

# ASPECTS OF HOMELESSNESS IN KITSAP COUNTY

## POPULATION EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

We have no single system or census to tell us how many Kitsap residents are experiencing homelessness on any given day. We use several sources to estimate the number - each includes a different and sometimes overlapping slice of the population and has different definitions and ways of collecting the data. This table provides detail about each source:

Point in Time Count (PIT)	Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)*	DSHS Basic Food Assistance Recipients (DSHS BF)
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>		
Count of individuals and households experiencing homelessness.	Count of individuals and households currently or imminently experiencing homelessness and seeking housing.	Count of individuals and households receiving Basic Food Assistance and self-reporting homelessness.
<b>HOW OFTEN IS IT UPDATED?</b>		
PIT is conducted each year on one day at the end of January by volunteers and service providers.	HMIS is real-time; updated by Housing Solutions Center and housing providers as people seek housing.	Counts are updated by DSHS staff as people apply for or complete 6-month recertification reviews.
<b>HOW IS HOMELESS DEFINED?</b>		
In emergency or transitional shelter, unsheltered, or temporarily living with family or friends.	Literally homeless or imminently losing housing and in a homeless services or housing program.**	In emergency housing/ shelter or battered spouse shelter, or without housing.
<b>WHAT ARE THE DATA SOURCE LIMITATIONS?</b>		
Only collected once per year during a 24 hour period, individuals not located by a volunteer or service provider are not counted.	Only counts those seeking housing from Kitsap providers. Does not include faith-based, ex-felon, veteran, or mental health housing programs.	Only counts persons eligible for and receiving DSHS Basic Food Assistance who self-report homelessness.
<b>HOW MANY PEOPLE AND HOUSEHOLDS ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?</b>		
<p><b>ON ONE DAY:</b> 685 individuals   503 households (January 2017)</p>	<p><b>IN ONE YEAR:</b> 4,505 individuals   2,843 households (January-December 2016)</p>	<p><b>IN ONE YEAR:</b> 5,863 individuals   4,832 households (January-December 2016)</p>

\*Housing Solutions Center is the central intake system and enters the majority of HMIS data. HMIS includes the PIT count.

\*\*Including but not limited to: emergency shelter, transitional or permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, or rental assistance.



Kitsap County  
Department of  
Human Services



345 6th Street  
Suite 300  
Bremerton, WA 98337

360-728-2235 t.

kitsappublichealth.org

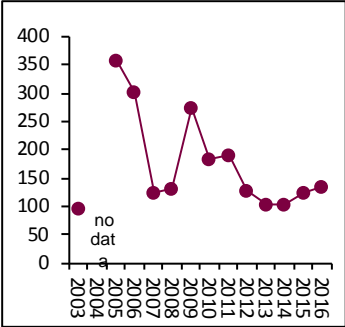
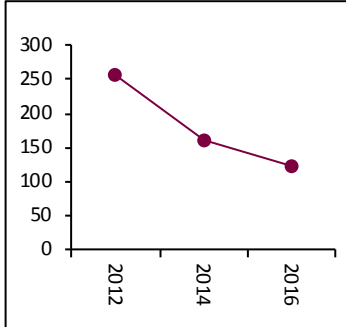
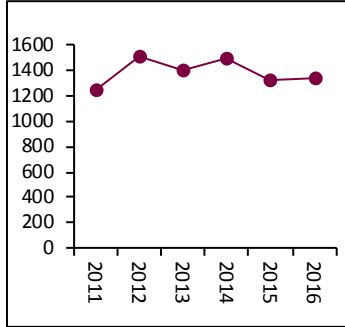
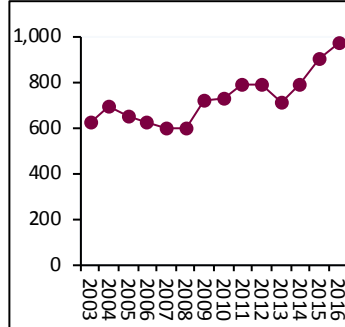
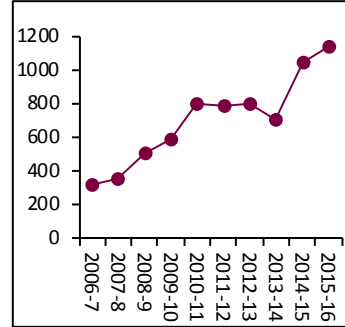
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## CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

People experiencing homelessness in childhood are more likely to experience homelessness as an adult. In addition to the three sources listed on the previous page, our public school districts are an additional source to estimate the number of children experiencing homelessness.

	Public School Districts	Healthy Youth Survey (HYS)
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>	Each year, school districts must report the number of children/youths experiencing homelessness to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.	The HYS measures health risk behaviors that contribute to morbidity, mortality, and social problems among youth in Washington State.
<b>HOW OFTEN IS IT UPDATED?</b>	Data are collected throughout the year by all schools.	Data are collected every two years by participating schools.
<b>HOW IS HOMELESS DEFINED?</b>	In a shelter, doubled-up, unsheltered, or in a hotel/motel.	In a shelter, hotel/motel, car, park, campground, on the street, or moved from place to place.
<b>WHAT ARE THE DATA SOURCE LIMITATIONS?</b>	Schools use different methods to collect data. Reporting to the school is not required so some students experiencing homelessness are not identified.	Data are collected at one point in time and may not capture all students experiencing homelessness.

## HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?

Point in Time Count	Healthy Youth Survey	Homeless Management Information System	DSHS Basic Food Homeless	Public School Districts
<b>ON ONE DAY:</b> <b>132   age 0-17</b> (January 2017)	<b>IN THE LAST 30 DAYS:</b> <b>122   grades 8, 10, and 12</b> (October 2016)	<b>IN ONE YEAR:</b> <b>1,338   age 0-17</b> (January-December 2016)	<b>IN ONE YEAR:</b> <b>970   age 0-17</b> (January-December 2016)	<b>IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR:</b> <b>1,134   grade K-12</b> (September-June 2015-2016)
				

## HEALTH IMPACTS OF HOMELESSNESS

**Compared to the general population, people who experience homelessness have:**

- 2-5 times higher incidence of mortality than the general population.<sup>1</sup>
- Higher prevalence of infectious disease and psychiatric diagnosis.<sup>1</sup>
- Higher hospital admissions for unintentional injuries.<sup>1</sup>
- Higher tobacco smoking rates (68-80% of homeless people are smokers).<sup>1</sup>
- Worse emotional and physical health.<sup>1</sup>
- Earlier development of age-related functional impairments.<sup>1</sup>

**Compared to the general child population, children who experience homelessness are:**

- 2 times more likely to have a learning disability, be suspended from school, or repeat a grade in school.<sup>2</sup>

## HOW IS KITSAP WORKING TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS?

By its very nature, homelessness is impossible to measure with 100% accuracy. Definitions vary between different homeless programs, the homeless population changes on a daily basis, and data collection efforts focus on different aspects of homelessness. The Kitsap Homeless Housing Plan was updated for 2016 to guide and coordinate local efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. Local service providers carefully track and report outcomes and participate in a coordinated intake system. More important than knowing the exact number of people who experience homelessness, is our progress in ending it.

<sup>1</sup> Fazel, S., Geddes, R., & Kushel, M. (2014). The health of homeless people in high-income countries: descriptive epidemiology, health consequences, and clinical and policy recommendations. *The Lancet*, 384(9953), 1529-1540.

<sup>2</sup> American Psychological Association. (n.d.) Effects of Poverty, Hunger and Homelessness on Children and Youth. Retrieved from: <http://www.apa.org/pi/families/poverty.aspx>