Night Owl Buses	<u>107</u>	3%
	3,722	

Household Composition

Homelessness affects all segments of the population including children. The One Night Count survey coordinates data through Safe Harbors, our local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) system, and reports the following breakdown among households living in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs:

Household Composition*

- 49% families with children
- 38% single adult men
- 13% single adult women
- <1% unaccompanied youth under 18

*household composition reflects sheltered individuals
The street count does not wake up individuals to ask them demographic questions

Racial Disproportionality

People of color are significantly over represented in the homeless population. While people of color comprise not quite ~37% of the general population in King County nearly 60% of people experiencing homelessness and staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing are people of color (allowing for Hispanic as a community of color.)
(CEH does not have demographic information on unsheltered individuals, as it is policy not to approach or awaken people who are sleeping to ask them their demographic information. It is generally accepted that the sheltered population mirrors the unsheltered population.)

2015 One Night Count Demographics of Sheltered Individuals					
	# Sheltered	ES %	TH %	% Sheltered	KC General Population
African American / Black	2,665	41%	45%	42%	6.60%
White (includes Hispanic)	2,561	45%	37%	41%	63.20%
Multi-racial	526	6%	11%	8%	4.70%
Native American / Alaska Native	172	3%	2%	3%	1%
Asian / Pacific Islander	351	6%	5%	6%	16.70%
Hispanic	1,123	11%	13%	12%	9.30%

6,275 Individuals in Shelter/Transitional Housing for whom we have demographic info

KC Gen'l Pop data from: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53/53033.html>

Comparisons to Other Data Points

It can be useful to compare the PIT to other available data points. Below is data on the regional distribution of King County’s total population, the number of homeless students as compiled by the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)* and calls to 2-1-1 among King County residents in 2014.

Region	KC 2010 Census Population	% of 2010 Census	Calls to 2-1-1 (among KC residents)	% of calls to 2-1-1 (among KC residents)	Homeless Students	% of Homeless Students
EKC	421,347	25.10%	9,216	9.69%	737	11.69%
NKC	82,698	4.93%	2,880	3.03%	395	6.26%
SKC	566,581	33.75%	44,330	46.59%	2,785	44.16%
Seattle	608,360	36.23%	38,595	40.56%	2,370	37.58%
Vashon	10,261	0.61%	121	0.13%	20	0.32%
Total	1,678,986	100.00%	95,142	100.00%	6,307	100.00%

**CEH uses a HUD definition of homelessness that includes “individuals living in a place not meant for human habitation” (e.g., cars, tents or otherwise unsheltered) plus those residing in emergency shelter and transitional housing. OSPI uses a definition that includes the above along with doubled up households*

Housing related calls are the largest type of requests 2-1-1 receives, accounting for 57,896 calls in 2014 – nearly 50% of their entire call volume.

Crisis Response Housing Requests

DV Shelter	3,177
Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing	18,086
Transitional Housing	3,961

Housing Stabilization Supports Requests

Rent Assistance	11,529
Move-In Assistance	4,371
Permanent Housing	11,635
Legal Issues – Housing	4,416

Affordable Housing Considerations

A 2013 national study found predictive factors for community rates of homelessness, including housing market, safety net, economy, demographics and transience. The study found an increase of homelessness of 15% (metro areas) and 39% (nearby suburbs and rural areas) per \$100 increase in median rent for the examined area. Seattle was the only large city in the nation where rents jumped by more than \$100 between 2010 and 2013. In December 2014, the Seattle Times reported an additional surge in rents, with average rents as below:

- Seattle median rent was ~\$1,493
- Bellevue median rent was ~1,630
- High rents in Seattle/King County create pressure on rental markets and vacancies in South King County, where rent is less (Kent: \$848/month), SeaTac (\$901) or Des Moines (\$923)

A 2014 analysis by King County Housing and Community Development reports that 68% of very low income households earning 30% of Area Median Income (AMI) spend half or more of their total household income on housing (36,000 out of 53,000 households at AMI in King County)

For the first quarter of 2015, King County had a vacancy rate of 3.4% per [Kiplinger](#). Vacancy rates below 5% are considered to be a ‘tight’ rental market with the result that households with unfavorable credit ratings, prior evictions, criminal histories or income-to-rent ratios below 1:3 (income three times rent) have a hard time finding rental housing. Vacancy rates can vary by neighborhood, and vacancy rates by region are below:

An Overview of Households Experiencing Homelessness

Children and Families

The King County Family Homelessness Initiative is working with providers and funders to make important shifts in the way they collaborate and serve homeless families with a more streamlined, accessible system that will prevent families from becoming homeless; quickly rehouse those who are homeless; and link them to services they want and need to remain stable in their own housing. Highlights from data on families accessing Family Housing Connections, the entry point for homeless housing and services for families indicates:

- ~4,860 families were assessed by FHC from the launch in April 2012 through December 31, 2014.
- After modifications to allow for 'block scheduling' in early 2015, housing assessments are now scheduled within one week of families calling 2-1-1.
- Regional breakout of families seeking assessment is below:

Seattle	2,191	45.08%
North + East KC	626	12.88%
South KC	2,040	41.98%
Vashon Island	<u>3</u>	.1%
	4,860	

Youth and Young Adults

Programs serving youth and young adults conduct a point-in-time census geared towards youth and young adults, called *Count Us In*. On January 21, 2015 *Count Us In* identified:

- 824 youth and young adults ages 13 to 25 who were homeless or unstably housed.
 - Of these, 521 were staying in shelter or transitional housing programs.
 - 303 youth and young adults were surveyed at program sites and other places that homeless youth frequent. Many of these youth 'couch surf' with friends and relatives and so represent a hidden aspect of homelessness.
 - > 133 were unsheltered, literally homeless – in cars, RV's, outside/in tents, abandoned buildings, etc.
 - > 70 indicated they were unstably housed (current housing situation tenuous)

This is the fourth year of *Count Us In*, and consistent profiles of youth are emerging:

- Homeless and unstably housed YYA come from nearly every zip code in King County
- 12% are under age 18
- 32% are African American / Black 12% are Hispanic
- 22% are LGBTQ
- 41% stayed with family at some point in the past three months

Single Adults

Over 9,800 single adults are known to experience homelessness annually in King County – identified either through the One Night Count or through our region's HMIS system.

- Approximately 2,600 beds provide overnight housing to single adults. The Inventory for single adults includes:
 - Indoor, year-round shelter programs (1,700). Close to half of these are in donated or leased space
 - Winter Season Shelter beds (450-700 seasonal beds, typically November – March)
 - Tent city/communities (300)
- 92% of the indoor shelter beds are located in Seattle and 8% are outside Seattle
- 75% are overnight shelters only (clients come into shelter between 8-9 pm and exit between 6-8 am)

A 2012 study of general demographic information from Safe Harbors HMIS on people accessing shelter indicates that shelter residents are predominantly male and a disproportionate number are people of color.

- More than one-third of clients stayed less than 7 days over a 12 month reporting period.
- A cohort of approximately 280 were identified as Long Term Stayers, or those who had more than 180 bednights during the study period.
 - *Among those staying 8-59 days: Seattle client profile* -- majority are men, 31-50 years old, people of color, disabled, and 21% are veterans. *King County client profile* -- majority are younger men, not disabled, and 11% are veterans.
 - *Among those staying 180+ days: Seattle client profile* -- majority are men, 51 or older, disabled, 23% are veterans. *King County client profile* -- similar to above, although more are disabled and the number of older men increased somewhat.