

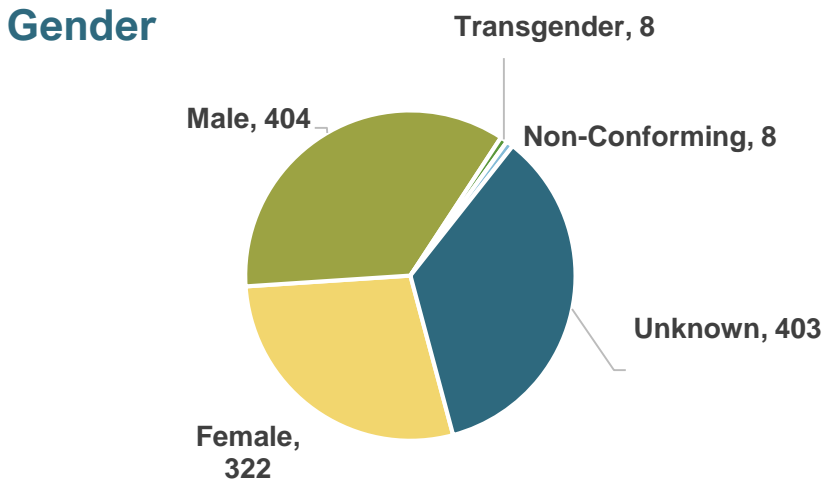
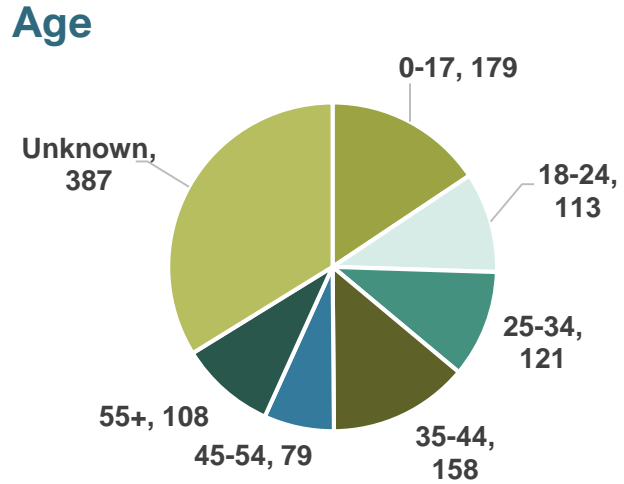
# 2021 Point in Time Census Preliminary Data\*

OFFICE OF HOUSING & HOMELESS PREVENTION  
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

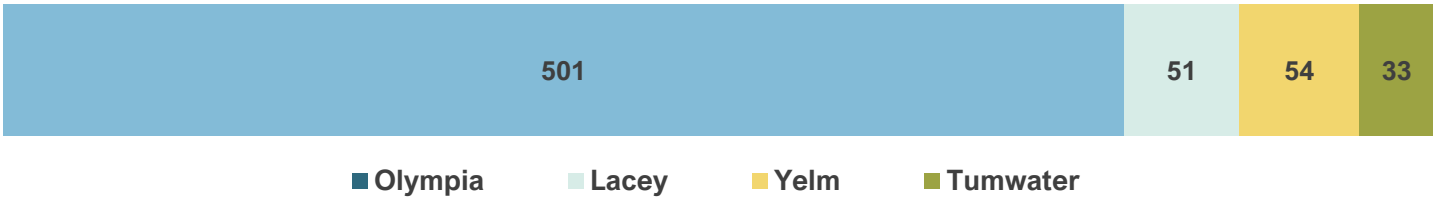
Once each year, the Point in Time Census counts how many people are experiencing homelessness in counties nationwide. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, Thurston County volunteers observed households who were unsheltered (639 people). It is estimated there was an additional 121 individuals staying at local jails or hospitals, who had no permanent address to return to. The remaining included in this count stayed in Emergency Shelter\*, or Transitional Housing\* Projects (\*defined on the back).



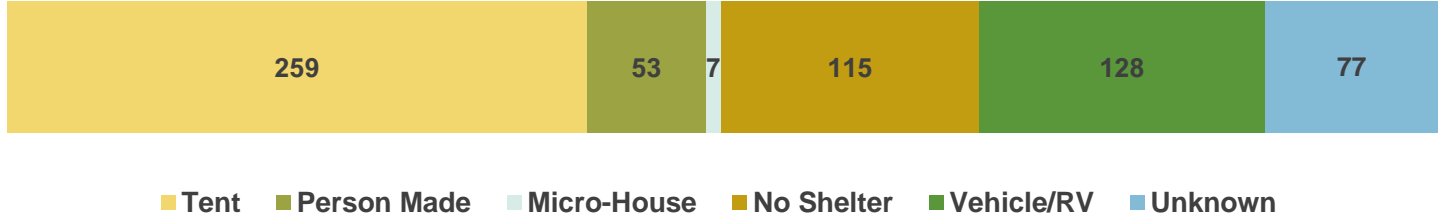
## Demographics of our houseless neighbors



## Where in Thurston County? (unsheltered)



## Where did you sleep last night? (unsheltered)



# Some guidelines for understanding the PIT data...

## How are people counted for the Point in Time Census?

People who are unsheltered were counted by volunteer observation and through the assistance of folks experiencing homelessness in local encampments. This differs from previous years in which surveys were relied upon, rather than direct observation. The shift away from surveys this year was due to COVID-19, and the desire to maintain a high level of safety. Sheltered (sleeping in emergency shelters) and transitionally housed individuals are counted through the Homeless Management Information System by the Department of Commerce.

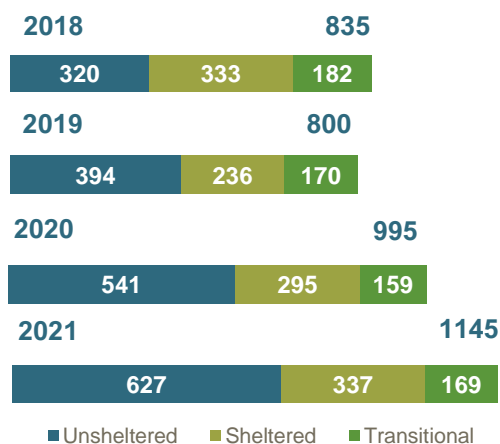
## Who is included in the data presented here?

This data sheet has information for known homeless encampments, and those observed on the street, or in local parks on January 28<sup>th</sup> in Thurston County. These individuals were counted in and around the cities of Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, and Yelm. The PIT count also includes people who are staying in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or in local jails and hospitals. **Emergency shelter: is considered either night-by-night or continuous stay shelter where beds are assigned. Transitional Housing is generally defined as temporary housing of stays 24 months or less.**

## How accurate are these data in describing homelessness?

While the PIT is an effort to count all people experiencing homelessness, it is by no means perfect. Many folks live outside of known encampments, individuals who live in vehicles and RVs are challenging to count, and those who double up with friends and family are not included. This year the estimated 112 individuals in local institutions is an estimate based on the population on the night of January 28<sup>th</sup>. The estimate includes Olympia, Nisqually and Thurston County Jails, as well as Capitol Medical Center & Providence St. Peter's Hospital.

## PIT Over the Years



## Total PIT Count\*

