

## What is the Point-in-Time Count?

The Spokane regional Continuum of Care's Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a **snapshot census of people experiencing certain categories of homelessness in the Spokane community on one night** in January. The 2020 count includes people who, **on the night of January 23**, are either:

- **Sheltered** (living in emergency shelters or transitional housing) or
- **Unsheltered** (staying out-of-doors or in places not designed for human habitation, including: vehicles, streets, parks, and abandoned buildings).

**Dozens of local agencies participated** in the annual PIT Count, including social service and housing providers, healthcare providers, faith-based organizations, outreach professionals, and local governments.

Additionally, community **volunteers were trained and participated** in activities, including helping with surveying in various service site locations, sorting and distributing donation items, with targeted events for youth and veterans, and with the regional Homeless Connect event.

While the PIT Count provides **one way of estimating the numbers** of individuals and families experiencing homelessness on a given night, it is **not the only one**. The City of Spokane's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) provides a wide range of analytic reporting capabilities to help stakeholder, service providers, and leaders understand the extent and nature of homelessness in our region.

## How many people were counted?

- **Total Count: 1,559 persons** – which make up 1,244 households – represent the total combined count for sheltered and unsheltered populations
  - **35%** (541 people) identified as **unsheltered**
  - **65%** (1,018 people) identified as **sheltered**
    - 79% (799) individuals were in emergency shelters
    - 21% (219) individuals were in transitional housing
- **Gender:** Of all persons counted **59%** were **male**, **40%** were **female**, and **1%** were **transgender**
- **Age:** Of all persons counted **15%** were age **17 and younger**, **9%** were age **18 to 24**, and **76%** were age **25 and older**
- **Household Type:** **90%** were in households **without children**, **8%** were in households with **adults and children**, **2%** were in households with **only children**

## What was the geographic representation?

- **Northern Idaho and Washington State: 89%**
  - **City of Spokane and Spokane County:** 72%
  - **Other Washington State:** 10%
  - **Idaho:** 6%
- **Other States: 12%**

# Spokane Regional Point-in-Time Count – Overview

presented by Spokane City/County Continuum of Care Board

# 2020

## How does 2020 compare?

	2019	2020
<b>Total Sheltered and Unsheltered</b>	1,309 people	1,559 people
<b>Unsheltered Persons</b>	315	541
<b>Sheltered in Emergency Shelters</b>	780	799
<b>Sheltered in Transitional Housing</b>	214	219
<b>Types of Households</b>	89% with adults only 9% with adults and children 2% with children only	90% with adults only 8% with adults and children 2% with children only
<b>Gender</b>	60% male 39% female 1% transgender <1% gender non-conforming	59% male 40% female 1% transgender <1% gender non-conforming
<b>Age</b>	15% 17 and younger 8% 18-24 77% over 25	15% 17 and younger 9% 18-24 76% over 25
<b>Race</b>	73% White 8% American Indian or Alaska Native 8% Multi-Racial 9% Black or African American 2% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 1% Asian	72% White 12% American Indian or Alaska Native 8% Multi-Racial 7% Black or African American 2% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 1% Asian

What is **immediately apparent from this year's data**, and supported by past PIT trend analysis and a myriad of other analysis and reporting products derived from the Homeless Management Information System, is that there is **substantial racial inequality in who experiences homelessness throughout the region**. For example, according to the last census, those identified as American Indian or Alaska Native make up less than 2% of the Spokane County population: yet make up over 12% of those identified as homeless. Similarly, those identified as Black or African American, also comprising less than 2% of Spokane County's population, represent 7% of the homeless population in the most recent PIT, which represents a slight decrease from the 9% reported in 2019.

## How is the data used?

The Point-In-Time Count data is used **in concert with other data** for the homeless crisis response system and reported to the Spokane regional Continuum of Care Board and to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist in planning and funding considerations. **Along with the Point-in-Time Count the Longitudinal Systems Analysis Report**, also a HUD report, **provides a rich dataset related to the overall usage of emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and other homeless housing programs**. This report can help answer questions related to overall utilization of housing inventory, how people enter the homeless system and the housing pathways that they follow towards housing stability, and a great deal of demographic data on who makes up the region's homeless system.