2018 Point-In-Time Count Results

Each January, Pierce County surveys people experiencing homelessness. This "point-in-time count" is a one-day snapshot that captures the characteristics and situations of people living here without a home.

1,628 Homeless persons counted
22% Chronically homeless
25% Households with children
38% Female
10% Victims of domestic violence
6% Unaccompanied youth & young adults
9% Veterans
48% People of color

Not all people experiencing homelessness sleep outside

46% Emergency shelter
33% Out of doors (street, tent, etc.)
8% Transitional housing
13% Vehicle, abandoned building, other

Most told us they lived in Pierce County before they became homeless

78% Pierce County
5% King County
7% Other WA counties
10% Outside WA

The main causes of homelessness are economic and housing-related

Survey respondents shared many causes for becoming homeless. These are the top three:

1. Lack of affordable housing
2. Inadequate income or employment
3. Eviction

Mental illness is the most commonly reported disability

Here is the breakdown of the most commonly reported disabilities. Some people reported having multiple disabilities.

Mental illness 31%
Physical disability 25%
Chronic health condition 24%
Substance use 18%
Developmental disability 9%

Many people experiencing homelessness have an income

40% of people who are homeless in Pierce County report at least one source of income.

For the full data set:
Visit www.piercecountywa.org/pointintime/2018data