JEFFCO
COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS COUNT

# 2019 Comprehensive Homeless Count

## Jefferson County, Colorado

**Final Report**

CITY OF ARVADA

City of Golden

JEFFERSON COUNTY COLORADO

Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.

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# OMNI

# 2019 Comprehensive Homeless Count Jefferson County, Colorado

# Final Report

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Submitted March 2020

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## Executive Summary

## Background

In 2019, several local governments in Jefferson County, Colorado partnered to conduct a month-long, comprehensive count of individuals experiencing homelessness. The Jefferson County comprehensive count attempted to reach individuals who met the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of literal homelessness[1] and those who lack stable housing. The expanded definition was informed by the 2009 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act with the aim to capture the unique characteristics of individuals experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County.

## Definition of Homelessness

In this report, homelessness is defined as individuals and families living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, those who are unsheltered, and those who lack stable housing. At least one of the following criteria must be met to classify housing as unstable: the inability to sleep or stay in the same place for the next 14 days, the inability to pay for housing for the next 14 days, or inconsistent housing for the last 60 days.

## Goals

**1** Conduct an unduplicated count of individuals and families in Jefferson County who are currently homeless

**2** Collect data about demographic characteristics and other factors related to homelessness

**3** Capture information about services and barriers related to homelessness in Jefferson County

**4** Use data to design services and policies to prevent and address homelessness

## Data Collection Methods

The survey included questions about demographics, characteristics, and service utilization and was available in both English and Spanish. Surveys were conducted on paper and via a web-based application using the following data collection methods:

### Service-based
Throughout the month of August, twenty-nine agencies serving people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness administered surveys to clients when they were seen for services

### Street outreach
During the week of August 19-23, teams of community volunteers accompanied by law enforcement surveyed people in different areas throughout the county

[1] Living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or with a primary nighttime residence that is not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
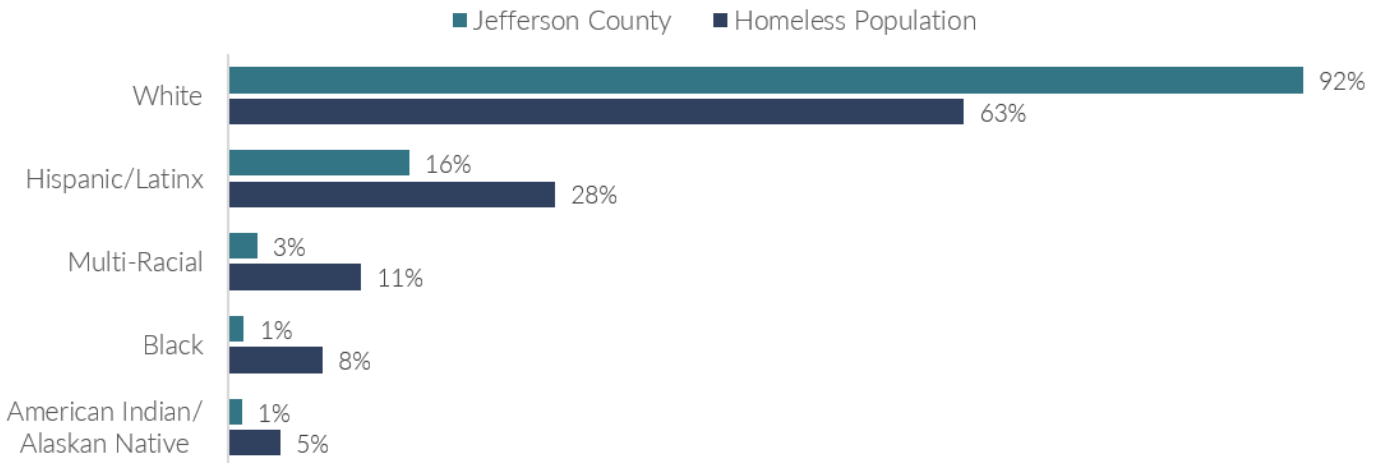
# Key Findings

**Across Jefferson County, there were 997 people experiencing homelessness in August 2019**
Within this group, **516 individuals were unsheltered (52%).**

## Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color

Compared to the general population of Jefferson County, people experiencing homelessness were more likely to be a member of a racial or ethnic minority group.

Legend: ■ Jefferson County ■ Homeless Population

| Race/Ethnicity | Jefferson County | Homeless Population |
|---|---|---|
| White | 92% | 63% |
| Hispanic/Latinx | 16% | 28% |
| Multi-Racial | 3% | 11% |
| Black | 1% | 8% |
| American Indian/Alaskan Native | 1% | 5% |

## Self-Reported Characteristics of the Homeless Population

**33%** Disability

**28%** Serious Mental Illness

**28%** Chronic Health Problem

**26%** Substance Use Disorder

**<1%** HIV/AIDS

## Self-Reported Subpopulations within the Homeless Population

**21%** Chronically Homeless

**15%** Fleeing Domestic Violence

**7%** Veterans

**4%** Unaccompanied Youth

**1%** Parenting Youth

**The largest gaps in services are related to housing assistance, transportation, and shelter.**
More households report service needs compared to the number of households that receive these services.

**Transportation, cost, and lack of availability are the top three barriers to accessing services.**
Other barriers include lack of mailing address, credit history, mental health, and shelter policies.

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# Letter from the Steering Committee

We are pleased to present the results of the 2019 Jefferson County, Colorado Comprehensive Homeless Count in this report.

Staff members from the cities of Arvada, Lakewood, and Westminster as well as from Jefferson County created the survey in order to learn more about the scope of homelessness and needs of those experiencing homelessness in the county. Recognizing the need for community input, the team asked healthcare providers, educational institutions and non-profit partners throughout the region along with interested citizens and faith-based organizations to weigh in on the questions. OMNI Institute provided expert guidance throughout the process.

This report was based on two counts: a month-long service provider count and a week-long street count. The participation of 29 agencies that conducted the month-long count and the agencies across the Denver metro area that provided staff during their worktime to conduct the week-long count made this possible. Almost 200 citizens carved time out of their daily lives to canvas as much of the 774-square-mile county as possible during a week in August to visit and interview people where they live – in parks, open space, cars, hotels and more. Law enforcement officers from every jurisdiction in Jefferson County escorted the volunteers to ensure their safety. The cities of Edgewater, Golden, Westminster and Wheat Ridge and Jefferson County provided meals and places for volunteers to meet at the beginning and ends of their shifts. Mountair Christian Church and the Arvada Vineyard Neighborhood Church opened their doors to host the volunteers while meals were provided by Alameda Connects, Chuy's and First Bank during shifts in Lakewood and Arvada. Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative of Colorado (RALI) provided funding to help ensure the volunteers had vests and trained team leads. Various citizens also donated items to giveaway to those experiencing homelessness.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed – especially those who answered the survey questions.

The report's findings will be used to guide policy-making, service decisions and identify funding opportunities in order to better serve those who are homeless as well as improve the quality of life for all residents.

The report contains the most recent data available about:

- The cost of living in Jefferson County
- The cost of homelessness
- The methodology and survey results from the county-wide comprehensive count
- Additional sources of data about homelessness in Jefferson County
- The survey results for each jurisdiction in Jefferson County
- Data Quality Report of the comprehensive count

While we fully expect that the survey results will lead to more questions, they must also lead to action. It is our intent that the information in this report is used to create policies, programs and partnerships designed to ensure that homelessness of any sort is rare and short-lived when it does occur.

Thank you for your interest in this subject. We hope you join us in moving this work forward.

| | |
|---|---|
| Carrie Espinosa, City of Arvada | Kelli Barker, Jefferson County |
| Amy DeKnikker, City of Lakewood | Kat Douglas, Jefferson County |
| Sgt. Jonathan Alesch, City of Lakewood | Kate Skarbek, City of Westminster |
| Morgan Gardner, City of Lakewood | |

# Introduction

In 2019, several local governments in Jefferson County partnered to conduct a month-long, comprehensive count of individuals experiencing homelessness. This collaborative group identified the need for quality data to inform the policies and services that are needed to prevent and address homelessness throughout the county.

Historically, a primary source of data about homelessness in Jefferson County comes from the annual point-in-time (PIT) count. The PIT is undertaken each year in January to meet US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements. While the PIT provides valuable data, the count is limited to individuals who are literally homeless (living in shelters, on the streets, or other places not meant for human habitation) and does not include individuals in other unstable housing conditions such as couch surfing, living in motels, or temporarily residing in institutions such as hospitals.

The Jefferson County comprehensive homeless count attempted to reach individuals who were literally homeless <u>and</u> those who lack stable housing. This expanded definition was informed by the 2009 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act with the aim to capture the unique characteristics of individuals experiencing or at risk for experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County.

> ## Definition of Homelessness
> In this report, homelessness is defined as individuals and families living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, those who are unsheltered, and those who lack stable housing. At least one of the following criteria must be met to classify housing as unstable: the inability to sleep or stay in the same place for the next 14 days, the inability to pay for housing for the next 14 days, or inconsistent housing for the last 60 days.

The main goals of the comprehensive homeless count were:

1. Conduct an unduplicated count of individuals and families in Jefferson County who are homeless
2. Collect data about demographic characteristics and other factors related to homelessness
3. Capture information about services and barriers related to homelessness in Jefferson County
4. Use data to design services and policies to prevent and address homelessness

This report is intended to summarize the results of the comprehensive count to assist service providers, policy makers, and government entities in understanding the population of people experiencing homelessness. In addition to this report, a Data Quality Report containing an overview of excluded data as well as recommendations for future counts is also available.

# Cost of Living in Jefferson County

In Jefferson County, housing costs have risen more quickly than household income making it more difficult for individuals and families to afford housing. According to the 2018 American Community Survey, since 2013 the cost of housing has grown 38% while household income has only grown 26%. The gap between median annual household income and median home values is larger in Jefferson County compared to the national average.

■ Median Annual Household Income    ■ Median Home Value

$440,200

$229,700

$85,890

$61,937

Jefferson County                    United States
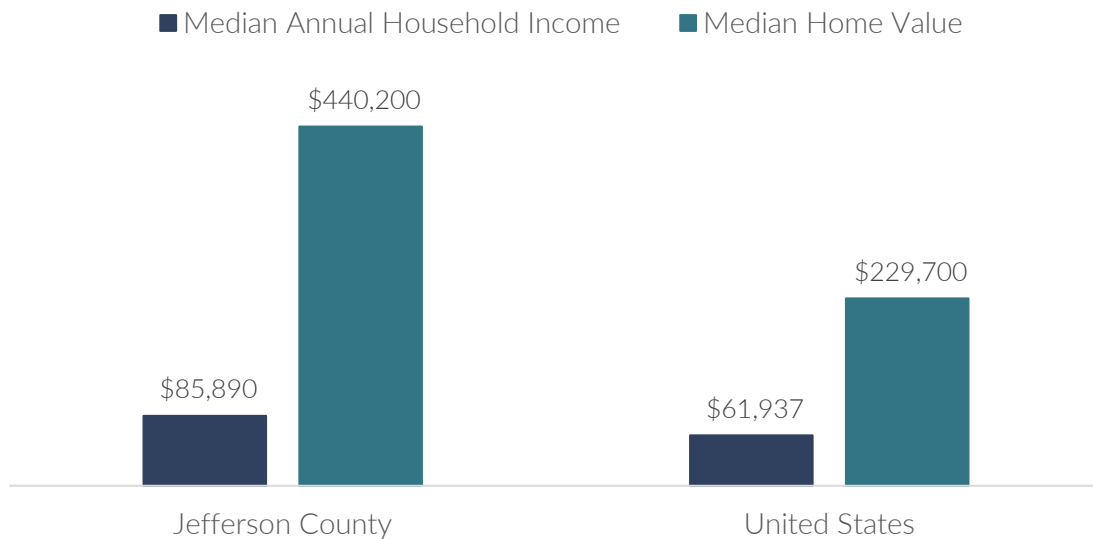
In Jefferson County, the 2018 American Community Survey shows that the median home value is 5.13 times greater than the median annual household income. Comparatively, across the United States the median home value is 3.71 times greater than the median annual household income. For income levels in Jefferson County to be compatible with housing costs, relative to the national average, the median annual household income in Jefferson County would need to increase 31%, from $85,890 to $112,421.

Because median home values are high in Jefferson County, median housing payments also exceed national averages.

| **$2,492** | **$1,356** | **$1,388** | **$1,058** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mortgage in Jefferson County | Mortgage in United States | Rent in Jefferson County | Rent in United States |

Comparing median wage to median mortgage payments, a household in the US pays 38% of their net income for housing, while a household in Jefferson County pays 50%.

Housing costs are also high for renters. The median monthly cost of rent is higher in Jefferson County compared to the national average ($1,388 vs. $1058). A household in Jefferson County earning the typical entry-level income will spend 60% of their gross income on rent alone. According to HUD, households that pay more than 30% of their gross income toward housing costs are considered cost-burdened. Cost-burdened households have less money available to spend on health care, childcare, transportation, and other essential expenses.

■ Annual Entry-Level Income  ■ Median Annual Rental Costs

| | Annual Entry-Level Income | Median Annual Rental Costs |
|---|---|---|
| Jefferson County | $27,830 | $16,656 |
| United States | $25,022 | $12,696 |
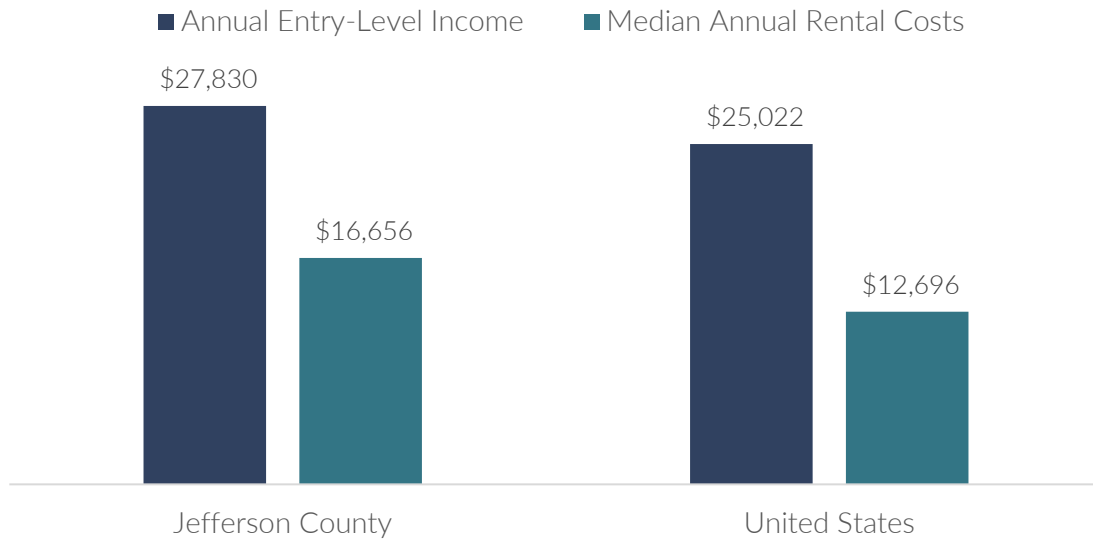
While typical entry-level wages in Jefferson County are $27,830 per year, many occupations have lower entry level wages. The following graph displays annual entry-level income for the fifteen fastest growing jobs in Jefferson County.

| Occupation | Annual Entry-Level Income |
|---|---|
| Applications Software Developers | $57,741 |
| Registered Nurses | $53,602 |
| General and Operations Managers | $45,822 |
| Business Operations Specialists | $42,702 |
| Electricians | $33,155 |
| Security Guards | $25,563 |
| Office Clerks | $23,421 |
| Customer Service Representatives | $22,734 |
| Freight, Stock, and Material Movers | $22,589 |
| Stock Clerks and Order Fillers | $22,568 |
| Food Preparation and Serving Workers | $21,216 |
| Cooks | $21,216 |
| Retail Salespersons | $21,216 |
| Construction Laborers | $21,216 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | $21,216 |

An average Jefferson County household spends 69% of their net monthly income on housing (50%) and transportation (19%) alone. According to the Consumer Expenditure Survey, an average Jefferson County household spends $485 of their net monthly wages on health care, $759 on food, $835 on home supplies, and $306 on clothing and personal care items. These expenses exceed the median income which means that an average household will accumulate $13,637 in debt per year to make ends meet.

Childcare is an additional and significant expense for families living in Jefferson County. According to the Colorado Center on Law & Policy an average family with two children (one school aged and one pre-school aged) will spend an additional $1,828 a month for childcare. A single female parent caring for two children making an average annual wage and paying average annual costs of living will accumulate $36,021 in debt annually. Even a two-parent family caring for two children will need to take home $7,640 per month or gross $130,972 per year to cover home ownership and childcare costs.

The high costs of living present challenges for many individuals and families in Jefferson County. These costs directly impact housing stability and present barriers for people trying to move out of homelessness.

# Cost of Homelessness

There are many institutions that interact with people who are experiencing homelessness - from hospitals and emergency rooms, to substance use treatment centers, the criminal justice system, and social service agencies. It can be challenging to quantify the costs associated with these interactions and data specific to costs in Jefferson County is not currently available.

A 2017 study[1] in Orange County, California found that the average annual cost of homelessness per person was approximately $45,000. This includes all costs associated with addressing homelessness both by governmental and non-governmental entities. The costs of homelessness were driven by the top 10% of service users. Excluding the top 10% of service users lowers the average annual cost per person to approximately $10,000 per year.

This study also found that the costs of homelessness decline when people are housed, especially among chronically homeless individuals who are housed in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) which provides both housing and supportive services on a long-term basis. While homelessness poses significant economic costs on communities, this study suggests that increasing access to housing can help to lower these costs.

Similar conclusions can be drawn from a 2016 assessment[2] of chronically homeless individuals in Boulder County, Colorado. This assessment was undertaken to understand the need for PSH in Boulder. Homeless providers throughout the county estimated the cost of serving people experiencing homelessness to be $43,000 per year. The cost of providing a PSH unit in Boulder is $11,700 which provides $31,600 in savings per year.

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[1] https://www.unitedwayoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/united-way-cost-study-homelessness-2017-report.pdf
[2] https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/permanent-supportive-housing-study-june-2016.pdf

# Methodology

The purpose of the comprehensive homeless count was to produce an estimate of the number of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Jefferson County. Because of the inherent challenges with surveying people who are experiencing homelessness, and given the desire to be comprehensive, multiple methods were used. There were two primary methods of data collection:

1. **Service-based** - throughout the month of August, twenty-nine agencies serving people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness administered surveys to clients when they were seen for services
2. **Street outreach** - during the week of August 19-23, teams of community volunteers accompanied by law enforcement surveyed people in different areas throughout the county

Led by the Steering Committee, many county and community partners collaborated on outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistics, coordination, and methodological decisions. In addition, during the planning process The OMNI Institute (OMNI) provided guidance and technical assistance. Agency staff and community volunteers were asked to attend an hour-long training prior to the start of data collection. Multiple trainings were held across the county and included an overview of the survey instrument and information on best practices for administering the survey.

The survey instrument was developed in consultation with OMNI and was revised based on input from service providers in Jefferson County. The survey included questions about demographics, characteristics, and service utilization and was available in both English and Spanish. A mobile version of the survey instrument was developed using a web-based application, Qualtrics, that could be accessed on any cell phone or tablet. See Appendix A for the full survey instrument.

## Data Entry and Cleaning

OMNI staff completed data entry for all paper survey data. The research team completed significant data checking procedures to identify data entry and logic errors. For example, researchers looked for patterns in missing data and out of range or incorrect values.

### Duplicates

Because data collection spanned a full month, duplicate surveys were expected. To ensure that the final estimates represented unduplicated counts, the survey instrument included a question about previously completing the survey and asked for identifying information (first three letters of first name, first three letters of last name, and date of birth) for deduplication purposes.

A PIN number was created for each individual using the provided identifying information. Duplicate cases were identified using the PIN number in combination with other variables in the datafile. Several iterations of duplicate identification were then performed based on varying combinations of name and date of birth to further identify duplicate cases that did not end up with

the exact same PIN number due to spelling errors or mis-typed information. Duplicates were also flagged based on respondents indicating that they had already completed the survey.

The duplicate record with the most complete information was kept in the final dataset. If duplicate records contained a similar amount of information, the record completed later in the month, when housing may be less stable, was kept in the final dataset.

## Summary of Excluded Data

After receiving all the surveys, OMNI conducted a thorough cleaning process to prepare the data for analysis. Records were removed for six reasons:

1. The individual did not meet the definition of homelessness
2. The individual stayed or slept outside of Jefferson County
3. The record was identified as a duplicate
4. The record had insufficient identifying information for deduplication
5. Homeless status could not be determined
6. The record had insufficient household information

The following table summarizes the number of records in the raw data file, the number removed, and the number remaining the final dataset.

|  | Number |
| --- | --- |
| **Total in raw data file** | 2,125 |
| **Number removed and reason** |  |
| Individual is not homeless | 416 |
| Individual stayed or slept outside Jefferson County | 310 |
| Duplicate | 136 |
| Insufficient identifying information | 131 |
| Homeless status could not be determined | 121 |
| Insufficient household information | 14 |
| **Total removed** | 1,128 |
| **Total remaining in dataset** | 997 |

For additional information about excluded data, please see the Data Quality Report which includes breakdowns by data collection method, city, and agency and offers recommendations for future surveys.

# Limitations and Considerations

Due to the transient nature of the population and the diverse geographic area of Jefferson County, it is extremely difficult to capture everyone who is experiencing homelessness in a single survey. The results included in this report represent a "snapshot" of the homeless population during the month of August 2019 and may not represent fluctuations in this population seasonally or over time. In addition, there are many reasons that individuals experiencing homelessness may not wish to complete a survey and may refuse or actively avoid participation. Because of these inherent challenges, the survey results should be considered an underrepresentation of homelessness in Jefferson County.

The survey was dependent upon self-reporting, which may impact the data. Individuals may be unwilling to disclose certain information or may not realize that they meet the criteria for a specific condition. Individuals with disabling conditions, such as those included on the survey, may experience stigma associated with these conditions, which may lead to underreporting. Also, individuals may not consider themselves to be homeless and this may be reflected in their survey responses.

The methodology also relied on participation from service providers and volunteers across Jefferson County. While participation was high, some agencies were not able to administer the survey. Furthermore, individuals whose housing is unstable but who are not currently seeking out services may be less likely to have been captured on this survey.

While the survey is most likely to be an underrepresentation of the homeless population in Jefferson County, the methodology still represents the most comprehensive approach available. The results of this survey should be examined alongside other available data sources when trying to understand the population of people experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County.

# Findings

Across Jefferson County, there were 997 people experiencing homelessness in August 2019. Within this group, 668 met the HUD definition of literal homelessness meaning that they were living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or in a place not meant for human habitation.

The 997 people experiencing homelessness will be the primary focus of the findings discussed in this section. It is important to note that there were 289 additional survey respondents who met all the inclusion criteria except that they reported sleeping or staying outside of Jefferson County. Because the focus of this report is on Jefferson County, these individuals are not included in the analysis. However, homelessness does not occur in isolation within specific geographic boundaries. People experiencing homelessness spend time and receive services in multiple counties. Because of this, it is important to consider this group when trying to understand the population experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County. See Appendix D for additional information about individuals who slept outside of Jefferson County.

HUD groups individuals into one of three "household types" - households without children; households with at least one adult and one child; and households with only children. There were 707 households experiencing homelessness. The majority of households (86%) did not include children.

| Household Type | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Households without children | 605 | 86% |
| Households with at least one adult and one child | 99 | 14% |
| Households with only children | 3 | <1% |

**86%**

were households without children

**14%**
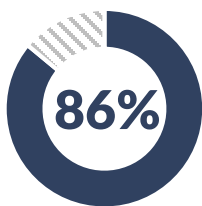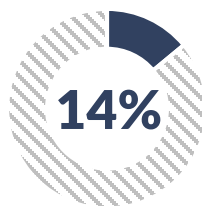
were households with at least one adult and one child

**<1%**

were households with only children

Participants reported where they slept or stayed for most of the last three nights. These responses were grouped into sheltered and unsheltered sleeping locations. Sheltered locations included hotels/motels, housing with friends, emergency shelters, apartments/houses, transitional housing, and institutional settings. Unsheltered sleeping locations included sleeping on the street, in a vehicle, or in any other place not meant for human habitation. The unsheltered category included responses in the "Other" category[3].  52% of respondents were unsheltered and 48% were sheltered.

| Unsheltered Sleeping Location | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total unsheltered[4]** | 516 | 52% |
| On the street/sidewalk/encampment/under a bridge/park | 303 | 30% |
| In a car or other vehicle | 200 | 20% |
| Other[3] | 13 | 1% |

| Sheltered Sleeping Location | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total sheltered** | 481 | 48% |
| Hotel/motel that you pay for | 143 | 14% |
| With a friend/family member in housing that they rent/own | 121 | 12% |
| Emergency, youth, or domestic violence shelter[4] | 80 | 8% |
| Hotel/motel paid for by a voucher[4] | 53 | 5% |
| An apartment/house that you rent/own with no housing subsidy | 42 | 4% |
| Transitional housing[4] | 19 | 2% |
| An apartment/house that you rent/own with housing subsidy | 13 | 1% |
| Institutional setting | 10 | 1% |

[3] Other housing situations included sleeping at work, churches, or in storage.
[4] Sleeping location meets the HUD definition of literal homelessness that is used during the annual PIT count

Participants reported the city where they slept or stayed for most of the last three nights. The following table summarizes information about survey participants and includes information about the population of each city. The city population data comes from the 2018 census data[5], the most recent year available. The city of Lakewood had the highest percentage of people experiencing homelessness, with 49% of individuals reporting that they stayed there in August. Arvada had the second highest percentage of people experiencing homelessness (19%). Lakewood and Arvada are the two most populous cities in the county comprising 27% and 21% of the Jefferson County population respectively.

| City | Homeless Population | | City Population | | Percent of City Experiencing Homelessness |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Number | Percent (of participants) | Number | Percent (of county) | |
| Lakewood | 486 | 49% | 156,798 | 27% | 0.3% |
| Arvada[6] | 189 | 19% | 120,492 | 21% | 0.2% |
| Wheat Ridge | 93 | 9% | 31,400 | 5% | 0.3% |
| Unincorporated Jefferson County | 82 | 8% | 131,468[7] | 23% | 0.1% |
| Golden | 42 | 4% | 21,254 | 4% | 0.2% |
| Westminster[6] | 39 | 4% | 113,479 | 20% | <0.1% |
| Edgewater | 14 | 1% | 5,342 | 1% | 0.3% |
| City not reported | 31 | 3% | not available | | not available |
| Other[8] | 21 | 2% | not available | | not available |

See Appendix C for summary tables containing information about each city in Jefferson County.

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[5] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts

[6] Arvada and Westminster are in both Jefferson and Adams County. Zero people reported sleeping in the Adams County area of Arvada. Thirty-nine people reported sleeping in the Adams County area of Westminster. These additional records are not reported in this table, but are included in the Westminster summary table found in Appendix C.

[7] The population for Unincorporated Jefferson County was calculated based on the total Jefferson County population minus the sum of the other city populations (580,233 - 448,765 = 131,468).

[8] Other cities people reported staying or sleeping in were Morrison and Pine.

# Demographics

This section provides information on the demographics of the surveyed population of individuals experiencing homelessness and also includes comparison data from the general population of Jefferson County. The data for the general population comes from the 2018 census data[9], the most recent year available. For this comparison, only the demographic categories that matched between the survey data and census data are included.

## Age

Respondents reported the date of birth for each household member, which were used to calculate the exact age of each person. Ages ranged from 0 to 98 with an average age of 37 years old. Age was then further categorized into four groups: Children (under age 18), Young adults (ages 18 to 24), Adults (ages 25 to 64) and Seniors (ages 65 years or older). The majority were Adults (67%) followed by Children (16%).

| Age | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Children (under age 18) | 158 | 16% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 78 | 8% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 665 | 67% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 44 | 4% |
| Not reported | 52 | 5% |

The following graph compares the distribution of ages in the general Jefferson County population and in the survey population. Compared to the general population, people who were experiencing homelessness were more likely to be adults and less likely to be children or seniors.



■ Jefferson County    ■ Homeless Population

Children (under 18): Jefferson County 20%, Homeless Population 16%
Young adults (ages 18-24): Jefferson County 8%, Homeless Population 8%
Adults (ages 25-64): Jefferson County 56%, Homeless Population 67%
Seniors (ages 65+): Jefferson County 17%, Homeless Population 4%

[9] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts
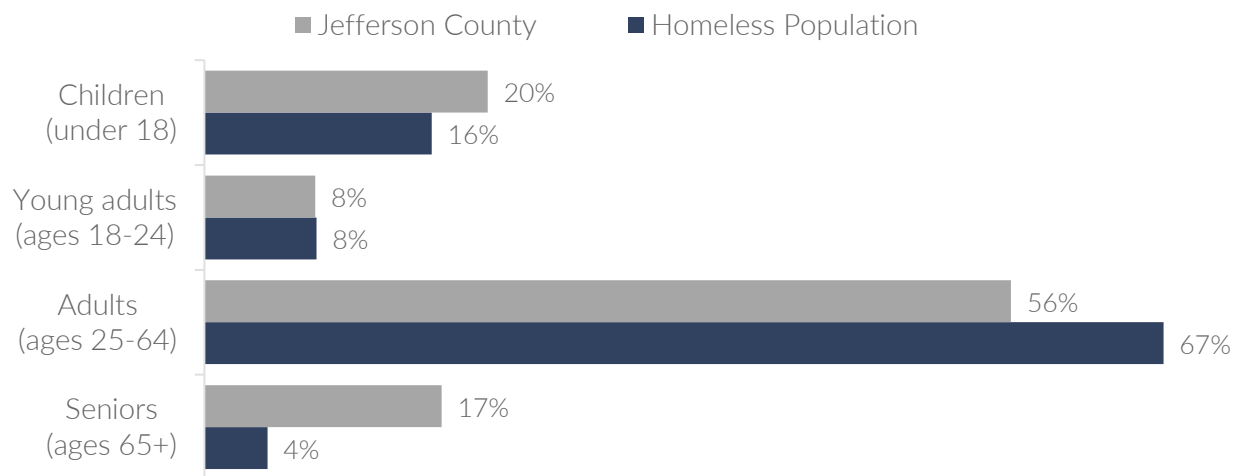
# Gender

The percentage of people who identified as male (55%) was greater than the percentage of people who identified as female (42%). Additionally, compared to the general population of Jefferson County, the percentage of people identifying as male was higher among the homeless population. This means that survey respondents who identify as male are disproportionally impacted by homelessness compared to those who identify as female.

| Gender | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 544 | 55% |
| Female | 423 | 42% |
| Transgender | 4 | <1% |
| Gender non-conforming[10] | 1 | <1% |
| Don't identify | 1 | <1% |
| Not reported | 24 | 2% |



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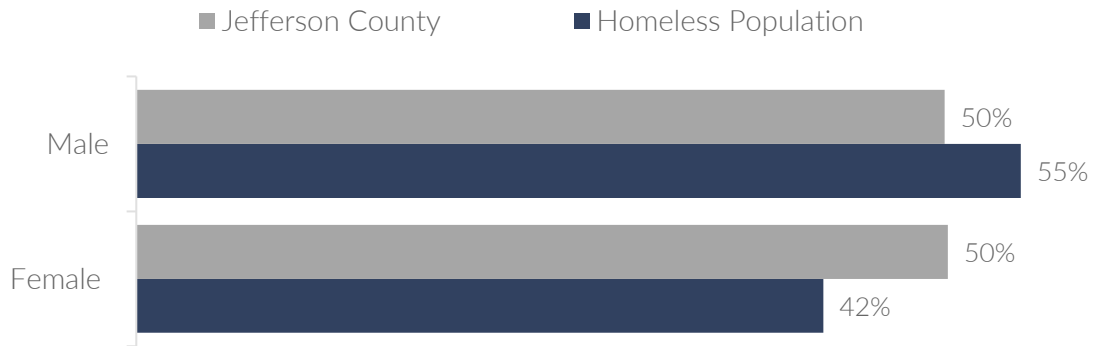
[10] Does not identify as exclusively male or female

## Race and Ethnicity

Sixty-three percent of people experiencing homelessness reported their race as White and more than half reported their ethnicity as Non-Hispanic/non-Latinx (57%).

| Race | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| White | 630 | 63% |
| Multi-Racial | 114 | 11% |
| Black | 81 | 8% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 45 | 5% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 8 | 1% |
| Asian | 3 | <1% |
| Not reported | 116 | 12% |

| Ethnicity | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx | 569 | 57% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 279 | 28% |
| Not reported | 149 | 15% |

Compared to the general population of Jefferson County, the homeless population was more likely to be a member of a racial or ethnic minority group. People who identify as Hispanic or Latinx make up 15.5% of the general population in Jefferson County, but represent 28% of the homeless population. Similarly, people who identify as Multi-Racial, Black, and American Indian or Alaskan Native are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.
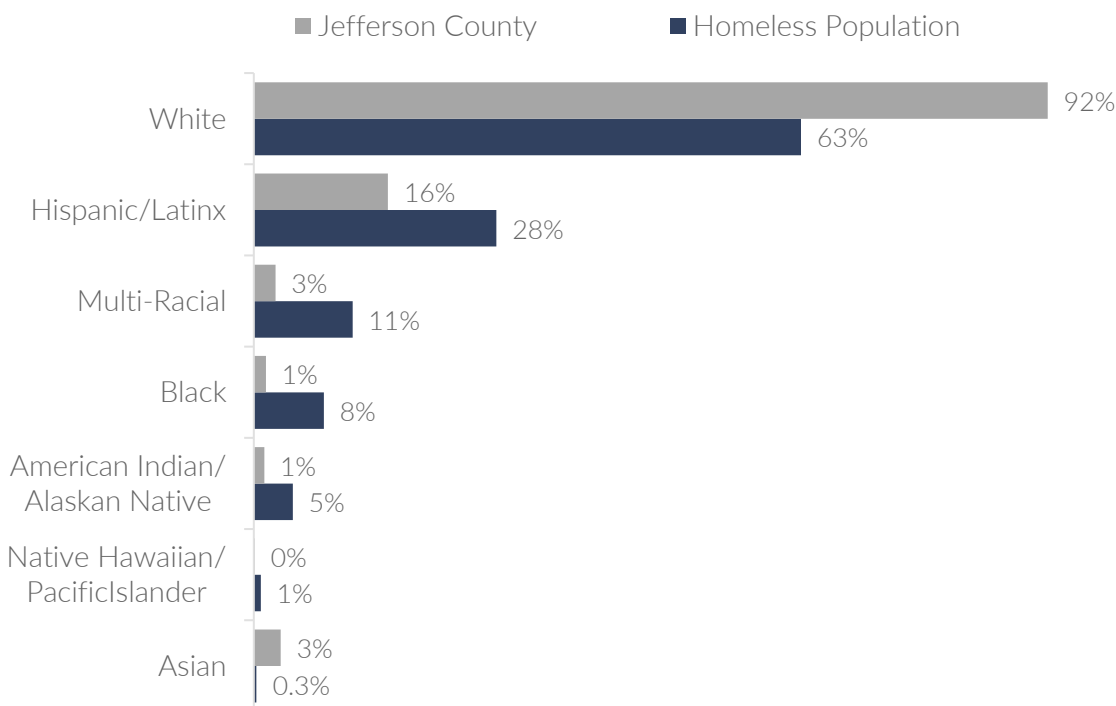
# Characteristics

For each household member over the age of 18, respondents were asked to report the presence of a serious mental illness, disability, substance use disorder, HIV/AIDS, or chronic health problems. Approximately two thirds of adults experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County reported at least one disabling condition (62%).  The most common disabling condition was a disability (33%).

| Disabling Conditions[11] | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **One or more disabling condition(s)** | 490 | 62% |
| Disability | 257 | 33% |
| Serious mental illness | 222 | 28% |
| Chronic health problem | 221 | 28% |
| Substance use disorder | 207 | 26% |
| HIV/AIDS | 5 | 1% |

# Subpopulations

Based on survey responses, several small but important subpopulations were identified. Approximately one in five individuals were chronically homeless and approximately one in seven were currently fleeing domestic violence.
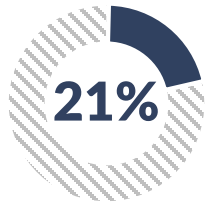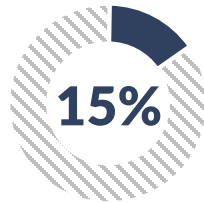
| 21% | 15% | 7% | 4% | 1% |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| were chronically homeless | were currently fleeing domestic violence | were veterans | were unaccompanied youth | were parenting youth |

| Sub-Populations | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Chronically homeless | 214 | 21% |
| Currently fleeing domestic violence[11] | 118 | 15% |
| Veteran[11] | 55 | 7% |
| Unaccompanied youth | 41 | 4% |
| Parenting youth | 12 | 1% |
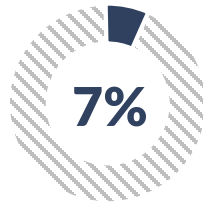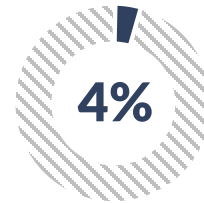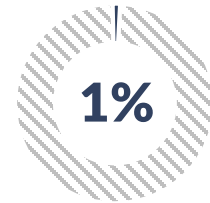
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[11] Only includes adults over age 18 (n = 787)

# Services Needed and Received

Respondents were asked to report on the types of services their household needs and receives in Jefferson County. Because these questions were asked about the household, the percentages included below are calculated out of the total number of households (707 households). The top three needs were housing assistance (66%), food (60%), and transportation assistance (34%). The top three services that households received were food (60%), medical or dental services (41%), and mental health services (11%). Nineteen percent of households reported that they did not receive any services.

| | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Housing assistance | 467 | 66% | 37 | 5% |
| Food | 425 | 60% | 425 | 60% |
| Transportation assistance | 241 | 34% | 61 | 9% |
| Medical or dental services | 219 | 31% | 289 | 41% |
| Shelter | 196 | 28% | 61 | 9% |
| Help to find a job | 158 | 22% | 38 | 5% |
| Mental health services | 132 | 19% | 76 | 11% |
| Help getting personal identification | 103 | 15% | 47 | 7% |
| Childcare or school services[12] | 31 | 4% | 22 | 3% |
| Detox | 23 | 3% | 11 | 2% |
| None | 44 | 6% | 132 | 19% |
| Other[13] | 110 | 16% | 81 | 11% |

For many of the services there are more households who report needing the service compared to the number of households who report receiving the service.



_____
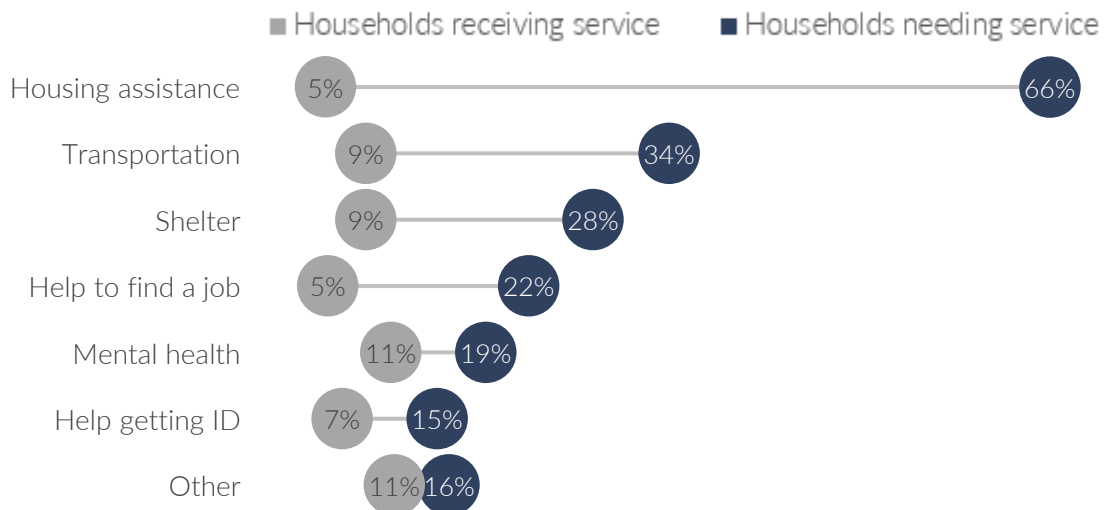
[12] Only 102 households (14%) included children, which is likely related to the low number of households needing and receiving childcare or school services

[13] Other services include after-school programming, senior programs, cash assistance, clothing, laundry services, lockers, and showers

Mile High United Way operates a free, confidential, and multi-lingual help line (2-1-1) that connects individuals with resources related to health and human services. In August 2019, 288 callers identified themselves as being from Jefferson County. Their top five needs were rent payment assistance (18%), housing (16%), utility assistance (14%), shelter or transitional housing (11%), and transportation (6%). These mirror the services that have the largest gap between service needs and services received including housing assistance, transportation assistance, and shelter.

Another data source that provides information about shelter related services is the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). This count takes place on the same night as the annual Point-in-Time count and is an inventory of the number of beds and units available on one night in January. The HIC provides valuable information on the supply of shelter beds available. During the 2019 HIC count, Jefferson County had 324 beds available and 255 beds filled which represents at 79% utilization rate. 35 of these beds are part of the Severe Weather Shelter Network and are not available year-round.

## Barriers to Services

Survey respondents were also asked about barriers to accessing services. Because this question was asked about the household, the percentages included below are calculated out of the total number of households (707 households).  The three most frequently reported barriers were transportation (37%), cost of services (33%), and lack of available services (31%).

| Barriers | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation | 258 | 36% |
| Cost of services | 233 | 33% |
| Lack of available services | 218 | 31% |
| Lack of mailing address | 123 | 17% |
| Credit history | 123 | 17% |
| Mental health | 97 | 14% |
| Shelter policies | 69 | 10% |
| Criminal background | 68 | 10% |
| Lack of personal identification | 68 | 10% |
| Substance use | 49 | 7% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 46 | 7% |
| Pet or service animal | 45 | 6% |
| Lack of interest in services | 23 | 3% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 15 | 2% |
| Language barrier | 12 | 2% |
| None | 69 | 10% |
| Other[14] | 137 | 19% |

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[14] Other barriers include not qualifying for services, needing more information about services, too long of a waitlist, and not having enough time for services

# Duplicate Data

During the deduplication process, there were 240 records that were identified as duplicates. These 240 records represent 87 households who completed the survey more than once. Characteristics of these households were analyzed to understand the frequency of service provision and how sleeping location and city changed over time.

Of the 87 total households, 55 households (63%) completed surveys with two different agencies and 6 households (7%) completed surveys with three different agencies. The majority of households (67 households, 77%) reported the same sleeping location on all surveys, however 20 households (23%) reported sleeping in different locations. Similarly, most duplicate households slept in the same city (65 households, 75%), with only 22 households (25%) moving between cities. It may seem counterintuitive that a greater number of households reported sleeping in different cities than different sleeping locations. This is because some households slept in the same type of sleeping location (e.g., in a vehicle, in a hotel or motel) in two different cities during the month of August.

# Additional Sources of Data

## Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. Homeless assistance providers use HMIS to coordinate care, manage their operations, and better serve their clients. While there is no formal definition of homelessness associated with HMIS, it is used by organizations that provide direct services to people experiencing homelessness. Within Jefferson County, there are two agencies that use HMIS - Family Tree and Jefferson Center[15]. Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) manages the HMIS system and provided an extract for all clients enrolled during the month of August.

**447** people

**231** adults

**216** children

Family Tree and Jefferson Center also participated in the service-based data collection and completed surveys during the month of August. Because of this, it is likely that there are some individuals who are represented in both the HMIS data and survey data. Identifying information was not available in the HMIS data which prevented deduplication. Furthermore, HMIS is not used by all agencies in Jefferson County so in isolation it doesn't provide a complete picture of who receives services. However, taken with the other sources of data available within this report the HMIS data provides valuable information about homelessness in Jefferson County.

The following summarizes information about individuals who were enrolled in a program at Family Tree or Jefferson Center during the month of August 2019:

- **Age -** 48% Children (under 18), 8% Young adult (ages 18-24), 42% Adult (ages 25-64), and 2% Seniors (ages 65+)
- **Gender -** 60% Female, 39% Male, <1% Trans female
- **Ethnicity -** 39% Hispanic/Latinx, 61% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx
- **Race -** 66% White, 22% Black or African American, 8% Multi-Racial, 3% American Indian or Alaska Native, 1% Asian
- **Characteristics (adults only) -** 71% Physical disability, 55% Mental health condition, 27% Chronic health problem, 12% Substance use disorder, 6% Developmental disability, 2% HIV/AIDS
- **Subpopulations -** 7% Currently fleeing domestic violence

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[15] Family Tree is a non-profit human services agency that provides services designed to end child abuse, domestic violence, and homelessness. Jefferson Center is a non-profit community-focused mental health care and substance use services provider.

The HMIS data describes the characteristics of individuals who received services at Family Tree or Jefferson Center during the month of August. When considering the HMIS data in comparison to the survey data, it should be noted that there is a higher percentage of children (48% vs. 16%), people identifying as female (60% vs. 42%), and people identifying as Hispanic/Latinx (39% vs. 28%) in the HMIS data.

# 2019 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

The Metro Denver Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual survey of people experiencing homelessness. The 2019 PIT count took place on January 28, 2019. PIT counts are required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a condition of applying for HUD homeless assistance funds. The count only includes individuals who meet the HUD definition of literal homelessness. Literal homelessness is defined as people living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

**434** people

**283** adults

**151** children

The following summarizes information about who was counted in Jefferson County as part of the PIT in 2019:

- **Age -** 35% Children (under 18), 4% Young adult (ages 18-24), 58% Adult (ages 25-64), and 3% Seniors (ages 65+)
- **Gender -** 46% Female, 51% Male, 1% Transgender
- **Ethnicity -** 20% Hispanic /Latinx, 47% Non-Hispanic/Latinx
- **Race -** 61% White, 12% Black or African American, 8% Multi-Racial, 4% American Indian or Alaska Native, 3% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 1% Asian
- **Characteristics (adults only) -** 28% Mental health issue, 24% Substance use disorder, <1% HIV/AIDS
- **Subpopulations -** 12% Chronically homeless, 12% Currently fleeing domestic violence, 8% Veteran, 5% Unaccompanied youth, 0% Parenting youth

There are differences in the population surveyed for the current report and who was reached in Jefferson County for the Metro Denver PIT in 2019. For example, there were higher percentages of children (35% vs. 16%) and lower percentages of people who identified as Hispanic/Latinx (20% vs. 28%) in the Metro Denver PIT. [16] In addition, fewer people meeting the definition for literal homelessness were counted during the Metro Denver PIT (434 vs. 668). These differences highlight that both assessments provide only a snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in an area at any given time and that methodological changes can impact the population that is reached for survey.

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[16] Note that differences reported are observations and have not been tested for statistical significance.

# McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is administered by the US Department of Education to allocate McKinney-Vento funding annually to states. The goal of EHCY program is to ensure that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

## 3,135
children and youth

For the EHCY program, the number of homeless children and youth enrolled and served in public schools must be reported by each district. For the 2017-2018 school year, there were 63 counties in Colorado who reported the number of homeless children and youth. Compared to other counties, Jefferson County reported the second highest number of homeless children and youth with a total of 3,135. The majority of homeless children and youth (80%) were living in doubled-up housing arrangements due to economic hardship. Nine percent lived in hotels or motels, eight percent lived in shelters, transitional housing, or are awaiting foster care, and three percent were unsheltered.

The comprehensive homeless count was conducted at the start of the 2019-2020 school year while Jefferson County School District was migrating to a new computer system. This made it difficult for the school district's homeless liaisons to conduct the survey. This logistical challenge and the differences in data captured through the EHCY program highlight the possibility that there may be many more children in unstable housing conditions that were not captured in the comprehensive count. Interpretation of data in the current report should consider the possibility that there is a higher percentage of children in the community in need of stable housing and related services than are captured in this report.

## 2019 #RealCollege Survey

The #RealCollege Survey is an annual assessment of basic needs insecurity among college students. The survey is administered at two- and four-year institutions across the United States by The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University. Red Rocks Community College participated in the 2019 survey. During the fall semester the survey was distributed to approximately 6,600 students and 148 students participated. To measure homelessness, the survey asked a series of questions that align with the definition of homelessness based on the McKinney Vento Act. 21% of survey respondents reported experiencing homelessness in the previous year.

Red Rocks Community College participated in the comprehensive count; however, survey administration wasn't focused on students who may be experiencing homelessness. Because of this, most college students surveyed during the comprehensive count did not meet the definition of homelessness. College students are likely underrepresented in the comprehensive count and the #RealCollege survey helps fill a critical gap in knowledge about homelessness among this population.

# Stories from Survey Volunteers

After the comprehensive homeless count was complete, Jefferson County collected stories from survey volunteers about the individuals they surveyed during the month of August. Eleven volunteers shared 17 stories. The stories fell into three main themes: unstable housing, challenges with mental health or other health issues, and inability to afford high rent or upfront costs. Names and other identifiers have been changed or removed.

**Unstable housing** was mentioned eight times, volunteers shared that some people would be living with friends or family temporarily or would be uncertain of where they would be sleeping in the future.

> " 'Dick and Jane' were a young married couple ... Towards the end of the summer, as temperatures were steadily dropping, I asked them what they were going to do or where they were going to go in the fall. Dick said that they were going to go stay with his mother in her apartment in Aurora. They were both optimistic that the move would be good for them and that they could help out his mom as well. Finally, after the first freeze, Dick and Jane did leave and we didn't see them for a few weeks. Unfortunately, their move was not permanent... "

> "I was a volunteer in the count in Lakewood and there is a young adult at one of the hotels that we visited who had a story. It was her, her mother and father, and a niece and nephew that were staying in the hotel. They were homeless for most of the year on and off. The only income they relied on was the father's Social Security. And that was not enough for all five of them to live off of.  The day that I surveyed her, it was to be their last night there because they could not afford another night."

**Mental health and other health issues** were mentioned in six stories recalled by volunteers. In some stories, health issues were also directly related to the loss of housing or a housing opportunity.

> " 'Harry' is a disabled veteran who began the shower truck season with us, but then left for a short time in the middle of the summer to go back to the V.A.[17] for some type of health-related issue. When he returned, it was like the difference between night and day! ...As the summer wore on, Harry spent more and more time just sleeping out under a tree... "

> "An older gentleman was holding a sign on the median of an underpass in Lakewood.  He was very friendly and well-spoken.  He told us that he had a great job, nice home, and was married to the love of his life.  She was diagnosed with cancer and the bills for her medical treatment drained his savings.  When she passed, he had nothing left and has been on the streets since."

> "One family I interviewed had a section 8 voucher but had been unable to find housing.  I knew the family as frequent utilizers of the severe weather motel system.   From my perspective, I didn't think they had much chance of finding housing.  She was in a wheelchair due to loss of part of her feet to frostbite and couldn't get around town to look at apartments very easily...I heard later that the voucher did expire, and she lost the housing opportunity."

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[17] US Department of Veterans Affairs

**Inability to afford rent or upfront cost** was a common challenge mentioned five times in stories from volunteers and was related to people living in motels/hotels and unstable housing.

> *"I met a father with one of his young sons in a motel room. He told us he was trying to stay in the area so that his 2 children could stay in their school nearby. His car broke down and he was relying on buses to get to work. He could not afford to rent an apartment (first, last month rents and security deposit) plus he didn't have a great credit rating."*

> *"One of the persons was an older man, at least in his fifties, with several health issues, including a condition that made it difficult for him to stand. Yet, he worked at [a restaurant] in Olde Town Arvada as a custodian and dishwasher. He told us he likes the job, likes his boss and feels like he works hard; however, he does not get paid enough to find a place to live. At the point we talked to him he was not homeless because he was living temporarily with a family member; however, we got the impression that he could not live there permanently. "*

# Conclusions

Local governments in Jefferson County partnered to conduct a survey to better understand homelessness in the county and to collect high quality data to inform the policies and services that are needed to prevent and address homelessness in the future. The 2019 Jefferson County comprehensive homeless count identified 997 individuals experiencing homelessness during August 2019. The survey was a success due to the hard work and dedication of the Steering Committee, service providers, community members, and volunteers across Jefferson County. The survey used an expanded definition of homelessness and attempted to understand the experiences of people who are not traditionally included in other assessments of homelessness. Even though the methodology represents the most comprehensive approach available, the results should be considered a conservative estimate of homelessness in Jefferson County.

The survey results are strengthened by the other available data sources. The survey data, HMIS data, and PIT data reveal consistent themes about the experiences and challenges for a diverse population with many different needs. The McKinney-Vento data and #RealCollege survey provide unique information about populations that are likely underrepresented in the comprehensive count – children, youth, and college students. Finally, the narrative stories from survey volunteers provide important context about the impact of unstable housing, challenges with mental health or other health issues, and inability to afford rent or upfront costs.

The 2019 Jefferson County count provides valuable information about the homeless population. Key takeaways gleaned through this survey include:

- 997 individuals met the expanded definition of homelessness.
- Half of people experiencing homelessness were unsheltered (52%).
- Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color. Compared to the general population of Jefferson County, people experiencing homelessness were more likely to be a member of a racial or ethnic minority group.
- 62% of people experiencing homelessness report suffering from at least one disabling condition and 21% are chronically homeless.
- There are gaps in the county in services related to housing assistance, transportation and shelter. More households report needing services in these areas compared to the number of households that report receiving services in these areas.
- Transportation, cost, and lack of availability are the top three barriers to accessing services in Jefferson County.

The data in this report can be used to educate the public, service providers, and policy makers about the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County and take action to prevent and address homelessness in the future.

**JEFFCO COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS COUNT**

Agency: _____     Date Completed (DD): August _____, 2019

Volunteer/Staff Name: _____     City: _____

*Hello, my name is _____. We are doing a survey to count people who do not have a regular or permanent place to sleep or stay. The survey will help get funding and develop better services. Participation is voluntary and your responses will not be shared outside of the survey team. Can I have 10 min of your time?*

**1. We are asking people to take this survey during the month of August. Has anyone already asked you questions about where you sleep or stay at night?**
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Don't Know

**2. Where have you slept or stayed for most of the past 3 nights?** *(Check only ONE response)*

☐ An apartment or house that you rent or own with **no** ongoing housing subsidy
☐ An apartment or house that you rent or own with **an** ongoing housing subsidy
☐ With a friend or family member in housing that they rent or own
☐ Hotel/motel that you pay for
☐ Institutional setting (hospital, treatment program, jail, or prison)
☐ Hotel/motel paid for by a voucher, nonprofit, or public assistance program
☐ Emergency shelter, youth shelter, or domestic violence shelter
☐ Transitional housing (time-limited)
☐ On the street/sidewalk/encampment/under a bridge/park
☐ In a car or other vehicle (not part of an RV trailer park)
☐ Other: _____

**2a. Will you sleep or stay in the same place for the next 14 days?**
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Don't Know

**2b. Are you able to pay for your housing for the next 14 days?**
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Don't Know

**2c. Has your housing been consistent for the last 60 days?**
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Don't Know

**IF YES to questions 2A, 2B, and 2C, stop survey and thank them for their time, otherwise continue the survey.**

**3. Please complete for the head of household as well as any family member(s) who slept or stayed in the same place for most of the past 3 nights:**

| Relationship to you (spouse or partner, child, parent, sibling, other) WRITE IN RELATIONSHIP | First 3 letters First Name | First 3 letters Last Name | Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY | Gender Male (M) Female (F) Transgender (TG) Gender Non-Conforming (GNC) Don't Identify (DI) | Ethnicity Hispanic/ Latinx (H) Non-Hispanic/ Latinx (N) | Race American Indian/ Alaskan Native (AIAN) Asian (A) Black (B) White (W) Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) Multi-Racial (M) | CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY ONLY COMPLETE FOR INDIVIDUALS AGED 18+ | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Head of Household (Yourself) | | | | | | | Veteran | Disability | Mental Illness | Alcohol/ drug use | Domestic Violence | HIV/ AIDS | Chronic health problems |
| Family Member 2 (     ) | | | | | | | Veteran | Disability | Mental Illness | Alcohol/ drug use | Domestic Violence | HIV/ AIDS | Chronic health problems |
| Family Member 3 (     ) | | | | | | | Veteran | Disability | Mental Illness | Alcohol/ drug use | Domestic Violence | HIV/ AIDS | Chronic health problems |
| Family Member 4 (     ) | | | | | | | Veteran | Disability | Mental Illness | Alcohol/ drug use | Domestic Violence | HIV/ AIDS | Chronic health problems |

**4. In what county did you sleep or stay most of the last 3 nights?**
❑ Jefferson ❑ Adams ❑ Arapahoe ❑ Boulder ❑ Broomfield ❑ Denver ❑ Douglas ❑ Other: _____

**5. In what city did you sleep or stay most of the last 3 nights?**
❑ Arvada ❑ Columbine ❑ Conifer ❑ Edgewater ❑ Evergreen ❑ Golden ❑ Ken Caryl ❑ Lakewood
❑ Littleton ❑ Westminster ❑ Wheat Ridge ❑ Unincorporated Jefferson County ❑ Other: _____

**6. Is this the first time you haven't had a regular or permanent place to sleep or stay?** ❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Don't Know

**7. Have you been homeless (staying in emergency shelters and/or on the streets) continuously for a year or more?**
❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Don't Know ❑ I haven't been homeless

**8. How many times have you been homeless (staying in emergency shelters and/or on the streets) in the past three years (since August 2016)?**
❑ Fewer than four times ❑ Four times or more ❑ Don't Know ❑ I haven't been homeless

**9. What was the total amount of time you have been homeless (staying in emergency shelters and/or on the streets) during the past three years (since August 2016)?**
❑ Fewer than 12 months ❑ 12 months or more ❑ Don't Know ❑ I haven't been homeless

**10. Do you currently have a pet or service animal?** ❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Don't Know

**11. What services do you or members of your household currently receive in Jefferson County?** (*Check ALL that apply*)
❑ Food (food bank, soup kitchen, SNAP, WIC) ❑ Housing Assistance/Rental assistance/Section 8 ❑ Shelter
❑ Medical or Dental Services ❑ Mental Health Services ❑ Detox
❑ Transportation assistance ❑ Help to find a job ❑ Child care/school services
❑ Help getting personal identification (state ID, birth certificate, Social Security Card) ❑ None
❑ Other: _____

**12. What services do you or members of your household currently need in Jefferson County?** (*Check ALL that apply*)
❑ Food (food bank, soup kitchen, SNAP, WIC) ❑ Housing Assistance/Rental assistance/Section 8 ❑ Shelter
❑ Medical or Dental Services ❑ Mental Health Services ❑ Detox
❑ Transportation assistance ❑ Help to find a job ❑ Child care/school services
❑ Help getting personal identification (state ID, birth certificate, Social Security Card) ❑ None
❑ Other: _____

**13. What are the barriers to accessing services in Jefferson County for you or members of your household?** (*Check ALL that apply*)
❑ Cost of services ❑ Lack of available services ❑ Lack of mailing address
❑ Transportation ❑ Credit history ❑ Lack of interest in services
❑ Language barrier ❑ Being on parole or protective orders ❑ Criminal background
❑ Lack of culturally competent services ❑ Pet or service animal ❑ Substance use
❑ Shelter policies/rules ❑ Mental Health ❑ None
❑ Lack of personal identification (state ID, birth certificate, Social Security Card)
❑ Other: _____

# Appendix B: Jefferson County Data

## Jefferson County
**Demographics, Characteristics, and Subpopulations**

| | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of households** | 707 | 100% |
| Household with at least one adult and one child | 99 | 14% |
| Household with only children | 3 | <1% |
| Household without children | 605 | 86% |
| **Total number of persons** | 997 | 100% |
| **Age** | | |
| Children (under 18) | 158 | 16% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 78 | 8% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 665 | 67% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 44 | 4% |
| Not reported | 52 | 5% |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 544 | 55% |
| Female | 423 | 42% |
| Transgender | 4 | <1% |
| Gender non-conforming | 1 | <1% |
| Don't identify | 1 | <1% |
| Not reported | 24 | 2% |
| **Race** | | |
| White | 630 | 63% |
| Multi-Racial | 114 | 11% |
| Black | 81 | 8% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 45 | 5% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 8 | 1% |
| Asian | 3 | <1% |
| Not reported | 116 | 12% |
| **Ethnicity** | | |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinx | 569 | 57% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 279 | 28% |
| Not reported | 146 | 15% |
| **Chronically homeless** | 214 | 21% |
| **Veteran*** | 55 | 7% |
| **Domestic violence*** | 118 | 15% |
| **Serious mental illness*** | 222 | 28% |
| **Substance use disorder*** | 207 | 26% |
| **Chronic health problem*** | 221 | 28% |
| **HIV/AIDS*** | 5 | 1% |
| **Disability*** | 257 | 33% |

* Only includes adults over age 18 (n = 787)

# Jefferson County

**Unsheltered Sleeping Location**

|  | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total unsheltered** | 516 | 52% |
| On the street/sidewalk/encampment/under a bridge/park | 303 | 30% |
| In a car or other vehicle | 200 | 20% |
| Other | 13 | 1% |

**Sheltered Sleeping Location**

|  | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total sheltered** | 481 | 48% |
| Hotel/motel that you pay for | 143 | 14% |
| With a friend/family member in housing that they rent/own | 121 | 12% |
| Emergency, youth, or domestic violence shelter | 80 | 8% |
| Hotel/motel paid for by a voucher | 53 | 5% |
| An apartment/house that you rent/own with no housing subsidy | 42 | 4% |
| Transitional housing | 19 | 2% |
| An apartment/house that you rent/own with housing subsidy | 13 | 1% |
| Institutional setting | 10 | 1% |

**City**

|  | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Lakewood | 486 | 49% |
| Arvada | 189 | 19% |
| Wheat Ridge | 93 | 9% |
| Unincorporated Jefferson County | 82 | 8% |
| Golden | 42 | 4% |
| Westminster | 39 | 4% |
| Edgewater | 14 | 1% |
| City not reported | 31 | 3% |
| Other | 21 | 2% |

**Youth Subpopulations**

|  | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Unaccompanied youth | 14 | 1% |
| Parenting youth | 21 | 2% |

# Jefferson County
**Services Needed and Received**

| | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Housing assistance | 467 | 66% | 37 | 5% |
| Food | 425 | 60% | 425 | 60% |
| Transportation assistance | 241 | 34% | 61 | 9% |
| Medical or dental services | 219 | 31% | 289 | 41% |
| Shelter | 196 | 28% | 61 | 9% |
| Help to find a job | 158 | 22% | 38 | 5% |
| Mental health services | 132 | 19% | 76 | 11% |
| Help getting personal identification | 103 | 15% | 47 | 7% |
| Childcare or school services | 31 | 4% | 22 | 3% |
| Detox | 23 | 3% | 11 | 2% |
| None | 44 | 6% | 132 | 19% |
| Other | 110 | 16% | 81 | 11% |

**Barriers to Services**

| | **Number** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation | 258 | 36% |
| Cost of services | 233 | 33% |
| Lack of available services | 218 | 31% |
| Lack of mailing address | 123 | 17% |
| Credit history | 123 | 17% |
| Mental health | 97 | 14% |
| Shelter policies | 69 | 10% |
| Criminal background | 68 | 10% |
| Lack of personal identification | 68 | 10% |
| Substance use | 49 | 7% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 46 | 7% |
| Pet or service animal | 45 | 6% |
| Lack of interest in services | 23 | 3% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 15 | 2% |
| Language barrier | 12 | 2% |
| None | 69 | 10% |
| Other | 137 | 19% |

# Appendix C: City Data

## Arvada
**Demographics, Characteristics, and Subpopulations**

| | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of households** | 125 | 100% |
| Household with at least one adult and one child | 24 | 19% |
| Household with only children | 2 | 2% |
| Household without children | 99 | 79% |
| **Total number of persons** | 189 | 100% |
| **Age** | | |
| Children (under 18) | 43 | 23% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 18 | 20% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 115 | 61% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 3 | 2% |
| Not reported | 10 | 5% |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 100 | 53% |
| Female | 84 | 44% |
| Transgender | 2 | 1% |
| Gender non-conforming | 0 | 0% |
| Don't identify | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 3 | 2% |
| **Race** | | |
| White | 113 | 60% |
| Multi-Racial | 31 | 16% |
| Black | 16 | 8% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 7 | 4% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 2 | 1% |
| Asian | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 20 | 11% |
| **Ethnicity** | | |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinx | 109 | 58% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 61 | 32% |
| Not reported | 19 | 10% |
| **Chronically homeless** | 54 | 29% |
| **Veteran*** | 8 | 6% |
| **Domestic violence*** | 26 | 19% |
| **Serious mental illness*** | 41 | 30% |
| **Substance use disorder*** | 38 | 28% |
| **Chronic health problem*** | 37 | 27% |
| **HIV/AIDS*** | 2 | 2% |
| **Disability*** | 39 | 29% |

* Only includes adults over age 18 (n = 136)

# Arvada

**Services Needed and Received**

|  | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Housing assistance | 85 | 68% | 7 | 6% |
| Food | 82 | 66% | 82 | 66% |
| Transportation assistance | 48 | 38% | 13 | 10% |
| Medical or dental services | 35 | 28% | 62 | 50% |
| Shelter | 32 | 26% | 22 | 18% |
| Help getting personal identification | 24 | 19% | 5 | 4% |
| Mental health services | 20 | 16% | 12 | 10% |
| Help to find a job | 19 | 15% | 7 | 6% |
| Childcare or school services | 8 | 6% | 6 | 5% |
| Detox | 2 | 2% | 3 | 2% |
| None | 10 | 8% | 8 | 6% |
| Other | 17 | 14% | 19 | 15% |

**Barriers to Services**

|  | **Number** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Cost of services | 44 | 35% |
| Transportation | 42 | 34% |
| Lack of available services | 33 | 26% |
| Credit history | 30 | 24% |
| Lack of mailing address | 19 | 15% |
| Mental health | 18 | 14% |
| Criminal background | 14 | 11% |
| Lack of personal identification | 13 | 10% |
| Shelter policies | 12 | 10% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 12 | 10% |
| Substance use | 9 | 7% |
| Pet or service animal | 6 | 5% |
| Lack of interest in services | 3 | 2% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 2 | 2% |
| Language barrier | 1 | 1% |
| None | 16 | 13% |
| Other | 29 | 23% |

# Edgewater

**Demographics, Characteristics, and Subpopulations**

| | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of households** | 13 | 100% |
| Household with at least one adult and one child | 1 | 8% |
| Household with only children | 0 | 0% |
| Household without children | 12 | 92% |
| **Total number of persons** | 14 | 100% |
| **Age** | | |
| Children (under 18) | 1 | 7% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 0 | 0% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 11 | 79% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 2 | 14% |
| Not reported | 0 | 0% |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 9 | 64% |
| Female | 5 | 36% |
| Transgender | 0 | 0% |
| Gender non-conforming | 0 | 0% |
| Don't identify | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 0 | 0% |
| **Race** | | |
| White | 4 | 29% |
| Multi-Racial | 3 | 21% |
| Black | 1 | 7% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 3 | 21% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 1 | 7% |
| Asian | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 2 | 14% |
| **Ethnicity** | | |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinx | 9 | 64% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 3 | 21% |
| Not reported | 2 | 14% |
| **Chronically homeless** | 5 | 36% |
| **Veteran*** | 3 | 23% |
| **Domestic violence*** | 2 | 15% |
| **Serious mental illness*** | 3 | 23% |
| **Substance use disorder*** | 5 | 39% |
| **Chronic health problem*** | 2 | 15% |
| **HIV/AIDS*** | 0 | 0% |
| **Disability*** | 6 | 46% |

* Only includes adults over age 18 (n=13)

# Edgewater
**Services Needed and Received**

| | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Housing assistance | 9 | 69% | 0 | 0% |
| Transportation assistance | 8 | 62% | 2 | 15% |
| Shelter | 8 | 62% | 2 | 15% |
| Food | 7 | 54% | 7 | 54% |
| Mental health services | 4 | 31% | 2 | 15% |
| Medical or dental services | 3 | 23% | 8 | 62% |
| Help to find a job | 3 | 23% | 0 | 0% |
| Help getting personal identification | 3 | 23% | 1 | 8% |
| Childcare or school services | 0 | 0% | 1 | 8% |
| Detox | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| None | 0 | 0% | 2 | 15% |
| Other | 3 | 23% | 0 | 0% |

**Barriers to Services**

| | **Number** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Cost of services | 7 | 54% |
| Transportation | 5 | 38% |
| Lack of available services | 5 | 38% |
| Mental health | 2 | 15% |
| Shelter policies | 2 | 15% |
| Substance use | 2 | 15% |
| Criminal background | 1 | 8% |
| Lack of personal identification | 1 | 8% |
| Pet or service animal | 1 | 8% |
| Lack of interest in services | 1 | 8% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 1 | 8% |
| Lack of mailing address | 0 | 0% |
| Credit history | 0 | 0% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 0 | 0% |
| Language barrier | 0 | 0% |
| None | 2 | 15% |
| Other | 2 | 15% |

# Golden
**Demographics, Characteristics, and Subpopulations**

|  | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of households** | 34 | 100% |
| Household with at least one adult and one child | 3 | 9% |
| Household with only children | 0 | 0% |
| Household without children | 31 | 91% |
| **Total number of persons** | 42 | 100% |
| **Age** | | |
| Children (under 18) | 3 | 7% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 4 | 10% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 31 | 74% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 1 | 2% |
| Not reported | 3 | 7% |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 29 | 69% |
| Female | 12 | 29% |
| Transgender | 0 | 0% |
| Gender non-conforming | 0 | 0% |
| Don't identify | 1 | 2% |
| Not reported | 0 | 0% |
| **Race** | | |
| White | 28 | 67% |
| Multi-Racial | 4 | 10% |
| Black | 3 | 7% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 2 | 5% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0 | 0% |
| Asian | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 5 | 12% |
| **Ethnicity** | | |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinx | 26 | 62% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 11 | 26% |
| Not reported | 5 | 12% |
| **Chronically homeless** | 9 | 21% |
| **Veteran*** | 2 | 6% |
| **Domestic violence*** | 5 | 14% |
| **Serious mental illness*** | 14 | 39% |
| **Substance use disorder*** | 13 | 36% |
| **Chronic health problem*** | 8 | 22% |
| **HIV/AIDS*** | 0 | 0% |
| **Disability*** | 13 | 36% |

* Only includes adults over age 18 (n = 36)

# Golden

**Services Needed and Received**

| | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Housing assistance | 19 | 56% | 0 | 0% |
| Food | 15 | 44% | 15 | 44% |
| Shelter | 15 | 44% | 1 | 3% |
| Medical or dental services | 12 | 35% | 11 | 32% |
| Transportation assistance | 10 | 29% | 3 | 9% |
| Mental health services | 9 | 26% | 3 | 9% |
| Help to find a job | 8 | 24% | 1 | 3% |
| Help getting personal identification | 5 | 15% | 1 | 3% |
| Childcare or school services | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Detox | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| None | 2 | 6% | 14 | 41% |
| Other | 7 | 21% | 3 | 9% |

**Barriers to Services**

| | **Number** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation | 13 | 38% |
| Credit history | 12 | 35% |
| Lack of mailing address | 11 | 32% |
| Lack of available services | 9 | 26% |
| Cost of Services | 8 | 24% |
| Criminal background | 6 | 18% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 6 | 18% |
| Shelter policies | 5 | 15% |
| Mental health | 4 | 12% |
| Lack of personal identification | 4 | 12% |
| Substance use | 2 | 6% |
| Pet or service animal | 2 | 6% |
| Lack of interest in services | 2 | 6% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 2 | 6% |
| Language barrier | 1 | 3% |
| None | 4 | 12% |
| Other | 4 | 12% |

# Lakewood

**Demographics, Characteristics, and Subpopulations**

| | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of households** | 337 | 100% |
| Household with at least one adult and one child | 48 | 14% |
| Household with only children | 0 | 0% |
| Household without children | 289 | 86% |
| **Total number of persons** | 486 | 100% |
| **Age** | | |
| Children (under 18) | 77 | 16% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 32 | 7% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 328 | 67% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 22 | 5% |
| Not reported | 27 | 6% |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 273 | 56% |
| Female | 194 | 40% |
| Transgender | 2 | <1% |
| Gender non-conforming | 1 | <1% |
| Don't identify | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 16 | 3% |
| **Race** | | |
| White | 302 | 62% |
| Multi-Racial | 62 | 13% |
| Black | 36 | 7% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 20 | 4% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 4 | 1% |
| Asian | 1 | <1% |
| Not reported | 61 | 13% |
| **Ethnicity** | | |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinx | 246 | 51% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 158 | 33% |
| Not reported | 82 | 17% |
| **Chronically homeless** | 97 | 20% |
| **Veteran*** | 25 | 7% |
| **Domestic violence*** | 54 | 14% |
| **Serious mental illness*** | 116 | 30% |
| **Substance use disorder*** | 109 | 29% |
| **Chronic health problem*** | 110 | 29% |
| **HIV/AIDS*** | 1 | <1% |
| **Disability*** | 125 | 33% |

* Only includes adults over age 18 (n=382)

# Lakewood
**Services Needed and Received**

|  | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Housing assistance | 236 | 70% | 22 | 7% |
| Food | 216 | 64% | 216 | 64% |
| Transportation assistance | 118 | 35% | 28 | 8% |
| Medical or dental services | 109 | 32% | 142 | 42% |
| Shelter | 101 | 30% | 26 | 8% |
| Help to find a job | 88 | 26% | 22 | 7% |
| Mental health services | 72 | 21% | 43 | 13% |
| Help getting personal identification | 48 | 14% | 36 | 11% |
| Detox | 18 | 5% | 8 | 2% |
| Childcare or school services | 11 | 3% | 12 | 4% |
| None | 15 | 4% | 60 | 18% |
| Other | 54 | 16% | 39 | 12% |

**Barriers to Services**

|  | **Number** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation | 141 | 42% |
| Cost of Services | 112 | 33% |
| Lack of available services | 111 | 33% |
| Credit history | 56 | 17% |
| Lack of mailing address | 55 | 16% |
| Mental health | 53 | 16% |
| Criminal background | 38 | 11% |
| Lack of personal identification | 32 | 9% |
| Shelter policies | 31 | 9% |
| Substance use | 29 | 9% |
| Pet or service animal | 25 | 7% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 23 | 7% |
| Language barrier | 10 | 3% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 9 | 3% |
| Lack of interest in services | 8 | 2% |
| None | 26 | 8% |
| Other | 61 | 18% |

# Unincorporated Jefferson County
**Demographics, Characteristics, and Subpopulations**

| | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of households** | 61 | 100% |
| Household with at least one adult and one child | 0 | 0% |
| Household with only children | 6 | 10% |
| Household without children | 55 | 90% |
| **Total number of persons** | 82 | 100% |
| **Age** | | |
| Children (under 18) | 8 | 10% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 8 | 10% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 53 | 65% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 11 | 13% |
| Not reported | 2 | 2% |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 37 | 45% |
| Female | 44 | 54% |
| Transgender | 0 | 0% |
| Gender non-conforming | 0 | 0% |
| Don't identify | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 1 | 1% |
| **Race** | | |
| White | 57 | 70% |
| Multi-Racial | 2 | 2% |
| Black | 5 | 6% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 6 | 7% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0 | 0% |
| Asian | 1 | 1% |
| Not reported | 11 | 13% |
| **Ethnicity** | | |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinx | 52 | 63% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 15 | 18% |
| Not reported | 15 | 18% |
| **Chronically homeless** | 17 | 21% |
| **Veteran*** | 7 | 10% |
| **Domestic violence*** | 15 | 21% |
| **Serious mental illness*** | 18 | 25% |
| **Substance use disorder*** | 12 | 17% |
| **Chronic health problem*** | 19 | 26% |
| **HIV/AIDS*** | 1 | 1% |
| **Disability*** | 27 | 38% |

* Only includes adults over age 18 (n=72)

# Unincorporated Jefferson County

**Services Needed and Received**

|  | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Housing assistance | 40 | 66% | 1 | 2% |
| Food | 40 | 66% | 40 | 66% |
| Medical or dental services | 22 | 36% | 20 | 33% |
| Transportation assistance | 19 | 31% | 7 | 11% |
| Shelter | 12 | 20% | 7 | 11% |
| Mental health services | 12 | 20% | 5 | 8% |
| Help to find a job | 11 | 18% | 5 | 8% |
| Help getting personal identification | 6 | 10% | 2 | 3% |
| Childcare or school services | 2 | 3% | 1 | 2% |
| Detox | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| None | 6 | 10% | 15 | 25% |
| Other | 8 | 13% | 6 | 10% |

**Barriers to Services**

|  | **Number** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Lack of available services | 26 | 43% |
| Cost of Services | 22 | 36% |
| Transportation | 19 | 31% |
| Lack of mailing address | 18 | 30% |
| Credit history | 12 | 20% |
| Mental health | 9 | 15% |
| Lack of personal identification | 5 | 8% |
| Lack of interest in services | 5 | 8% |
| Shelter policies | 4 | 7% |
| Criminal background | 4 | 7% |
| Substance use | 3 | 5% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 2 | 3% |
| Pet or service animal | 2 | 3% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 0 | 0% |
| Language barrier | 0 | 0% |
| None | 26 | 8% |
| Other | 7 | 11% |

# Westminster[18]

**Demographics, Characteristics, and Subpopulations**

| | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of households** | 52 | 100% |
| Household with at least one adult and one child | 9 | 17% |
| Household with only children | 1 | 2% |
| Household without children | 42 | 81% |
| **Total number of persons** | 78 | 100% |
| **Age** | | |
| Children (under 18) | 18 | 23% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 4 | 5% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 52 | 67% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 1 | 1% |
| Not reported | 3 | 4% |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 41 | 53% |
| Female | 35 | 45% |
| Transgender | 0 | 0% |
| Gender non-conforming | 0 | 0% |
| Don't identify | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 2 | 3% |
| **Race** | | |
| White | 45 | 58% |
| Multi-Racial | 4 | 5% |
| Black | 6 | 8% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 5 | 6% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0 | 0% |
| Asian | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 18 | 23% |
| **Ethnicity** | | |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinx | 47 | 60% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 20 | 26% |
| Not reported | 11 | 14% |
| **Chronically homeless** | 15 | 19% |
| **Veteran*** | 6 | 11% |
| **Domestic violence*** | 11 | 19% |
| **Serious Mental illness*** | 11 | 19% |
| **Substance use disorder*** | 19 | 33% |
| **Chronic health problem*** | 11 | 19% |
| **HIV/AIDS*** | 1 | 2% |
| **Disability*** | 10 | 18% |

* Only includes adults over age 18 (n=57)

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[18] Westminster is in both Jefferson and Adams County. To more fully represent homelessness in Westminster, this section includes the thirty-nine additional people who reported sleeping in the Adams County area of Westminster and did not meet any of the other exclusion criteria.

# Westminster

**Services Needed and Received**

| | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Housing assistance | 30 | 58% | 0 | 0% |
| Food | 23 | 44% | 23 | 44% |
| Transportation assistance | 16 | 31% | 4 | 8% |
| Medical or dental services | 15 | 29% | 20 | 38% |
| Shelter | 14 | 27% | 1 | 2% |
| Help to find a job | 13 | 25% | 2 | 4% |
| Mental health services | 8 | 15% | 7 | 13% |
| Help getting personal identification | 7 | 13% | 0 | 0% |
| Childcare or school services | 3 | 6% | 0 | 0% |
| Detox | 2 | 4% | 1 | 2% |
| None | 5 | 10% | 15 | 29% |
| Other | 2 | 4% | 4 | 8% |

**Barriers to Services**

| | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation | 20 | 38% |
| Cost of Services | 11 | 21% |
| Lack of mailing address | 9 | 17% |
| Lack of available services | 7 | 13% |
| Shelter policies | 7 | 13% |
| Mental health | 6 | 12% |
| Substance use | 6 | 12% |
| Credit history | 5 | 10% |
| Lack of personal identification | 5 | 10% |
| Pet or service animal | 3 | 6% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 2 | 4% |
| Lack of interest in services | 2 | 4% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 2 | 4% |
| Language barrier | 2 | 4% |
| Criminal background | 1 | 2% |
| None | 3 | 6% |
| Other | 15 | 29% |

# Wheat Ridge

**Demographics, Characteristics, and Subpopulations**

| | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of households** | 66 | 100% |
| Household with at least one adult and one child | 7 | 11% |
| Household with only children | 1 | 2% |
| Household without children | 58 | 88% |
| **Total number of persons** | 93 | 100% |
| **Age** | | |
| Children (under 18) | 16 | 17% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 6 | 6% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 66 | 71% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 3 | 3% |
| Not reported | 2 | 2% |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 53 | 57% |
| Female | 39 | 42% |
| Transgender | 0 | 0% |
| Gender non-conforming | 0 | 0% |
| Don't identify | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 1 | 1% |
| **Race** | | |
| White | 65 | 70% |
| Multi-Racial | 8 | 9% |
| Black | 13 | 14% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 2 | 2% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0 | 0% |
| Asian | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 5 | 5% |
| **Ethnicity** | | |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinx | 64 | 69% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 17 | 18% |
| Not reported | 12 | 13% |
| **Chronically homeless** | 19 | 20% |
| **Veteran*** | 6 | 8% |
| **Domestic violence*** | 7 | 9% |
| **Serious mental illness*** | 11 | 15% |
| **Substance use disorder*** | 14 | 19% |
| **Chronic health problem*** | 24 | 32% |
| **HIV/AIDS*** | 0 | 0% |
| **Disability*** | 31 | 41% |

* Only includes adults over age 18 (n=75)

# Wheat Ridge
**Services Needed and Received**

|  | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Housing assistance | 44 | 67% | 5 | 8% |
| Food | 38 | 58% | 38 | 58% |
| Transportation assistance | 23 | 35% | 4 | 6% |
| Medical or dental services | 20 | 30% | 25 | 38% |
| Help to find a job | 17 | 26% | 1 | 2% |
| Shelter | 15 | 23% | 2 | 3% |
| Help getting personal identification | 12 | 18% | 1 | 2% |
| Mental health services | 10 | 15% | 3 | 5% |
| Childcare or school services | 3 | 5% | 1 | 2% |
| Detox | 1 | 2% | 0 | 0% |
| None | 6 | 9% | 14 | 21% |
| Other | 16 | 24% | 9 | 14% |

**Barriers to Services**

|  | **Number** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Cost of Services | 26 | 39% |
| Transportation | 22 | 33% |
| Lack of available services | 22 | 33% |
| Lack of mailing address | 12 | 18% |
| Credit history | 10 | 15% |
| Shelter policies | 9 | 14% |
| Lack of personal identification | 9 | 14% |
| Pet or service animal | 6 | 9% |
| Mental health | 4 | 6% |
| Criminal background | 2 | 3% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 2 | 3% |
| Lack of interest in services | 2 | 3% |
| Substance use | 1 | 2% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 0 | 0% |
| Language barrier | 0 | 0% |
| None | 11 | 17% |
| Other | 15 | 23% |

# Appendix D: Slept Outside Jefferson County Data

## Slept Outside Jefferson County
**Demographics, Characteristics, and Subpopulations**

| | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of households** | 205 | 100% |
| Household with at least one adult and one child | 31 | 15% |
| Household with only children | 1 | <1% |
| Household without children | 173 | 84% |
| **Total number of persons** | 289 | 100% |
| **Age** | | |
| Children (under 18) | 54 | 19% |
| Young adults (ages 18-24) | 24 | 8% |
| Adults (ages 25-64) | 189 | 65% |
| Seniors (ages 65+) | 10 | 3% |
| Not reported | 12 | 4% |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 160 | 55% |
| Female | 118 | 41% |
| Transgender | 0 | 0% |
| Gender non-conforming | 1 | <1% |
| Don't identify | 0 | 0% |
| Not reported | 10 | 3% |
| **Race** | | |
| White | 158 | 55% |
| Multi-Racial | 19 | 7% |
| Black | 30 | 10% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 18 | 6% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0 | 0% |
| Asian | 5 | 2% |
| Not reported | 59 | 20% |
| **Ethnicity** | | |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latinx | 152 | 53% |
| Hispanic or Latinx | 79 | 27% |
| Not reported | 58 | 20% |
| **Chronically homeless** | 64 | 22% |
| **Veteran*** | 25 | 11% |
| **Domestic violence*** | 34 | 15% |
| **Serious mental illness*** | 61 | 27% |
| **Substance use disorder*** | 69 | 31% |
| **Chronic health problem*** | 58 | 26% |
| **HIV/AIDS*** | 3 | 1% |
| **Disability*** | 65 | 29% |

* Only includes adults over age 18 (n=223)

# Slept Outside Jefferson County

**Services Needed and Received**

|  | Service Needs | | Services Received | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | **Number** | **Percent** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| Housing assistance | 113 | 55% | 7 | 3% |
| Food | 95 | 46% | 95 | 46% |
| Transportation assistance | 71 | 35% | 17 | 8% |
| Medical or dental services | 64 | 31% | 72 | 35% |
| Shelter | 58 | 28% | 13 | 6% |
| Help to find a job | 47 | 23% | 10 | 5% |
| Mental health services | 46 | 22% | 14 | 7% |
| Help getting personal identification | 28 | 14% | 10 | 5% |
| Childcare or school services | 9 | 4% | 4 | 2% |
| Detox | 6 | 3% | 4 | 2% |
| None | 26 | 13% | 56 | 27% |
| Other | 28 | 14% | 26 | 13% |

**Barriers to Services**

|  | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation | 70 | 34% |
| Lack of available services | 60 | 29% |
| Cost of Services | 47 | 23% |
| Lack of mailing address | 36 | 18% |
| Credit history | 28 | 14% |
| Criminal background | 17 | 8% |
| Lack of personal identification | 17 | 8% |
| Substance use | 15 | 7% |
| Being on parole or protective orders | 12 | 6% |
| Lack of interest in services | 6 | 3% |
| Pet or service animal | 5 | 2% |
| Lack of culturally competent services | 4 | 2% |
| Language barrier | 3 | 1% |
| Credit history | 28 | 14% |
| Criminal background | 17 | 8% |
| None | 29 | 14% |
| Other | 34 | 17% |

# Appendix E: Glossary

**Adult:** Person aged 18 and older

**Child:** Person under age 18

**Chronically homeless person:** Defined by HUD as a person who (1) is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a Safe Haven, or in an emergency shelter; and (2) has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined length of time homeless in those occasions is at least 12 months; and (3) has a disability.

**Chronic health problem:** Conditions that last one year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living or both.

**Cost-burdened:** Defined by HUD as households that pay more than 30% of their gross income for housing.

**Disability:** Any individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

**Emergency shelter:** Any facility whose primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 180 days or fewer. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for survivors and their children.

**HEARTH Act:** The 2009 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Act includes several changes including consolidating grant programs, creation of a Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program, and an increase in prevention resources,

**HIV/AIDS:** Adults who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.

**HMIS:** The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons.

**Homeless:** In this report, homelessness is defined as individuals and families living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, those who are unsheltered, or those who don't have stable housing (not able to sleep or stay in the same place for next 14 days, does not have resources to pay for housing for next 14 days, haven't had consistent housing for last 60 days).

**Household without children:** Households with adults only. This includes households composed of unaccompanied adults (including unaccompanied youth age 18 to 24) and multiple adults (including households with multiple youth ages 18 to 24).

**Household with at least one adult and one child:** Households with (at least) one adult (including youth ages 18 to 24) and one child.

**Household with only children:** Households composed exclusively of persons under age 18, including one-child households, multiple-child households, or other household configurations composed only of children.

**HUD:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Literal homelessness:** Individuals and families living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:** A United States federal law related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Specific provisions ensure the enrollment, accessibility, and educational stability for students lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

**Parenting youth:** A youth who identifies as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household.

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability.

**Point-in-Time (PIT) count:** HUD-required, annual count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons carried out on one night in the last 10 calendar days of January.

**Serious mental illness:** Adults with a severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits a person's ability to live independently.

**Sheltered:** Individuals who are living in hotels/motels, in housing with friends, emergency shelters, apartments/houses, transitional housing, and institutional settings.

**Substance use disorder:** Adults with a substance use problem (alcohol abuse, drug use, or both).

**Survivor of domestic violence:** Adults who are currently experiencing homelessness because they are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

**Transitional housing:** Housing in which individuals and families experiencing homelessness may live and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Supportive services, which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination, may be provided by the organization managing the housing, or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

**Unaccompanied youth:** Persons under age 25 who are not presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parent or legal guardian or their own children.

**Unsheltered:** Individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.

**Veteran:** Adults who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

**Youth:** Persons under age 25.