

Point In Time Count of Homeless Persons in Snohomish County



2011
Point In
Time



*Snohomish County Human Services Department
Office of Housing, Homelessness and Community Development*



*Homeless Policy Task Force
Snohomish County Washington*

2011
Point In Time
Count of Homeless Persons in Snohomish County

Point in Time Count Committee Members

Salvation Army

Angel Johnson and Dana Libby

Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County

Tami Krell

YWCA

Marva Marcus, Maria Bighaus and Cathy Chovan

Housing Authority of Snohomish County

Kristen Cane

Volunteers of America

Sharon Paskewitz

Housing Hope

Nate Greenland, Karen Matson and Jessye O. Schmitz

Cocoon House

Marty Arellano and Loretta Morris

Monroe Women's Gospel Mission

Dorothy Stima and David Stima

Everett Gospel Mission

Sylvia Anderson

Housing Consortium of Snohomish County

June Robinson and Beth Wierman

OHHCD

Jackie Anderson, Lindsey Legaspi, Nate Marti, Jerry Gadek and Dean Weitenhagen

Report prepared by the Point in Time Count Committee and
Snohomish County Human Services Department
Office of Housing, Homelessness and Community
Development's (OHHCD) Nate Marti

Layout prepared by
Snohomish County Human Services
Susan Foster-Brereton

We recognize the many agency and community
volunteers across the County who interviewed the
individuals and families represented in this document.



Snohomish County Government

Snohomish County Executive

Aaron Reardon

Snohomish County Council

John Koster, District 1

Brian Sullivan, District 2

Mike Cooper, District 3

Dave Gossett, District 4

Dave Somers, District 5

Snohomish County Department of Human Services

Kenneth Stark, Director

Division of Housing & Community Services

Jeffrey Watson, Division Manager

Division of Aging & Disability Services

Mary King, Division Manager

Division of Alcohol/Drugs, Mental Health & Veterans

Cammy Hart-Anderson, Division Manager

Division of Administrative Services

Mike Fulcher, Division Manager

Snohomish County would like to acknowledge the many individuals who participated and contributed in the preparation and production of this document.

Reasonable accommodations will be made to provide the information in this document in an alternate format upon request. Please contact Nate Marti at (425) 388-3268 (voice), 425 388-3700 (TDD), or Nate.Marti@co.snohomish.wa.us (e-mail).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Standout Data	2
Opening Statements	3
What is the PIT Count?	4
Background	4
Methodology	4
Street Count	4
Unsheltered and Sheltered Surveys	5
Constraints of the Data	5-6
Needs and Causes of Homelessness	7
2009-2011 Trends	8-9
Current Snapshot	10
Homeless Families with Children	11-14
Victims of Domestic Violence	14
Chronic Homelessness	15
Veterans	16
Homeless Youth	17
Appendix	
Length of Homelessness	18-19
By Household Type	18
By Veteran and Chronic Homeless Status	18
Victims of Domestic Violence	19
Unaccompanied Youth	19
Conditions, Needs, Income and Causes of Homelessness	20-25
Survey Needs Reported	21
Survey Income Reported	22
Survey Conditions Reported	22
All Ages Distribution	23
By Gender	23
Unsheltered Ages	23
Sheltered Ages	24
Precariously Housed Ages	24
Unsheltered, Emergency Sheltered, Transitional Housing and Precariously Housed Households with and without children	24-25
Additional Community Homeless Data	26-33
HMIS: Emergency Shelter Annual numbers	26-28
HMIS: Transitional Housing Annual numbers	29-31
Sheltered Household Income	32
OSPI Homeless Students	33
Department of Social and Health Services	34
Where to Volunteer	35

2011 POINT IN TIME COUNT OF HOMELESS PERSONS

On January 27, 2011 in Snohomish County,
2,273 individuals in 1,385 households were counted as homeless.

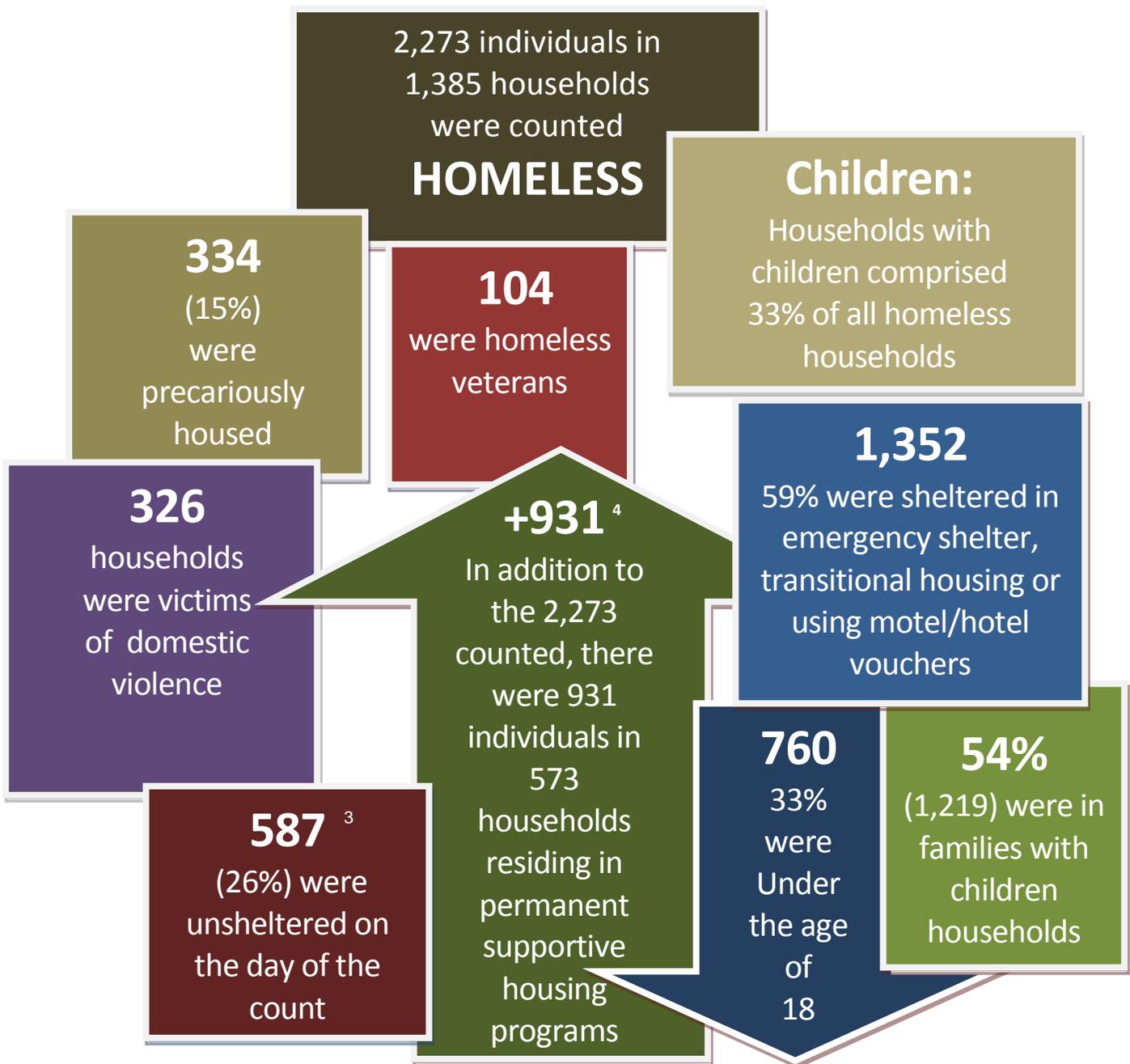
Homeless Populations	Street Count		Sheltered/Facility Count		Total Households	Total Individuals
	Unsheltered	Precariously Housed ¹	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing ²		
1. # of Households with Children	21	33	42	317	413	
2. # of Individuals in Households with Children	72	110	137	900		1,219
3. # of Households without Children	472	187	228	85	972	
4. # of Single Individuals and Persons in Households without Children	515	224	228	87		1,054
Total Households	493	220	270	402	1,385	
Total Individuals	587	334	365	987		2,273



¹ **Precariously Housed:** Persons sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (often referred to as “doubled up” or “couch surfing”).

² **Transitional Housing:** a program designed to provide housing and appropriate support services to Homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months.

STANDOUT DATA YEAR 2011: BY THE NUMBERS



³ Includes those counted from tic method and those surveyed who answered they were unsheltered the night before.

⁴ Long-term, community-based housing and supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities: The intent of this type of supportive housing is to enable this special needs population to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or provided by other public or private service agencies. There is no definite length of stay.

OPENING STATEMENTS

"It is truly amazing how much "community" took place on January 27, 2011. Whether you were up in Arlington, out in Sultan, down in Lynnwood, or on the streets of Everett, people who cared were befriending people in crisis. That amount of humanity can't be measured in these numbers, but believe me, as we work together to ensure all Snohomish County residents have a safe and stable place to live, no one is going to slow down. I can't be more proud of the citizens, service agencies, and County staff as they continue this effort, and continue restoring hope, one family at a time."



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world ...indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Every day, citizens of our community embark on efforts to increase awareness of and end homelessness in Snohomish County. The Point in Time Count is one such effort. Each January, volunteers come together to reach out to our fellow citizens that do not have housing. The stories and information gathered provide a "snap shot" of homelessness in our community. The results of the one day "count" are intended to help our community better understand the needs of individuals and families without housing and to shape our plans for assisting all members of our community to have safe and stable housing. While the Point in Time Count Report does not provide a complete picture of homelessness in our community, it certainly provides valuable insights into the work that we need to accomplish to achieve our goal to end homelessness.

Sincerely,

Karen Matson, Housing Hope Director of Social Services & Homeless Policy Task Force Co-Chair

Dean Weitenhagen, Snohomish County Human Services Department Office of Housing, Homelessness and Community Development Supervisor & Homeless Policy Task Force Co-Chair

WHAT IS THE PIT COUNT?

The Annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT) data provides a snapshot of homelessness in Snohomish County and is **not** intended to be a complete count of all homeless persons. There are many variables that limit our ability to count every person including the vast geographic area, weather, the time frame, and method used to make the count. While we are not able to literally count every person, we are able to gather data that tells us about the characteristics, needs, and causes of homelessness. While the PIT has limitations on the actual number of people who are experiencing homelessness, it does provide information that can be used in planning to meet the needs of the homeless and to further our ultimate goal of ending homelessness.

BACKGROUND

The impetus for the PIT Count is twofold. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that a PIT Count be conducted annually in January. Additionally, the 2005 Homeless Housing Assistance Act (HB 2163) gave each county in Washington State the responsibility to develop a ten-year plan to reduce homelessness by 50% by the year 2016, with the requirement to conduct an annual census of homeless persons.

Many communities refer to this as a “Point in Time Count” of homeless persons because it is conducted on one day of the year. The PIT Committee of the Snohomish County Homeless Policy Task Force has organized the County’s homeless count since 2004.

The Snohomish County community considers an individual to be homeless if he or she:

- Does not have a decent and safe shelter or sufficient funds to purchase a place to stay.
- Is living in an emergency or transitional shelter or temporarily with friends or family (i.e. “couch surfing”).
- Is living in a dwelling lacking drinking water, a restroom, heat, and/or the ability to prepare hot food.

METHODOLOGY

The count was conducted on January 27, 2011, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM. To explain the PIT and encourage individuals to complete a survey on the day of the count, signs were posted ahead of time at various high traffic areas around the County and in most of the facilities serving the homeless population.

STREET COUNT

Snohomish County’s geographic makeup is unique with both urban and rural areas spread across a broad expanse of land. In an effort to cover as much ground as possible, the County was divided into four regions: north, south, east, and central. Agency leaders were established in each region and responsible for volunteer recruitment. These leaders had a map of their region and assigned survey volunteers. This provided a way to track the areas being counted and ensure the safety of volunteers. Volunteers were directed to a variety of areas known as “hot spots” for homeless people, such as libraries, food banks, laundromats, bus stations, health clinics, encampments, etc. A network of providers with extensive knowledge about locations where unsheltered homeless people were living assisted with targeting those groups on the day of the count. Homeless heads of households were asked to complete a survey about themselves and all household members. If the individual declined to participate or the volunteer determined it may have been dangerous to approach an individual, the tic sheet method was

used to collect information. With the tic sheet method, genders and ages (whether the individual was a child or an adult over the age of 18) of visible household members were recorded.

UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED SURVEYS

Individual information was collected for all known members in homeless households, including their initials, date of birth, gender, age, and disabilities. The majority of data was collected at the household level and included veteran status; the date the occupants became homeless; the number of homeless episodes in the past year (including the previous one to three years); causes of homelessness; location of last night's stay; and needs and household sources of income. Survey information on the categories listed above was based solely on self-reported data from participants.

Of the 493 unsheltered households, 263 heads of household completed the survey; representing a total of 321 household members, with the remaining 230 households (266 individuals) counted through the 'tic' method. As noted above, the tic sheet identified the individual's gender (if known), whether the individual was a child or an adult over the age of 18, and the individual's household type.

In addition to the unsheltered count, emergency shelter and transitional housing providers were asked to complete a facility survey to capture the homeless households sheltered on the night of January 26th. The facility survey captured data on chronic homelessness, veteran status, mental disability, alcohol and/or other drug issues, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, physical disability, and other demographics. Furthermore, sheltered households are accounted for in the Snohomish County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS was used for the unduplicated count of homeless that were in emergency shelter and transitional programs.

CONSTRAINTS OF THE DATA

The **street survey analysis** represents all homeless persons who were **located** on January 27, 2011. It does not represent a comprehensive count of all homeless persons in the County. Additionally, since the count was conducted during one day of the year, the data only provides a snapshot of homelessness in Snohomish County. It is therefore important to keep in mind that, not only is the total number of homeless individuals fluctuating, but the types of homeless individuals and households may vary drastically from month-to-month and season-to-season. Furthermore, households that cycle in and out of homelessness are not always captured in a one day count. Factors that may have influenced a homeless individual's likelihood of filling out a survey include: the manner in which they were approached; whether or not they were first asked if they were homeless; if they were sleeping, intoxicated, or mentally ill, as well as cultural factors. It is also likely there were individuals not located because they were living in hard to find areas or allowed a place to stay with a friend for the day, etc.

Also, some of the survey questions were open to interpretation. Included were sections on individual disabilities, chronic homelessness, and self-reported causes of homelessness. Since the information was self-reported, it was difficult to standardize. Self-reported causes of homelessness posed the same challenges as self-reported disabilities. One individual may have selected indirect factors contributing to their homelessness while another may have only selected factors they thought were instrumental causes.

The **sheltered analysis** represents all of the homeless persons in emergency and transitional housing. The analysis consisted of examining aggregate facility surveys and data represented in HMIS. Although facility surveys generated concrete data on totals in emergency and transitional housing, we were reliant on the data entered into HMIS for client specific details (i.e. veterans, domestic violence, persons with disabilities, household information, etc.).

While there are always constraints to any data set, the PIT Committee made positive strides in improving the information represented in this report.

How you can help. Included at the end of this report is a list of agencies you may contact to see how you may help their programs serve households in need. If you are interested in participating in the Snohomish County Homeless Policy Task Force, please contact Jackie Anderson 425-388-3237.



NEEDS AND CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

A consistent message emerged through a review of PIT survey data collected over the past three years: there is not enough affordable housing (lack of economic opportunity factored into a large number of people experiencing homelessness). The table below lists the top causes and needs identified through surveys conducted from 2009 to 2011.

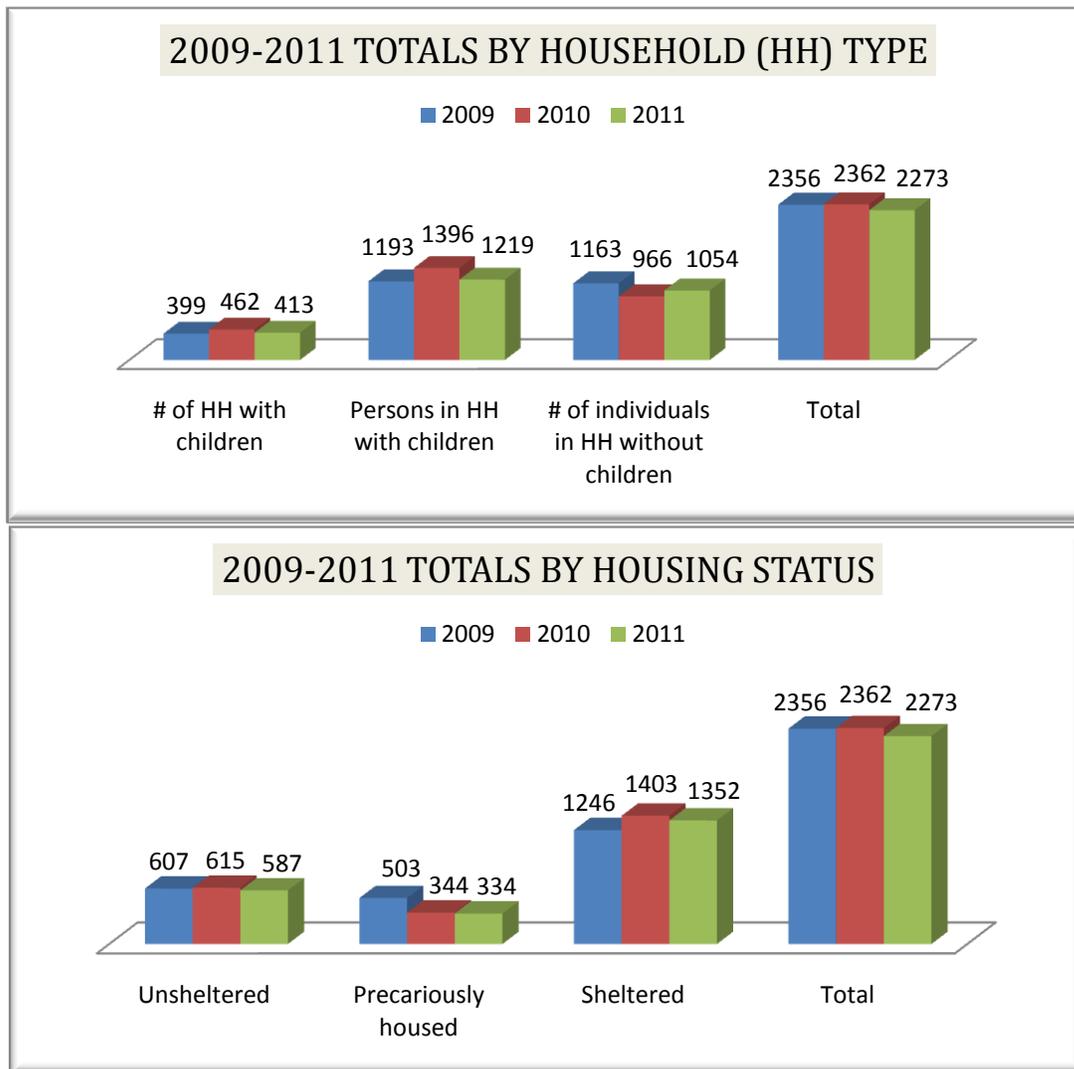
TOP CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS		
2009	2010	2011
Unable to pay rent/mortgage	Job Loss/unemployed	Job Loss/unemployed
Temp living situation ended	Unable to pay rent or mortgage	Unable to pay rent or mortgage
Drug or alcohol use	Family break-up	Drug or alcohol use
Job loss/unemployed	Drug or alcohol use	Mental health issues
Mental health issues	Mental health Issues	Family break-up
Need additional job skills	Temp living situation ended	Kicked out of home
Convicted of a criminal offense	Victim of domestic violence	Medical problems/illness
TOP NEEDS		
2009	2010	2011
Affordable housing	Affordable housing	Affordable Housing
Laundromat	Job search assistance	A safe place to stay
Job search assistance	A safe place to stay	Food
Educational information	A place to clean up/shower	Job search assistance
Budget assistance	Food	Dental care
Help getting food stamps	Dental care	Bus tickets

There are numerous causes of homelessness and the most often noted proximate causes are poverty conjoined with the lack of affordable housing and economic opportunities. The continued economic challenges are placing more households at-risk of becoming homeless; forcing more households into homelessness, and putting additional strain on individuals already homeless. For many people, living-wage jobs are still difficult to secure. Job loss or low wages are leading factors in homelessness. In addition, various other factors cause and/or contribute to homelessness. Persons with serious mental illness or chronic substance abuse face significant risk factors for homelessness and homeless individuals experiencing serious mental health or substance abuse issues may be hindered in making progress toward stable in housing.⁵

“I was working full time as a restaurant manager, lost my job and was kicked out of my apartment. I have not been able to get a full time job since then. Have been living on the streets ever since. Trying to work day jobs just to survive and live.” Anonymous

⁵ Housing and Community Development 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan

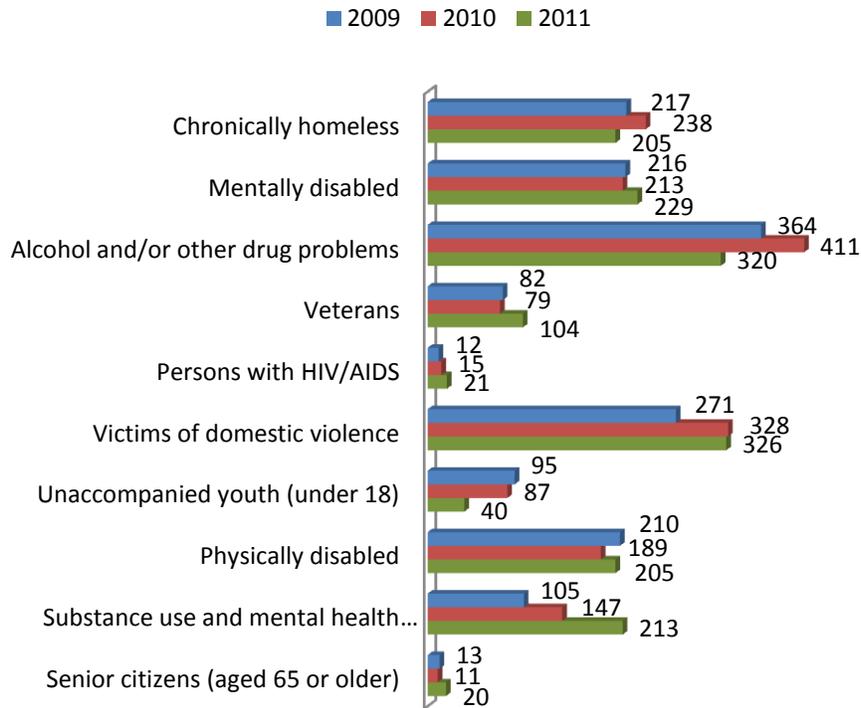
2009-2011 TRENDS



Homelessness in Snohomish County affects all types of households. In this report, you will find those households include: single individuals, families with children, households without children, multi-family households, veterans, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, households struggling with mental health and substance use issues, senior citizens, and those with physical disabilities. There is no one face to homelessness. These households face daily struggles finding affordable housing, jobs, basic resources (e.g. food, clothing, a safe place to stay), health care, and other services necessary in life.

“Being homeless is a full time job. If you’re lucky you wake up in the morning. First, try to find something to eat. Second, try to find a place to get a shower and clean clothes. Third, try to find some lunch. Fourth, make your appointment to find housing, doctors, DSHS; so on so on. Fifth, try to find dinner as you are doing this. After you do this daily; then you go back to camp and hope no one stole what little you own. Then you pray to God to give you the strength to do everything all over tomorrow. God Bless.” Anonymous, Everett

2009-2011 HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS DATA

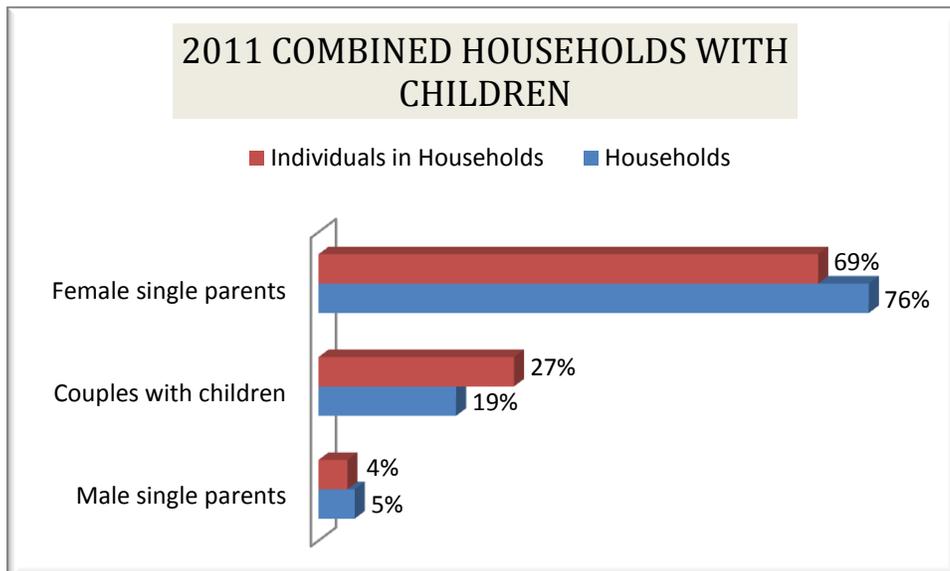
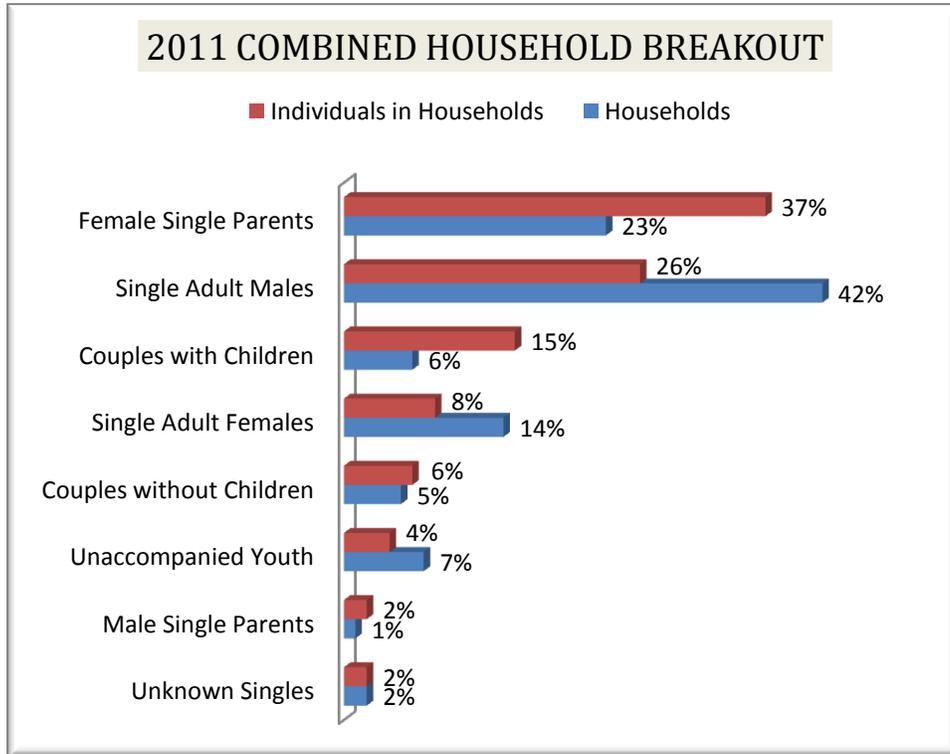


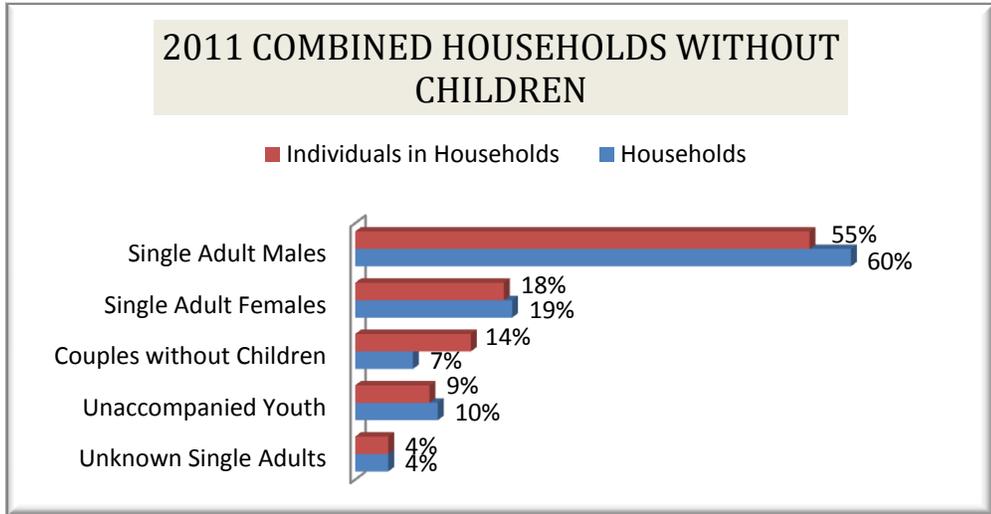
<i>Subpopulation</i>	<i>Percentage Change from Previous Year</i>
Senior citizens (aged 65 or older)	81.8%
Persons with both substance use and mental health problems	44.9%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	40.0%
Veterans	31.6%
Physically disabled	8.5%
Mentally disabled	7.5%
Victims of domestic violence	-0.6%
Chronically homeless	-13.9%
Persons with alcohol and/or other drug problems	-22.1%
Unaccompanied youth (under 18)	-54.0%

“This was an eye-opening event that brought the issue of homelessness out of my peripheral and into a direct line of sight. As people shared their stories with me I found a common thread which included job loss, mental illness, limited accessibility to health care, and substance abuse. With so many barriers preventing people from effectively lifting themselves up out of homelessness, it became clear to me why so many we came across today have been in such a state for so long.” Erica Koenig, Housing Coordinator, Everett Housing Authority

CURRENT SNAPSHOT

Household Breakouts





HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Homeless families with children comprised **30%** of all homeless households and **54%** of all individuals included in the 2011 PIT Count. National statistics show that this population is approximately **37%** of the homeless population.⁶ Families experiencing homelessness are under an extraordinary amount of stress. This stress causes a multitude of problems, varying from negative impacts on physical and emotional health to child behavioral problems including higher rates of anxiety, depression, and below average school performance; and in some cases, homelessness causes separation of family members as illustrated in the graph below.



CHILDREN NOT CURRENTLY IN HOUSEHOLD ⁷

	Households	Households indicating their children would live with them if they had a better place to live.	Percentage
Single parent household	112	65	58%
Two parent household	49	26	53%

⁶ <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/5thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf>

⁷ Homeless households were asked if they had children under age 18 not living in their household, and if so, would they live in their household if they had a better place to live.

“I was a stay at home mom, no job and one special needs child. We are victims of domestic violence. If it wasn’t for the YWCA shelter calling me, I would have still been homeless. I was on a waitlist for a year. It took awhile. I am now in an 18 month transitional housing program. Without discount rent, where would I live? I would not be able to afford it. I am so thankful we have a place to stay that is safe.”

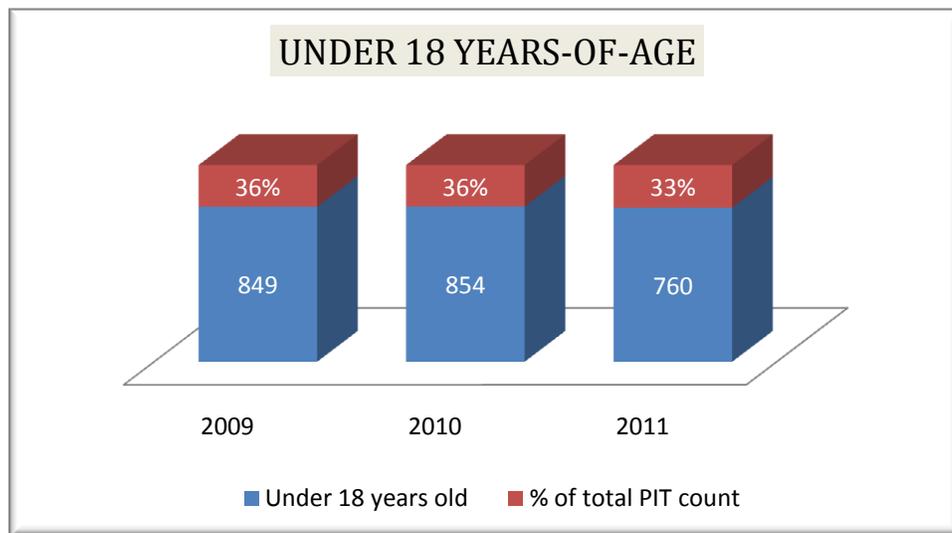
Anonymous, Lynnwood



The effects of homelessness on children can be devastating. Homeless children are less healthy than their peers (more asthma, upper respiratory infections, minor skin ailments, gastrointestinal ailments, parasites, and chronic physical disorders), experience more developmental delays, anxiety, depression and behavioral problems, poorer school attendance, and performance and other negative conditions.⁸ The impact of homelessness begins even before the child is born, often resulting in unhealthy pregnancies and continues to influence every facet of a child’s life from infancy to young adulthood.⁹



The following two graphs show the staggering number of young children experiencing homelessness.

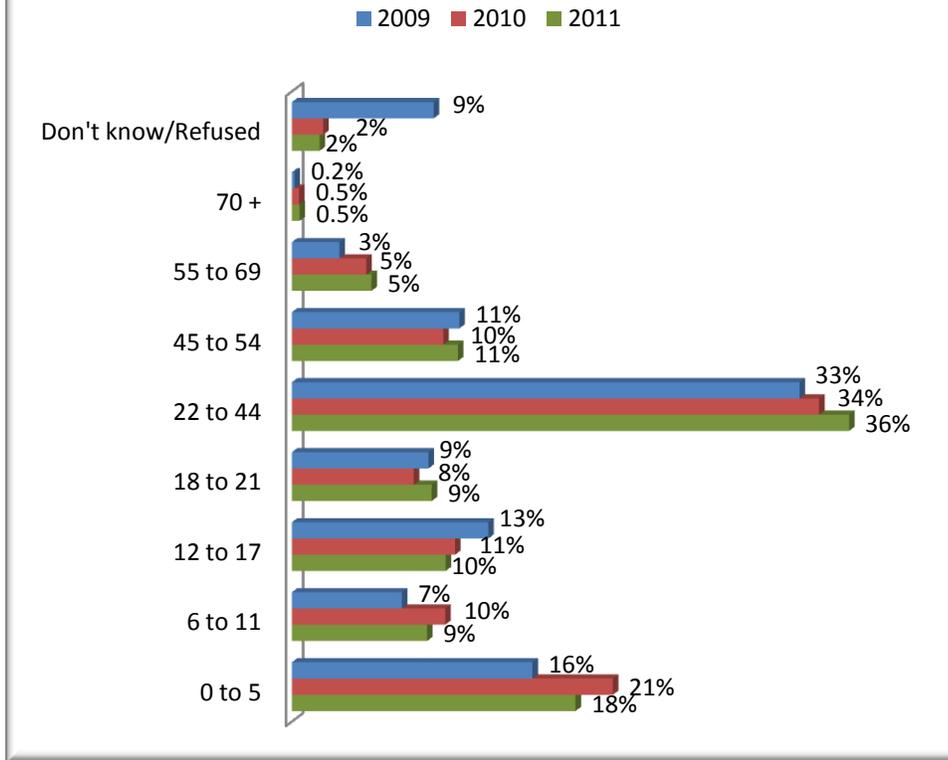


*Above graph includes all surveys and tic sheet data.

⁸ Buckner, J.C. 2004. Children, Impact of Homelessness on. In Levinson, D. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Homelessness, Vol 1*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Berkshire Publishing Group.

⁹ *Homelessness and Its Effects on Children*, Hart-Shegos, E., Family Housing Fund, December 1999.

2009-2011 PIT COUNT AGE DISTRIBUTIONS



Counts	0-5	6 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 21	22 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 69	70 +	Don't know
2009	273	125	223	155	576	190	54	3	161
2010	358	171	182	136	588	169	83	8	35
2011	367	175	199	181	721	215	103	10	36

*Above graph is based on surveys. Does not include tic sheet data.¹⁰

Homeless families are typically headed by a single mother. In Snohomish County, single mothers comprised **76%** of the households with children (compared to **67%** in 2010). Single mothers experiencing homelessness often express feelings of shame, anger, sadness, fear, and depression.

In the 2011 PIT Count, domestic violence was indicated as the number one cause of homelessness for single mothers (same as 2010 PIT Count). The count identified **326** women fleeing domestic violence (similar to last year's **328**). These women are often forced to choose between homelessness and staying in their abusive relationship.

“Being a single mother with 3 children, the thought of not being able to provide for my children scares me daily. The kid’s father however was a risk to their safety and mine and that is why I’m in this situation. How do I afford housing, how do I afford daycare so I can work, how do I provide food and clothing? These are all questions adding to my constant anxiety. Recently I have been provided a little help that has gone a long way, but I continue to fear for the future.”

...Anonymous Everett

¹⁰ Tic sheets only record ages as “under the age of 18” and “18 and above.” Tic sheet data recorded 19 individuals under the age of 18 for the 2011 count.



Women who are victims of domestic violence generally have poorer overall physical and mental health, experience more injuries, and use health services more often than other women. They are at increased risk for traumatic brain injury, strangulation, disability, and chronic pain. They also report a variety of symptoms including digestive problems, fainting, and pelvic and genital pain. Domestic violence is associated with depression, anxiety, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health problems.¹¹

Children in households exposed to domestic violence face an increased probability of having behavioral, social / emotional problems, cognitive / attitudinal problems, and long-term problems including higher levels of adult depression and increased tolerance for and use of violence in adult relationships.¹²

The table below shows some of the top needs, conditions, and causes of homelessness for victims of domestic violence identified in the 2011 count.

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE					
<i>326 of the individuals surveyed reported they were victims of domestic violence.</i>					
<i>Top Needs</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top Causes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top conditions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A safe place to stay	44%	Victims of domestic violence	37%	Mental illness	53%
Affordable housing	42%	Job Loss/unemployed	37%	Substance abuse	49%
Food	28%	Family break-up	33%	Untreated dental	44%
Mental health assistance	26%	Drug or alcohol use	28%	Uncorrected visual	37%
A place to clean up/shower	23%	Mental health issues	21%	Permanent physical / medical disability	30%
Job search assistance	16%	Kicked out of home	14%	Temporary physical disability	12%



“My story is not unlike the stories of other women who have lived with domestic violence (DV). I was in a classic DV situation and didn’t realize it. Before I left the relationship to go to a shelter, my knowledge of DV was limited to what I had seen and heard in the media and wasn’t even an accurate picture. I didn’t believe DV would or could ever happen to me; after all, I was educated. I thought the definition of DV was to be physically abused and since I wasn’t I didn’t think I was a DV victim. It wasn’t until I attended a DV group session (run by DVSSC) that I heard my story coming out of the mouth of another woman. What a painful moment of clarity for me... it was the beginning of my recovery. Until that moment I believed the only reason I was in the shelter was to protect my children from their father who I couldn’t tell if he was just a bully, insane and/or dangerous. There were a number of times he had threatened to kill me and he put the lives of my children in danger.

Women need help seeing and understanding their situations as well as knowing they are not alone. I know I am not alone now, but I didn’t know it then. Because of DVSSC, I am finally beginning to feel free to be myself.... (Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County Program Participant)

¹¹ <http://www.doh.wa.gov/HWS/doc/IV/IV-DV2007.pdf>

¹² <http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/domesticviolence.cfm>

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

205 individuals were identified as chronically homeless (compared to 217 in 2009). 155 were males, and the remaining 50 were females. The average age was 44.

<i>Top Needs</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top Causes of Homelessness</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top conditions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Affordable housing	45%	Job loss/unemployed	49%	Mental Illness	49%
A safe place to stay	41%	Drug or alcohol use	37%	Permanent physical / mental disability	48%
A place to cleanup/shower	35%	Mental health issues	35%	Substance Abuse	47%
Food	25%	Unable to pay rent or mortgage	32%	Untreated Dental	45%
Dental Care	20%	Medical problems/illness	22%	Developmental disability	13%
Bus ticket	18%	Family break-up	20%	Temporary physical disability	12%

The official definition of a chronically homeless person is “either (1) an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR (2) an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.” Neighbors and friends experiencing drug addiction, alcoholism, teeth that are rotted to the roots, multiple untreated mental health issues, laundry lists of major or minor law infractions, hepatitis/TB/HIV, and challenges with employment, education, or credit history, describes the majority of the CHRONICALLY HOMELESS population in Snohomish County. The CHRONICALLY HOMELESS typically represent 10-17% of the total number of homeless individuals counted both in Snohomish County and nationally. This percentage typically “costs” the taxpayer anywhere from \$40,500 to over \$100,000 per year in resources ranging from hospital emergency room visits to local incarceration. As a group they consume the most disproportionate amount of resources in our community and will continue to do so until we can create the necessary housing units (combined with supportive care) to serve them. As a group, their minimal earnings cannot come close to supporting a Fair Market Rent of \$770 for an efficiency apartment.

Much has been accomplished in serving the CHRONICALLY HOMELESS population since the creation and adoption of *Snohomish County’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* through collaborative efforts of the Homeless Policy Task Force. Agencies like Catholic Community Services and The Salvation Army spearheaded programs solely to support the CHRONIC HOMELESS population with much success. Looking ahead, the road is long and the challenges difficult - as a community we must stay committed to restoring hope.

“During the past few months, my life has moved to a point I never thought possible...the decades of fog have been lifted...my case manager taught me how to believe in myself by showing me how much she believed in me! I really was Humpty Dumpty; except I had people who cared enough to actually help me put the pieces back together.” ... (Permanent Supportive Housing Program Participant).

VETERANS

A total of 104 Veterans were identified on the day of the count. 47 Veterans were unsheltered; 38 were sheltered and 19 were precariously housed. 90 were males and 14 were females. The average age was 50

<i>Top Needs</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top Causes of Homelessness</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top conditions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Affordable housing	57%	Job Loss / unemployed	50%	Permanent physical / mental disability	50%
Safe place to stay	51%	Drug / alcohol abuse	24%	Untreated dental	43%
Place to cleanup/shower	34%	Medical problems / illness	24%	Mental illness	38%
Food	29%	Unable to pay rent/mortgage	24%	Substance Abuse	36%
Alcohol/Drug treatment	17%	Mental health issues	21%	Uncorrected visual	36%
Bus ticket	17%	Evicted for non-payment of rent/utility	18%	Temporary physical disability	14%

“I’ve made my fair share of mistakes, but I’ve also served my country proudly. Just two and a half years ago I was lying in the back seat of my car, just out of surgery, screaming in pain. No one hears you cry out when you’ve been forgotten...I’ve counted my blessings every day since this program found me.” ...Area Vet in Permanent Housing



The 2009 Veteran’s Administration CHALENG report estimates that on any given night there are 107,000 homeless veterans nationwide¹³. The VA reports the nation’s homeless veterans are mainly males (four percent females). The vast majority of veterans are single and most come from poor, disadvantaged communities; 45% suffer from mental illness and half have substance abuse problems. America’s homeless veterans served in World War II, the Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Operation Iraqi Freedom, or the military’s anti-drug cultivation efforts in South America. Forty-seven percent of homeless veterans served during the Vietnam Era. More than 67% served our country for at least three years and 33% were stationed in a war zone. Housing with services specifically designated for Snohomish County veterans is now a reality, with more than 60 program slots as of the end of 2010. The Homeless Policy Task Force and the Veterans Homelessness Committee continue to work toward overall increases in housing with services for veterans and it is a priority of the Human Services Department and the County Executive.

¹³ http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/chaleng/chaleng_sixteenth_annual_report.pdf

HOMELESS YOUTH

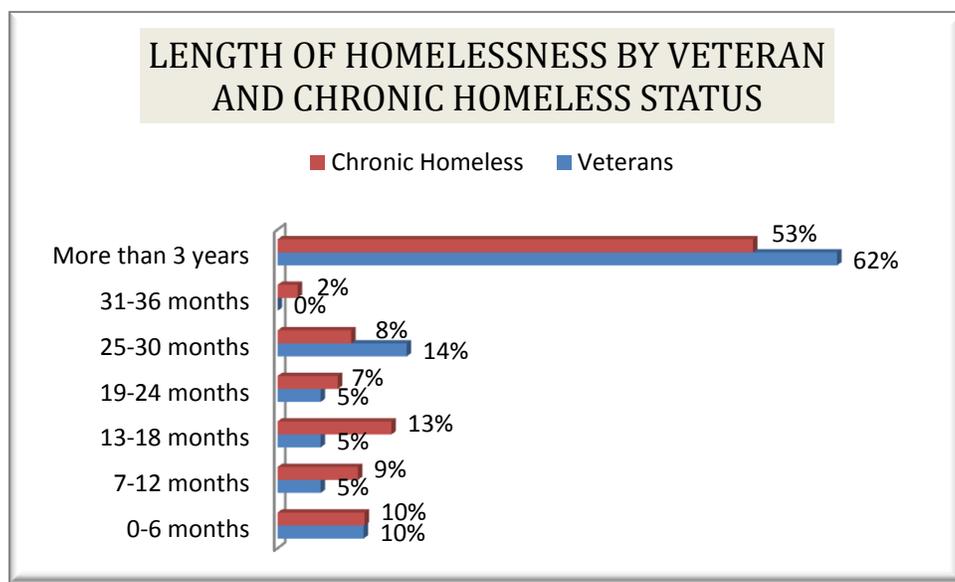
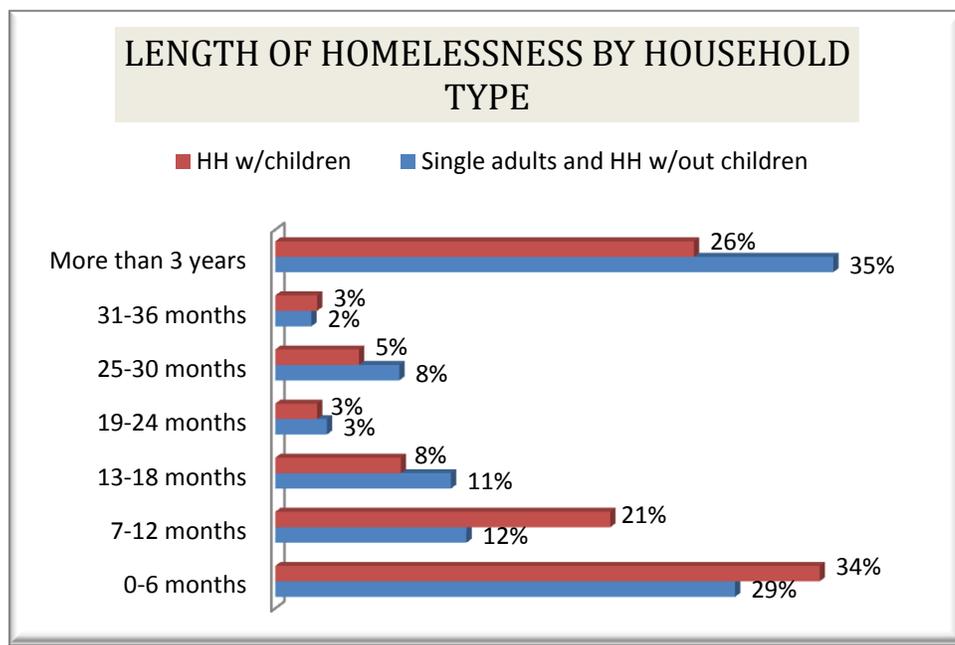


As stated earlier in the report, the number of homeless persons under 18 is staggering. Some of these are minors not in the custody of a parent or guardian. The 2007 National Symposium on Homelessness Research reported that nationally, 7-8% of teens experienced homelessness or disconnection from their family at some point during the year and approximately 15% would experience homelessness at least once before turning 18. The local estimate is that roughly 300 teens are homeless in Snohomish County on any given night with over 1,300 teens homeless annually. The data is troubling given the harsh realities of youth homelessness. Typically, Snohomish County runaway and homeless youth live in campgrounds, their cars, on the streets, in cheap motels, or "couch surf" with friends or relatives. Homeless and at-risk teens are extremely vulnerable and often fall victim to drug dealers, physical and/or sexual assault, involvement in prostitution and gangs, and crimes of desperation due to lack of food, shelter, and other daily necessities. Many of these young people have been betrayed by their parents through physical or sexual abuse and neglect. Thus, they are wary of involvement with adults; especially those who seem to represent authority, such as law enforcement or medical professionals. Drug and alcohol use is also common and can create serious physiological and emotional problems as use turns to abuse and dependency. Lack of medical care can lead to serious conditions if issues are left untreated. This population often becomes an added burden on the court system, due to runaway reports, truancy, and other issues. Furthermore, without intervention youth who are homeless are more likely to become adults plagued by chronic homelessness, unemployment, poverty, and the same family problems that may have affected them in their youth (e.g., domestic violence).

Homeless youth often present with multiple issues. For example, 50% of youth served at Cocoon House over the past year reported past physical abuse and 29% reported sexual abuse. Half of the youth presented with a diagnosed mental illness and 61% suffered from drug or alcohol problems. At entrance, 95% percent of the youth had no income. Many teens at Cocoon House were found to have moved multiple times and rarely completed a single grade at the same school. Generally, at entrance, only about 60% of the youth were regularly attending school, with the rest being truant, suspended, or expelled.

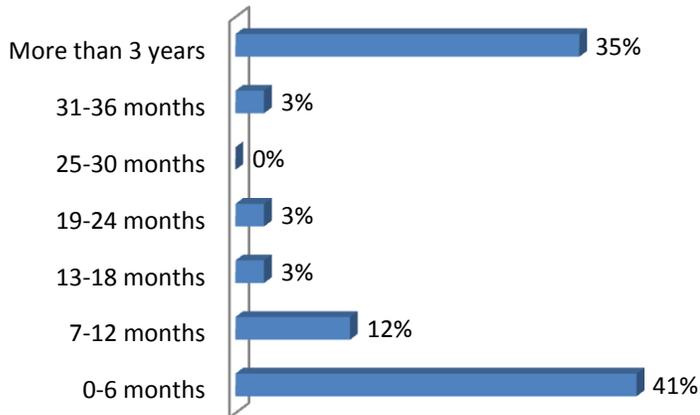
APPENDIX

LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS¹⁴



¹⁴ Length of homelessness: The survey requested information on how long a person was homeless.

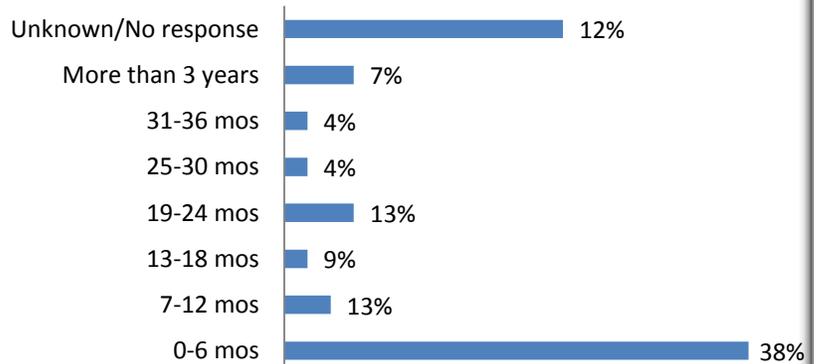
VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS



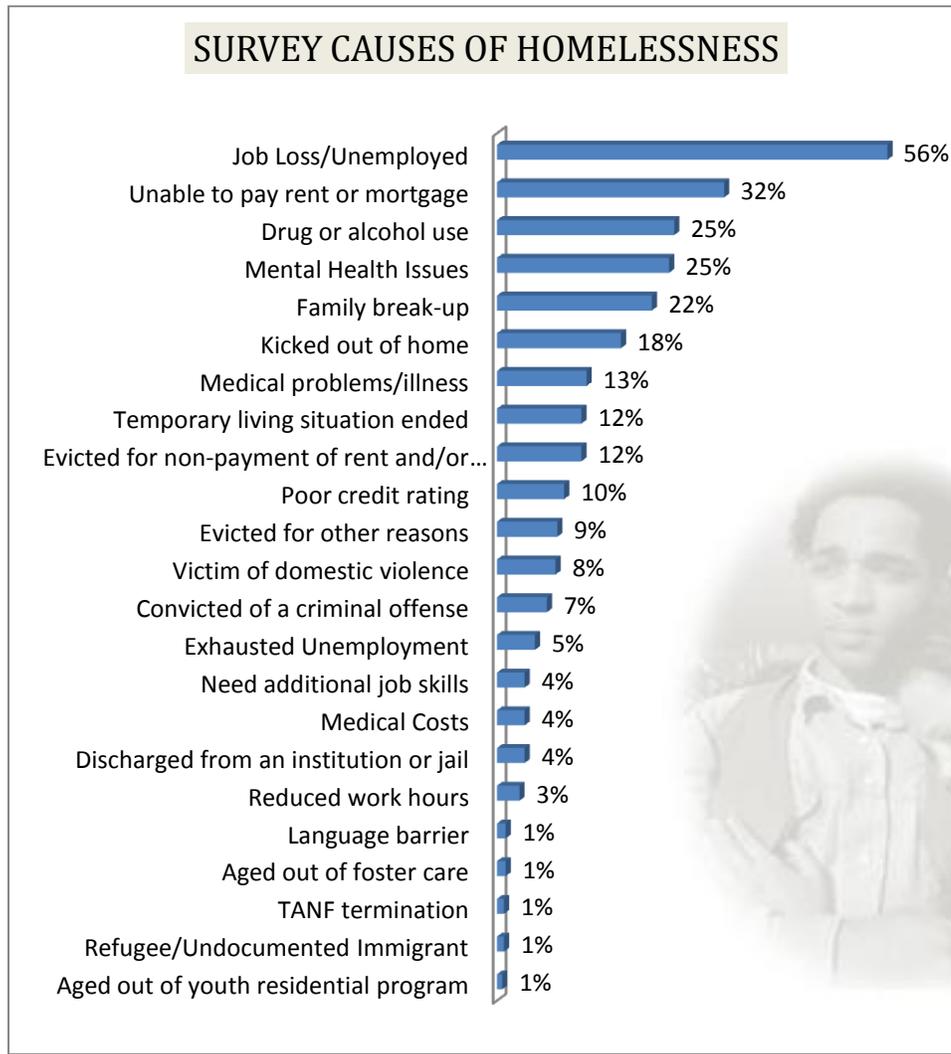
"It was amazing to me the diversity of people we came across from teenagers to seniors. The core of their issues causing the homelessness seem to have common denominators of substance abuse, mental illness and medical issues including disabilities seemed to effect every person we came across. Without funding and resources in these areas homelessness will continue to grow."
Iasmin Schultz. Everett

"I am living on SS Disability- \$606 a month. My son is currently battling cancer. He cannot work and his small state check has already seen a deduction and newspaper and news say to expect more. Utilities are being raised and life has become a daily struggle just to survive. Always cold because we can't turn up the heat and are already \$300 behind to PUD." Anonymous, Lake Stevens

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS

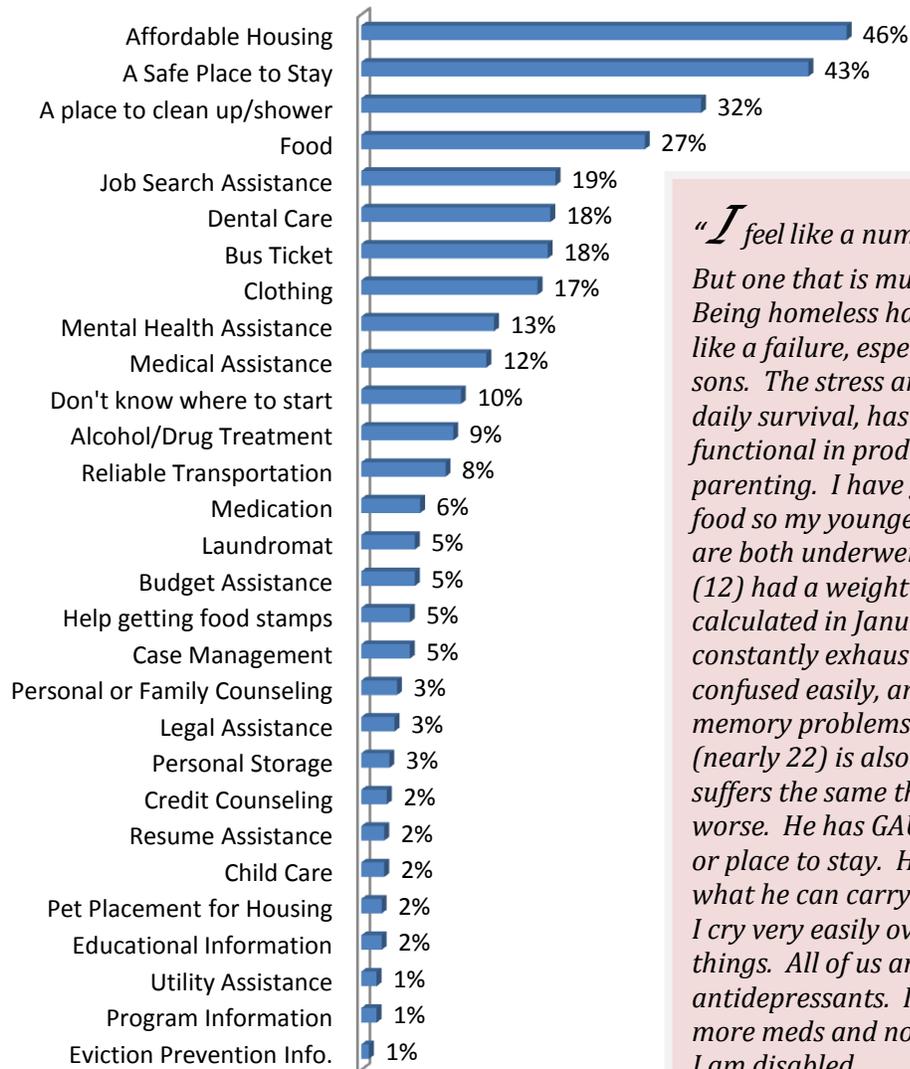


CONDITIONS, NEEDS AND CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS



*Self-reported Causes of Homelessness collected from the surveys.

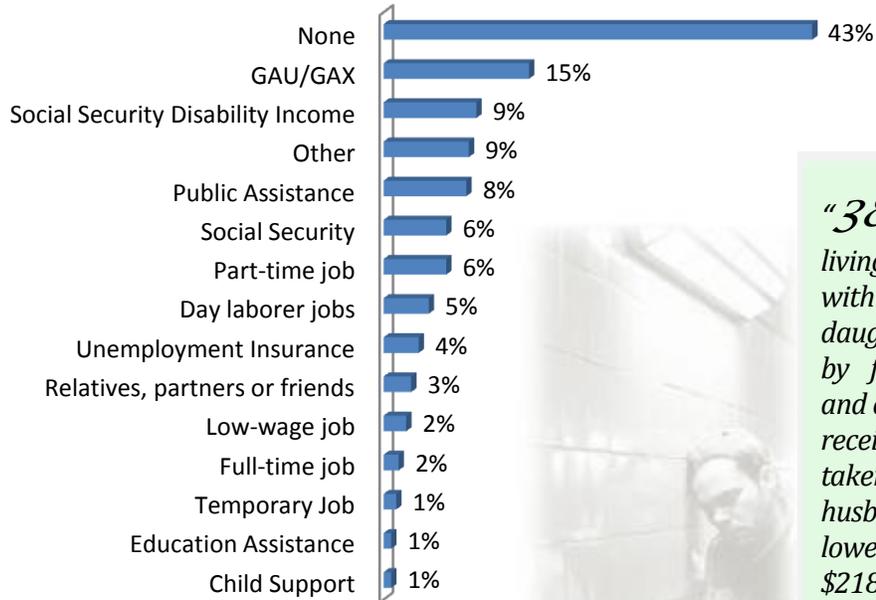
SURVEY: NEEDS DISTRIBUTION



*"I feel like a number/statistic. But one that is much needed. Being homeless has made me feel like a failure, especially to my sons. The stress and depression, daily survival, has made me non-functional in productivity and parenting. I have gone without food so my youngest can eat- we are both underweight. My son (12) had a weight loss of 13% calculated in January 2011. I am constantly exhausted, get confused easily, and have memory problems. My oldest son (nearly 22) is also homeless; he suffers the same things, only worse. He has GAU but no home or place to stay. He only has what he can carry. This kills me. I cry very easily over many things. All of us are on antidepressants. I am on four more meds and no have co-pays. I am disabled.
Anonymous, Lynnwood*

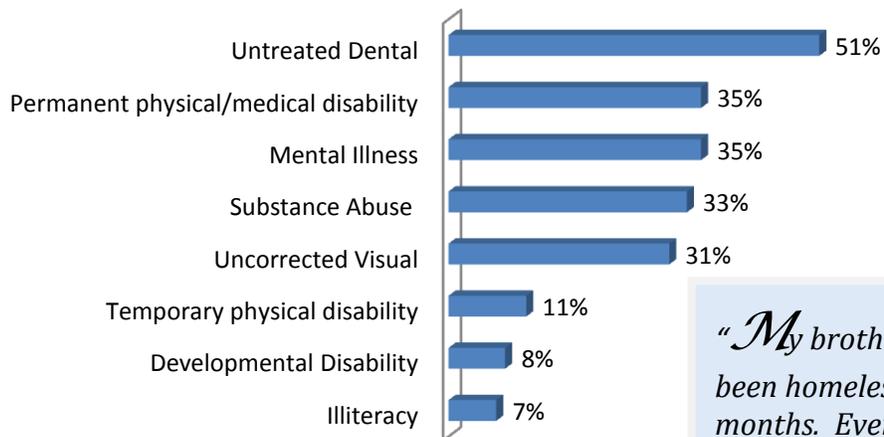
*Self-reported Needs collected from facility and street surveys.

SURVEY REPORTED INCOME



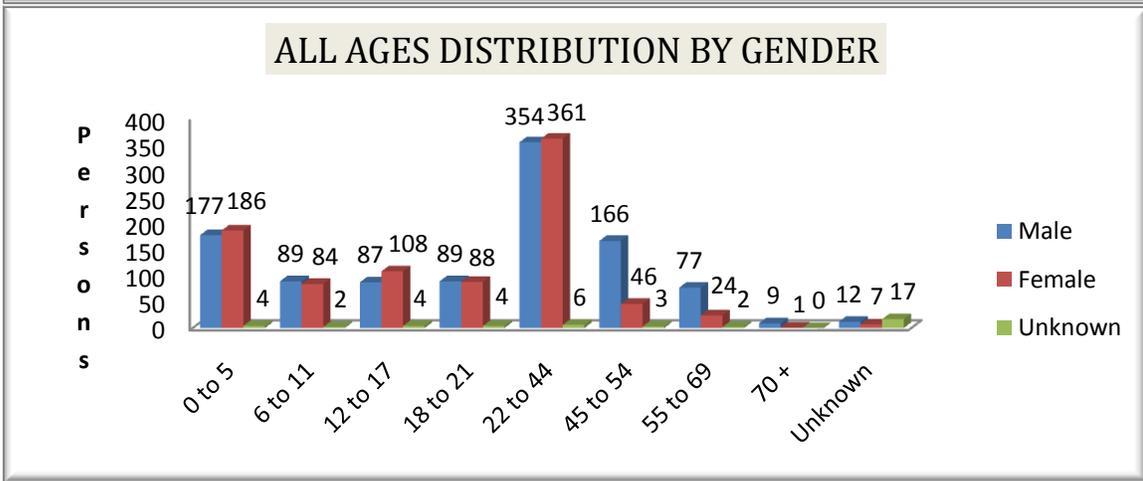
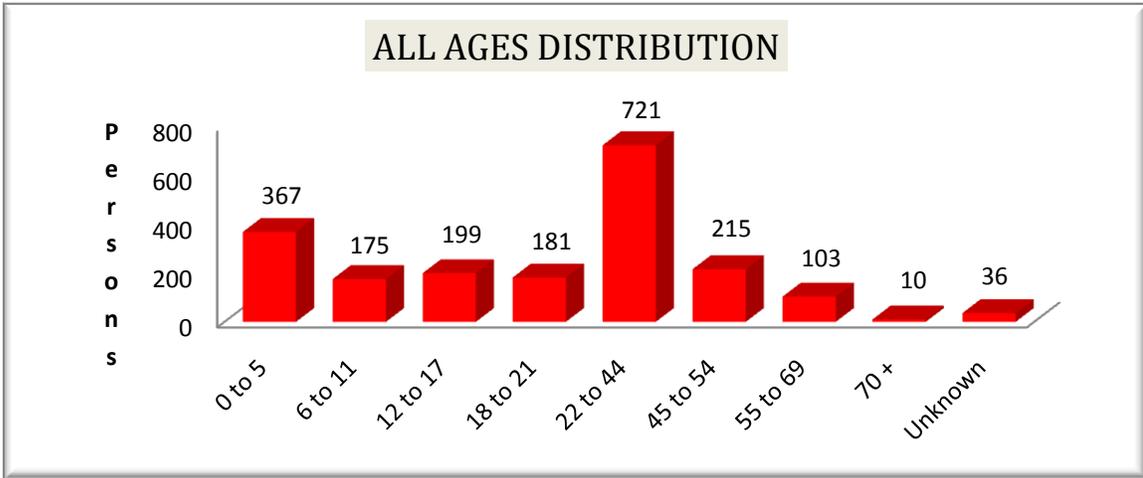
"38 year old woman living with parents, alone with a one year old daughter. Greatly affected by food stamp, medical and cash benefit cuts. Was receiving \$467, but had it taken away based on husband's income. Had SSI lowered from \$247 to \$218. No longer with husband and need help."
Anonymous

SURVEY CONDITIONS REPORTED

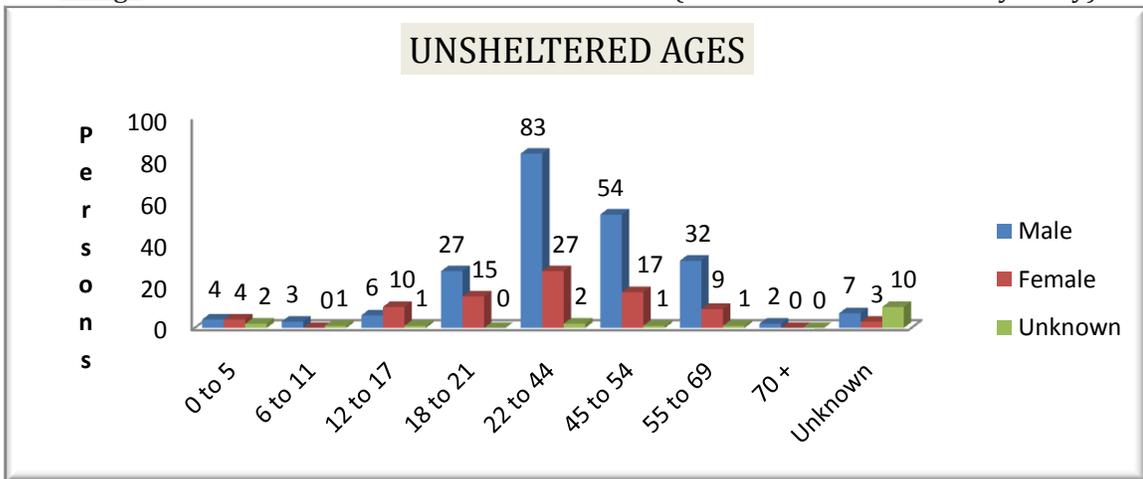


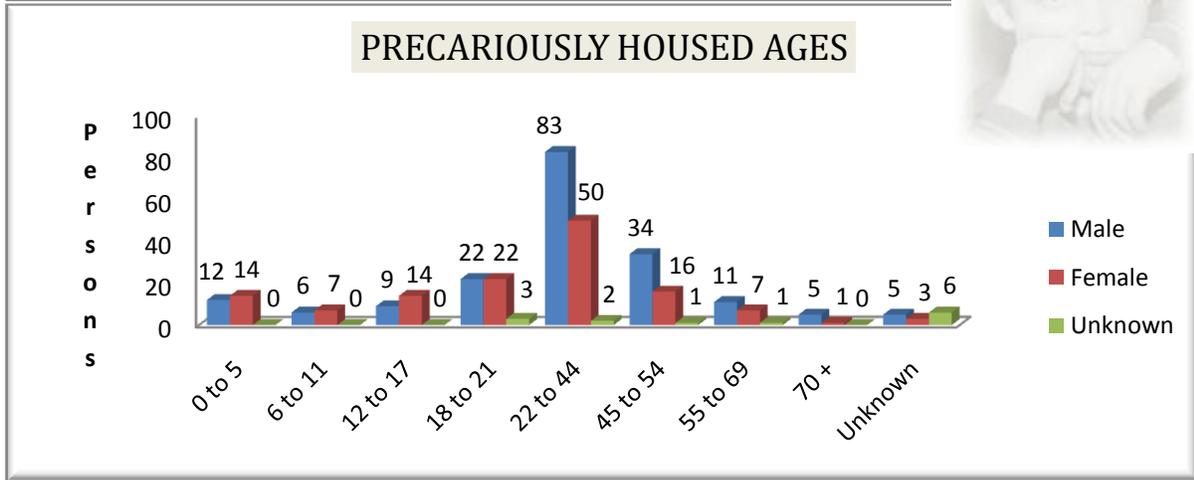
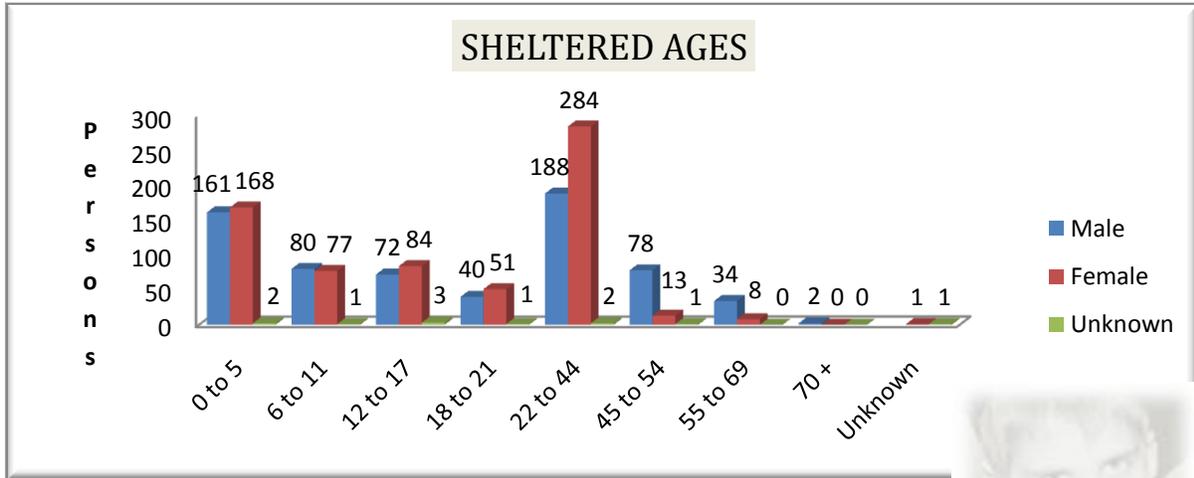
*Income and conditions above are self-reported

"My brother and I have been homeless for about 8 months. Every day is a struggle for food, propane and finding a place to park our RV without making the parking lot owner upset. The funding cutbacks hurt us a lot." Anonymous, Smokey Point



*All age distributions do not include tic sheet data (based on HMIS and surveys only).





UNSHELTERED HOUSEHOLDS (HH)			EMERGENCY SHELTER HOUSEHOLDS (HH)		
	Households	Individuals		Households	Individuals
Total Households	493	587	Total Households	270	365
Households With Children			Households With Children		
Total HH with Children	21	72	Total HH with Children	42	137
Couples with Children	11	46	Couples with Children	14	63
Single Parent Households	10	26	Single Parent Households	28	74
Female Single Parents	7	19	Female Single Parents	26	70
Male Single Parents	3	7	Male Single Parents	2	4
Households Without Children			Households Without Children		
Total HH without Children	472	515	Total HH without Children	228	228
Single Adult Males	317	317	Single Adult Males	135	135
Single Adult Females	73	73	Single Adult Females	49	49
Transgender Singles	0	0	Transgender Singles	0	0
Unknown Single Adults	30	30	Unknown Single Adults	0	0
Unaccompanied Youth	13	13	Unaccompanied Youth	44	44
Couples without Children	39	82	Couples without Children	0	0

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING HOUSEHOLDS (HH)			PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED HOUSEHOLDS (HH)		
	<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>		<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>
<i>Total Households</i>	402	987	<i>Total Households</i>	220	334
<i>Households With Children</i>			<i>Households With Children</i>		
<i>Total HH with Children</i>	317	900	<i>Total HH with Children</i>	33	110
<i>Couples with Children</i>	37	153	<i>Couples with Children</i>	17	68
<i>Single Parent Households</i>	280	747	<i>Single Parent Households</i>	16	42
<i>Female Single Parents</i>	267	714	<i>Female Single Parents</i>	15	40
<i>Male Single Parents</i>	13	33	<i>Male Single Parents</i>	1	2
<i>Households Without Children</i>			<i>Households Without Children</i>		
<i>Total HH without Children</i>	85	87	<i>Total HH without Children</i>	187	224
<i>Single Adult Males</i>	29	29	<i>Single Adult Males</i>	105	105
<i>Single Adult Females</i>	23	23	<i>Single Adult Females</i>	42	42
<i>Transgender Singles</i>	1	1	<i>Transgender Singles</i>	0	0
<i>Unknown Single Adults</i>	0	0	<i>Unknown Single Adults</i>	9	9
<i>Unaccompanied Youth</i>	30	31	<i>Unaccompanied Youth</i>	9	9
<i>Couples without Children</i>	2	3	<i>Couples without Children</i>	22	59
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD NUMBER BREAKOUTS			TOTAL HOUSEHOLD PERCENTAGE BREAKOUTS		
	<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>		<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>
<i>Total Households</i>	1385	2273	<i>Total Households</i>	1385	2273
<i>Households With Children</i>			<i>Households With Children</i>		
<i>Total HH with Children</i>	413	1219	<i>Total HH with Children</i>	30%	54%
<i>Couples with Children</i>	79	330	<i>Couples with Children</i>	6%	15%
<i>Single Parent Households</i>	334	889	<i>Single Parent Households</i>	24%	39%
<i>Female Single Parents</i>	315	843	<i>Female Single Parents</i>	23%	37%
<i>Male Single Parents</i>	19	46	<i>Male Single Parents</i>	1%	2%
<i>Households Without Children</i>			<i>Households Without Children</i>		
<i>Total HH without Children</i>	972	1054	<i>Total HH without Children</i>	70%	46%
<i>Single Adult Males</i>	586	586	<i>Single Adult Males</i>	42%	26%
<i>Single Adult Females</i>	187	187	<i>Single Adult Females</i>	14%	8%
<i>Transgender Singles</i>	1	1	<i>Transgender Singles</i>	0%	0%
<i>Unknown Single Adults</i>	39	39	<i>Unknown Single Adults</i>	3%	2%
<i>Unaccompanied Youth</i>	96	97	<i>Unaccompanied Youth</i>	7%	4%
<i>Couples without Children</i>	63	144	<i>Couples without Children</i>	5%	6%

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY DATA

HMIS: EMERGENCY SHELTER ANNUAL NUMBERS¹⁵

AGE					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Age of children	# of persons	%	Age of children	# of persons	%
Under 1	0	0%	Under 1	37	8%
1 to 5	0	0%	1 to 5	127	26%
6 to 12	0	0%	6 to 12	82	17%
13 to 17	203	26%	13 to 17	43	9%
Age of adults			Age of adults		
18 to 30	178	23%	18 to 30	113	23%
31 to 50	263	34%	31 to 50	83	17%
51 to 61	115	15%	51 to 61	4	1%
62 or older	17	2%	62 or older	1	0%
Total	776	100%	Total	490	100%
GENDER					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Gender of children	# of persons	%	Gender of children	# of persons	%
Female	110	14%	Female	135	28%
Male	88	11%	Male	151	31%
Unknown	5	1%	Unknown	3	1%
Gender of adults:			Gender of adults:		
Female	210	27%	Female	149	30%
Male	362	47%	Male	51	10%
Unknown	1	0%	Unknown	1	0%
Total	776	100%	Total	490	100%
RACE					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Race	# of persons	%	Race	# of persons	%
White, non Hispanic/non Latino	485	63%	White, non Hispanic/non Latino	257	52%
White, Hispanic/Latino	27	3%	White, Hispanic/Latino	31	6%
Black or African American	65	8%	Black or African American	58	12%
Asian	10	1%	Asian	12	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	19	2%	American Indian or Alaska Native	5	1%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	7	1%	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	5	1%
Multiple Races	27	3%	Multiple Races	50	10%
Missing this info.	136	18%	Missing this info.	72	15%
Total	776	100%	Total	490	100%

¹⁵ Annual numbers are from HMIS for the period of 02/01/2010 to 01/31/2011. Data only include those programs that are participating in HMIS.

ETHNICITY					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Ethnicity	# of persons	%	Ethnicity	# of persons	%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	610	79%	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	402	82%
Hispanic/Latino	49	6%	Hispanic/Latino	55	11%
Missing this info.	117	15%	Missing this info.	33	7%
Total	776	100%	Total	490	100%
PERSONS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Household Size	# of persons	%	Household Size	# of persons	%
1 Person	761	98%	1 Person	0	0%
2 Person	12	2%	2 Person	124	25%
3 Person	3	0%	3 Person	159	32%
4 Person	0	0%	4 Person	84	17%
5 Person	0	0%	5 Person	123	25%
Missing this info.	0	0%	Missing this info.	0	0%
Total	776	100%	Total	490	100%
PERSONS BY DISABILITY STATUS					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Disability status (adults only)	# of persons	%	Disability status (adults only)	# of persons	%
Yes, disabled	153	20%	Yes, disabled	18	9%
Not disabled	376	48%	Not disabled	164	82%
Missing this info.	44	6%	Missing this info.	19	9%
Total	573		Total	201	100%

PRIOR NIGHT LIVING ARRANGEMENT					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Prior night living arrangement	# of persons	%	Prior night living arrangement	# of persons	%
Emergency Shelter	67	9%	Emergency Shelter	14	7%
Transitional Housing	7	1%	Transitional Housing	0	0%
Permanent Supportive Housing	2	0%	Permanent Supportive Housing	2	1%
Psychiatric Facility	5	1%	Psychiatric Facility	0	0%
Substance abuse treatment center or detox	14	2%	Substance abuse treatment center or detox	6	3%
Hospital (non psychiatric)	7	1%	Hospital (non psychiatric)	0	0%
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention	33	4%	Jail, prison, or juvenile detention	1	0%
Rented housing unit	110	14%	Rented housing unit	12	6%
Owned housing unit	4	1%	Owned housing unit	1	0%
Staying with family	160	21%	Staying with family	83	41%
Staying with friends	83	11%	Staying with friends	26	13%
Hotel or motel (no voucher)	8	1%	Hotel or motel (no voucher)	6	3%
Foster care home	5	1%	Foster care home	0	0%
Place not meant for human habitation	67	9%	Place not meant for human habitation	26	13%
Other living arrangement	10	1%	Other living arrangement	1	0%
Missing this info.	194	25%	Missing this info.	23	11%
Total	776	100%	Total	201	100%
LENGTH OF STAY IN PREVIOUS LIVING ARRANGEMENT					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Prior night living arrangement	# of persons	%	Prior night living arrangement	# of persons	%
One week or less	112	14%	One week or less	11	5%
More than one week, but less than a month	75	10%	More than one week, but less than a month	18	9%
One to three months	86	11%	One to three months	38	19%
More than three months, but less than a year	107	14%	More than three months, but less than a year	58	29%
One year or longer	155	20%	One year or longer	34	17%
Missing this information	241	31%	Missing this information	42	21%
Total	776	100%	Total	201	100%

HMIS: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ANNUAL NUMBERS¹⁶

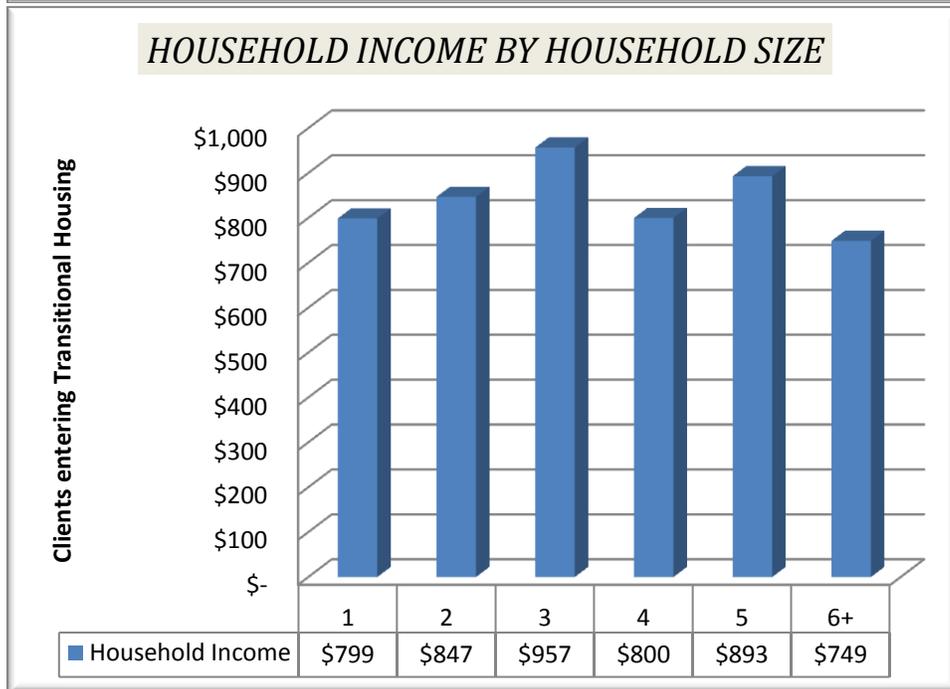
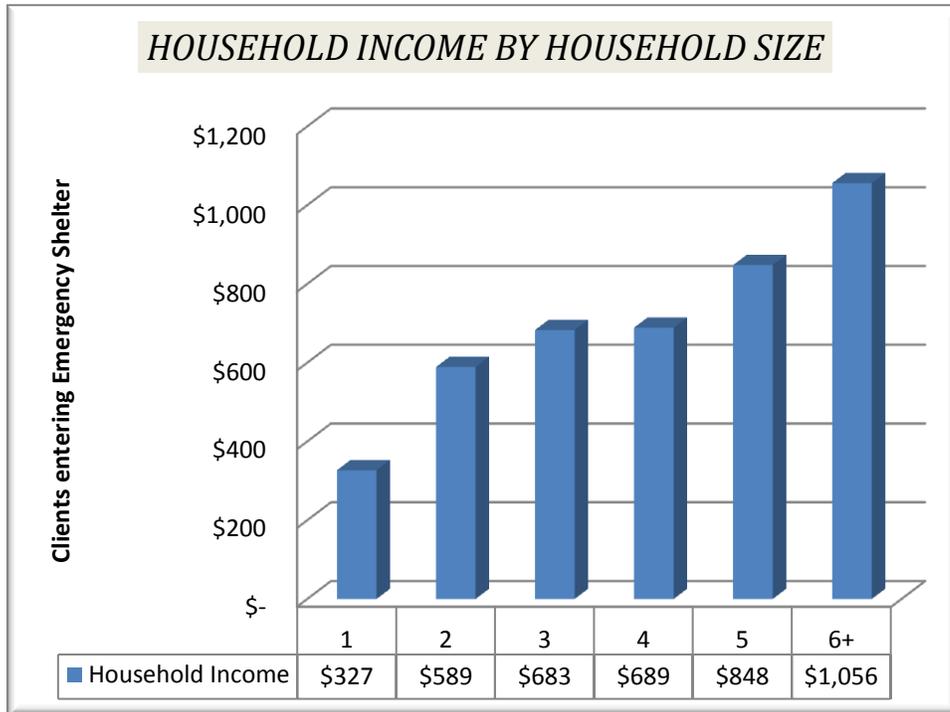
AGE					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Age of children	# of persons	%	Age of children	# of persons	%
Under 1	0	0%	Under 1	122	9%
1 to 5	0	0%	1 to 5	343	26%
6 to 12	0	0%	6 to 12	245	19%
13 to 17	47	44%	13 to 17	97	7%
Age of adults			Age of adults		
18 to 30	26	25%	18 to 30	302	23%
31 to 50	23	22%	31 to 50	195	15%
51 to 61	9	8%	51 to 61	4	0%
62 or older	1	1%	62 or older	1	0%
Total	106	100%	Total	1309	100%
GENDER					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Gender of children	# of persons	%	Gender of children	# of persons	%
Female	27	25%	Female	414	32%
Male	26	25%	Male	386	29%
Unknown	1	1%	Unknown	7	1%
Gender of adults:			Gender of adults:		
Female	17	16%	Female	419	32%
Male	33	31%	Male	78	6%
Unknown	2	2%	Unknown	5	0%
Total	106	100%	Total	1309	100%
RACE					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Race	# of persons	%	Race	# of persons	%
White, non Hispanic/non Latino	64	60%	White, non Hispanic/non Latino	735	56%
White, Hispanic/Latino	9	8%	White, Hispanic/Latino	100	8%
Black or African American	6	6%	Black or African American	127	10%
Asian	3	3%	Asian	14	1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	5%	American Indian or Alaska Native	16	1%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0%	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	23	2%
Multiple Races	5	5%	Multiple Races	115	9%
Missing this info.	14	13%	Missing this info.	179	14%
Total	106	100%	Total	1309	100%

¹⁶ Annual numbers are from HMIS for the period of 02/01/2010 to 01/31/2011. Data only include those programs that are participating in HMIS.

ETHNICITY					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Ethnicity	# of persons	%	Ethnicity	# of persons	%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	86	81%	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1075	82%
Hispanic/Latino	10	9%	Hispanic/Latino	138	11%
Missing this info.	10	9%	Missing this info.	96	7%
Total	106	100%	Total	1309	100%
PERSONS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Household Size	# of persons	%	Household Size	# of persons	%
1 Person	104	98%	1 Person	0	0%
2 Person	2	2%	2 Person	364	28%
3 Person	0	0%	3 Person	397	30%
4 Person	0	0%	4 Person	211	16%
5 Person	0	0%	5 Person	337	26%
Missing this info.	0	0%	Missing this info.	0	0%
Total	106	100%	Total	1309	100%
PERSONS BY DISABILITY STATUS					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Disability status (adults only)	# of persons	%	Disability status (adults only)	# of persons	%
Yes, disabled	31	29%	Yes, disabled	47	9%
Not disabled	49	46%	Not disabled	427	85%
Missing this info.	26	25%	Missing this info.	28	6%
Total	106	100%	Total	502	100%

PRIOR NIGHT LIVING ARRANGEMENT					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Prior night living arrangement	# of persons	%	Prior night living arrangement	# of persons	%
Emergency Shelter	24	23%	Emergency Shelter	128	25%
Transitional Housing	2	2%	Transitional Housing	63	13%
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0%	Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0%
Psychiatric Facility	6	6%	Psychiatric Facility	0	0%
Substance abuse treatment center or detox	1	1%	Substance abuse treatment center or detox	8	2%
Hospital (non psychiatric)	8	8%	Hospital (non psychiatric)	0	0%
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention	2	2%	Jail, prison, or juvenile detention	2	0%
Rented housing unit	3	3%	Rented housing unit	30	6%
Owned housing unit	0	0%	Owned housing unit	1	0%
Staying with family	5	5%	Staying with family	136	27%
Staying with friends	1	1%	Staying with friends	52	10%
Hotel or motel (no voucher)	2	2%	Hotel or motel (no voucher)	20	4%
Foster care home	3	3%	Foster care home	0	0%
Place not meant for human habitation	12	11%	Place not meant for human habitation	23	5%
Other living arrangement	7	7%	Other living arrangement	4	1%
Missing this info.	30	28%	Missing this info.	35	7%
Total	106	100%	Total	502	100%
LENGTH OF STAY IN PREVIOUS LIVING ARRANGEMENT					
<i>Individuals and Couples without children</i>			<i>Households with children</i>		
Prior night living arrangement	# of persons	%	Prior night living arrangement	# of persons	%
One week or less	17	16%	One week or less	7	1%
More than one week, but less than a month	20	19%	More than one week, but less than a month	40	8%
One to three months	15	14%	One to three months	116	23%
More than three months, but less than a year	14	13%	More than three months, but less than a year	172	34%
One year or longer	7	7%	One year or longer	57	11%
Missing this information	33	31%	Missing this information	110	22%
Total	106	100%	Total	502	100%

HMIS: SHELTERED HOUSEHOLDS ENTRY INCOME¹⁷



¹⁷ Sheltered Income data is from HMIS for the period of 02/01/2010 to 01/31/2011. Data only include those programs that are participating in HMIS.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

<i>HOMELESS STUDENTS IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY¹⁸</i>			
School District	Enrolled	Homeless	% of Total
Arlington	5,500	65	1.2%
Darrington	490	16	3.3%
Edmonds	20,625	289	1.4%
Everett	19,000	630	3.3%
Index	30	0	0.0%
Lake Stevens	7,900	84	1.1%
Lakewood	2,500	71	2.8%
Marysville	11,600	55	0.5%
Monroe	7,800	55	0.7%
Mukilteo	14,400	178	1.2%
Snohomish	9,900	101	1.0%
Stanwood-Camano	5,100	74	1.5%
Sultan	2,200	15	0.7%
Total	107,045	1,633	1.5%

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

<i>DSHS ACTIVE CLIENTS AS OF JANUARY 25TH, 2011¹⁹</i>			
DSHS Community Service Office	Homeless with Housing	Homeless w/o Housing	Total
Everett	1,997	1,718	3,715
Alderwood	1,312	724	2,036
Smokey Point	1,207	779	1,986
Sky Valley	777	251	1,028
Total Snohomish County	5,293	3,472	8,865

¹⁸ Collected by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. State numbers show that during 2009-10, the state reported 21,826 homeless students, up 5.0 percent from the previous year and up 56.5 percent from 2005-06.

¹⁹ Data comes from the DSHS Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) and is self-reported. There may be some variance in reporting, but generally Homeless with Housing refers to those accessing DSHS services and reporting they have some kind of solid shelter (e.g. doubled up with family/friends, staying in emergency/temporary housing, etc.). Homeless without Housing refers to those accessing DSHS services and reporting they have no shelter (e.g. on the streets, in a car, in a place not meant for human habitation, etc.).

VOICES OF THE PIT COUNT

"This is my sixth year participating in the Point-in-Time count. As someone who used to work for a service agency that is known in the community as "the last net beneath the safety net", I have been humbled over and over again by the faces of homelessness. Men, women, children, seniors, veterans, dogs, cats...people you went to school with, people who used to work at your doctor's office, neighbors from down the block, you name it. Yes, it is extremely important to gather this data, analyze what works and what doesn't, report on causes and needs, but it is equally important to look at these faces. Look into their eyes; see their pain....Jerry Gadek, Snohomish County Human Services

"I was released from prison and due to health issues I was forced into a nursing home. After my release I had nowhere to go. I am on oxygen due to my disability and I feel I will die if I end up living on the streets again. I live in an area where there is no transportation, and I currently live with a person who has been kind enough to let me stay for free. I feel like I am being pushed back into a life of crime because I have no resources and my medical benefits have been cut. Please help!" Anonymous

"I participated in PIT homeless count with Bill (formerly homeless) and a reporter and photographer of the Snohomish Tribune. We walked the downtown Everett area midmorning, midweek in mild weather. Due to the time, few homeless people were out in our area. The best contacts were those persons waiting for the public library to open. Some did not want to be interviewed, but most were willing to share. As expected, the stories vary, but the result is the same. I have lived and worked in the area for a long time, so I was not surprised by what I saw or heard. It was good to share with Bill, as former homeless, as he confirmed many of my ideas about being homeless. Most have immediate daily needs, especially bathrooms and showers. Many learn how to adapt by talking to the other homeless they meet at local meeting places. Everett has a lot of services available; however some are unwilling to use them. Much more housing is needed. I was glad to participate and learn how the PIT operates." Russ Kastleman, Everett

"Housing has helped this client tremendously. She moved here with a place to stay for a short time. Shelter plus Care helped her pay for housing while she was attending school and working at different part-time jobs. She stated she would never have been able to afford \$500-\$800 in rent. She would have had to live with an abusive man just to have her basic need met. She is so thankful that this need can be met for her. She says: I am able to live for me. I can afford to pay my part of housing and not depend on an abusive man to shelter me." Anonymous, Edmonds

WHERE TO VOLUNTEER

Agency	Phone Number	Website or Email
<i>The Salvation Army</i>	425-258-1570	http://www.everettsarmy.org
<i>YWCA of Seattle-King County / Snohomish County</i>	425-258-2766	http://www.ywcaworks.org
<i>Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County</i>	425-259-2827 X 24	http://snococbw.org/index
<i>Volunteers of America Western Washington</i>	425-259-3191	http://www.voaww.org
<i>Housing Hope</i>	425-347-6556	http://www.housinghope.org
<i>Cocoon House</i>	425-259-5802	http://www.cocoonhouse.org
<i>Monroe Gospel Women's Mission</i>	360-863-9003	Dorothystima@aol.com
<i>Everett Gospel Mission</i>	425-252-1297	http://www.egmission.org
<i>The Interfaith Association of NW Washington</i>	425-303-9774	http://www.interfaithwa.org
<i>Take the Next Step, Monroe</i>	360-794-1022	http://www.thenextstepmonroe.org
<i>Housing Authority of Snohomish County</i>	425-290-8499 X 518	http://www.hasco.org
<i>United Way of Snohomish County</i>	425-374-5534	http://www.uwsc.org
<i>The Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County</i>	425-339-1015	http://housingsnohomish.org