Measuring how Many People Experience Homelessness in Multnomah County

Joint Office of Homeless Services

What is the PIT Count?

- "Point in Time", Census-style count of people experiencing homelessness according to HUD's definition
- Street Count and One Night Shelter Count
- Questions include:
 - Basic demographic information
 - Selected life experiences (such as disabling conditions, domestic violence and veteran status)
 - Whether people are from Multnomah County, the Metro region, the state, or somewhere else

What the PIT Count Does Not Tell Us

- Many people are not included in the one-night Count:
 - Can't be found or decline to participate
 - Staying with friends/family or institutionalized, but have nowhere else to go
- And a one-night snapshot misses a lot:
 - People who were experiencing homelessness in Multhomah County the rest of the year
 - Reasons why people entered homelessness, or barriers to housing stability

2022 PIT Count



2022 PIT Count: Main Takeaways

- Total people increased 30% between 2019 and 2022
 - Mainly due to unsheltered homelessness
- Including data from Coordinated Entry = different perspective
- COVID was a reason for homelessness for nearly a quarter (24%) of people surveyed
- BIPOC individuals remain over-represented
- Only 10% of people surveyed reported coming to Multnomah County in homelessness and seeking services

BIPOCs remain overrepresented



A majority have disabling conditions

- 80 percent of people reported one or more disabilities
 83 percent of unsheltered persons
- **36 percent** of people reported a mental health disorder
 - **38 percent** of unsheltered persons
- **35 percent** of people reported a substance use disorder
 - 37 percent of unsheltered persons
- **20 percent** of people reported both mental health and substance use disorders
 - **22 percent** of unsheltered persons

Migration - a local issue

Among **all people who were surveyed for the PIT Count**, only 10 percent reported that they came to the County to obtain homelessness services.

Most people surveyed were from Multnomah County (20 percent) or were housed when they arrived (40 percent).

Among people who came to the County experiencing homelessness,

- **21 percent** were from Washington, Clackamas or Clark Counties
- **17 percent** were from elsewhere in Oregon

2023 Tri-County PIT



- This new tri-county endeavor is aligned around our efforts to build a regional system of care to address and prevent homelessness.
- Focus Strategies = Project Management
- Portland State University: HRAC and PRC = Methodology, training, analysis, report writing

2023 Tri-County PIT

- Night of the PIT will be Tuesday, January 24, 2023
- The work of the PIT Count will be 1/25/23 (W) through 1/31/23 (Th)
- Current activity:
 - Volunteer recruitment efforts
 - Outreach worker involvement

Questions about the PIT?