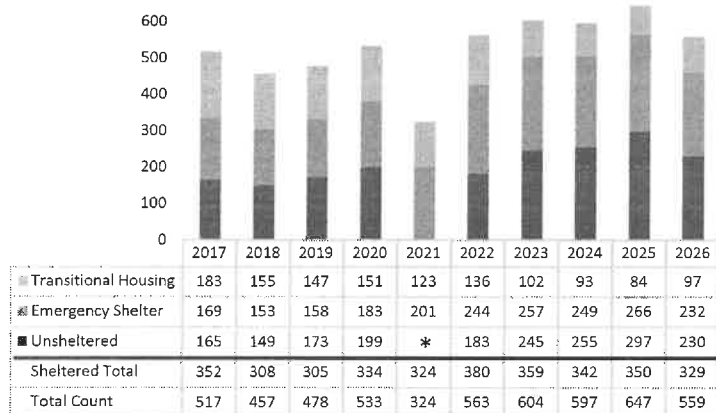


2026 Kitsap County Point in Time Count Overview – Preliminary Data

The "Point in Time" count is a 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 undercount of the actual number of people experiencing homelessness. 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.

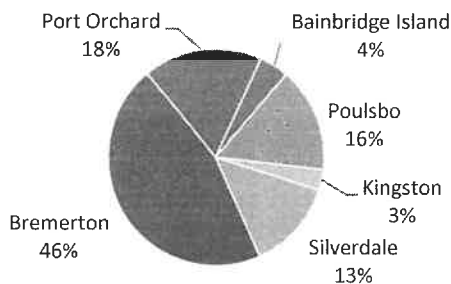
Decreased Number of Unsheltered Individuals from 2025

The 2026 count of 230 unsheltered individuals indicates a 23% decrease from the high of 297 in 2025 and is comparable to the average number counted 2022-2024. Note that additional shelter beds were in operation from 2021-2026. The unsheltered count was not performed in 2021 due to the COVID-19



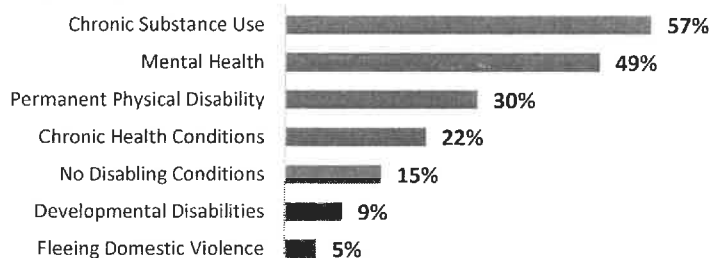
Current City

Efforts were made to survey widely across Kitsap County where households experiencing homelessness were anticipated to be encountered. Participants experiencing unsheltered homelessness (190 households, 230 individuals) were surveyed in the following locations throughout the county.



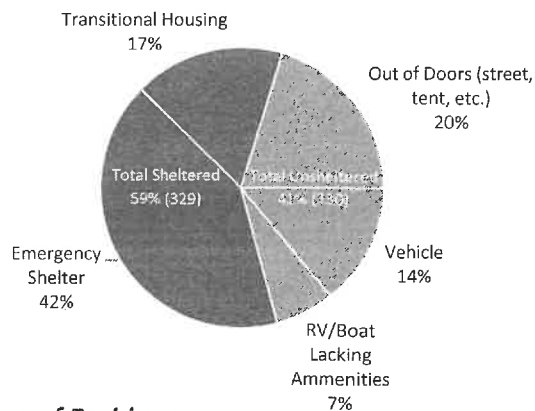
Characteristics

When asked about various personal characteristics, 164 unsheltered heads of households (86%) responded. The most common response from survey participants was that they experienced challenges related to substance use and mental health, followed by permanent disability, and chronic health conditions.



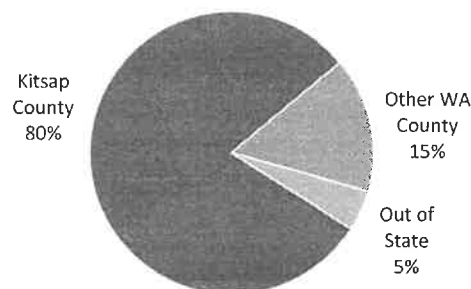
Defining Sheltered vs. Unsheltered

For the purposes of this survey, information is collected on sheltered (in emergency shelter or transitional housing) vs. unsheltered homelessness. In the 2026 count, 230 people said they were unsheltered. The majority of those who were unsheltered indicated they lived outside in places not meant for human habitation.



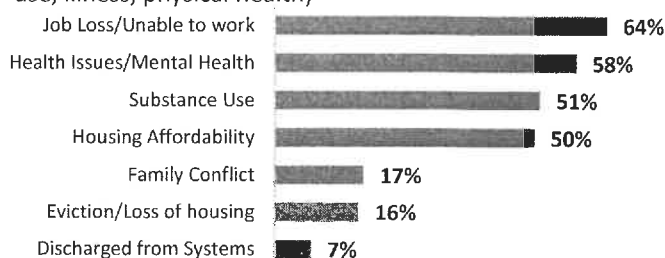
Last Place of Residence

Surveys also collected information about the last city of permanent residence, and 34% of unsheltered households provided this data. 52 (80%) of those households previously had stable housing in Kitsap County.



Causes of Homelessness

When asked about the specific cause (or causes) of homelessness, 135 unsheltered households (71%) responded. The most common responses were housing & economic issues (loss of job/unable to work, eviction, housing affordability), and health issues (mental health, substance use, illness, physical health)



[1] In 2026 the Project Connect Community Resource fairs were hosted at the Salvation Army in Bremerton, newlife Trainina & Events Center Silverdale, and at the United Methodist Church in Port Orchard.

