

**Homelessness**

**OUTCOME: PROVIDE SUFFICIENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL KING COUNTY RESIDENTS**

**Countywide Planning Policy Rationale**

“Countywide programs should provide the following types of housing and related services: 1) Low income housing development, including new construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation; 2) Housing assistance, such as rental vouchers and supportive services; 3) Assistance to expand the capacity of nonprofit organizations to develop housing provide housing related services; 4) Programs to assist homeless individuals and families; 5) Programs to prevent homelessness; and 6) Assistance to low and moderate-income buyers. (AH-2A)

Providing a yearly snapshot of homelessness in King County, the One Night Count includes both a street count of people without any shelter and a survey of those in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. This data show that at least 8,439 people were homeless in King County on one night in January 2008. According to the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, over 25,000 people experienced homelessness in King County over the course of this year.

Figure 23.1

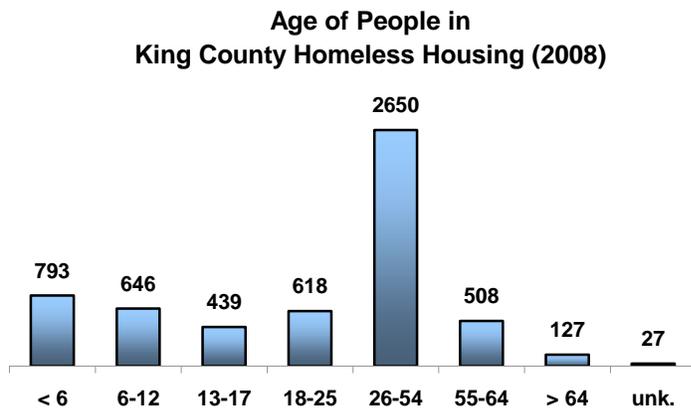
Estimated Number of Homeless Persons in King County (1998-2008)*										
	OCT 1998	OCT 1999	OCT 2000	OCT 2001	OCT 2002	OCT 2003	OCT 2004	JAN 2006	JAN 2007	JAN 2008
<b>Unsheltered Street Count</b>	784	983	1,085	1,454	2,040	1,899	2,216	1,946	2,159	2,631
<b>Sheltered Homeless</b>	3,543	3,965	4,500	4,671	4,675	4,617	4,636	5,964	5,680	5,808
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,327</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>5,585</b>	<b>6,125</b>	<b>6,715</b>	<b>6,516</b>	<b>6,852</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>7,839</b>	<b>8,439</b>

*source: King County Department of Community and Human Services*

\*Because of changes to the street count and provider survey, comparability with previous years is limited.

During a three hour period in January 2008, volunteers counted 2,631 persons without shelter in thirteen King County cities and unincorporated areas. According to this street count, about three-fourths of unsheltered homeless persons were in Seattle. On the same night, another 2,515 people were staying in emergency shelters and 3,293 people were living in transitional housing programs countywide. Although African Americans represent only about five percent of the King County population, around 40% of the people in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs were African American in 2008.

Figure 23.2



*source: King County Department of Community and Human Services*

Of the 5,808 people in homeless housing, half were a part of families with children. Single men accounted for 36% and 13% were single women. Nearly a third of people staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs were children under the age of 18.

While less than one percent of the people reported in the survey were unaccompanied minors, this likely reflects the lack of beds or programs designated for young people in this circumstance. Information about the people counted in the survey is directly related to the number and type of programs designated to serve families with children.