

SEATTLE/KING COUNTY
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF
PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

2018

COUNT
US
IN



COMPREHENSIVE REPORT PRODUCED BY ASR

ABOUT ALL HOME

All Home is the lead agency for the Seattle/King County Continuum of Care. All Home's vision is that homelessness is rare in King County, racial disparities are eliminated, and if one becomes homeless, it is a brief and only one-time occurrence.

ALL HOME STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

Zachary DeWolf
Mark Putnam
Felicia Salcedo
Triina Van

Danielle Winslow
Jean-Paul Yafali
Kira Zylstra

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Sinan Demirel
Michelle Valdez

LOCATION

201 S Jackson Street, Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98104

www.allhomekc.org

ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a social research firm dedicated to helping people build better communities by collecting meaningful data, facilitating information-based planning, and developing custom strategies. The firm was founded on the principle that community improvement, initiative sustainability, and program success are closely tied to assessment needs, evaluation of community goals, and development of appropriate responses. Applied Survey Research has over 18 years of experience conducting Point-in-Time Counts throughout California and across the nation. Their work is featured as a best practice in HUD's publication: *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*.

HOUSING INSTABILITY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Vice President: Peter Connery
Department Director: Samantha Green
Project Lead: John Connery, Laura Petry
Department Coordinator: Jenna Gallant
Research Analysts: Javier Salcedo
Graphic Design and Layout: Jenna Gallant

LOCATIONS

Central Coast:

55 Penny Lane, Suite 101
Watsonville, CA 95076
tel 831-728-1356

Bay Area:

1871 The Alameda, Suite 180
San Jose, CA 95126
tel 408-247-8319

www.appliedsurveyresearch.org

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Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

Point-in-Time Counts provide a “snapshot” of how many people are experiencing homelessness on a given night. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all Continuums of Care to conduct a Point-in-Time Count during the last 10 days of January, allowing for nationwide analysis of major trends over time and tracking progress toward ending homelessness. While Continuums of Care are required to conduct a Point-in-Time Count of their unsheltered population on a biannual basis, Seattle/King County is among several communities that conducts an annual count. As the lead agency for the Seattle/King County Continuum of Care, All Home is responsible for conducting and reporting the findings of the local Point-in-Time Count.

Locally, Point-in-Time Count findings are used in tandem with data captured through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to inform local strategic planning and investment, capacity building, and advocacy to address racial disparities and make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience.

DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

For the purposes of Count Us In, the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count was used, and includes individuals and families who:

- Are living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter (including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe havens) designated to provide temporary living arrangements; or
- Have 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 vehicle, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground (including any sanctioned or unsanctioned encampment location).

It should be noted that this definition is very specific and excludes persons and families who are “doubled up” with friends or other families in private homes, hotels or motels, or other arrangements. While the U.S. Department of Education’s definition of homelessness includes children who are living in such arrangements, these families are not included in the Point-in-Time Count.

METHODOLOGY

Count Us In was a comprehensive community effort, with the participation of over 200 individuals with a lived experience of homelessness, more than 600 community volunteers, staff from various city and county departments, and other community partners interested in ending homelessness. This effort resulted in completing the following core components of Count Us In:

- 1) General Street Count—a peer-informed visual count of unsheltered individuals, conducted on January 26, 2018 between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM in most areas, with more rural or difficult to access locations covered at daybreak on the same day;
- 2) Youth and Young Adult Count—a focused, survey-based count of unsheltered, unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, conducted throughout the day of January 25, 2018 at both site-based and street locations;
- 3) Sheltered Count—a count of individuals residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven programs the night of January 25, 2018; 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.

Specialized outreach strategies were also implemented as part of general street count activities in order to achieve more accurate enumerations of vehicle and encampment residents, all-night bus riders, and unsheltered families.

Data presented in this report are sourced from the four components of the count, and frequently from a combination of components. Detailed information on the methodology, including how estimates were produced, can be found in *Appendix 1*.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

While the methodology employed for Count Us In was the most comprehensive approach available, no methodology allows for a 100% accurate enumeration of all people experiencing homelessness. There are many challenges in any homeless count, especially when implemented in a community as large and diverse as Seattle/King County. For a variety of reasons, many individuals and families experiencing homelessness generally do not want to be located, and make concerted efforts to avoid detection. Regardless of how successful outreach efforts are, an undercount of those experiencing homelessness will persist. This is especially the case with hard-to-reach subpopulations such as unsheltered families and undocumented persons. The enumeration can also be complicated by differing definitions of homelessness or preconceived ideas about who experiences homelessness.

Additionally, the Point-in-Time Count 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—and may not be representative of fluctuations

and compositional changes in the population either seasonally or over time. This annual total can easily be two to three times the single point-in-time estimate. Instead, the Point-in Time Count provides a “snapshot” that quantifies the size of the population experiencing homelessness at a given point during the year. The Point-in-Time Count can also provide insight into people who may not be accessing services, and are therefore absent from other sources of information. Though particularly useful in tracking trends over time, it is only one of many different data sources communities should use to assess, understand, and address the needs of those without safe, stable, and affordable housing.

By counting the minimum number of individuals experiencing homelessness during a given point-in-time, the count methodology used for Count Us In was conservative and therefore most likely resulted in an undercount of certain unsheltered individuals. A margin of error on the final count is not available, though the data presented is to be considered a minimum estimate.

For more information on the challenges and limitations of this study, please see *Appendix 1*.

INTERPRETING DATA PRESENTED IN THE COUNT US IN REPORT

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County on a single night in late January. Special attention is given to specific subpopulations, including persons experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families with children, unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, and persons living in vehicles.

Trend data from 2017 to 2018 are presented in order to aid in understanding overall changes in the population and assessing progress toward ending homelessness in the region. However, the Point-in-Time Count trend assessment is not designed to answer “why” certain changes may occur over time, as this requires data collection and analysis beyond the scope of the count.

While the overall Count Us In methodology was consistent between 2017 and 2018, several factors can contribute to fluctuation in overall Point-in-Time Count findings and prevent simple comparisons. These variations include the level of participation among service providers, people with lived experience of homelessness, community volunteers, and other stakeholders. In particular, special challenges presented in counting and surveying hard-to-reach populations rely on the knowledge and expertise of specialist guides, outreach workers, and service providers participating in count activities. As individual participants change and the community shifts over time, some fluctuation will naturally occur. Weather, code enforcement schedules, and local community relationships with people experiencing homelessness also contribute to changes over time.

Additionally, the Count Us In methodology relies heavily on self-reported survey data. Self-reporting allows individuals to represent their own experiences; however, such data can be more variable than clinically reported data. Further, 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 true random sampling. For these reasons, survey data and data derived from survey responses may shift from year to year. While the demographics of survey respondents changed slightly between 2017 and 2018, many of the survey findings are similar or the same. Survey data presented focus on major findings among the overall population experiencing homelessness and key subpopulations of interest. Survey confidence intervals are presented in each report section featuring survey findings. More granular analyses are not presented because margins of error increase as sample sizes decrease.

COUNT US IN RESULTS

On the night of the 2018 Point-in-Time Count in Seattle/King County, there were 12,112 people experiencing homelessness

A total of 12,112 individuals were experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County on January 26, 2018. Fifty-two percent (52%) of the population was unsheltered, living on the street, or in parks, tents, vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation. Compared to 2017, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County increased by 4% (469 persons). The unsheltered population increased by 15% (835 persons).

FIGURE 1. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

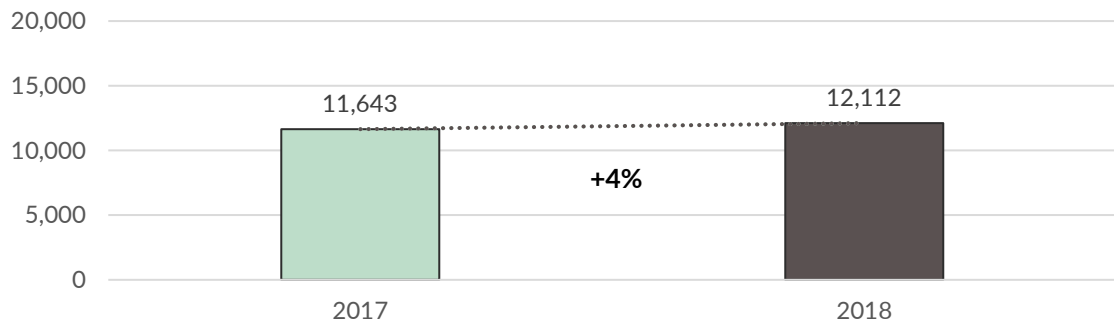
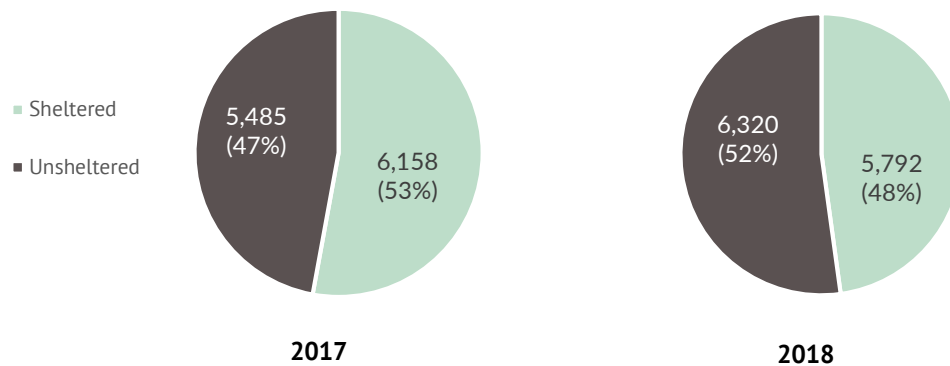


FIGURE 2. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

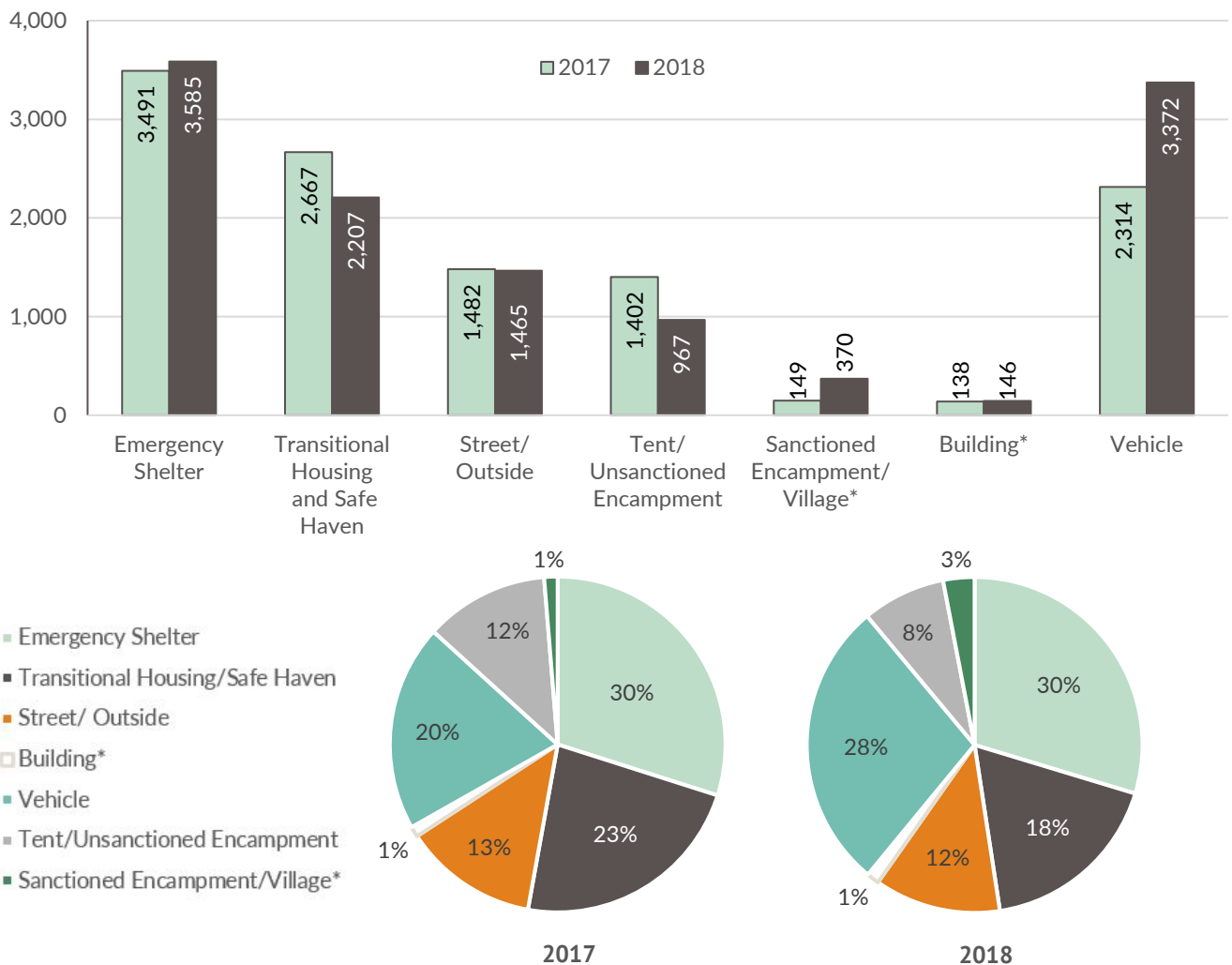


2017 n= 11,643; 2018 n= 12,112

The largest increase was observed among individuals living in vehicles. In 2018, there were an estimated 3,372 persons living in cars, RVs, and vans. This represented a 46% increase compared to 2017, when there were an estimated 2,314 persons living in vehicles. Alternatively, the unsheltered population not residing in vehicles, i.e., on the streets, in buildings, or in tents, decreased by 7% (223 persons), indicating a shift within the unsheltered population.

Among the sheltered population, the number of persons residing in emergency shelter increased by 3% (94 persons) and the number of persons residing in transitional housing and safe havens decreased by 17% (460 persons). The decrease in the sheltered population was due in part to the successful conversion of transitional housing to permanent housing.

FIGURE 3. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY LOCATION TYPE



2017 n = 11,643; 2018 n = 12,112

Note: In 2018, category "Sanctioned Encampment/Village" was added and category "Tent" was updated to "Tent/Unsanctioned Encampment" for both 2017 and 2018. Category "Building" was also updated in 2018 to reflect 2017 and 2018 field reports, and includes individuals identified in abandoned buildings as well as public buildings and storefronts. Please see Appendix 6 for complete definitions of each location type.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of the county’s unsheltered population identified during the street count were residing in Seattle. Fifteen percent (15%) of unsheltered individuals were residing in the Southwest region. Lower percentages of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness were residing in East County, North County, Northeast County, and Southeast County. For regional definitions, see *Appendix 5*.

When compared to 2017, notable increases in the unsheltered population were observed in Seattle, North County, East County, and Northeast County. While the unsheltered population remained stable in Southeast County, the number of persons experiencing homelessness in Southwest County decreased.

FIGURE 4. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS, BY REGION

REGION	UNSHELTERED			
	2017		2018	
	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>
East County	6%	319	6%	393
North County	1%	58	4%	251
Northeast County	2%	84	2%	137
Seattle	70%	3,841	71%	4,488
Southwest County	20%	1,113	15%	974
Southeast County	1%	70	1%	77
TOTAL	100%	5,485	100%	6,320

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 regional definitions for East County and Northeast County were also revised in 2018, and Issaquah and Sammamish were reassigned to the East County region. This shift in regional definitions resulted in the movement of data representing 35 persons. The 2017 unsheltered data have been updated in order to make consistent comparisons between count years. Please see Appendix 5 for more information on how regions were defined and for additional unsheltered detail.

About our neighbors experiencing homelessness

An estimated 2,624 individuals were in families with children

These individuals represented 782 family households, 96 of which were households headed by a young parent under 25 years old. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of persons in families were sheltered on the night of the count and 3% were unsheltered.

Compared to 2017, the number of persons in families experiencing homelessness decreased by 7% (209 persons).

Note: Identifying unsheltered families with children is extremely difficult in the Point-in-Time Count setting and the number of unsheltered families is likely an undercount. For more information on the methods used to enumerate unsheltered families, please see Appendix 1 (p. 101).

An estimated 1,518 individuals were unaccompanied youth and young adults
Young people represented 13% of the total count population, and included 172 youth under 18 years old and 1,346 young adults between 18 and 24 years old. Three-quarters (75%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults were unsheltered on the night of the count and 25% were sheltered.

Compared to 2017, the number of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness increased by 1% (20 persons). The number of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 decreased by 22% (49 persons).

An estimated 921 individuals identified as veterans

On the night of the count, over half (57%) of veterans were unsheltered and 43% were sheltered. Approximately 35% of veterans were experiencing chronic homelessness. Twenty-three veterans were part of family households with children.

Compared to 2017, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness decreased by 31% (408 persons). The number of veterans experiencing chronic homelessness decreased by 23% (96 persons).

An estimated 3,552 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness

Chronic homelessness is defined as sleeping in places not meant for human habitation or staying in emergency shelters for a year or longer—or experiencing at least four such episodes of homelessness in the last three years—and also living with a disabling condition such as a chronic health problem, psychiatric or emotional condition, or physical disability. On the night of the count, 71% of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were unsheltered and 29% were residing in sheltered locations.

Compared to 2017, the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness increased by 28% (779 persons).

An estimated 3,372 individuals were living in vehicles

Persons living in vehicles represented over half (53%) of the unsheltered population. Fifty-one percent (51%) of vehicle residents were living in RVs, 34% were living in cars, and 14% were living in vans.

Compared to 2017, the number of individuals living in vehicles increased by 46% (1,058 persons).

Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color and people identifying as LGBTQ+

In 2018, the majority of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County identified as people of color. When compared to the demographic racial profiles of the county's general population, the largest disparities were observed among those identifying as Black or African American (27% in the Point-in-Time Count compared to 6% in the general King County population), as Hispanic or Latino (15% compared to 9%), and with multiple races (16% compared to 6%).

Individuals in families identified as people of color at higher rates than individuals who were not in families, and family survey respondents reported encountering a language barrier when trying to access local services at a rate six times higher than survey respondents with no children.

The shelter status of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County varied across race and ethnicity as well as by gender. Individuals identifying with multiple races, as American Indian or Alaska Native, and as transgender or with a gender other than male or female reported the highest rates of being unsheltered.

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. The majority (82%) of 2018 Count Us In Survey respondents identified as straight, while 8% identified as bisexual, 6% identified as gay or lesbian, and 1% identified as queer. One-third (33%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years old identified as LGBTQ+, compared to 16% of all other survey respondents.

Additionally, histories of domestic violence and partner abuse were most prevalent among LGBTQ+ survey respondents when compared to non-LGBTQ+ survey respondents. Individuals identifying as LGBTQ+ also indicated higher rates of foster care involvement compared to other survey respondents (25% compared to 15%).

Domestic violence

Thirty-six percent (36%) of Count Us In Survey respondents reported a history of domestic violence or partner abuse, and 7% reported that they were currently experiencing domestic violence. Histories of domestic violence or partner abuse were most prevalent among

individuals identifying as LGBTQ+ (55%), unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years old (45%), and families with children (40%).

Foster care

Seventeen percent (17%) of Count Us In Survey respondents reported a history of foster care. Rates of foster care involvement were highest among unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years old (33%) and respondents of all ages identifying as LGBTQ+ (25%).

Health conditions

Approximately 70% of Count Us In Survey respondents reported living with at least one health condition. The most frequently reported health conditions were psychiatric or emotional conditions (44%), post-traumatic stress disorder (37%), and drug or alcohol abuse (35%). Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents reported chronic health problems and 26% reported a physical disability.

Over half (53%) of survey respondents indicated that they were living with at least one health condition that was disabling, i.e. preventing them from holding employment, living in stable housing, or taking care of themselves.

Housing needs

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Count Us In Survey respondents said they would move into safe and affordable housing if it were offered.

Prior to losing their housing, 70% of Count Us In Survey respondents reported living either in a home owned or rented by themselves or their partner, or with friends or relatives. Approximately 21% of survey respondents indicated that issues related to housing affordability were the primary conditions leading to their homelessness, including eviction (11%), inability to afford a rent increase (6%), family or friend could no longer afford to let them stay (2%), and foreclosure (2%).

When asked what would help them to obtain permanent housing, 80% of Count Us In Survey respondents cited more affordable housing and rental assistance as key to ending their homelessness.

Employment

One-quarter (25%) of Count Us In Survey respondents cited job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness. The majority (80%) of survey respondents reported being unemployed. Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents reported they were looking for work. Sixteen percent (16%) reported they were unable to work due to disability or retirement.

Count Us In Findings

The 2018 Seattle/King County Count Us In included an enumeration of individuals experiencing homelessness living in unsheltered locations, or in sheltered locations listed in King County's Housing Inventory Chart.¹ The general street count was conducted on January 26, 2018 from approximately 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM and covered the entire geography of Seattle/King County. The sheltered count referenced shelter occupancy of the preceding evening and included all individuals residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and safe havens.

The methodology used in 2018 for Count Us In 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 count was then followed by an in-person representative survey, the results of which were used to estimate the characteristics of the local population experiencing homelessness. Information collected from the survey is also used to inform local service delivery and strategic planning efforts, and to fulfill federal reporting requirements.

As in previous years, in a continuing effort to improve data on the extent of youth homelessness, Seattle/King County also conducted a dedicated, survey-based youth and young adult count throughout the day on January 25, 2018. The specialized youth and young adult count methodology ensured unaccompanied young people under 25 years of age were represented in both the general street count and youth and young adult count.

For more information regarding the project methodology, including de-duplication methods, see *Appendix 1*. For complete count findings, see *Appendix 2*.

¹ Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Programs Housing Inventory Count Reports can be found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-housing-inventory-count-reports>

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SEATTLE/KING COUNTY

A total of 12,112 individuals were experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County the night of January 26, 2018. Over half (52%) of the population was unsheltered, living on the street, or in parks, tents, vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation.

Compared to 2017, the number of persons experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County increased by 4% (469 persons). The unsheltered population increased by 15% (835 persons). The number of persons residing in emergency shelter increased by 3% (94 persons) and the number of persons residing in transitional housing and safe havens decreased by 17% (460 persons), due in part to the successful conversion of transitional housing to permanent housing.

The largest increase was observed among individuals living in vehicles. In 2018, there were 3,372 persons estimated to be living in cars, RVs, and vans—a 46% increase compared to the previous year. Alternatively, the unsheltered population not residing in vehicles, i.e., on the streets, in buildings, and in tents, decreased by 7% (223 persons), indicating a shift in the unsheltered population.

FIGURE 5. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, WITH TREND

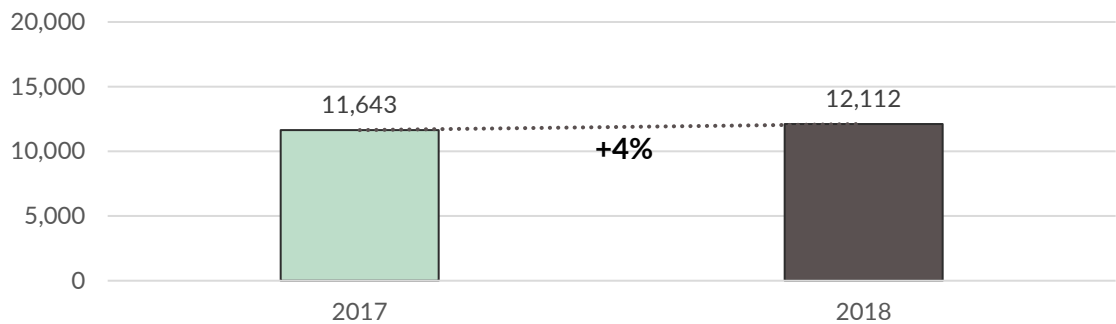


FIGURE 6. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

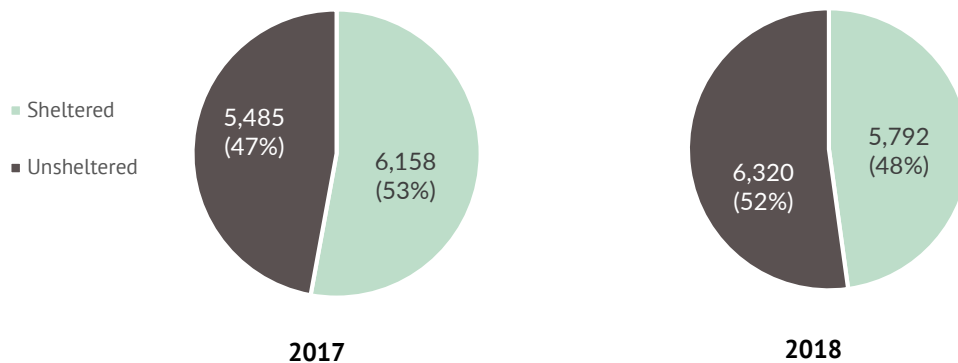
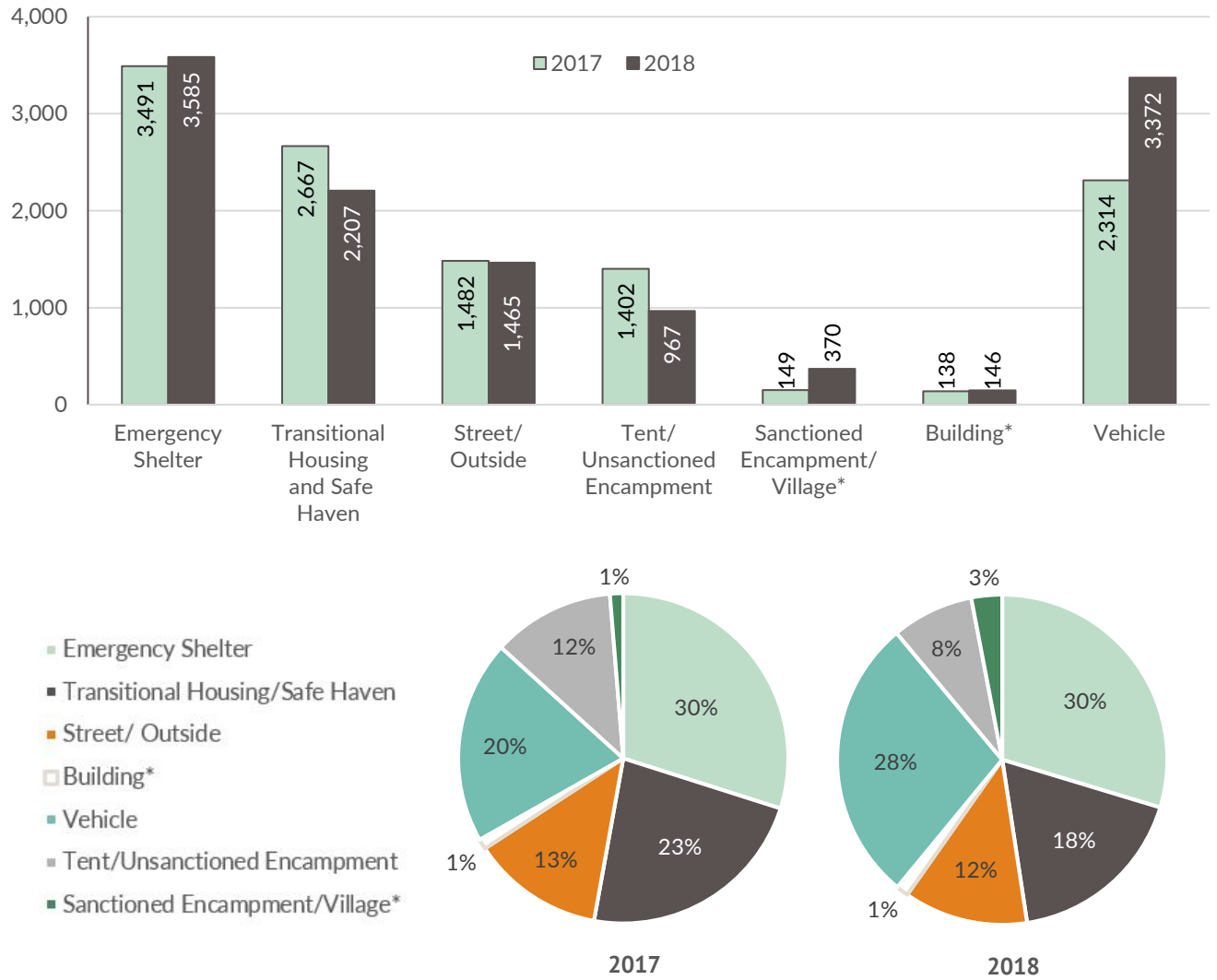


FIGURE 7. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY LOCATION TYPE



2017 n= 11,643; 2018 n= 12,112

Note: In 2018, category "Sanctioned Encampment/Village" was added and category "Tent" was updated to "Tent/Unsanctioned Encampment" for both 2017 and 2018. Category "Building" was also updated in 2018 to reflect 2017 and 2018 field reports, and includes individuals identified in abandoned buildings as well as public buildings and storefronts. Please see Appendix 6 for complete definitions of each location type.

Similar to 2017, the majority of the county’s unsheltered population (71%) was residing in Seattle on the night of the count. Fifteen percent (15%) were residing in the Southwest region.

When compared to 2017, increases among the unsheltered population were observed in most regions of Seattle/King County, including:

- Seattle: 17% (647 persons)
- North County: 333% (193 persons)
- East County: 23% (74 persons)
- Northeast County: 63% (53 persons)

Southeast County reported an increase of 1% (7 persons). Southwest County reported a decrease of 12% (139 persons).

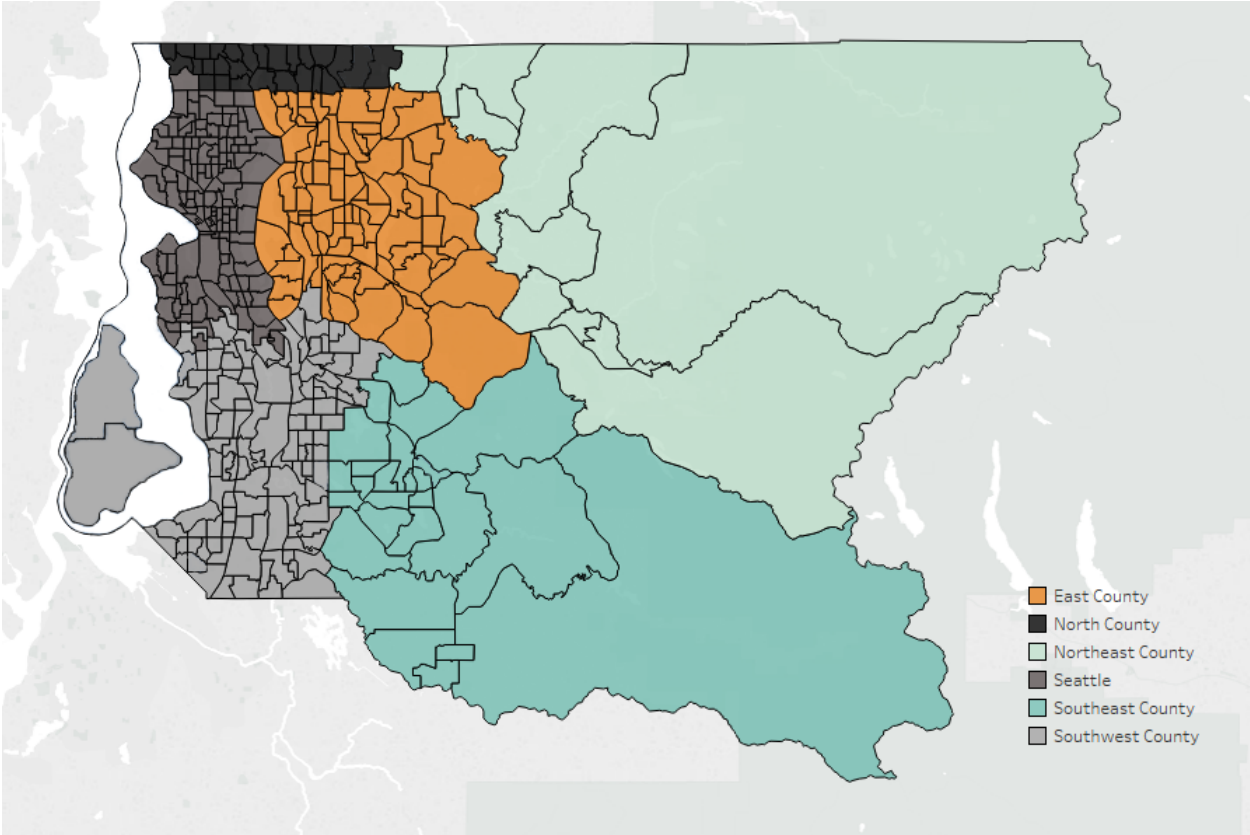
The increase in the number of unsheltered persons residing in Seattle accounted for over three-quarters (77%) of the countywide increase observed among the unsheltered population. Please see *Appendix 5* for regional definitions and additional unsheltered regional data.

FIGURE 8. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS, BY REGION

REGION	UNSHELTERED			
	2017		2018	
	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>
East County	6%	319	6%	393
North County	1%	58	4%	251
Northeast County	2%	84	2%	137
Seattle	70%	3,841	71%	4,488
Southwest County	20%	1,113	15%	974
Southeast County	1%	70	1%	77
TOTAL	100%	5,485	100%	6,320

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 regional definitions for East County and Northeast County were also revised in 2018, and Issaquah and Sammamish were reassigned to the East County region. This shift in regional definitions resulted in the movement of data representing 35 persons. The 2017 unsheltered data have been updated in order to make consistent comparisons between count years. Please see Appendix 5 for more information on how regions were defined and for additional unsheltered detail.

FIGURE 9. REGIONAL MAP OF SEATTLE/KING COUNTY



Over three-quarters (77%) of individuals experiencing homelessness were in households comprised of single adults or adult households with no children. Twenty-two percent (22%) 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 2% of the total count population.

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the unsheltered population in 2018 was comprised of individuals in households with no children. Compared to 2017, the number of unsheltered individuals in households with no children increased by 17% (894 persons).

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

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%	--

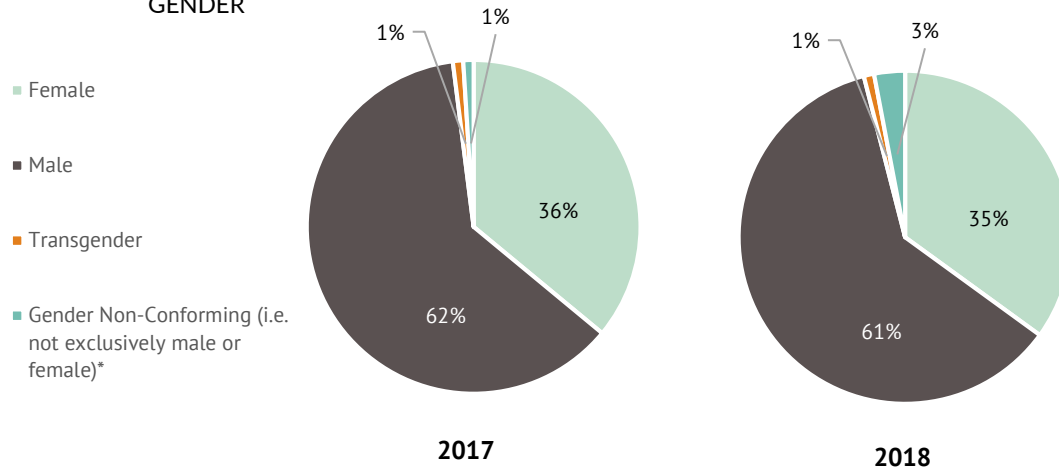
2017					
	YOUTH UNDER 18	YOUNG ADULTS 18-24	ADULTS OVER 24	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Sheltered	1,677	535	3,946	6,158	53%
Individuals in family households	1,647	205	900	2,752	24%
Individuals in households with no children	--	330	3,046	3,376	29%
Individuals in households with only children	30	--	--	30	>1%
Unsheltered	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 6 for complete definitions of all household types. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

An estimated 61% of individuals experiencing homelessness identified as male. Thirty-five percent (35%) of individuals identified as female, 1% identified as transgender, and 3% identified with another gender.

The shelter status of individuals experiencing homelessness varied by gender. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of persons identifying as female were sheltered on the night of the count and 44% of persons identifying as male were sheltered. Individuals identifying as transgender or with another gender reported notably higher rates of being unsheltered—66% and 97%, respectively.

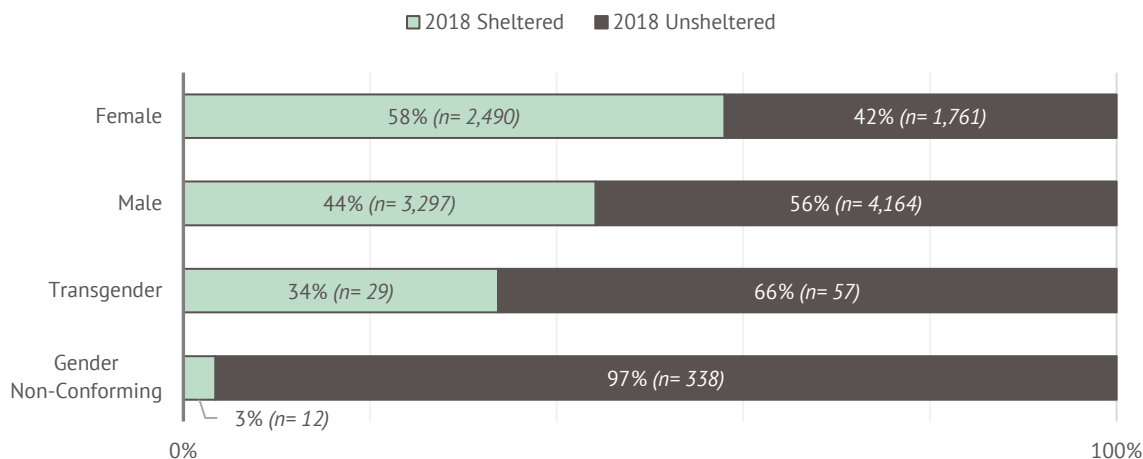
FIGURE 11. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER



2017 n= 11,643; 2018 n= 12,112

Note: In 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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 to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 12. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER AND SHELTER STATUS

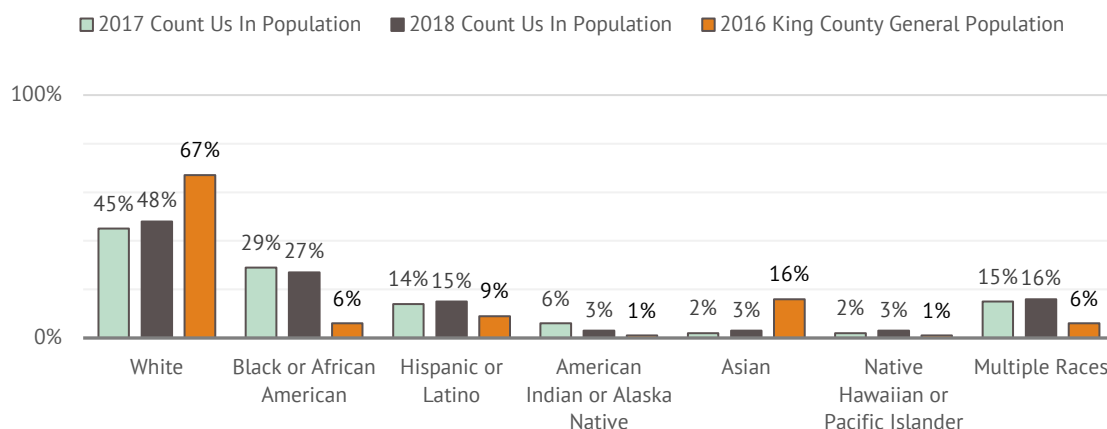


In 2018, an estimated majority of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County identified as people of color. An estimated 48% of individuals identified as White, 27% identified as Black or African American, 3% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% identified as Asian, and 3% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Sixteen percent (16%) 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 (27% compared to 6%), as Hispanic or Latino (15% compared to 9%), as American Indian or Alaska Native (3% compared to 1%), as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (3% compared to 1%), and with multiple races (16% compared to 6%).

The shelter status of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County varied across race and ethnicity. Individuals identifying with multiple races or as American Indian or Alaska Native reported the highest rates of being unsheltered (70% and 60%, respectively). Individuals identifying as Black or African American or as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander reported the highest rates of being sheltered (66% and 65%, respectively).

FIGURE 13. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

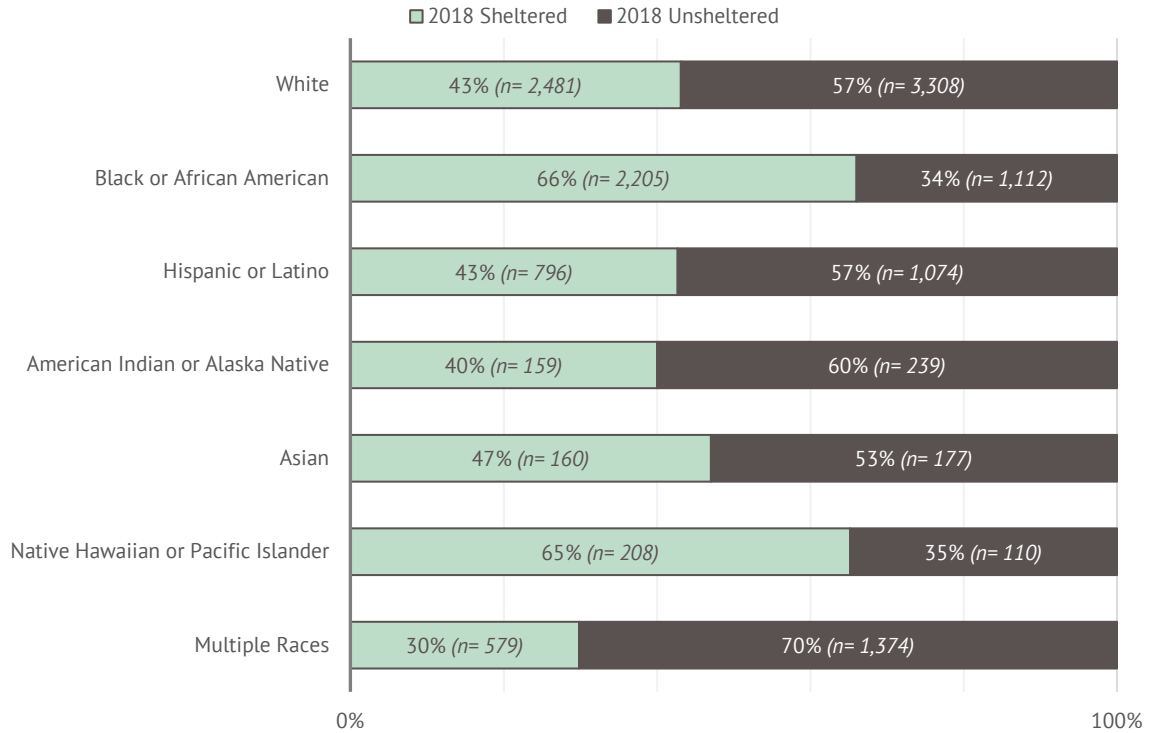


2017 n= 11,643; 2018 n= 12,112

2016 King County General Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2016). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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.

FIGURE 14. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY AND BY SHELTER STATUS





Count Us In Survey Findings

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of 2018 Count Us In. 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 2018 Count Us In Survey effort resulted in 1,056 complete and unique surveys, which included 158 eligible surveys completed as part of the youth and young adult count effort. Based on a point-in-time estimate of 12,112 individuals experiencing homelessness, these 1,056 surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 2.9% 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 2.9 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, it is 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 1* (p. 98). For complete survey findings, please see *Appendix 3*.

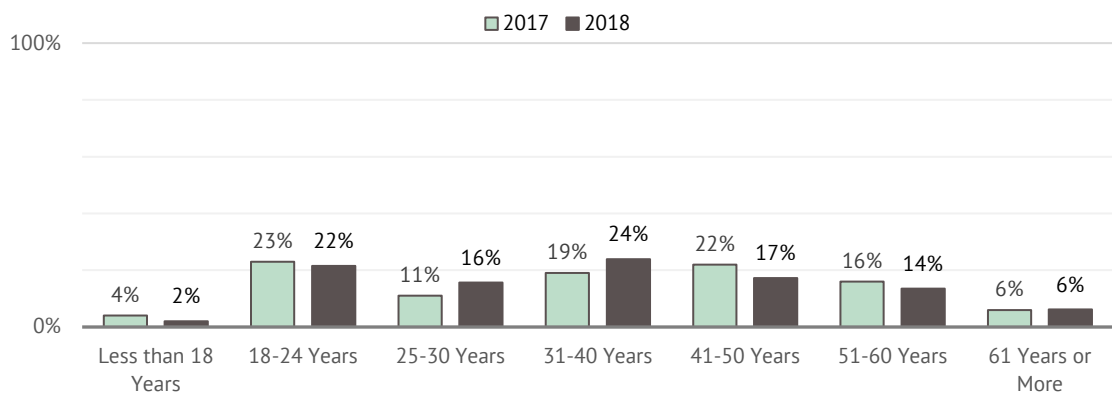
Survey Demographics

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 (77%) of Count Us In Survey respondents were over 24 years of age. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 represented less than one-quarter (22%) of all survey respondents. Youth under the age of 18 represented 2% of all survey respondents.

FIGURE 15. AGE OF COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



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

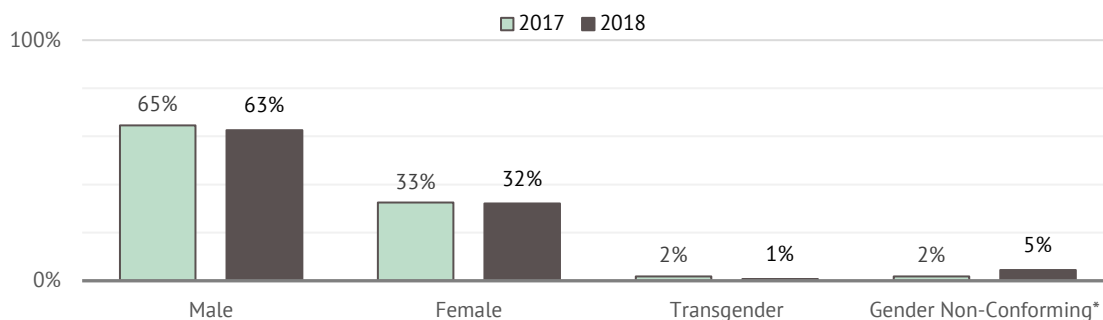
GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Sixty-five percent (65%) of survey respondents identified as male, 34% identified as female, 1% identified as transgender, and 7% identified with another gender (e.g., gender-queer, gender non-conforming, or non-binary).

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.² Approximately eighteen percent (18%) of Count Us In Survey respondents across Seattle/King County identified their sexual orientation as either lesbian or gay (6%), bisexual (8%), queer (1%), questioning (1%), pansexual (1%), or other (1%).

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 (33%) of unaccompanied youth and young adult survey respondents identified as LGBTQ+, compared to 16% of all other survey respondents. Seventy-one percent (71%) of all survey respondents identifying as LGBTQ+ reported first experiencing homelessness as a youth or young adult, compared to 42% of respondents not identifying as LGBTQ+.

FIGURE 16. GENDER, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS

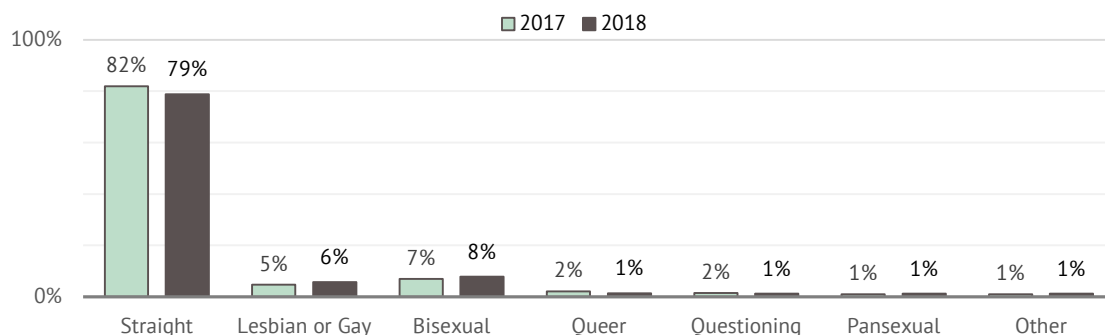


2017 n= 1,142; 2018 n= 1,046

Note: In 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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.

² 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 17. SEXUAL ORIENTATION, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



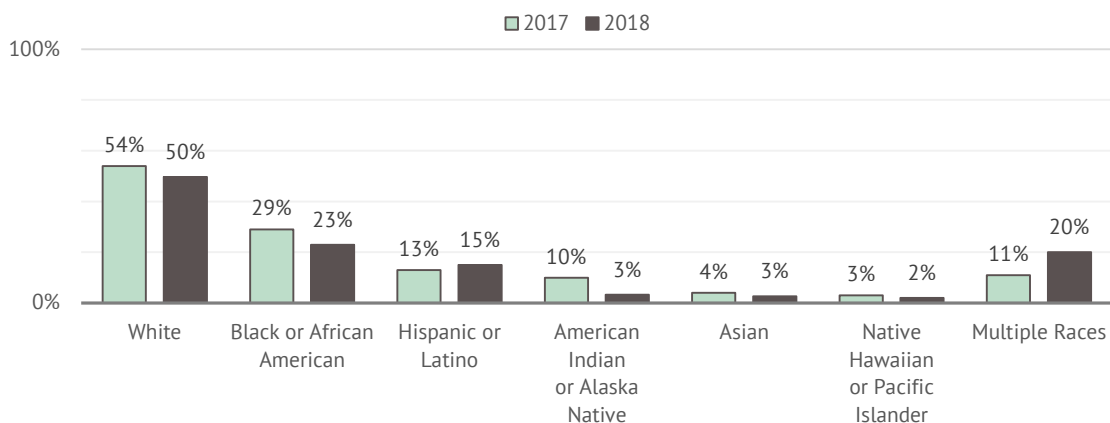
2017 n= 1,135; 2018 n= 1,037

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Half (50%) of 2018 Count Us In Survey respondents identified as White and 23% identified as Black or African American. Three percent (3%) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% as Asian, and 2% 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.

FIGURE 18. RACE AND ETHNICITY, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,115-1,143; 2018 n= 1,016-1,056

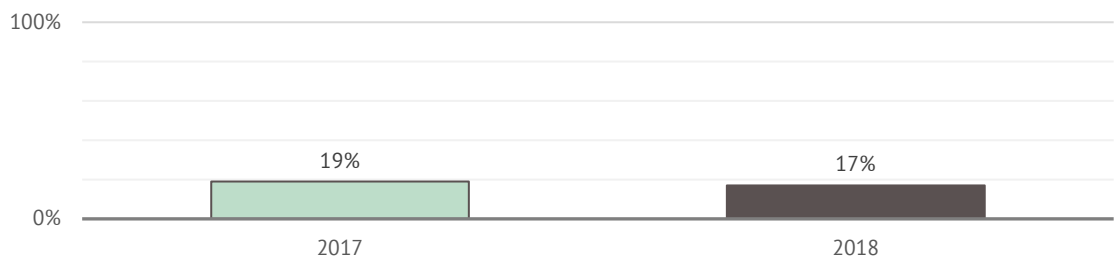
Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FOSTER CARE

Nationally, it is estimated that at least 20% of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.³ In the state of Washington, many foster youth are eligible to receive extended foster care benefits as they transition into adulthood, up until their 21st birthday.

In 2018, less than one-fifth (17%) of Count Us In Survey respondents reported a history of foster care. Approximately 2% of respondents indicated that they were living in a foster care placement prior to their housing loss. Two percent (2%) 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 (33% and 25%, respectively).

FIGURE 19. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



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

³ 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>.

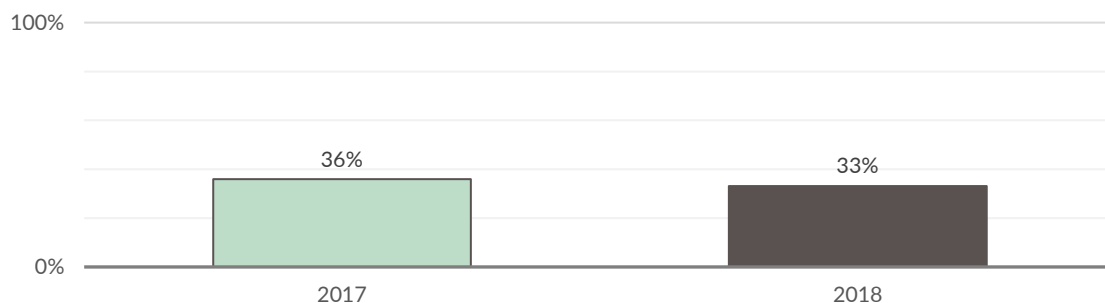
Duration and Recurrence of Homelessness

Over two-thirds (67%) of Count Us In Survey respondents reported experiencing homelessness prior to their current episode. Twenty-two percent (22%) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness four or more times in the past three years. Nearly two-thirds (64%) reported their current episode of homelessness lasting for a year or longer.

When asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness, 22% of survey respondents (whether sheltered or unsheltered) were children under the age of 18, 26% were young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, and 53% were adults over the age of 24. Over one-third (36%) of individuals over the age of 50 reported they were currently experiencing homelessness for the first time.

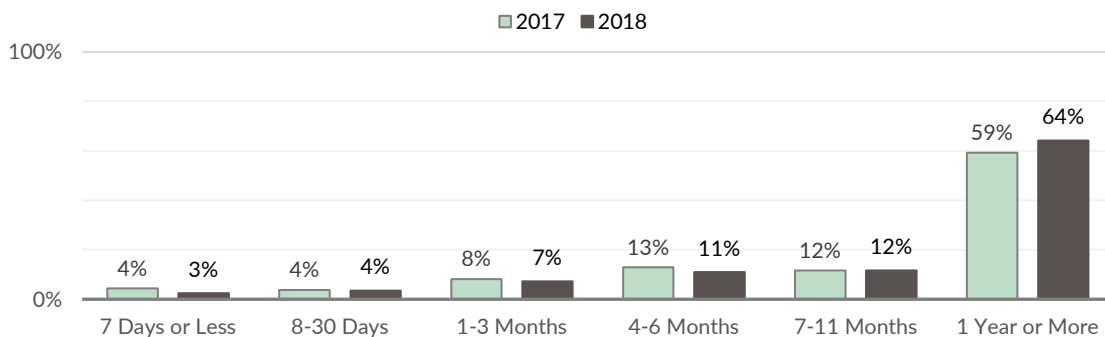
Compared to other survey respondents, individuals identifying as LGBTQ+ reported notably higher rates of first experiencing homelessness as a child or young adult. Thirty-three percent (33%) of LGBTQ+ survey respondents first experienced homelessness as a child under the age of 18, while 38% first experienced homelessness between the ages of 18 and 24. This compares to 19% and 23%, respectively, of non-LGBTQ+ survey respondents.

FIGURE 20. FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



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

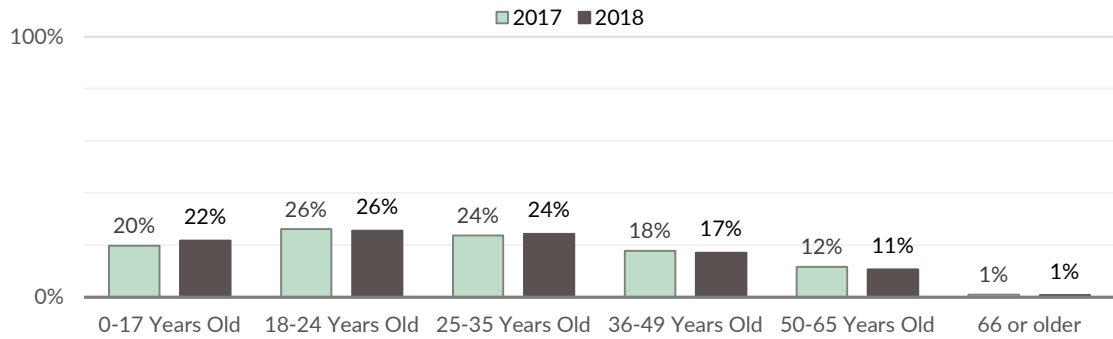
FIGURE 21. LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,035; 2018 n= 970

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 22. AGE FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS OCCURRED, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,103; 2018 n= 1,020

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Living Accommodations

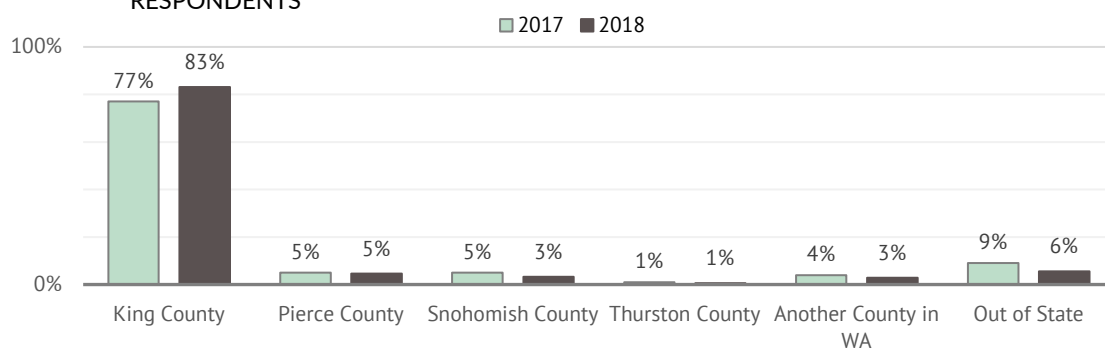
PLACE OF RESIDENCE

During the 2018 Count Us In Survey, approximately 83% 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 6% were residing out of state.

Approximately ninety-five percent (95%) of survey respondents reported living in the state of Washington at the time of their housing loss, followed by California (1%), Oregon (1%), and Texas (1%).

Fifty-two percent (52%) of survey respondents reported living in Seattle at the time of their housing loss, followed by Kent (10%), Renton (4%), and Federal Way (4%).

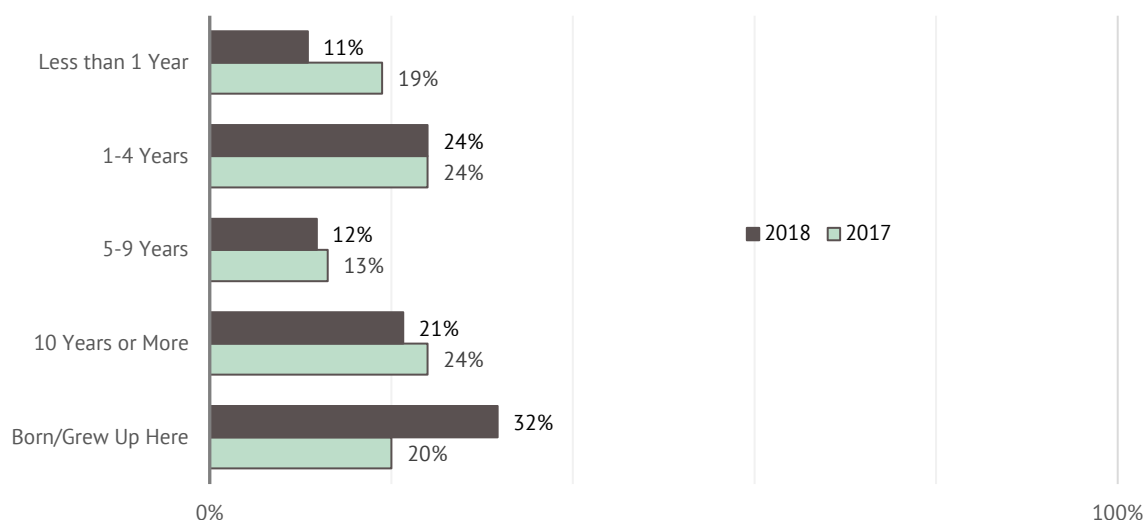
FIGURE 23. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 866; 2018 n= 888

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 24. LENGTH OF TIME SPENT LIVING IN KING COUNTY, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 845; 2018 n= 862

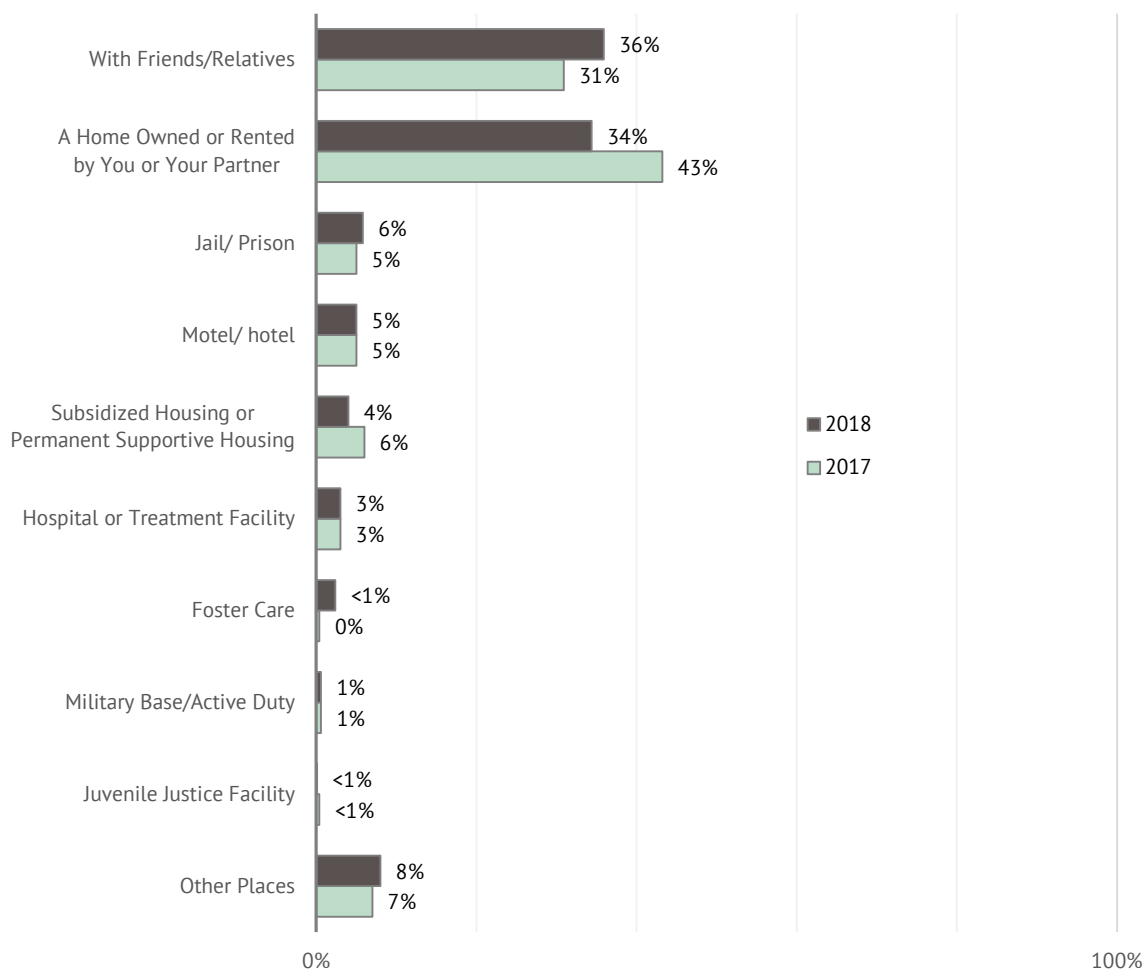
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Thirty-four percent (34%) of Count Us In Survey respondents indicated living in a home owned or rented by themselves or their partner prior to experiencing homelessness. Thirty-six percent (36%) reported living with friends or relatives, while smaller percentages reported residing in jail or prison (6%), in a motel or hotel (5%), or in either subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing (4%).

Other living arrangements of survey respondents prior to experiencing homelessness included hospital or treatment facility (3%), foster care placement (2%), military base or active duty (1%), and juvenile justice facility (<1%).

FIGURE 25. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS THIS TIME, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 842; 2018 n= 846

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

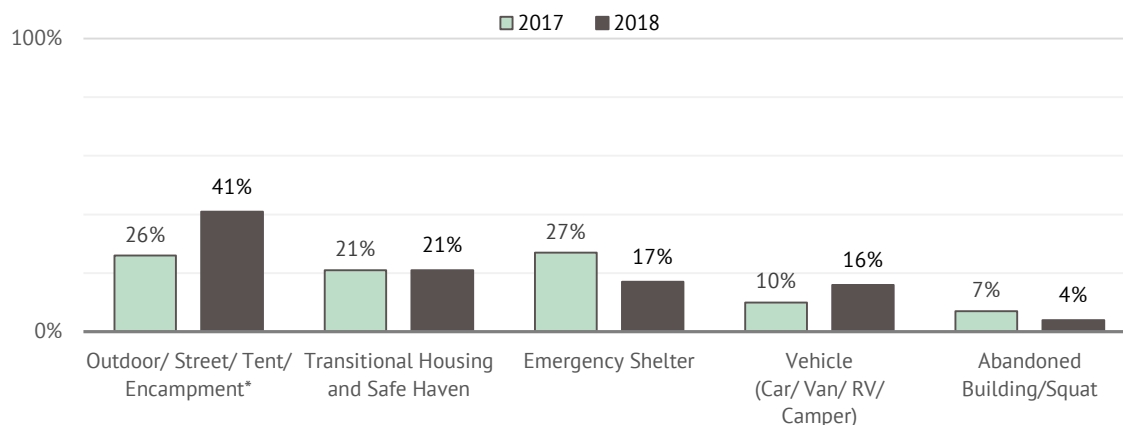
CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

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. Seventeen percent (17%) of Count Us In Survey respondents reported staying in emergency shelter while 21% reported staying in transitional housing. Forty-one percent (41%) reported sleeping outdoors, including on the streets, in parks, or in tents. Sixteen percent (16%) of respondents reported sleeping in a vehicle, and 4% reported sleeping in an abandoned building or squat.

The majority (87%) of survey respondents were part of households without children, including couples with no children under the age of 18, single adults, and unaccompanied young adults. Approximately 13% of survey respondents were in family households with children, and 2% were unaccompanied youth under the age of 18.

When comparing the current living arrangements of 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 26. USUAL NIGHTTIME ACCOMMODATIONS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



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

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.

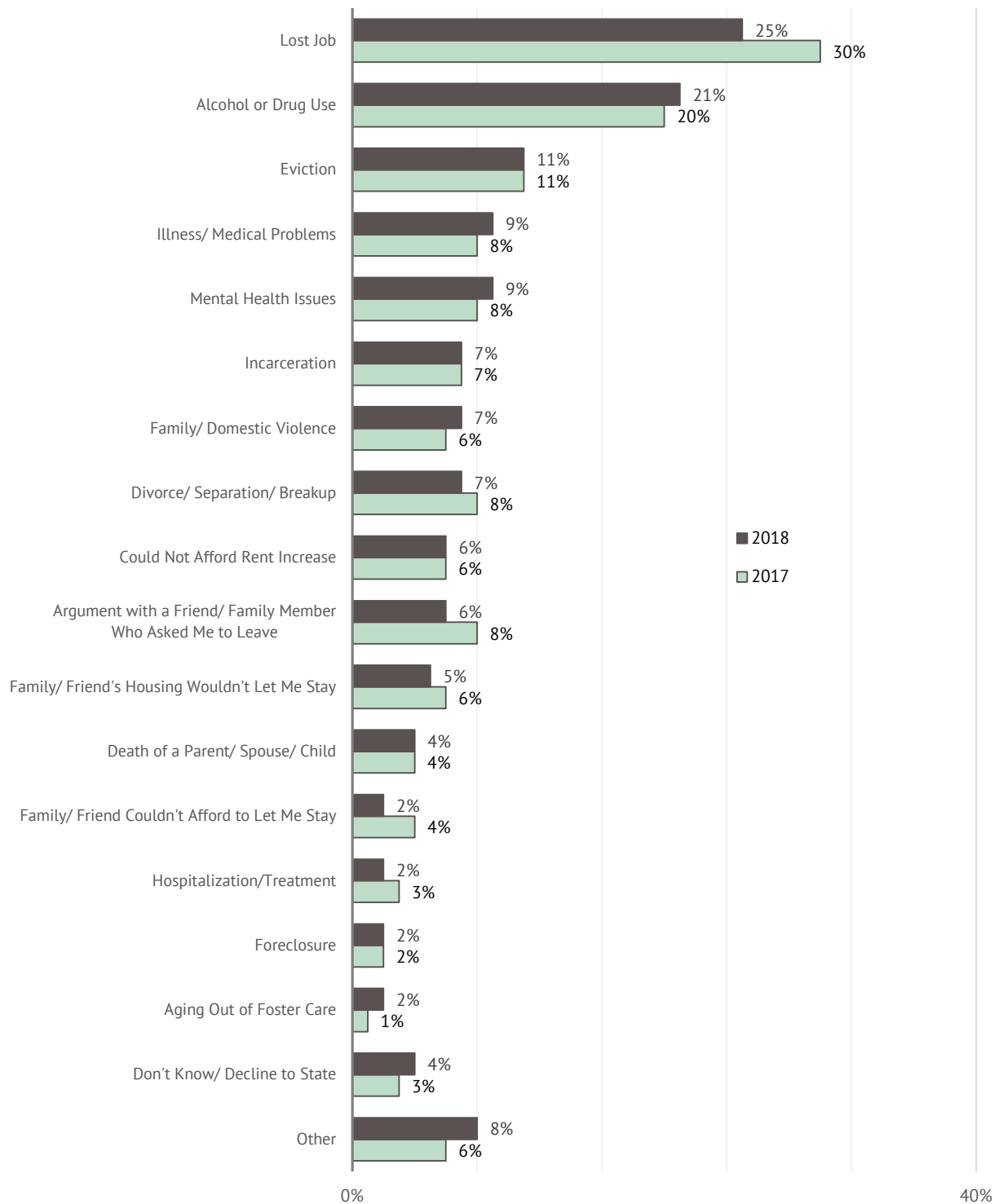
Self-Reported Causes of Homelessness

When asked to identify the primary event or condition that led to their current experience of homelessness, approximately 25% of Count Us In Survey respondents reported the loss of a job. Other top responses included alcohol or drug use (21%), eviction (11%), and illness or medical problems (9%).

Other self-reported causes of homelessness included: mental health issues (9%); divorce, separation, or breakup (8%); domestic violence (7%); incarceration (7%); an argument with a friend or family member who asked them to leave (6%); inability to afford rent increase (6%); friend or family's housing wouldn't allow them to stay (5%); death of a family member (4%); foreclosure (2%); family or friend couldn't afford to let them stay (2%); hospitalization or treatment (2%); and aging out of foster care (2%).

It should be noted that these responses are the result of a self-assessment, not from a clinical source. These responses, however, are consistent with other needs assessments and other communities, and generally have been considered accurate by homeless service providers and outreach staff. 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 27. 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
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

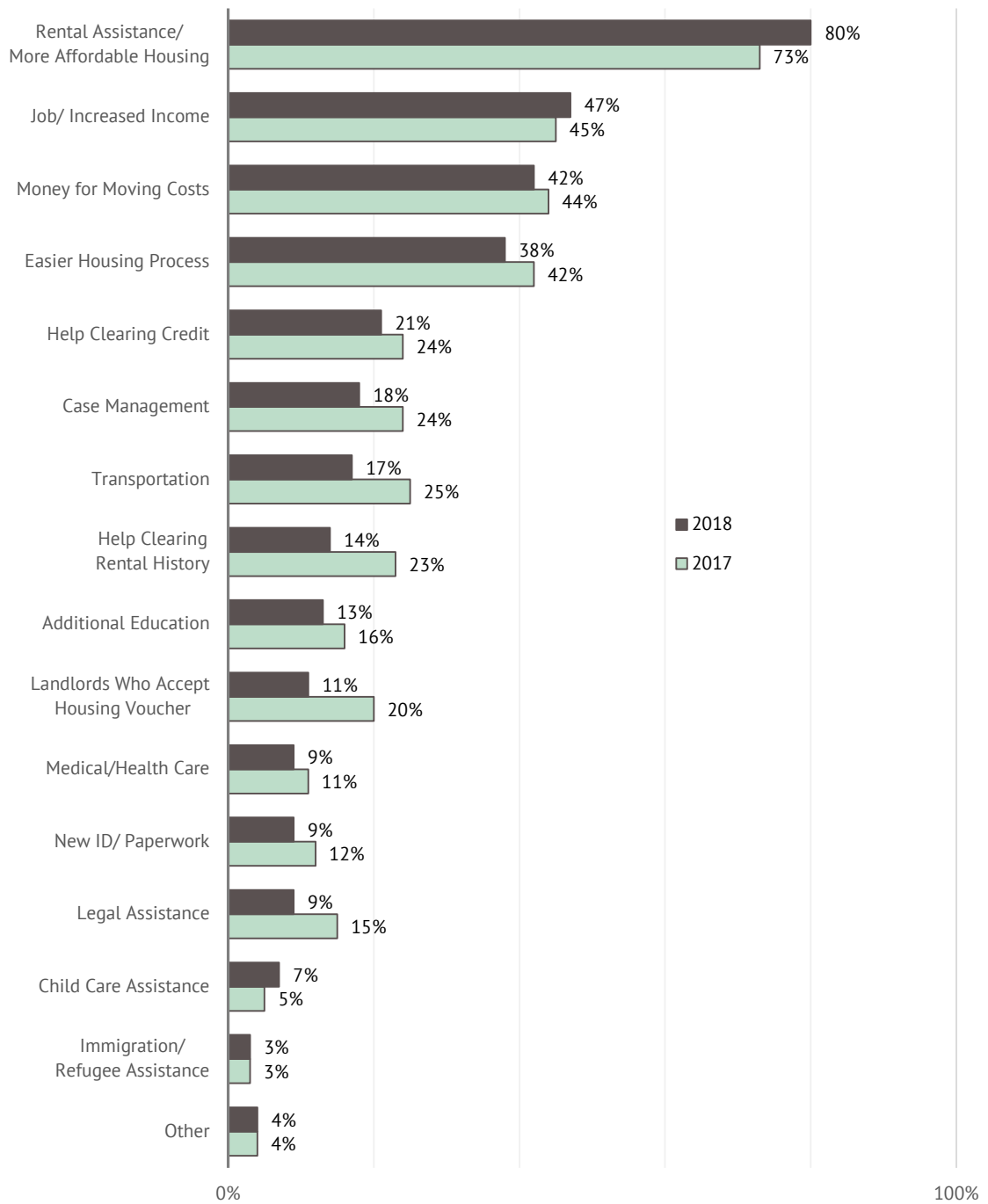
Support in Obtaining Permanent Housing

Eighty percent (80%) 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 (47%), money for moving costs (42%), and an easier housing process (38%) were also frequently mentioned as types of support needed.

Additional supports cited by survey respondents included help clearing their credit (21%), case management (18%), transportation (17%), and help clearing their rental history (14%).

When asked if they would move into safe, affordable housing if it were offered, 98% of Count Us In Survey respondents answered yes.

FIGURE 28. SUPPORT NEEDED TO OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



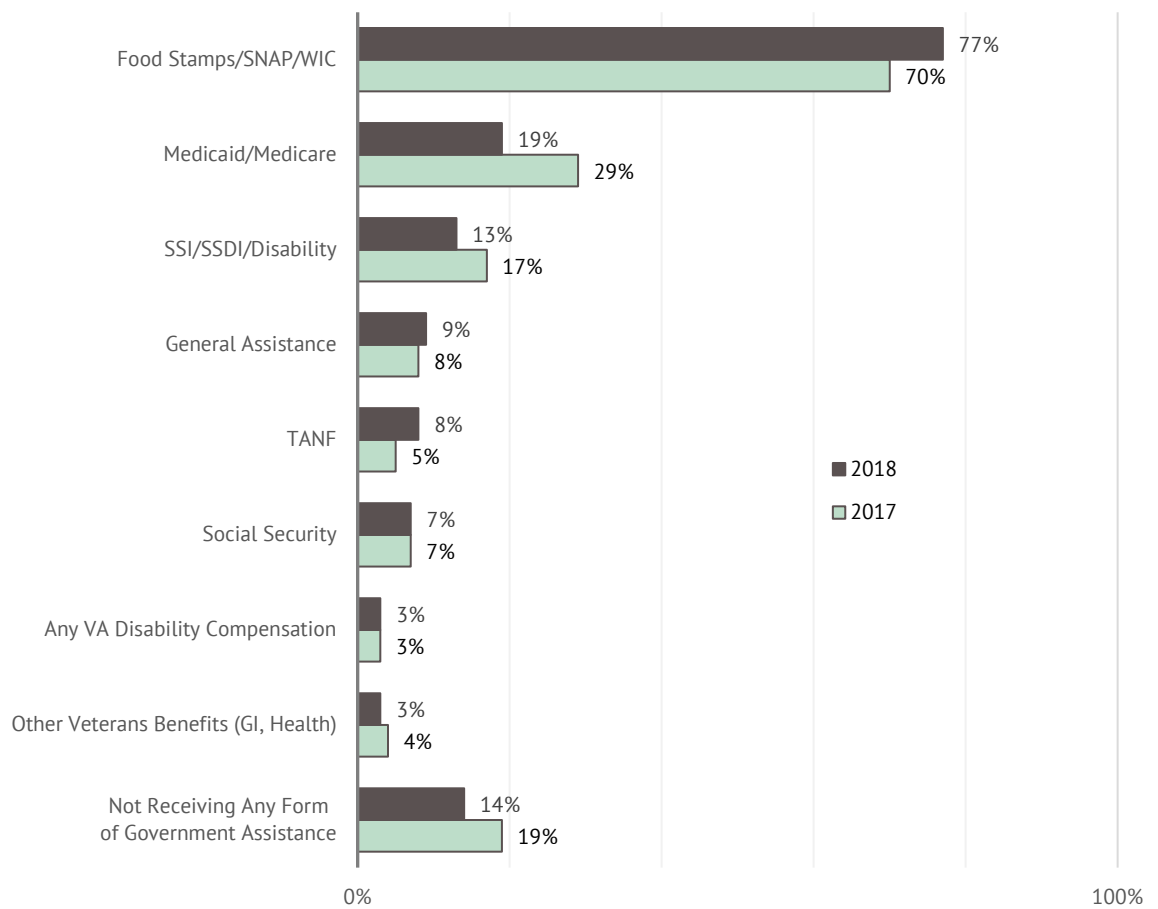
2017 n= 867 respondents providing 3,728 responses; 2018 n= 862 respondents providing 2,964 responses
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Assistance and Services

STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The majority of Count Us In Survey respondents (86%) indicated receiving some form of state and/or federal government assistance. Food stamps were the most frequently cited form of assistance (77%), followed by Medicaid/Medicare (19%) and SSI/SSDI/Disability (13%). Approximately 14% of survey respondents reported not receiving any form of government assistance.

FIGURE 29. STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 781 respondents providing 1,263 responses; 2018 n= 833 respondents providing 1,275 responses

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

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

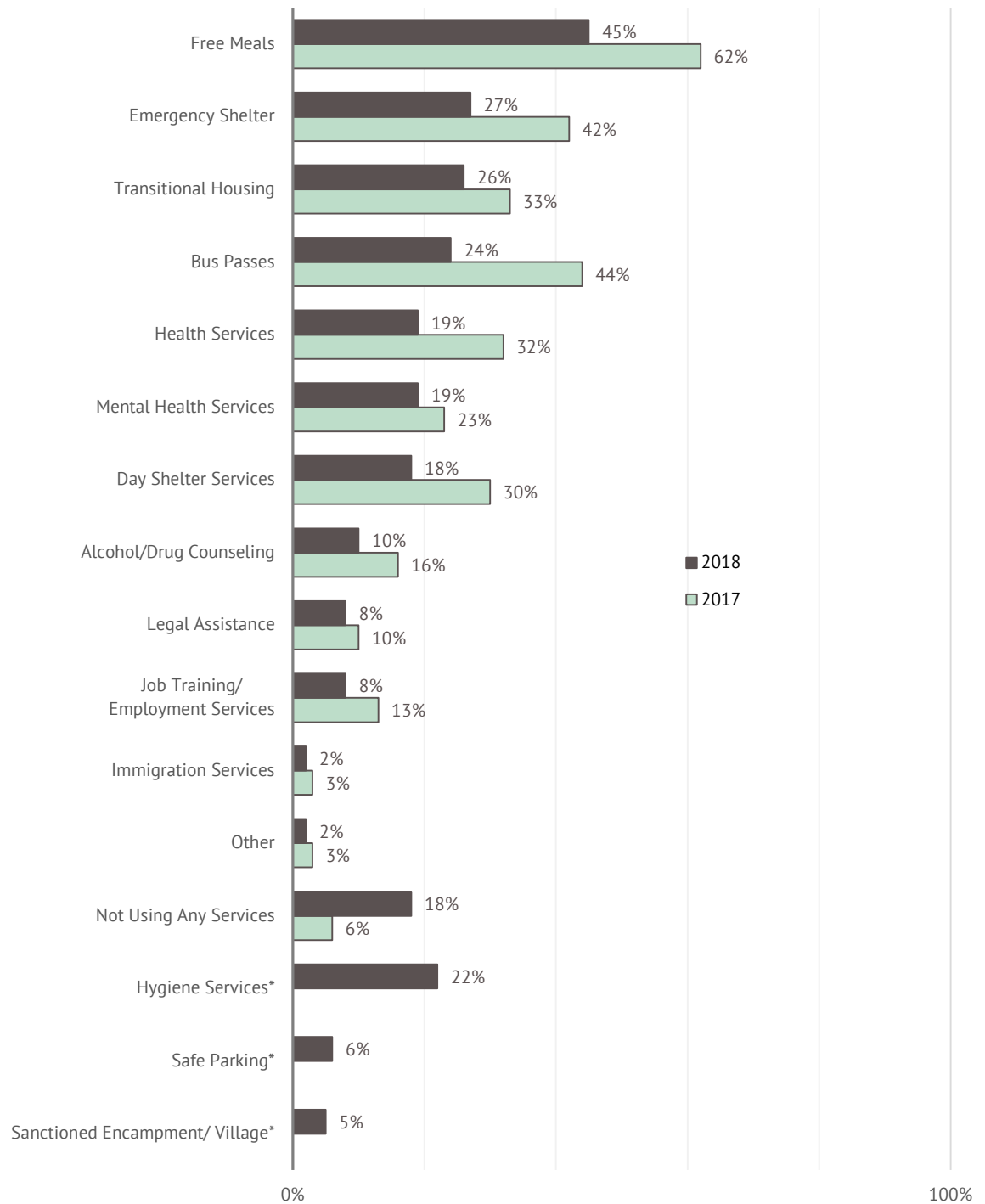
The majority of Count Us In Survey respondents (82%) indicated using local, community-based services. These services are funded publicly or privately, aside from any state or federal assistance. The most frequently cited services included free meals (45%), emergency shelter (27%), transitional housing (26%), bus passes (24%), hygiene services (22%), health services (19%), mental health services (19%), and day shelter services (18%).

Eighteen percent (18%) of all survey respondents indicated they were not currently accessing any services or assistance—a rate three times higher than the 2017 Count Us In Survey findings.

In trying to access community services, the majority of survey respondents (69%) reported encountering issues when seeking help. Not qualifying for the services that they wanted (23%), lack of transportation (23%), and not knowing where to go for help (23%) were the most frequently cited barriers. Other reasons included not having their identification or personal documents (22%) and never hearing back after applying for services (18%). Thirty-one percent (31%) of survey respondents indicated experiencing no issues in accessing services.

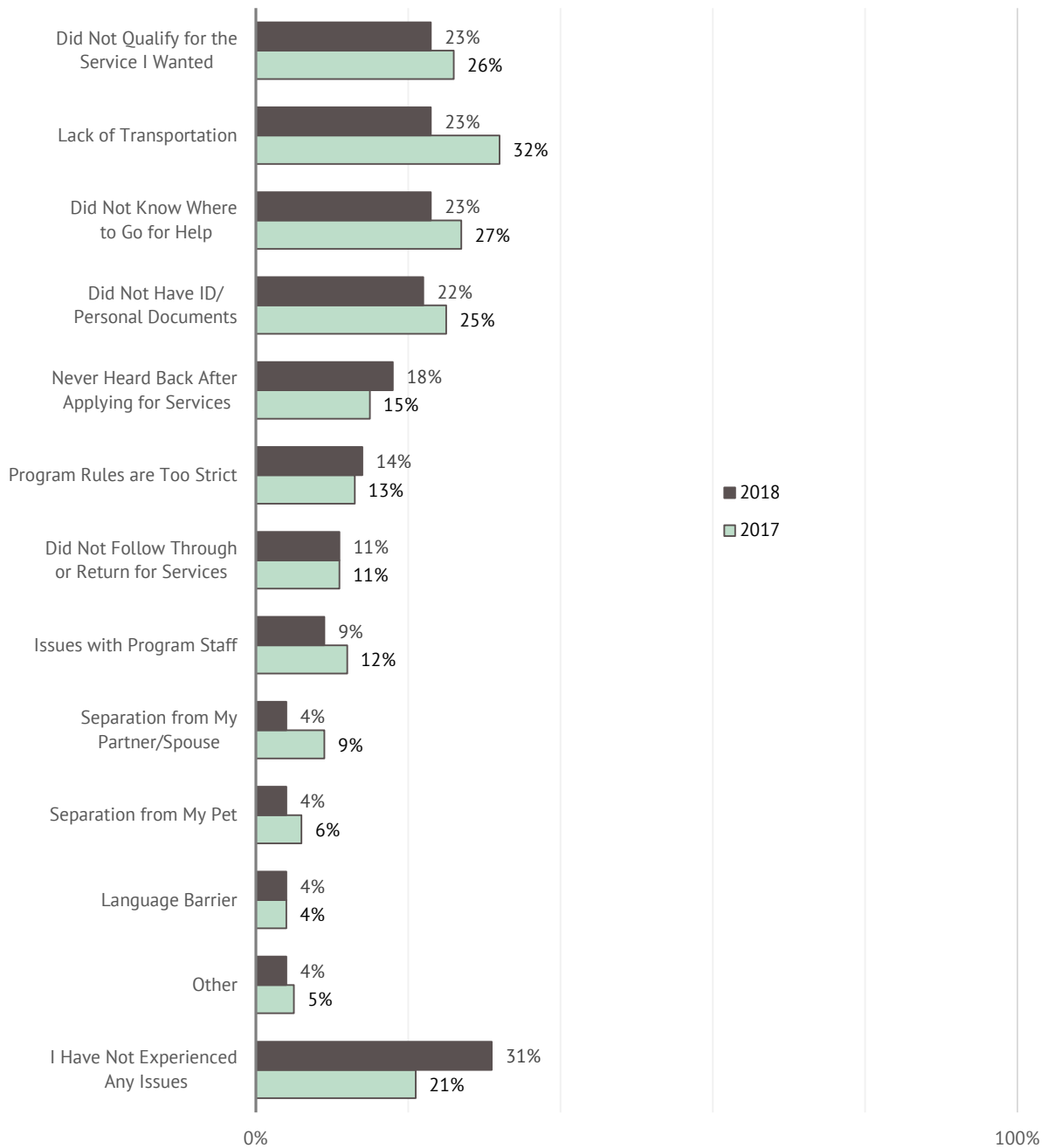
When asked if they had completed a Coordinated Entry for All Assessment (also known as a Housing Triage Tool), the majority of Count Us In Survey respondents (58%) indicated that they had not. Nearly one-quarter (23%) reported completing the assessment, compared to 14% of survey respondents in 2017. Nineteen percent (19%) reported not knowing whether they had completed the assessment. It is important to note that 21% of respondents were residing in transitional housing at the time of the survey. Transitional housing residents are not eligible for programs accessed through coordinated entry, though they may have completed an assessment prior to entry.

FIGURE 30. SERVICES AND PROGRAMS ACCESSED, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



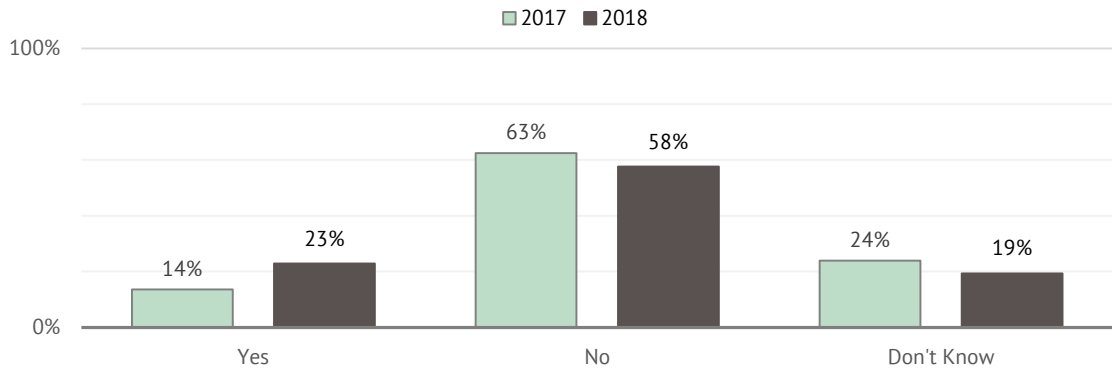
2017 n= 872 respondents providing 2,762 responses; 2018 n= 858 respondents providing 2,217 responses
 Note: Comparison data for "Hygiene Services," "Safe Parking," and "Sanctioned Encampment/Village" are not available, as these answer choices were added to the Count Us In Survey instrument beginning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

FIGURE 31. 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
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 32. COMPLETION OF COORDINATED ENTRY FOR ALL (CEA) ASSESSMENT, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,122; 2018 n= 1,019

Note: It is important to note that 21% of respondents were residing in transitional housing at the time of the survey. Transitional housing residents are not eligible for programs accessed through coordinated entry, though they may have completed an assessment prior to entry. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Employment and Education

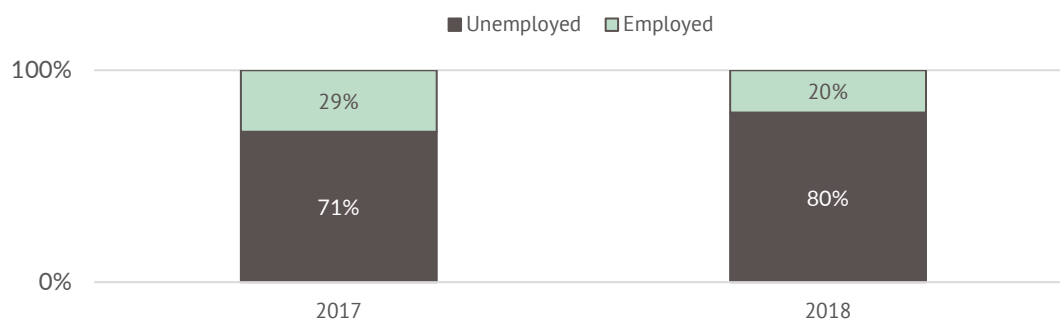
The overall unemployment rate in Seattle/King County was 4.7% for January 2018.⁴ It is important to note that the unemployment rate only represents those who are unemployed and actively seeking employment; it does not represent all joblessness.

The majority of 2018 Count Us In Survey respondents (80%) reported being unemployed, compared to 71% of survey respondents the previous year. Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents were looking for work, 19% were not looking for work, and 16% were unable to work due to disability or retirement. Employed survey respondents reported their current job status as seasonal or sporadic (5%), part-time (9%), or full-time (6%).

When asked how long it had been since they last received payment for work, over one-third (39%) reported receiving payment within the past six months. Eighteen percent (18%) reported that more than 5 years had passed since they last received payment for work.

Over ninety percent (93%) of the general population in Seattle/King County are high school graduates or higher, with nearly half (49%) possessing a bachelor's degree or higher.⁵ Among Count Us In Survey respondents experiencing homelessness, 74% reported completion of high school or higher. Forty-five percent (45%) obtained their high school diploma or GED, 22% completed some college or an associate's degree, and 7% completed a bachelor's degree or higher.

FIGURE 33. EMPLOYMENT STATUS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS

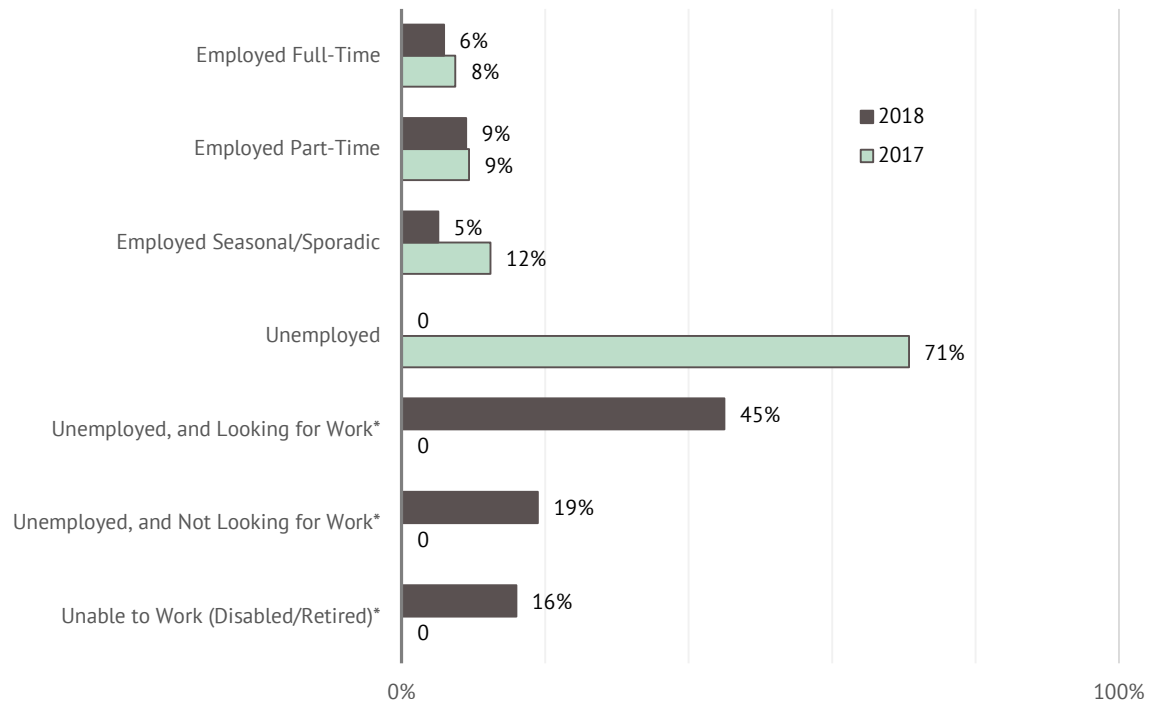


2017 n=863; 2018 n= 1,035

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

5 U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501: Educational Attainment. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

FIGURE 34. EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY EMPLOYMENT TYPE, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 863; 2018 n= 1,035

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.

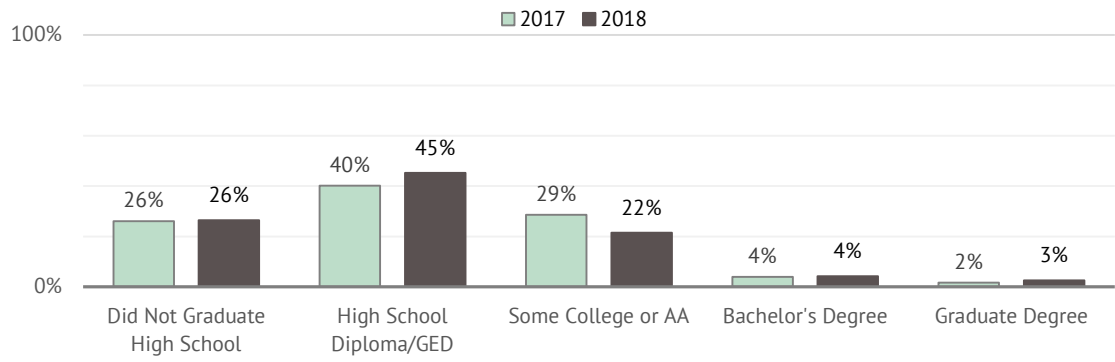
FIGURE 35. TIME PASSED SINCE LAST RECEIVED PAYMENT FOR WORK, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS

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

2017 n= 803; 2018 n= 847

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.

FIGURE 36. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,126; 2018 n= 1,018

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

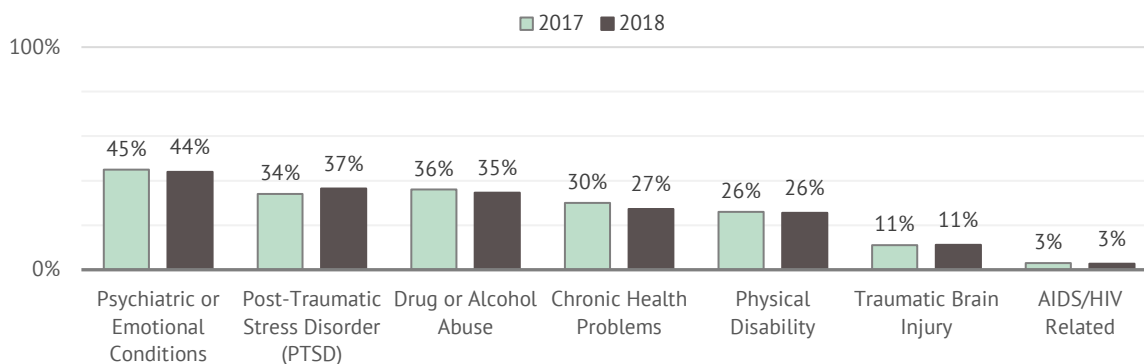
Health and Disabling Conditions

In Seattle/King County, approximately 70% 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. Forty-four percent (44%) of survey respondents reported psychiatric or emotional conditions, 37% reported post-traumatic stress disorder, and 35% reported drug or alcohol abuse. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents reported chronic health problems. Twenty-six percent (26%) reported a physical disability.

Over half (53%) of survey respondents identified at least one health condition that prevented them from holding employment, living in stable housing, or taking care of themselves. One-third (33%) of these respondents indicated living with multiple disabling conditions.

FIGURE 37. HEALTH CONDITIONS, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,086-1,129; 2018 n= 1,036-1,040

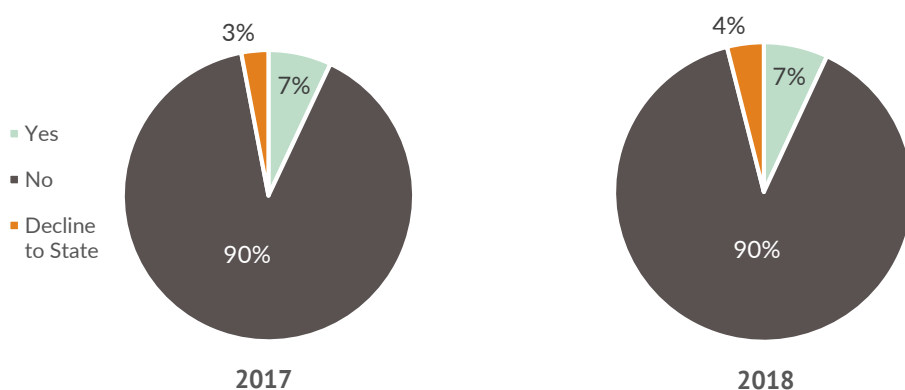
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Domestic Violence and Partner Abuse

Seven percent (7%) of all Count Us In Survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic violence or abuse. Thirty-six percent (36%) of survey respondents currently experiencing domestic violence or abuse identified family or domestic violence as the primary event leading to their homelessness.

Over one-third (36%) of all survey respondents reported experiencing physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in their lifetime. A history of domestic violence or partner abuse was most prevalent among individuals identifying as LGBTQ+ (55%), unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years of age (45%), and families with children (40%).

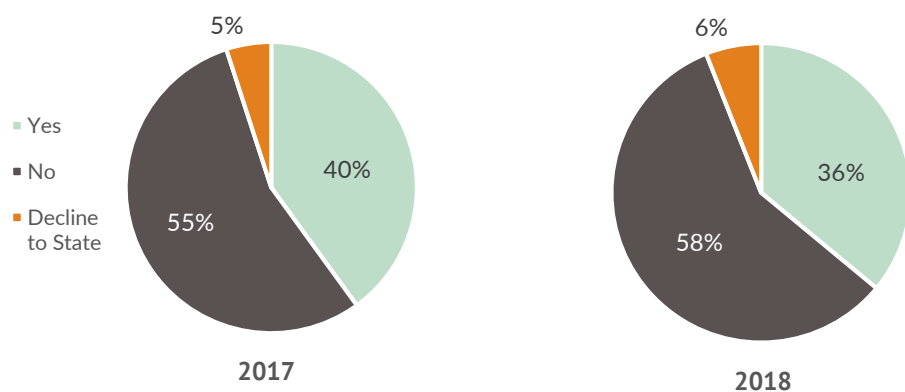
FIGURE 38. CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,009; 2018 n= 903

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 39. HISTORY OF ABUSE BY A RELATIVE OR ANOTHER PERSON THEY HAVE STAYED WITH, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS

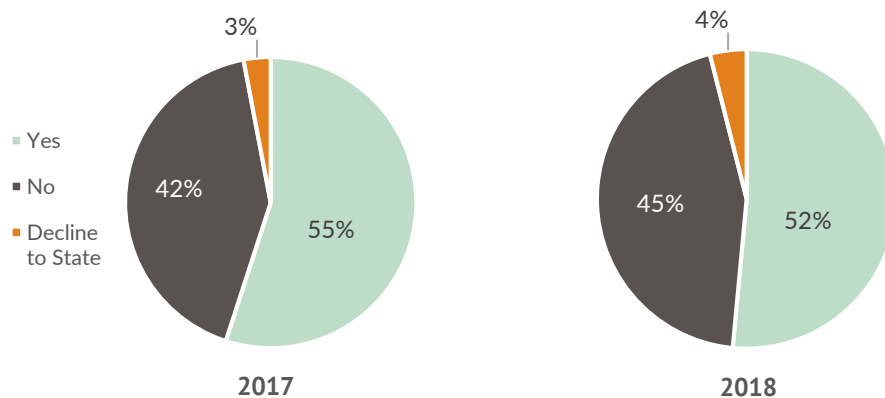


2017 n= 1,006; 2018 n= 894

Criminal Justice System Involvement

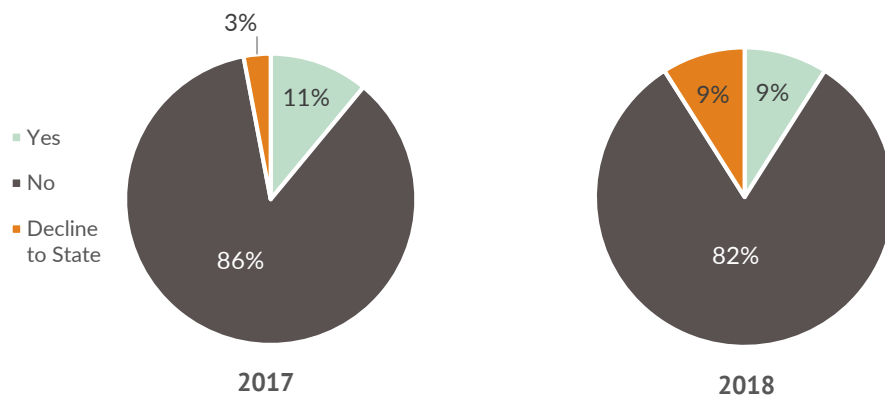
Over half (52%) of survey respondents reported ever being in jail or juvenile detention. Six percent (6%) reported being in jail or prison immediately prior to experiencing homelessness, and 9% reported being on probation or parole at the time of the survey.

FIGURE 40. EVER BEEN IN JAIL OR JUVENILE DETENTION, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n= 1,131; 2018 n= 1,026

FIGURE 41. CURRENTLY ON PROBATION OR PAROLE, COUNT US IN SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n=1,117; 2018 n= 1,026

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. Individuals residing in vehicles are identified as an additional subpopulation of local interest, given the prevalence of vehicle residency in the region. These subpopulations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress toward ending homelessness. The following section examines the number and characteristics of individuals identified within each of these subpopulations estimated during Count Us In.

The 2018 Count Us In Survey effort resulted in 1,056 complete and unique surveys, including 158 eligible surveys completed as part of the youth and young adult count effort. Based on a point-in-time estimate of 12,112 individuals experiencing homelessness, these 1,056 surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 2.9% 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	323	3,552	+/- 5.2%
Veterans	119	921	+/- 8.39%
Families with Children (by Household)	134	782	+/- 7.71%
Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults	224	1,518	+/- 6.05%
Vehicle Residents	171	3,372	+/- 7.3%

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

Count Us In Subpopulation Findings: Chronic Homelessness

HUD defines an individual experiencing chronic homelessness as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer—or who has experienced at least four episodes totaling 12 months of homelessness in the last three years—and also has a disabling condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing. For the purposes of the Point-in-Time Count, this definition applies to both individuals as well as to family households where at least one adult member is chronically homeless.

In 2018, Count Us In estimated 3,552 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in Seattle/King County. These individuals comprised 29% of the total count population. Compared to 2017, the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness increased by 28% (779 persons). Conversely, the number of veterans experiencing chronic homelessness decreased by 23% (96 persons).

Seventy-one percent (71%) of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were unsheltered on the night of the count while 29% were residing in sheltered locations.

Across household types, approximately 97% of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were in adult households without children. Three percent (3%) were in family households with children. Less than 1% of individuals were in households comprised only of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18.

FIGURE 42. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

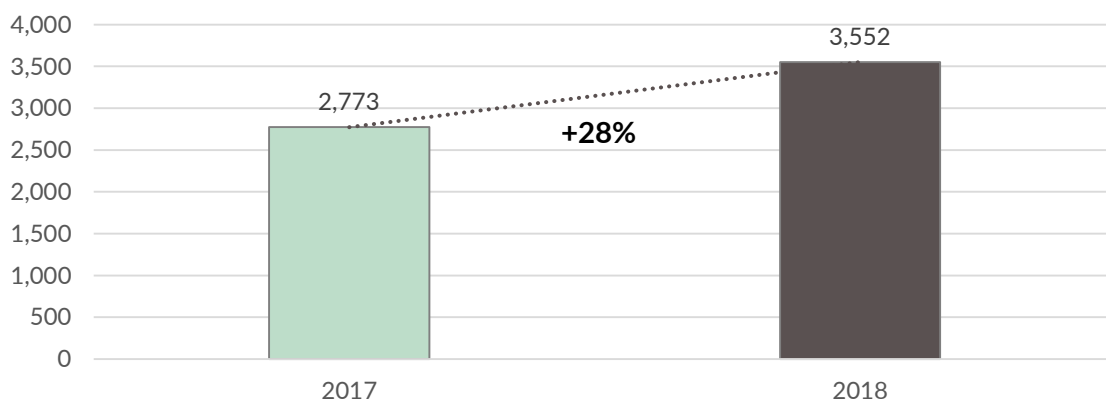


FIGURE 43. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

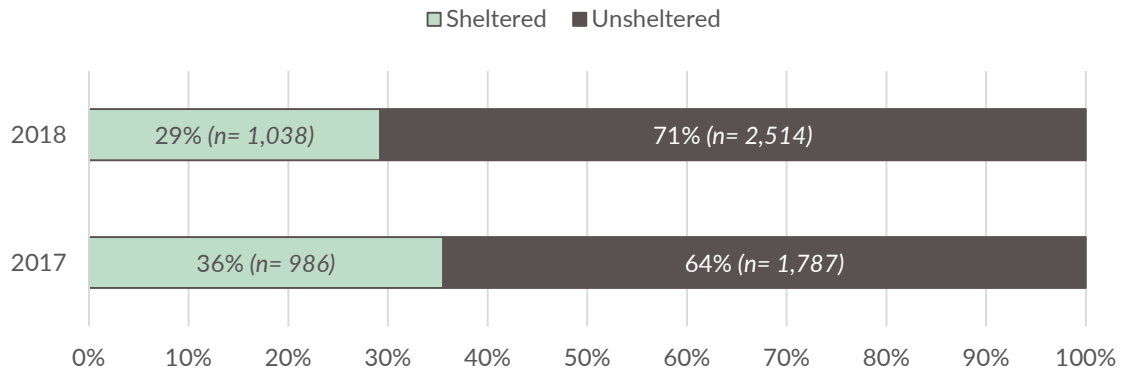


FIGURE 44. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	NUMBER OF CHRONIC PERSONS		% OF CHRONIC TOTAL		NUMBER OF NON-CHRONIC PERSONS		% OF NON-CHRONIC TOTAL		TOTAL	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Persons in family households	290	115	10%	3%	2,543	2,509	29%	29%	2,833	2,624
Persons in households without children	2,481	3,434	89%	97%	6,104	5,878	69%	69%	8,585	9,312
Persons in households with only children	2	3	<1%	<1%	223	173	3%	2%	225	176
TOTAL	2,773	3,552	100%	100%	8,870	8,560	100%	100%	11,643	12,112

Note: Family households are defined by 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 6 for complete definitions of all household types. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS SURVEY FINDINGS

Half (50%) of Count Us In Survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness were over 40 years old. Twenty-two percent (22%) were between 41 and 50 years old, 20% were between 51 and 60 years old, and 7% were 61 years old or older.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness identified as male. Twenty-two percent (22%) identified as female, 1% identified as transgender, and 6% identified with another gender.

Over half (56%) of survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness identified as White. Sixteen percent (16%) identified as Black or African American, 4% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 2% identified as Asian, and 2% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native. Twenty percent (20%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, 17% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

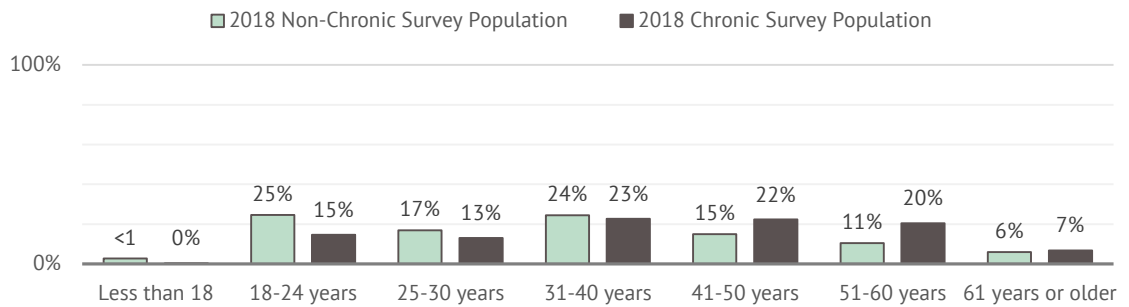
Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness most frequently reported living with psychiatric or emotional conditions (63%), drug or alcohol abuse (63%), or post-traumatic stress disorder (57%). Over half (52%) of survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness indicated that behavioral health or medical issues were the primary cause of their homelessness, compared to 32% of all other survey respondents.

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. However, overall, survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness reported a lower rate of accessing community-based services compared to all other survey respondents (76% compared to 85%). Over three-quarters (77%) 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. These survey respondents also reported a higher rate of not following through or returning for services when compared to survey respondents not experiencing chronic homelessness (20% compared to 6%).

Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness reported higher rates of having been in jail or juvenile detention, compared to all other survey respondents (62% compared to 47%).

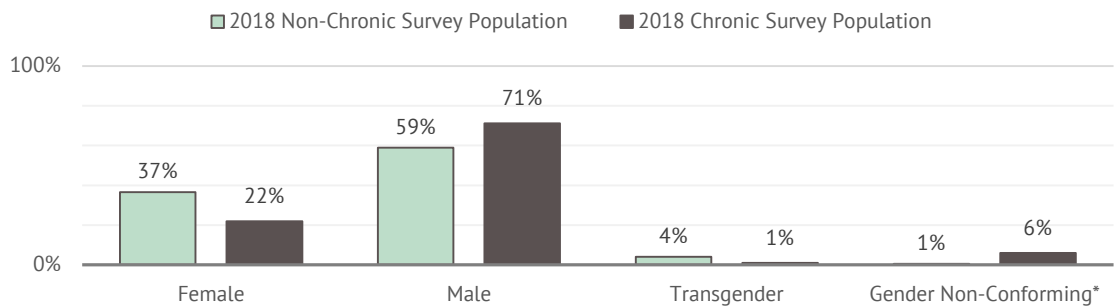
Similar to all other survey respondents, eighteen percent (18%) of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness reported a history of foster care.

FIGURE 45. AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



2018 Non-Chronic Survey Population n=733; Chronic Survey Population n=323

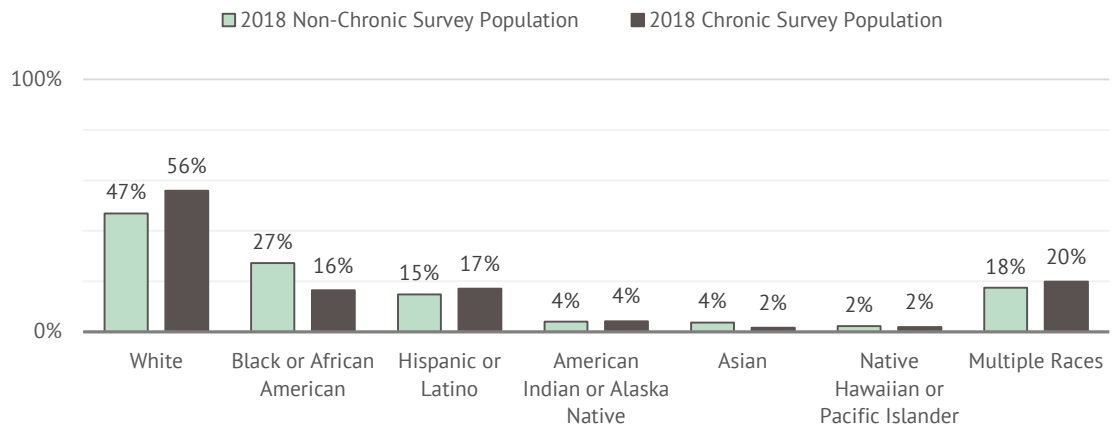
FIGURE 46. GENDER OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



2018 Non-Chronic Survey Population n= 727; Chronic Survey Population n= 319

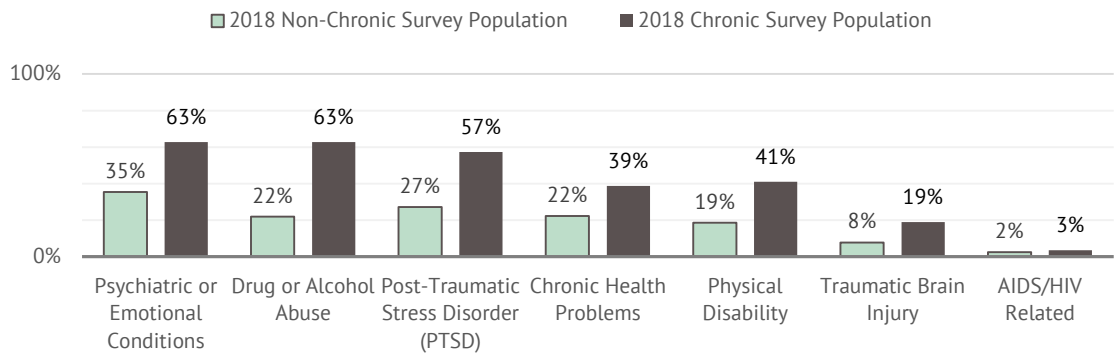
Note: In 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) updated reporting categories for gender. In 2017, the reporting categories for gender included Female, Male, Transgender, and Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender. In 2018, the categories included Female, Male, Transgender, 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 47. RACE AND ETHNICITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



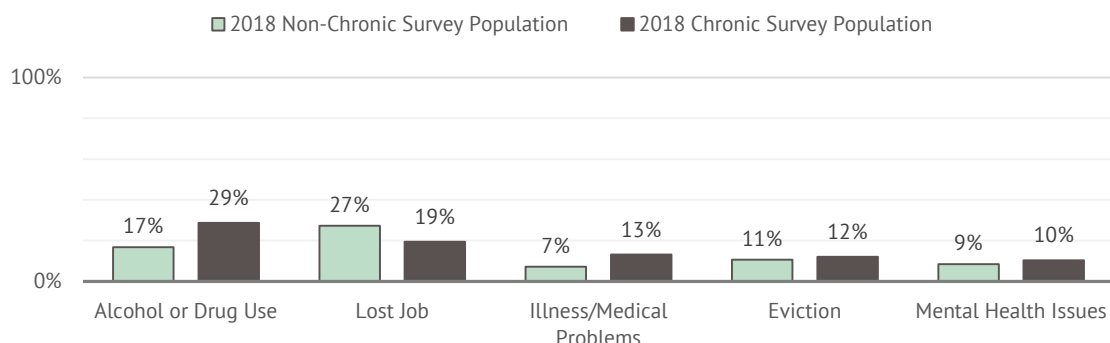
2018 Non-Chronic Survey Population n= 681-701; Chronic Survey Population n= 299-311
 Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 48. HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



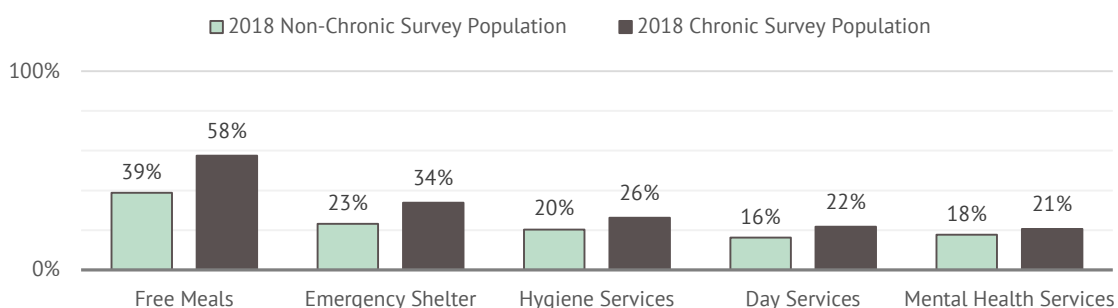
2018 Non-Chronic Survey Population n= 714-717; Chronic Survey Population n= 322-323
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 49. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



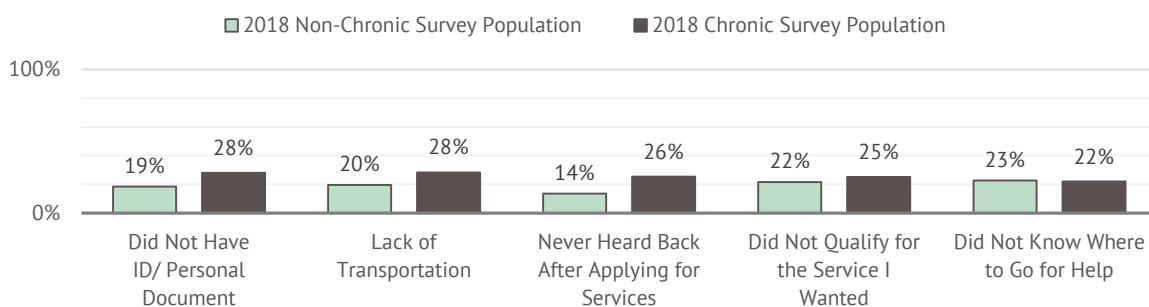
2018 Non-Chronic Survey Population n= 600; Chronic Survey Population n= 289

FIGURE 50. SERVICES ACCESSED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



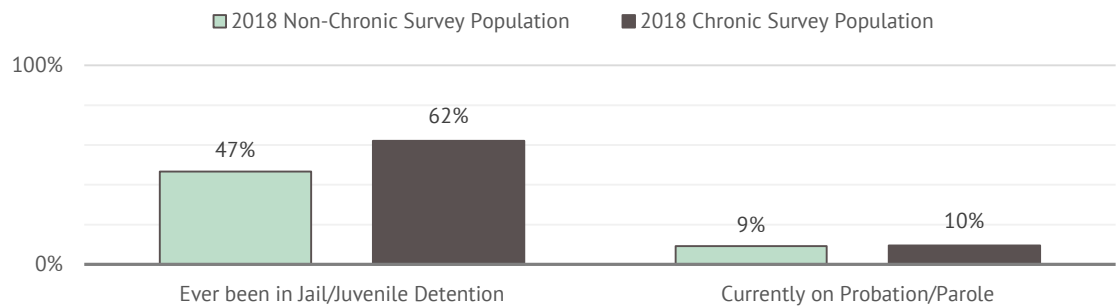
2018 Non-Chronic Survey Population n= 583; Chronic Survey Population n= 275

FIGURE 51. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



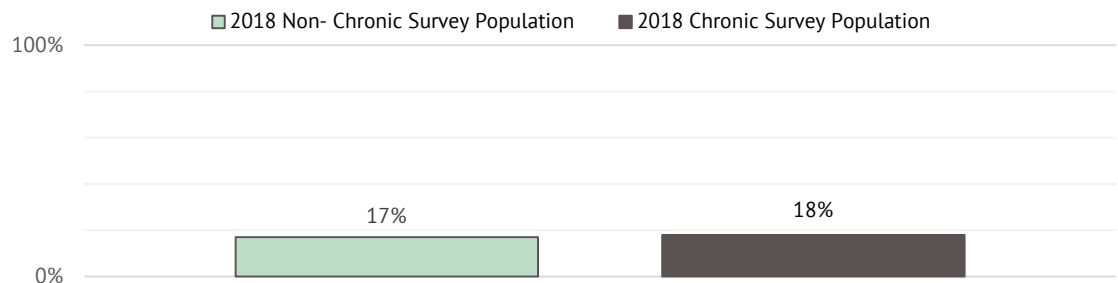
2018 Non-Chronic Survey Population n= 529; Chronic Survey Population n= 271

FIGURE 52. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



2018 Non-Chronic Survey Population Ever been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n= 709; Chronic Survey Population Ever been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n= 317; Non-Chronic Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n= 709, Chronic Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n= 317

FIGURE 53. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-CHRONIC AND CHRONIC COMPARISON



2018 Non-Chronic Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 704; Chronic Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 314

Count Us In Subpopulation Findings: Veterans

For the purposes of the Point-in-Time Count, HUD defines veterans as 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 to active duty.

In 2018, Count Us In estimated there were 921 veterans experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County. These individuals represented 8% of the total count population. Compared to 2017, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness decreased by 31% (408 persons).

There were 529 veterans (57% of veterans experiencing homelessness) who were unsheltered on the night of the count and 392 veterans (43%) who were sheltered.

An estimated 87% of veterans experiencing homelessness identified as male, 10% identified as female (up from 4% in 2017), 1% identified as transgender, and 2% identified with another gender.

An estimated 54% of veterans experiencing homelessness identified as White. Twenty-four percent (24%) identified as Black or African American, 4% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 2% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 1% identified as Asian. Sixteen percent (16%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, 14% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

There were 324 veterans (35% of veterans experiencing homelessness) who were experiencing chronic homelessness. Compared to 2017, this represents a decrease of 23% (96 persons) in the number of veterans experiencing chronic homelessness.

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of veterans experiencing homelessness were in households without children, while 23 veterans were members of family households.

FIGURE 54. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

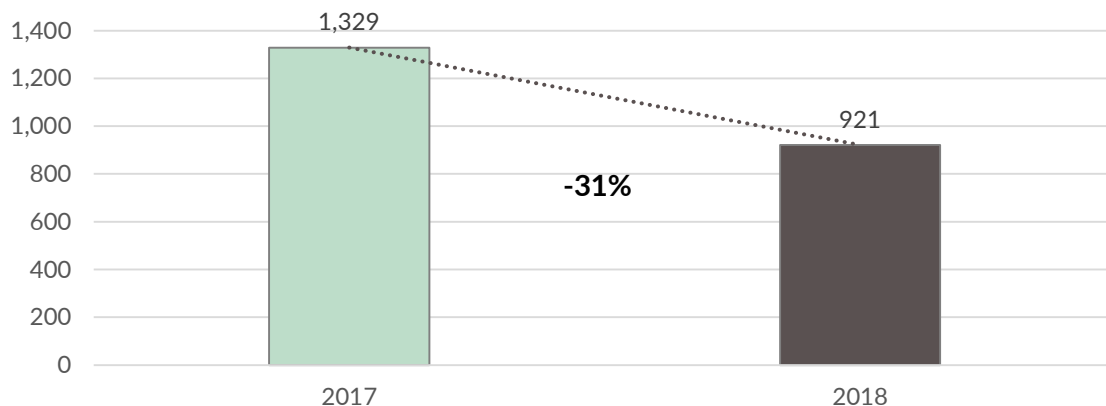


FIGURE 55. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

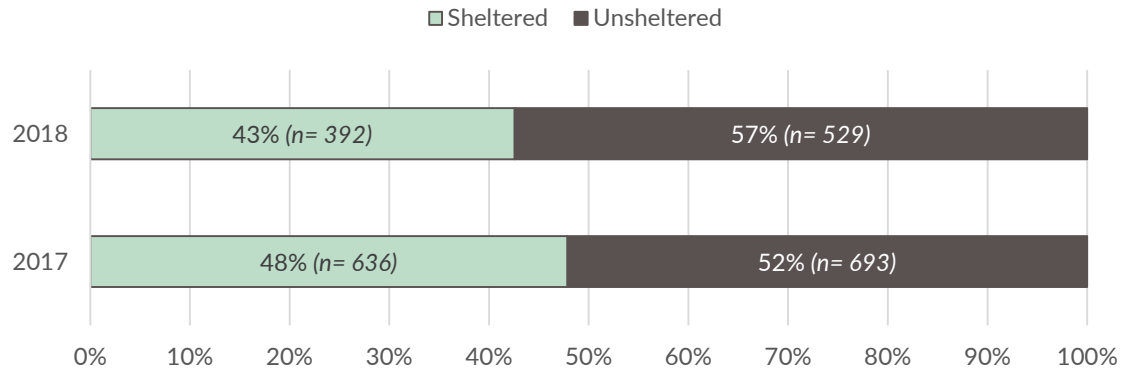
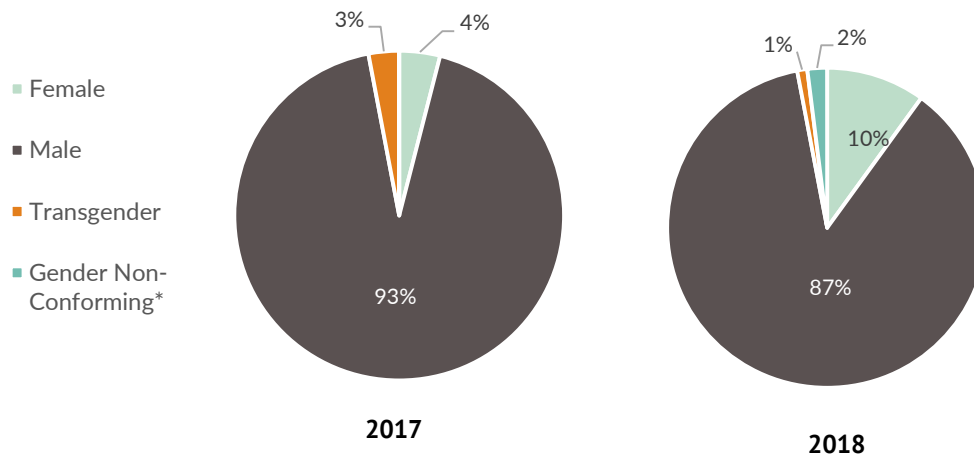


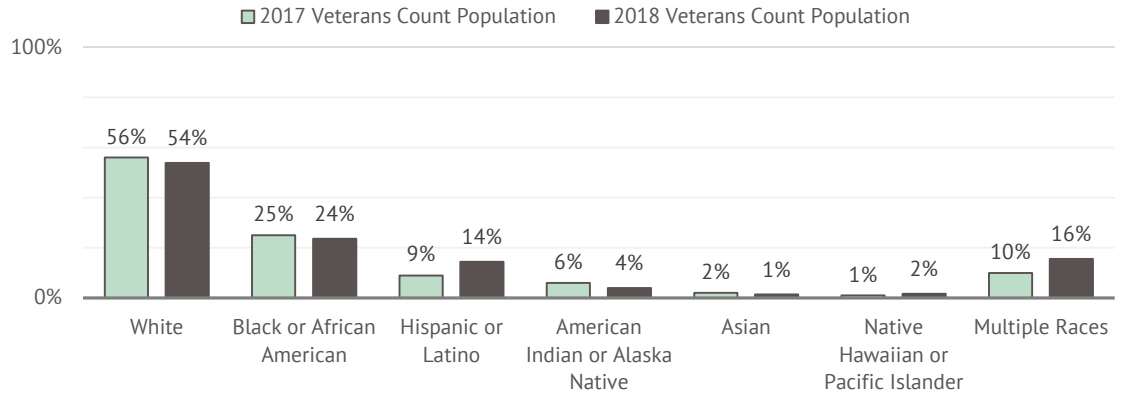
FIGURE 56. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER



2017 n= 1,329; 2018 n= 921

Note: In 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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 57. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



2017 Veterans Count Population n= 1,329; 2018 Veterans Count Population n= 921

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 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

Over half (55%) of veterans responding to the Count Us In Survey were over 40 years old. Twenty-seven percent (27%) were between 31 and 40 years old and 13% were between 25 and 30 years old.

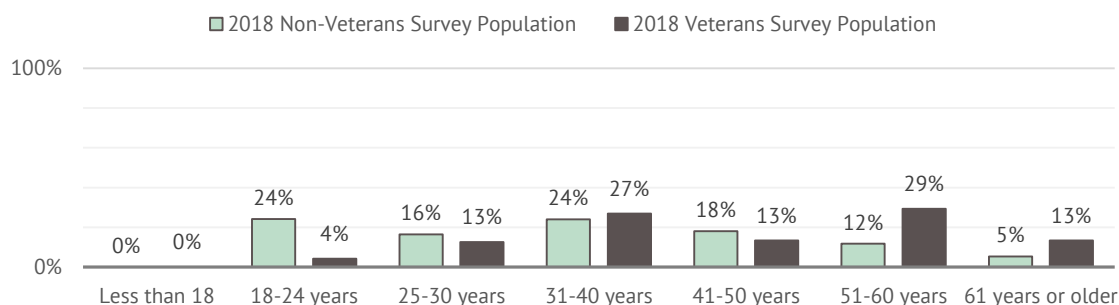
When compared to other Count Us In Survey respondents, veterans reported notably higher rates of living with post-traumatic stress disorder and physical disabilities, and similar rates of substance abuse. Two-thirds (66%) of veterans indicated that they were living with a health condition that prevented them from holding a job, living in stable housing, or taking care of themselves, compared to approximately half (51%) of non-veterans.

Job loss was the most frequently cited cause of homelessness among veterans (31%), followed by alcohol or drug use (16%) and eviction (15%).

Overall, survey respondents identifying as veterans reported a higher rate of accessing services than non-veterans (88% compared to 81%). Free meals, day shelter services, and temporary housing were among the top services accessed by veterans. Similar to non-veterans, the top issues encountered by veterans in seeking services included not qualifying for the service they wanted, not having an ID or personal documentation, and lack of transportation. However, veterans indicated a lower rate of experiencing issues while seeking services in the community compared to non-veterans (65% compared to 69%). Veterans also reported a notably lower rate of never hearing back after applying for services compared to non-veterans (9% compared to 19%).

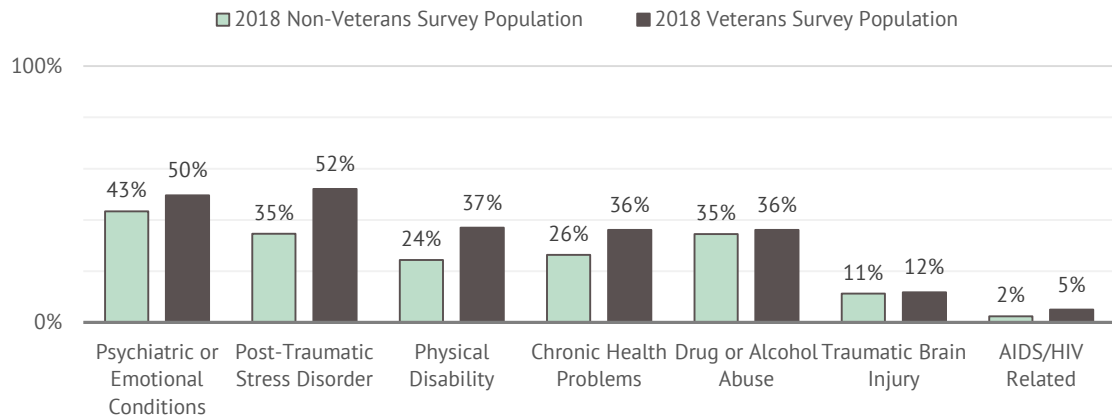
Veterans responding to the Count Us In Survey reported higher rates of ever being in jail or juvenile detention than non-veterans (60% compared to 51%), and similar rates of currently being on probation or parole (10% compared to 9%).

FIGURE 58. AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VETERANS AND VETERANS COMPARISON



2018 Non-Veterans Survey Population n= 916; Veterans Survey Population n= 119

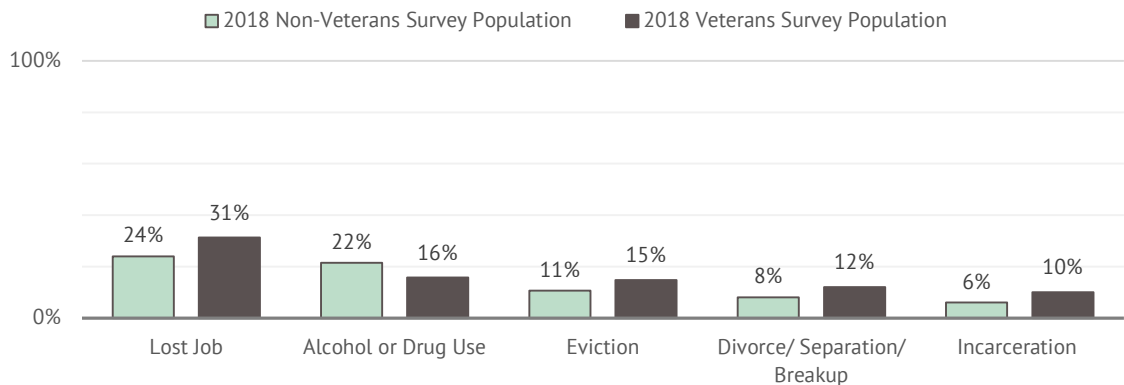
FIGURE 59. HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VETERANS AND VETERANS COMPARISON



2018 Non-Veterans Survey Population with Health Condition n= 897-901; Veterans Survey Population with Health Condition n= 119

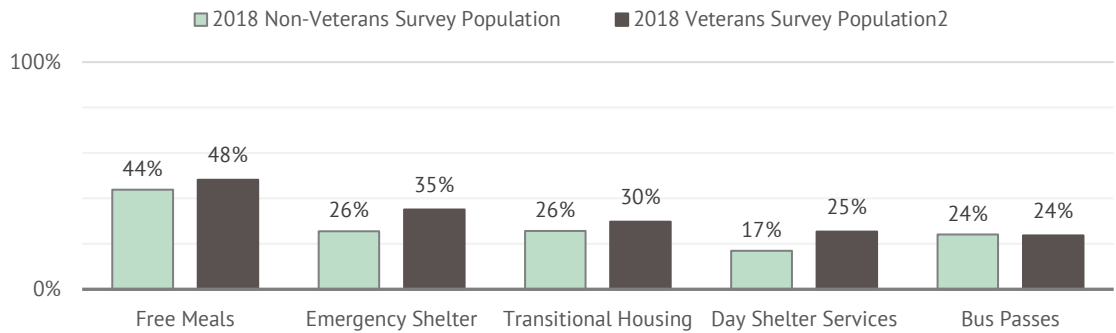
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

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



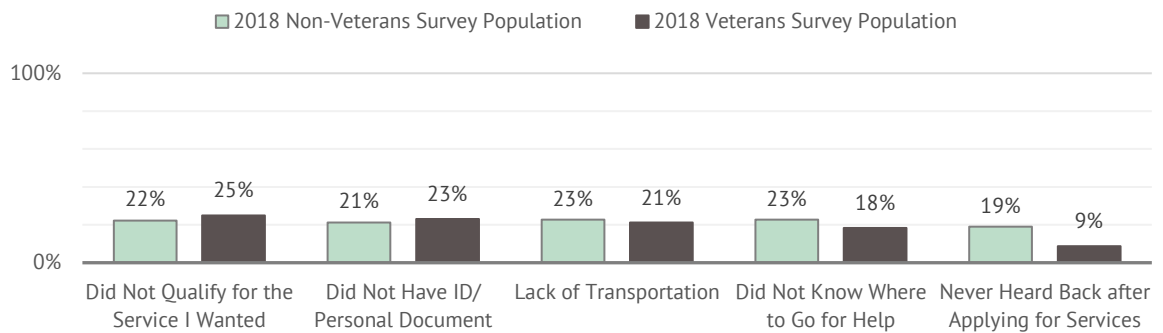
2018 Non-Veterans Survey Population n= 768; Veterans Survey Population n= 115

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



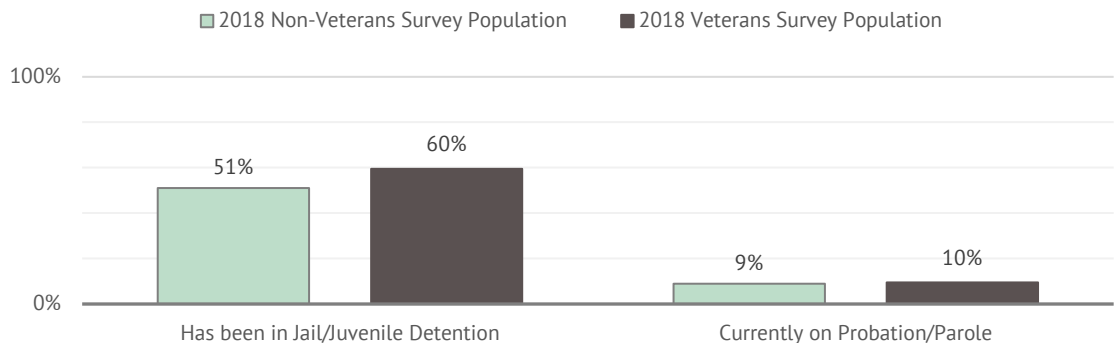
2018 Non-Veterans Survey Population n= 738; Veterans Survey Population n= 114

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



2018 Non-Veterans Survey Population n= 690; Veterans Survey Population n= 104;

FIGURE 63. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VETERANS AND VETERANS COMPARISON



2018 Non-Veterans Survey Population Has been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n= 891, Veterans Survey Population Has been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n= 116; Non-Veterans Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n= 891, Veterans Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n= 116

Count Us In Subpopulation Findings: Families with Children

HUD defines households with children as households comprised of at least one adult (including young adults between 18 and 24 years old) and one child under the age of 18. For the purposes of this report, these households are presented as families with children.

In 2018, Count Us In identified 2,624 persons in 782 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. Compared to 2017, the number of persons experiencing homelessness in families with children decreased by 7% (209 persons).

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of persons in families with children identified during Count Us In were sheltered and 3% were unsheltered.⁶

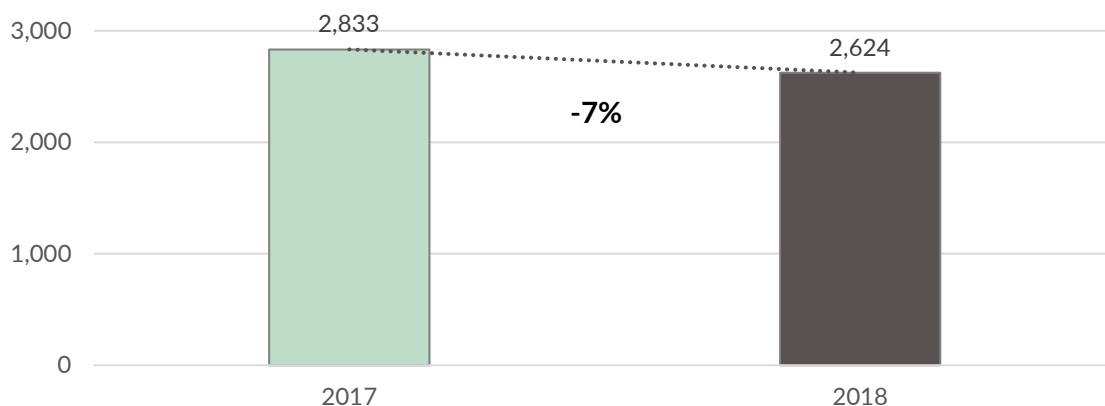
Of the 782 families with children experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, 96 were households headed by a young parent under the age of 25. There were 130 children living in these young families.

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 48% of persons in families with children identified as Black or African American, 27% identified as White, 5% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 3% identified as Asian, and 2% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native. Fifteen percent (15%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, 17% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

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

FIGURE 64. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND



⁶ 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 1* (p. 101).

FIGURE 65. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

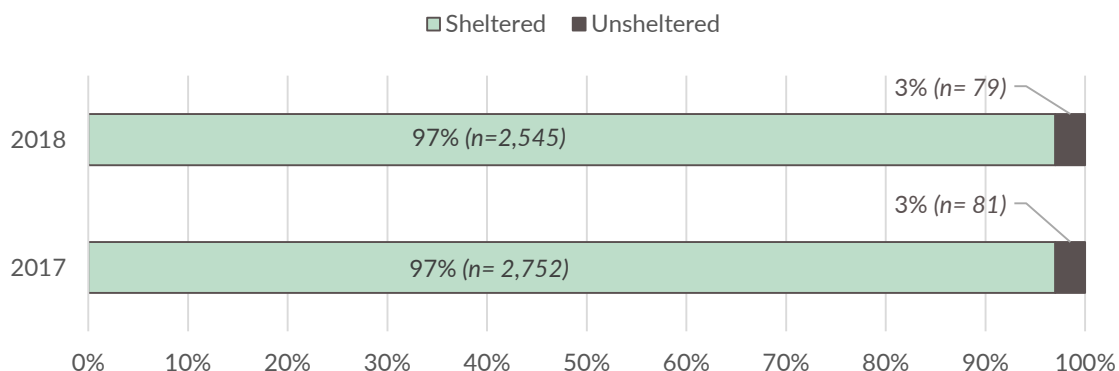


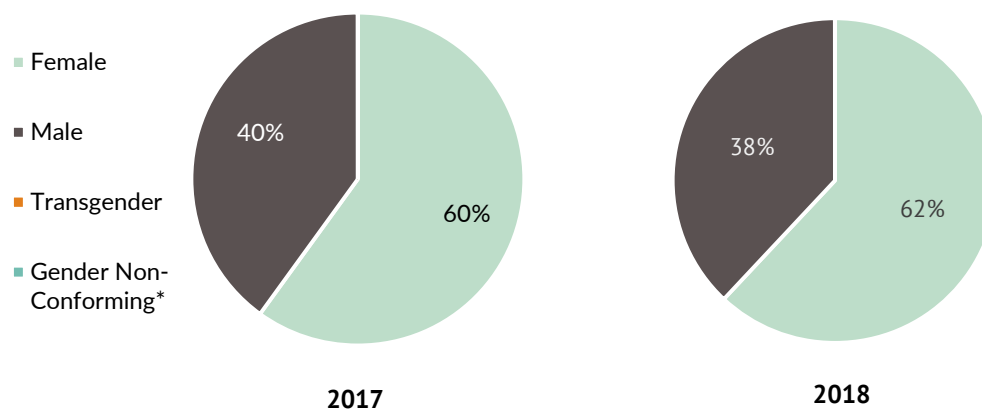
FIGURE 66. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY AGE OF PARENT

2018						
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18	NUMBER OF PARENTS UNDER AGE 25	NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS AGE 18-24	NUMBER OF 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						
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18	NUMBER OF PARENTS UNDER AGE 25	NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS AGE 18-24	NUMBER OF 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 6 for complete definitions of all household types.

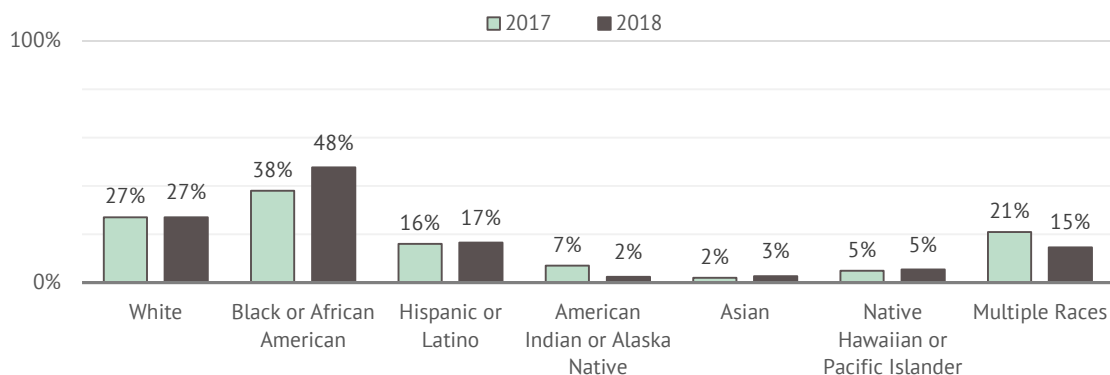
FIGURE 67. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER



2017 n= 2,833; 2018 n= 2,624

Note: In 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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 68. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



2017 n= 2,833; 2018 n= 2,624

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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 four times the rate of all other survey respondents (21% compared to 5%). Twenty-one percent (21%) of families cited the loss of a job as the primary cause of their homelessness.

Immediately prior to experiencing homelessness, 49% of families with children reported living in a home owned or rented by either themselves or their partner. Twenty-six percent (26%) reported living in a home owned or rented by relatives or friends.

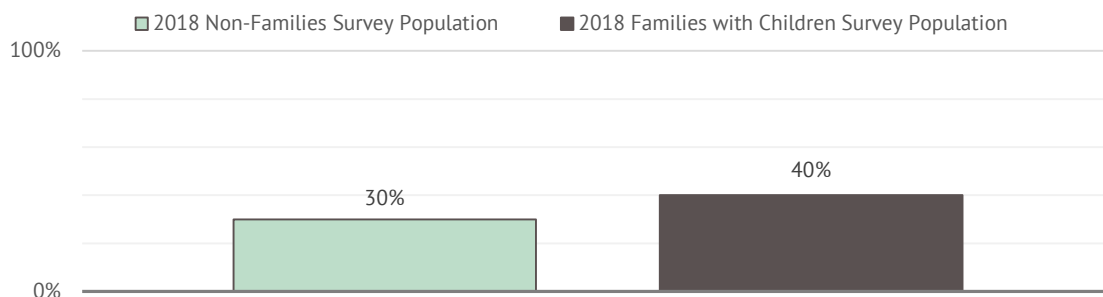
Nearly all survey respondents living in families with children (97%) reported currently accessing services, most frequently citing transitional housing, bus passes, health services, mental health services, and job/employment services. Forty-two percent (42%) of families with children reported not experiencing 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. Notably, families with children cited a language barrier at six times the rate as survey respondents with no children (12% compared to 2%). Families with children also reported a lower rate of never hearing back after applying for services compared to survey respondents with no children (10% compared to 19%).

Compared to all other survey respondents, families with children reported a slightly higher rate of chronic health problems and a markedly lower rate of drug or alcohol abuse. Thirty-six percent (36%) of families with children indicated that they were living with a health condition that prevented them from holding a job, living in stable housing, or taking care of themselves, compared to over half (55%) of survey respondents without children.

Families with children also reported lower rates of having ever been in foster care when compared to all other survey respondents (8% compared to 18%).

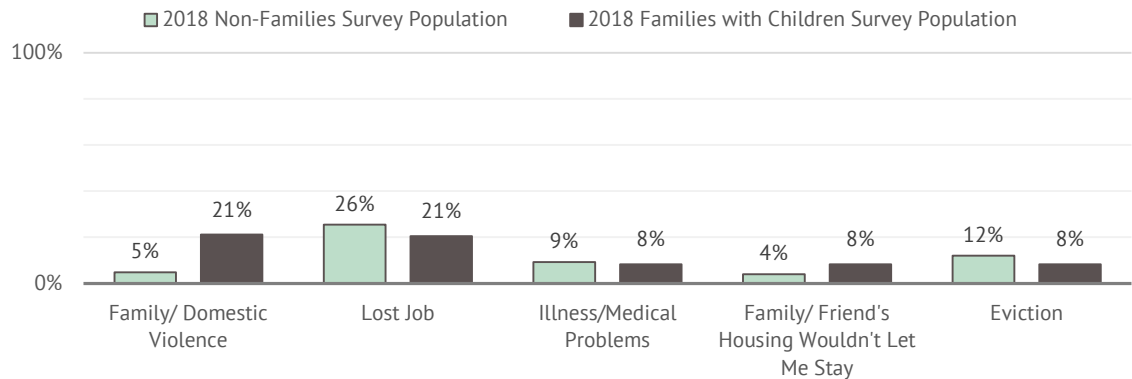
Note: The majority of survey respondents representing families with children were residing in transitional housing at the time of the survey, due to challenges in identifying unsheltered families. Please see Appendix 1 (p. 101) for additional information.

FIGURE 69. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



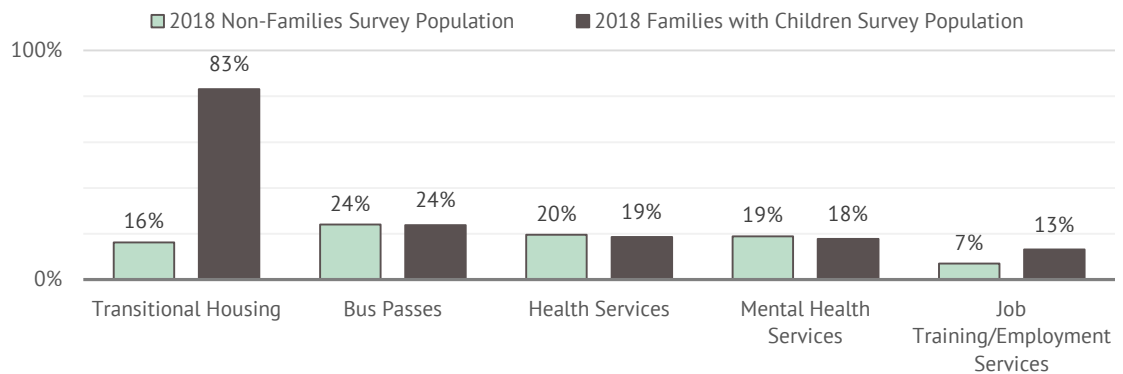
2018 Non-Families Survey Population n= 922; Families with Children Survey Population n= 134

FIGURE 70. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



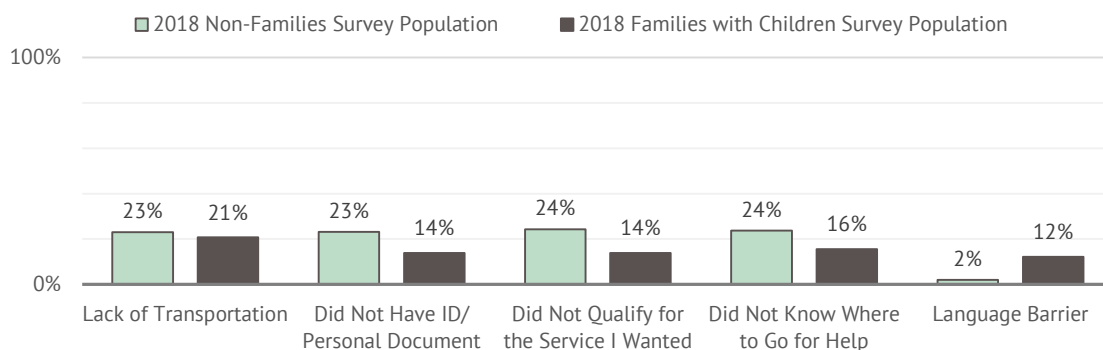
2018 Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 757; Families with Children Survey Population n= 132

FIGURE 71. SERVICES ACCESSED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



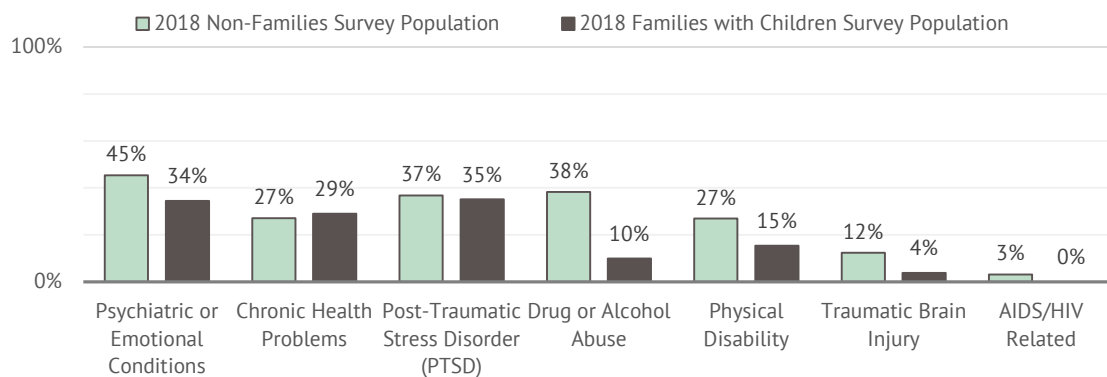
2018 Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 728; Families with Children Survey Population n= 130

FIGURE 72. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



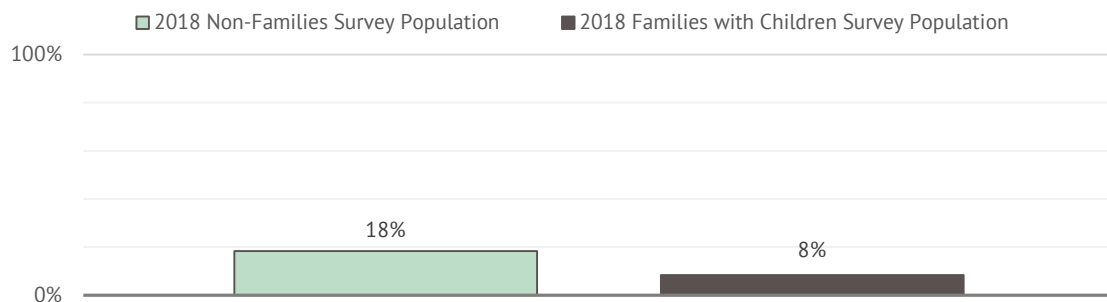
2018 Non-Families Survey Population n= 684; Families with Children Survey Population n= 116

FIGURE 73. HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



2018 Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 905-909; Families with Children Survey Population n= 131
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 74. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



2018 Non-Families with Children Survey Population n= 886; Families with Children Survey Population n= 132;

Count Us In Subpopulation Findings: Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults

For the purposes of the Point-in-Time Count, unaccompanied youth and young adults are defined as 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 are not parents presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren). Unaccompanied youth and young adults include single youth, young couples, and groups of young people presenting together as a household.

Of individuals counted during Count Us In, an estimated 1,518 (13% of the total count population) were unaccompanied youth and young adults. This includes 172 children under the age of 18 and 1,346 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 2017, the number of unaccompanied youth and young adults increased by 1% (20 persons). The number of unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 decreased by 22% (49 persons).

Three-quarters (75%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults were unsheltered and 25% 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-two percent (32%) identified as female, 2% identified as transgender, and 6% identified with another gender.

An estimated 41% of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness identified as White. Twenty-three percent (23%) identified as Black or African American, 6% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% identified as Asian, and 1% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Twenty-six percent (26%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, 16% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

Nineteen percent (19%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults were experiencing chronic homelessness.

FIGURE 75. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

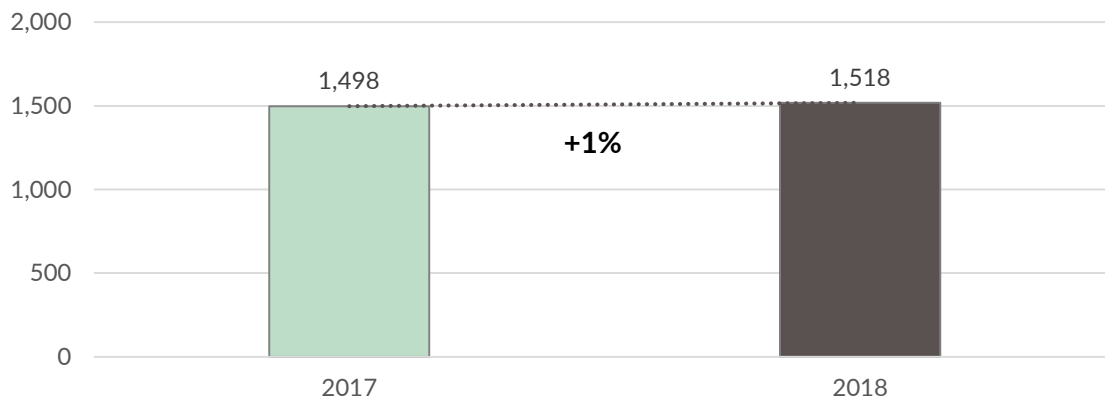


FIGURE 76. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

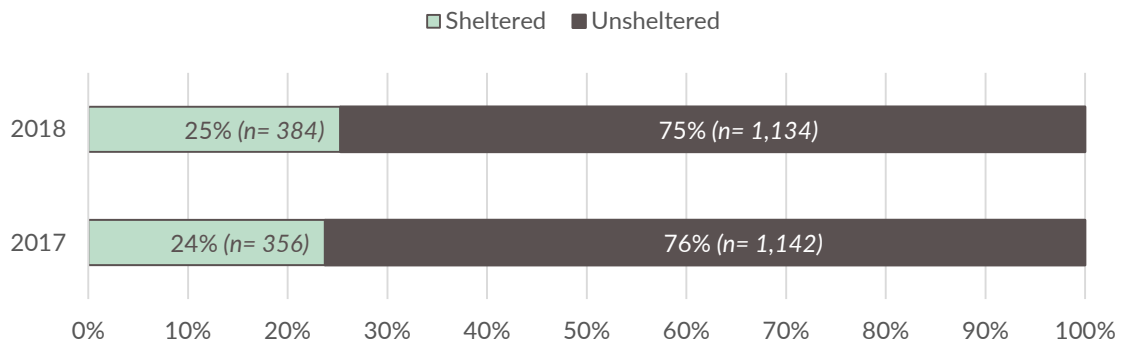


FIGURE 77. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY AGE

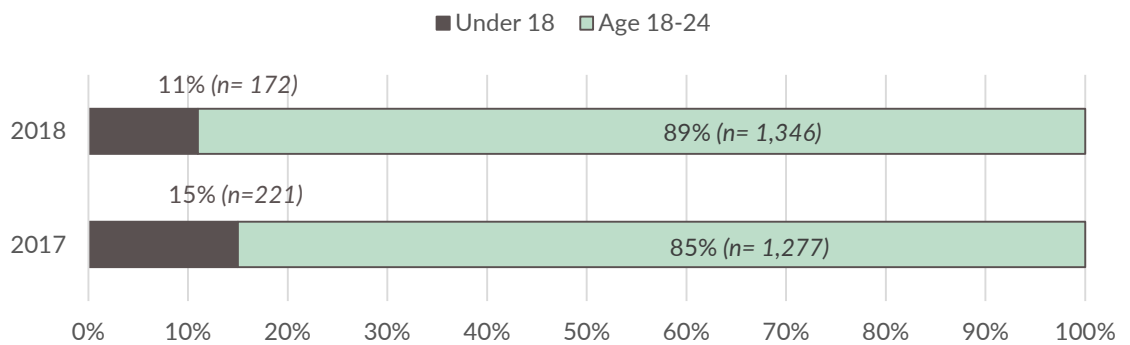
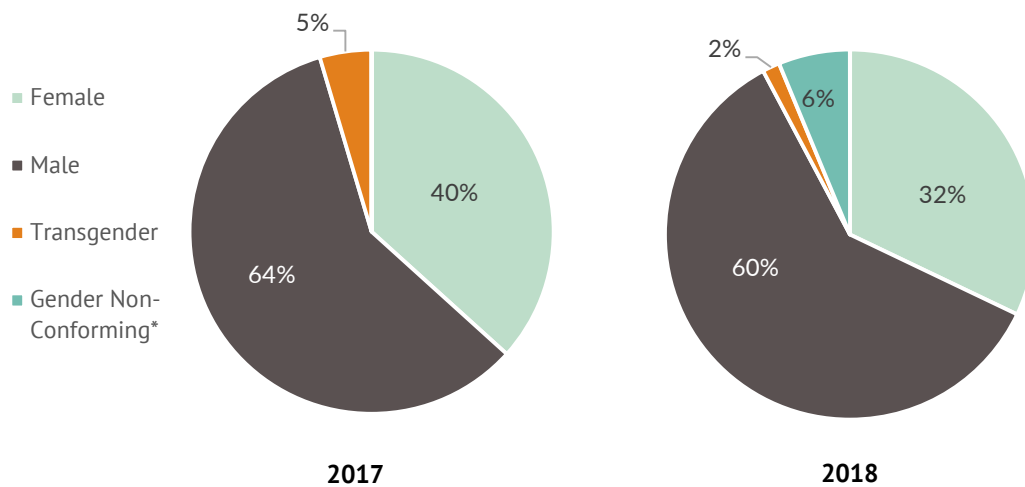


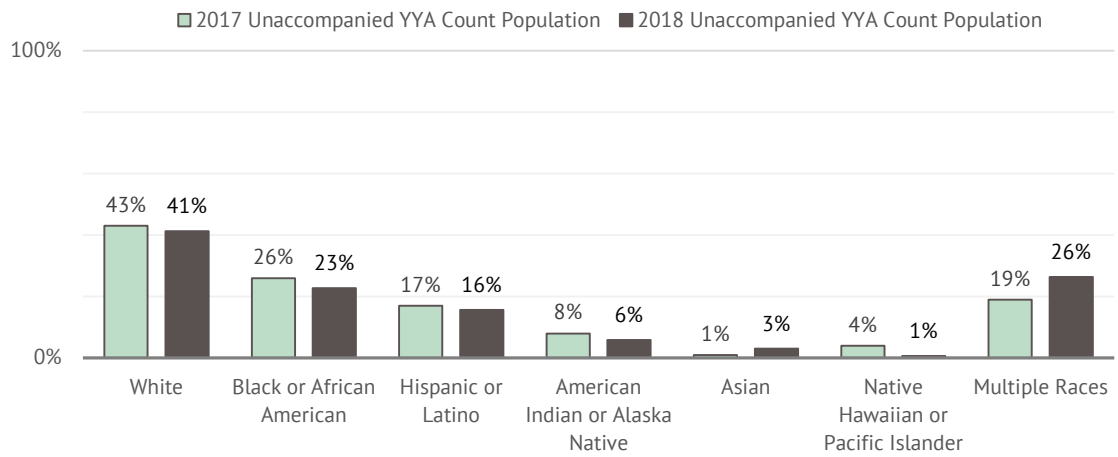
FIGURE 78. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER



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

Note: In 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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 79. UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



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

Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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 approximately twice the rate as survey respondents age 25 and older (33% compared to 16%). Forty-five percent (45%) of young people identifying as LGBTQ+ identified as bisexual, 22% identified as lesbian or gay, 14% identified as pansexual, 11% identified as queer, and 8% identified as questioning.

Sixty-three percent (63%) of young people identified as male. Twenty-nine percent (29%) identified as female, 7% identified as transgender, and 1% identified with another gender (e.g., gender-queer, gender non-conforming, or non-binary).

Eight percent (8%) 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.

One-third (33%) 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 job loss, alcohol or drug use, aging out of foster care, an argument with a family member or friend who asked them to leave, and mental health issues.

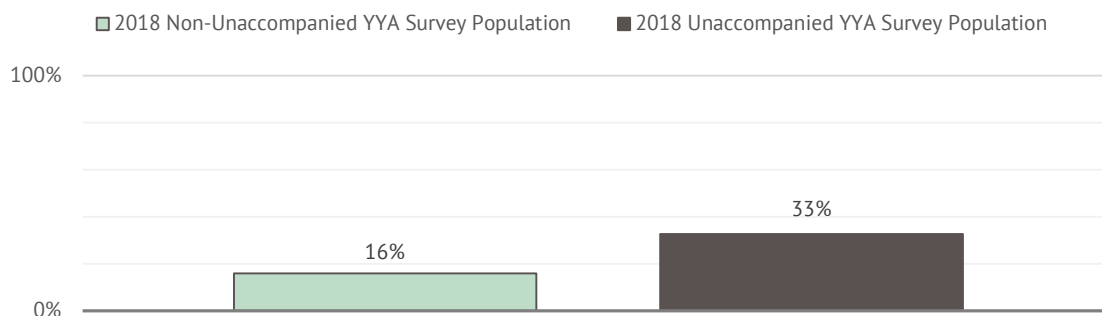
Unaccompanied young people reported accessing services at a slightly higher rate when compared to all other survey respondents (89% compared to 82%). Free meals, temporary housing, bus passes, and day shelter services were among the top services accessed. Forty percent (40%) of unaccompanied young people 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, not qualifying for the service(s) they wanted, and not having their ID or personal documents.

When compared to survey respondents age 25 and older, unaccompanied young people reporting a health condition indicated slightly higher rates of psychiatric or emotional conditions, post-traumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injury, but lower rates of substance abuse, chronic health problems, and physical disability. Forty-three percent (43%) of unaccompanied young people indicated that their health condition(s) prevented them from holding a job, living in stable housing, or taking care of themselves, compared to 55% of survey respondents age 25 and older.

Compared to all other survey respondents, young people indicated a higher rate of being on probation or parole (14% compared to 8%).

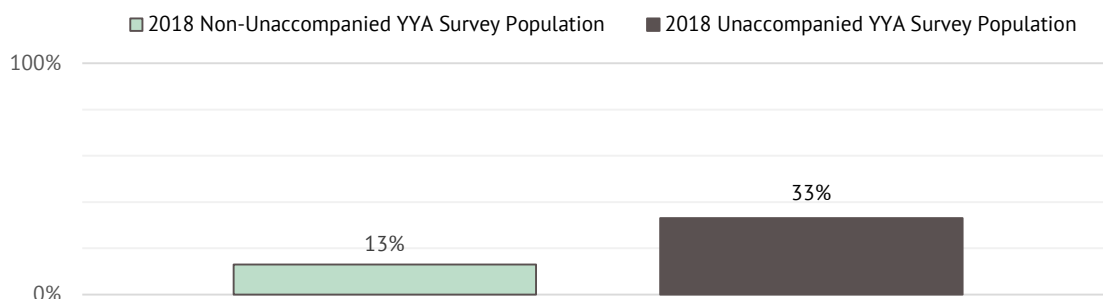
Note: Of a total 642 surveys administered during the youth and young adult count, 158 valid surveys were left for analysis. Unaccompanied youth and young adults surveyed through the general Count Us In Survey effort in the weeks following the general street count were not included in the count. Their survey responses, however, were included in the data presented in this section. For more information on the methodology of the youth and young adult count, please see Appendix 1 (p. 93).

FIGURE 80. SURVEY RESPONDENTS IDENTIFYING AS LGBTQ+, NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



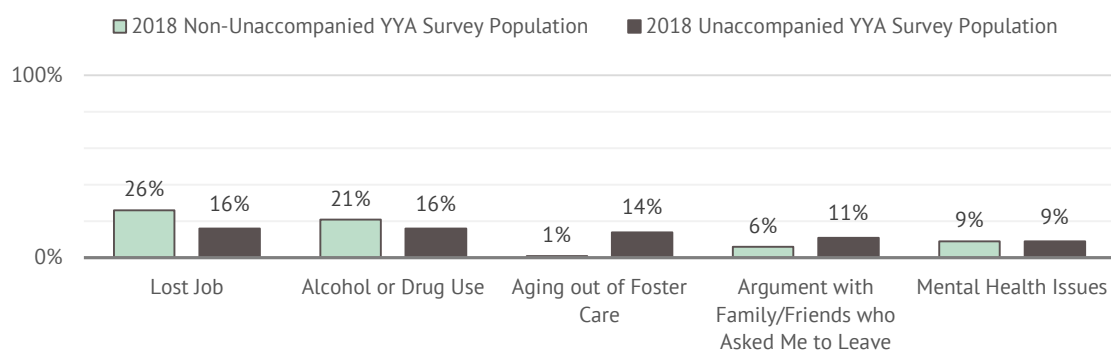
2018 Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 832; Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 224;

FIGURE 81. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



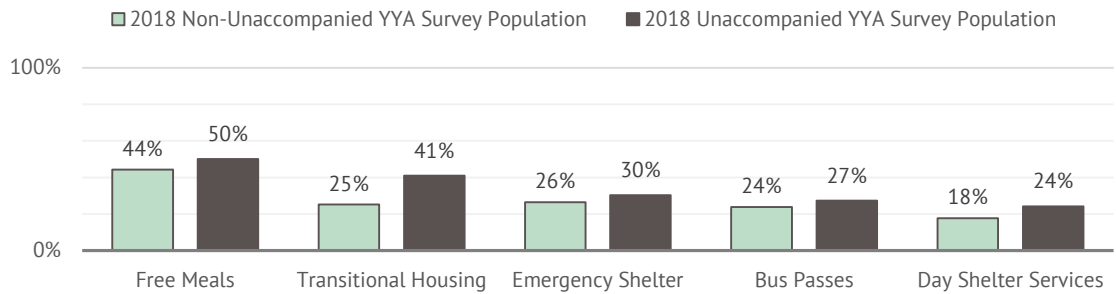
2018 Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 799; Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 219

FIGURE 82. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



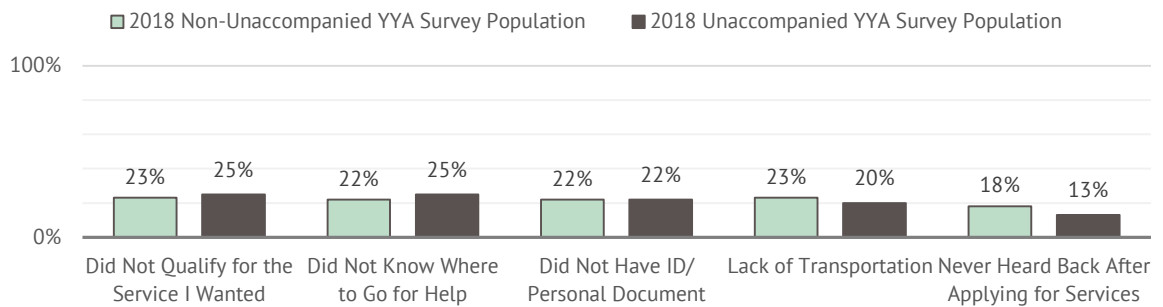
2018 Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 825; Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 64

FIGURE 83. SERVICES ACCESSED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



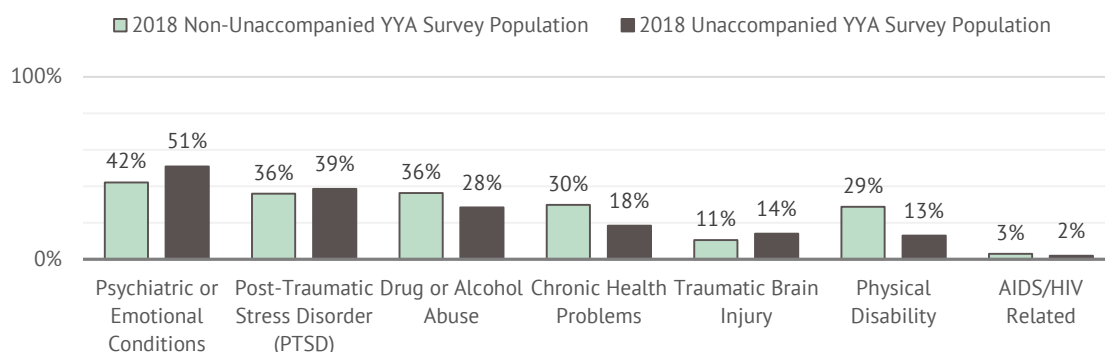
2018 Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 792; Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 66

FIGURE 84. 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



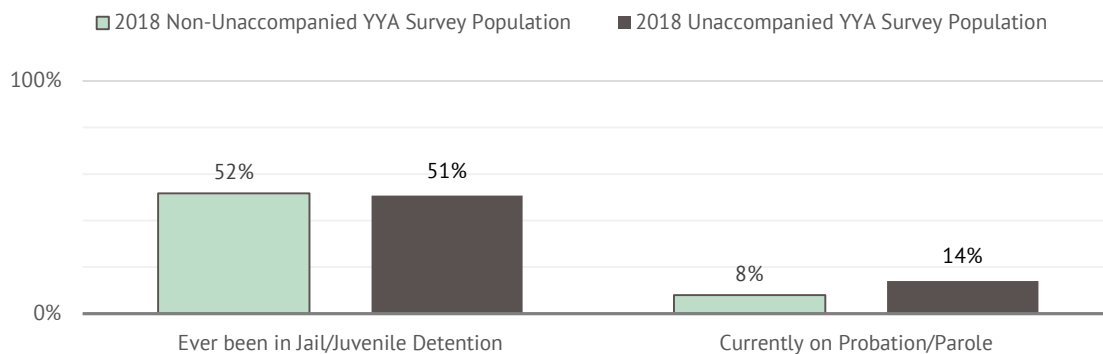
2018 Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 740; Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 60

FIGURE 85. HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



2018 Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 822; Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population n= 214-218
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 86. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (YYA) AND UNACCOMPANIED YYA COMPARISON



2018 Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Ever been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n= 811, Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Ever been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n= 215; Non-Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n= 811; Unaccompanied YYA Survey Population Currently on Parole/Probation n= 215

Count Us In Subpopulation Findings: 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 2018, Count Us In estimated 3,372 individuals living in vehicles. These individuals comprised 28% of the total count population and 53% of the unsheltered population. Compared to 2017, the number of individuals residing in vehicles increased by 46% (1,058 persons), with the most marked increase observed among individuals residing in RVs.

Over half (51%) of individuals living in a vehicle on the night of the count were sleeping in an RV, while 34% were sleeping in a car and 14% were sleeping in a van.

FIGURE 87. INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN VEHICLES, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION WITH TREND

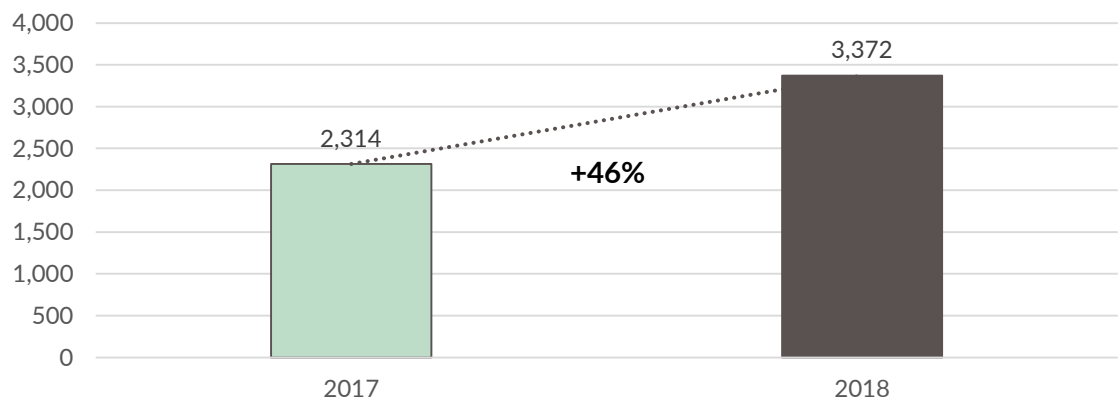
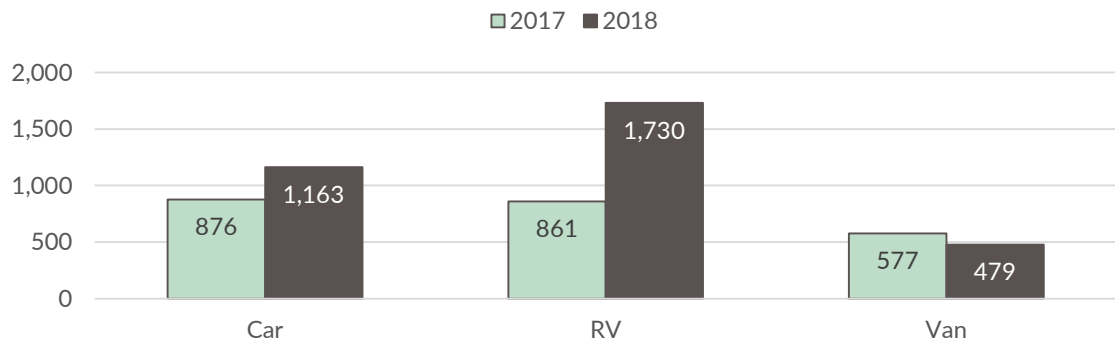


FIGURE 88. INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN VEHICLES, TOTAL COUNT POPULATION BY VEHICLE TYPE



VEHICLE RESIDENT SURVEY FINDINGS

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of Count Us In Survey respondents living in vehicles were 40 years old or younger. One-third (33%) were between 31 and 40 years old, 26% were between 25 and 30 years old, and 9% were young adults between 18 and 24 years old.

Sixty-four percent (64%) of vehicle resident survey respondents identified as male. Thirty-two percent (32%) identified as female, 1% identified as transgender, and 3% identified with another gender.

The majority of survey respondents living in vehicles (61%) identified as White. Twenty-percent (20%) identified as Black or African American (20%), 2% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, and 1% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Eighteen percent (18%) identified with multiple races. Additionally, 14% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

Behavioral health issues were among the most prevalent health conditions reported by vehicle residents. Similar to all other survey respondents, half (50%) of survey respondents living in vehicles indicated that their health condition(s) prevented them from holding a job, living in stable housing, or taking care of themselves.

Thirty-three percent (33%) of vehicle resident survey respondents were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Compared to all other survey respondents, vehicle residents reported notably higher rates of attributing their homelessness to the loss of a job, eviction, or the dissolution of a relationship.

Thirteen percent (13%) of vehicle residents reported a history of foster care, compared to 18% 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 (71% compared to 85%). Sixty percent (60%) of vehicle resident survey respondents reported issues in trying to access services in the community, including 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 in the community, survey respondents living in vehicles indicated accessing free meals, day shelter services, and Safe Parking sites at higher rates than all other survey respondents.

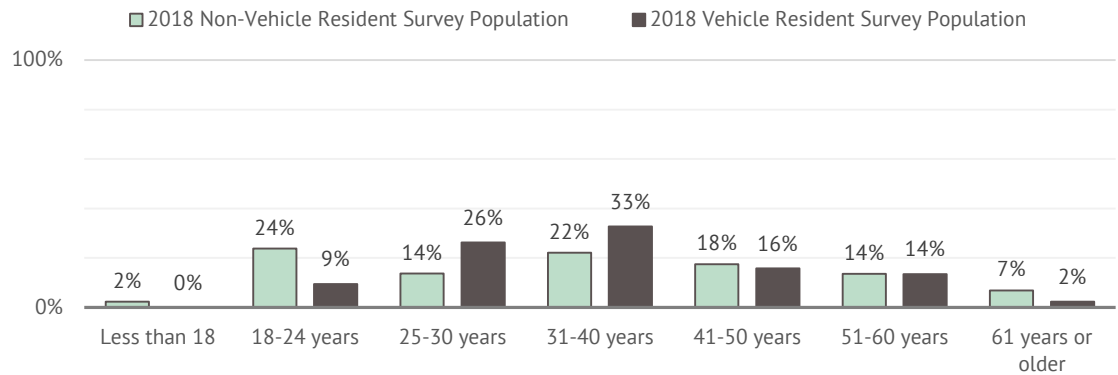
Vehicle residents indicated slightly lower rates of involvement in the criminal justice system than all other survey respondents.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of vehicle residents reported that law enforcement had asked them to move from their sleeping location, compared to 49% of all other survey respondents.

Ninety-three percent (93%) of vehicle residents responded that they would move into safe, affordable housing if it were available.

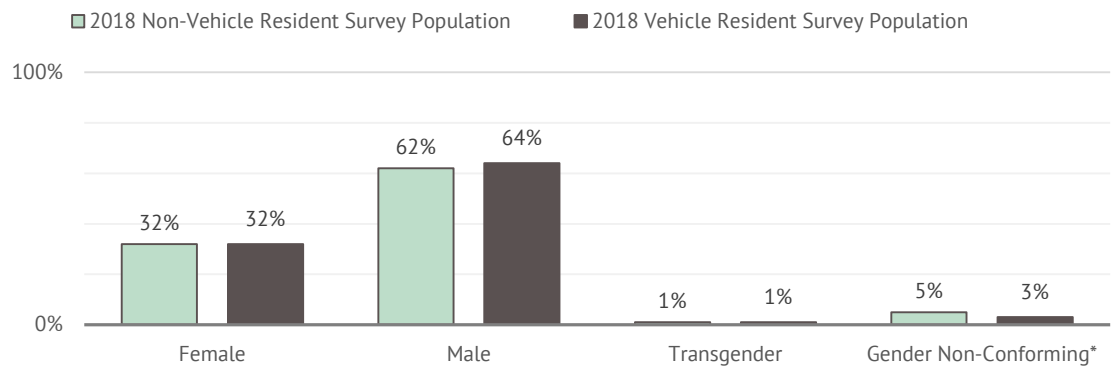
Note: Further analyses, such as by vehicle type, are not presented due to increased margins of error within a small sample population.

FIGURE 89. AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



2018 Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 885; Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 171

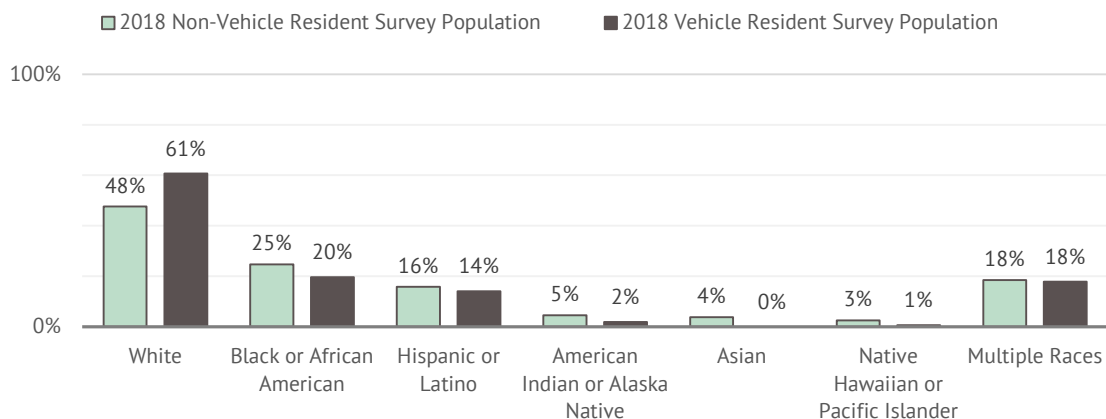
FIGURE 90. GENDER OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



2018 Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 875; Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 171

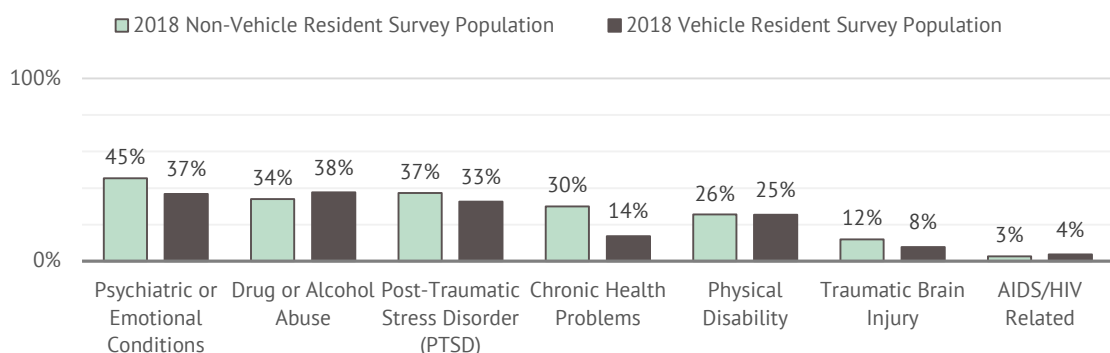
Note: In 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) updated reporting categories for gender. In 2017, the reporting categories for gender included Female, Male, Transgender, and Don't Identify as Male, Female, or Transgender. In 2018, the categories included Female, Male, Transgender, 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 91. RACE AND ETHNICITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



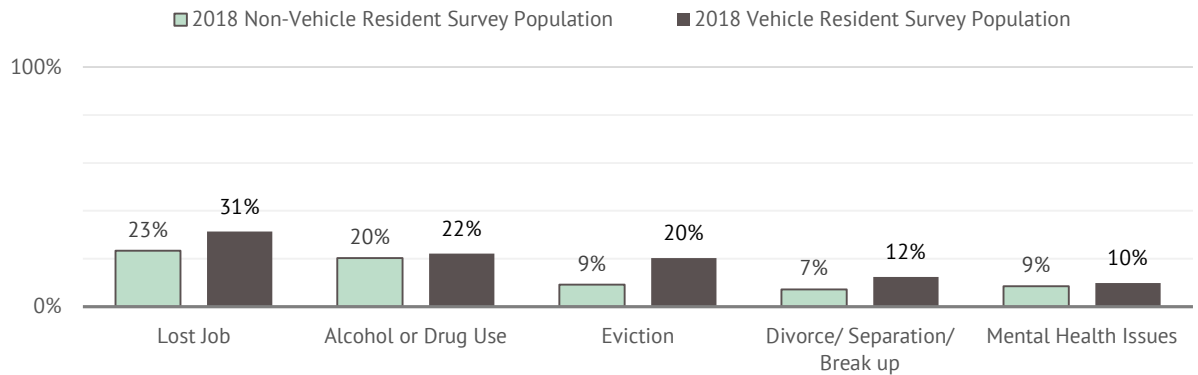
2018 Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 823-849; Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 157-163
 Note: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity through two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. For the purposes of this report, race and ethnicity are presented together. Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 92. HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



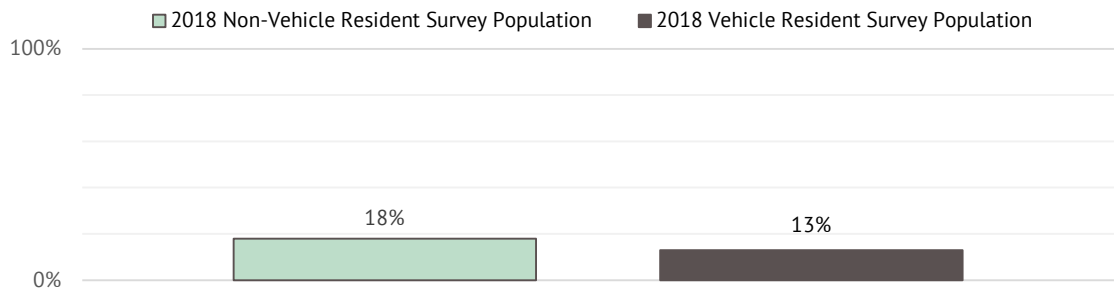
2018 Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 868-870; Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 168-170
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FIGURE 93. SELF-REPORTED CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



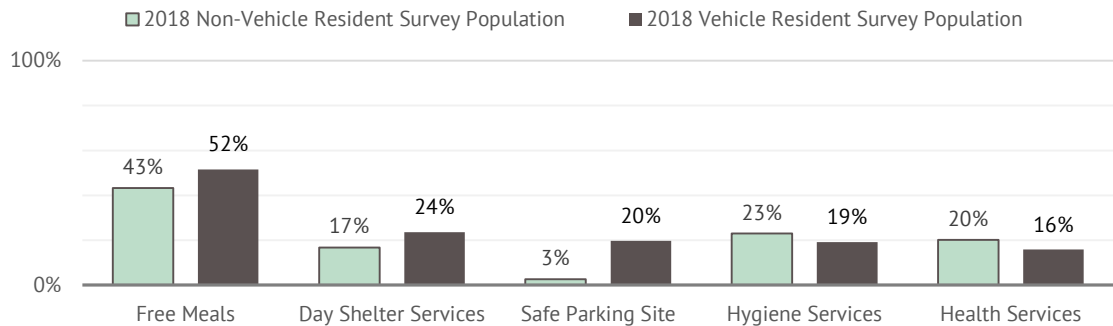
2018 Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 726; Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 163

FIGURE 94. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



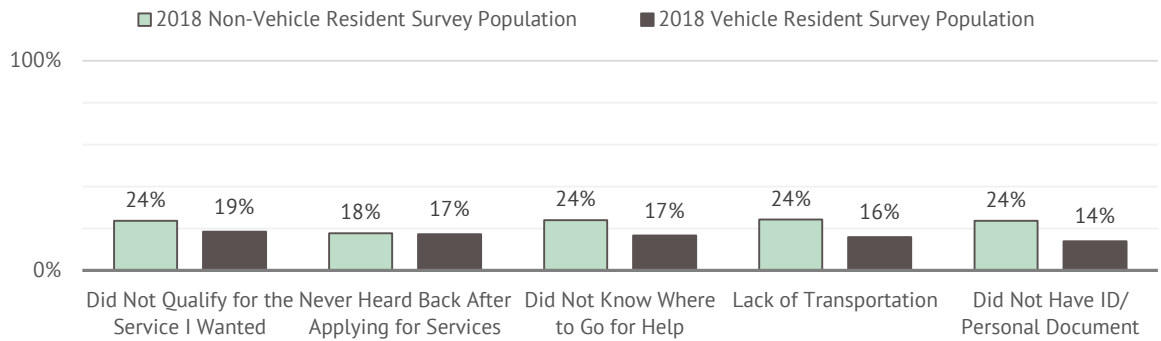
2018 Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 799; Vehicle Resident Survey Population Ever been in Foster Care n= 219

FIGURE 95. SERVICES ACCESSED AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



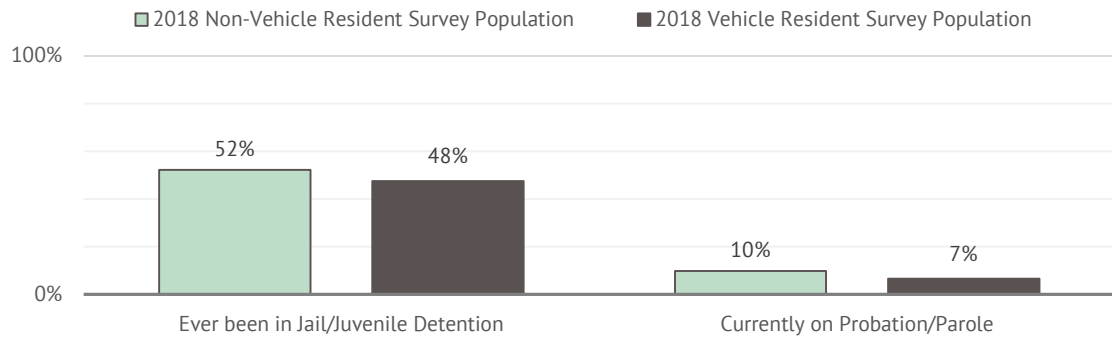
2018 Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 701; Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 157

FIGURE 96. ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS SERVICES REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



2018 Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 649; Vehicle Resident Survey Population n= 151

FIGURE 97. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS, NON-VEHICLE RESIDENT AND VEHICLE RESIDENT COMPARISON



2018 Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population Ever been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n= 858; Vehicle Resident Survey Population Ever been in Jail/Juvenile Detention n= 168; Non-Vehicle Resident Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n= 858; Vehicle Resident Survey Population Currently on Probation/Parole n= 168

Appendix 1: Methodology

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2018 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 2018 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. Applied Survey

Research 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 steering committee. The steering committee was convened on a monthly basis to provide community oversight and feedback on various elements of count coordination.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Local homeless service providers and advocates were active and valued partners in the planning and implementation of the 2018 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 steering committee, 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 2018 Count Us In. They participated in planning meetings, 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 a democratic manner. In the 2018 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.

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.

General street count teams achieved 96% coverage of the 398 census tracts within the Seattle/King County region. There were fourteen census tracts that were not covered in 2018 due to accessibility challenges or safety concerns. These census tracts were frequently located in remote areas where local leadership believed zero counts were expected; no adjustments, however, were made to census data and these census tracts were excluded from the final analysis.

METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The 2018 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count methodology was consistent with the 2017 count, with improvements made in implementation and participation. In 2018, the total numbers of volunteers and guides participating in the general street count increased. Please note that the numbers featured in the table below do not include the approximately 50 youth guides and 30 team leaders who served the youth and young adult count.

	2017	2018
Guides	110	206
Volunteers	520	609

Special outreach efforts to count known vehicle hot spots and 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.

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.

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 2017, and to indicate the areas of Seattle/King County in which they had previous experience counting or were otherwise interested. Applied Survey Research maintained the volunteer database and managed volunteer communications.

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 2017, 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 Applied Survey Research the week prior to the count and were held in multiple locations throughout Seattle/King County. Applied Survey Research 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.

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 additional 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. Residents of sanctioned encampments were counted by accessing data reported in the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). While easily accessible unsanctioned encampments comprised of three or more tents or make-shift 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.

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, emerged. The special outreach strategy conceived in 2017 proved successful and continued in 2018. Vehicle teams expanded their efforts to other areas of the county and covered additional, more challenging vehicle locations within the City of Seattle.

In response to several vehicle “hot spots” in the City of Seattle that were still deemed active by local advocates, in addition to the high mobility of vehicle residents, special vehicle teams

were assembled prior to the day of the count in order to focus chiefly on counting vehicles in these areas. Approximately five teams, comprised of at least one guide and typically one volunteer, covered specialized vehicle routes throughout the City of Seattle. 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. Teams were dispatched from downtown Seattle and East King County.

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 to general street count teams. This guidance was provided in consultation with regional Safe Parking advocates.

In order 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 general street count teams prior to deployment:

A vehicle should be considered a vehicle residence if it exhibits two 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 ⁷

In the special vehicle count team in the City of Seattle, training was led by local vehicle residency expert Graham Pruss. While general street count teams counted vehicles in special vehicle routes as part of their general count assignment, a de-duplication process was undertaken using the last 4 digits of the vehicle license plate to ensure the same vehicle was not counted more than once. This process was important because general street count teams and special vehicle count teams could potentially double-count vehicles that moved during the count shift or were counted a second time by different teams. Once the de-duplication process was complete, the file of license plate information was deleted for privacy

⁷ 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

considerations. License plate information was not made available to any persons other than the data analysis team at Applied Survey Research.

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. In 2018, eleven bus routes were covered by these special teams.

SPECIAL OUTREACH STRATEGY: UNSHELTERED FAMILIES

In 2018, a new strategy to identify unsheltered families during Count Us In was coordinated through the existing family emergency shelter access line, which was implemented in Seattle/King County in November 2017. Mary's Place operates the 24/7 emergency shelter access line for families experiencing homelessness or fleeing domestic violence, and also maintains an active daily list that includes basic information on the family's household members, living situation, and specific needs. For the purposes of the count, All Home provided a non-identifying list of families on the active daily list who reported residing in unsheltered locations on the night of the count. While a small number of unsheltered families were counted using this method, efforts to identify additional families during the count are to be considered a methodological improvement.

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:

If the number of individuals currently residing in the vehicle, tent, or abandoned building were known by the team or were 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 and 10 California counties. This multi-year, multi-community 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 led to the same results as 2017; consequently, the same multipliers were maintained.

The following table summarizes the multipliers applied in 2018:

Vehicle/Location Type	Multiplier
Van	1.8
Automobile/Car	1.42
Camper/RV	1.8
Tent	1.31
Abandoned Building/Squat	1.69

Additionally, demographic characteristics were extrapolated for individuals residing in these locations using data collected during the street count and through the 2018 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 make-shift shelters. General street count teams were instructed to tally persons or tents/make-shift shelters as part of an encampment if they observed three or more tents/make-shift 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 make-shift shelters, only completing the additional field to indicate the person or tent/make-shift shelter was included in an encampment when applicable. In cases where only the tent/make-shift shelter was identified because the number of persons living inside was uncertain, the number of individuals residing in these structures were estimated using the same procedure and multiplier described in the preceding section—regardless of whether the tent/make-shift 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/make-shift 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.⁸

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 minimum number of individuals experiencing homelessness during a given point-in-time, the count methodology was conservative and therefore most likely 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 Count Us In was most likely an undercount of the population experiencing

⁸ 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>

homelessness, the methodology employed was the most comprehensive approach 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. Over 200 guides with current or recent experience of homelessness and over 600 community volunteers participated in the 2018 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 (70%), their deployment location (70%), communication (76%), and their team assignment (81%). Most guides were new to the effort with 87% reporting that it was their first time participating in Seattle/King County's Point-in-Time Count. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of guides reported that the training helped prepare them for the count, although 16% reported that they did not attend training prior to the count either because of transportation barriers or because they were not aware of the training. In regard to overall experience, 96% of guides reported that they were likely to participate in Count Us In again next year.

Volunteer surveys reported generally positive experiences with registration, communications, training, deployment, and conducting the count. Sixty-five percent (65%) of respondents indicated 2018 was the first year they had participated in Seattle/King County's Point-in-Time Count. Thirty-nine percent (39%) rated their experience as "Very Positive" and 47% rated their experience as "Positive." More than ninety percent (93%) of respondents indicated they were either "Very Likely" or "Likely" to participate in Count Us In in future years.

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 2018, the goal was to reproduce and improve upon the youth and young adult count work achieved the previous year.

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.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The 2018 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 the week before 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 indicating 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 2018 youth and young adult count included representatives from several youth homeless service providers, as well as young people with lived experience. In early January, Applied Survey Research 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. Friends of Youth, Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Neighborcare Health at 45th Street, New Horizons Ministries, Nexus Youth and Families, Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, TeenFeed, YMCA, and YouthCare recruited young people with lived experience of homelessness and line staff to participate in planning and implementing the youth street count.

Applied Survey Research provided training the week before 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 one of seven deployment locations throughout Seattle/King County on Thursday, January 25, 2018. 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 food 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 25, 2018. 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 25, 2018 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. Young people serving as youth guides on the day of the count also completed the survey at the end of their count shift if they had not already completed a survey at one of the partner survey sites earlier that day.

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.

There were fewer participating survey sites in 2018 than the previous year (48 compared to 73); several branches of the King County Library System that had once been survey sites did not participate in the same capacity. A number of branches of the King County Library System identified during hot spot planning, however, were covered by youth and young adult street count teams. These teams performed visual enumerations of young people experiencing homelessness observed inside the library. The impact of the modified participation of the King County Library System in the youth and young adult count is presumed to be minimal, given the small number of eligible surveys typically completed.

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. Of 642 youth and young adult count surveys administered, 158 valid surveys were left for the analysis. Approximately 25% of youth survey

respondents indicated they were unsheltered or residing in temporary shelter, 8% reported experiencing housing instability, and 67% reported being stably housed. This high percentage of stably housed respondents was an artifact of the effort to avoid stigmatizing the housing status of respondents in the many group and institutional settings where the survey was administered. Only respondents meeting the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count were included in the final 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.

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 2018 youth and young adult count methodology featured the same methodology utilized in 2017, 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, the youth and

young adult count took place the day before in order to maximize the participation of youth-serving organizations and available resources, 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—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 25, 2018 through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). BitFocus, the administrators of the local HMIS system, then reported shelter data in aggregate to Applied Survey Research. For shelter facilities not included in the HMIS, Applied Survey Research 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 898 individuals experiencing homelessness (not inclusive of the youth and young adults surveyed through the youth and young adult count effort) in the weeks following the general street count was conducted in order to yield qualitative data on the homeless community in Seattle/King County.⁹ 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 instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Peer surveyors were compensated at a rate of \$7 per completed survey.

Socks supplied by Applied Survey Research 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 1,056 valid surveys (inclusive of 158 HUD-eligible surveys conducted during the youth and young adult count component) represent a confidence interval of +/- 2.9% 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

⁹ 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.

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.

The 2018 Count Us In Survey was administered in both unsheltered locations and in transitional housing programs. Unsheltered quotas were developed based on preliminary results from the general street count, including quotas set for each of the twelve regions covered by deployment centers during the general street count, as well as 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, 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 2018 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 1,056 valid surveys for analysis. Due to the sensitive nature of the survey, respondents were not required to answer every survey question, and respondents 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 1,056.

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.

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 come 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. In 2018, a new strategy to identify unsheltered families during Count Us In was implemented through the existing family emergency shelter access line, which was implemented in Seattle/King County in November 2017. This resulted in the inclusion of five unsheltered families residing in vehicles. 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 1* (p. 93).

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-report 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 variable 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 the sheltered and unsheltered individuals, the hard-to-reach nature of the population experiencing homelessness prevents a true random sampling. Every effort is 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 participation and adequate 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 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 2: Point-in-Time Count Results

The following tables include the 2018 Point-in-Time Count data submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 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	325	432	0	25	782
Total number of persons	1123	1422	0	79	2624
Number of children (under 18)	683	858	0	42	1583
Number of young adults (18-24)	63	119	0	10	192
Number of adults (over 24)	377	445	0	27	849
Gender (adults and children)					
Female	688	888	0	45	1621
Male	434	533	0	31	998
Transgender	0	1	0	0	1
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	1	0	0	3	4
Ethnicity (adults and children)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	904	1222	0	64	2190
Hispanic/Latino	219	200	0	15	434
Race (adults and children)					
White	310	359	0	41	710

Appendix 2: Point-in-Time Count Results

Black or African-American	522	716	0	14	1252
Asian	9	53	0	7	69
American Indian or Alaska Native	47	18	0	0	65
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	56	88	0	0	144
Multiple Races	179	188	0	17	384
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of households	34	0	0	7	41
Total number of persons	99	0	0	16	115

HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CHILDREN

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	2424	718	41	4840	8023
Total number of persons	2442	726	41	6103	9312
Number of youth adults (age 18-24)	188	171	0	996	1355
Number of adults (over age 24)	2254	555	41	5107	7957
Gender					
Female	641	223	16	1688	2568
Male	1785	484	25	4023	6317
Transgender	10	16	0	57	83
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	6	3	0	335	344
Ethnicity					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	2163	644	38	5044	7889
Hispanic/Latino	279	82	3	1059	1423
Race					
White	1361	415	17	3157	4950
Black or African-American	737	197	20	1070	2024
Asian	77	19	2	170	268
American Indian or Alaska Native	77	17	0	239	333
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	53	9	0	110	172
Multiple Races	137	69	2	1357	1565
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	900	0	37	2497	3434

HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONLY CHILDREN (UNDER 18)

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	20	16	0	138	174
Total number of children (persons under age 18)	20	18	0	138	176
Gender					
Female	8	12	0	28	48
Male	10	4	0	110	124
Transgender	1	1	0	0	2
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	1	1	0	0	2
Ethnicity					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	13	12	0	138	163
Hispanic/Latino	7	6	0	0	13
Race					
White	12	7	0	110	129
Black or African-American	4	9	0	28	41
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	2	0	0	2
Multiple Races	4	0	0	0	4
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	2	0	0	1	3

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	12	0	3	23
Total number of persons	28	45	0	10	83
Total number of veterans	8	12	0	3	23
Gender (veterans only)					
Female	2	2	0	2	6
Male	6	10	0	1	17
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	8	10	0	1	19

Appendix 2: Point-in-Time Count Results

Hispanic/Latino	0	2	0	2	4
Race (veterans only)					
White	5	4	0	3	12
Black or African-American	2	7	0	0	9
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	1	0	0	1
Multiple Races	1	0	0	0	1
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of households	2	0	0	2	4
Total number of persons	8	0	0	6	14

VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO CHILDREN

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	207	164	1	526	898
Total number of persons	207	166	1	696	1070
Total number of veterans	207	164	1	526	898
Gender (veterans only)					
Female	26	4	0	54	84
Male	179	159	1	441	780
Transgender	2	1	0	8	11
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	23	23
Ethnicity (veterans only)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	199	157	1	412	769
Hispanic/Latino	8	7	0	114	129
Race (veterans only)					
White	111	101	1	271	484
Black or African-American	73	48	0	88	209
Asian	7	6	0	0	13
American Indian or Alaska Native	8	4	0	24	36
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	2	0	8	14
Multiple Races	4	3	0	135	142
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	85	0	1	224	310

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 and young adult households	201	180	0	759	1140
Total number of unaccompanied youth and young adults	204	180	0	1134	1518
Number of unaccompanied youth (under 18)	20	14	0	138	172
Number of unaccompanied young adults (18-24)	184	166	0	996	1346
Gender (unaccompanied youth)					
Female	53	74	0	360	487
Male	142	91	0	680	913
Transgender	2	12	0	9	23
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	7	3	0	85	95
Ethnicity (unaccompanied youth)					
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	163	141	0	977	1281
Hispanic/Latino	41	39	0	157	237
Race (unaccompanied youth)					
White	87	87	0	452	626
Black or African-American	64	49	0	233	346
Asian	2	6	0	39	47
American Indian or Alaska Native	11	10	0	68	89
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	6	4	0	0	10
Multiple Races	34	24	0	342	400
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	8	0	0	273	281

PARENTING YOUTH HOUSEHOLDS

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of parenting youth households	26	65	0	5	96
Total number of persons in parenting youth households	67	151	0	14	232
Total Parenting Youth	27	69	0	6	102

Appendix 2: Point-in-Time Count Results

Total Children in Parenting Youth Households	40	82	0	8	130
Number of parenting youth under 18	0	2	0	0	2
Children in households with parenting youth under age 18	0	2	0	0	2
Number of parenting youth age 18-24	27	67	0	6	100
Children in households with parenting youth 18-24	40	80	0	8	128
Gender (youth parents only)					
Female	24	63	0	5	92
Male	3	6	0	1	10
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	61	0	6	88
Hispanic/Latino	6	8	0	0	14
Race (youth parents only)					
White	8	15	0	0	23
Black or African-American	12	43	0	3	58
Asian	0	1	0	0	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	1	0	0	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	1	0	0	2
Multiple Races	5	8	0	3	16
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of households	2	0	0	0	2
Total number of persons	4	0	0	0	4

ADDITIONAL POPULATIONS

In 2018, 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.¹⁰

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Sheltered SH	Unsheltered	Total
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	568	322	8	2331	3229
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	329	150	1	1844	2324
Adults with HIV/AIDS	17	4	0	103	124
Adult Survivors of Domestic Violence (optional)	147	138	0	346	631

¹⁰ 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 3: Survey Results

The following tables include the aggregate results of each question asked of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County during the 2018 Count Us In Survey.

Section A: Demographics		Count	Column N %
Age	Less than 18 years	21	2.00%
	18 - 24 years	227	21.50%
	25 - 30 years	166	15.70%
	31 - 40 years	252	23.90%
	41 - 50 years	182	17.20%
	51 - 60 years	143	13.50%
	61 years or more	65	6.20%
	Total	1056	100.00%
Which of the following best represents how you think of your gender?	Male	15	36.60%
	Female	24	58.50%
	Transgender	0	0.00%
	Don't identify as male, female, or transgender	1	2.40%
	Gender-queer	0	0.00%
	Gender non-conforming	0	0.00%
	Non-binary	0	0.00%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Refused	1	2.40%
	Other not listed	1	2.40%
	Total	41	100.00%
Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Yes	152	15.00%
	No	828	81.50%
	Don't know	36	3.50%
	Total	1016	100.00%
Which racial group do you identify with most?	White	503	49.70%
	Black or African American	232	22.90%
	Multi ethnic	197	19.50%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	33	3.30%
	Asian	27	2.70%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	20	2.00%
	Total	1012	100.00%
Which of the following best represents how you think of your sexual orientation?	Straight	817	78.8%
	Queer	14	1.4%
	Bisexual	81	7.8%
	Pansexual	13	1.3%
	Lesbian or Gay	59	5.7%
	I don't know/questioning	12	1.2%
	Refused	43	4.1%
	Other	12	1.2%
	Total	1037	100.0%
Are you or your partner currently pregnant?	Yes	41	3.90%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	No	971	93.50%
	Don't know	27	2.60%
	Total	1039	100.00%
Have you ever been in foster care?	Yes	173	17.00%
	No	845	83.00%
	Total	1018	100.00%
Do you have a companion animal living with you?	Yes	140	15.9%
	No	742	84.1%
	Total	882	100.0%
Is English your primary language?	Yes	767	86.4%
	No	83	9.3%
	Decline to state	38	4.3%
	Total	888	100.0%

Section B: Veterans Status		Count	Column N %
Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces?	Yes	110	10.6%
	No	924	89.0%
	Don't know	4	.4%
	Total	1038	100.0%
Were you ever called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?	Yes	30	3.5%
	No	816	96.0%
	Don't know	4	.5%
	Total	850	100.0%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

Have you ever received health care or benefits from a VA center?	Yes	71	8.3%
	No	780	90.8%
	Don't know	8	.9%
	Total	859	100.0%
Is anyone else in your household a Veteran?	Yes	28	3.3%
	No	813	95.0%
	Don't know	15	1.8%
	Total	856	100.0%

Section C: Accommodation		Count	Column N %
Where were you staying on the night of January 25th?	Outdoors/streets/parks/tent	175	16.6%
	Backyard or storage structure	1	.1%
	Motel/hotel	20	1.9%
	Emergency shelter	163	15.4%
	Transitional housing	222	21.0%
	A place in a house not normally used for sleeping	5	.5%
	Public facility (train station, transit center, bus depot)	27	2.6%
	Van	29	2.7%
	Automobile/car	52	4.9%
	Camper/RV	90	8.5%
	Abandoned building/squat	43	4.1%
	Encampment	172	16.3%
	Drug/alcohol treatment/detox center	0	0.0%
	Hospital	0	0.0%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Jail/juvenile detention/prison	0	0.0%
	Foster care placement	0	0.0%
	Apartment/house/trailer	0	0.0%
	A home owned/rented by you/partner	0	0.0%
	A home owned/rented by friends/relatives	0	0.0%
	Other	42	4.0%
	Total	1056	100.0%
How many people including yourself usually stay there?	1	189	60.2%
	2	75	23.9%
	3	16	5.1%
	4	14	4.5%
	5	3	1.0%
	6	4	1.3%
	7	5	1.6%
	9	1	.3%
	10	7	2.2%
	Total	314	100.0%
Do you feel safe where you stayed last night?	Yes	664	76.6%
	No	203	23.4%
	Total	867	100.0%
Is this the first time you have been homeless?	Yes	343	33.1%
	No	693	66.9%
	Total	1036	100.0%
How long have you been homeless this current time? (Shade 1)	7 days or less	24	2.5%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	8-30 days	34	3.5%
	1-3 months	70	7.2%
	4-6 months	107	11.0%
	7-11 months	113	11.6%
	1 year	106	10.9%
	More than 1 year	516	53.2%
	Total	970	100.0%
Including this time, how many separate times have you been living on the streets, or in a vehicle, a tent, or a shelter in the past 3 years?	Less than 4 times	792	76.3%
	4 times or more	226	21.8%
	Don't know	20	1.9%
	Total	1038	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	493	55.3%
	No	377	42.3%
	Decline to state	22	2.5%
	Total	892	100.0%
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	187	26.7%
	1 - 3 years	384	54.9%
	4 years or more	129	18.4%
	Total	700	100.0%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

Have you ever been asked to move from your sleeping location by law enforcement?	Yes	436	52.80%
	No	390	47.20%
	Total	826	100.00%
How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?	0-17 years	221	21.7%
	18-24 years	260	25.5%
	25-35 years	248	24.3%
	36-49 years	174	17.1%
	50-65 years	109	10.7%
	66 or older	8	.8%
	Total	1020	100.0%

Section D: Household Members		Count	Column N %
How many people are in your household, including yourself?	1	734	69.5%
	2	185	17.5%
	3	48	4.5%
	4	40	3.8%
	5	24	2.3%
	6	16	1.5%
	7	7	.7%
	8	1	.1%
	9	1	.1%
	Total	1056	100.0%
Do you have any children under age 18?	Yes	250	23.7%
	No	795	75.3%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Don't know	11	1.0%
	Total	1056	100.0%
Are any of your children under 18 currently living with you?	Yes	127	12.0%
	No	926	87.7%
	Don't know	3	.3%
	Total	1056	100.0%
Do you live alone or with other household members?	Alone	735	69.6%
	With other household members	321	30.4%
	Total	1056	100.0%

Section D1: Demographic Household Members		Count	Column N %	Responses	Column Responses %
How they are related to you?	Child	134	54.7%	134	45.3%
	Spouse	60	24.5%	60	20.3%
	Non-married partner	47	19.2%	47	15.9%
	Other family member	15	6.1%	15	5.1%
	Other non-family member	40	16.3%	40	13.5%
	Total	245	100.0%	296	100.0%
How old are they?	Under 18	140	57.1%	140	45.8%
	18-24	34	13.9%	34	11.1%
	25+	132	53.9%	132	43.1%
	Total	245	100.0%	306	100.0%
How do they identify their gender?	Male	146	59.6%	146	45.8%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Female	169	69.0%	169	53.0%
	Transgender	3	1.2%	3	.9%
	Don't identify as male, female or transgender	1	.4%	1	.3%
	Total	245	100.0%	319	100.0%
Are they Hispanic or Latino?	Yes	44	18.0%	44	17.3%
	No	203	83.2%	203	79.9%
	Don't know	7	2.9%	7	2.8%
	Total	244	100.0%	254	100.0%
Which racial group do they identify with the most?	White	126	52.7%	126	42.7%
	African American	94	39.3%	94	31.9%
	Asian	12	5.0%	12	4.1%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	13	5.4%	13	4.4%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9	3.8%	9	3.1%
	Other	28	11.7%	28	9.5%
	Don't Know/Refuse	13	5.4%	13	4.4%
	Total	239	100.0%	295	100.0%

Section E: Residency		Count	Column N %
Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?	Out of State	50	5.6%
	King County	738	83.1%
	Pierce County	41	4.6%
	Thurston County	5	0.6%
	Snohomish County	28	3.2%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Another County in WA	26	2.9%
	Total	888	100.0%
If in King County, how long were you living in King County before you became homeless?	Less than 1 year	115	16.2%
	1-2 years	82	11.5%
	3-4 years	77	10.8%
	5-9 years	79	11.1%
	10+ years	135	19.0%
	Born/ grew up here	224	31.5%
	Total	712	100.0%
If from outside the county, why did you move to King County?	For a job/seeking work	43	31.4%
	Was traveling/visiting and remained here	9	6.6%
	To access VA services or clinic	2	1.5%
	Family/friends are here	25	18.2%
	To access homeless services and/or benefits	28	20.4%
	LGBTQ+ community/acceptance	6	4.4%
	Legal Marijuana	0	0.0%
	Other	24	17.5%
	Total	137	100.0%
How long have you lived in King County?	Less than 1 year	93	10.8%
	1-2 years	138	13.5%
	3-4 years	126	12.4%
	5-9 years	102	11.8%
	10 years or more	184	21.3%
	Born/grew up here	273	31.7%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Total	862	100.0%
Immediately before you became homeless, where were you living?	A home owned or rented by friends/relatives	304	35.9%
	A home owned or rented by you or your partner	291	34.4%
	Other	71	8.4%
	Jail or prison	49	5.8%
	Motel/hotel	45	5.3%
	Subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing	31	3.7%
	Hospital or treatment facility	29	3.4%
	Foster care	20	2.4%
	Military base/active duty	5	0.6%
	Juvenile Justice Facility	1	0.1%
	Total	846	100.0%

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	220	24.7%
	Alcohol or drug use	183	20.6%
	Eviction	99	11.1%
	Illness/medical problems	81	9.1%
	Mental health issues	78	8.8%
	Divorce/separation/break up	72	8.1%
	Other	72	8.1%
	Family/domestic violence	64	7.2%
	Incarceration	58	6.5%
	Argument with family/friend/roommate	57	6.4%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Could not afford rent increase	49	5.5%
	Family/friend's housing wouldn't let me stay	41	4.6%
	Don't know/decline to state	39	4.4%
	Death of a parent/spouse/child	32	3.6%
	Foreclosure	21	2.4%
	Family/friend couldn't afford to let you stay	20	2.2%
	Hospitalization/treatment	15	1.7%
	Aging out of foster care	15	1.7%
	Total	889	100.0%
What would help you obtain permanent housing?	Rental assistance/More affordable housing	693	80.4%
	Job/increased income	404	46.9%
	Money for moving costs	363	42.1%
	Make housing process easier	325	37.7%
	Help clearing my credit	180	20.9%
	Case management	152	17.6%
	Transportation	146	16.9%
	Help clearing my rental history	123	14.3%
	Additional education	108	12.5%
	Landlords who accept my housing voucher	94	10.9%
	Medical/health care	80	9.3%
	New ID/Paperwork	74	8.6%
	Legal assistance	73	8.5%
	Child care assistance	61	7.1%
	Other	33	3.8%
	Safe parking location while seeking housing	29	3.4%
	Immigration/refugee assistance	26	3.0%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Total	862	100.0%
If safe, affordable housing were available, would you move inside?	No	14	2.0%
	Yes	672	98.0%
	Total	686	100.0%

Section G: Income and Employment		Count	Column N %
What is your current employment status?	Employed full-time	61	5.9%
	Employed part-time	93	9.0%
	Employed seasonal/sporadic	53	5.1%
	Unemployed and looking	466	45.0%
	Unable to work (disabled/retired)	162	15.7%
	Unemployed, and not looking	200	19.3%
	Total	1035	100.0%
How long has it been since you received payment for work?	Less than 1 month	166	19.6%
	1- 6 months	160	18.9%
	7- 12 months	96	11.3%
	1-2 years	157	18.5%
	2 years	47	5.5%
	3-5 years	69	8.1%
	More than 5 years	152	17.9%
	Total	847	100.0%
What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Less than high school	269	26.4%
	High school/GED	461	45.3%
	Some college or AA	219	21.5%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Bachelor's	43	4.2%
	Graduate degree (Masters or PhD)	26	2.6%
	Total	1018	100.0%

Section H: Health								
<i>1. Do you experience any of the following:</i>								
	Yes	%	No	%	Refuse	%	Total	%
Any chronic health problem or medical condition	284	27.3%	697	67.1%	58	5.6%	1039	100.0%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	379	36.5%	599	57.8%	59	5.7%	1037	100.0%
Any psychiatric or emotional conditions	456	43.9%	520	50.1%	62	6.0%	1038	100.0%
A physical disability	264	25.5%	720	69.4%	53	5.1%	1037	100.0%
A traumatic brain injury	116	11.2%	864	83.4%	56	5.4%	1036	100.0%
Drug or alcohol abuse	360	34.6%	613	58.9%	67	6.4%	1040	100.0%
An AIDS or an HIV related illness	28	2.7%	937	90.3%	73	7.0%	1038	100.0%

Section H: Health								
<i>2. Does it keep you from holding a job, living in stable housing or taking care of yourself?</i>								
	Yes	%	No	%	Refuse	%	Total	%
Any chronic health problem or medical condition	184	64.8%	95	33.5%	5	1.8%	284	100.0%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	267	70.4%	95	25.1%	17	4.5%	379	100.0%
Any psychiatric or emotional conditions	308	67.5%	137	30.0%	11	2.4%	456	100.0%
A physical disability	196	74.2%	60	22.7%	8	3.0%	264	100.0%
A traumatic brain injury	78	67.2%	35	30.2%	3	2.6%	116	100.0%
Drug or alcohol abuse	241	66.9%	101	28.1%	18	5.0%	360	100.0%
An AIDS or an HIV related illness	15	53.6%	12	42.9%	1	3.6%	28	100.0%

Section H: Health			
Additional Questions			
		Count	Column N %
If you live with a spouse, a significant other or parent, do any of the following	Chronic health problem	17	1.9%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

conditions prevent them from maintaining work or housing?			
	PTSD	13	1.5%
	Drug or alcohol abuse	25	2.8%
	Physical disability	10	1.1%
	Traumatic brain injury	0	0.0%
	Psychiatric or emotional condition	18	2.0%
	HIV/AIDS	0	0.0%
	None of the above	37	4.2%
	Not applicable	796	90.2%
	Total	882	100.0%
Are you currently experiencing home/domestic violence or abuse?	Yes	61	6.8%
	No	808	89.5%
	Decline to state	34	3.8%
	Total	903	100.0%
Have you ever been physically, emotionally or sexually abused by a person you have stayed with (spouse, partner, relative, non-relative)?	Yes	323	36.1%
	No	520	58.2%
	Decline to state	51	5.7%
	Total	894	100.0%

Section I: Services and Assistance		Count	Column N %
Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance?	Free meals	384	44.8%
	Emergency shelter	229	26.7%
	Transitional housing	226	26.3%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Bus passes	206	24.0%
	Hygiene services	191	22.3%
	Health services	166	19.3%
	Mental health services	160	18.6%
	Day shelter services	155	18.1%
	Not using any services	152	17.7%
	Alcohol/drug counseling	83	9.7%
	Job training/employment services	67	7.8%
	Legal assistance	67	7.8%
	Safe Parking site	49	5.7%
	Tiny Home/sanctioned encampment	42	4.9%
	Immigration services	20	2.3%
	Other	20	2.3%
	Total	858	100.0%
If you are not using any type of shelter services, why not?	They are full	20	25.6%
	They don't accept my pet	5	6.4%
	don't feel culturally accepted	5	6.4%
	I am afraid of others/predators	11	14.1%
	I am barred from services	1	1.3%
	I am not eligible (e.g. criminal record)	5	6.4%
	Other	21	26.9%
	They are far away	6	7.7%
	They are too crowded	24	30.8%
	Germs	12	15.4%
	Bugs	24	30.8%
	I can't stay with my partner/family	4	5.1%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	I can't stay with my friends	4	5.1%
	There is nowhere to store my stuff	8	10.3%
	There are too many rules	21	26.9%
	Total	78	100.0%
Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance?	Food Stamps/SNAP/WIC	638	76.6%
	Medicaid/Medicare	158	19.0%
	Not receiving any form of government assistance	114	13.7%
	SSI/SSDI/Disability	111	13.3%
	General Assistance (GA)	73	8.8%
	TANF	64	7.7%
	Social Security	54	6.5%
	Any VA Disability Compensation	27	3.2%
	Other Veterans benefits (GI, Health)	21	2.5%
	Section 8 voucher	15	1.8%
	Total	833	100.0%
Have you recently experienced any of the following issues trying to get help or access services in the community?	I have not experienced any issues	250	31.3%
	Did not qualify for the service I wanted	182	22.8%
	Lack of transportation	181	22.6%
	Did not know where to go for help	180	22.5%
	Did not have an ID or personal document	174	21.8%
	Never heard back after applying for Services	141	17.6%
	Program rules are too strict	109	13.6%
	Did not follow through or return for services	89	11.1%

Appendix 3: Survey Results

	Issues with program staff	75	9.4%
	Separation from my partner/spouse	33	4.1%
	Separation from my pet	29	3.6%
	Language barrier	28	3.5%
	Other	28	3.5%
	Total	800	100.0%
Have you taken a Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) Assessment (also known as the Housing Triage Tool)?	Yes	233	22.9%
	No	588	57.7%
	Don't know	198	19.4%
	Total	1019	100.0%

Section J: Criminal Justice System		Count	Column N %
Have you ever been in jail or juvenile detention?	Yes	528	51.5%
	No	460	44.8%
	Decline to state	38	3.7%
	Total	1026	100.0%
Are you currently on probation or parole?	Yes	95	9.3%
	No	842	82.1%
	Decline to state	89	8.7%
	Total	1026	100.0%

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Appendix 5: 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.

Appendix 5: Regional Definitions & Unsheltered Counts

	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 6: 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.

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

Individual—An unaccompanied adult or youth.

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 make-shift 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 7: Acknowledgements

The 2018 Seattle/King County Count Us In Point-in-Time Count planning team would like to thank the many individuals and organizations who contributed to this project. Over 800 individuals with lived experience of homelessness, community volunteers, county and jurisdictional agencies, community-based organizations, donors and sponsors assisted with all aspects of Count Us In. From participating in planning meetings and coordinating count logistics to serving on the day of the street count and facilitating the administration of surveys, the support of the community was critical to the success of the count.

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COUNT US IN STEERING COMMITTEE

Zachary DeWolf

Mark Putnam

Michelle Valdez

Jean-Paul Yafali

Kira Zylstra

All Home

John Connery

Peter Connery

Samantha Green

Laura Petry

Applied Survey Research

Derrick Belgarde

Colleen Chalmers

Nawiishtunmi Connor

Chief Seattle Club

Brooke Buckingham

City of Redmond

Guy Williams

City of Renton

Dusty Olson

City of Seattle Human Services Department

Leslie C. Brinson

City of Seattle Mayor's Office

Dominick Dellino

Community Member

Marshall Duvall

Community Member

Nancy Sherman

Community Member

Amanda Urwiler

Community Member

Marjorie Johnson

Corinne McKisson

Walter Washington

Compass Housing Alliance

David Johns Bowling

Tom Miles

Congregations for the Homeless

Daniel Burton

Downtown Emergency Service Center

Sara Wamsley

Housing Development Consortium

Janice Hougen

Kate Speltz

King County Housing and Community Development

Eden Bossom

Kristy Johnson

King County Housing Authority

Jerene Battisti

King County Libraries

Laird Redway

King County Veterans Program

Paula Carvalho

Sierra Phillips

Karsten Syverson

Liz Trautman

Mockingbird Society

Manuela Ginnett

Multi-Service Center

Joseph Seia

New Horizons

Sinan Demirel

Private Consultant

Chloe Gale

Brenda Frazier

Whitney Whittemore

REACH

Aren Sparck

United Indian Health Board

Jenna Gearhart
United Indians of All Tribes

Liahann Bannerman
Isaiah Day
Lauren McGowan

United Way of King County

Carol Goertzel
Susan Fitzgerald
Vashon Youth and Family Services

Rebecca Stephens
Veterans Administration

Graham Pruss
WeCount/Vehicle Residency

Ezra Alem
Youth Advisory Board

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