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ABUTHRAC

The Homelessness Research & Action
Collaborative's goal is to help reduce
homelessness and its negative impact on
individuals, families, and communities, with an
emphasis on communities of color, through
research and evidence-based best practices

HRAC brings together expertise and skills from across PSU's colleges and also partners with people experiencing homelessness, advocates, service providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders.





EXAMPLEPROFITS

- Released the first <u>regional estimate</u> of homelessness and housing insecurity, including the cost of solutions
- Helped design and evaluate Portland Street Response
- Led design, build, and research efforts on <u>tiny home</u>
 villages," including in Forest Grove
- Estimated homelessness and <u>cost of evictions</u> statewide after the eviction moratorium expired
- Studied the needs and desires of people living unsheltered
- Analyzed housing insecurity among <u>renters of color</u>
- Developed best practice guides for airports and public transit agencies on behalf of federal government
- Conducting regional Point-In-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness, including in Washington Co.





DEFINIONS & ESTIMATES

Homelessness is defined as:

"Lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;" for example, living in a shelter, car, or tent. -Department of Housing and Urban Development

Same as above or sharing housing by necessity rather than choice—"doubled-up."

- Department of Education





ESTIVATING HOLESSNESS

Homelessness is estimated several ways:

- The Point-In-Time Count, a one-night survey of people living unsheltered that is combined with shelter records for that day (HUD);
- Annual shelter and service records (HUD);
- Counts from teachers and school staff (DoE).

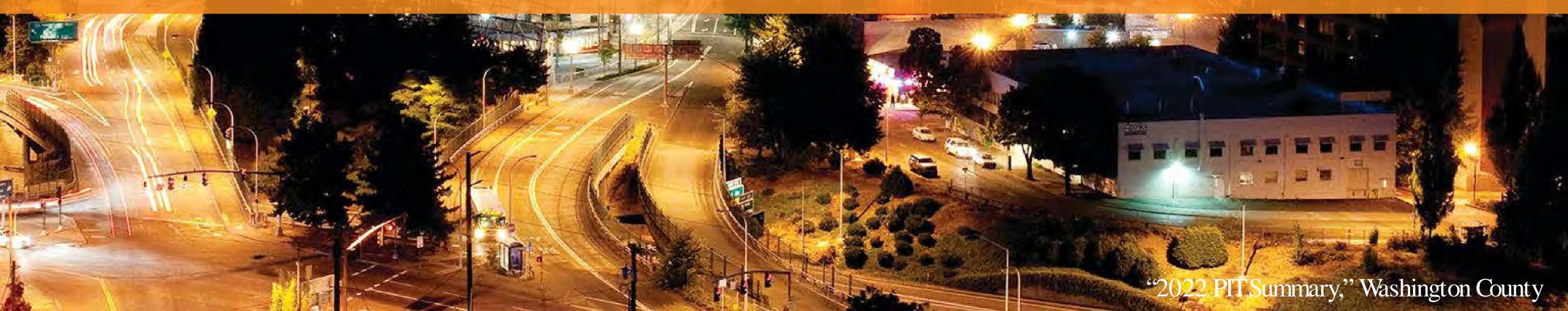
No single estimate is comprehensive or fully accurate.







Washington County in 2022. 28% were unsheltered (lower than state average and a reduction from 2021).





CASES & CONTIONS

- Homelessness disproportionately affects
 communities of color, especially Black and
 Indigenous people, due to systemic racism.
- People typically enter homelessness because they can't afford housing.

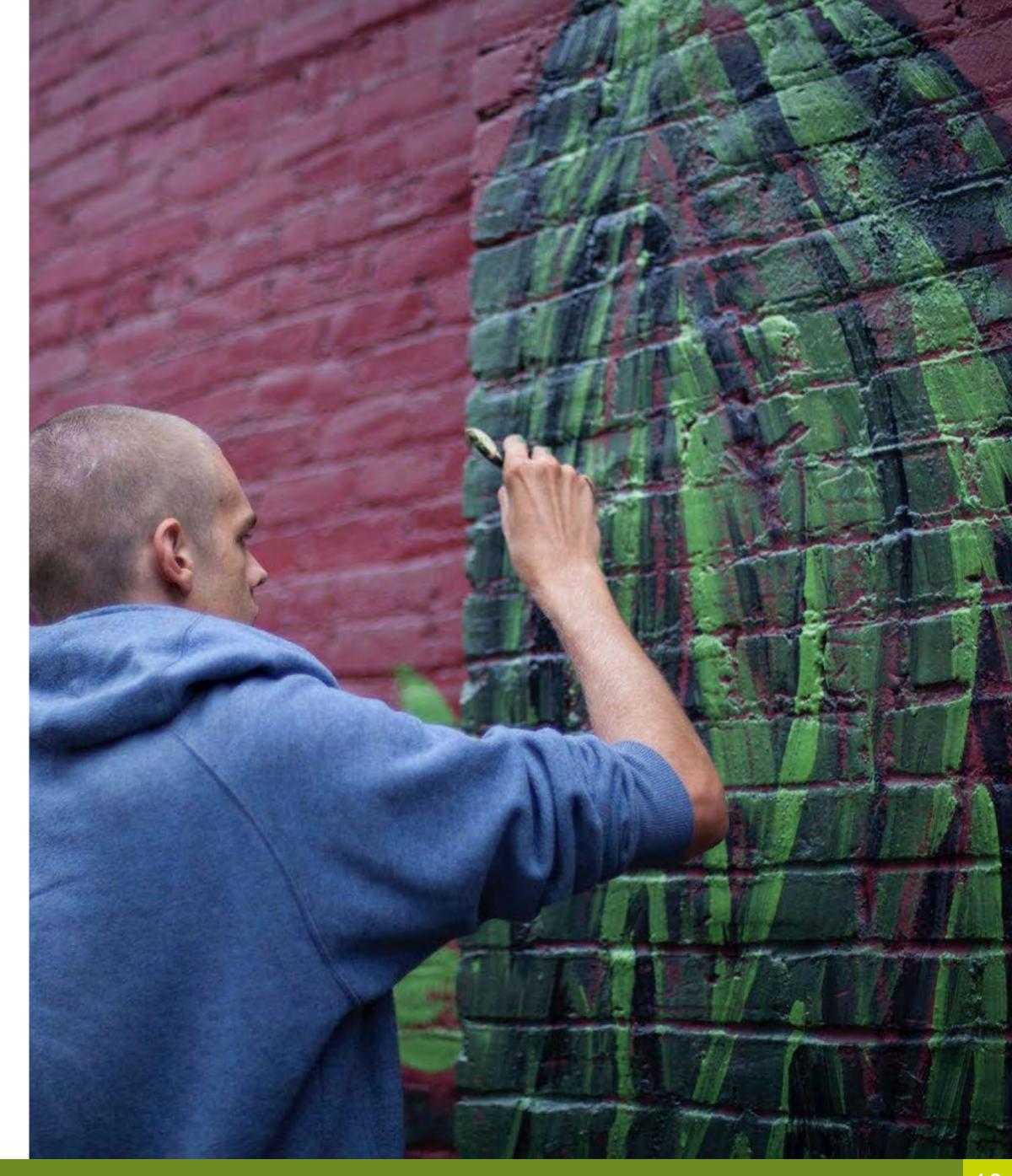
Tsemberis et al., Goering et al.

• "Housing First" (free and affordable housing, with services when needed) is most effective at ending homelessness.



HUSINGRISIS

- There are only 26 available and affordable homes in Oregon for every 100 verylow-income rental households. - "The Gap," NLIHC
- 150,000 households in the metro region pay more than half their income for housing and receive no assistance. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Before the pandemic, Oregon only provided rent assistance to ¼ of eligible households at risk of homelessness. - "Homelessness in Oregon," EcoNorthwest.





NYIHS & STEREOTYPES

Three common myths:

- 1. "People come here for the services"
- 2. "They just need a job"
- 3. "Everyone experiencing homelessness is addicted or mentally ill"





'THEY COME HERE FOR SERVICES'

Typically, fewer than 20% of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in a West Coast city came there for services. Most of them came for a job, to stay with family, or grew up there.





'THEYJUSTNEEDTOCETAJOB'

- National studies show that about 53% of people living in a shelter are employed and about 40% of people living unsheltered are employed. Rent is simply unaffordable for them. University of Chicago
- Every \$100 increase in rent is associated with a 9% increase in homelessness.-usgao
- One-bedroom rent increased about \$250 in Hills boro from 2019-22. Zumper.com





'THEYREALLADICHOR' MENTALL''

In Portland, about 36% of people experiencing homelessness report a serious mental illness and 35% report a substance use disorder. This is similar to numbers in other cities. - "Point-In-Time Count," JOHS

Oregon has the fifth-highest unmet need for mental health services in the country and a huge shortage of mental health workers. - "Oregon mental health services to get over \$500M spending boost this year," OPB



