

Data sources & assumptions

NO PLACE TO CALL HOME: HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

All of the following information is from “A Home for Everyone: Whatcom County Coalition to End Homelessness 2017 Annual Report,” available at: <https://www.whatcomhsc.org/plans-and-reports/>

- *7 in 10 people experiencing homelessness are our neighbors, last living in a home in Whatcom County:* The exact percentage has been between 63%–77% every year over the last decade, and was 69% in 2017.
- *40% are visible homeless, 60% are hidden homeless:* 299 were unsheltered (visible) and 443 were sheltered (hidden).
- *78% are single adults*
- *51% have a (self-identified) mental health disability*
- *18% are households with children:* This reflects the percentage of households, not the percentage of individuals. There were 73 single-parent households (14%) and 21 two-parent households (4%) out of the total 520 homeless households counted.
- *12% are Veterans*
- *742+ people are homeless in Whatcom County on any given night:* This estimate is the total from a one-night count in January 2017, and while this is generally thought to be a low estimate (not including people who are sleeping on friends’ couches, for example) the number on any given night will always fluctuate.
- *Top factors leading to local homelessness:* 2017 Point-in-Time count, page 21. “Substance abuse or mental health” is a combination of several common factors, which are often co-occurring.

Time spent on housing waiting list, 2012 and 2017:

- These estimates are provided by the Whatcom Homeless Service Center/Opportunity Council. The figure represents the number of days that households were on the Housing Pool (HP) before exiting during a period of 365 days in 2012 compared to 2017. These exits could be when a household moved into stable housing, moved out of the county, lost contact with the HP, or other reasons. The percent change was calculated using the following numbers:
 - Persons in households with adults only: 235 days in 2012; 259 days in 2017 (10% increase).
 - Persons in households with adults and children: 189 days in 2012; 99 days in 2017 (48% decrease).