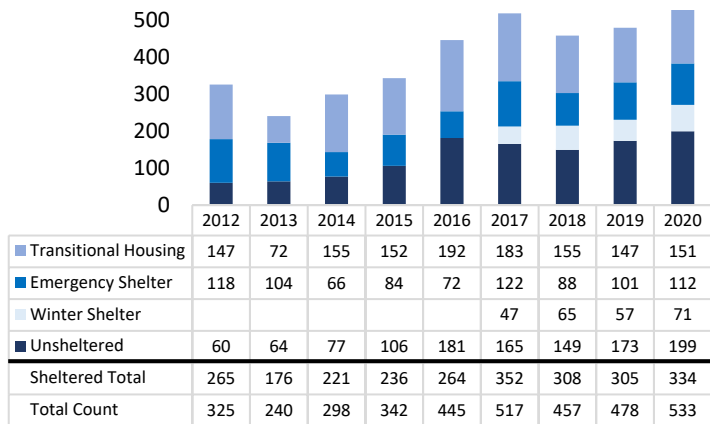


2020 Kitsap County Point in Time Count Overview – Preliminary Data

The “Point in Time” count is an annual survey that gathers information about people experiencing homelessness during a 24-hour period at the end of January. This survey provides critical information regarding the scope and nature of homelessness in our community and can impact funding for homeless housing and services. Because participating in the survey is voluntary, and relies on volunteers finding people experiencing homelessness, it is considered to be an under count of the actual number of homeless. Participants are surveyed in a number of locations throughout the county including the Project Connect Resource Fairs^[1], food banks/meal sites, in encampments, and on the streets.

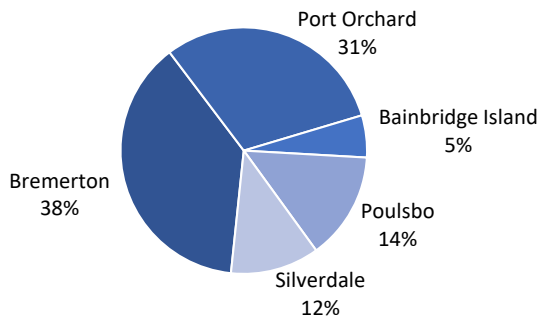
Increasing Numbers of Unsheltered Individuals

The 2020 count of 199 unsheltered individuals indicates a 15% increase from 2019 and a 19% increase from the average of 167 individuals over the prior 4 years. Since the opening of the Winter Shelter, the number of sheltered individuals has increased 27% from 264 in January 2016 to 334 in January 2020.



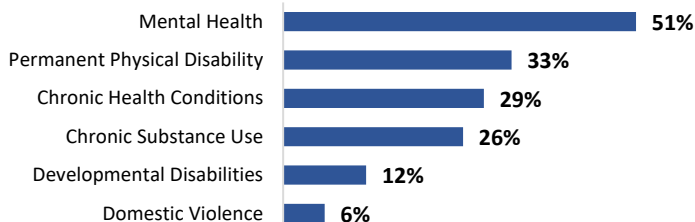
Current City

Increased efforts were made to expand the count in 2020 throughout previously under-counted areas in Kitsap County. Participants experiencing unsheltered homelessness (163 households) were surveyed in locations throughout the county.



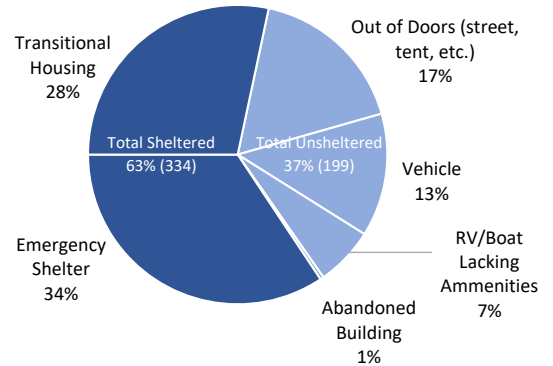
Characteristics

When asked about various personal characteristics, 129 unsheltered heads of households (79%) responded. The most common response from survey participants was that they experienced challenges related to mental health, followed by permanent disability, chronic health conditions, and chronic substance use.



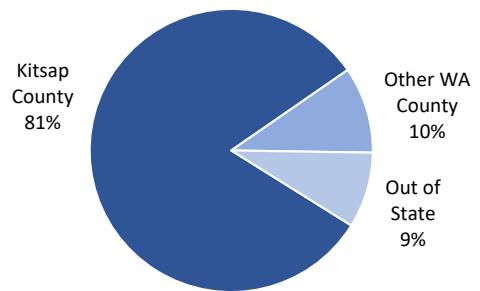
Defining Sheltered vs. Unsheltered

For the purposes of this survey, information is collected on sheltered (in emergency shelter or transitional housing) vs. unsheltered homelessness. In this year’s count, 199 people said they were unsheltered. The majority of those who were unsheltered indicated they lived outside in places not meant for human habitation.



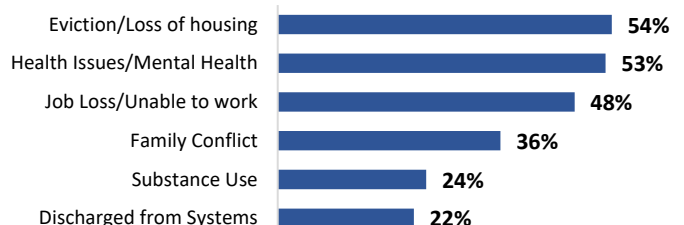
Last Place of Residence

Surveys also collected information about the last city of permanent residence, and 50% of unsheltered households provided this data. 66 (81%) of those households previously had stable housing in Kitsap County.



Causes of Homelessness

When asked about the specific cause (or causes) of homelessness, 116 unsheltered households (71%) responded. The most common response was housing issues (eviction or loss of housing), health issues (including mental health), followed by economic issues (loss of job or unable to work).



[1] In 2020 the Project Connect Community Resource fairs were hosted at the Salvation Army in Bremerton, Gateway Fellowship Church in Poulsbo, and at the Givens Center in Port Orchard.

