Continuum of Care Board Meeting
May 16, 2024
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Joint Office of Homeless Services

Land & Labor Acknowledgement

Multnomah county rests on the stolen lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, and Clackamas Bands of Chinook Indian Nation; Tualatin Kalapuya; Molalla; and many others along the Columbia River. This country is built on stolen Indigenous land and built by stolen African people. This land was not stolen and people were not enslaved by ambiguous entities and actors. The land was stolen by, and African peoples were enslaved by White settlers who had government support.

We also want to honor the members of over 400 tribal communities who live in Multnomah County. Many of these People and their cultures still survive and resist despite the intentional and ongoing attempts to destroy them.

Let us please take a moment of silence to acknowledge the history of how we are here in this place and to honor the People.

Credit to: Dr. Aileen Duldulao and Heather Heater, Multnomah County

Community Agreements

1. Account for power dynamics in the room and in the work.
2. Assume best intentions while honoring impact. Acknowledge that intent does not trump impact.
3. Be accountable. Commit to acknowledging and working through harm caused.
4. Be mindful of privilege, historical structures of oppression, and the shared goal to lead with a lens of equity, inclusion, diversity, and anti-racism.
5. Expect and accept non-closure.
6. Honor the diversity in the room and stay open to different perspectives. There may be several different roads that lead to a great outcome.
7. Language matters. Use intentional, direct, non-violent language. Speak your truth responsibly.
8. Make space, take space. Make space for those who are not speaking up as often, take space if you usually don't speak up.
9. Maintain confidentiality. share lessons learned while keeping names and identifiers confidential.
10. Meet folks where they are at. Do not assume knowledge on behalf of others. Be thorough, clear, and transparent in our dialogue.
11. Refrain from stigmatizing language and use people-first language.

Racial Equity Lens Tool

Questions from GARE and BHD to guide us when a quick decision is needed (longer Equity Lens Tool <u>here</u>):

- What are the racial equity impacts of this particular decision?
- What intersectional identities will be impacted by the proposal?
- Who will benefit and who will be burdened by the decision?
- Are there strategies to mitigate these consequences? What targeted strategies do we add to meet the needs of people of color in order to reduce disparities?

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator
10 min	Community Agreements, Land and Labor Acknowledgement, RELT Questions	Chair
20 min	Opportunity to Comment: HUD's Proposed Rule, "Reducing Barriers to HUD–Assisted Housing"	Alyssa
1 hr 30 min	Action Plan Discussion (switch to Zoom meeting – closed to public)	Cammisha Manley

Opportunity to Comment:
HUD's Proposed Rule, "Reducing Barriers to HUD-Assisted Housing"

The What

On April 10, 2024, HUD released a proposed rule for " Reducing Barriers to HUD-Assisted Housing".

Purpose of the proposed rule: Enhance access to HUD-assisted housing for people with criminal records

The proposed rule does NOT impact CoC funded projects, but it does impact almost all other HUD funded housing programs including: Section 8, HCV, project-based vouchers, and public housing.

The rule regulates Public Housing Authorities and their agents, owners of project-based section 8, and landlords renting to HCV voucher holders

The What

The rule proposes the following:

- Imposes a 3 year (presumptive) maximum lookback period
- Clarifies "preponderance of the evidence" standard of proof in termination/eviction decisions
- Restricts use of arrest records
- Restricts admissions denials without individualized assessment
- Restricts terminations without consideration of mitigating factors
- Restricts exclusions based on failing to check box or disclose record
- Applies protections to screening companies
- Sort of clarifies "relevant criminal activity" that can be screened for

The What (not)

The rule does not:

- Ban criminal background checks in subsidized housing
- Ban the box
- Prohibit use of any records (besides arrests, sort of)
- Provide enforcement mechanisms
- Clarify what falls within each relevant category of criminal activity
  - Drug related
  - Violent
  - "Threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment"
  - "Threaten health or safety" of PHA and management employees

The Opportunity

Before any rule becomes final, HUD is required to accept public comment for a period of 30 days. All public comments for this proposed rule are due June 10, 2024.

- Comments shape the final regulation and HUD is required to respond to all comments
- HUD needs to hear from:
  - Individuals and families directly impacted by this proposal
  - Housing providers
  - Service providers (reentry, legal, homelessness)
  - Continuums of care!!!

The Opportunity

A comment can:
- Support the proposal
- Suggest changes
- Oppose
- Answer questions that HUD asks (there are 11 for this rule)

The Opportunity

Tips for an effective comment:
- Speak to your perspective, especially how this rule will work on the ground and the practical consequences
- Will this work and make sense for impacted individuals
- Would that average individual be able to understand the mitigating factors and what they need to present
- Qualitative data (stories) and qualitative data (numbers) help
- Simple is good
- Sing on letters and form letters are equally effective for a rule that you support
- To count as a unique letter, a form letter must be at least 30% different

The Question

Does the CoC Board want to write your own and/or sign on to an already existing letter for this rule by June 10, 2024?

If so, how will this be tackled? By whom?*

*Potential to have your first public comment following the approval of the public comment guidelines.

Strategy 1.2 Presentation & Discussion

Strategy 1.2: Understanding factors contributing to homelessness in the community and impediments to achieving solutions for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

A Discussion of the Homelessness Response Action Plan

Facilitated by Cammisha Manley and Patrick Wigmore

May 16, 2024

Agenda

Summary of workgroup activities

Homelessness in Portland — Racial disparities and priority populations

Contributing factors — Economic, Social, Systemic

Homelessness Response Action Plan Discussion — Goals and strategies, CoC and JOHS

Summary of Workgroup Actions

Contributors: Cammisha Manley, Drew Grabham, Brandi Tuck, Laura Golino de Lovato, Jamar Summerfield, Patrick Wigmore, and Alyssa Plesser.

Workgroup Meetings:

- August 29, 2023
- November 27, 2023
- March 6, 2024

Homebase Consultation

- December 18, 2023
- April 11, 2024
- April 16, 2024
- May 7, 2024

WORKGROUP SUCCESSES

- Explored and shared personal and professional understanding regarding factors contributing to homelessness and solutions.

- Identified shared goals:

  - Highlighting systemic factors leading to homelessness at the local level.

  - Leveraging expertise and lived experience of board members.

- Communicated concerns surrounding group capacity challenges.

- Utilized Homelessness Response Action Plan as a framework to facilitate a useful discussion and garner contributions from the board.

Workgroup Challenges

- Lack of capacity and availability.
- Defining and narrowing scope of action to address such a broad strategy.
- Identifying a comprehensive data source that summarizes current strategies and initiatives for addressing homelessness in the Portland metro area.
- Developing a course of action that is useful and within capacity of the group.
- Release of "Homelessness Response Action Plan" gave pause to our groups intended direction.

Workgroup Goals

Learn from what board members already know and deepen such knowledge in order to:

- Identify priority populations most impacted by homelessness in Portland.
- Highlight systemic factors contributing to homelessness in Portland.
- Incorporating best practices interventions and strategies in place for addressing homelessness.
- Utilize HRAP to identify impediments and strategies to achieve defined goals.
- Develop actionable, community-informed recommendations to achieve goals

Priority populations

Original source: This analysis was developed and shared by Alyssa Plesser for the purposes of identifying priority populations for the CoC Renewal Projects scoring.

Today, the data will be used to highlight disparities of those experiencing homelessness in order to better understanding contributing factors and develop recommendations that address them.

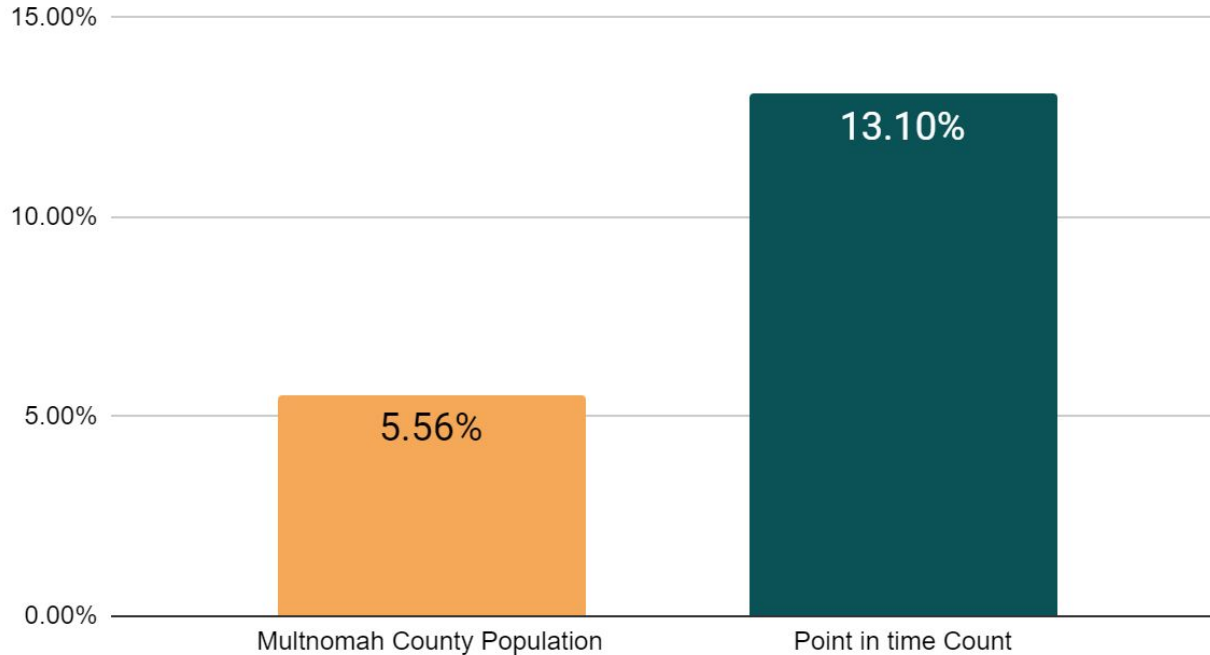Joint Office of
Homeless Services

Homelessness in Portland

Context: Population of Multnomah and Gresham County is around ~900,000 people.

- Point-in-Time Homeless Count (2023) reported 6,297 people (around 0.69% of population)
  - 3,947 unsheltered: 63% of homeless population, 29% increase since 2022
  - 1,821 in shelter: sheltered homelessness increased by 23% since 2022
  - 532 in transitional housing: decreased by 22% since 2022
- Of major city CoCs, only one reported that more than half of people in families with children experiencing homelessness were unsheltered: Portland, Gresham/Multnomah County CoC, OR with 74 percent.
- Climate disaster and economic factors were listed as significant contributors for Portland's increase in AHAR.

Black, African American, African

Multnomah County Population vs. Point in Time Count

13.10%

5.56%

15.00%

10.00%

5.00%

0.00%

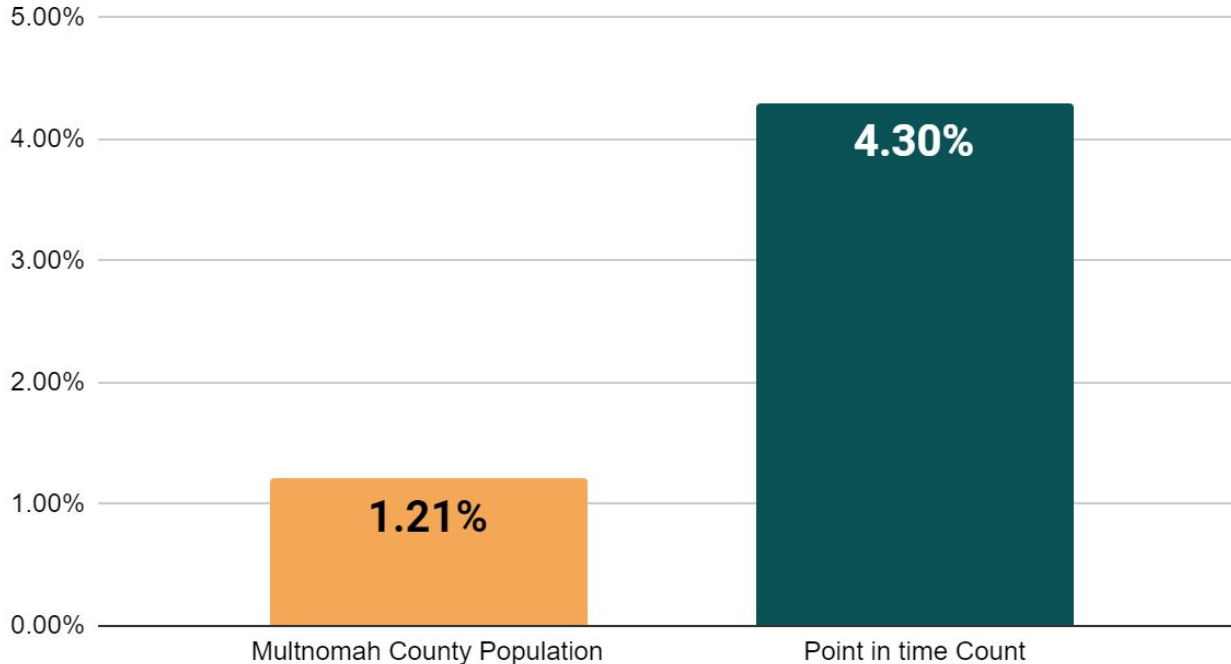Multnomah County Population

Point in time Count

The number of Black people experiencing homelessness grew by **31%** from 2022 to 2023.

Black, African American, African

- **18.22%** of chronically homeless adult individuals identify as Black/African American/African
- **24%** of people who enter permanent housing and return to homeless services identify as Black
- Of the 3,782 people that utilized shelter between July 1 2024-September, Black folks represented **44.6%**

American Indian, Alaska Native, Indigenous

Multnomah County Population vs. Point in Time Count

Bar chart showing:
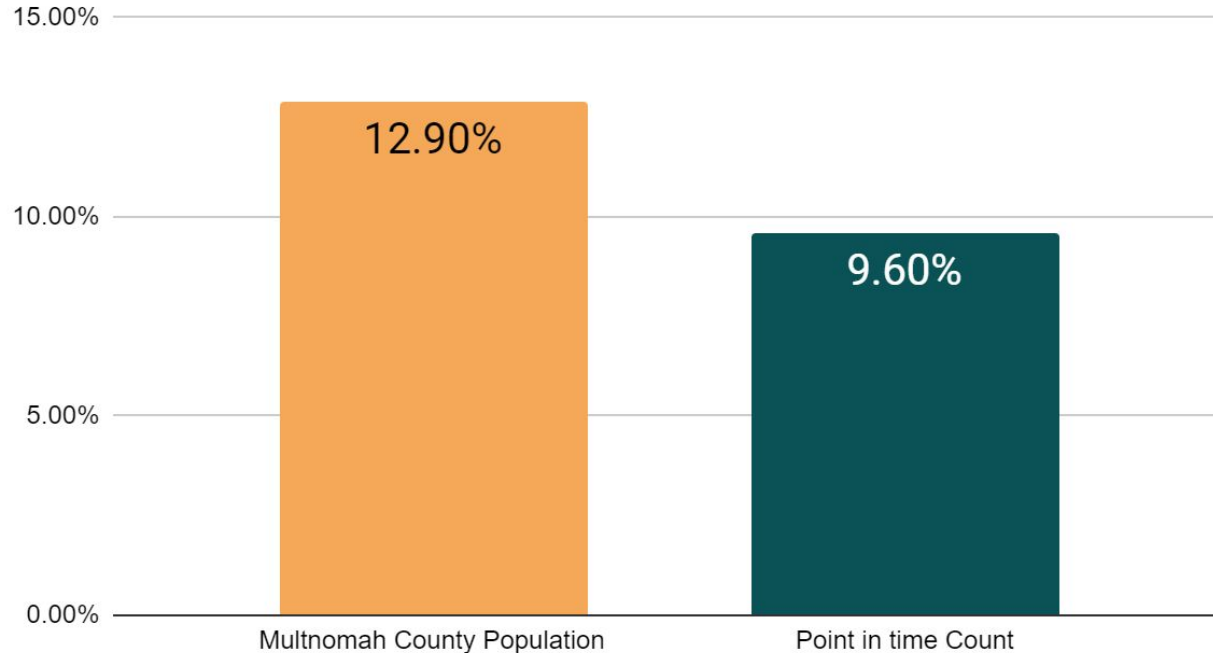- Multnomah County Population: 1.21%
- Point in time Count: 4.30%

The number of natives people experiencing homelessness grew by **10%** from 2022 to 2023.

American Indian, Alaska Native, Indigenous

- Native or Indigenous Americans experienced chronic homelessness at a higher proportion than the overall population (**51%** vs. 41%)

- **14.5%** of chronically homeless adults identify as Native

- **31%** of people who enter permanent housing and return to homeless services identify as Native.

- Of the 3,782 people that utilized shelter between July 1 2023-September, Native folks represented **11%**

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Hispanic/Latin(e)(x)(o)(a)

Multnomah County Population vs. Point in Time Count

- Multnomah County Population: 12.90%
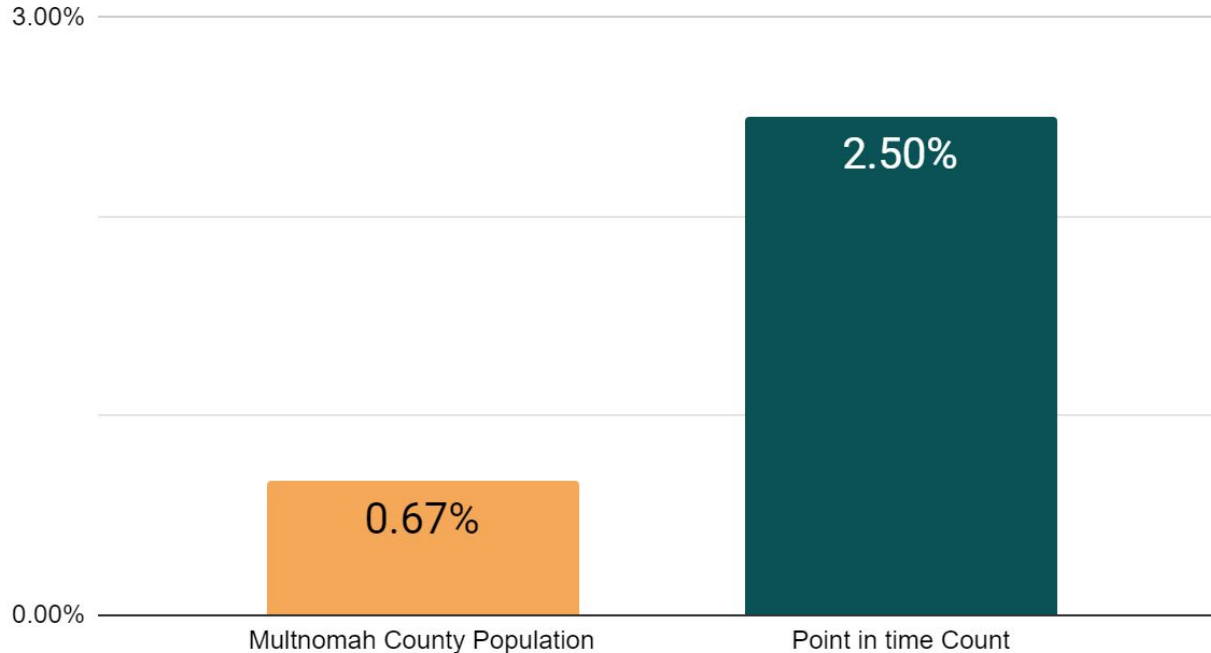- Point in time Count: 9.60%

The number of Hispanic/Latinx people experiencing homelessness grew by **28%** from 2022 to 2023.

Hispanic/Latin(e)(x)(o)(a)

- As of April 2023, of the 59,368 individuals "active" in HMIS, 23% identified as Hispanic/Latin(e)(x)(o)(a)

- 9.79% of adults experiencing chronic homelessness identify as Hispanic/Latin(e)(x)(o)(a)

- Feedback from members of the LEAC and other lived experience/equity advisory groups have strongly recommended that Hispanic/Latin(e)(x)(o)(a) individuals be included as a priority population

Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander

Multnomah County Population vs. Point in Time Count

- Multnomah County Population: 0.67%
- Point in time Count: 2.50%

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander homelessness increased by **146%** in Multnomah County between 2022 and 2023

Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander

- **2.54%** of chronically homeless adult individuals identify as Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders
- **27%** of people who enter permanent housing and return to homeless services identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

- Of the 3,782 people that utilized shelter between July 1 2023-September, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander folks represented **4.5%**

Families with Children

- Family = a household with at least one minor child

- Family households represented **7.7%** of the total Point in Time count. This is a **70%** increase between 2022 and 2023. Some of this increase may be due to a change in the way we counted households, but it is unclear exactly how much.

- 84% of the family households were unsheltered

- Based on feedback from the community and field experts, because family homelessness looks a lot different than single adult homelessness, families experiencing homelessness have historically been undercounted in our community

Families with Children

- 4,008 students experienced homelessness in the 2022-23 school year (not counting young siblings or parents) - Oregon Department of Education.
- On the homeless family system waitlist, there are 800 households waiting for shelter and rapid re-housing assistance - that's about 2,500 kids and parents experiencing homelessness and waiting for services.
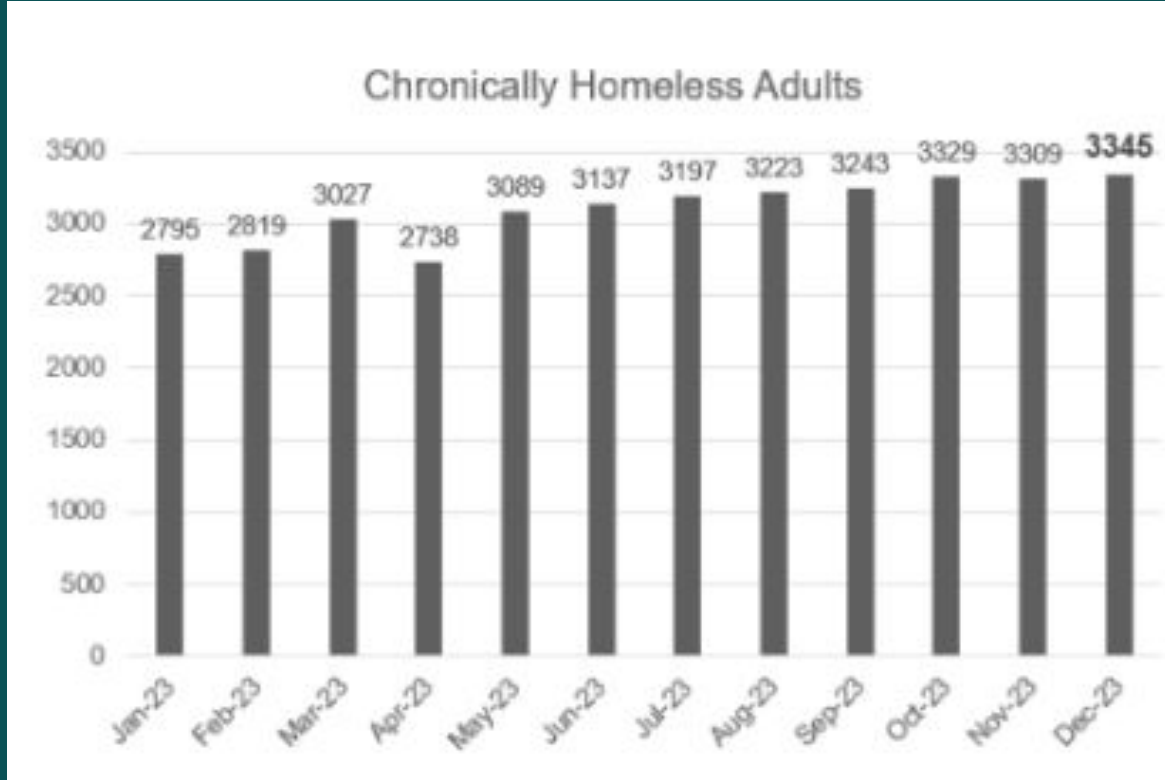
Individuals over 55 years old

Local Context: 25% of the general Multnomah County population is over the age of 55.

19.8% of people experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County are over the age of 55, according to the PIT. This is an increase of 14.6%* (Note: overall homelessness increased by 20%).

32% of adults experiencing chronic homelessness in the county are over the age of 55.

Chronically Homeless or Disabling Condition

Chronically Homeless Adults

As of December 2023, 3345 adults were experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Multnomah County

Chronically Homeless or Disabling Condition

In the Point in Time Count numbers, 42% of individuals counted were experiencing chronic homelessness
- Chronic homelessness increased by **8.3%** between 2022 and 2023
- Of the people identified as experiencing unsheltered homelessness, 74.87% identified as having 1 or more disabling condition
- 31% of people experiencing homelessness also experience a serious mental illness

Economic Factors

- There are many factors that contributed to Oregon's current homelessness crisis. But most agree that the blame largely falls on one problem: the state's affordable housing shortage.

- Marisa Zapata, urban planning professor at Portland State University and director of PSU's Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative, states that homelessness is primarily caused by the escalation of housing values and rising rents.

- Oregon faces a housing shortage of around 140,000 homes relative to its population, ranking the state fourth nationwide for under-producing housing.

- Oregon's housing crisis may not be apparent to those secure in their homes, leading to assumptions that homelessness stems from individual failures or circumstances. However, factors like mental health, drug addiction, and poverty influence housing status without directly causing homelessness.

- Portland's aging population faces increasing economic vulnerability due to inadequate pensions and rising housing costs, with over 2.2 million low-income older adult renters nationwide struggling to afford basic needs like housing and medical care on fixed incomes, such as social security benefits averaging around $1,500 per month.

Social factors

Racism and discrimination increase the likelihood of homelessness due to impacts on:

- renting or purchasing housing.
- employment and income opportunities.
- health and behavioral health access and treatment.
- educational access and attainment.
- and arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates.

Social factors

Individual level factors can increase an individual's vulnerability and likeliness of experiencing homelessness, yet these factors are not the cause of the homelessness crisis. The traumatic conditions of unsheltered homelessness exacerbate the social determinants of homelessness.

- Chronic health conditions
- Mental health and substance use disorders.
- Interpersonal violence experienced.
- Lack of social support networks and healthy relationships.
- Social stigma.
- Lack of transition support when exiting social institutions.
- Criminalization of homelessness and substance use.

Systemic factors

- Impacts of COVID 19 Pandemic

- Housing supply: lack of affordable units
  - [Homelessness is a housing problem](#)
  - Low vacancy rate
- Historical redlining policies and housing discrimination.
- Strained and over capacity health care system, including addiction and behavioral health services.
- Income inequality.
- Cost of health care.
- Cost of child-care.

Local solutions and strategies

Housing Choice Vouchers/Subsidized Housing

Coordinated wraparound services

Tiny home villages (short term)

Permanent supportive housing

Portland street response

Rapid re-housing via vouchers, wrap-around services, PSH, etc.

Impediments

- Housing supply
  - Portland needs 5,200 per year
- Criminalization of addiction
- Criminalization of homelessness
- Stigma and discrimination
- Inadequate data systems/outdated HMIS
- Capacity constraints among housing service providers
  - Demand > Supply
  - Workforce burnout
  - Limitations to service coordination
- Lack of metrics to demonstrate successful outcomes
- Political tension and leadership
- NIMBYism (Not In My Backyard Mentality)

Homeless Action Response Plan Discussion

Collaboratively identify strategies and challenges to develop recommendations to achieve goal.

Given the scope of the plan we only have time to cover one of the nine goals.

Goal 4: Establish rapid and long-term interventions aimed at preventing homelessness among specific populations: youth aging out of the foster care system; individuals exiting the criminal justice system; and people discharged from healthcare or behavioral health settings who are at-risk of becoming homeless.

Sources

- 2023 PIT Count Numbers
- 2023 PIT Count Analysis Report
- FY 24 SHS Quarterly Report - Shelter Utilization & Returns to Homelessness
- Built for Zero
- HMIS data
- Select National Reports (e.g. AHAR)
- Homelessness is A Housing Problem, *Greg Colburn*

Homelessness Response Action Plan CoC Alignment

The Homelessness Response Action Plan is a path to provide more people with safer options off our streets that meet their needs. It will strengthen and refocus existing systems of care to better ensure that when someone leaves their tent or shelter bed for a home, they can remain in that home. The plan emphasizes work to address racial disparities in homelessness. And it commits to providing clear and expanded access to the range of services someone needs to leave homelessness or never have to experience it in the first place.

Jamboard Activity

Given the scope of the plan we only have time to cover one of the nine goals

We will focus on Goal 4: Establish rapid and long-term interventions aimed at preventing homelessness among specific populations: youth aging out of the foster care system; individuals exiting the criminal justice system; and people discharged from healthcare or behavioral health settings who are at-risk of becoming homeless.

Jamboard Activity

Patrick and Camisha will rotate faciclating and developing Jamboards of our conversation

Objective is to develop areas of alignment and coordination with the HRAP

Homebase will develop written documentation based on the conversation for our next meeting to review and discuss next steps

We have broken Goal Four down into three main parts, which we will cover next!

Jamboard 1: Addressing Housing Stability and Employment for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

1. How can navigation services effectively connect foster youth with essential resources like housing, employment, healthcare, and education?
2. What role can HUD funded program case managers and housing navigators play in supporting transitioning youth to achieve housing stability and employment?
3. How might we advocate for HUD funding to support targeted housing programs specifically tailored to youth aging out of foster care, emphasizing transitional and supportive housing options?
4. Are there ways we can engage the McKinney-Vento Coordinators to partner with these efforts?
5. Are there past lessons we learned that we should share with HRAP?

Jamboard 2: Reentry Support and Housing Navigation for Individuals Exiting the Criminal Justice System

1. Are there specific areas of effort HRAP should be made aware of ongoing CoC efforts around reentry / criminal justice reforms?
2. What navigation services are most critical for ex-offenders to access housing, employment, and healthcare post-release?
3. What data sharing agreements with correctional facilities would be most beneficial in identifying individuals at risk of homelessness post-release?
4. How can we target our existing HUD funding to support reentry housing programs and supportive services tailored to individuals exiting the criminal justice system, emphasizing wraparound support to prevent recidivism and homelessness?
5. Are there past lessons we learned that we should share with HRAP?

Jamboard 3: Immediate Care Coordination and Housing Initiatives for People Discharged from Healthcare or Behavioral Health Settings

1. What strategies can be implemented to prevent homelessness among individuals discharged from healthcare or behavioral health settings through immediate care coordination?
2. How effective are current housing voucher programs and long-term rental subsidies in supporting this population? How could we improve our CoC programs to lead the way?
3. What advocacy efforts can be made to align HUD funding with integrated supportive housing models that bridge healthcare and housing services for individuals discharged from healthcare or behavioral health settings?
4. Are there past lessons we learned that we should share with HRAP?