

2023 Point in Time

Doubled Up Report

**Count of People Experiencing Homelessness in
Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington
Counties, Oregon**

This report was prepared for
Clackamas County, Multnomah County and the City of Portland Joint Office of Homeless Services, and Washington County

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Marisa Zapata, PhD

Director - Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative (HRAC) at Portland State University
Associate Professor - Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning (USP)
mazapata@pdx.edu

Jacen Greene
Carolyn Niehaus
Ethan Sharygin
Franklin Spurbeck
Christina Wei

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Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative

Portland State University
PO Box 751 – HRAC
Portland, OR 97207-0751



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2023 Doubled Up Report Overview

Homelessness can be experienced in several ways. The Point in Time (PIT) Count, based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development definition of homelessness, does not include people living “doubled up.” Doubling up can mean people are staying with friends or relatives due to economic reasons and have no other options for housing.

The Portland, Oregon tri-county region recognizes the importance of counting this population. In the past, counties have used various data sources to estimate the number of people doubling up. As part of the 2023 PIT Count, Portland State University (PSU) replicated the efforts from previous years to estimate the number of people that are living in a “doubled up” situation.

Historically, the most significant data source for people living doubled up came from public schools. Schools are required to report how many students are experiencing homelessness and in which circumstances they are living. The federal definition of homelessness used by the U.S. Department of Education includes households that are doubled up for economic reasons.

Other data sources for doubled up populations used in previous Multnomah County PIT Count reports include the Oregon Department of Human Services’ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants and information from 211. 211 provides the human services helpline for the county and provided information on where callers to the service had slept on the night of the count.

A new method to estimate doubled up populations created by Richard et al (2022) uses American Community Survey Data from the Census Bureau. This estimate includes adults who do not have K-12 age youth living with them.

The 2023 doubled up count for the tri-county region includes two estimates. One is drawn from school district data. School districts in each county were asked to submit counts for the night of the Point-in-Time Count. We also looked at American Community Survey (ACS) data to inform a “doubled up” count, which can be used more extensively in future years with additional data release dates. Data from the school districts and from ACS cannot be matched across PIT data or additional administrative records from HIMS. That means some people might be part of both data sets.

School District Data

Tri-County Data

All Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington County school districts were contacted and asked to provide a tally of students, using the School Districts Homeless Data form, they knew were experiencing homelessness in their districts on the night of the count. All school districts were provided with the same request and format. Some districts provided only the high-level summary data, while others provided the full breakdown of information. Table 1 includes a record of which school districts provided summary data (partial data) and which provided breakdowns by race (full data).

Table 1 - School District Responses to Request for Data

Provided Full Data		Provided Partial Data		Did Not Provide Data	
County	School District	County	School District	County	School District
Clackamas	Canby SD 86	Multnomah	Falls City SD 57	Clackamas	Colton SD 53
	Estacada SD 108	Washington	Beaverton SD 48J		Lake Oswego 7J
	Gladstone SD 115				Molalla River 35
	Oregon City SD 62				North Clackamas 12
	Oregon Trail SD				West Linn-Wilsonville SD
Centennial SD 28J	Multnomah			Central SD	
Corbett SD 39		Dallas SD 2			
Gresham-Barlow SD		David Douglas 40			
Parkrose SD 3		Perrydale SD 21			
Portland SD 1J		Reynolds SD 7			
Riverdale SD 51J		Washington	Gaston SD 511J		
Banks SD 13	Sherwood SD 88J				
Forest Grove 15	Tigard-Tualatin SD				
Hillsboro SD 1					

From the districts that provided data, Table 2 captures the total across all three districts.

Table 2 - Total Students Experiencing Homelessness, Per County

County	Unhoused Students
Clackamas	261
Multnomah	1,403
Washington	1,801
Total	3,465

Table 2 includes data from any school district that provided at least some data. As indicated in Table 1, two school districts provided partial data. Their data is included in Table 2, but not in the tables that follow below.

A portion of the school districts that responded completed the full requested form, which included information on housing categories, racial identities, and overall status – Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness or Youth Experiencing Homelessness Living with Families. Tables 3.3 and 3.4 display overall numbers per county by housing type, showing that doubled up represents the most common type of unhoused situation across overall status for students. Collectively, the school districts reported 1,475 unhoused youth living doubled up. Twenty-six percent of these youth were unaccompanied.

Table 3 - Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Data sum horizontally

County	Total	Unsheltered	Shelter / Transitional Housing	Hotel / Motel	Substandard / Overcrowded	Doubled Up	Other / Unknown
Clackamas	75	***	***	0	0	64	***
Multnomah	240	***	***	***	***	219	0
Washington	116	***	***	***	***	100	0

Table 3 includes all school districts who provided a full data set. Falls City and Beaverton school districts provided a partial data set, as described above, so their data is not included from Table 3 onwards.

*** Data redacted due to population being less than or equal to 10.

Table 4 - Youth Experiencing Homelessness Living with Families*

Data sum horizontally

County	Total	Unsheltered	Shelter / Transitional Housing	Hotel / Motel	Substandard / Overcrowded	Doubled Up
Clackamas	186	21	23	14	16	112
Multnomah	1,154	30	202	86	94	742
Washington	355	***	44	***	40	238

*No data was provided in the “Other / Unknown” category. Tables include all school districts who provided a full data set.

*** Data redacted to protect confidentiality.

Clackamas County Data

Consistent with previous research and Latine service providers, Latine unaccompanied youth in Clackamas County were doubled up, as seen in Table 5. White students were both unsheltered and doubled up.

Families experiencing homelessness in Clackamas County (Table 6) were, in contrast to the unaccompanied youth in Clackamas County, living in a range of housing situations. Latine youth living with families were more likely to be unsheltered, or in shelter or transitional housing. White families were more likely to be in motels, by a wide margin. The other two living situations were similar for Whites and Latines.

Table 5 - Clackamas County: Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness - Percentage of Housing type by Race

Percents sum vertically

	Unsheltered	Doubled Up	Other / Unknown
Hispanic/Latino	0.0%	34.8%	0.0%
White/Caucasian	75.0%	60.9%	0.0%
Black/African American	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	2.2%	100.0%
Asian	25.0%	2.2%	0.0%
Multi-racial	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Columns were omitted when they included no data.

Table 6 - Clackamas County: Youth Experiencing Homelessness Living with Families - Percentage of Housing type by Race

Percents sum vertically

	Unsheltered	Shelter / Transitional Housing	Hotel / Motel	Substandard / Overcrowded	Doubled Up
Hispanic/Latino	53.3%	60.0%	7.7%	50.0%	41.2%
White/Caucasian	40.0%	40.0%	84.6%	50.0%	49.4%
Black/African American	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Asian	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Multi-racial	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	8.2%

No data reported in Other / Unknown category, so it was omitted from this table.

Multnomah County Data

In Multnomah County, school districts reported unhoused students in every racial group. Latine and White students combined were about 70% of the unaccompanied youth doubled up in Multnomah County. They were also 50% of the unsheltered students, with mixed-race youth comprising the other 50%. White unaccompanied youth were most likely to be in shelter, where the other racial groups were evenly split in their use of shelter and transitional housing.

Table 7 - Multnomah County: Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness - Percentage of Housing type by Race

Percents sum vertically

	Unsheltered	Shelter / Transitional Housing	Hotel / Motel	Substandard / Overcrowded	Doubled Up
Hispanic/Latino	25.0%	16.7%	14.3%	0.0%	30.4%
White/Caucasian	25.0%	33.3%	28.6%	100.0%	38.6%
Black/African American	0.0%	16.7%	14.3%	0.0%	10.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%	16.7%	14.3%	0.0%	10.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
Asian	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Multi-racial	50.0%	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%	7.1%

No data reported in Other / Unknown category, so it was omitted from this table.

Unaccompanied youth in each racial group were living in every situation, with the exception of American Indian and Alaskan Natives. No one from that racial group was reported as living unsheltered. Latines were once again the largest share of the doubled up population, with White and Black youth in families each representing 20% of the doubled up population.

Table 8 - Multnomah County: Youth Experiencing Homelessness Living with Families - Percentage of Housing type by Race

Percents sum vertically

	Unsheltered	Shelter / Transitional Housing	Hotel / Motel	Substandard / Overcrowded	Doubled Up
Hispanic/Latino	20.0%	17.5%	23.9%	44.7%	36.2%
White/Caucasian	33.3%	29.0%	14.1%	18.1%	22.5%
Black/African American	23.3%	24.6%	36.6%	13.8%	20.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%	4.9%	8.5%	16.0%	7.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3.3%	8.2%	5.6%	3.2%	4.1%
Asian	3.3%	1.1%	1.4%	0.0%	2.9%
Multi-racial	16.7%	14.8%	9.9%	4.3%	6.4%

No data reported in Other / Unknown category, so it was omitted from this table.

Washington County Data

Latines were the largest portion of the unaccompanied youth population experiencing homelessness living doubled up in Washington County (Table 9).

Table 9 - Washington County: Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness - Percentage of Housing type by Race

Percents sum vertically

	Doubled Up
Hispanic/Latino	38.9%
White/Caucasian	33.3%
Black/African American	0.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	22.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%
Asian	0.0%
Multi-racial	5.6%

Columns were omitted when they included no data.

Reflecting the growing trend of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander homelessness, 18% of youth experiencing homelessness were staying with their families in shelter or transitional housing (Table 10). Countering trends in the other counties for Latines, only 30% of youth experiencing homelessness were living with their families doubled up.

Table 10 - Washington County: Youth Experiencing Homelessness Living with Families - Percent of Housing type by Race

Percents sum vertically

	Shelter / Transitional Housing	Substandard / Overcrowded	Doubled Up
Hispanic/Latino	35.3%	46.7%	29.6%
White/Caucasian	47.1%	46.7%	70.4%
Black/African American	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	17.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Asian	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Multi-racial	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Columns deleted when there was no data in them.

ACS Data

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a program of the US Census Bureau that replaced the 'long form' of the decennial census after 2000. ACS data are collected every month and every year and have coverage of approximately 2% of the population each year in either households or group quarters ('GQs', either institutional or noninstitutional shared living arrangements such as correctional facilities, dormitories, etc.). An annual sample is made up of responses accumulated during a calendar year and weighted to be representative of the population as of the midpoint of the calendar year. As an address-based survey, the ACS does not capture information about persons not in housing or GQs.

The ACS includes information about all persons in households, including unrelated persons, some of whom may be sharing a home or "doubled-up" with others in order to avoid homelessness or due to the unavailability of shelter space. While these people do not meet the definition of homelessness used by HUD, they shed light on a vulnerable population that is possibly experiencing housing instability and at risk of either street or sheltered homelessness.

Richard et al (2022) led an effort to use the ACS to quantify the doubled-up population in a way that was transparent and replicable, and which included extensive community and expert consultation.[1] They defined a doubled-up person experiencing homelessness as one whose income was at or below 125% of a poverty threshold adjusted for cost of living, did not contribute to housing costs, and was either a nonrelative or a relative who, based on age, family relationship, and household crowding, would not customarily be the responsibility of the householder. They found that the prevalence of doubled-up homelessness in mid-2019 was 1.2% of the U.S. population (3.7 million persons, compared to the just 567,715 who met the HUD definition of homelessness in the January 2019 PIT count).

This data set is released yearly in the fall for the prior year. 2023 data will therefore be available in fall 2024. As we believe that the ACS data can be a future tool and resource in understanding additional components about these unhoused populations, we have started pulling this historical data so that we can incorporate it into this methodology.

Replication of this methodology from R code published in the appendix applied to data from the 2021 ACS provides a count of doubled-up persons in the tri-county area (standard errors in brackets):

Clackamas: 4,021 [1,116]
Multnomah: 5,612 [1,104]
Washington: 3,417 [1,135]
Tri-county total: 13,050 individual adults

This approach suggests that a broader base of the population is captured via an ACS estimation, making it an interesting ongoing comparison to consider going forward.

[1] Molly K. Richard, Julie Dworkin, Katherine Grace Rule, Suniya Farooqui, Zachary Glendening & Sam Carlson (2022) Quantifying Doubled-Up Homelessness: Presenting a New Measure Using U.S. Census Microdata, Housing Policy Debate, DOI: 10.1080/10511482.2021.1981976

For Reference: [Data Doc](#) | [2019 Doubled Up Report \(in appendix at end\)](#)