

Homelessness Point-in-Time Count ... Inaccurate? Maybe... ... and it's all we've got.

"The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness that HUD requires each Continuum of Care (CoC) nationwide to conduct in the last 10 days of January"¹ (every other year).

Clatsop Community Action is the responsible agency in our county for the counts. Data gets summarized at the Continuum of Care level when it is submitted to HUD. Clatsop is one of 26 counties in the Rural Oregon CoC (also known as OR-505 Balance of State CoC).² The data is also submitted to the state of Oregon at the county level (shown here).³

2021 Point in Time Homeless Rates by Oregon County Descending by Rate — homeless per 1,000 population

County	Homeless	Population	Rate per 1,000	
Clatsop	R	928	41,428	22.4
Lake	F	155	8,177	19.0
Gilliam	F	31	2,039	15.2
Josephine	R	1,139	88,728	12.8
Coos	R	545	65,154	8.4
Harney	F	59	7,537	7.8
Lincoln	R	385	50,903	7.6
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
Washington	U	871	605,036	1.4
Clackamas	U	609	425,316	1.4
Baker	F	16	16,860	0.9
Grant	F	3	7,226	0.4
Oregon		18,312	4,266,560	4.3
Frontier Counties		440	95,358	4.6
Urban Counties		12,516	3,352,237	3.7
Rural Counties		5,356	818,965	6.5

Point in Time Homeless Rates by Oregon County Descending by 2021 Rate — homeless per 1,000 population

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Rank
Clatsop	R	5.0	11.0			18.1	17.5	20.2	22.7	17.6	22.4	1	
Lake	F	1.4	6.6			0.7	1.5	0.7	19.0	19.0	2		
Gilliam	F		4.8					1.0	15.5	15.2	3		
Josephine	R	10.2	14.2			10.5	7.6	7.4	11.9	7.3	12.8	4	
Coos	R	13.0	15.7			9.7	6.3	6.9	9.7	10.3	8.4	5	
Harney	F	2.1	0.4			0.8	2.6	5.4	8.0	0.1	7.8	6	
Lincoln	R	1.8	0.9			1.1	3.9	2.5	5.4	8.4	7.6	7	
Tillamook	R	11.2	14.3			4.1	8.8	6.7	6.8	5.0	6.9	8	
Sherman	R							0.6	6.8	5.9	6.8	9	
Douglas	R	9.2	6.7			3.7	4.2	4.7	4.8	6.2	6.8	10	
Yamhill	U	7.6	6.4			4.8	4.6	6.1	6.5	4.8	6.3	11	
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	
Union	R	1.4	0.8			2.8	1.6	2.6	1.2	0.5	2.5	29	
Wallowa	F	0.3				3.2	1.1	4.2	2.2	0.8	2.0	30	
Polk	U	0.3	1.6			0.5	1.3	2.7	1.5	0.3	1.9	31	
Umatilla	R	1.4	3.1			0.7	0.7	3.9	1.5	3.6	1.7	32	
Washington	U	2.6	2.5			1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.4	33	
Clackamas	U	0.6	7.2			1.2	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.4	34	
Baker	F	0.2	0.4			0.9	0.4	2.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	35	
Grant	F					0.9	0.5	3.6	1.5	0.3	0.4	36	
Oregon		5.0	5.7			3.3	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.6	4.3		
Frontier Counties		4.2	1.5			1.7	2.1	2.6	1.3	3.8	4.6		
Urban Counties		4.5	5.4			2.9	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.7		
Rural Counties		7.3	7.6			4.7	4.5	4.9	5.7	5.8	6.5		

"In 2015, the PIT count reported that the total number of Americans experiencing homelessness was 564,708. According to a report by the National Center for Educational Statistics, there were 1.3 million homeless children attending public schools across the country that same year."⁴

In Berkeley, CA "In three hours, they tallied 123 homeless people. In fact, his area was so densely populated with people sleeping outside that they were only able to cover half of their designated census tract. They ran out of time and had to head back to... headquarters without even counting the other half, leaving another, very different gap in the data."⁴

Due to the pandemic, the 2021 PIT "counts" are estimates.³

For data sources see <https://friendsoftheunsheltered.org/cc-pit/>

1. See <https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/point-in-time-pit-count-standards-and-methodologies-training/>
2. See <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/>
3. See <https://friendsoftheunsheltered.org/pit/> and <https://www.pdx.edu/homelessness/statewide-homelessness-estimate-2021>.
4. See <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-04/the-problem-with-hud-s-point-in-time-homeless-count>.



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