

2011 POINT-IN-TIME Count of Homelessness in Portland/Multnomah County, Oregon



Presented to: Portland Housing Bureau, 211info, and Multnomah County

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June 2011

Taking Action to End Homelessness



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We believe that everyone should have a safe, decent, and affordable place to call home. However, on any given night, thousands of our neighbors live without a home – a basic necessity.

We hope as you read this report you allow the data to touch your hearts and minds. Attached to these numbers are women, children and men – our neighbors, friends and families – who do not have a place to call home.

By bringing together government, non-profit organizations, the faith community, and business partners, we have made a real difference in the lives of those who need help.

Since 2004, when we began Home Again, our community's plan to end homelessness, our shared efforts have moved more than 7,000 people from the streets and shelters into homes.

We prevented thousands more from becoming homeless with assistance that allowed them to stay in their homes until they were back on their feet.

This June, we opened the Bud Clark Commons, a cornerstone to our community's plan, which will provide 130 units of permanent housing, a day access center that connects people to services and a men's shelter.

Through these efforts, we learned about the most effective ways to prevent and end people's homelessness.

We focus on helping people move into housing first, and then connect them with the supportive services, jobs and sustaining benefits they need to stay there. We provide rent assistance, which is an immediate short-term solution for individuals and families in crisis. And, we continue to invest locally in building more homes that people can actually afford.

However, the results of this report remind us that we must do more.

In the coming years, we will adapt our approach to address today's challenges. We will work together to end the practice of discharging vulnerable individuals from our hospitals, prisons, and foster care system to the street. We will retool our outreach, shelter, and rent assistance programs to better prevent homelessness and to quickly find homes for those who become homeless, with increased emphasis on veterans, families, and children. We will address the continuing crisis caused by the unraveling of our mental health and addictions treatment systems, and we will better meet the stark reality that domestic violence remains a significant cause of homelessness among women and families.

We commit to taking action every day to end homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County. We invite you to join us in working to make that vision a reality. For more information, go to:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/phb/streetcount>

The simple truth is that we can't afford to do anything less.

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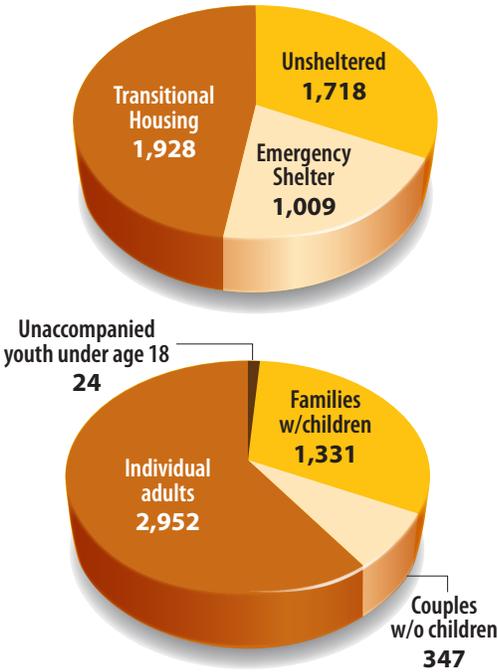
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Graphic design by Ted Cobb, Cobb Graphic Design.

Cover photos courtesy of Israel Bayer, Street Roots.

The point-in-time count of homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County provides a snapshot of the individuals and families experiencing homelessness on a given night in our community. The data collected from the count ensures our community's continued eligibility for state and federal funding and helps the City of Portland, Multnomah County and their nonprofit partners plan for the funding and services needed to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness in our community.

Homeless Individuals



Data for the point-in-time count comes from the Street Count, which is sponsored by the Portland Housing Bureau, and the One Night Shelter Count, which is sponsored by Multnomah County. In 2011, the City, County, and their partners worked together to achieve unprecedented levels of coordination between the two counts. This report represents the first time that the findings from both counts have been analyzed together and released in a joint report.

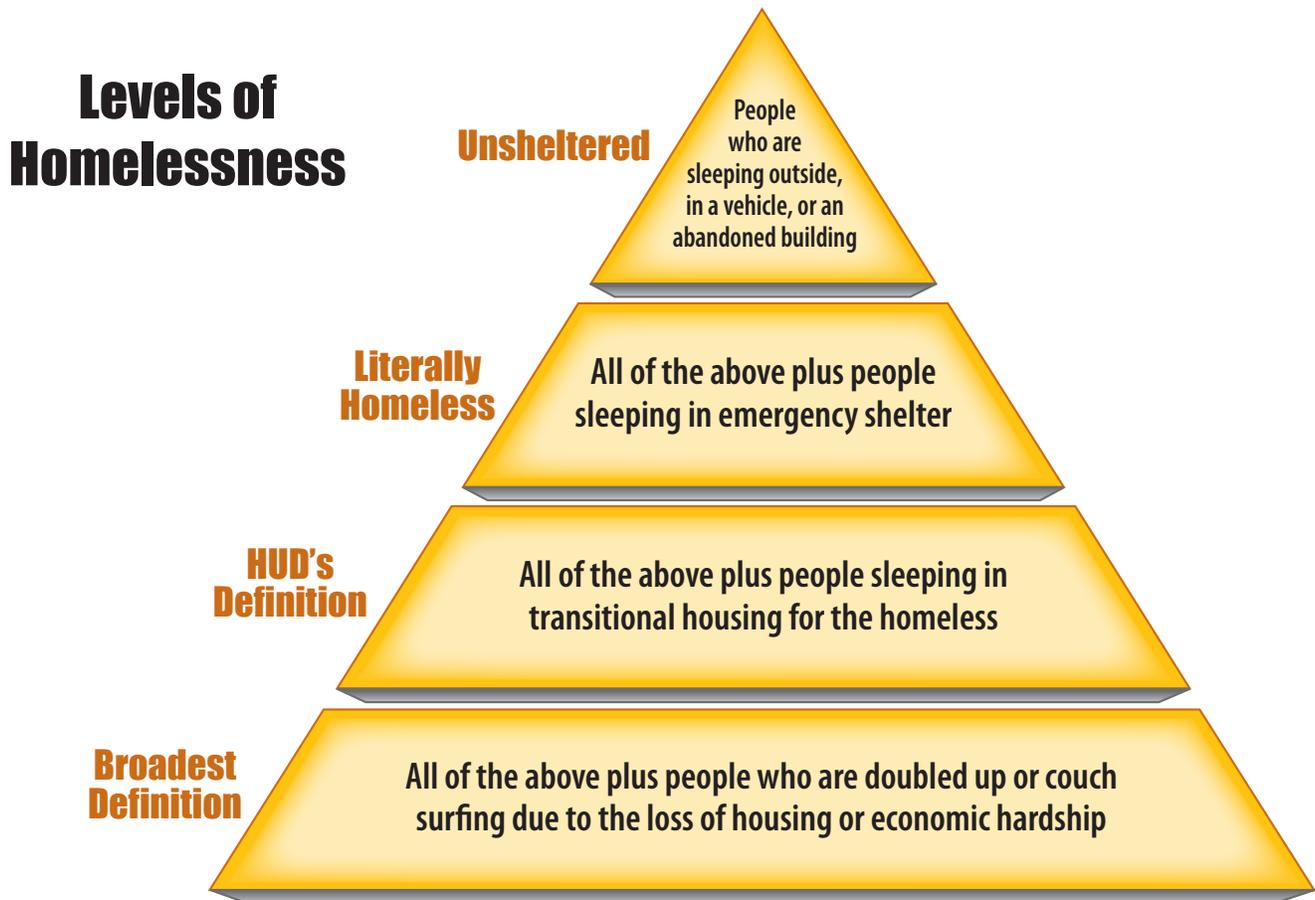
The 2011 count identified 2,727 people who were “literally homeless” – sleeping in an emergency shelter, vouchered into a motel, or unsheltered – on the night of January 26. This number includes 1,718 people who were unsheltered (sleeping outside, in a vehicle, or abandoned building) and 1,009 people who were sleeping in an emergency shelter or vouchered into a motel. An additional 1,928 people were sleeping in transitional housing on the night of the count, bringing the total homeless count to 4,655.

This figure represents 1,331 individuals in families with children (including 751 children), 347 individuals in couples, 2,952 individual adults over age 18, and 24 unaccompanied youth under age 18.

The count did not capture comprehensive information on households who were doubled up, but an analysis of available data suggests that there may be four times as many people in that situation as are on the streets or in shelters. The count also documented 1,871 people who received rent assistance or permanent supportive housing on the night of the count who would most likely have been homeless without that support.

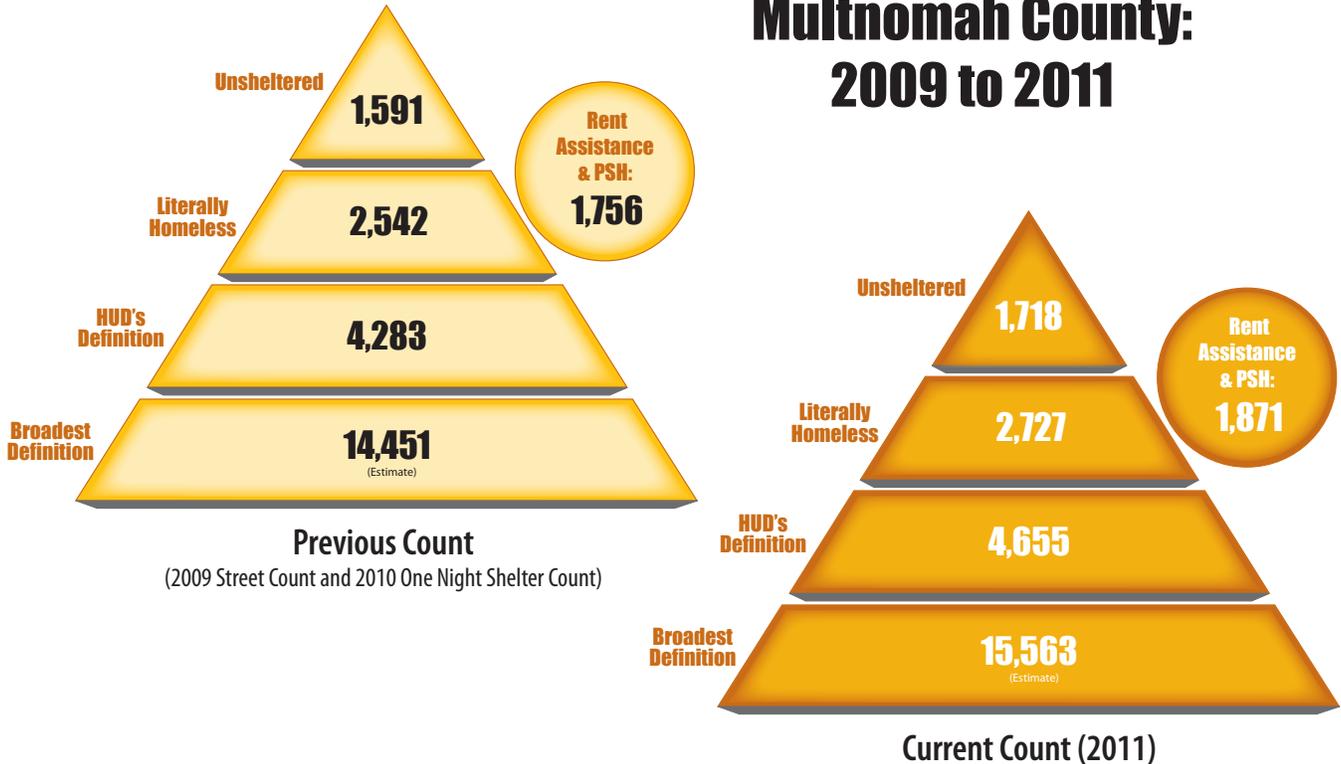
Due to the inherent difficulties of obtaining a complete count of everyone who is homeless in Multnomah County on a given night, the count represents an estimate rather than a complete enumeration. The actual number of people who are homeless in our community on a given night is likely higher than the number documented in this report.

The point in time count's findings represent an increase in the levels of homelessness in Multnomah County since the most recent Street Count and One Night Shelter Count took place in 2009 and 2010 respectively. The extent of the increase depends on how we define homelessness:



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- **Unsheltered:** The most visible homeless population is the unsheltered homeless, including people sleeping outside, in vehicles, abandoned buildings, or other places not intended for human habitation.
 - **Literally Homeless:** The federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses the term “literally homeless” to refer to the unsheltered homeless as well as people sleeping in emergency shelters or vouchered into motels.
 - **HUD's Definition:** HUD's definition of homelessness for the point-in-time count includes the literally homeless as well as those sleeping in transitional housing for the homeless.
 - **Broadest Definition:** Some advocates and government agencies (including the Department of Education) define homelessness more broadly to include individuals and families who are sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing or economic hardship.
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Homelessness in Multnomah County: 2009 to 2011



Levels of homelessness in Multnomah County were 7% to 9% higher in 2011 compared with the most recent counts in 2009 and 2010:

- The unsheltered homeless count increased by 127 people, or 8%.
- The number of literally homeless increased by 185 people, or 7%.
- The number meeting HUD's definition of homelessness increased by 372 people, or 9%.
- The number meeting the broadest definition of homelessness increased by an estimated 1,112 people or 8%.

The One Night Shelter Count also captures information on people who are receiving rent assistance or living in permanent supportive housing (PSH). This data provides an important context for interpreting the other numbers in the count by showing the movement of people out of homelessness into housing. Without these resources, the 1,871 people who were served by these programs would probably have been included in the homeless numbers.

The increase in Multnomah County's homeless population can be attributed to the unprecedented economic challenges that we have faced in our region and nationally over the past few years, as well as improvements to the count itself that resulted in more comprehensive data.

The Portland metro region has been among the worst hit by the recession, with record unemployment rates and per capita incomes that trail the national average. Point-in-time count respondents cite unemployment as one of the primary reasons for their homelessness and note that the recession has made it harder to find and retain adequate work.

Despite declining incomes, the cost of housing in the region has increased in recent years, making it more difficult for low-income residents to afford market rate rents. According to a recently released national report, a minimum-wage earner in Multnomah County would need to work 82 hours per week, or earn \$17.40/hour in a full-time job, to afford the area's fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment. Forty-nine percent of Multnomah County's renter households and 35% of owner households currently pay more than 30% of their gross income for rent/mortgage and utilities.

Any crisis, from a medical emergency to job loss, can put a household with this level of rent burden at risk of homelessness. The high housing costs also make it extremely difficult for households already experiencing homelessness to transition off the streets. Point-in-time count respondents cite their inability to afford rent as one of the two primary reasons for their homelessness, along with unemployment.

In addition to these economic factors, a portion of the increase in the count numbers can also be attributed to improvements in the count methodology that resulted in more complete data. These improvements include expanded partnerships that strengthened the comprehensiveness of the unsheltered count and more extensive data collection for transitional housing and permanent supportive housing units. These factors are discussed in more detail in the body of the report.

Other key trends revealed by the 2011 count:

- **Homeless Families:** The number of unsheltered homeless families with children has increased by 35% since 2009 (see page 14);
- **Veterans:** Veterans make up 12% of the homeless population (see page 25);
- **Populations of Color:** Populations of color make up 46% of the homeless population compared with 29% of the overall population of Multnomah County. The over-representation is particularly high for Native Americans and African Americans (see page 27);
- **Disabling Conditions:** Half of the homeless population has a disabling condition (see page 25);
- **Domestic Violence:** 18% of the homeless population and 35% of homeless women are affected by domestic violence (see page 26);
- **Geographic Location:** The unsheltered population is distributed throughout the county and is no longer concentrated in downtown Portland (see page 15);
- **Chronic Homelessness:** Chronic homelessness has increased slightly among the unsheltered population since 2009 but has decreased among the sheltered population (see pages 18 and 22);
- **Persistent Homelessness:** More than half of the unsheltered population was also homeless and unsheltered in January 2009 when the last Street Count took place (see page 17).

The point-in-time count is an effort to learn more about the individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County. The 2011 point-in-time count took place on Wednesday, January 26, 2011. It included three components: (1) the Street Count captured information on people who were unsheltered -- sleeping outside, in vehicles, abandoned buildings or other places not intended for human habitation; (2) the One Night Shelter Count (ONSC) collected information on people staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, vouchered into motels or turned away from these services on the night of the count; and (3) the ONSC also collected information on people accessing rent assistance and permanent supportive housing who would otherwise be homeless without that assistance. Taken together, these components provide important information about the level of homelessness in our community and the need for affordable housing and homeless services.

Our community relies on federal, state, and local government funding to support a range of services for homeless individuals and families. Communities that receive federal funding for homeless services are required to conduct a comprehensive point-in-time count every two years in order to continue to receive funding. Data from the counts are required elements of federal competitive grants, such as the Continuum of Care, as well as the Consolidated Plan for Gresham, Portland and Multnomah County. In addition, the State of Oregon requires communities to conduct a One Night Shelter Count every year to help inform the allocation of shelter and housing resources across the state. In response to these requirements, the last ONSC was conducted in January 2010 and the last Street Count was conducted two years ago, in January 2009.

In addition to fulfilling state and federal requirements, the point-in-time count helps local governments and their nonprofit partners to more effectively allocate resources and services necessary to meet the needs of the various homeless populations in our community. Data from the counts also help us to measure how well we are meeting our community's goals to prevent and end homelessness.

Methodology

Both the Street Count and One Night Shelter Count (ONSC) are conducted by administering a short one-page survey to individuals and households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. The surveys gather basic demographic information as well as information on household structure, length of homelessness, veteran status, disabling conditions, and other key information. Basic identifying information (first 3 letters of last name, first letter of first name, age, and gender) is collected for each respondent in order to ensure that each respondent is only counted once.

The 2011 ONSC was coordinated by Multnomah County. As in previous years, every organization that provides emergency shelter, motel vouchers, transitional housing, rent/ mortgage assistance, and permanent supportive housing in the county was asked to submit information on those clients whom they served on January 26 as well as those who sought services that night but were turned away.

In contrast to previous years, agencies who participate in Service Point, the metro region's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), were able to submit information for the ONSC electronically. Organizations who don't participate in Service Point submitted information using paper forms, similar to previous years. Most organizations also used paper forms to submit turnaway information.

The 2011 Street Count was coordinated by the Portland Housing Bureau and 211info. Almost 200 nonprofit organizations and government agencies that come into contact with people who are homeless and unsheltered across Multnomah County were asked to contribute to the count in one or more of the following ways:

(1) Outreach: Outreach workers from more than a dozen community organizations helped to develop a coordinated outreach strategy for the count and then worked throughout the week of the count to visit camps, canvas neighborhoods, and reach out to people sleeping outside.

(2) Data from agencies and programs that serve people who are unsheltered: Over 150 sites that serve people who are unsheltered agreed to administer the Street Count survey. During the week of the count, they surveyed anyone who came in for services and said they had slept outside on January 26. Volunteers were recruited to assist with the count at several dozen sites that lacked the capacity to conduct the count themselves.

(3) Data from files: Agencies that had clients whom they knew slept outside on the night of the count could pull the information on those clients from their files and submit it electronically through Service Point or on the survey form.

(4) Coordination with One-Night Shelter Count turnaway count: Households that were turned away from ONSC agencies on the night of the count and said that they planned to sleep outside that night were included in the Street Count numbers.

(5) Identification of camps: Key partners such as police bureaus, Multnomah County Sheriff, Portland Parks and Recreation, and Oregon Department of Transportation provided information on the location of homeless camps throughout the county. Residents and businesses were also given the opportunity to share information about camp locations through a feature on the Street Count website. Outreach workers visited all of the camps identified by partners during the week of the count in addition to their usual outreach activities.

In addition to the basic one-page Street Count survey, a long-form survey was administered to a sub-sample of 263 Street Count respondents. The long form included additional questions about respondents' backgrounds, service usage and needs, health status, reasons for sleeping outside and barriers to accessing shelter or stable housing. (A summary report on the long-form survey will be available online in July 2011 – see Appendix B for more information.)

Comparisons to previous methodologies

Both the Street Count and ONSC used the same basic methodologies as previous years, but with a few modifications intended to increase the efficiency and accuracy of data collection. The main methodological difference for the ONSC was the use of electronic submissions by the majority of participating agencies. This change appears to have increased the comprehensiveness of the ONSC numbers by making it easier for service providers to participate in the count.

The Street Count benefitted from expanded partnerships with several key stakeholder agencies which improved the count's ability to capture information on homelessness in outlying areas, remote locations, and culturally specific communities. Increased partnerships with organizations in East County and East Portland led to better coverage of those areas during the count. Similarly, a partnership with the Coalition of Communities of Color resulted in changes to the way the Street Count survey form captured information on race and ethnicity, the addition of translated forms available in multiple languages, and outreach to several culturally-specific communities by Coalition member organizations. Partners from law enforcement and other government agencies

provided lists of likely camp locations prior to the count, enabling outreach workers to do more effective outreach in remote and outlying areas.

The weather for the 2011 count was warmer and drier than in previous counts, though probably not enough to affect the count numbers. The timing of point-in-time counts is mandated by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD requires homeless counts to happen during the last ten days of January in order to capture data when shelter use peaks due to weather. The counts take place at the end of the month because that is when those who cycle on and off the streets are most likely to be homeless, having depleted their monthly income or benefits. On January 26, 2011 the high temperature was 53 and the low was 35, with no precipitation. Normal temperatures for that date are a high of 47 with a low of 35. During the 2009 count, the last time that both a Street Count and ONSC took place, the high was 43 and the low was 33 with small amounts of rain.

Methodological limitations

While the point-in-time count provides valuable information about homelessness in our community, it has some methodological limitations which are important to keep in mind:

- **Point-in-time data:** Many more people experience homelessness over the course of the year than on a single night. Point-in-time counts tend to over-represent people who have been homeless a long time and under-represent those whose experience of homelessness does not last very long.
- **Variations in site participation:** The point-in-time count relies heavily on the participation of social service organizations, many of which are stretched thin and have limited staff capacity. While every effort is made to ensure that all relevant organizations participate, there is inevitably some variation in the level and rate of participation by some agencies from year to year.
- **Timing of the count:** Holding the count in January (per HUD regulations) means the number of households utilizing emergency shelter is higher relative to the number on the streets than it would be if the count was conducted at a different time of year, or if it were a year-round count. In addition, a January count does not include people (particularly youth) who travel to warmer climates during the winter or the travelers who cycle through Portland in the summer.
- **Difficulty finding people:** Some individuals and families experiencing homelessness avoid accessing available services and try to hide from view. Even those who are not hiding are often difficult to locate. During the day, camps are typically not occupied. It is often hard to predict exactly when campers will bed down for the night, and once they are asleep, it is general practice not to wake them. So there is a narrow window when campers can be located and interviewed for the count.
- **Refusals to participate:** Some respondents refuse to participate in the count because they want to preserve their privacy, don't trust service providers, or don't consider themselves homeless. For example, one organization that assisted with outreach for the count said, "The majority of individuals we spoke with did not want to participate in the count. Over the course of the week we were able to get more people to take part, but it remained difficult. . . We believe that we were not able to reach up to 25 individuals."
- **Under-counting of communities of color:** The point-in-time count does not provide a complete picture of homelessness within communities of color due to a variety of factors including language barriers, cultural mistrust, limitations in the federally-mandated categories used for collecting data on race and ethnicity which render some culturally-specific populations invisible, and the lack of culturally-specific organizations explicitly funded to provide homeless outreach and services.

- **Populations not counted:** Due to HUD guidelines, certain populations are not captured at all by the count:
 - People who are doubled up or “couch surfing” (i.e. staying with friends or relatives temporarily due to economic hardship) are not included in the count because they do not fit within HUD’s definition of homelessness. (The final section of this report tries to estimate the magnitude of the size of this population based on available data.)
 - People who cycle on and off the streets may be homeless for a portion of each month, but if they aren’t homeless on the night of the count, they are not counted. Families with children are especially likely to cycle on and off the streets, staying with friends and family or paying for motel rooms when they can.
 - People who are staying in jail or hospitals during the night of the count who are otherwise homeless are not counted because they are not considered homeless under HUD’s definition.
 - People staying in emergency rooms aren’t captured in the official count numbers because hospitals’ confidentiality rules preclude sharing patients’ identifying information.

Because of these methodological limitations, the point-in-time count represents a detailed estimate rather than a comprehensive enumeration of homelessness in Multnomah County. The actual number of people who are homeless in our community on a given night is probably higher than the number documented in this report.

The Street Count captures a snapshot of individuals and families who were homeless and unsheltered on January 26, 2011. This includes people sleeping outside, in vehicles, abandoned buildings, or other places not intended for human habitation.

Total Numbers

The 2011 Street Count identified 1,718 unduplicated individuals who were homeless and unsheltered on the night of January 26.² This figure represents an additional 127 unsheltered individuals in Multnomah County (an 8% increase) compared with the most recent count in 2009.

The increase in the unsheltered count reflects the continued effects of the economic downturn on Multnomah County's low income households. A portion of the increase can also be attributed to strengthened partnerships which led to a more comprehensive count.

Year of Street Count	Unsheltered individuals
2005 ¹	2,355
2007	1,438
2009	1,591
2011	1,718

Factors that may account for the increase include:

- **Persistent homelessness:** 988 respondents said they were homeless and unsheltered in Multnomah County in January 2009 when the previous Street Count took place.³
- **New homelessness:** 833 respondents began their current episode of homelessness since the last Street Count took place.⁴
- **Migration:** 280 respondents arrived in Multnomah County within the past two years; 195 of them were homeless when they came here.
- **Increased East County participation:** The Street Count's outreach efforts and partnerships were much stronger in East County during the 2011 count than in 2009. As a result, 92 people were counted in East County in 2011, compared with only one person in 2009.
- **Increased outreach to less visible populations:** Outreach workers did more extensive outreach to parks and remote areas in 2011 due to a new strategy in which parks and law enforcement provided lists of likely camp locations prior to the count. For example, in 2011, 127 people were counted who were camped in woods or open space in 2011 compared with only 13 in 2009.

¹ The Street Count methodology changed significantly between 2005 and 2007 but has been fairly consistent since 2007.

² Data on an additional 210 individuals could not be unduplicated because sufficient identifying information was not provided. That data is included in the appendix.

³ 18% of those counted did not provide an answer to this question, so the actual number may be higher.

⁴ This number includes 103 people who were homeless in January 2009, were housed at some point over the subsequent two-year period, and then lost their housing again prior to January 2011.

As noted in previous sections of this report, because of the inherent challenges in counting the unsheltered population, the Street Count numbers are most likely an under-count. In addition to the methodological limitations noted in the introduction to this report, there were 253 people who were turned away from shelters, transitional housing, or other housing services on the night of the count who did not provide information about where they were planning to sleep. While it is likely that a portion of these turnaways ended up sleeping in an unsheltered situation, they were not included in the Street Count numbers because their unsheltered status could not be verified.

Household Composition

The percentage of individual adults declined slightly as a portion of the overall Street Count, while the percentage of families with children and couples without children increased slightly.

The increase in the number of families with children was accompanied by an increase in the number of children under age 18. The 2009 Street Count included 44 children under age 18 (including 8 unaccompanied youth); the 2011 count includes 64 children under age 18 (11 of whom were unaccompanied). Eighty-five respondents also said that they have custody of additional children who did not sleep outside with them.

The percentage of families with children is even greater among populations of color: 11% of unsheltered persons of color were families with children, compared with 6% of the overall homeless population.

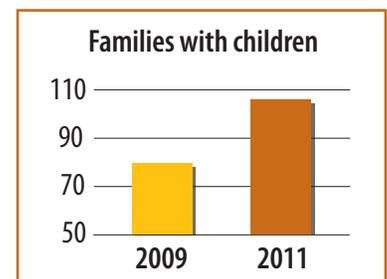
The increase in unsheltered homeless families with children is consistent with recent reports from service providers. According to JOIN, which works to house individuals and families who are unsheltered, “We are getting more referrals from police and schools about families camping in vehicles. More people are on the streets seeking services, and the unmet need for eviction prevention assistance continues to grow.” Providers also noted that many families are separated by homelessness. Catholic Charities’ Housing Transitions Program, which provides outreach and support to homeless women, reports that, “We have met many women whose kids are in the care of friends/ relatives while the moms are on the streets.”

The Street Count survey form gave respondents an opportunity to self-identify as being part of a “street family”, and distinguished street families from biological families. A total of 128 individuals said they slept outside on the night of the count with their street family.

The survey also gave respondents an opportunity to indicate whether they slept outside with a pet. A total of 39 individuals said they slept outside with their pet on the night of the count.

Household type	2009*	2009%	2011*	2011%
Individual adults	1,225	77%	1,279	74%
Couples without children	248	16%	323	19%
Families with children	78	5%	105	6%
Adults >18	40	3%	52	3%
Children < 18	36	2%	53	3%
Unaccompanied youth <18	8	<1%	11	1%
Other/ no data	32	2%	n/a	n/a

*All numbers represent individual persons



Sleeping Location

Street Count respondents were asked, "Where did you/ will you sleep Wednesday night, January 26?" About half of respondents who answered this question slept on the "street or sidewalk", followed by "doorway or other private property" and "bridge/overpass/ railroad".

The 2009 Street Count survey included fewer answer choices for this question, so a direct comparison is not possible across all the potential responses. Those

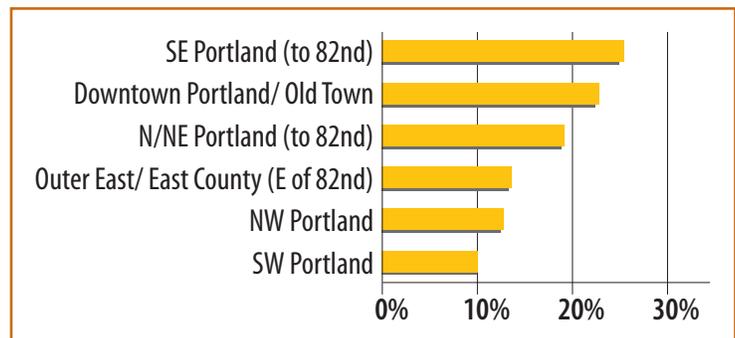
answer choices for which a direct comparison is possible include the percentage of people sleeping in woods or open space and the percentage sleeping in a vehicle, both of which were slightly higher in 2011, and the percentage sleeping in an abandoned building, which was the same in 2009 and 2011.

The 2011 count's ability to capture information on people sleeping in woods, open space, parks, bridges, overpasses, and railroads was enhanced by a new strategy in which partners from law enforcement agencies, Portland Parks and Recreation, and the Oregon Department of Transportation provided outreach workers with lists of likely camp locations prior to the count. Not all of the locations on the lists were occupied during the week of the count, but the lists enabled outreach workers to more effectively reach out to less visible populations.⁵

Sleeping Location	# of individuals	% of total (n=1,718)	% of responses (n=1,598)
Street or sidewalk	780	45%	49%
Doorway or other private property	235	14%	15%
Bridge/ overpass/ railroad	193	11%	12%
Vehicle (car, truck, van, camper)	150	9%	9%
Woods/ open space	127	7%	8%
Park	74	4%	5%
Abandoned building	39	2%	2%
Other/ unknown	120	7%	n/a

Geographic Location

Street Count respondents were asked, "What part of Portland/ Multnomah County did you/ will you sleep in?" The responses indicate that the unsheltered population is distributed in neighborhoods throughout the county. The most frequent response was Southeast Portland, followed by Downtown Portland/ Old Town, with significant numbers of people located in every other quadrant of the city and in East County.



A comparison with data from the 2009 count indicates greater percentages of unsheltered individuals in neighborhoods outside of the central city in 2011. In 2009, 42% of respondents who provided information on their location were in Downtown/ Old Town, compared with only 22% in 2011. On the flip side, less than 1% of respondents in 2009 were located in East County, compared with 6% in 2011.

⁵ Sample data from Portland Parks illustrates the extent to which the lists of likely camp locations enhanced the Street Count's accuracy. Park rangers identified 1,278 total camp sites in public parks over the course of 2010, 255 of which were in remote areas. The Street Count was not able to visit all of those locations, but focused on a sub-set that were identified by rangers as the most likely locations, resulting in a count of 74 people who slept in a park (and 127 who slept in woods or open space) on the night of the count. Even though this number is a fraction of the total camp sites found in 2010, it is a closer reflection of the number of individuals whom rangers actually located in the camps, most of which were unoccupied when they were found. The number of individuals who were cited or warned for camping or erecting a structure in a park or public property in 2010 was 136.

These differences may be partially due to a methodological shift between the two counts. In 2009, survey takers were asked to record a geographic location for each respondent, but the questionnaire did not clearly specify that this should be the location where the respondent slept. As a result, a disproportionate number of respondents were likely reported as being in Downtown or Old Town because that was where they were receiving services.

The increase in respondents in East County is primarily due to increased partnerships and outreach to that area during the 2011 count. Sixty-two percent of East County respondents said they had been homeless for two or more years, which suggests that a significant portion of the 92 people counted in East County in 2011 should have been included in the 2009 count. At the same time, homelessness does appear to have increased in East County in recent years. According to Anawim Christian Community, which provides homeless services in East County and was the primary East County partner for the count, “The street population in outer East County has increased significantly over the past few years – possibly doubled in the last 10 years.”

Geographic Location	# of individuals	% of total (n=1,718)	% of responses (n=1,560)
SE Portland (river to 82nd)	394	23%	25%
Downtown Portland/ Old Town	347	20%	22%
NW Portland	189	11%	12%
SW Portland (outside downtown)	152	9%	10%
Inner NE Portland (river to 33rd)	149	9%	10%
Outer East Portland (82nd to 182nd)	103	6%	7%
East County (East of 182nd)	92	5%	6%
North Portland	89	5%	6%
Central NE Portland (33rd to 82nd)	45	3%	3%
Unknown	158	9%	n/a

Service providers and outreach workers affirm that the geographic distribution found in the count reflects what they are seeing on the ground. Potential explanations for greater percentages of unsheltered people sleeping outside of downtown include:

- Decreased tolerance for camping in the downtown area by Portland Police and downtown businesses and property owners. As a staff member from Central City Concern put it, “My clients have mentioned that they are often awakened and asked to ‘move on’ when in doorways downtown, but are able to find better ‘hiding places’ out of the downtown area.”
- Areas outside of downtown, particularly more remote areas, offer more safety and privacy.
- Poverty in general has been moving outward from the downtown and central core as affordability has declined in close-in neighborhoods.
- Changes in Fareless Square may have made downtown less accessible to some unsheltered individuals.
- People sleeping in their vehicles tend to stay outside of the downtown area because of parking costs; the number of people sleeping in their vehicles has increased in the past two years.

Data from other sources provide additional evidence that the unsheltered population is no longer concentrated in the central city. For example, a review of Portland Police data on individuals cited or warned for camping or erecting a structure in a park or on public property in 2010 found that the neighborhoods with the most citations were (in descending order of frequency) Lents (Outer East Portland), Downtown, Buckman-West (Southeast Portland), and Overlook (North Portland).

The frequency of different types of sleeping locations tends to vary with differences in geographic locations. For example, for people sleeping in Downtown /Old Town, the most common sleeping locations were street or

sidewalk (44%), doorway or other private property (27%), and bridge/ overpass/ railroad (16%). In contrast, for people sleeping in East County, the most common sleeping locations were woods/ open space (24%), vehicle (22%), and doorway or other private property (18%).

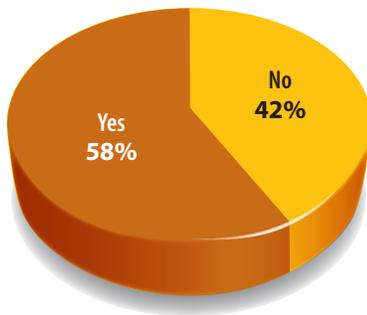
Length of Homelessness

Respondents were asked, "How long has it been since you were in stable housing?" More than half (54%) of respondents who answered this question (n=1,529) said they had been homeless for less than two years, including 36% who said they had been homeless less than one year. These percentages are almost identical to those in 2009, though in 2009 the distributions were slightly different, with a somewhat larger percentage of people who had been homeless less than one month and smaller percentages who had been homeless between 7 months and 2 years.

How long since you were in stable housing?	2009*	2011*
Less than 1 month	7%	3%
1-6 months	14%	15%
7-12 months	16%	18%
1-2 years	16%	18%
2-5 years	24%	24%
5-10 years	8%	15%
> 10 years	14%	7%

*Percentages are out of respondents who answered the question.

Homeless and Unsheltered in 2009



The median length of homelessness varies

by household type. The median was 12 months for one-parent families with children, 18 months for couples without children, and 24 months for single adults. (The sample size for two-parent families with children who provided information on length of homelessness was too small to do a comparable analysis for that group.)

In a separate question, respondents were asked, "Have you been continuously homeless for a year or more?" Sixty-nine percent of Street Count respondents answered yes to this question.

Respondents were also asked whether they were homeless and sleeping outside in Portland/ Multnomah County in January 2009 (i.e. during the 2009 Street Count). Fifty-eight percent of those counted said they were.

Service providers offered a range of potential explanations for the persistent homelessness of such a significant percentage of the unsheltered population:

- Unemployment rates stemming from the recession have been the highest for low income, entry level and low wage jobs. The lack of employment opportunities along with insufficient affordable housing have made it difficult for people to transition out of homelessness.
- Due to the economic pressures of the recession, the availability of key services such as mental health care, as well as resources to help people transition into stable housing, have not been able to keep up with demand.
- Few culturally-specific homeless services are available, and mainstream services do not adequately meet the needs of communities of color.
- Available services do not meet the needs of people living in East County and other outlying areas.

Chronic Homelessness

Until 2011, HUD defined chronic homelessness as an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been either continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. In 2011, HUD expanded this definition to also include individuals in families with children, individuals in couples without children, and unaccompanied youth.

In 2011, 37% of unsheltered individual adults met the definition of chronic homelessness, almost the same percentage as in 2009. Using the expanded definition, a total of 786 individuals, or 46% of all Street Count respondents, were chronically homeless in 2011.

Chronically homeless	2009	2009% of total	2011	2011% of total
Individual adults	554	35%	643	37%
Individuals in couples without children	n/a	n/a	126	7%
Individuals in households with children	n/a	n/a	13	1%
Unaccompanied youth under 18	n/a	n/a	4	<1%
Total	n/a	n/a	786	46%

While the percentage of chronically homeless individual adults as a portion of the overall count remained about the same from 2009 to 2011, the number of chronically homeless individual adults increased by 89 persons. The percentage did not increase significantly because of a proportional increase in short-term homelessness over the same time period.

About a quarter (27%) of chronically homeless respondents have been homeless for five or more years, another quarter (25%) have been homeless for two to five years, and 19% have been homeless one to two years. The remaining 24% have been homeless less than one year in their current episode. (Specific length of homelessness is unknown for 5%.)

Chronically homeless respondents are disproportionately male (77% compared with 73% of the overall Street Count population.) The vast majority (75%) are between the ages of 24 and 54; 17% are over age 55 and 7% are under age 24.⁸ Twenty-nine percent are people of color.

Migration

For the first time, the Street Count questionnaire included questions aimed at better understanding migration patterns of the homeless population. Respondents were asked "How long have you been in Portland/ Multnomah County?" The vast majority of respondents (78%) who answered the question have been here for more than two years, with over half (52%) having been here for more than ten years. Twenty-one percent have been here for less than two years.

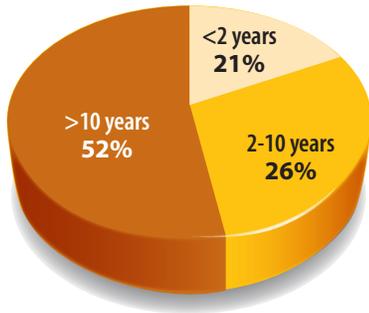
How long have you been in Portland/ Multnomah County	% of total (n=1,718)	% of responses (n=1,313)
1-6 months	7%	9%
7-12 months	4%	5%
1-2 years	5%	7%
2-10 years	20%	26%
> 10 years	40%	52%
No response	24%	n/a

The fact that many of the Street Count respondents are not originally from Portland/ Multnomah County mirrors the migration patterns of the population as a whole. Oregon is one of only a dozen states where the majority of its residents are originally from somewhere else.⁹ The Portland area in particular has become a popular destination

⁸ Information on age is not available for the remaining 1%.

⁹ Templeton, Amelia (2011), "History Hinders Diversification of Portland, Oregon," National Public Radio. <http://www.npr.org/2011/02/16/133748144/history-hinders-diversification-of-portland-ore>.

Length of time in Multnomah County



for people from other parts of the region and the country. The population of the Portland metro region grew 1.6% per year from 2000-2010, a slower pace than in the previous decade, but still a reflection of consistent in-migration.

To understand the migration patterns of Multnomah County's homeless population, the most relevant sub-set of the Street Count population is the 21% of respondents who said they had been in Portland/ Multnomah County for less than two years. Of that population, 195 (or 11% of all Street Count respondents) said they were homeless when they came here. Those 195 people could theoretically account for the entire increase in unsheltered numbers between the 2009 and 2011 counts.

No data are available describing the numbers of people who have left Portland and Multnomah County and subsequently experienced homelessness in other places. This limits our ability to comprehensively understand net migration patterns. Local service providers report that they frequently hear anecdotal information about people who have experienced homelessness in Multnomah County migrating to other West coast cities.

Service providers offer the following potential explanations for the in-migration of homeless households to the Portland area:

- Like other transplants to the area, homeless households come here looking for jobs and opportunities, and because of their personal connections to the area.
- Despite high unemployment rates, the Portland area may be perceived as having more job opportunities than other areas, particularly some rural and suburban communities.
- Some neighboring counties and states have fewer human services providers or resources than the Portland area, so some households may come here in search of services.
- Homeless populations are often transient and experience frequent displacement.

The sub-sample of 263 Street Count respondents who participated in the long-form survey were asked why they came to Portland/ Multnomah County vs. a different place. The most common answers were "family/ friends/ partner" (34%), "like it/ heard good things about it" (13%), "employment opportunities" (13%), and "from here originally" (13%). Only 8% said it was because of "access to services and resources."

One Night Shelter Count Findings

The One Night Shelter Count (ONSC) provides a snapshot of individuals and families who are staying in emergency shelters, vouchered into a hotel or motel, or staying in transitional housing, as well as households seeking services and turned away on the night of the count. The ONSC also counts households receiving rent assistance or living in permanent supportive housing on the night of the count who might otherwise be homeless.

The ONSC is primarily a survey of our community's service capacity. Shelter beds in Multnomah County are typically full in January, so the ONSC provides a count of the number of shelter beds available on a given night, as well as the resources available for hotel/motel vouchers and transitional housing. The data on rent/ mortgage assistance and permanent supportive housing provides an indication of our community's investment in transitioning people off the streets into permanent housing.

Total Numbers

The 2011 ONSC identified 2,937 people who fit HUD's definition of homelessness (i.e. who stayed in emergency shelters or transitional housing or were vouchered into motels.) In addition, 1,871 people received rent/ mortgage assistance or permanent supportive housing. A total of 352 individuals sought services but were turned away.

The table below shows the number of individuals and household units counted within each shelter category over the past three years. A single individual is counted as one household unit; a family with children is also counted as one household unit. The table on the following page provides more information on household types.

Total Numbers	2009 ONSC		2010 ONSC		2011 ONSC	
	Individual	Household	Individual	Household	Individual	Household
Emergency Shelter	820	698	901	758	1,002	844
Motel Vouchers	27	23	50	22	7	4
Transitional Housing	1,674	1,078	1,741	1,058	1,928	1,270
Rent/ Mortgage Assistance ¹⁰	1,143	419	1,069	393	1,024	391
Permanent Supportive Housing	490	270	687	388	847	539
Turnaways	585	313	317	163	352	186

An additional 60 people were counted, but sufficient data was not available to assign them to a shelter category. These people are not included in the above table but are included in the total ONSC figures.

¹⁰ Additional rent assistance resources were available in 2010 and 2011 through the federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), but the majority of those resources were used for eviction prevention, not housing placement; only the HPRP resources used for housing placement are counted here.

The shifts in the ONSC numbers between 2010 and 2011 can be explained by the following factors:

- **Emergency shelter:** There is a 101-person increase in emergency shelter numbers compared with 2010 because of increased capacity and usage of winter warming centers as well as more complete participation by shelter providers. (Shelter numbers tend to fluctuate slightly from year to year due to variations in count participation by some providers, particularly smaller shelter providers.)
- **Motel vouchers:** Increased warming center capacity contributed to the 43-person reduction in motel vouchers. The warming centers have reduced the need for motel vouchers, and the use of vouchers has declined as available resources have been redirected toward rent assistance.
- **Transitional housing:** The 187-person increase in transitional housing numbers was primarily due to more comprehensive reporting by service providers. Because the vast majority of transitional housing providers are required to use Service Point, the ability to provide data for the ONSC electronically increased participation rates.
- **Rent/ mortgage assistance:** There was a 45-person reduction in the number of individuals receiving rent/ mortgage assistance compared with 2010, but the number of households receiving assistance was almost identical. There were no significant changes in overall system capacity for rent assistance from 2010 to 2011, but the composition of households served may have shifted slightly.
- **Permanent supportive housing:** The 160-person increase in PSH numbers is the result of an increase in the number of PSH providers participating in the ONSC, particularly the addition of one large housing agency that had not reported PSH numbers for the ONSC in the past.
- **Turnaways:** The slight increase in the turnaway numbers may reflect greater unmet need or may be due to the availability of electronic data submission, which enabled some providers to more easily provide information on households from their waiting lists.¹¹

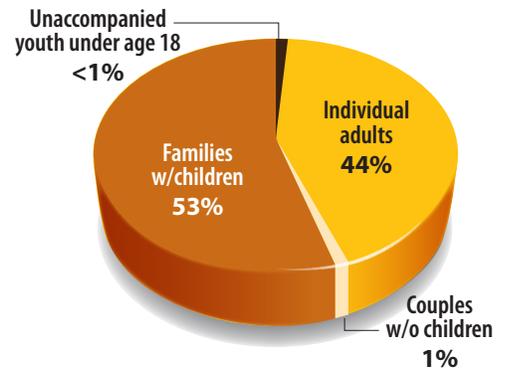
Household Composition

The table below shows the household composition for all of the individuals counted as part of the ONSC.

Household Composition	2009 ONSC		2010 ONSC		2011 ONSC	
	Individual	Household	Individual	Household	Individual	Household
Individual adults	1,926 (40%)	1,919 (68%)	1,841 (39%)	1,835 (66%)	2,349 (44%)	2,349 (73%)
Couples without children	108 (2%)	55 (2%)	109 (2%)	55 (2%)	73 (1%)	38 (1%)
Families with children	2,721 (57%)	833 (30%)	2,791 (59%)	872 (31%)	2,784 (53%)	884 (27%)
Unaccompanied youth under 18	14 (<1%)	13 (<1%)	13 (<1%)	13 (<1%)	14 (<1%)	14 (<1%)

¹¹ Turnaways who said they would be unsheltered were also included in the Street Count numbers.

More than half (53%) of the people counted in the ONSC were individuals in families with children, including 1,602 children under age 18. Individuals in families with children decreased by six percentage points as a portion of the overall count from 2010 to 2011. Conversely, individual adults increased by five percentage points as a portion of the overall count.



Families with children make up an even greater percentage of homeless populations of color – 56% of populations of color counted in the ONSC were families with children.

The number of unaccompanied youth under age 18 is quite low, but because the Multnomah County Homeless Youth System serves youth up to age 24, a better reflection of the number of youth counted in the ONSC is the total number of unaccompanied youth under age 24. That number is 438.

Chronic Homelessness

As noted earlier, HUD changed the definition of chronic homelessness in 2011 to include couples, families with children, and unaccompanied youth. Prior definitions had only included individual adults. The definition only applies to the sub-set of the ONSC staying in emergency shelters, vouchered into motels, or staying in transitional housing, so the percentages noted below are out of that population. In 2011, 20% of individuals and 28% of households in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or vouchered into motels were chronically homeless. The vast majority of these were individual adults.

Chronically homeless numbers were not reported for the 2009 and 2010 ONSC, but an analysis was conducted from those datasets to provide a comparison with the 2011 figures. The comparisons indicate that the percentage of chronically homeless individuals and households in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and motels significantly decreased in 2011 compared with prior years.

Chronic Homelessness	2009 ONSC		2010 ONSC		2011 ONSC	
	Individual	Household	Individual	Household	Individual	Household
Individual adults	653 (26%)	653 (36%)	662 (25%)	662 (36%)	558 (19%)	558 (26%)
Couples without children	25 (1%)	21 (1%)	18 (1%)	15 (1%)	11 (<1%)	8 (<1%)
Families with children	104 (4%)	94 (5%)	164 (6%)	154 (8%)	28 (1%)	21 (1%)
Unaccompanied youth under 18	3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	785 (31%)	771 (43%)	844 (31%)	831 (45%)	597 (20%)	587 (28%)

Demographics and Sub-Populations (Sheltered and Unsheltered)

This section of the report provides a more detailed analysis of the characteristics of the populations experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County on the night of the count. It focuses on the categories of the point-in-time count that fit with HUD's definition of homelessness – the unsheltered population (i.e. Street Count) and people sleeping in emergency shelter or transitional housing for the homeless. HUD's definition also includes people who are vouchered into motels, but because the sample size for that category is so small (n=7), those figures are folded into the emergency shelter figures.

Age

The majority of Multnomah County's homeless population is between the ages of 24 and 54. However, about a third are under age 18 (17%) or over age 55 (11%). The proportion of children under age 18 is highest in transitional housing (29% of all individuals in transitional housing) and lowest in the unsheltered population (4%). The proportion of adults over age 55 is highest in the unsheltered population (14%) and lowest in the transitional housing population (8%).

Age ¹²	<18	18-23	24-44	45-54	55-69	70+
Unsheltered	64 (4%)	147 (9%)	698 (41%)	534 (31%)	234 (14%)	6 (<1%)
Emergency shelter	152 (15%)	83 (8%)	271 (27%)	336 (33%)	135 (13%)	3 (<1%)
Transitional housing	559 (29%)	204 (11%)	659 (34%)	332 (17%)	149 (8%)	2 (<1%)
Total	775 (17%)	434 (9%)	1,628 (35%)	1,202 (26%)	518 (11%)	11 (<1%)

The ages of the children who are unsheltered and in emergency shelter are evenly spread out across the age spectrum, but the ages of the children in transitional housing are disproportionately under age 5.

Ages of Children	<5	6-11	12-17
Unsheltered	17 (1%)	25 (1%)	22 (1%)
Emergency shelter	55 (5%)	51 (5%)	46 (5%)
Transitional housing	260 (13%)	181 (9%)	118 (6%)
Total	332 (7%)	257 (6%)	186 (4%)

¹² Data on age are not available for all respondents. Percentages in this table and the following table are out of the total population counted within each category and therefore do not always add up to 100%.

School Attendance of Children

It is not possible to determine the percentage of all homeless children who are attending school because not all respondents answered this question. The table below indicates the number who said they were or were not attending school and the responses to a separate question on children's grade levels.

School Attendance	Attending School	Grade K to 5	Grade 6 to 8	Grade 9 to 12
Unsheltered	Yes: 13 No: 13	6	2	8
Emergency shelter	Yes: 19 No: 0	6	4	9
Transitional housing	Yes: 40 No: 14	13	15	13
Total	Yes: 72 No: 27	25	21	30

Youth

The Homeless Youth System serves youth through age 23, so a more accurate count of "homeless youth" would include all young people ages 23 and younger. A total of 434 individuals ages 18-23 were counted, in addition to 24 unaccompanied youth under age 18, for a total of 458 homeless youth.

The relatively small number of unaccompanied youth under age 18 who were counted suggests that most homeless youth under age 18 are either couch-surfing, doubled up or may avoid being counted. Youth under age 18 who are runaways may also refuse to be surveyed or may misrepresent their age because of the fear of being sent to juvenile detention or returned to foster care.

In addition, Multnomah County School District Homeless Liaisons reported 360 unaccompanied homeless students on the night of the count. The vast majority of these students were doubled up or couch surfing and therefore would not have been included in the One Night Shelter Count figures.

Gender

The gender distribution of the overall homeless population is 62% male, 37% female, and less than 1% transgender. The unsheltered population is heavily weighted towards males (73% vs. 25%), the emergency shelter population is somewhat weighted towards males (63% vs. 36%), and the transitional housing population is almost evenly balanced between males (51%) and females (50%).

Among homeless populations of color, the gender distribution is more heavily weighted towards females, with 40% female, 58% male, and 2% unknown.

Gender	Male	Female	Trans	Unknown or "Z" ¹³
Unsheltered	1,261 (73%)	422 (25%)	5 (<1%)	30 (2%)
Emergency shelter	637 (63%)	365 (36%)	-	7 (<1%)
Transitional housing	992 (51%)	926 (50%)	-	10 (1%)
Total	2,890 (62%)	1,713 (37%)	5 (<1%)	47 (1%)

It is important to look at the gender composition of the sheltered population in light of the available beds for men and women in the emergency shelter system. During 2011, 43% of the year-round and winter shelter beds in Portland/ Multnomah County were designated for single men, 16% were designated for single women, 9% were

¹³ "Z" is a term used by individuals who do not identify with any gender. It was included as an option in the Street Count survey.

designated for men or women, 23% were designated for families, and 9% were domestic violence shelter beds designated for families or women. The gender composition for adult shelter users who were not in families on the night of the count was 54% male and 22% female. The remaining 24% were in families; the gender composition of the families was 40% male and 60% female.

The number of literally homeless women (i.e. women who were either unsheltered or in emergency shelter) increased from 662 in 2009 to 787 in 2011. Catholic Charities’ Housing Transitions Program, which works primarily with homeless women, reports that, “The greatest change for us [over the past two years] was the number of newly homeless women (less than one year and for the first time.) In a typical month, about one-quarter of new intakes were newly homeless. For the last 8-9 months, more than half of our new women reported being newly homeless.”

Disabling Conditions

Half of Multnomah County’s homeless population reported having a disabling condition, which could include health problems, a physical disability, cognitive/ developmental disability, substance abuse, mental health issues, or HIV/ AIDS. The percentage of unsheltered respondents with disabling conditions was significantly higher (55%) than those in emergency shelter (43%), and slightly higher than respondents in transitional housing (51%).

Individuals with disabling conditions	Individual #s	% of total
Unsheltered	937	55%
Emergency shelter	429	43%
Transitional housing	979	51%
Total	2,345	50%

The percentage of the homeless population with a disabling condition is particularly high among Native Americans and slightly lower among other populations of color. Fifty-two percent of homeless Native Americans, 47% of Asians, 46% of Latinos, 42% of African Americans, and 39% of Pacific Islanders reported having a disabling condition.

Veterans

Twelve percent of homeless adults reported that they were a U.S. Military Veteran over age 18. In comparison, 9% of Multnomah County’s population is veterans,¹⁴ and nationally, less than 8% of the population has veteran status.¹⁵

The percentage of homeless veterans was even higher among Native Americans – 14% of homeless Native American adults reported being a veteran. Among all homeless populations of color, 10% of adults reported being a veteran.

Veterans	Individual #s	% of adults
Unsheltered	221	13%
Emergency shelter	135	16%
Transitional housing	108	8%
Total	464	12%

The over-representation of veterans within Multnomah County’s homeless population is not surprising: Nationally, 20% of the homeless population is made up of veterans.¹⁶ Homeless veterans nationally make up less than one percent of all veterans, but ten percent of veterans in poverty become homeless at some point during the year, compared with just over five percent of adults in poverty.¹⁷

¹⁴ Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey estimates 2005-2009 at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

¹⁵ Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans Affairs (February 2011), Veteran Homelessness: A Supplemental Report to the 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, February 10, 2011. Washington, D.C.: HUD.

¹⁶ National Alliance to End Homelessness (n.d.), “Snapshot of Homelessness,” http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/about_homelessness/snap_shot_of_homelessness.

¹⁷ Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans Affairs (February 2011), Veteran Homelessness: A Supplemental Report to the 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, February 10, 2011. Washington, D.C.: HUD.

Domestic Violence

Eighteen percent of the homeless population as a whole and 35% of homeless women reported being affected by domestic violence. Among homeless people of color, 22% of the population reported being affected by domestic violence.

Individuals affected by domestic violence	All	% of total	Women	% of women
Unsheltered	299	17%	161	38%
Emergency shelter	187	19%	157	43%
Transitional housing	367	19%	279	30%
Total	853	18%	597	35%

Multnomah County domestic violence program staff note that these figures are probably an under-count. Homeless women affected by domestic violence are frequently doubled up with friends and family, and therefore would not be included in the count. Furthermore, the data may not reflect less recent experiences with domestic violence. (The Street Count survey form explicitly asked whether respondents had experienced domestic violence within the past year; the question on the ONSC survey form was not as explicit about time frame.)

National studies indicate that a significant percentage of homeless women (up to 100% in some studies) have experienced domestic or sexual violence at some point in their lives, and between 22% and 57% of homeless women report that domestic or sexual violence was an immediate cause of their homelessness.¹⁸

The percentage of the unsheltered population experiencing domestic violence increased from 9% in 2009 to 17% in 2011. Eleven percent of the sheltered population counted in the 2009 ONSC had experienced domestic violence, compared with 19% in 2011.

Corrections History

Five percent of the population in transitional housing (95 people) and one percent of the population in emergency shelter (9 people) reported having a corrections release within the past 90 days. While the Street Count survey form did not include a question on corrections history, 15 people included in the unsheltered count (1% of all Street Count respondents) were discharged from jail into the streets during the 24-hour period that included the night of the count.

¹⁸National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, "Some Facts on Homelessness, Housing, and Violence Against Women"; n.d.

This section of the report analyzes the racial and ethnic composition of the HUD-defined homeless population and the characteristics of homeless populations of color. Like the previous section, it focuses on the unsheltered/ Street Count population as well as those sleeping in emergency shelters, vouchered into motels, and staying in transitional housing. The data on the population vouchered into motels is folded into the emergency shelter data.

Over-Representation

People of color are over-represented within the homeless population compared with the general population of Multnomah County. The table below shows the racial and ethnic breakdown for the homeless count populations and for the population of Multnomah County as a whole. All numbers are presented as an over-count, which means that individuals were encouraged to select as many categories as apply and their responses were each

Race/Ethnicity	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Total Homeless	Multnomah County ¹⁹
White	1,150 (76%)	715 (71%)	1,090 (57%)	2,955 (67%)	81%
Populations of color	517 (34%)	427 (42%)	1,110 (58%)	2,054 (46%)	29%
American Indian or Alaska Native	143 (9%)	57 (6%)	193 (10%)	393 (9%)	2%
Asian	12 (1%)	13 (1%)	27 (1%)	52 (1%)	8%
Black or African American	155 (10%)	188 (19%)	445 (23%)	788 (18%)	7%
Hispanic/ Latino	154 (10%)	115 (11%)	253 (13%)	522 (12%)	11%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	24 (2%)	17 (2%)	37 (2%)	78 (2%)	1%
Other/ Multi-racial ²⁰	29 (2%)	37 (4%)	155 (8%)	221 (5%)	n/a
Information not provided ²¹	210 (n/a)	n/a	n/a	210 (n/a)	n/a

¹⁹ Source: 2010 Census table P1 and P2 analyzed by the Portland Housing Bureau.

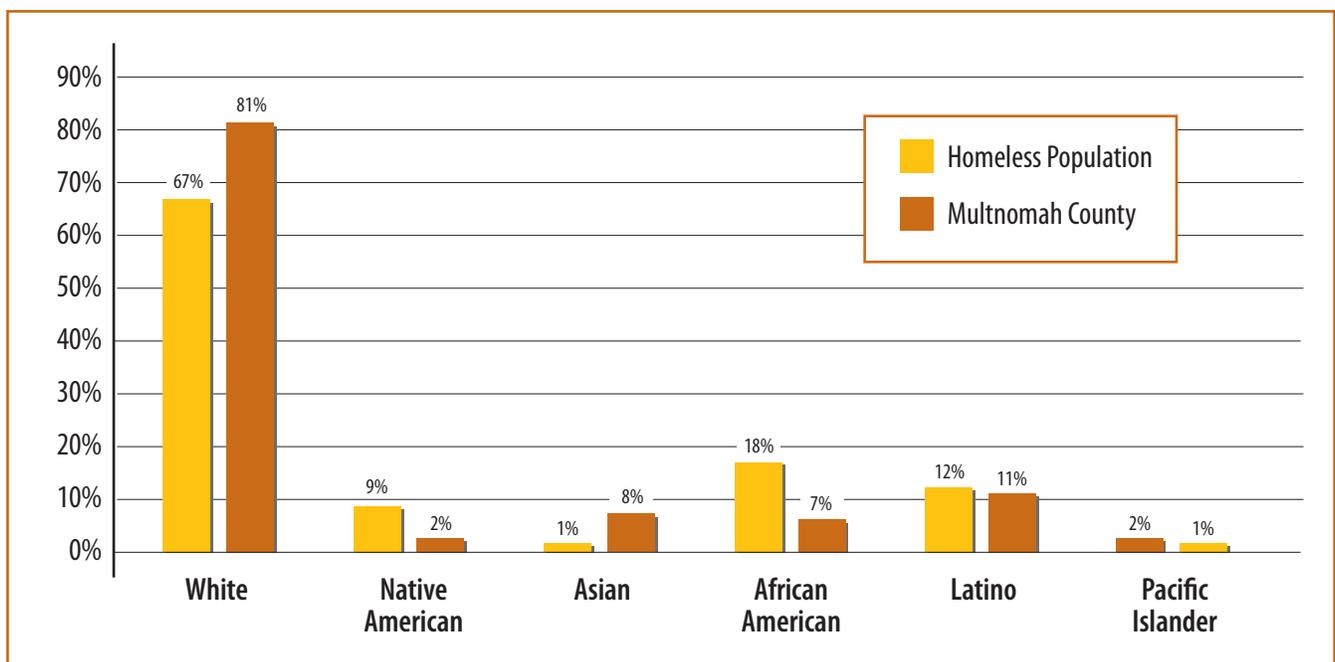
²⁰ Information on these individuals was submitted electronically based on previous client records. For that reason, the other/ multi-racial category was used despite the fact that the Street Count and ONSC survey forms intentionally did not include that option. If the 5% listed as "other/ multi-racial" were distributed proportionately among the specific race categories, the number of Native Americans would increase by 20, Asians by 2, African Americans by 40, Latinos by 27, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders by 4.

²¹ These numbers are not included in the denominator for the percentages. If we apply the racial distribution of the Street Count as a whole to the missing data, the total number of Native Americans would increase by 19, Asians by 2, African Americans by 21, Latinos by 21, and Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islanders by 4. Combining these estimates with the estimates in footnote 20, the total homeless population figures would be Native American: 432, Asian: 56, African American: 849, Latino: 570, Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander: 229.

counted once within each category. For that reason, the percentages add up to more than 100. The data for Multnomah County is based on 2010 Census figures ²², analyzed using an over-count methodology to be consistent with the rest of the numbers.

The table indicates that all populations of color except for Asians are over-represented in the homeless population. The African American population has the highest rate of over-representation: 18% in the homeless population compared with 7% in the general population. The Native American population is also highly over-represented, with 9% in the homeless population vs. 2% in the general population. The Hispanic/ Latino and Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander populations are over-represented by one percentage point each compared with the general population.

If the 5% of respondents included under “other/ multi-racial” and the number for whom information on race/ ethnicity was not available were distributed proportionately across the other racial/ ethnic categories, the level of over-representation among populations of color would be even greater.



Limitations of Data on Race and Ethnicity

Due to limitations in collecting accurate data on race and ethnicity, the actual over-representation of populations of color may be even greater than indicated in the table. These limitations include:

- **Limited categories:** The federal government requires communities to use the above categories for collecting information on race and ethnicity. These categories do not accurately reflect the wide range of racial and ethnic identities within the population. For example, African communities are considered to be “Black/ African American” within these categories, and Slavic and Middle Eastern communities are counted as “White” – both categories fail to reflect the distinct identities of these groups.
- **Invisibility:** Requiring respondents to define themselves using the federal categories renders some populations invisible. In an effort to at least partially address the limitations of the federal categories, the

²² Note: According to the Coalition of Communities of Color, relying on conventional data sources such as the Census undercounts communities of color from 5% to 40% depending on the community.

Street Count questionnaire offered respondents an opportunity to provide more detail on their racial and ethnic identities in an open-ended response format. Twenty-six individuals completed this part of the form. Their responses provide a snapshot of the multitude of identities within each of the federal categories. For example, Native American respondents included individuals who identify as Cherokee, Pima, Ojibwa, and Hopi. Asian respondents included individuals who identify as Korean and Micronesian. Hispanic respondents included individuals who identify as Mexican, Guatemalan, Puerto Rican, and Mayan. White respondents included individuals who identify as Iraqi, Iranian, and Middle Eastern. These responses illustrate the complex identities that are rendered invisible when they are reduced to the six federal categories.

- **Other/ Multi-racial:** Prior data collection practices used an umbrella category of “other/ multi-racial” to capture information on anybody with more than one racial or ethnic identity. This practice does not accurately capture the distinct identities of respondents and results in an under-count of populations of color. The Street Count and One Night Shelter Count addressed this limitation by eliminating the “other/ multi-racial” category on the questionnaire and instead encouraged respondents to select as many categories as apply. However, because information for some respondents was submitted electronically based on previous data records, the information on those respondents still included the “other/ multi-racial” category.
- **Undercounting:** People of color have historically been under-counted by the Census and other enumeration efforts. This is due to a variety of reasons: Legacies of mistrust and the historic marginalization of some communities of color by mainstream agencies may lead to lower participation rates. Language barriers can reduce participation rates among immigrant communities. The Street Count and One Night Shelter Count tried to address these barriers by allowing respondents to select multiple racial identities, providing Street Count forms in multiple languages, partnering with culturally-specific organizations to conduct the count, and providing open-ended questions about racial and ethnic identity on the Street Count form. But some of the limitations could not be effectively addressed within the context of the count.
- **Missing data:** As noted in the table, data on race/ ethnicity was not provided for 210 Street Count respondents. This could be the result of a variety of factors: many survey forms were incomplete and did not include answers to all of the questions; some respondents may not have been willing to provide information on their race/ ethnicity; some survey takers may not have felt comfortable asking these questions. For official counts like the Census, non-response rates are often believed to be higher for people of color. It is not clear whether this pattern holds true for homeless counts.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

The Coalition of Communities of Color’s report, “Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile” documents deep and broad racial and ethnic disparities in a wide range of local systems and institutions. These include the foster care system, juvenile and adult corrections system, housing markets, and access to education and occupations – all of which have an impact on poverty and homelessness. To better understand how these disparities may affect rates of homelessness within populations of color, this section compares the characteristics of homeless populations of color to the total homeless population (as defined by HUD) within specific sub-categories.

The most notable difference between homeless populations of color and the overall homeless population is the over-representation of women and families with children among populations of color. Families with children make

Household Composition	Homeless Populations of Color	Total Homeless Population
Individual adults	54%	63%
Couples without children	5%	7%
Families with children	40%	29%
Unaccompanied youth under 18	1%	1%

up 40% of homeless populations of color, compared with 29% for the overall homeless population. Females represent 40% of homeless populations of color, compared with 37% of the overall homeless population.

Gender	Homeless Populations of Color	Total Homeless Population
Male	58%	62%
Female	40%	37%
Trans	0%	<1%
Unknown or “Z”	2%	1%

Perhaps because of the greater percentage of women and families with children, populations of color are also disproportionately affected by domestic violence: 22% of homeless populations of color are affected by domestic violence compared with 18% of the overall homeless population.

Chronically Homeless	Homeless Populations of Color	Total Homeless Population
Individual adults	21%	25%
Couples without children	2%	3%
Families with children	1%	1%
Unaccompanied youth under 18	0%	0%
Total chronically homeless	25%	29%

Populations of color are somewhat less likely to be chronically homeless – 25% compared with 29% for the overall homeless population.

The lower rate of chronic homelessness may be in part because the rate of disabling conditions is somewhat lower within populations of color (and the presence of a disabling condition is a component of

the definition of chronic homelessness). Forty-three percent of respondents of color reported having a disabling condition vs. 51% for the overall homeless population. However, according to the Coalition of Communities of Color, communities of color tend to under-report disabling conditions, so this figure may be an under-count.

The percentage of U.S. military veterans is also lower among homeless populations of color: 10% compared with 12% for the overall homeless population. This may be due in part to the higher percentage of women and first-generation immigrants among populations of color. The percentage of homeless veterans varies significantly by racial and ethnic group: 14% of Native Americans, 5% of Asians, 11% of African Americans, 4% of Latinos, 10% of Pacific Islanders, and 12% of other/ multi-racial adults reported being a U.S. military veteran.

Geographic Location

Information on geographic location is only available for Street Count respondents. The table below shows the areas of the county where unsheltered homeless people of color slept on the night of the count.

Geographic Location (Unsheltered)	Native American	Asian	African American	Latino	Native Hawaiian-Pacific Islander	Other/ Multi-racial	Total
Downtown Portland/ Old Town	30 (25%)	4 (40%)	36 (25%)	40 (31%)	7 (32%)	1 (4%)	118 (26%)
N/NE Portland (to 82nd)	42 (34%)	2 (20%)	26 (18%)	23 (18%)	5 (23%)	3 (11%)	101 (22%)
SE Portland (to 82nd)	35 (29%)	0 (0%)	36 (25%)	22 (17%)	3 (14%)	9 (33%)	105 (23%)
NW/ SW Portland	5 (4%)	4 (40%)	44 (30%)	21 (17%)	3 (14%)	11 (41%)	88 (19%)
Outer East/ East County (E of 82nd)	10 (8%)	0 (0%)	4 (3%)	21 (17%)	4 (18%)	3 (11%)	42 (9%)

Note: Percentages are out of respondents who provided location information.

Compared to the overall homeless population, a slightly larger percentage of unsheltered populations of color slept in N/NE Portland (22% vs. 19% for the overall homeless population) and in Downtown Portland/ Old Town (26% vs. 22% for the overall homeless population.) A slightly smaller percentage of unsheltered populations of color slept in NW / SW Portland, SE Portland, and Outer East/ East County.

Comparisons to Previous Counts

Previous point-in-time counts did not use an over-count methodology for capturing information on individuals identifying more than one race. Instead, previous counts grouped those individuals together in the category of “multi-racial.” In order to compare the racial/ ethnic composition of the 2011 count with previous counts, and in order to provide data on the actual number of people of color in the 2011 count, the table below presents the 2011 data using the “multi-racial” category. The one exception to this is the “Hispanic/ Latino” category which according to HUD guidelines is counted as an ethnicity, not a race, so that individuals counted as “Hispanic/ Latino” are also counted under a race.

The comparisons indicate that the racial/ ethnic composition of the homeless population within each of the three categories has remained relatively stable since the most recent counts. The areas where there have been the greatest shifts are a decrease in the percentage of unsheltered African Americans, an increase in the percentage of whites in emergency shelter, and an increase in the percentage of multi-racial respondents in emergency shelter and transitional housing.

Race/Ethnicity	Unsheltered		Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing	
	2009	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
American Indian or Alaska Native	137 (9%)	142 (8%)	41 (5%)	38 (4%)	105 (6%)	152 (8%)
Asian	6 (<1%)	12 (1%)	11 (1%)	10 (1%)	23 (1%)	22 (1%)
Black or African American	185 (12%)	151 (9%)	152 (17%)	175 (17%)	368 (21%)	386 (20%)
Hispanic/ Latino	144 (9%)	154 (9%)	108 (12%)	115 (11%)	180 (10%)	253 (13%)
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	13 (1%)	23 (1%)	22 (2%)	9 (1%)	29 (2%)	23 (1%)
White	1,062 (67%)	1,148 (67%)	504 (56%)	680 (68%)	922 (53%)	1,026 (53%)
Other/ Multi-racial	105 (7%)	32 (2%)	29 (3%)	69 (7%)	64 (4%)	207 (11%)
Information not provided	83 (5%)	210 (12%)	34 (4%)	28 (3%)	50 (3%)	110 (6%)

Behind the Numbers

Even though communities of color are over-represented in the homeless count, the count does not accurately capture the actual levels of homelessness within those communities because they are disproportionately likely to be among the invisible homeless. According to the Coalition of Communities of Color, many culturally-specific populations are unlikely to be counted in the One Night Shelter Count or Street Count because of cultural barriers or mistrust that prevent people of color experiencing homelessness from utilizing mainstream services. This pattern is exacerbated by the lack of culturally-specific organizations explicitly funded to focus on homeless outreach and services in Multnomah County.

For example, Native Americans report a historic legacy of fear and mistrust of the homeless services system and emergency shelters. Because of these barriers, Native Americans experiencing homelessness are more likely to live in their vehicles or “couch surf” with family and friends rather than utilizing shelter or other services. In 2008 when Multnomah County did a homeless youth assessment, 19% of the youth that participated had Native American heritage. The vast majority of these youth refused to go to the youth shelters, all of which were located downtown, and instead remained in their neighborhoods, doubled up, couch surfing and finding places to stay on a temporary basis.

According to the Native American Youth and Family Center, the majority of homeless Native American families live in mini-vans or campers, regularly move around the city, and have ties to apartments where they might have a relative staying or to a local park where they might regularly park their van or camper. There are also a significant number of Native American families that are doubled and tripled up, choosing to live in crowded and often sub-standard conditions rather than utilizing the shelter system.

Communities of color are also disproportionately likely to be doubled and tripled up due to cultural norms within some communities that lead families and neighbors to reach out and house people in distress. This dynamic is illustrated by the experiences of Multnomah County's Asian Pacific Islander (API) community. The API community is not unaffected by poverty and homelessness, but there are relatively few homeless Asian Pacific Islanders living on the streets or utilizing emergency shelters in the county. According to the Immigrant and Refugee Coalition of Oregon, this is because families will double, triple, or quadruple up to prevent family members faced with financial struggles or household turmoil from becoming literally homeless. The over-crowding that results can de-stabilize the host families and may ultimately result in eviction. At that point, family members may divide up and continue doubling up with other community members.

The Emergency Shelter Clearinghouse of the Council for the Homeless in Vancouver reports that it has recently seen a dramatic increase in Micronesian clients, many of whom previously resided in Southeast Portland. The reasons for this trend are unclear, but it demonstrates that while Multnomah County has not seen significant numbers of APIs on the streets or in shelters, the API community is not unaffected by homelessness.

The Coalition of Communities of Color will soon release a series of reports that will provide more detailed insights into the experiences of homelessness in six culturally-specific communities (African, African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American, and Slavic.) These reports will help to enhance our understanding of the face of homelessness in those communities beyond the limited numbers available through the point-in-time count.

Doubled Up & Couch Surfing Estimates

Both the Street Count and One Night Shelter Count are guided by HUD's definition of homelessness, which only includes households who are "literally homeless" (unsheltered, in emergency shelters, or vouchered into motels) or in transitional housing. A far larger number of households in our community are without homes, living doubled up with friends or relatives or "couch surfing" due to economic reasons.

Many advocates and even some government agencies (including the Department of Education) include the doubled-up population in their definitions of homelessness. Studies also indicate that these populations are at high risk of becoming literally homeless. In the course of a year, the estimated odds of experiencing homelessness for a doubled-up person are one in ten.²³ Furthermore, people who are doubled up often live with households who are themselves cost burdened, contributing to greater housing instability among those households.

Populations disproportionately likely to be doubled up include families, communities of color, and unaccompanied youth under age 18.²⁴ As noted in the previous section, many culturally-specific populations are unlikely to utilize shelters because of cultural barriers, mistrust, and/or cultural norms that lead families and neighbors to reach out and house people in distress. According to local service providers, families with children and unaccompanied youth under age 18 are also more likely to be doubled up because it is more difficult for children to live on the streets or in shelters, and family and friends may be more willing to provide help when children are involved.

Estimates of the size of the doubled up population

There is no accurate methodology for enumerating how many households in our community are doubled up, but the available research suggests the size of the doubled-up population is considerably larger than the size of the HUD-defined homeless population. The National Alliance to End Homelessness conducted a national study in 2008 that estimates that if we included the doubled-up population in our overall count of homelessness, it would increase the size of the homeless population by a factor of five.²⁵

Local sources of data on sub-sets of the homeless population suggest that the number of households who are doubled up is significantly larger than the number who are literally homeless:

Department of Human Services data

The Department of Human Services reported that 9,835 of the 66,948 households in Multnomah County receiving food stamps during the week of the count identified themselves as homeless. This figure includes households who were sheltered, unsheltered, and doubled up (as well as 71 households who did not self-identify as homeless but who listed a shelter as their address.) If this figure included all of the sheltered and unsheltered households counted in both the Street Count and ONSC (a conservative assumption), the number of households who are doubled up would be 1.6 times the number who are literally homeless. If we included doubled-up households in our definition of homelessness, the total number of homeless households would be 2.6 times the literally homeless population.

²³ Sermons, William and Peter Witte, (January 2011), *State of Homelessness in America*. Washington, D.C.: National Alliance to End Homelessness and Homelessness Research Institute.

²⁴ Wright et. al., (1998), "Factors Associated with Doubled-Up Housing – a Common Precursor to Homelessness." *Social Service Review*, Vol, 72, No.1; Moses, Joy (2010), "The New Housing Normal for Low-Income Families." Washington, D.C.: Center for American Progress; Curry-Stevens, A., Cross-Hemmer, A., and Coalition of Communities of Color (2010). *Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile*. Portland, OR: Portland State University.

²⁵ National Alliance to End Homelessness (2008), "Data Snapshot: Doubled Up in the United States. Updated March 2008." Washington, D.C.: NAEH.

211info data

The region’s human services hotline, 211info, asked anyone who called seeking information about human services in Multnomah County between 1/25/11 and 1/28/11 where they would or did sleep on the night of the count (1/26/11). Out of 1,414 callers, 140 indicated that they did not have stable housing. This includes 81 callers who said they were doubled up with family and friends, and 59 who said they would be in a shelter, unsheltered, or in a motel. In other words, of the population with unstable housing, 58% of households were doubled up while 42% were literally homeless. If we included doubled-up households in our definition of homelessness, the total number of homeless households would be more than two times the literally homeless population.

School district data

The homeless liaisons for all of the school districts in Multnomah County participated in the Street Count and also provided more comprehensive data on the number of students and their families experiencing housing instability who were doubled up, sheltered, in a motel, and unsheltered on the night of the count. The data provides a good indication of the proportion of homeless students in each category. The total estimated number of students and family members experiencing housing instability on January 26, 2011 was 4,081, within the categories in the table below:

This table does not include 360 homeless unaccompanied youth who were also reported by the school districts. These youth were listed separately without a specific housing status identified, so they cannot be included in this

Housing Status	Estimated Youth	Estimated Adults	Estimated Total	% of Total
Sheltered	158	169	327	8%
Doubled up	1,649	1,656	3,305	81%
Hotel/Motel	74	89	163	4%
Other*	176	110	286	7%
Total	2,057	2,024	4,081	100%

table. School district liaisons note that most are doubled up.

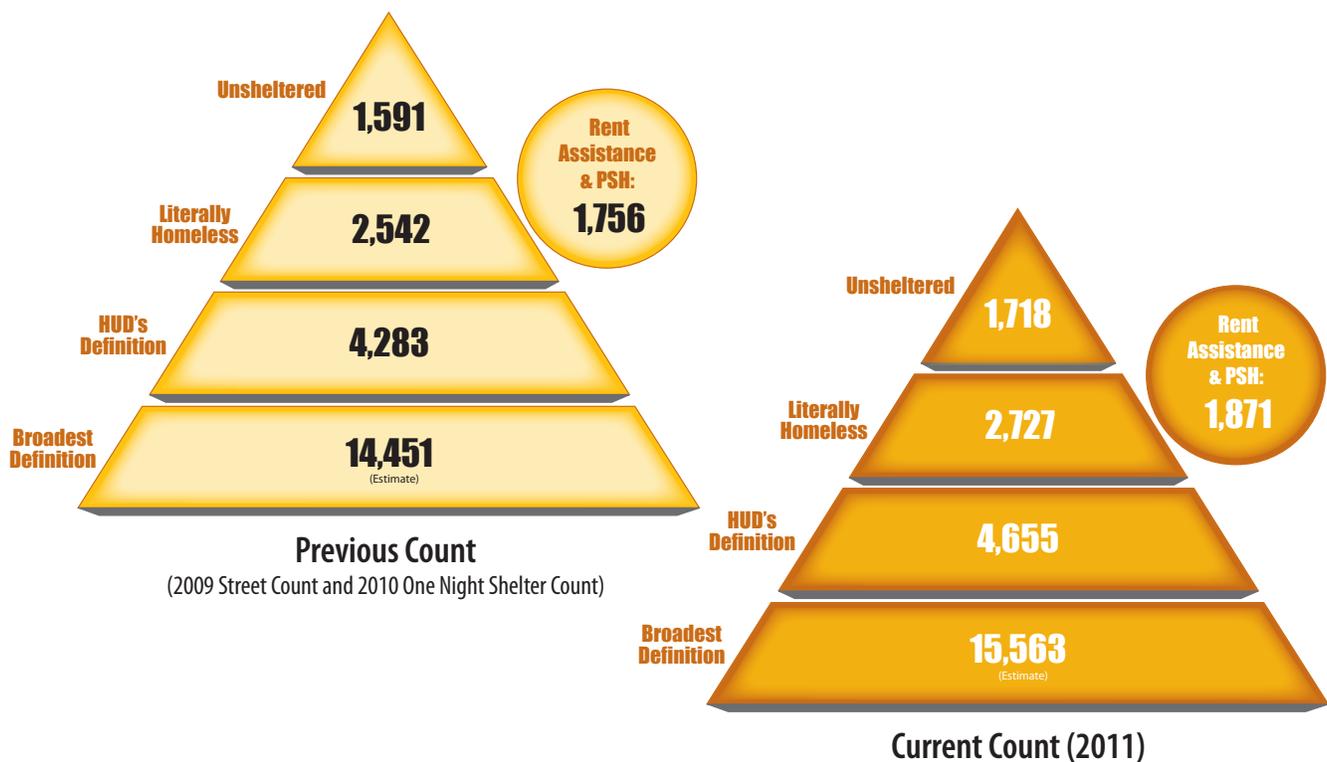
Based on the school districts’ figures, we can estimate that for homeless families with school-age children, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of the count who were doubled up was more than four times the number who were literally homeless.

*“Other” includes car, street, transitional housing, and substandard housing

Local estimates

The data from these local and national studies suggests the number of households who were doubled up in Multnomah County on the night of the 2011 count may be more than twice the number of households who were literally homeless, and the number of individuals who were doubled up may be more than four times the number of individuals who were literally homeless. Applying these rough estimates to the literally homeless count yields a ballpark figure of 4,778 households representing 10,908 individuals doubled up on the night of the count. If we include all of these individuals within our definition of homelessness, the total count would be 15,563.

There were 2,727 literally homeless people in Multnomah County on January 26, 2011, including 1,718 who were unsheltered. According to HUD's definition of homelessness, which also includes people sleeping in transitional housing, there were 4,655 people experiencing homelessness that night. This represents a 9% increase compared with the most recent counts – an increase that occurred despite our community's continued investment in strategies to end homelessness, as demonstrated by a 7% increase in the number of people receiving rent assistance and permanent supportive housing.



The increase in Multnomah County's homeless count numbers reflects persistent homelessness among a significant portion of the unsheltered population, new homelessness, and the migration of homeless individuals into Multnomah County over the past two years.

These patterns are likely related to the economic recession. Among One Night Shelter Count respondents and Street Count long form respondents who answered an optional question about the reason for their homelessness, by far the most frequent responses were "couldn't afford rent" and "unemployment." When asked how the recession had affected them, the most frequent answers given by Street Count long form respondents were "unable to find employment" (55%), "longer wait lists/ housing and services harder to access" (33%), "lost job" (27%), and "fewer work hours" (18%).

Communities of color, which have been disproportionately impacted by the recession²⁶, are over-represented within the homeless population compared with the overall population of Multnomah County as a whole. The rates

²⁶ See, for example, http://fairrecovery.org/?page_id=19

of over-representation are particularly high for Native Americans and African Americans, but some level of over-representation exists for every racial and ethnic group except Asians.

Service providers report increased need and demand for services over the past two years as a result of the recession. More households are seeking assistance with eviction prevention, foreclosure prevention, and unemployment – all of which are frequent pre-cursors to homelessness. And more households are seeking services to address their basic needs and support the transition back into housing once they are on the streets.

Until the economy improves, holding the line against further increases in homelessness will require an even greater commitment of services and resources by both the government and the private sector.

Acknowledgements

The Street Count and One Night Shelter Count would not have been possible without the contributions of the Outreach and Engagement Workgroup and the many agencies and volunteers who conducted the counts.

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Participating Street Count Agencies

211info, Allied Drug Treatment, All Saints Meal Program, Anawin, Better People, Black Parent Initiative, Blanchet House, Bridge City Family Medical Clinic, Bridgetown Ministries, Calvary Christian Church, Can We Help, Carpenter's Food Bank, Cascade AIDS Project, Cascadia, Catholic Charities, Centennial School District, Central City Concern, Chiers/ Hooper Detox, City Team Ministries, CODA Alpha Treatment, Community Transition School, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Corbett School District, David Douglas School District, Dignity Village, Dinner and A Movie, Downtown Chapel, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, First Baptist Church, Good News Health Clinic, Gresham-Barlow School District, Human Solutions, IRCO, Impact NW, Janus Youth Programs, JOIN, Julia West House, Loaves and Fishes, Macdonald Center, Manna Ministries, Mt. Scott Presbyterian Church, Multnomah County Jail, Multnomah County Health Department, Multnomah County Libraries, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, NARA, NAYA, New Avenues for Youth, Operation Nightwatch, Oregon Law Center, Oregon Youth Authority, Outside In, P:ear, Parkrose School District, Pongo Fund, Portland Adventist Community Services, PBA Clean and Safe, Portland Fire and Rescue, Portland Impact, Portland Parks and Recreation, Portland Police Bureau, Portland Rescue Mission, Portland Public Schools, Portland Women's Crisis Line, Potluck in the Park, Project Respond, Reynolds School District, Road Warrior, Rose Haven, Salvation Army, Self Enhancement, Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, Sisters of the Road, Snow Cap, Southeast Works, St. Francis Dining Hall, St. Mark's Lutheran, Street Roots, Sunnyside Methodist Church Meal Program, Transition Projects, Transitional Youth, Trinity Cathedral Food Pantry, Union Gospel Mission, Veterans Administration, Voz Day Labor Center, Wallace Medical Concern, West Burnside Chiropractic Clinic, Westside Health Clinic, William Temple House, WorkSource Oregon

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Participating One Night Shelter Count Organizations

211info, Bradley Angle House, Cascade AIDS Project, Cascadia, Catholic Charities, Central City Concern, City Team Ministries, Common Cup Family Shelter, Community Transitional School, DePaul, Friendly House, Goose Hollow Family Shelter, Human Solutions, Impact NW, Insights, IRCO, Janus Youth Programs, JOIN, LukeDorf – Bridgeview, Multnomah County Developmental Disabilities, Multnomah County School and Community Partnerships, My Father’s House, My Sister’s House, Native American Rehabilitation Association, Native American Youth Association, Neighborhood House, New Avenues for Youth, Northwest Pilot Project, Outside In, Portland Rescue Mission, Portland Women’s Crisis Line, Raphael House, Salvation Army, Self Enhancement, Inc., Shepherd’s Door, Transition Projects, Union Gospel Mission, Volunteers of America, YWCA

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Definitions

The point-in-time count is based on the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of a homeless person, which is articulated in the federal McKinney-Vento Act as: (1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and (2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is – (a) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); (b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or (c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

In the guidelines for HUD's Continuum of Care funding, HUD further defines these categories as follows: "A person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the three places described below: 1. places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings; 2. an emergency shelter; or 3. transitional housing for homeless persons."

HUD's guidelines for enumerating homeless persons set forth the following criteria for who should be counted within each of these categories:

- **Unsheltered Homeless:** Individuals and families who are homeless and sleeping outside, in vehicles, in abandoned buildings, or other places not intended for human habitation. This includes streets, sidewalks, parks, alleys, transportation depots or other parts of transportation systems, all-night commercial establishments (e.g. movie theaters, laundromats, restaurants), abandoned buildings, farm outbuildings, caves, campgrounds, vehicles, and similar places.
- **Sheltered Homeless:** All adults, children, and unaccompanied youth residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, including domestic violence shelters, residential programs for runaway/homeless youth, and any hotel/motel/apartment voucher arrangements paid by a public/private agency because the person is homeless.

Doubled up and couch surfing:

HUD's definition of homelessness specifically excludes people without homes who are doubled up for economic reasons with friends and relatives. The exclusion of the doubled-up population from HUD's definition has been contested by some advocacy groups. Other definitions do include this population. For example, the definition of homelessness used by the U.S. Department of Education includes the categories from the HUD definition, plus also includes, "children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations."

Chronically homeless:

HUD defines "chronically homeless" as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. In the past, couples and people in families experiencing homelessness were excluded from this classification. In 2011, HUD changed its definition to include adults in couples or families who meet the definition of chronic homelessness, along with family members living with that adult at the time of the count.

Definitions from One Night Shelter Count:

The One Night Shelter Count includes emergency shelters, transitional housing, vouchers, rent/ mortgage assistance, and permanent supportive housing. These are defined as follows:

- **Emergency Shelter:** A facility providing short-term (30-days stay), emergency accommodation for homeless persons.
- **Hotel/ Motel Vouchers:** Vouchers used to provide temporary shelter in a hotel or motel.
- **Rent or Mortgage Assistance:** Homeless prevention program that provides short-term financial assistance to prevent eviction or foreclosure for people at risk of being homeless.
- **Transitional Housing:** A housing program that provides temporary stabilized housing with supportive services up to two years for persons who are transitioning to community living after being homeless. (Does not include Section 8 and HUD-subsidized housing.)
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** Long-term housing that provides supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. Permanent housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Homeless Management Information System/ Service Point:

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) are data collection and reporting systems required by and meeting uniform standards of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for all communities receiving federal homeless assistance funding. The Portland Housing Bureau implements a regional HMIS using ServicePoint, a web-based data system that allows agencies, coalitions, and communities to manage (real-time) client and resource data. ServicePoint is a product of Bowman Systems, Shreveport LA.

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- G. One Night Shelter Count Survey Form
- H. Street Count Survey Form

Appendix B is available online at www.portlandonline.com/phb/streetcount