



Homelessness 101

An 'All About Homelessness' e-guide

National Statistics

In the U.S., on a single night in 2023,

653,104

people were experiencing homelessness.

(20 out of every 10,000 people)*



50% White; **37%** Black

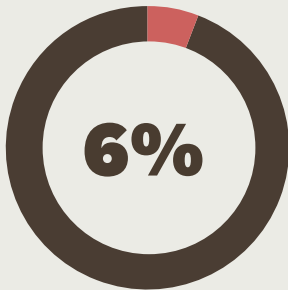
71% individuals

Of the individuals, 60% were male

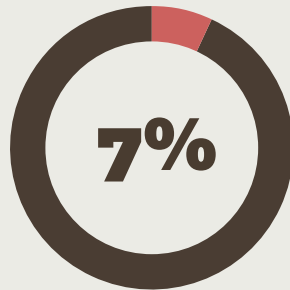


■ SHELTERED

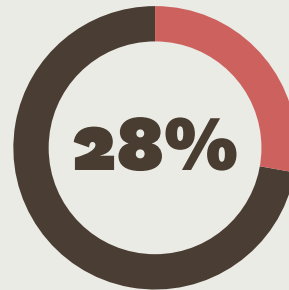
■ UNSHELTERED



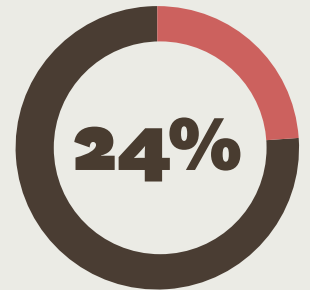
youth under 25
without parents



veterans



people in families
with children



identified as
chronically homeless

Washington Statistics

Washington ranks within the

TOP 10

states for total number of individuals
experiencing homelessness.

In Washington, on a single night in 2023,

28,036

people were experiencing homelessness.

(36 out of every 10,000 people. For comparison: California has 46 people in 10,000. Oregon has 48. New York has 52. Texas has 9.)

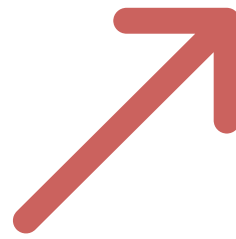
*According to the 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, nearly half of the individuals counted during the Point-in-Time Count were unsheltered, living outdoors, or in places not meant for human habitation.

Homelessness in Spokane County

In Spokane County, on a single night in 2023,

2,390

people were experiencing homelessness.



Over the last decade, Spokane County has seen a

46% increase

in homelessness among single adults.



329
people in families
with children



Nearly one third
of single adults experience
unsheltered homelessness,
*compared to 6% of families and 35%
of young adults.*



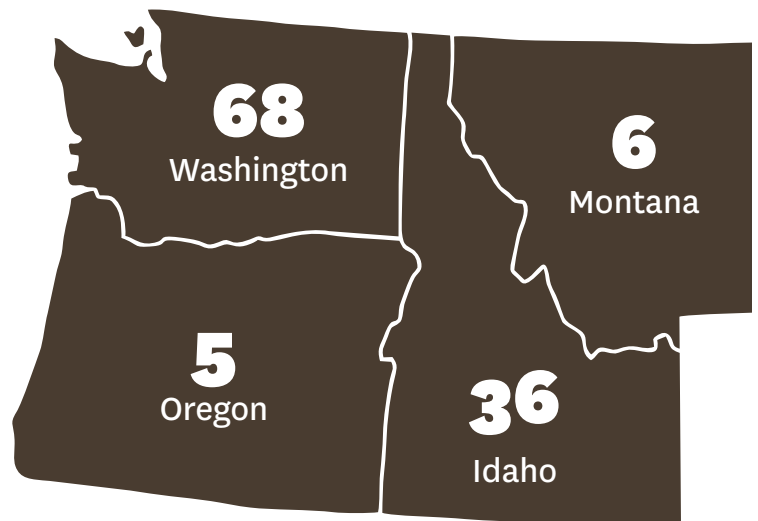
30%
of those surveyed were
experiencing homelessness
for the first time.



1,532 Male; **806** Female

52 identify as other

Last known residence:



Unsheltered age groups:



88%

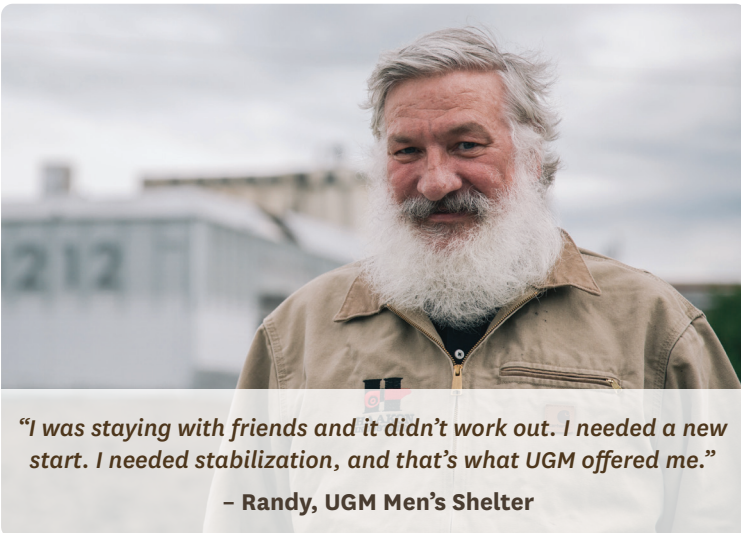
24+ years old

11%

18-24 years old

1%

under 18



"I was staying with friends and it didn't work out. I needed a new start. I needed stabilization, and that's what UGM offered me."

– Randy, UGM Men's Shelter

*The Point-in-Time Count is the primary means of data collection on homelessness in the United States. The Count seeks to count every person experiencing homelessness on a single day in January. The Count is voluntary (a person can decline to be counted) and depends upon self-reporting (i.e., a person is asked for the primary reason for his/her homelessness and that answer is recorded). Funding and policy decisions are made based on this data.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness

Any discussion of homelessness has to acknowledge that the problem is complex. There is not one cause but many and those causes overlap and interlink in endless combinations. Still, there are clearly recurring themes.

Lack of Affordable Housing



37 people

said a lack of affordable housing was the primary reason for their homelessness.

(Spokane's 2019 PIT Count)

Substance Abuse

"Many people who are addicted to alcohol and drugs never become homeless, but people who are poor and addicted are clearly at increased risk of homelessness. Addiction does increase the risk of displacement for the precariously housed; in the absence of appropriate treatment, it may doom one's chances of getting housing once on the streets." (National Coalition for the Homeless)



447 adults

reported having a substance abuse condition.

(Spokane's 2023 PIT Count)

Domestic Violence



218 people

reported being survivors of domestic violence.

(Spokane's 2023 PIT Count)

ABOUT 40%

of women in UGM shelters self-report as being victims of domestic violence.

Poverty

The 2019 population of Spokane was estimated at 217,000, and the poverty rate was 19.37% overall, translating into roughly 43,400 people living at or below the poverty level.

According to the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty: **"After paying their rent and utilities, 75% of extremely low income households end up with less than half of their income left to pay for necessities such as food, medicine, transportation, or childcare."** These people are on the verge of homelessness.



74 people

said a lack of income was the primary reason for their homelessness.

(Spokane's 2019 PIT Count)

Family Breakdown

Most single-parent families are female-headed (71%). Single-parent families are among the poorest in the nation and are extremely vulnerable to homelessness. 84% of families experiencing homelessness are female-headed. 53% of homeless mothers do not have a high school diploma. 42% of children in homeless families are under age six.



77 people

reported that family conflict was the #1 reason for their homelessness.

(Spokane's 2019 PIT Count)

Mental Health

22% of the adult homeless population suffer from a severe and persistent mental illness.

(The National Coalition for the Homeless)



704 adults

reported experiencing serious mental illness.

(Spokane's 2023 PIT Count)

What We're Doing

Since 1951, Union Gospel Mission of the Inland Northwest has been helping men and women break the cycles of homelessness, abuse, and addiction. With a whole-person approach toward restoration, **UGM has established a pathway out of homelessness for anyone willing to take the first step.** ↓



Safety.

For individuals in crisis, UGM provides a safe place to stabilize. A clean and sober environment, safe people, warm meals, medical attention, and basic resources provide the soil where hope can grow.



A plan.

Once basic needs are met, men and women can start to face the issues that have perpetuated their unwanted situation. Through case management, employment therapy, or holistic recovery, they can form a plan that will move them toward new life.



Time.

To overcome a lifetime of trauma and addiction takes time. A chance of long-term success reaches 85% after the first five years of sobriety. It takes ongoing mentorship, employment, housing, childcare, and supportive relationships.



Community.

Then there's you, me, and everyone else. Those exiting homelessness and addiction need to know they are not alone and are worthy of help. It takes a community invested for the long-haul. Together, we can pave a way through what often feels impossible.



"This is more than a safe haven for many of us; it's home. It's the way out of things that most people don't even want in to."

– Kimberly, UGM Women & Children's Shelter

NEED HELP?

If you're experiencing a serious mental health crisis, please call the **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** at 988.

For **medical emergencies** (including overdosing or trying to help someone who has overdosed), **call 911.**

Hope starts here.

Food, shelter, case management, basic medical care, assistance with legal issues, addiction recovery, employment training, and more. **A safe, healing community is waiting for you.**



Women & Children's Shelter

1515 E Illinois Ave., Spokane, WA 99207



Men's Shelter

1224 E Trent Ave., Spokane, WA 99202

Call 509.535.8510

www.uniongospelmission.org/need-help

Our Resources

Definitions:

Homeless – A person is considered homeless when he/she resides in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings; or in an emergency shelter; or in transitional housing.

Sheltered – living in emergency shelter or transitional housing

Unsheltered – living outdoors or in a place not meant for human habitation (cars, abandoned buildings, park shelter, etc.)

Chronically homeless - someone with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for either a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. (US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development)

Low-barrier shelter – very limited entry requirements

No-barrier shelter – no entry requirements and no conditions for staying

High-barrier shelter – requirements, such as being clean and sober, must be met to check in

The word “homeless” has become a catch-all for people in very different situations. However, homelessness is a symptom of much more complicated issues. There is no need for us to ask if homeless individuals deserve our love and compassion. Every human being is worthy of love because every single one is created in the image of God.

Inspired to partner with UGM?

Learn more about Union Gospel Mission’s resources and services that help our neighbors escape homelessness, abuse, and addiction.



Read stories of hope

Learn how individuals in our community have experienced transformation and recovery at UGM.
www.blog.uniongospelmission.org/stories



Tour our facilities

Schedule a tour to see the safe, healing UGM environment up close.
www.uniongospelmission.org/tours



Become a volunteer

No matter your skill set, you have what it takes to serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness.
www.uniongospelmission.org/volunteer



Make a donation

Your generosity creates practical steps toward a hopeful tomorrow. Thank you.
www.uniongospelmission.org/donate



A pathway out of homelessness

uniongospelmission.org | 509.535.8510

NOTE: The available statistics on homelessness and its causes are difficult to gather. We recommend that you look at multiple sources for information and utilize the references provided.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/homelessness_programs_resources/hrc-factsheet-current-statistics-prevalence-characteristics-homelessness.pdf

2023 PIT Count for Spokane County: <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/chhs/cmhc/dashboards/2023-pit-dashboards.pdf>

2019 PIT Count for Spokane County: <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/ending-homelessness/everybody-counts/2019-everybody-counts-campaign-presentation-2019-04-18.pdf>

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty: https://nlchp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Homeless_Stats_Fact_Sheet.pdf

National Coalition for the Homeless: <https://nationalhomeless.org/>

HUD and Homelessness: https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_18_147

National Institute of Health on Affordable Housing Shortage: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6051532/>