

Homelessness in Kitsap County

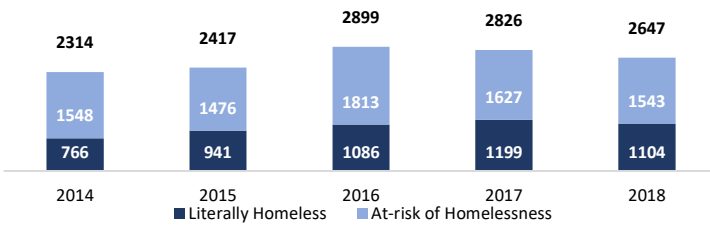
Updated: October 2019

Households Experiencing Homelessness

The Housing Solutions Center reports 1,104 literally homeless households during 2018 that were seeking housing assistance, and 1,543 households were at risk of losing housing and seeking assistance.

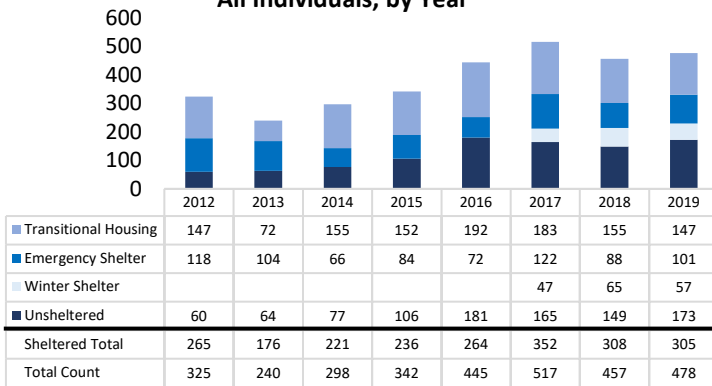
(Housing Solutions Center of Kitsap County)

Housing Solutions Center Households
Literally Homeless and At-risk of Homelessness



Individuals experiencing homelessness during a 24-hour period increased 4% between 2018 (459 people) and 2019 (478 people). Since the opening of the Winter Shelter in 2016, the number of sheltered individuals has increased 16% from 264 individuals in Jan 2016 to 305 individuals in Jan 2019. (Kitsap Annual Point in Time Count, 2019 certified data)

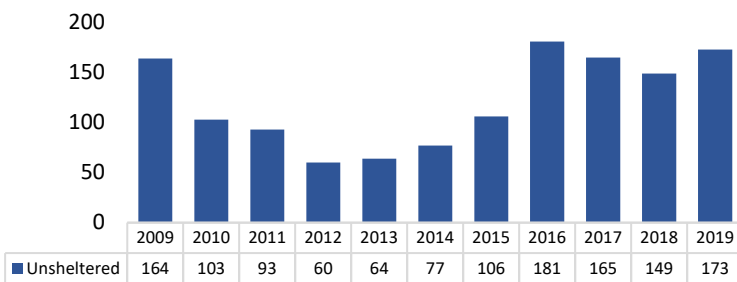
Kitsap Point in Time Count of Homeless Persons:
All Individuals, by Year



Unsheltered Homeless Individuals Increasing

Households living without shelter in places not meant for human habitation (outside, abandoned buildings, cars) has increased 16% between 2018 and 2019 in the annual Point In Time Count (24-hour census of people experiencing homelessness).

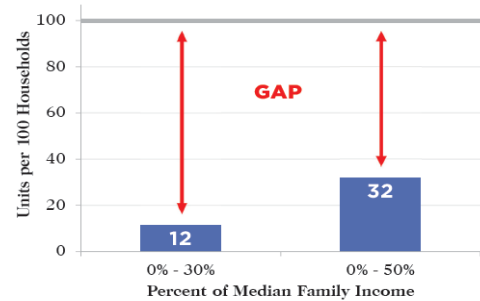
Kitsap Point in Time Count of Unsheltered Persons



88% Affordable Housing Gap

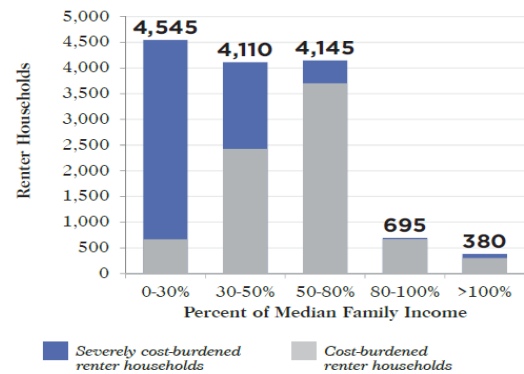
For every 100 very low-income households who need affordable housing, there are only 12 units available; for low-income households, there are only 32 units available. The total number of very low-income renter households is 6,095 (\$22,600/year); there are 5,500 low-income households (\$37,800/year).

(2015 Washington Affordable Housing Needs Assessment)



Housing Instability for 13,875 Renter Households

Many households are paying more than 30% (*cost burdened*) or 50% (*severely cost burdened*) of their income on housing, creating housing instability and loss of housing from rent increases or household crises. (2015 Washington Affordable Housing Needs Assessment)

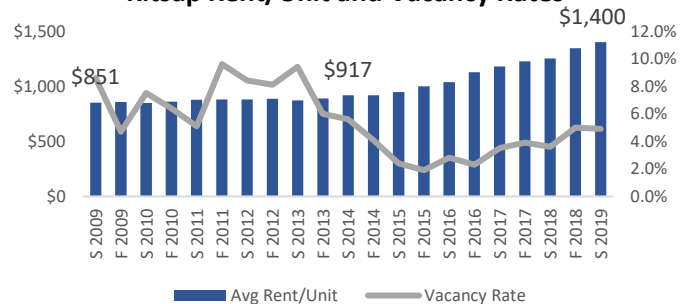


Rental Rates Increasing

The average rent per unit in Kitsap County is \$1,400. The average unit rent increased \$148 (11.8%) from last year and \$483 (53%) since Spring of 2014. The vacancy rate decreased to 4.9% in Spring 2019.

(University of Washington)

Kitsap Rent/Unit and Vacancy Rates



20% of Affordable Housing Units Disappearing

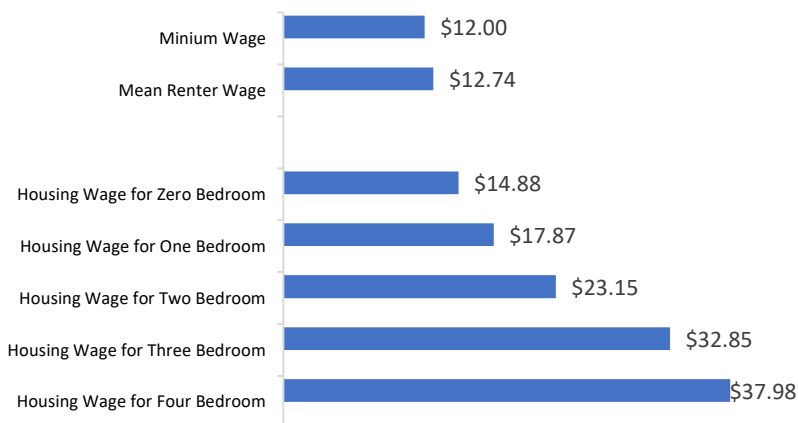
More than 800 privately owned units of affordable housing are projected to be lost due to expiring restrictions on rental rates and existing subsidy programs ending. (2015 Washington Affordable Housing Needs Assessment)

Wages Not Keeping Pace with Housing Costs

The average wage earned by Kitsap renters is \$12.74, which is not enough to afford even a zero bedroom home. For minimum wage earners the gap is even wider – at minimum wage (\$12.00 in 2019) a household has to work 77 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom unit. To pay no more than 30% of their income on housing for a two-bedroom apartment, the housing wage is \$23.15.

(2019 Out of Reach Report)

Kitsap County Out of Reach 2019

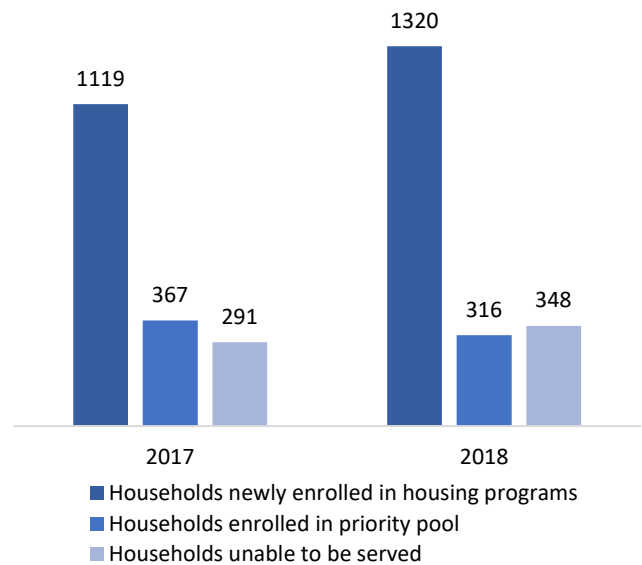


Some Households Moving Out of Homelessness

During 2018, of 2,647 households seeking housing assistance, 1,320 (50%) households were referred to housing programs in the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System (comprised of more than 20 different programs). However, another 348 households (13% of those seeking assistance) were unable to be served because resources were not available to meet their needs and 316 (12%) were unable to be assisted immediately and were placed in a priority pool for shelter or housing when available.

(Housing Solutions Center of Kitsap County)

**Homeless Crisis Response System:
Households Enrolled/Unable to Serve**



What We Are Doing to Help People Experiencing Homelessness

- Kitsap has a single point of entry for any individuals or households who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability, called the Housing Solutions Center, 360-473-2035.
- Over 50 organizations participate in the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition, a network of housing and social service providers assisting people experiencing homelessness and housing instability.
- Kitsap has a variety of subsidized housing options, including:
 - 124 emergency shelter beds, plus 65 winter shelter beds
 - 86 transitional housing units (up to 24 months)
 - 261 Permanent Supportive Housing units (for people who need on-going case management)
 - 2719 Permanent Subsidized Housing units (for low-income households)
 - 1892 Housing Choice and Veterans Assistance Housing Vouchers (providing rental subsidies)
- Each year, Kitsap organizations receive funding for homeless programs, including (2018 amounts):
 - Federal Funding: \$538,000
 - State Funding: \$1.3M
 - Local Funding: \$1.5M
- In 2018 Kitsap organizations provided housing and homeless services for more than 4,400 households; affordable housing subsidies providing an additional 4,500 low-income households with stable housing.



Kitsap County Department of Human Services
Housing & Homelessness Division
345 6th Street, Suite 400
Bremerton, WA 98337

Kirsten Jewell, Manager

360-337-7286

kjewell@co.kitsap.wa.us

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Reports-and-Data.aspx>