

Group: *Michelle Lee, Jake Gombis, Brennan Lim, Kelilah King*

Youth Homelessness: A Resource for Volunteers

- **Topic**
 - Modern homelessness reveals deeply rooted issues within our society. In regards to the demographic differentiation amongst the homeless community, several subcategories have been created by different institutions. For this research project, our group decided to focus on the impact of homelessness regarding displaced young adults in the King County area.
 - As the rate of youth homelessness fluctuates, the need for volunteers is greater than ever. Unfortunately, due to the high turnover rate of most homeless centers, volunteers are often being employed without any base knowledge of youth homelessness.
- **Purpose Statement**
 - Our goal, as a group, is to provide information that is efficient, accessible, and accurate. Due to the several laws protecting the rights of unaccompanied minors, information is rarely accessible. Yet with intensive research, our group was able to find key facts about youth homelessness that future volunteers may be trained upon. In order for a volunteer to be empathetic, one must try and understand the root issues and possible solutions within this topic. It is our hope that the volunteers who access this information, will utilize it in a way that helps them build better connections.
- **Empathy Exercise**





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- **Homeless Profile***
 - Age: 12 - 25
 - Ethnicity: Any

- Gender: Any
- Origin (Location): King County Area
- Income: Low to none
- **Due to the fact that our group wanted to focus primarily on homeless / unaccompanied youth, the homeless profile was purposefully kept general.*
- **Audience Profile**
 - Age: 18 – 25+
 - Ethnicity: Any
 - Gender: Any
 - Origin (Location): King County Area
 - Income: Low to Medium
 - Occupation: Volunteer / Social Worker
 - Education: Varied
 - Interests: Sociology, Volunteer work, Non-profit Organizations, Social Justice, Ethics Research.
- **Questions Audience & Homeless Population Are Asking**
 - **Homeless Population Questions:**
 - What resources are available to me? (i.e. Housing, Health Care, Food Assistance, Prospective Jobs, Transportation, Clothing, etc.)
 - What happens when I am no longer considered “youth”?
 - **Audience Questions:**
 - What can I do? / What am I allowed to do? (Things to be warned against)
 - What are the reasons behind their homelessness?
 - How have the reasons changed throughout time?
 - What are the trends in King County? Common Demographics?
 - What does the spectrum of homelessness look like?
- **Identification of Key Words**
 - - Displaced youth
 - - Unaccompanied youth
 - - Racial Disparity
 - - Wealth Disparity
 - - Income / Available housing units
 - ○ Comparisons between average income & rent
 - - AMI (Area Median Income)
 - - Foster Care and Homelessness
- **Interviews**
 - - **Homeless Person** (J.D. & Michelle - Transcript)
 - **Please read for context**
 - *I had the pleasure of interviewing JD, who I have known for about ten years now. We ended up being homeless around the same time, but JD is currently struggling to find an affordable apartment that they are able to settle down in. they have been “on-and-off-again” homeless for almost ten years now. They are a very close friend of mine.*

- I've replaced the swearing in this interview with "(*)"s.

- **M:** Hey JD, thanks again for meeting with me so last minute. How've you been?
- **J:** I've been alright man, just trying to get a job right now. I'm just straight up on that struggle bus, you feel? Haha. So let's get this (*) interview started!
- **M:** There's that JD charisma! Alright, man so just for the recorded interview: can I have you state your name, that you're comfortable with sharing, age, ethnicity, gender, and pronouns?
- **J:** Yeah of course: So I go by JD but my birth name is James. I'm finna be 26 in June. Uhh... Right, I'm a half black - half Filipino trans man who uses they/them pronouns. Did I get everything?
- **M:** Yeah, you're doing great so far. So, you know we know each other pretty well, and it's been practically a decade I think -
- **J:** Holy (*)! We're so old! Jesus, do you remember when you had that (*) colored hair?
- **M:** Oh my god, yeah! Man we've grown, hahaha. But anyways, for the sake of my school project do you think you'd be cool with sharing - again whatever makes you comfortable - your experience?
- **J:** Uh, yeah of course. Anything for you sis. Let me know what's up what do you alllllll wanna know at your school.
- **M:** Well, tell me first about what it was like throughout these past, damn, what was it... eight? Nine Years?
- **J:** Well, as you know - it's been damn hard. Like.. to be completely real with you right now, I'm exhausted Mish... Like, I get so many dirty (*) looks dude. Just because these prick (*) white folk just come into my hood and don't know (*) about me, you feel me? Like, (*) everyone lookin and (*) but then they ain't got nothing to say! I'm out here just tryna get a job like everyone else. Like, yo, I swear to God that all these folk stay questioning what I am too - like they see me on the streets and be like "what is that... thing???"
- **M:** Wait, hold up, they say that?
- **J:** Hell nah, but you can tell that's what they thinkin. Like Seattle folk stay claimin like they give a (*) about trans lives gay lives whatever the (*) that they say, but they don't yo. I swear to God it's been harder getting cash now that all these wack (*) fancy bougie (*) white people be all up in here taking jobs and (*). They pushing us out, dude. Like you know how long it took for us to get into contact 'cause all I been tryna do is stay off the streets and get that roof you feel?
- **M:** Yeah... I totally get what you mean. It's horrible seeing all the (*) that's been pushing people out of this neighborhood. And I'm so sorry the resources provided aren't being good enough. Now, since it's been a

while since we last linked up - how's school going? Cause last time we were talking about you heading back to community college.

- **J:** (*) man, I (*) wish! Yo, so check it you know how I was at (*) for a little while right? Like, (*) I was living that life bad and bougie! Hahahaha, flossin and (*). But they (*) fired me fam! Like, out of all the places to be fired at, (*) Target!? Bruh they tried to pull some (*) out they (*) but I knew it was cause I was starting to transition. Like, you knew me before I started T and now that I'm homeless my body is all sorts of (*) up because I can't get my (*) medication. I'm pissed. I ain't got nowhere to go, and on top of that I'm getting kicked the (*) out because these mother(*) love actin like they support trans folks but they stay criminalizing us fam. Like, I ain't tryna stab no one or fight nobody. I just want a job, you feel me? I just want a (*) bed that I can crash at. I don't (*) want a palace or some (*). I'm (*) cold, and tired, and I feel like I been moving around every (*) hour. First it's one opportunity that I think is finna get me out, but it (*) doesn't! (*) always be going wrong and I'm sick of it. Like, I can't even be comfortable identifying as a - a man or some (*). Like people still call me thing, and it's hard as (*) not having the confidence to go out cause it sucks! This (*) just sucks and I'm (*) tired...

at this point, JD began to cry so we stopped the interview

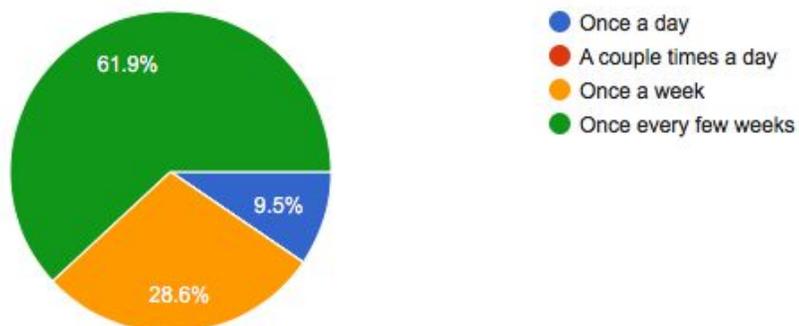
Out of respect for my friend, I have chosen to not upload the auditory interview

- - **YouthCare Expert** (Craig Gibson of YouthCare/Orion Center Seattle)
 - [Audio Recording Interview](#)
- **Survey Questions**
 - What age do you consider homeless youth to be?
 - How often do you see homeless youth on the streets?
 - Which of these homeless centers have you heard of?
 - YouthCare
 - UPC
 - Hopelink
 - Have you ever volunteered?
 - Do / Have you known any youth that have been homeless?
 - What do you think the main causes of youth homelessness are?
 - What are educational resources you turn to?

- **Survey Results**

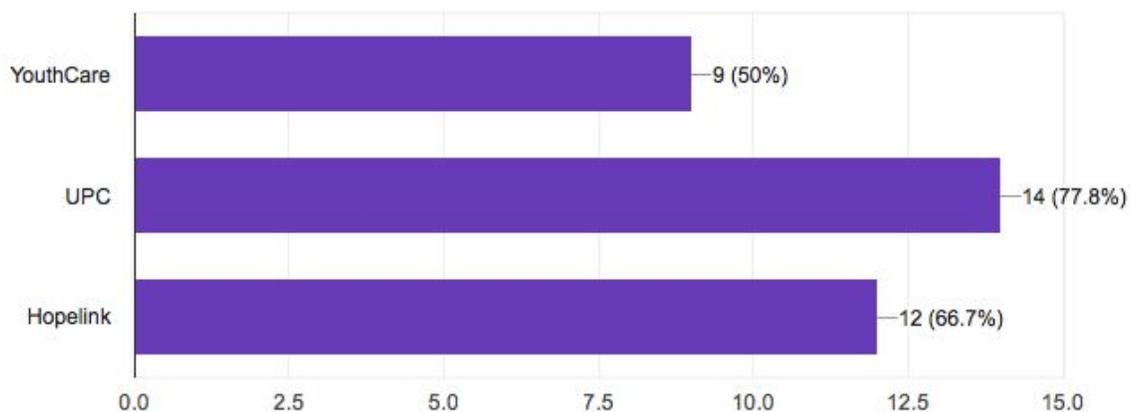
How often do you see homeless youth on the streets?

21 responses



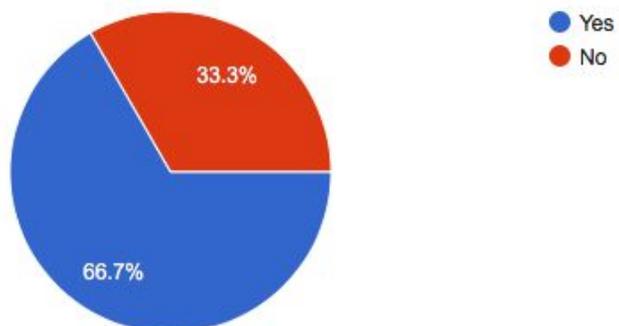
Which of these homeless centers have you heard of?

18 responses



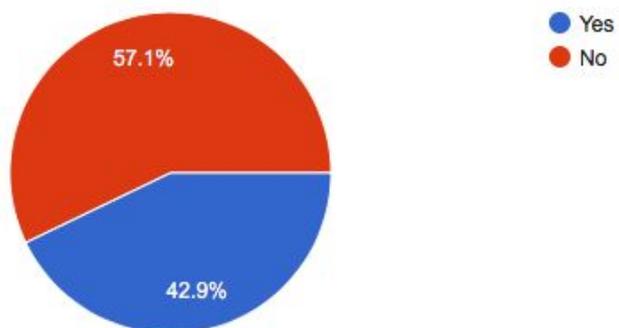
Have you ever volunteered?

21 responses



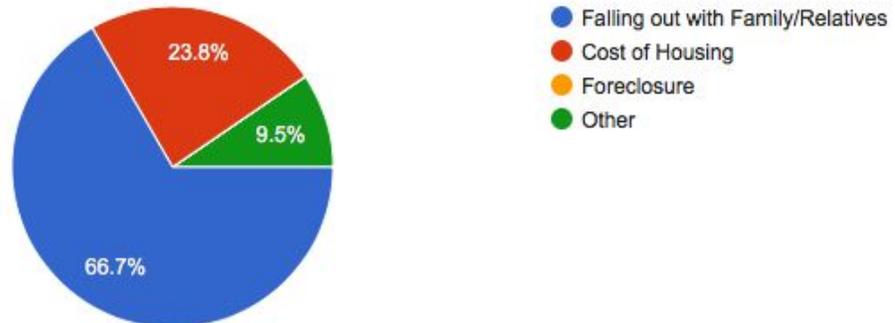
Do / Have you known any youth that have been homeless?

21 responses



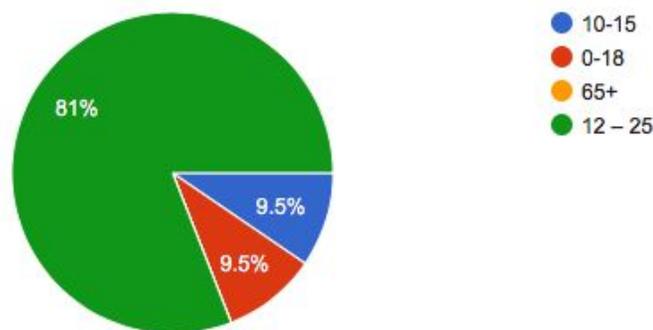
What do you think the main causes of youth homelessness are?

21 responses



What age do you consider homeless youth to be?

21 responses



- **Literary Research**

- [Revised Code of Washington](#) (Legalities)
- [Understanding King County Racial Inequities](#) (Marginalization / Racial Disparity)
- [Seattle / King County Point-In-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness 2017](#) (Marginalization / Racial Disparity / Youth Opportunity)
- [Where the homeless died: Opiates, illness, homicides fuel rise in deaths on King County streets](#)

- **Marginality & Queer Youth**

[Source 1](#)

1. Youth of color are disproportionately represented among homeless youth and young adults.
2. From the 2015 "Count Us In" report, homeless and unstably housed youth were 51% POC (Fig 30)

3. Factors contributing to homelessness:
 - a. Poverty
 - b. Income insecurity
 - c. Under/unemployment
 - d. Lack of affordable housing
 - i. POC more likely than WP to live in unaffordable housing
 - ii. According to chart, Latinx and Black families experience *highest housing cost burden (this has been apparent for a very long time)*
 - e. Structural Racism
 - i. This type of racism continues to perpetuate barriers to services, resources, and opportunities and the income gap between POC and whites is growing
 - ii. POC are overrepresented amongst asset poverty and lack critical needs like healthcare, education, employment, and housing

[Source 2](#)

1. Up to 40% LGBTQ youth make up homeless youth stats
2. Mental health problems are extremely prevalent and unaddressed

[Source 3](#)

An estimated 1,498 individuals were unaccompanied youth and young adults

These young people represent 13% of the total count population, and comprise unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years of age, including 221 unaccompanied minors under 18 years old. Over three-quarters (76%) of unaccompanied youth and young adults were unsheltered, while 24% were sheltered on the night of the count.

- Among all survey respondents, 58% of individuals identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ); 54% of families with children; and 43% of unaccompanied youth and young adults reported histories of domestic violence. These groups of individuals also reported domestic or family violence as the primary cause of their homelessness at higher rates when compared to other survey respondents.
- Nineteen percent (19%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported a history of foster care, with rates of foster care involvement highest among respondents identifying as LGBTQ (33%) and unaccompanied young people under 25 years of age (29%).

According to 2017 survey, 77% of homeless people lost their homes in **King County**

FIGURE 2. WHERE WERE YOU LIVING AT THE TIME YOU MOST RECENTLY LOST YOUR HOUSING?

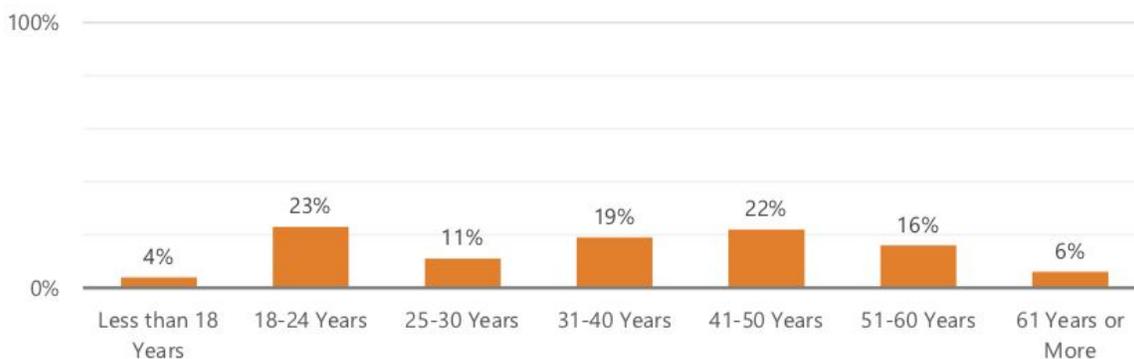


2017 n=866

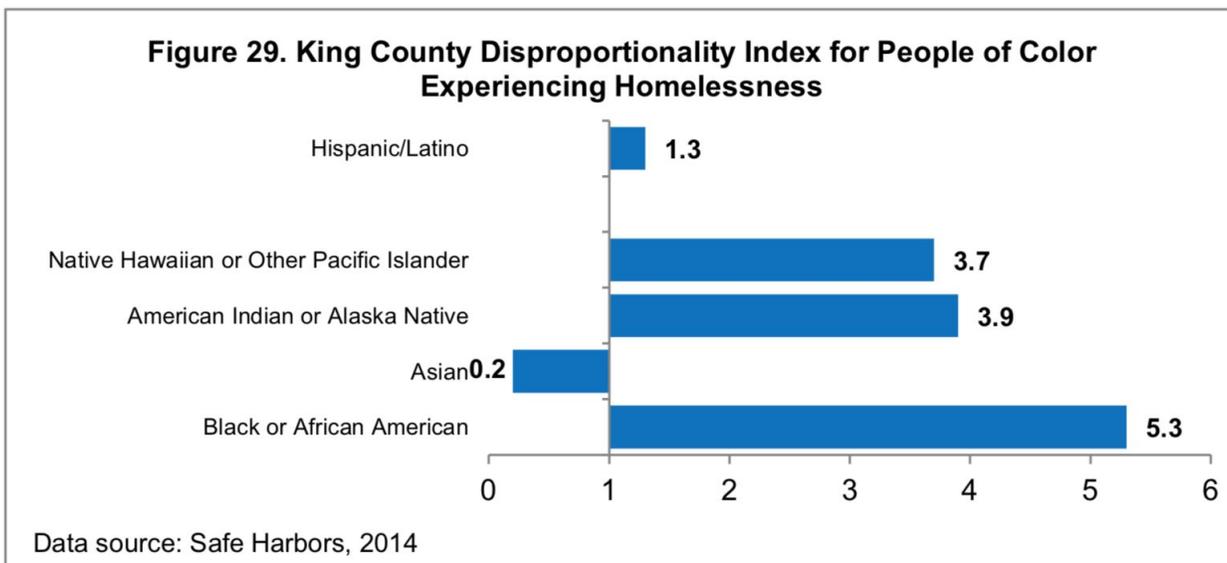
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). *Seattle/King County Count Us In*.

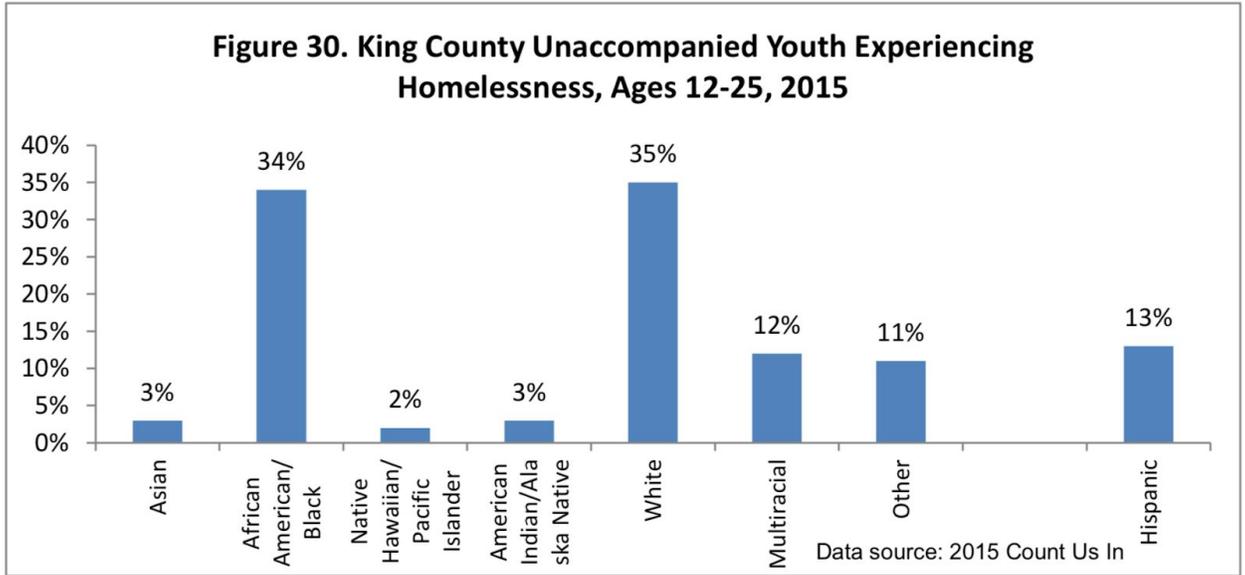
Includes data collected from the following count components: *Count Us In Survey*. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



● **Statistical Research**





TOP THREE REASONS FOR LGBT HOMELESSNESS:
 — REPORTED BY LGBT YOUNG PEOPLE (AKT 2014)

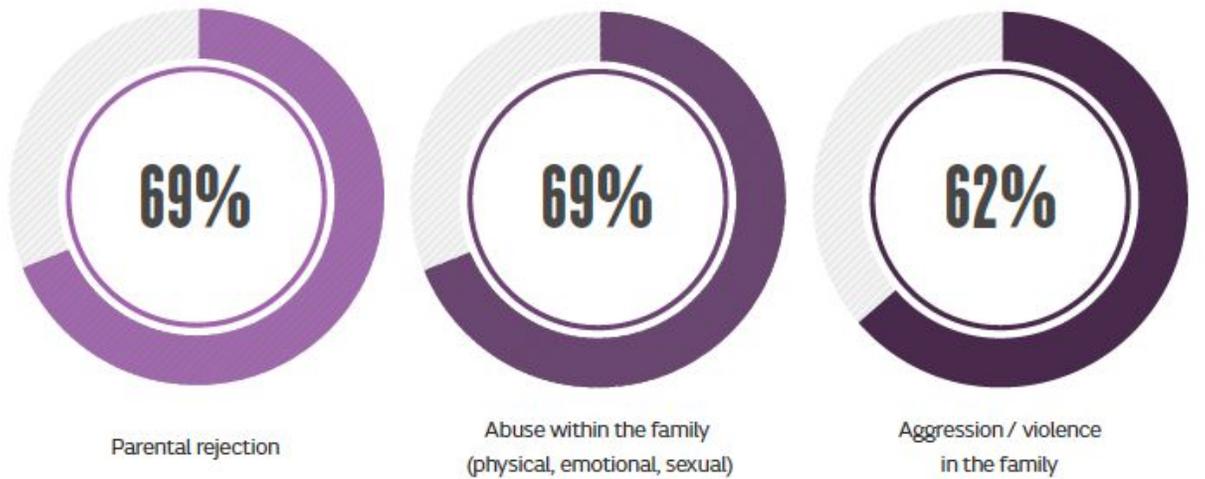


FIGURE 9. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY AGE, SHELTER STATUS, AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE

	2017				
	YOUTH UNDER 18	YOUNG ADULTS 18-24	ADULTS OVER 24	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Sheltered	1,677	535	3,946	6,158	53%
Individuals in family households	1,647	205	900	2,752	24%
Individuals in households with no children	--	330	3,046	3,376	29%
Individuals in households with only children	30	--	--	30	<1%
Unsheltered	237	953	4,295	5,485	47%
Individuals in family households	42	6	33	81	1%
Individuals in households with no children	--	947	4,262	5,209	45%
Individuals in households with only children	195	--	--	195	2%
Total	1,914	1,488	8,241	11,643	100%
Percent	16%	13%	71%	100%	--

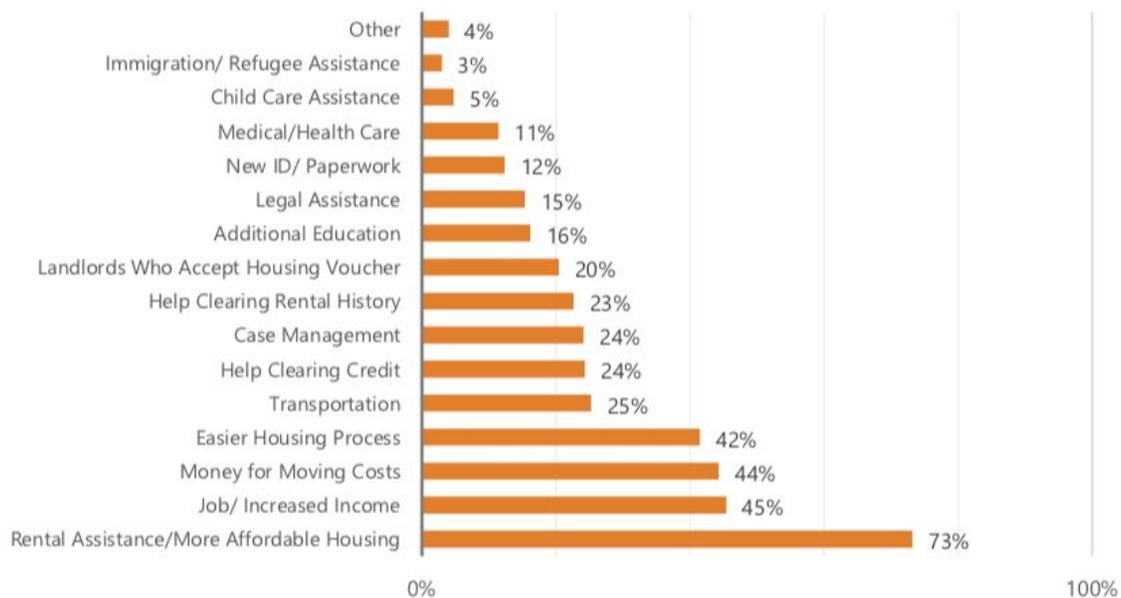
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). *Seattle/King County Count Us In*.

Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Family households are defined by households with at least one adult and one child. Households without children include households with one or more adults, but no children. Households with only children include households with one or more children, but no adults. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Applied Survey Research (2017). *Seattle/King County Point-In-Time Count Of Persons Experiencing Homelessness*. Count Us In. [online] Seattle, WA: Applied Survey Research, pp.16-43. Available at: <http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2017-Count-Us-In-PIT-Comprehensive-Report.pdf> [Accessed 17 Jan. 2018].

FIGURE 23. SUPPORT NEEDED TO OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS



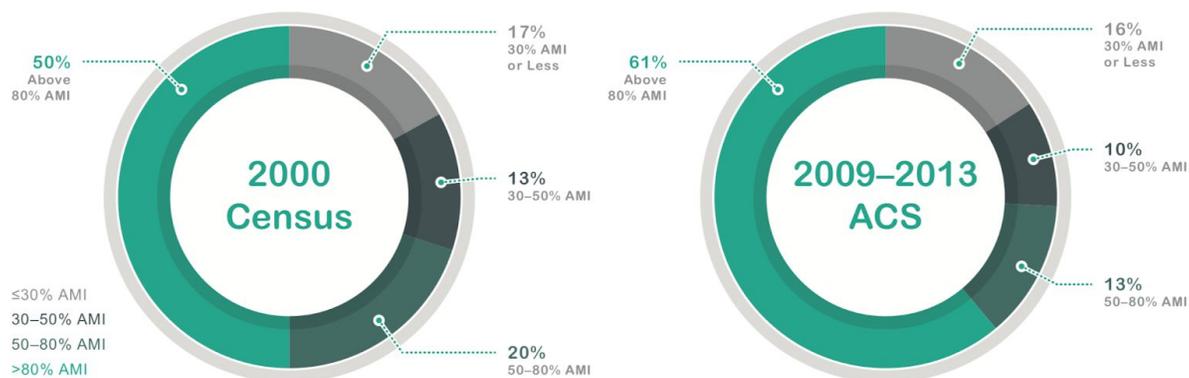
2017 n= 867

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Exhibit 3.1-7 Share of Total Households by Household Income Level, 2000 and 2009-2013



Source: HUD CHAS (based on U.S. Census 2000 and ACS Five-Year Estimates, 2009-2013); BERK, 2017.

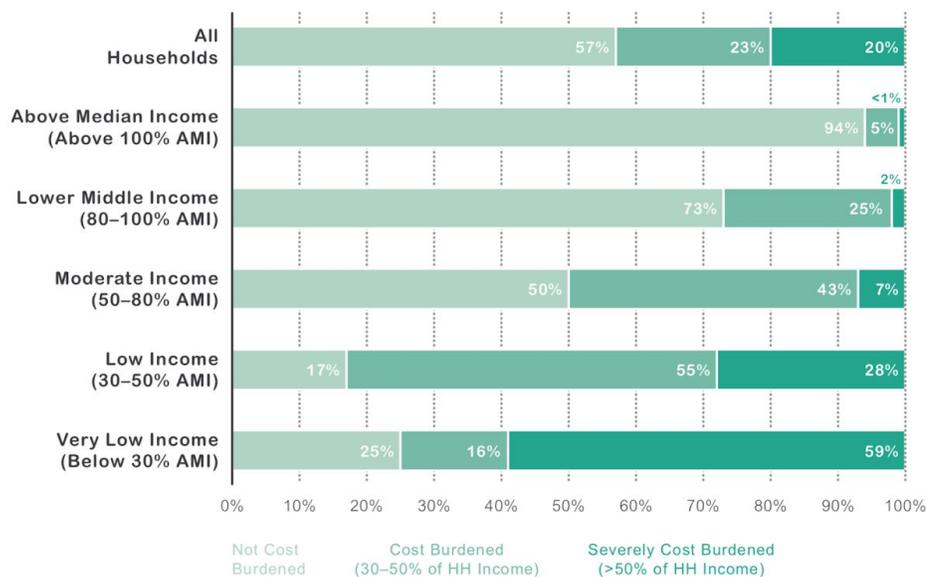


Exhibit 3.1-14
Share of Renter Households with Cost Burden by Income Category

Source: HUD CHAS (based on ACS Five-Year Estimates, 2009-2013); BERK, 2017.

- Seattle HALA (2017). *City Implementaion of Mandatory Housing Affordability*. Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Seattle, WA: Seattle, pp.3.1 Housing and Socioeconomics.

COUNT US IN RESULTS

On the night of the 2017 Point-in-Time Count in Seattle/King County, there were 11,643 people experiencing homelessness

A total of 11,643 individuals experiencing homelessness were counted on January 27, 2017. Forty-seven percent (47%) of the population was unsheltered, living on the street, in parks, encampments, vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation.

FIGURE 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). *Seattle/King County Count Us In*. Includes data collected from the following count components: General Street Count, Youth and Young Adult Count, Count Us In Survey, Sheltered Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

- During the Count Us In Survey, seventy-seven percent (77%) of respondents reported living in King County at the time they most recently lost their housing.
- Twenty percent (20%) of survey respondents reported being born or growing up in King County, and 24% reported having lived in King County for a decade or longer.
- Seventy percent (70%) of the county's unsheltered population identified during the street count were residing in Seattle.

- Seattle was also the location of the majority (76%) of individuals residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe havens on the night of the count.
- Twenty percent (20%) of unsheltered individuals were residing in the Southwest region; this area includes the cities of Renton, Burien, Auburn and Kent.
- Lower percentages of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness were residing in East County (5%), Northeast County (2%), North County (1%), and Southeast County (1%).
- Nineteen percent (19%) of Count Us In survey respondents reported a history of foster care, with rates of foster care involvement highest among respondents identifying as LGBTQ (33%) and unaccompanied young people under 25 years of age (29%).

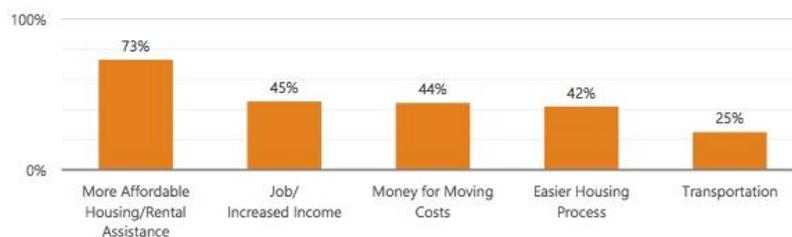
Housing ends homelessness

Ninety-two percent (92%) of Count Us In survey respondents said they would move into safe and affordable housing if it were offered. Although not necessarily residing in shelter on the night of the count, 42% of respondents reported accessing emergency shelter and 33% reported accessing transitional housing programs.

Prior to losing their housing, nearly three-quarters of Count Us In survey respondents reported living either in a home owned or rented by themselves or their partner (43%), or with friends or relatives (31%). Approximately 23% of survey respondents indicated that issues related to housing affordability were the primary conditions leading to their homelessness, including eviction (11%), inability to afford a rent increase (6%), family or friend could no longer afford to let them stay (4%), and foreclosure (2%).

When asked what would help individuals experiencing homelessness to obtain permanent housing, Count Us In survey respondents reported more affordable housing and rental assistance (73%) as key to ending their homelessness.

FIGURE 6. WHAT WOULD HELP YOU OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING?



2017 n= 867

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

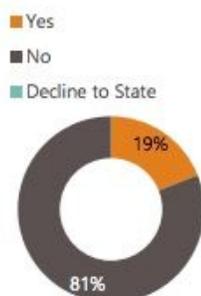
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

FOSTER CARE

Nationally, it is estimated that at least 20% of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.³ In the state of Washington, many foster youth are eligible to receive extended foster care benefits as they transition into adulthood, up until their 21st birthday. The goal of extended foster care is to assist foster youth with the transition to independence and prevent them from experiencing homelessness.

In 2017, approximately 19% of Count Us In survey respondents reported a history of foster care. Less than 1% of respondents indicated that they were living in a foster care placement prior to their loss of housing, while a similar percentage (<1%) reported that aging out of foster care was the primary event that led to their homelessness.

FIGURE 16. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n=1,116

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Seattle/King County Count Us In.

Includes data collected from the following count components: Count Us In Survey, Youth and Young Adult Count. For more information on the methodology, please see Appendix 1.

- Since 2013, local programs working to house and shelter the homeless have managed to boost the number of people placed into permanent housing by 52 percent.

•Mental Illness:

Information for the Audience:

•HCHN works with nine community based partner agencies in serving homeless youth/young adults (Health Care for the Homeless Network)

Service Sites: Shelters, Day Centers, Transitional Housing Programs, Meal Programs, Clinics

Interagency Care Teams: Integrate broad range of medical, mental health, substance abuse, case management, & health access service

•Their work aligns with All Home Continuum of Care plan to help make the homeless brief and a one time experience

Further partnerships listed at this link:

"About the Health Care for the Homeless Network." *About the Health Care for the Homeless Network - King County*,
www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/locations/homeless-health/healthcare-for-the-homeless/about-us.aspx.

•Patient Population: 20,000

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/locations/homeless-health/healthcare-for-the-homeless/~media/depts/health/homeless-health/healthcare-for-the-homeless/documents/HCHN-needs-assessment-2016-2017.ashx>

Chart for youth with mental health issues pg. 23

Age, HCHN Patients 2014 - 2016

Monitoring trends in aging population and among children, youth & young adults

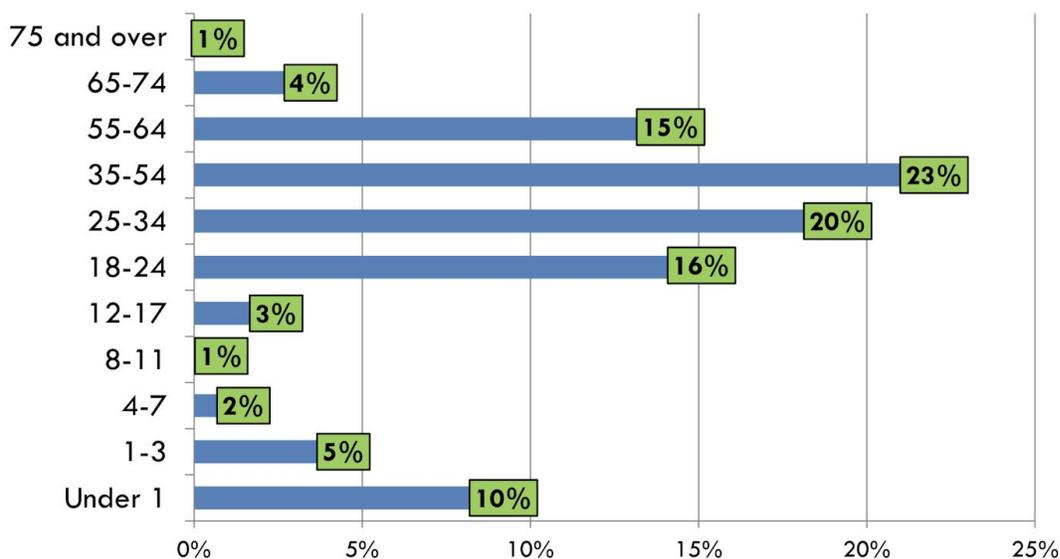
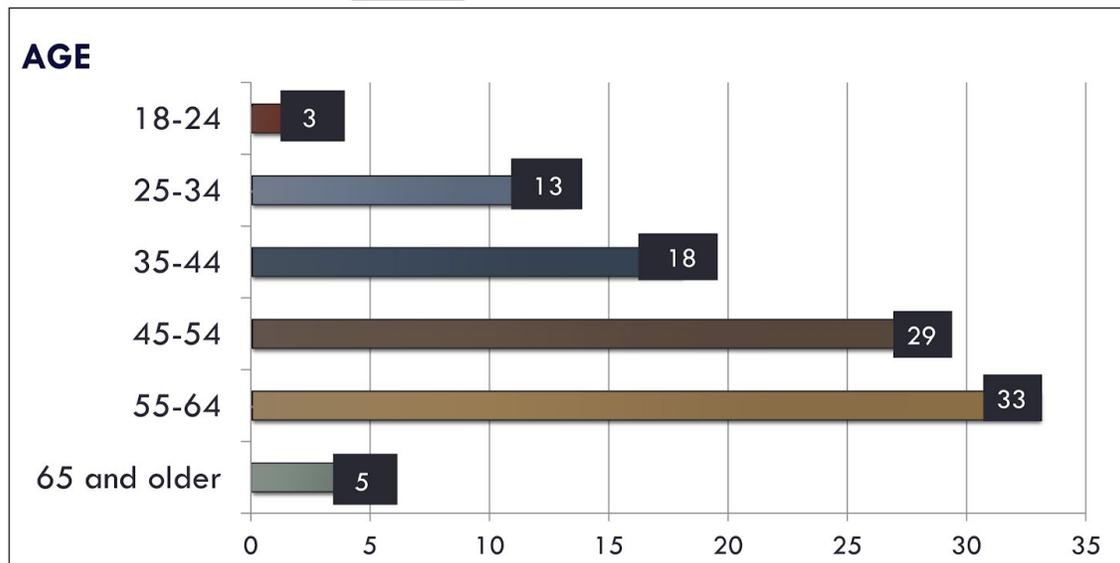


Chart for 2014-2016: pg.36

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 101



DATA NOTES: No one under 18 directly participated in the Listening Sessions.

"Youth Homelessness Affects Nearly 1,500 Youth in King County Every Day." *New Horizons*, nhmin.org/youth-homelessness-seattle/.

- Youth homelessness affects 1500 youth in King County every day
- 4.3% of youth & young adults in King County report a history of domestic violence or abuse, or cite that this abuse is the main cause for their homelessness
- They report that higher rates of mental health symptoms including depression, PTSD, anxiety, resulting in increased suicide rate attempts
- New Horizons offers ways to help youth transition off the streets

*****Street Bean Coffee works for youth**

<https://nhmin.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2017-Count-Us-In-PIT-Comprehensive-Report.pdf>

Raghavendran, Beena. "High Rate of Homelessness among King County's LGBTQ Youth." *The Seattle Times*, The Seattle Times Company, 5 Aug. 2015, www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/high-rate-of-homelessness-among-king-countys-lgbtq-youth/.

Research on Kellie Pine: drug abuse, homeless because she refused to go back to a boarding school for troubled teens

Works at the PSKS (Peace for the Streets by Kids) <http://www.psk.org>

Serigala spent her early childhood in foster care before landing with a family when she was 7. At some point in her childhood, she decided to

become Pagan, which her Christian family didn't accept. She said she enrolled in the military after graduating high school at 18 but quit after three months of basic training.

She said that she tried to return to her family, but they wouldn't let her move back in because she was unemployed. So she bounced around to other family and shelters and came to Seattle in late 2012. Now she spends almost every night at ROOTS Young Adult Shelter in the University District.

Good Quotes on the mental stress sleeping on the streets can cause: Burnside, Jeff.

"Stories of Homeless Teens: 'I Didn't Expect Myself to Be a Runaway'." *KOMO*,
komonews.com/news/local/stories-of-homeless-teens-i-didnt-expect-myself-to-be-a-runaway.

"Drugs and sex with homelessness," said Mike, "it's almost part of homelessness. Not everybody gets involved with drugs. Not everybody gets involved with survival sex. But those become two key ingredients to survival out here."

SEATTLE/KING COUNTY POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS 2017

<http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2017-Count-Us-In-PIT-Comprehensive-Report.pdf>

Where the homeless died: Opiates, illness, homicides fuel rise in deaths on King County streets

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/dozens-of-homeless-people-have-died-in-king-county-this-year-as-illness-opiates-and-homicides-take-their-toll/>

New Survey Finds Most People Experiencing Homelessness in Seattle Were Already Here When They Became Homeless

<https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2017/03/03/24967599/new-survey-finds-most-people-experiencing-homelessness-in-seattle-were-already-here-when-they-became-homeless>

TYPES OF SHELTERS AND SERVICES WE PROVIDE

<https://www.shelterlistings.org/city/seattle-wa.html>

