



2019 Point-in-Time Count

Understanding Homelessness in Oregon

What is the Point-in-Time Count and Why is it Important?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an attempted census of people who are without housing in our communities¹. In order to qualify for funding, The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities and Continuums of Care (CoC)² to conduct this survey every two years during the last 10 days of January. The PIT Count Survey informs funding and policy decisions, and is the only officially sanctioned count of people experiencing homelessness³ that is recognized by HUD as well as other public and private funders.

The PIT categorizes the experience of homelessness in two ways.

- Unsheltered – individuals or families whose primary nighttime residence is a public place not meant for human habitation including but not limited to: street or sidewalk, vehicle, park, abandoned building, garage, bus/train station, under a bridge or overpass, the woods or outdoor camp.
- Sheltered – Individuals or families residing in a place (shelter or transitional living program) dedicated to serving people who would otherwise be unsheltered.

To obtain a snapshot census of our neighbors experiencing homelessness, staff from homeless assistance agencies, county and city employees, and hundreds of volunteers across Oregon conduct a sheltered and unsheltered count. The unsheltered count includes a street count of people living in unsheltered locations. Numbers for the sheltered count come from surveys of people staying in shelters collected by providers of emergency shelters and transitional housing properties throughout the state. Each year, all seven CoCs provide Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) with the summary PIT report from the information they submit to HUD. The data these CoCs provide allow us to aggregate the numbers across the state and publish a statewide report detailing who is experiencing homelessness in Oregon. The numbers published in this report are a result of the Point-in-Time count survey data provided by the CoCs.

¹ OHCS and other advocacy groups always endeavor to make sure that we use people first language and emphasize the experience of homelessness as an experience of lacking physical housing. We use “people experiencing homelessness”, “our neighbors experiencing homelessness”, “our community members experiencing homelessness” to emphasize that people without housing are a part of our communities. Terms such as being unhoused and experiencing houselessness are other terms that people with lived experience often use for themselves to push back against stereotyping and dehumanizing narratives.

² A Continuum of Care is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for unhoused families and individuals. According to HUD, a CoC is “a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness.”

Each individual CoC reports their PIT numbers to HUD who then publishes their own report, the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). The numbers reflected in this report are slightly dissimilar to the numbers reported to HUD in early 2019. The AHAR, which should be released in November or December 2019, will show 15,876 people experiencing homelessness compared to the total shown in this report of 15,800. The difference of 76 people in the data is a result of complexities of using raw PIT data for Central Oregon CoC to do a county-by-county break down. These data sources do not exactly match because of HUD requirements of the use of extrapolation to fill in blanks in demographics and differences in reporting specifications when aggregating at a CoC level. An example of the challenges of the HUD extrapolation tool is provided later in this brief.

What Does the Point-in-Time Ask People?

The PIT Count is a survey that asks people experiencing homelessness several questions including but not limited to:

- Gender identity, race, ethnicity, veteran status, geographic location, age
- Family status (with children or without children)
- Living situation (sheltered or unsheltered)
- Frequency and duration of their experience(s) of being without shelter
- Chronic homelessness and disabling conditions

For the purpose of this research brief, OHCS focuses on reporting the *PIT Reported* numbers and percentages of the total number of people experiencing homelessness broken down by certain demographic groups. It is important to emphasize that the numbers obtained during the PIT Count **do not provide a full picture of everyone experiencing homelessness in Oregon**. This number should be understood as an absolute minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in Oregon. The PIT Count methodology is only able to provide a snapshot number of people experiencing homelessness and the numbers are not intended to be a definitive all-encompassing number of people experiencing homelessness in a given geography. OHCS is using PIT Reported throughout to emphasize this context to the numbers being reported.

This brief and the accompanying interactive dashboard ([available here on OHCS's Tableau Public Page](https://public.tableau.com/profile/oregon.housing.and.community.services#!/vizhome/2019Point-in-TimeDashboard/Story1?publish=yes)⁴) provides information on the PIT Reported number of people experiencing homelessness. The brief provides an overview of the number of people experiencing homelessness in Oregon in 2019, details the limitations of the PIT Count, and outlines alternative methodologies to more comprehensively understand the number of people experiencing homelessness in Oregon in the future. The interactive dashboard provides detailed information on:

- Changes in the number of people experiencing homelessness over a 5 year period at both the state and county level
- Changes and trends in numbers of people of color experiencing homelessness
- The ratio of the people experiencing chronic homelessness to the overall number people experiencing homelessness at the county level
- A breakdown of sheltered and unsheltered populations by demographics like race, gender identity and age
- Information on veterans experiencing homelessness.

⁴ <https://public.tableau.com/profile/oregon.housing.and.community.services#!/vizhome/2019Point-in-TimeDashboard/Story1?publish=yes>

Oregon's PIT Reported 2019 Number of People Experiencing Homelessness

Total PIT Reported Number: 15,800 of Oregon's neighbors were experiencing homelessness the night of the PIT Count in January 2019. This number should be understood as an absolute minimum number of people who are experiencing homelessness in Oregon.

- **13.2% increase from 2017⁵** in the number of people experiencing homelessness
- Unsheltered: **10,139 people** (64% of total population)
- Sheltered: **5,661 people** (35% total population)
- 1 in 3 people experiencing homelessness are experiencing Chronic Homelessness⁶ in 2019, this means **4,877 people** (31% of total population).
- **4 out of every 5 people** experiencing chronic homelessness were unsheltered the night of the PIT Count. Of these 4,877 people, only 1,023 people experiencing chronic homelessness were sheltered on the night of the count.
- Adults without Children: **11,628 adults (74%)**
- Adults with Children: **3,449 people in families (22%)**
- Children Alone: **651 children (4%)**

As housing prices rise throughout the state and country, access to permanent and stable housing becomes more and more of a challenge. As a result, affordable housing and homelessness has become a greater issue with each passing year and Oregon experiences a higher rate of people experiencing homelessness per capita than many other states.

It is important to note the **increase in the overall number of people experiencing homelessness and specifically unsheltered homelessness in southern counties such as Josephine and Lane and coastal counties such as Coos and Clatsop**. Many of our families experiencing homelessness live outside the metropolitan area, mainly in coastal counties or southern Oregon.

Lane County had the second largest PIT Reported number of people experiencing homelessness, which increased from 1,529 to 2,165 people experiencing homelessness from 2017 to 2019 (a 41% increase). What's more, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Lane County account for **75%** of the total number of people experiencing homelessness. The county with the largest percentage of people experiencing chronic homelessness is **Wasco County with 55%** of the total number of people experiencing homelessness being **chronically homeless**. Multnomah and Lane County follow with 44% and 39%.

Marion counties' total PIT Reported number of people experiencing homelessness declined from 2017, but the rate of people experiencing **unsheltered homelessness in Marion County rose by 62%** with the sheltered rate declining by 34%. In Multnomah, the overall number of people experiencing homelessness declined, but the number of people experiencing **unsheltered homelessness increased by 22%**. Linn County saw a **dramatic increase** in the number of people who were **sheltered during the PIT count**, moving from a PIT Reported 80 people in 2017 to 194 people in 2019.

⁵ Caution should be taken when identifying trends in the number of people experiencing homelessness over time. Many factors affect the results of the Point-in-Time count including changes in methodology, volunteer availability, agency staff involvement, and weather conditions.

⁶ Chronic homelessness is defined by HUD as a homeless individual or head of household with a disability who: lives in a place not meant for human habitation in an Emergency Shelter, or a Safe Haven; AND has been homeless continuously for at least 12 months (stays in an institution of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break); OR has been homeless on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined occasions total at least 12 months (occasions are separated by a break of at least 7 nights).

Families with Children

- **Total Number: 3,449 individuals** of all ages living in families with children
- **Children Under 18: 2,558** children under the age of 18 experiencing homelessness.
- Unsheltered: **63% of the 2,558 children under 18 were unsheltered**
- Children Only: **651** children are living on their own, without an adult over the age of 18⁷.

While most people experiencing homelessness (74%) are living without children, 22% reported that they are living in households with children, and 4% of the surveyed population reported that they themselves are children under the age of 18 living alone.

Twenty-five percent (4,100 people) of people experiencing homelessness are either **caring for children or are children themselves**. This quarter of the population is an important focus for OHCS, as one of our agency priorities is to eliminate homelessness for children and families with children. Sadly, roughly 2,500 families with children and children living on their own are unsheltered, meaning that **61% of the total number of families with children experiencing homelessness were unsheltered**. Only 1,576 families with children and children living on their own were sheltered on that night of the count in January 2019.

Josephine County has the highest number of families with children experiencing homelessness than any other county in the state, with 706 people living with children experiencing homelessness. Josephine County also has the highest PIT Reported number (386) of children under the age of 18 who are experiencing homelessness. Clatsop County has the second highest number of children under the age of 18 experiencing homelessness. Clatsop County reported that there are **270 children living alone**, which is the **highest number** of children living on their own without an adult experiencing homelessness in the state, followed by Coos at 133 children living alone experiencing homelessness. These numbers are the numbers that were reported to HUD, and they may be subject to the lack of clarity mentioned above⁷.

Gender and Homelessness

According to the survey, **59% of the people experiencing homelessness are men**, mostly over the age of 25, yet women make up the vast majority of the population of households with children. While women make up 41% of the total number of people experiencing homelessness, women account for **56% of the people who are either caring for children or are children themselves**. In Oregon's eastern counties, particularly Wallowa, Baker, Grant, and Harney, the number of women experiencing homelessness is greater than men, and most of these women are in households with children.

When discussing gender and homelessness, it is important to understand that experiencing homelessness is a *highly gendered* experience. Different gender identities experience lack of housing in vastly different ways and shelter services are predominantly gender segregated across the state. Not only are women more likely to be caring for children, but women often experience domestic violence and sexual assault at higher rates than men.

⁷ OHCS by no means wants to downplay the severity of the issue of child homelessness. That said, there were concerns about the data that was submitted that reported unaccompanied youth from the school systems particularly. It is possible that the discrepancies between the Department of Education and HUD in the definition of "unaccompanied" and "homeless" contributed to a higher number of youth who were doubled up or precariously housed with an adult who is not their legal guardian were inappropriately categorized as literally homeless and unaccompanied. For the Department of Education unaccompanied means not living with legal guardian, which means they could be living with someone who isn't their legal guardian and be precariously housed instead of literally homeless living on the street alone. For HUD unaccompanied means living on the street alone without the presence of anyone over 18, regardless of their legal guardian or familial status. For the Department of Education, "Unaccompanied" means not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, even if with an adult. For HUD "Unaccompanied" only applies if the youth is not in the company of any adult.

According to multiple studies, domestic and sexual violence is frequently cited as the leading cause of homelessness for women across the country.⁸

Transgender people experience homelessness disproportionately *across the country* and national figures from the 2018 PIT Count reveal that transgender people are more likely to be unsheltered than other populations.⁹ Another survey done in 2015 reported that nearly **1 in 3 trans/non-binary people surveyed had experienced homelessness at some point in their lives**.¹⁰ Additionally, transgender/non-binary people are more likely to experience housing discrimination than other gender identities, often leading to experiences of homelessness.

In Multnomah County, the number of **trans/non-binary people experiencing homelessness increased by 44%** and the number of women experiencing homelessness declined slightly. According to Multnomah County, this increase could be due to a number of factors, from less persons identifying as female, to discrepancies between local and federal level reporting. Additionally, this increase is from 59 people to 85 people. Regardless of methodology, this number is almost certainly an under-estimate in both the number of women who are currently homeless and the number of transgender or non-binary people who are experiencing homelessness, not just in Multnomah County, but also across the state.

Not understanding the full picture of the number of people of a particular gender who are experiencing homelessness creates problems across the state, and segregated shelters create unfair barriers for transgender and non-binary people. Transgender people are often inappropriately turned away from gender specific shelters due to lack of staff training and bias. This was a key finding in the Lived Experience Survey OHCS conducted as a component of the Statewide Shelter Study¹¹.

Race and Homelessness

The PIT Count asks people to select the race(s) they primarily identify with which include: Native American, Asian, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, or White. This data does not allow us to understand disparities that happen within these populations, as the experiences within subpopulations of a group tend to vary dramatically. This data misses the experience of subgroups within each racial group, and the lack of precision does not inform the full experience for people inside of each traditionally marginalized group. Additionally, the category of two or more races offers us a limited understanding on people who selected two or more races (which makes up the second largest percentage of people experiencing homelessness after White).

People of every race except White and Asian are disproportionately represented in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Oregon when compared with the overall population across the state. For example, Black/African Americans make up 1.9% of Oregon's overall population, but account for **6% of the people experiencing homelessness in Oregon**. It should be noted that broad categories (such as Asian, for example) erase differences between different sub-groups, some of which may be overrepresented in the experience of homelessness as well. Without collecting and analyzing detailed, sub-group data we are not able to have a complete picture of racial disparities in homelessness¹².

⁸ [National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty \(2018\)](#).

⁹ [National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2018](#).

¹⁰ [Holder, Sarah \(2019\)](#).

¹¹ Oregon Statewide Shelter Study <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/ISD/RA/Oregon-Statewide-Shelter-Study.pdf>

¹² Coalition of Communities of Color: The Asian & Pacific Islander Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile

<https://www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org/research-and-publications/the-asian-pacific-islander-community-in-multnomah-county-an->

Race	Statewide Population ^{13, 14}	Experiencing Homelessness
Asian	4.1%	.5%
Black/African American	1.9%	5.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.4%	1.3%
Native American	1.1%	4.7%
Two or More	4.6%	6.7%
White	84.9%	80.5%

Table 1: Race as a percentage of the statewide population vs. race as a percentage of those experiencing homelessness

When aggregated, people who selected their race as either Asian, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/PI, Native American, or Two or more accounted for **19% of the PIT Reported number of people experiencing homelessness** in January 2019. Comparatively, non-white groups account for 15% of the statewide general population, broadly articulating the over-representation of communities of color not only in those who experience homelessness, but also in the number of people who experiencing poverty as well.

The above referenced 19% does NOT include people whose race was recorded missing or refused. HUD requires the use of an extrapolation tool¹⁵ to fill in unknown demographic responses based on extrapolating the percentages of demographics that exist within the data that is completed. As an example of the problems with this extrapolation tool:

- *Suppose there is a community of 10 people that are 80% White (8/10) and 20% African American (2/10). Now suppose that on the night of the PIT Count, there were five African American people counted during the PIT count in that community, but their race was marked “unknown or missing” on the PIT survey. Because of this tool, the race for 4 (80%) of those African Americans would be noted as white, and only 1 of them would accurately be noted and recorded as Black/African American.*

It is probable that people who are marked as “unknown race” on the PIT survey are more likely to be people of color. This extrapolation method required by HUD is one of the reasons the PIT count may be undercounting the number of people of color in its data. There are many additional reasons that people of color are undercounted in PIT data, including inadequate volunteer training, lack of partnership with culturally specific organizations, and lack of representation of people of color in volunteer recruitment efforts, among others detailed by the Coalition of Communities of Color. The Coalition of Communities of Color provides clear recommendations and remedies to address these issues¹⁶.

[unsettling-profile](#)

¹³ ACS Table S170: 5 year estimates 2013-2017

¹⁴ Statewide population includes “other” which the PIT does not include, so those numbers have been omitted from this report and thus will not add up to 100%

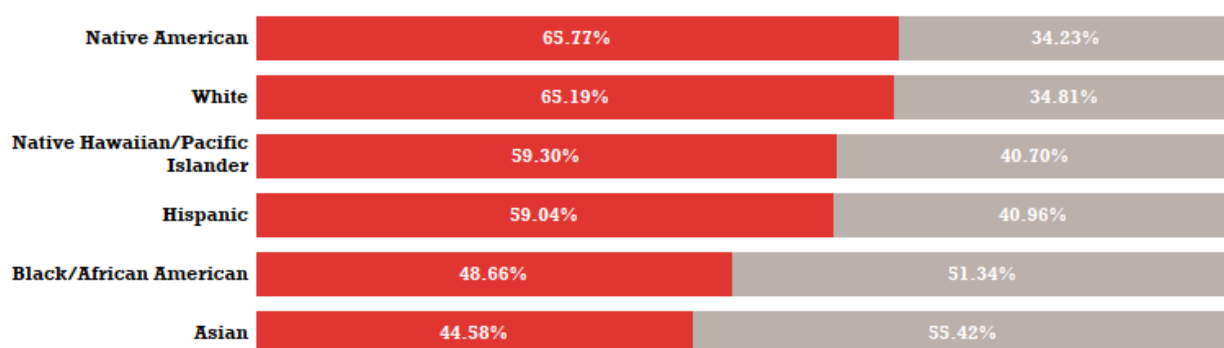
¹⁵ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4433/point-in-time-count-implementation-tools/>

¹⁶ <https://www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org/research-and-publications/pitc2017>

Race and Shelter

When looking at the experience of being sheltered or unsheltered by race, Native Americans consistently have the **highest rates of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness** throughout the state. This is demonstrated by the graph on the following page. It is important to understand that while the raw number of people of color who are sheltered during the PIT count are increasing, this does not mean that access to shelter is equitable, nor does it indicate that people of color have the same experiences as white/non-Hispanic people once they enter a shelter and receive services.

The Hispanic population in the PIT count is both misunderstood and underreported. People who identify as Hispanic can select Hispanic as part of their ethnicity but not as a race category. Because OHCS only receives the aggregate data from CoCs and not the raw client-level data, we are limited in our understanding of Hispanics who identify as White versus Hispanics who identify as people of color. The CoCs can make these distinctions with their client-level data.



Shelter Type

■ Sheltered

■ Unsheltered

Table 2: The percentage of people of a certain racial group who were sheltered or unsheltered the night of the PIT Count.

Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

- There were 1,439 veterans experiencing homelessness in Oregon
- Veterans experiencing homelessness represent 8% of the PIT Reported total number of people experiencing homelessness.
- 43% of vets experiencing homelessness are chronically homeless. 12% of the total people experiencing chronic homelessness are veterans.
- 11% increase in number of veterans experiencing homelessness from 2017
- 58% of veterans were unsheltered, 42% were sheltered

Wasco County has the highest rate of veterans as a percentage of the overall number of people experiencing homelessness (19%). In Harney and Curry counties, 100% of the veterans are chronically homeless. Outside of metropolitan areas like Multnomah and Lane counties, Jackson has the 3rd highest number of total veterans experiencing homelessness in the state (107 vets experiencing homelessness).

Gender Identity and Veterans

While men represent the vast majority of veterans in the state (90%), female veterans are primarily located in Multnomah and Deschutes County and make up almost 10% of the veterans experiencing homelessness. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, rates of homelessness for female veterans are increasing at a faster rate than men. Across the United States from 2016-2017, the number of female veterans experiencing homelessness increased by 7%, compared to 1% for their male counterparts.¹⁷

Men: 1,321

Women: 145

Non-binary/Trans: 11 people

While the majority of veterans in Oregon are White/Non-Hispanic, 8% of veterans experiencing homelessness are Black/African American, compared to 6% of the overall population of people experiencing homelessness unhoused population and 2% of our statewide population.

People Experiencing Homelessness by County

The number of people experiencing homelessness across the state has increased since 2017, notably throughout the state's rural, southern, and coastal regions. Multnomah County had a decline in the number of people experiencing homelessness, declining from 4,177 people in 2017 to 4,015. In 2019, Multnomah County accounts for 25% of the state's PIT Reported number of people experiencing homelessness, but in 2017 represented 30% of the people experiencing homelessness across the state. Furthermore, the percentage of people experiencing homelessness that were sheltered the night of the PIT count in urban counties is close to 50% across most demographics and for veterans. In fact, Jackson, Marion, and Linn are the only rural counties where *almost or slightly above* 50% of the people experiencing homelessness were sheltered on the night of the PIT count.

The highest percentage of people experiencing chronic homelessness as a percentage of the total county population is highest in Wasco, Polk, Multnomah, and Linn Counties, as over 40% of the people experiencing homelessness each of those counties are considered chronically homeless. While the total number of people experiencing homelessness across the state rose, 10 of Oregon's 36 counties reported a decline in the number of people experiencing homelessness between 2017 and 2019 (Clackamas, Curry, Lake, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Tillamook, Union, Wasco, Washington)¹⁸.

¹⁷ National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (2018). [Homeless Female Veterans](#)

¹⁸ Increases and decreases in the number of people experiencing homelessness should be interpreted with extreme caution as increases and decreases are subject to a variety of factors including changes in methodology, volunteer availability, agency staff involvement, and weather conditions. Interpreting all increases to be bad and all decreases to be good is a flawed approach. For example, a community may have considerably increased their outreach and in-depth street counts and thus will have higher PIT Reported numbers of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness than previous years. This increase in information and quality of data is not a negative. It gives the community a more thorough understanding and a truer representation of the magnitude of the issue. On a different note, decreases in the numbers of

Limitations to PIT Methodology - *the limitations to using the PIT Count as a primary data source for understanding homelessness*

While the PIT Count is an important source of information for the number of people experiencing homelessness, it is important to understand that these numbers **do not provide a full picture of our neighbors experiencing homelessness in Oregon**. The PIT provides a limited understanding of:

- Groups that are most disproportionately affected by homelessness,
- Leading factors contributing to a person's experience of homelessness
- Who has access to the most critical services and who does not
- Needs and experiences of people with mental illness
- LGTBQ people and youth
- Survivors of domestic and sexual violence/abuse

Each community, county and city have their own method of surveying the experiences of people experiencing homelessness in their community. Some communities' Point-in-Time counts are large-scale events driven by volunteers and local community agencies. Other communities may not have the financial or volunteer capacity to conduct a thorough canvassing of a large geographic area. Limited capacity for conducting surveys and counts often leads to prioritizing locations that will yield the most respondents. These areas are often larger sites that are frequented by majority populations. Smaller, culturally specific sites may not be prioritized, leading to under-representation of people from certain minority populations (LGBTBQ, youth, people of color, survivors of domestic violence, people suffering from mental illness, etc.). The inconsistency in data collection and survey methodology across the state does not allow our agency, non-profits, other government agencies, service providers, policy makers or community members to have a complete picture of homelessness across the state.

Each CoC throughout the state is not provided with the same level of support to conduct their PIT Count each year. For example, Multnomah County had 142 volunteers from the public and 136 outreach workers for their PIT Count,¹⁹ while other counties have much smaller numbers of volunteers. The inconsistency in funding, capacity, organization, and resources across the state leads to undercounting some of our most vulnerable populations, specifically in rural areas where there are often fewer resources than in urban areas.

In 2017, The City of Corvallis League of Women Voters and the Corvallis Housing Committee did an analysis of the way the current PIT methods are both a liability and limitation for our communities and government agencies. The report details the painstaking efforts required to use the PIT data in tandem with other data sources in the hopes of getting a more complete picture of who is experiencing homelessness at the city level.²⁰ Their report highlights the problem of undercounting people experiencing homelessness in the PIT survey. For example, the 2016 PIT Count found there were 199 people experiencing homelessness in Corvallis in January 2016, while data from the Department of Human Services found the number to be upwards of 287 people who were experiencing homelessness during this same period of time.²¹

people counted during the sheltered count may be due to the community losing critical shelter capacity and should not be uniformly interpreted as a positive. Each community knows its context best and broad sweeping judgments or assertions should not be made based solely on PIT Reported numbers or without the local knowledge of what is happening on the ground in each community.

¹⁹ Multnomah County (2019). [PIT Count starts with unprecedented coordination among outreach workers, volunteers](#)

²⁰ League of Women Voters of Corvallis (2017). [Homelessness in Corvallis](#).

²¹ Id, 13

A report by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty details the methodological limitations of the HUD PIT count, specifically citing estimates that the number of people actually experiencing homelessness is often between 2.5 to 10.2 times **greater** than can be obtained using a PIT count.²² As an example of the discrepancies in counting the number of people experiencing homelessness, the 2015 PIT Count counted 564,708 people experiencing homelessness, while the National Center for Education Statistics counted 1.3 million children experiencing homelessness attending public schools the same year.²³ NLCHP detailed the flaws of the PIT and provided recommendations for improvement including more rigorous methodology, disaggregating data by race and ethnicity, including an estimate of people who are “doubled up” or living with friends and family due to economic hardship, and other recommendations.²⁴ The PIT count, even with its flaws, provides an important opportunity to better understand who experiences homelessness and at what level across Oregon.

Alternatives to the Point-in-Time – Understanding Oregon’s housing crisis through the Department of Education’s student data

The Department of Education defines homelessness in a broader way than the Point-in-Time allows. While the PIT only counts those individuals who are experiencing “literal homelessness”, the Department of Education includes individuals who may be staying with friends or family due to economic hardship and loss of housing²⁵, or folks who are staying in a motel due to eviction or lack of housing. Each school district tracks and reports to the state and federal government the number of students who are homeless/without stable housing over the course of the school year.

	Point- in Time Count (2019)	Department of Education²⁶ (2017-18 SY)
Children Experiencing Homelessness	2,558	22,363
Living w. Friends/Family (Doubled-up)	<i>Not included</i>	16,709 (74% of ODE total homeless youth)
Sheltered	934 (26%)	1,841
Unsheltered	1624 (74%)	2,572
Youth in Hotel	<i>Not included unless hotel paid for by social service agency on the night of the count</i>	1,244
% Change Total Youth from 2017	3% decrease	3% decrease

Table 3 shows a comparison of the PIT Data and The Department of Education’s data on homeless students

²² National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (2017). *Don’t Count on It: How the HUD Point-in-Time Count Underestimated the Homelessness Crisis in America*

²³ <https://psmag.com/social-justice/why-cant-we-count-the-homeless-population>

²⁴ Id,

²⁵ ODE refers to this as being “doubled up”

²⁶ Source: Homeless Student Data, Oregon Department of Education.

Moving Forward – *creating a more comprehensive and equitable point in time count*

While the PIT Count is limited in both its methodology and its comprehensiveness, it still paints a picture of the homelessness crisis in Oregon. When coupled with other data sources, such as the Oregon Department of Education's Homeless Students data and Coordinated Entry data, the breadth and depth of our understanding around who is experiencing homelessness and why will only continue to expand. An increasingly accurate understanding of both *who* is experiencing homelessness and *why* will allow state agencies, legislators, and the Federal Government to make more informed policy choices.

OHCS is exploring options for providing greater investment and focus on the PIT count. Improving our data and methodology for the PIT count will lead to greater impact on the ability of communities and providers to respond to the crisis of homelessness in their area. Inclusive and equitable data leads to more inclusive and equitable services across the state. If we can offer more support and resources for our rural CoCs with a focus to dedicate more resources to count our hard to count populations, the PIT Count can become a valuable and informative catalyst to change Oregon's response to homelessness.

Appreciation

We want to thank the following Continuums of Care for providing OHCS with the data necessary to complete this analysis. The people listed below can be contacted for more information about the counts in their regions and local initiatives to prevent and end the crisis of homelessness:

Central Oregon CoC (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties)

Molly Heiss, NeighborImpact; mollyh@neighborimpact.org

Report Link: [Central Oregon CoC 2019 PIT Count](#)²⁷

Clackamas County CoC:

Abby Ahern, Clackamas County; AbbyAhe@clackamas.us

Report Link: [Clackamas County CoC 2019 PIT Count](#)²⁸

Eugene, Springfield/Lane County CoC:

Lise Stuart, Lane County; Lise.Stuart@co.lane.or.us

Report Link: [Eugene, Springfield/Lane County CoC 2019 PIT Count](#)²⁹

Hillsboro, Beaverton/Washington County CoC:

Annette Evans, Washington County Department of Housing Services;

Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

Report Link: [Hillsboro, Beaverton/Washington County CoC 2019 PIT Count](#)³⁰

Medford/Ashland/Jackson County CoC:

Constance Wilkerson, Jackson County CoC; cwilkerson@accesshelps.org

Report Link: [Medford/Ashland/Jackson County CoC 2019 PIT Count](#)³¹

Oregon Balance of State CoC:

Justina Fyfe, Service Point System Administrator. justina.fyfe@ucanap.org

Portland, Gresham/Multnomah County CoC:

Denis Theriault, Multnomah County; Denis.Theriault@multco.us

Report Link: [Portland, Gresham/Multnomah County CoC 2019 PIT Count](#)³²

²⁷ <https://www.slideshare.net/JamesCook200/2019-central-oregon-point-in-time-count>

²⁸ <https://dochub.clackamas.us/documents/drupal/f8a9eed3-d19b-46ca-9ca9-03d8b9ed106d>

²⁹ https://lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/health_and_human_services/human_services_division/point-in-time_pit_homeless_count

³⁰ https://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/upload/HPAC_2019-Homeless-Count-Summary.pdf

³¹ <https://jacksoncountycoc.org/annual-pit-count/>

³² https://static1.squarespace.com/static/566631e8c21b864679fff4de/t/5d434f685800cf0001847e20/1564692373569/2019+PIT+Report_FINAL.pdf