Yakima County Department of Human Services Mid Cycle Report November 2022

Current Condition of Homelessness in Yakima County:

The following table shows the number of households and individuals counted during PIT 2022:

Category	Individuals	Households
Currently Homeless	670	554
Not Currently Homeless	67	49
Total surveyed	737	603

Not Homeless

Of the 737 individuals surveyed, 67 were not experiencing homelessness on that day. The largest portion, 33 individuals, were couch surfing on the nights of the count and 11 were in a self-pay hotel/motel. Fifty-five of the individuals not experiencing homelessness, or 82%, had been served at some point by a homeless service provider.

Summary

This report is broken up by Households and Individuals. The following table shows a snapshot of both and the change from 2021:

	Households			Individuals		
	2021	**2022**	**Percent Change**	**2021**	**2022**	**Percent Change**
Unsheltered	180	176	-2.2%	192	183	-4.7%
Encampments	65	59	-9.2%	69	59	-14.5%
Emergency Shelter	209	272	+30.1%	253	353	+39.5%
Transitional Housing	91	47	-48.4%	133	75	-43%
Total	553	554	+1.7%	647	670	+3.6%

Overall, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness increased in 2022 by 3.6% from 2021. However, 42 beds changed from Transitional Housing to Permanent Supportive housing and there was an increase of 100 Emergency Shelter beds which must be taken into consideration. In 2021, the unsheltered population increased by 75% compared to 2022 where it decreased by 4.7%. These numbers should also take into consideration the shift in the population which is described in detail in the Multi-Year Data section of this document.

*The full 2022 PIT report can be found on our website.

Year 4 of 5 current five-year plan

The tables below share the feedback that was received from the various internal and external stakeholders in our current local five-year plan at the end of 2021 and includes 2021 data points and recommendations come from the Department of Human Services informed by various local and state reports and findings.

Goal 1: Quickly identify and engage people experiencing homelessness through outreach and coordination between every system that encounters people experiencing homelessness.

Objective	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Recommendations
1.1 Design, implement, an efficient and compliant Coordinated Entry (CE) System	CE Policy & Procedure Subgroup – Complete CE Policy Team update local guidelines approval anticipated	Complete[1]	Evidence: updating/alignment in BoS guidelines with local plans. Local restructure to increase and measure system effectiveness	
1.2 Maintain, and utilize an efficient and compliant Coordinated Entry (CE) System		Ongoing	Increase in youth and young adult housing placements month over month through ACI	Continue transition for service providers to client case conferencing

Need BoS support in client consenting laws to ensure compliance |
| 1.2 Improve outreach to identify individuals experiencing homelessness and encourage participation in services through CE or BNL | Undefined | Ongoing[2] | Improvements in community coordination efforts – Inclusion of public service and businesses feedback/needs to outreach teams Starting street outreach meetings during PIT and continue after | Establish outcome measurements for outreach teams |
| 1.3 Implement prioritization policy in CE to prioritize housing for people with the greatest need, synchronize CE prioritization tool with ACI BNL | CE Policy & Procedure Subgroup (current work)

CE Policy Team local guidelines approval (tentative approval January 1, 2023) | Complete | County wide access point prioritization tool starting 1/2023 | Continue with CE system improvements and establish outcome measurements |
| 1.4a Design, implement, maintain, and utilize an efficient and compliant By Name List (BNL) for YYA experiencing homelessness | The existence of a BNL for YYA | Ongoing | | |

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[1] Was identified as complete in the 2019 Update
[2] There is an overarching recommendation that ongoing activities be pulled out of the plan and displayed separately.

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Goal 2: Operate an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system that moves people into stable permanent housing as swiftly as possible.

Objective[3]	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence
2.1 Increase exits to permanent housing from Emergency Shelter (ES) Increase exits to Permanent Housing from ES by 5% from the previous year until 50% rate is met "to 26% by June 30, 2020	Exits to Perm Housing via the CHG Performance Tracker	Not met	2022 rate is 10% 2021 rate is 11% 2020 rate is 19% 2019 rate 10%
2.2 Increase exits to permanent housing from Rapid-Rehousing (RRH) *by 5% from the previous year until 80% rate is met"*	Exits to Perm Housing via the CHG Performance Tracker	Not Met/ **9% increase in one year!**	2022 rate is 72% 2021 rate is 63% 2020 rate is 65% 2019 rate of 61%
2.3 Increase retention of permanent housing from Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs to 92% by June 30, 2020	Retention Rate via the CHG Performance Tracker	Complete	2022 rate is 99% 2021 rate is 98% 2020 Rate is 97% 2019 rate of 97%
2.4 Increase percent unsheltered served by homeless response system to 49% by June 30, 2020	System Prioritization via the CHG Performance Tracker	Complete	2022 rate is 58% 2021 rate is 57% 2020 rate is 59% 2019 rate of 53%
2.5 Reduce returns to homelessness after exit to permanent housing *by 5% from the previous year until 10% rate is met"*	Returns to homelessness via the County Report Cards	Not Met	2022 rate is 20% 2019 rate is 17% 2018 rate is 13%
2.6 Reduce average length of time homeless of those served to less than 90 days by 2025	Average Length of time via the County Report Cards	Not Met	2022 rate is 104 Days 2019 rate was 104 Days 2018 rate was 84 days[4]
2.7 Increase percentage of exits from street outreach to positive outcome destinations as defined by HUD System Performance Measures to >76% by 2025	Positive Exits	Unknown	Identified as a Metrix that needs to be clarified and monitored.
2.8 Increase system-wide percentage of exits to permanent housing to >59% by 2025	Exits to Perm Housing	Not Met	2022 rate was: ES 12%, TH 43%, RRH 47% 2019 rate was 30% 2018 rate was 33%

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[3] Dates in objectives need to be addressed and made consistent.

[4]Overall – there needs to be a response to some of these measures that are going in the opposite direction.

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Goal 3: Support the development of adequate affordable housing and permanent supportive housing[5].

Objective	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
3.1 Support potential capital projects for building evidence based PSH	Number of PSH project in current contracts	Ongoing		Support is not a measurement. Recommendation to address this during the new 5-year plan development
3.2 Explore partnerships with landlords to increase and support participation in the homeless crisis response system	Number of landlords who are members of YCHC	Ongoing	Initial community building conference has positive outcomes but, totals were not captured.	Continue community building conferences/learning sessions in 2023
3.3 Support affordable housing strategies to increase density	Undefined	Ongoing		Support is not a measurement. Recommendation to address this during the new 5-year plan development
3.4 Advocate and support transitional housing efforts to increase housing inventory	Undefined	Ongoing		Advocate is not a measurement. Recommendation to address this during the new 5-year plan development

Goal 4: Track and publish data regarding homelessness in Yakima County.

Proposed Reframe of Goal #4: Develop community awareness, education and fiscal transparency related to homelessness within Yakima County.

Activity	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
4.1 Project the impact of the fully implemented local plan on the number of households housed and the number of households left unsheltered	Utilize Model EZv7 from Commerce	**Ongoing**		
4.2 Continue to use and promote the shared enterprise of County-wide HMIS database by actively recruiting non-funded partners	Number of unfunded HMIS users	**Ongoing**	Increasing access has barriers with BoS status. However, county was able in fund another large shelter this year.	Continue to work with BoS on increase access to providers where it makes sense. Identify/clarify in the next five-year plan
4.3 Support accurate and consistent Point in Time data collection efforts		**Complete**	While data quality has improved. Yakima county has provided PIT reports in 2020, 2021 and 2022	

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Activity	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
4.4 Increase accessibility and transparency of data	County Web site	**Ongoing**		County staff capacity will need to increase to effectively meet these goals. Department plans to hire additional staff in January 2023.
4.5 Monitor and track program performance in the homeless crisis response system to ensure performance targets are being met and make results known to all stakeholders	HMIS/clarity and Looker, ongoing staff engagement both at County and provider level	**Ongoing**	Data dashboards shared on the Department of Human Services Web site	County staff capacity will need to increase to effectively meet these goals. Department plans to hire additional staff in January 2023.
4.6 Track available housing through the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)	HIC	**Complete/Ongoing**	Yakima county has provided a HIC report in 2020, 2021 and 2022	

Goal 5: Address disparities among people experiencing homelessness and create resources to meet the needs of priority populations.

Activity	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
5.1 Assess and analyze racial disparities using a racial equity tool and data provided by Commerce, and seek additional data sources for assessing other disparities	Washington Equity Analysis Tool, HMIS, provider participation in HMIS	**Ongoing**		Continue to work with Commerce and use developed resources.
5.2 Engage with agencies including, but not limited to, School Homeless Liaisons, Rod's House, Henry Beauchamp Community Center, YNHS LGBTQ Youth Resource Center (The Space), and Catholic Families Youth to identify youth and determine their specific needs	Relationships with Youth and Young Adult (YYA) groups	**Ongoing**		Restructuring of local Yakima ACI is currently in progress.
5.3 Create a safe overnight facility for Youth and Young Adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness	Capital funds, program capacity (Rod's House)	**Not Met**	Original deadline 2018	Program still funded by the county.
5.4 Create partnerships to advocate for youth homelessness issues and educate providers on legislatively acceptable strategies for addressing the needs of youth	Youth advocates, stipends for youth, training opportunities	**Ongoing**		Restructuring of local Yakima ACI is currently in progress.
5.5 Increase opportunities for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness to access support,		**Ongoing**		Restructuring of local Yakima ACI is currently in progress.

Activity	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
resources, housing, and family reunification when possible				

Significant Changes Made to the Plan

There have been no significant changes to the plan this year. Yakima County Human Services has completed a local system mapping and those documents can be found on our website. Yakima County Human Services also completed a statewide audit, and those results are posted here.

Both reports are being reviewed and recommendations are being assigned to staff while also creating capacity within the department.