

CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

2023 HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM REPORT



PUBLISHED BY COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

2023 HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM REPORT | CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Table of Contents

- Introduction 3**
- How Is System-Wide Data Collected? 4
- Commitment to Equity 5
- Thank You 5
- Infographic:* State of Homelessness in Clark County 6
- Key Takeaways by Service Type 7**
- Infographic:* Clark County Households by Population, Demographics Summary 9
- Key Takeaways by Demographics 10**
- Anchor Community Initiative. 13
- Chart:* Zip Code/Last Permanent Address 14
- Map:* Zip Code/Last Permanent Address 15
- Conclusion 16**
- Partners Working Toward Common Goals 17

2023 HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM REPORT | CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Introduction

In 2023, the Housing Hotline received over 21,000 calls for housing assistance from residents of Clark County. Close to 9,000 people in our community experienced homelessness with over 5,000 reporting they were newly homeless. These numbers make it clear that the demand for services continues to be high, and the need for housing solutions in our community persists.

Overall results from the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) data show that some positive outcomes were achieved in 2023, when compared to the previous year.

- 3% decrease in total people experiencing homelessness
- 17% decrease in people identifying as “newly homeless”
- 25% increase in people exiting Rapid Re-Housing to permanent housing
- Increase in the number of youth and young adults being housed
- Increase in Veterans exiting to housing.

While this data shows improvements in Clark County over a one-year period, it can take at least five years for collected data to become a trend. The reality is that homelessness continues to be a persistent and ongoing crisis among residents of Clark County. Continued collaboration and intentional work among the Clark County Homelessness System must continue. Where needed, both the breadth and depth of solutions must be expanded in order to achieve the goal of solving homelessness in our community.

Well over half of the 8,752 people identifying as homeless were newly homeless; that is, 5,084 people. There were 2,583 children under the age of 18 who experienced homelessness. Data from the 2020 census revealed that 9% of Clark County residents lived below the federal poverty level.

Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) residents experienced homelessness at a disproportionate rate in Clark County. People of Color are also significantly more likely to experience poverty at higher rates than their white peers.

The homeless response system continues to improve processes to identify people who need assistance. The use of By-Name Lists for youth and young adults (YYA), Veterans and people experiencing chronic homelessness has proven that person-specific data allows us to assess and provide services on an individualized basis. This system helps us more effectively track people experiencing homelessness and help each person based on their specific needs. It is one reason why YYA and Veterans saw an increase in exiting to stable housing in 2023.

Of those who have entered programs and received services in the past year, many have achieved long-term stability and have not returned to homelessness. HCRS data shows that 88% of people who entered Permanent Supportive Housing in 2022 remained successfully housed for at least one year. Of those housed in 2021, 85% remained housed for two years.

As seems to be a continuing trend, the inflow of newly homeless people appears to be heavily driven by the lack of affordable housing; increasingly higher costs of rent and move-in expenses; stagnant wages; and higher cost of living. This continues to be exacerbated by challenges including accessing mental, physical and behavioral healthcare. Lack of access to streamlined systems of care perpetuates cycles that ultimately lengthen and complicate efforts to move people out of homelessness.

The data in this report informs policymakers, service providers and community members about the state of our community's foundation: a safe and stable place for each person and family to live with the services they need to thrive. Every aspect of one's life is improved by having a stable home.

The opioid and fentanyl crisis continues to have a sizable impact on how homelessness presents itself in our community. Yet, the primary driver of homelessness remains the rising costs of getting and staying housed, and the lack of housing affordable to people earning less than 50% of the area median income.

According to Zillow, in August of 2023 the median rent in Vancouver was \$1,979, with a month-over-month change of +\$63 and a year-over-year change of -\$77. According to the 2023 Out of Reach Report, a renter must earn \$34.15 per hour to afford a one-bedroom home at Fair Market Rate in Clark County, a 10% increase over 2022.

While the median rent has dropped slightly over the last year, a person earning minimum wage (\$16.28) would only have 25% of their monthly income leftover after paying rent. If supporting a family, that is roughly \$625 a month for utilities, food, school costs, gas, medical bills, and any unexpected expenses.

The response to homelessness is driven by the resources available. These are factors that the HCRS cannot address or impact, except through additional resources, education and advocacy. Homelessness is truly a community, cross-sector, cross-systems issue. We now face a time when we must acknowledge these intersections and work together to invest in proven long-term solutions. It takes everyone in our community to end homelessness. Working together we can solve cross-sector and cross-systems issues that make our neighbors vulnerable to homelessness.

As the convener of community partners, resources and services, Council for the Homeless is committed to advancing best practices including learning from the successful strategies of communities across the nation.

Homelessness is solvable. It is up to all of us to work together to solve it as a community. We can collectively decide on the quality of life our community, as a whole, should have. We all win when everyone has a safe and stable place to call home. With collaboration and careful stewardship of our limited resources, HCRS partners believe solving homelessness on an individual and community level is possible. We invite you to join us.

How Is System-Wide Data Collected?

Forty-seven local providers input their homeless services data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Council for the Homeless administers the database and supports the providers in their use of the system with training, reporting and technical assistance.

Data is used to evaluate the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) analyzing metrics, including individual program outcomes and population-based outcomes. Partners consider which interventions are meeting the needs of the community; they analyze which populations are being successfully served and which populations are not. Information is used to adjust programming and promote cross-sector and cross-cultural collaboration. This system-level data is available to policymakers to inform budget allocations and also drives the goals and outcomes in the Clark County Homeless Action Plan.

A public dashboard displaying program data is available at www.councilforthehomeless.org/system-dashboard/. The data is updated monthly by Council for the Homeless (CFTH).

Commitment to Equity

In 2020, the Homeless Crisis Response System Report called for an increased focus on assistance to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals and families. That focus continues. As a result, we gathered more data on BIPOC communities' experience with the HCRS. The data indicate BIPOC individuals and families continue to struggle with housing. Forty-two percent of the people who experienced homelessness in 2023 were BIPOC — an overrepresentation of BIPOC residents in Clark County, who account for approximately 27% of the county population.

BIPOC community members engaged with the HCRS in 2023 at a rate higher than families, seniors, youth and Veterans. In 2023, 12% more BIPOC community members were served with rent stabilization assistance than in 2022, although rent assistance availability dramatically decreased in 2023.

BIPOC households face barriers to ending their homelessness that include housing discrimination, higher rates of poverty, language barriers, and cultural beliefs and practices that do not align with a system designed by and for the majority-white population. These circumstances can create fear, confusion and mistrust. The HCRS is committed to improving its design and delivery of services so that one's risk of homelessness or chance of success in securing stable housing are not impacted by one's race.

Key Definition: The housing assessment is a comprehensive survey and conversation with a head or heads of household. Data from the assessment determine which type of housing assistance program will give the household the best chance of meeting their goals and securing housing.

Thank You

Council for the Homeless expresses its appreciation to the many partners that contribute to the work of the HCRS, whose dedication, skills and collaborative approach to solving the homeless crisis makes our community stronger.

We also want to recognize the people experiencing homelessness and housing instability in Clark County, whose determination to be safe, live with dignity, contribute to the community, and secure a permanent home under tremendously difficult circumstances is humbling.

Homeless System Numbers | 2023

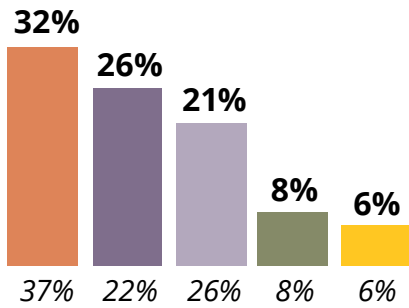
STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN CLARK COUNTY

The data below illustrates the state of homelessness in Clark County, Wash., in 2023. The whole numbers (e.g., 4,447) represent households, not individuals. Percentages do not add up to 100% as households often fit in more than one demographic category.

Data from 2022 are italicized and listed below each bar for comparison.

EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS AT ANY POINT IN 2023

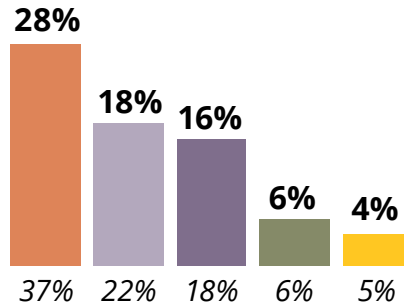
2023=4,447 / 2022=5,352



CALLED CFTH HOUSING HOTLINE FOR ASSISTANCE

(Includes those calling for rent assistance)

2023=5,509 / 2022=6,492



DEMOGRAPHIC CATEGORIES

Families

Seniors

BIPOC

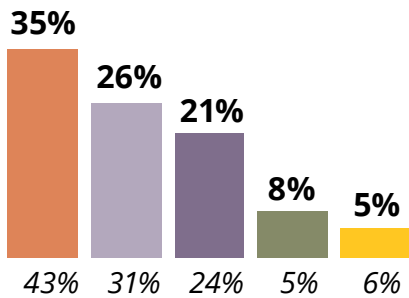
Youth (12-24)

Veterans

BIPOC=Black, Indigenous and People of Color

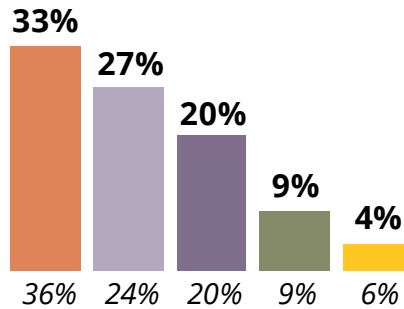
ASKED FOR SHELTER

2023=3,034 / 2022=2,421



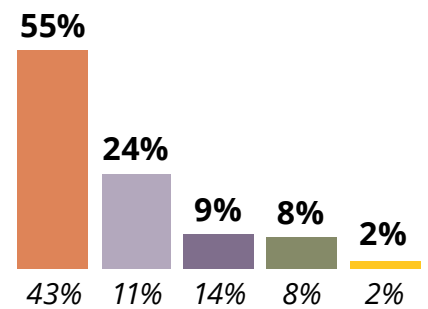
ASSESSED FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS

2023=3,784 / 2022=3,824



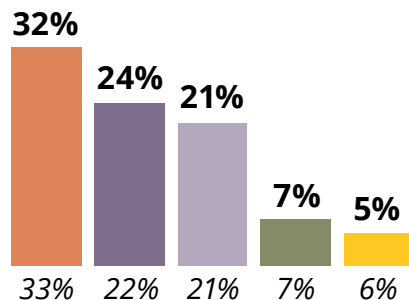
STABILIZED THROUGH RENTAL ASSISTANCE

2023=1,506 / 2022=5,218



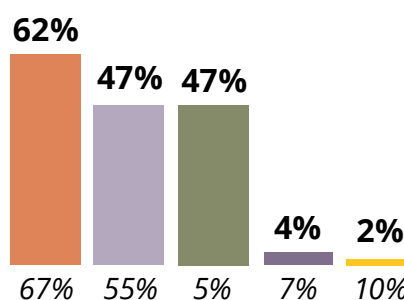
ACCESSED SHELTER

2023=1,370 / 2022=1,857



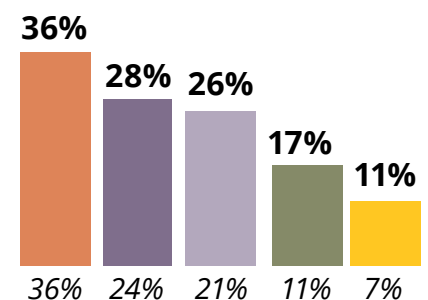
HOUSED THROUGH COACHING AND ONE-TIME FINANCIAL SUPPORT

2023=219 / 2022=134



ENTERED ONE OF 39 HOUSING PROGRAMS

2023=454 / 2022=565



Key Takeaways by Service Type

- ▶ Coordinated Outreach
- ▶ Emergency Shelter
- ▶ Coaching and One-Time Financial Assistance (Diversion)
- ▶ Housing Programs
- ▶ Rental Assistance

Coordinated Outreach

In 2023, 101 people were housed through the CFTH outreach program, and another 202 people were housed by partner outreach programs.

Emergency Shelter

Households requesting shelter increased by 25% between 2022 and 2023.

Even though there was an increase in shelter requests in 2023, there was a 26% decrease in households entering shelter that same year. In 2023, 1,370 households entered shelter; in 2022, the number was 1,857.

Not only did the number of households entering shelter decrease in 2023, the average length of shelter stay decreased as well.

In 2022, the average length of shelter stay was 57 days. In 2023, the average was 36 days; a 21-day decrease.

Coaching and One-Time Financial Assistance (Diversion)

In 2023, 219 households secured housing through diversion assistance, a 63% increase over 2022. That is a dramatic increase of 85 households in 2023.

One of the reasons for this substantial increase is the addition of the Anchor Community Initiative Homeless Prevention Diversion Fund (HPDF) and the Youth Diversion Infrastructure Project (YDIP). These programs are made possible with partnership from A Way Home Washington and the state Office of Homeless Youth. The key to the success of these programs is the combination of diversion and prevention services with financial assistance to stabilize the housing situation of people between the ages of 12-24.

Programs like the Anchor Community Initiative dedicated to youth in 2023 contributed to a large increase in housing. In 2023, out of the 219 households with a housed exit from diversion, 102 households identified as among the 12-24 age group. That is a significant increase from 2022 when out of the 134 households with a housed exit from diversion, only 7 households identified as youth or young adults.

HPDF and YDIP are examples of centralized funding managed by CFTH but accessible to multiple partners.

BIPOC households continue to be served by diversion more than any other population, with 62% of diversion households identifying as BIPOC.

Key Definition: The definition of homelessness is “living in a car, tent, trailer without running water, emergency shelter, or place not meant for human habitation.” People staying in a shelter are still considered homeless until they move to a permanent living situation. Emergency shelter by itself is not an answer to homelessness. Some funding sources incorporate “couch surfing” in the definition of homelessness.

Key Takeaways by Service Type (continued from page 7)

Housing Programs

In 2023, there were 3,784 households assessed for program eligibility by the Housing Hotline, a 1% decrease from 2022.

The number of households who were placed into a housing program decreased by 20%, from 565 to 454.

The decrease comes from a reduction in referral requests coming from partner providers.

Permanent exit from homelessness defined: Retained housing or moved out of the program into a different permanent living situation.

Returned to homelessness defined: Number of clients returning to the system after being successfully housed two years ago.

The Rapid Re-Housing program had better exit outcomes in 2023, with 74% of households exiting to permanent housing compared to 47% in 2022. The rate of people returning to homelessness after engaging in Rapid Re-Housing was 12% within two years of a successful program exit.

The rates for Transitional Housing were 47% exiting to permanent housing and 10%

returning to homelessness within two years of a successful program exit.

The rates for Permanent Supportive Housing are 92% of residents either retaining their current housing or exiting to other permanent housing in 2023. Thirty-eight percent of the residents who exited to permanent housing two years prior returned to homelessness within two years.

Rental Assistance

Households that were stabilized via emergency rental assistance to prevent eviction decreased significantly in 2023 from the previous year by 71%. In 2023, the number of households was 1,506, while in 2022, the number was 5,218.

The substantial decrease is due to many rental assistance programs decreasing, or discontinuing entirely. During the pandemic, the federal government released substantial funds to help renters, but most of these funds have not been renewed. For example, in 2022, Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance assisted 669 heads of households, and in 2023 the same program only assisted 17; a 97% decrease. The absence of emergency rental assistance is not expected to change in the near future.

Key Definitions

Transitional Housing: Provides households with temporary housing supportive services, with the goal of their moving to permanent housing within 24 months.

Rapid Re-Housing: Includes assistance in identifying permanent housing and with move-in costs, rent support and case management. The amount of assistance and length of time received is tailored to individual needs.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): Combines affordable housing with intensive staff supports; behavioral and physical healthcare; caregivers; and other essential services. This approach is typically a good fit for people who experience chronic homelessness. In addition to the human benefits, PSH is shown to reduce costs associated with hospitals and law enforcement.

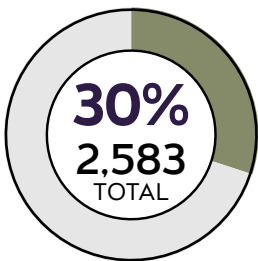
Homeless System Numbers | 2023

2023 DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY



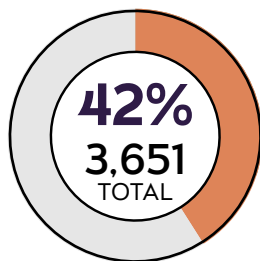
8,752 people from **4,447** households were homeless in Clark County at any given time during 2023. Of those 8,752:

IDENTIFIED AS CHILDREN UNDER 18



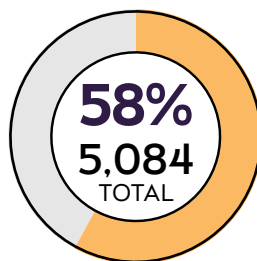
2022: 28%
2,552 TOTAL

IDENTIFIED AS BIPOC



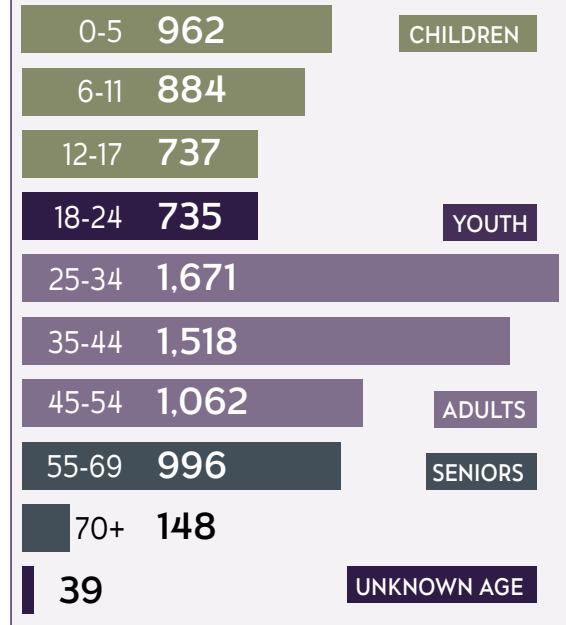
2022: 44%
3,985 TOTAL

IDENTIFIED AS NEWLY HOMELESS



2022: 68%
6,119 TOTAL

AGES



RACIAL DISPARITIES

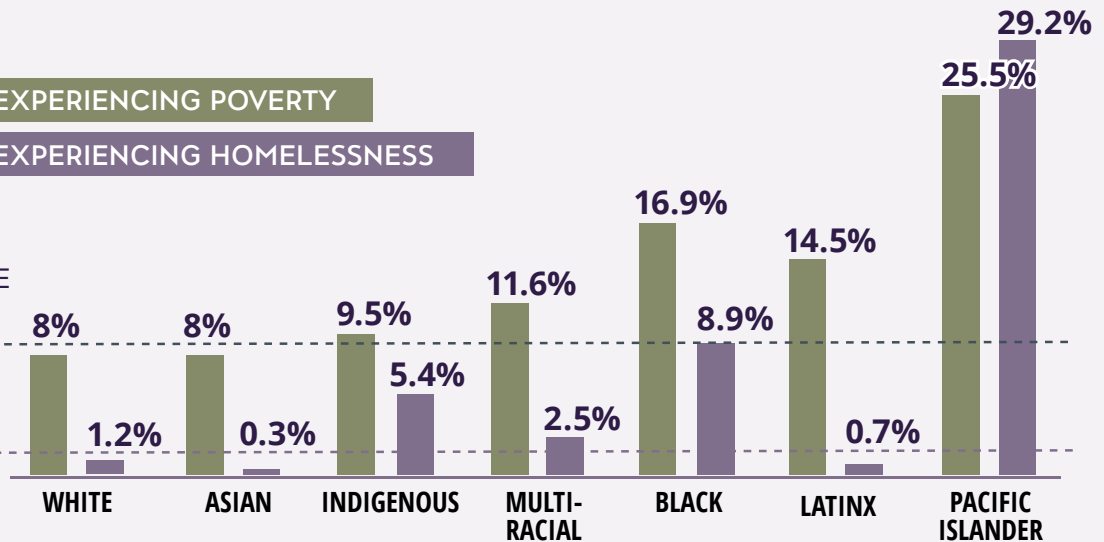
LIKELIHOOD OF EXPERIENCING POVERTY

LIKELIHOOD OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

POVERTY AVERAGE
9%

1.5%

HOMELESSNESS AVERAGE



People of color are significantly more likely to experience poverty and homelessness in Clark County, Washington. Numbers above the lines indicate greater vulnerability.

Source: Clark County Population and Poverty Count numbers are from the most-recent 2022 American Community Survey 5-year estimates "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months" table.

Key Takeaways by Demographics

- ▶ **Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)**
- ▶ **Families**
- ▶ **Veterans**
- ▶ **Youth and Young Adults (YYA) (ages 12 to 24)**
- ▶ **Seniors**

Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)

Given that the BIPOC population comprises about 27% of Clark County residents (ACS 2022 1-year), the fact that 42%, or 3,651 of those who were homeless in 2023 identified as BIPOC underscores the need to continue to prioritize this demographic as we strive to eliminate homelessness. Another reason for prioritizing the BIPOC community – they are significantly more likely to experience poverty and homelessness in Clark County than their white peers. Even with the decrease of households that experienced homelessness, the BIPOC community again experienced homelessness at a higher rate than any other demographic group.

Families

The percentage of families that called the Housing Hotline and sought emergency shelter decreased in 2023. One possible reason is simply that COVID-related rental assistance dollars have been exhausted, and people understand that option is now rarely available. It could also be due to a reduction in other services for those not literally homeless.

The percent of families that accessed shelter or entered housing programs fell last year, but there was a 14% increase in family households who entered diversion. Families entering diversion increased from 111 in 2022 to 127 families in 2023. Families that had a housed exit from diversion increased from 73 families in 2022 to 104 in 2023, representing a 42% increase.

As a 2023 recipient of the \$5 million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant, CFTH and its partners are working together to improve the availability of emergency shelter and permanent housing for Clark County families.

Veterans

While the number of Veterans assessed in 2023 decreased by 25%, the number of Veterans who were placed into a housing program increased by 35%. In 2023, 50 Veterans entered a housing program; in 2022 there were 37.

The increase in the number of Veterans being reported as housed is due to a couple of factors. One is that in fall of 2023, a concerted effort was made by Council staff to clean up the data in the Veterans By-Name List. This included better contact information, and clarifying if they had already been housed or had moved out of the area. This resulted in shortening the list of houseless Veterans. This also resulted in having better access to those still on the list who needed help getting housed – a key to the By-Name List strategy.

Secondly, a staff team worked intentionally with an identified group of Veterans through regular case meetings to ensure

Key Takeaways by Demographics (continued from page 10)

that each veteran had access to specific assistance and services. The team uses case conferencing to work down a list of each veteran in the community experiencing homelessness to understand unique needs and resources needed to stably house each person.

Combined, this resulted in a significant number of Veterans being housed in 2023.

Another positive result of the data cleanup was more robust collaboration between Council for the Homeless and the Clark County VA to ensure both organizations have the same data on each individual. This contributes to providing a more streamlined process in assisting Clark County Veterans seeking housing.

Youth (ages 12 to 17) and Young Adults (ages 18 to 24) (ages 12 to 24 is YYA)

Data shows that in 2023, there were positive outcomes in YYA homelessness beginning to emerge.

While there was a 1% decrease in the total number of people experiencing homelessness between 2023 and 2022, the Youth and Young Adult (YYA) demographic saw a significant decrease of 7%. 2023 also saw an increase of 25% of YYA being housed over 2022 numbers, or an additional 16 people exiting to housing.

Of the 8,752 people who experienced homelessness in Clark County in 2023, 737 were Youth ages 12-17, and 735 were Young Adults ages 18-24. Combined that means 16% of people experiencing homelessness in 2023 were aged 12-24. Compared to 2022, that

Children, Youth & Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness by Age Group 2022 vs. 2023

Demographic	2022	2023	# Change	% Change
Children 0 to 11	1764	1846	82	4%
Youth 12 to 17	788	737	-51	-7%
Under 18	2552	2583	31	1%
Young Adults 18 to 24	788	735	-53	-7%
Youth and Young Adults 12 to 24	1576	1472	-104	-7%

Key Takeaways by Demographics (continued from page 11)

was a 7% decrease in 2023, or 104 fewer YYA. Of those under 18 years of age, there was a 1% increase in homelessness. (Refer to table on page 11.)

Youth, ages 12–17, most often have a parent or guardian, and they experience homelessness together. However, it is not uncommon for people in this age group to experience homelessness alone. Those who do not have a parent or guardian are referred to as Unaccompanied Youth.

The decrease in YYA-aged individuals experiencing homelessness could be attributed to increased/improved identification of Youth experiencing homelessness through the By-Name List (BNL) and resources provided by the Anchor Community Initiative.

Through the Anchor Community Initiative, providers who serve the YYA community now provide access to services that can help eliminate barriers to stable housing through centralized diversion and a prevention funding pool. This funding is used for one-time financial assistance to help keep a YYA in their homes or help them exit homelessness into housing.

Seniors

In 2023, seniors aged 55+ experiencing homelessness decreased by 4% from 2022. To support this positive shift and continue the downward trend, the addition of more focused senior programs should be considered.

There was also a 9% increase in the total number of seniors requesting shelter when calling the hotline, but a 20% decrease in the number of seniors entering shelter. Unique needs of seniors remain such as limited incomes, health challenges, medical issues.

In 2023, 624 seniors requested shelter when calling the hotline; in 2022 there were 572.

In 2023, 329 seniors entered shelter; in 2022 there were 410.

Anchor Community Initiative on a Mission to End Homelessness for Youth

Data collected by the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) in 2023 showed there was a 7% decrease in youth and young adults (YYA) that reported experiencing homelessness in Clark County. In addition, more individuals in the YYA demographic (12-24) were successfully housed; a 25% increase compared to 2022.

One possible reason is the Anchor Community Initiative. A program of A Way Home Washington, the Anchor Community Initiative is a coalition of community partners working across systems and silos to end youth homelessness in Clark County. Thanks to this initiative, local partners built an infrastructure to collaborate on ending youth homelessness.

The initiative includes the creation of a By-Name List (BNL) for the YYA age group. Tracking every YYA experiencing homelessness helps housing community partners become familiar with each individual. This shows who is unhoused at any given time, who is unstably housed, and what the personal needs and barriers are for everyone on the list. This makes resolving housing instability more streamlined.

It is estimated that 13,000 to 15,000 YYA experience homelessness and housing instability in the state of Washington, annually. Data gathered through the BNL helps Clark County service providers determine causes of youth homelessness, how it can be prevented, and how to respond to certain trends. One such trend is the disproportionality of homelessness that occurs for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth. Data helps providers determine how to best address disproportionalities, and how to effectively resolve every young individual's housing instability.

One main pillar of the Anchor Community Initiative is involving youth with lived experience to help make decisions in their community through the Youth Action Board (YAB). "Nothing About Us, Without Us" is a common phrase.

One participant, Malaya McGant, a 23-year-old Clark County resident, serves on the YAB. She believes that one of the main reasons for more youth being housed in Clark County is the Anchor Community Initiative, and the participation of youth and young adults advocating for change. "When you have youth voices of experience saying to local political figures and community members, 'We are here. We exist. We need help,' it makes a powerful statement."

Malaya adds, "Seeing young people who are willing to do what is needed to advocate for other youth, it has a big impact." As part of her advocacy work, Malaya has been interviewed by The Columbian, invited to meet with City of Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerney-Ogle, and participated in advocating to local legislators.

Malaya also believes collaboration across Clark County community organizations has helped get more people housed.

Malaya says her inspiration comes from seeing the need of so many young people struggling to take care of themselves. She knows firsthand that sometimes you can get so focused on trying to get yourself back together, it's hard to think about doing anything else. But, she says, "When you get situated, and you have friends calling you saying they need help, you can start to really see how advocating for your community makes a difference."

The goal of the Anchor Community Initiative is to functionally end homelessness for the YYA community in Clark County. What that means is when young people do experience housing instability, they can access services immediately, and quickly move into safe and stable housing. Malaya will be stepping up, speaking out, and doing what she can to see this goal become a reality.

Clark County, Washington Homeless System Clients by Zip Code of Last Permanent Address

JANUARY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

The numbers below show the reported permanent residence prior to homelessness for all unduplicated individuals who identified as homeless in our Clark County Homeless Management Information System during 2023 and reported a valid "Zip Code of Permanent Address" to service providers.

City	Zip Code	# of People	% of Clark County Total	% of Overall Total
Amboy	98601	20	0.3%	0.3%
Battle Ground	98604	156	2.4%	2.0%
Brush Prairie	98606	27	0.4%	0.3%
Camas	98607	128	2.0%	1.6%
La Center	98629	15	0.2%	0.2%
Ridgefield	98642	52	0.8%	0.7%
Vancouver	98660	396	6.2%	5.0%
Vancouver	98661	1864	29.1%	23.5%
Vancouver	98663	317	5.0%	4.0%
Vancouver	98664	298	4.7%	3.7%
Vancouver	98683	345	5.4%	4.3%
Vancouver	98684	472	7.4%	5.9%
Five Corners (uninc.)	98662	527	8.2%	6.6%
Hazeldell (uninc.)	98665	478	7.5%	6.0%
Orchards (uninc.)	98682	748	11.7%	9.4%
Felida (uninc.)	98685	163	2.5%	2.1%
Salmon Creek (uninc.)	98686	154	2.4%	1.9%
Washougal	98671	149	2.3%	1.9%
Woodland	98674	65	1.0%	0.8%
Yacolt	98675	23	0.4%	0.3%

State	# of People	% of Total
Washington	6,939	87.3%
Clark County	6,397	80.5%
Vancouver	3,692	46.5%
Oregon	546	6.9%
Portland	289	3.6%
California	82	1.0%
Arizona	40	0.5%
Colorado	30	0.4%
Texas	26	0.3%
Idaho	23	0.3%
Florida	20	0.3%
Nevada	18	0.2%
New Mexico	16	0.2%
Ohio	12	0.2%
Alaska	12	0.2%
Iowa	11	0.1%
New York	11	0.1%
Utah	11	0.1%
Hawaii	10	0.1%
Pennsylvania	10	0.1%
Louisiana	10	0.1%
Arkansas	9	0.1%
Georgia	9	0.1%
Oklahoma	9	0.1%
Minnesota	8	0.1%
Montana	8	0.1%
Other States	77	1.0%
Overall Total	7947	

Reason	# of People	% of People
Cannot Afford Housing	1992	25%
Domestic Violence	1794	23%
Eviction	632	8%
Household Crisis	656	8%
Substance/Alcohol Dependency	226	3%

All local data from Clark County HMIS

Note: These numbers do not represent all people experiencing homelessness from Jan. 1, 2023 through Dec. 31, 2023 as 20.7% of adults did not have a valid "Zip Code of Last Permanent Residence" recorded in HMIS. These numbers are based on the 79.3% of clients where the data was available and represented a valid US zip code.

Zip codes are not intended for geographical mapping use, so some zip codes are both inside and outside of a given geography. In these cases, they are assigned to whichever geography covers the majority of the zip code.

Clients are asked to provide the primary reason for their homelessness when they access some services. Answering this question is entirely optional. The top five responses for clients experiencing homelessness in 2023 are shown above.

Map of Clark County, Washington Homeless System Clients by Zip Code of Last Permanent Address

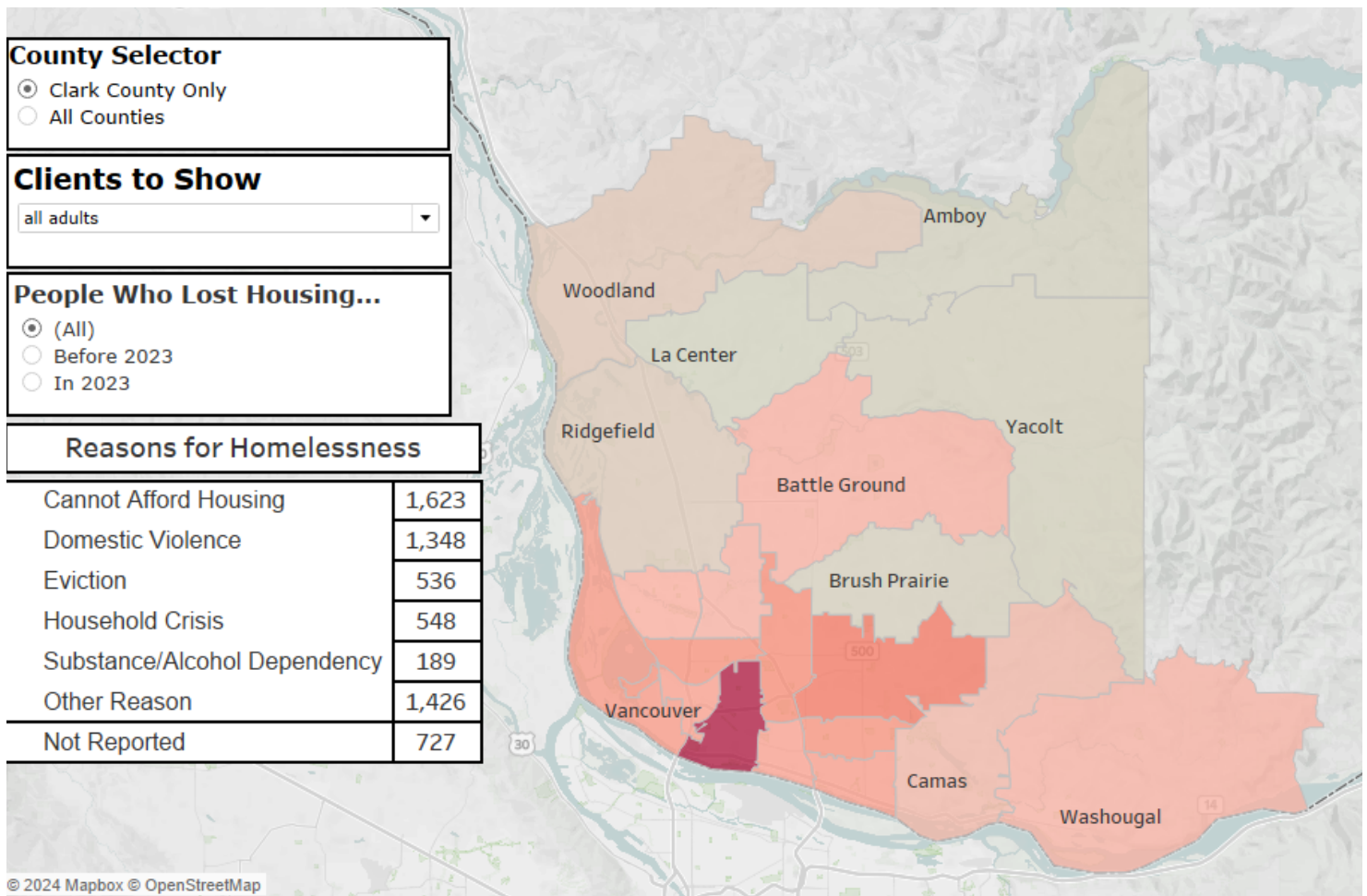
2023 Zip Code Report

People who access services through the Homelessness Crisis Response System (HCRS) in Clark County are given the option to provide their last permanent zip code and the primary reason they lost their housing. This information is entered in HMIS, a secure database, and can be used to identify regional patterns.

This map is shaded from red to green. Zip codes shown in red saw more people losing their housing than expected, while zip codes shown in green saw fewer.

For an interactive zip code map please visit:

www.councilforthehomeless.org/annual-system-data-2023



All local data from Clark County, Wash., HMIS

Conclusion

Rates of homelessness remain high across Clark County, Wash. The primary driver of this is the cost of securing and maintaining housing. Access to housing for people who live and work in our community is directly tied to how many people fall into homelessness each year. Access to housing also ties directly to the ability of the HCRS to respond and help people end their homelessness, by finding housing and sustaining costs of housing.

Housing is a human need. Housing creates a strong foundation that allows people the ability to prosper, thrive and achieve their goals. It takes resources from every sector to make this possible. This includes collaboration, resources, and political will, and a coordinated, systematic, and comprehensive strategy.

Additional capacity for the HCRS will increase its impact to fully support successful programs and help more people. However, this impact will only go so far if affordable housing is not available to program participants.

Last year we saw some positive outcomes in our community – more YYA and Veterans exiting into housing, and fewer people reporting homelessness overall. However, there were still 8,752 people experiencing homelessness. Our community must not only continue to provide and strengthen its existing resources for our neighbors living outside, but implement new strategies as well.

Our community has a choice to facilitate access to housing. We must ask ourselves what kind of community in which we want to live. As this report demonstrates, ending homelessness is much more than removing visible homelessness. Ending homelessness requires a shared commitment to the idea that housing is a human need like air, water and food. We all benefit when everyone has a safe and stable place to call home. It will take everybody in Clark County to ensure we can end homelessness in our community.

References

<https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US53011-clark-county-wa>

<https://nlihc.org/oor/state/wa>

<https://www.zillow.com/rental-manager/market-trends/vancouver-wa>

Homeless System Numbers | 2023

CLARK COUNTY PARTNERS WORKING TOWARD COMMON GOALS

Collaboration among agencies and organizations serving people experiencing homelessness or risk of homelessness in Clark County is essential to helping individuals and families secure the resources and housing they need. The 47 agencies listed below all enter records of their homelessness-related services and programs into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). **The agencies in bold type provide the Transitional Housing Programs, Rapid Re-Housing Programs, and Permanent Supportive Housing Programs accessed by 454 households in 2023.**

AKIN

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

Boys and Girls Club

Carelon Behavioral Health

Cascade AIDS Project NW

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington

City of Vancouver

Clark County Department of Community Services

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center

Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program

Columbia River Mental Health

Community Services Northwest

Do Good Multnomah

Educational Service District 112

Family Promise of Clark County

Great Life Mentoring

Helping Professionals Wellness Center

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Impact NW

Janus Youth

Lifeline Connections

Living Hope Church

Lutheran Community Services NW

NAYA (Native American Youth and Family Center)

New Life Friends Church

Odyssey World International Education Services

Open House Ministries

Outsiders Inn

PICAWA (Pacific Islander Community Association of WA)

Pier 360

Recovery Café

Restored and Revived

River City Church

Sea Mar - CSNW

Second Step Housing

Share

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Cowlitz Tribe

The Giving Closet

The Lord's Gym

The Salvation Army

Thrive2Survive

Unity Center

Vancouver Housing Authority

XChange Recovery

YWCA