

City of Seattle, King County, United Way of King County

Safe Harbors  
Homeless Management  
Information System  
**2009 Report**

## Executive Summary/Overview

Safe Harbors is King County's web-based Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Safe Harbors was developed to collect and analyze information about people in King County who are homeless or at risk of being homeless and the services they use. The system also provides a vehicle for agencies to report to funders on program performance. Safe Harbors is managed by the City of Seattle's Human Services Department, and is a joint project of the City of Seattle, King County's Department of Community and Human Services, and United Way of King County.

This report summarizes data collected by 226 programs that participated in Safe Harbors during 2009, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, safe havens, homeless prevention and rapid re-housing, and other service programs. This represents 77% of programs expected to participate and 85% of the inventory of homeless units in Seattle/King County.

The 2009 data show:

- **At least 14,468 different people used the homeless or prevention service programs participating in Safe Harbors in 2009.** The 226 participating programs collected a total of 21,565 identifiable service records in 2009. This total includes records on 14,468 unique, identifiable clients who used homeless or prevention services. An additional 7,097 service records were collected from people who received services from more than one program, and therefore were recorded in the system more than once. Unidentifiable records are not included in this analysis.
- **A total of 12,348 individuals in Safe Harbors were served in housing programs including emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and safe havens.** These 12,348 individuals represented 9,864 households. Ninety percent of households (8,870) were single individual households, 6% were in households with a single adult and at least one child, 3% were in households with multiple adults and at least one child, and 1% were in households with multiple adults and no children. Housing programs served at least 2,030 children under age 18 in 2009.
- **Non-Housing programs served 2,782 individuals, including 749 children.**
- **People of color were dramatically overrepresented compared to the overall county population.** Thirty-seven percent of individuals served in housing programs and 34% served in non-housing programs were identified as African-American compared with 6.5% in the county's overall population.
- **Veterans were overrepresented compared to the overall county population.** Of the single individuals in Safe Harbors, 1,289 (13%) were veterans compared to 10% of the overall county population.
- **A total of 1,807 single individuals were identified by participating programs as chronically homeless.**
- **Participating programs served 1,774 young adult heads of household (18-24 year olds) and 196 youth heads of household (13-17 year olds).** Nearly all of the youth were unaccompanied.

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## Introduction

The collective goal of Safe Harbors' stakeholders and participating agencies is to end homelessness, not manage it. Now five years into the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County we are working towards achieving that goal. A large part of informing the goal of creating housing opportunities for every person is achieved through the collection of data. Safe Harbors is tasked with collecting data and creating a community-wide picture of homelessness and what is needed to end it.

Still, far too many people in our community are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. By giving the stakeholders (policy makers, elected officials service providers and other) a clear picture of who is in need and how they are being served, we can improve our response and work together to end homelessness and increase access to services, create healthier communities and improve collaborative efforts.

### ***What is Safe Harbors?***

Safe Harbors is King County's Web-based Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The system is used to collect and analyze information about people in King County who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to learn more about the services they use. Safe Harbors is managed by the City of Seattle's Human Services Department and overseen by a partnership among the City of Seattle, King County's Department of Community and Human Services, and United Way of King County.

Safe Harbors was developed to allow the Seattle/King County Continuum of Care to monitor progress toward reaching the goal of ending homelessness and also in response to federal and state requirements. Local jurisdictions must have an HMIS to be competitive for Federal McKinney-Vento funding as well as Washington State Department of Commerce homeless service funds, and locally administered funds from the City of Seattle, King County and United Way of King County.

### ***Who participates?***

Homeless housing and service programs that receive funding from the City of Seattle, King County, or United Way are contractually required to enter information about their clients into Safe Harbors HMIS.

During 2009, the 226 participating programs included 44 emergency shelters; 88 transitional housing programs; 43 permanent housing and permanent supportive housing programs; 24 services only programs; 25 prevention and rapid re-housing programs; and two safe havens.

As part of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), in 2009 the City of Seattle and King County received federal stimulus funds specifically for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing programs. These programs are required to enter all data directly into the HMIS. Please see the Appendix on page 18 for a full list of participating agencies.

### ***What information is collected?***

Safe Harbors collects information on each client who receives services at participating programs, with the exception of those using confidential domestic violence housing programs. The information that is collected is designed to help us understand who the users of these services are, why they are at risk of homelessness or became homeless, and what help they need to regain stability. Information collected includes age, gender, race, veteran status, education level, employment status, reasons for homelessness, history of homelessness, special needs, last place of residence, and destination upon exiting the services. Clients provide written informed consent to have their identified data recorded in Safe Harbors.

## 2009 Data Notes

- This report does not represent all individuals who experienced homelessness or all individuals receiving homeless or prevention services in King County. Faith-based and private agencies that do not receive any public funding are not required to enter data into Safe Harbors. Individuals facing homelessness who do not access services are also not represented in this report.
- In addition, nearly 35% of client service records did not contain enough identifying information to be used in an unduplicated count. Without identifiers, there is no way to know if these records represent unique individuals or duplicate records. These records were set aside and not used in the analysis. It can therefore be assumed that the data provided is an undercount of those who have faced homelessness or received services in 2009. Safe Harbors' staff and sponsoring partners continue to work with agencies to increase the number of records with sufficient identifying information.
- 2009 marked a year of change for the Safe Harbors HMIS. A Vendor-supported software system (Adsystem) was implemented at all participating agencies over the course of the year. Many new programs, including homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing programs, were added to the data set and services collected that had never been included in Safe Harbors' scope in years past. As a result of these changes, comparisons between 2008 and 2009 data should be made with caution.
- When individuals and families received services multiple times during the year, their most recent record was used in analysis. A comparison of services episodes was not conducted for this report.
- This report separates the data from housing and non-housing programs. The first part of the report looks at housing programs, which include emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and safe havens. The second section looks at non-housing programs, which include service only and homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing programs. Analysis of veterans, youth and young adults, and chronically homeless people include individuals from both housing and non-housing programs.

## Agency Participation and Data Collection Overview

### Service Records by Program Type

A total of 21,565 identifiable service records appeared in Safe Harbors in 2009. This does not include service records that did not have enough information, such as name, date of birth, and Social Security number, to be identified. Those records were set aside and not used for this analysis.

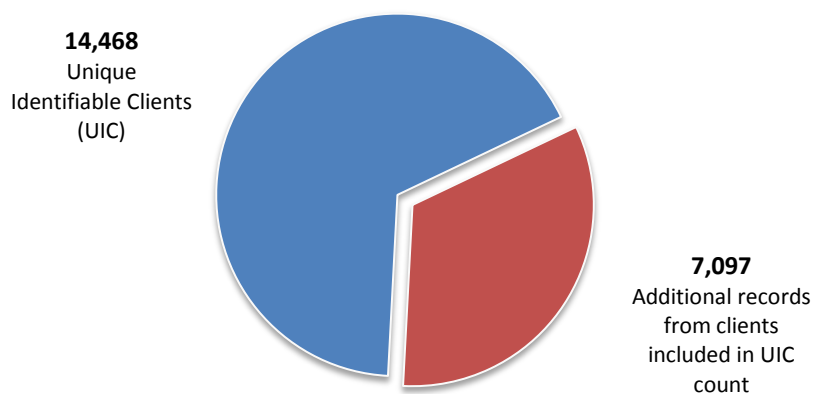
**Table I. Total Identifiable Records Submitted**

	Total		Single Individuals		Persons in Families	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Total Identifiable Records Submitted</b>	<b>21,565</b>		<b>16,192</b>		<b>5,373</b>	
<b>Program Type</b>						
Emergency Shelters	13,922	65%	11,753	73%	2,169	40%
Transitional Housing	2,958	14%	1,416	9%	1,542	29%
Permanent Housing	1,610	7%	1,313	8%	297	6%
Safe Haven	23	0%	23	0%	0	0%
Services only	1,757	8%	1,194	7%	563	10%
Homeless prevention services	1,295	6%	493	3%	802	15%

### Categories of Identifiable Service Records

Of the 21,565 identifiable records, 14,468 of those represent unique clients. The remaining 7,097 are additional service records for those clients.

**Chart 1. Categories of Identifiable Service Records**



## Housing Program Data

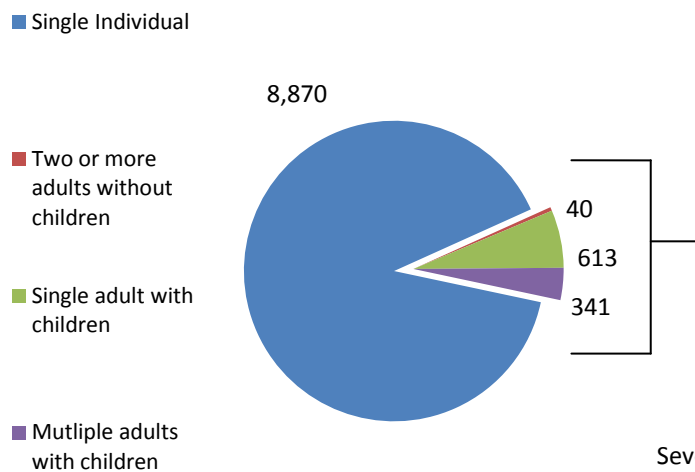
The majority of data collected in Safe Harbors are collected from housing programs. These programs include emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and safe havens.

Within housing programs, there were a total of **12,348** unique identifiable records. The next four pages summarize housing program data.

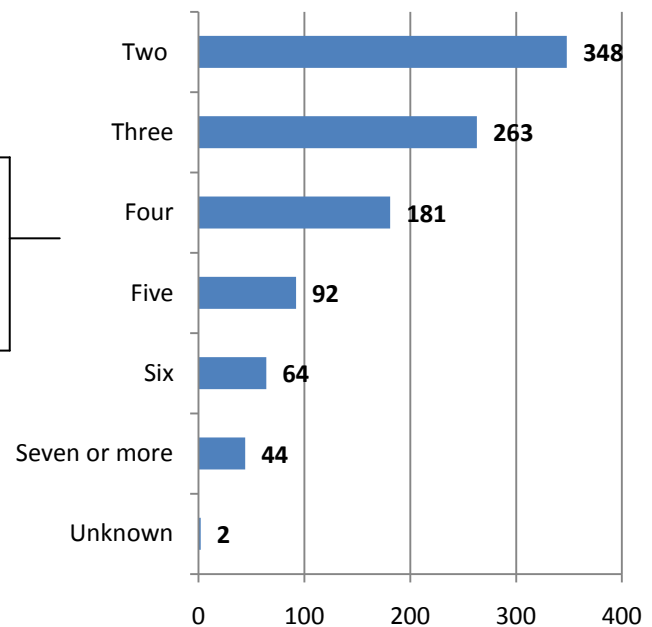
## Household Characteristics

In 2009 9,864 households served in housing programs. The majority (8,870) were single individuals. The remaining 994 comprised households with a single adult with children, multiple adults with children, or multiple adults without children. The pie chart below shows the number within each household type. The bar chart below shows the number of individuals in these 994 households.

**Chart 2. Household Types Served**



**Chart 3. Number of Individuals**



*Demographic Summary: Of All Individuals Served In Housing Programs*

**Table 2. Demographic Summary of All Individuals Served in Housing Programs**

	Total		Single Individuals		Adults in Families		Children in Families		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,348<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>8,898</b>		<b>1,468</b>		<b>2,030</b>		
<b>Gender<sup>2</sup></b>									
Male	7,573	61.3%	6,179	69.4%	402	27.4%	1,005	49.5%	
Female	4,736	38.4%	2,693	30.3%	1,053	71.7%	1,025	50.5%	
Other or Unknown	39	0%	26	0.3%	13	0.0%		0.0%	
<b>Race</b>									
American Indian or Alaska Native	517	4.2%	407	4.6%	60	4.1%	54	2.7%	
Asian	284	2.3%	211	2.4%	36	2.5%	37	1.8%	
Black or African American	4,556	36.9%	2,644	29.7%	805	54.8%	1,130	55.7%	
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	197	1.6%	101	1.1%	35	2.4%	63	3.1%	
White, Hispanic/Latino	615	5.0%	327	3.7%	106	7.2%	184	9.1%	
White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino	4,500	36.4%	3,866	43.4%	313	21.3%	336	16.6%	
Multiple Races	408	3.3%	207	2.3%	59	4.0%	145	7.1%	
Other or Unknown	1,271	10.3%	1,135	12.8%	54	3.7%	81	4.0%	
<b>Latino/Hispanic Ethnicity</b>									
Yes	1324	10.7%	865	9.7%	164	11.2%	298	14.7%	
No	10,746	87.0%	7,791	87.6%	1272	86.6%	1728	85.1%	
Unknown	278	2.3%	242	2.7%	32	2.2%	4	0.2%	
<b>Age</b>									
Birth to 5 years	912	7.4%	--	--	--	--	911	44.9%	
6 to 12 years	714	5.8%	--	--	--	--	709	34.9%	
13 to 17 years	506	4.1%	116	1.3%	--	--	391	19.3%	
18 to 30 years	2,390	19.4%	1,706	19.2%	709	48.3%	--	--	
31 to 50 years	4,354	35.3%	3,718	41.8%	652	44.4%	--	--	
51 to 61 years	2,486	20.1%	2,415	27.1%	75	5.1%	--	--	
62 years and older	711	5.8%	692	7.8%	19	1.3%	--	--	
Unknown	275	2.2%	251	2.8%	13	0.9%	19	0.9%	

<sup>1</sup> Some individuals were served in multiple household types. The total column uses their last identifiable service record in the system, while the breakout uses their last identifiable record within that family type. This is why the columns do not total across.

<sup>2</sup> Several individuals identified as transgender, but the number was not large enough to create a separate category, so they were included in the “Other or Unknown” category.

## Education, Employment and Income: Clients Served in Housing Programs

A total of **9,864** households were served in housing programs. The table below provides data on the heads of households.

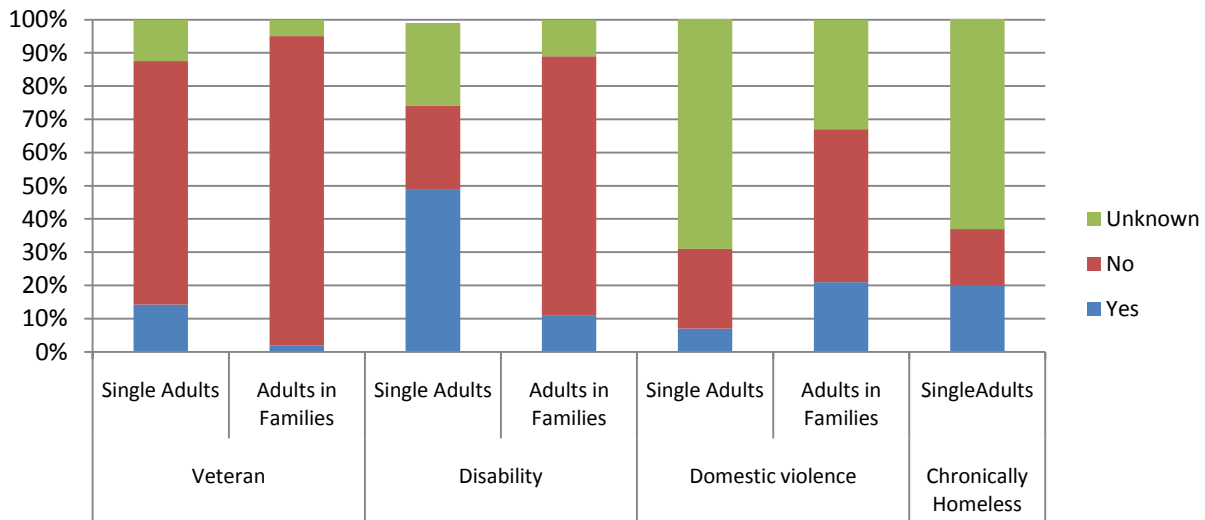
**Table 3. Education and Employment Status of Heads of Households**

	Total Households			Single Individuals			Families		
	N	%	% <sup>3</sup> Known	N	%	% <sup>3</sup> Known	N	%	% <sup>3</sup> Known
<b>Highest level of education</b>	<b>9,864</b>			<b>8,898</b>			<b>1,008</b>		
No diploma or GED	918	9.3%	36.8%	630	7.1%	36.9%	299	29.7%	37.1%
High school diploma or GED	1,025	10.4%	41.1%	698	7.8%	40.8%	332	32.9%	41.2%
Some college or higher	551	5.6%	22.1%	381	4.3%	22.3%	175	17.4%	21.7%
Unknown	7,370	74.7%		7189	80.8%		202	20.0%	
<b>Employment status</b>									
Employed	303	3.1%	12.7%	242	2.7%	11.6%	63	6.3%	21.4%
Unemployed	2,077	21.1%	87.3%	1838	20.7%	88.4%	231	22.9%	78.6%
Unknown	7,484	75.9%		6818	76.6%		714	70.8%	

- Forty-two percent of households reported an income. For those households reporting an income (n=4,008), median monthly income was \$653 for families (n=805) and \$623 for single individuals (n=3,203).

## Subpopulation: Adult Clients Served in Housing Programs

**Chart 4. Subpopulations of Adult Clients Served in Housing Programs**



- For single adults, the most commonly reported disability was mental health problems followed by substance abuse problems and physical disability. For adults in families, mental health problems was the most commonly reported disability, followed by physical disabilities and substance abuse problems.

<sup>3</sup> The "% Known" column calculates the percent in each category without the "unknowns," clients from whom information was not collected.

*Residence Prior to Program Entry (Clients Served in Housing Programs)*

**Table 4. Residence Prior to Program Entry**

	Total Households			Single Individuals			Families		
	N	%	% Known <sup>4</sup>	N	%	% Known	N	%	% Known
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,864</b>			<b>8,898</b>			<b>1,008</b>		
<b>Living Arrangement the Night before Program Entry</b>									
<i>Place not meant for human habitation</i>	761	7.7%	13.5%	716	8.0%	14.7%	40	4.0%	5.3%
<i>Emergency shelter</i>	2,279	23.1%	40.5%	2,063	23.2%	42.2%	220	21.8%	29.3%
<i>Transitional housing</i>	389	3.9%	6.9%	338	3.8%	6.9%	50	5.0%	6.6%
<b>Total from Homeless Situation</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>61.0%</b>	<b>3,117</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>63.8%</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>30.8%</b>	<b>41.2%</b>
<i>Permanent supportive housing</i>	151	1.5%	2.7%	147	1.7%	3.0%	6	0.6%	0.8%
<i>Rented housing unit</i>	218	2.2%	3.9%	177	2.0%	3.6%	43	4.3%	5.7%
<i>Owned housing unit</i>	102	1.0%	1.8%	88	1.0%	1.8%	14	1.4%	1.9%
<i>Staying with family or friends</i>	929	9.4%	16.5%	633	7.1%	13.0%	306	30.4%	40.7%
<b>Total from Housing Situation</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>24.9%</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>49.1%</b>
<i>Psychiatric facility</i>	21	0.2%	0.4%	21	0.2%	0.4%	0	--	--
<i>Substance abuse treatment center or detox</i>	43	0.4%	0.8%	37	0.4%	0.8%	6	0.6%	0.8%
<i>Hospital (non-psychiatric)</i>	44	0.4%	0.8%	44	0.5%	0.9%	1	0.1%	0.1%
<i>Jail, prison, or juvenile detention</i>	105	1.1%	1.9%	105	1.2%	2.1%	0	--	--
<b>Total from Institutional Settings</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<i>Hotel or motel (no voucher)</i>	125	1.3%	2.2%	73	0.8%	1.5%	55	5.5%	7.3%
<i>Foster care home</i>	30	0.3%	0.5%	29	0.3%	0.6%	1	0.1%	0.1%
<i>Other living situation</i>	425	4.3%	7.6%	414	4.7%	8.5%	10	1.0%	1.3%
<b>Total from Other Situations</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>4,242</b>	<b>43%</b>		<b>4,013</b>	<b>45.1%</b>		<b>256</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	
<b>Stability of Previous Night's Living Arrangements</b>									
<i>Stayed 1 week or less</i>	807	8.2%	15.4%	745	8.4%	16.6%	64	6.3%	8.6%
<i>Stayed more than 1 week, but less than a month</i>	380	3.9%	7.3%	313	3.5%	7.0%	71	7.0%	9.6%
<i>Stayed 1 to 3 months</i>	780	7.9%	14.9%	587	6.6%	13.0%	199	19.7%	26.9%
<i>Stayed more than 3 months, but less than a year</i>	1,323	13.4%	25.3%	1,120	12.6%	24.9%	214	21.2%	28.9%
<i>Stayed 1 year or longer</i>	1,937	19.6%	37.1%	1,736	19.5%	38.6%	192	19.0%	25.9%
<i>Unknown</i>	4,637	47.0%		4,397	49.4%		268	26.6%	
<b>Location of Last Permanent Housing</b>									
<i>Seattle</i>	2,844	28.8%	57.0%	2,430	27.3%	58.4%	421	41.8%	49.6%
<i>Other King County</i>	735	7.5%	14.7%	492	5.5%	11.8%	252	25.0%	29.7%
<i>Other Washington state</i>	384	3.9%	7.7%	342	3.8%	8.2%	44	4.4%	5.2%
<i>Outside Washington (including outside US)</i>	1,023	10.4%	20.5%	895	10.1%	21.5%	132	13.1%	15.5%
<i>Unknown</i>	4,878	49.5%		4,739	53.3%		159	15.8%	

<sup>4</sup> The “% Known” column calculates the percent in each category without the “unknowns,” clients from whom information was not collected.

## Exit Destination from Housing Programs

To learn more about clients after they exit housing programs, the last identifiable record from each client was used. These records do not necessarily reflect clients' ultimate exit from the Continuum of Care, as clients may have re-entered the system but not provided identifying information, or may re-enter in 2010.

**Table 5. Exit Destination from Housing Programs**

	Total Households			Single Individuals			Families		
	N	%	% Known <sup>5</sup>	N	%	% Known	N	%	% Known
<b>Last exit from emergency shelter</b>	<b>3,170</b>			<b>2,939</b>			<b>302</b>		
Total to Permanent Housing	149	4.7%	35.4%	68	2.3%	30.1%	92	30.5%	40.4%
Total to Homeless/Transitional or Institutional Situation	223	7.0%	53.0%	120	4.1%	53.1%	124	41.1%	54.4%
Total to Other Situations	49	1.5%	11.6%	38	1.3%	16.8%	12	4.0%	5.3%
Unknown	2,749	86.7%		2,713	92.3%		74	24.5%	
<b>Last exit from transitional housing</b>	<b>518</b>			<b>433</b>			<b>122</b>		
Total to Permanent Housing	231	44.6%	58.6%	168	38.8%	53.8%	81	66.4%	74.3%
Total to Homeless/Transitional or Institutional Situation	128	24.7%	32.5%	114	26.3%	36.5%	21	17.2%	19.3%
Total to Other Situations	35	6.8%	8.9%	30	6.9%	9.6%	7	5.7%	6.4%
Unknown	124	23.9%		121	27.9%		13	10.7%	
<b>Last exit from permanent housing<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>74</b>			<b>71</b>					
Total to Permanent Housing	18	24.3%	48.6%	14	19.7%	43.8%			
Total to Homeless/Transitional or Institutional Situation	11	14.9%	29.7%	12	16.9%	37.5%			
Total to Other Situations	8	10.8%	21.6%	6	8.5%	18.8%			
Unknown	37	50.0%		39	54.9%				

<sup>5</sup> The "% Known" column calculates the percent in each category without the "unknowns," the clients from whom information was not collected.

<sup>6</sup> The number of families who exited from permanent housing was too low to report.

## Non-Housing Program Data

A smaller percentage of individuals (2,782) were served in service only and homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing programs. These programs provide services such as rent assistance, childcare assistance, and hygiene services. The data below represent individuals served in these programs.

### Demographic Summary of All Individuals Served in Non-Housing Programs

**Table 6. Demographic Summary of All Individuals Served in Non-Housing Programs**

	Total <sup>7</sup>		Single Individuals		Adults in Families		Children in Families	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Gender<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>2,782</b>		<b>1,488</b>		<b>561</b>		<b>749</b>	
Male	1,248	44.9%	711	47.8%	162	29%	379	50.6%
Female	1,525	54.8%	772	51.9%	398	71%	367	49.0%
Other or Unknown	9	0.3%	5	0.3%	1	0%	3	0.4%
<b>Race</b>								
American Indian or Alaska Native	103	3.7%	62	4.2%	14	2.5%	27	3.6%
Asian	53	1.9%	19	1.3%	17	3.0%	17	2.3%
Black or African American	932	33.5%	560	37.6%	159	28.3%	220	29.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	85	3.1%	32	2.2%	21	3.7%	34	4.5%
White, Hispanic/Latino	313	11.3%	46	3.1%	104	18.5%	93	12.4%
White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino	719	25.8%	528	35.5%	102	18.2%	163	21.8%
Multiple Races	180	6.5%	108	7.3%	19	3.4%	54	7.2%
Other or Unknown	397	14.3%	133	8.9%	125	22.3%	141	18.8%
<b>Latino/Hispanic Ethnicity</b>								
Yes	729	26.2%	156	10.5%	241	43.0%	334	44.6%
No	2,005	72.1%	1287	86.5%	318	56.7%	414	55.3%
Unknown	48	1.7%	45	3.0%	2	0.4%	1	0.1%
<b>Age</b>								
Birth to 5 years	341	12.3%	--	--	--	--	341	45.5%
6 to 12 years	275	9.9%	--	--	--	--	275	36.7%
13 to 17 years	219	7.9%	88	5.9%	--	--	132	17.6%
18 to 30 years	1,066	38.3%	778	52.3%	294	52.4%	--	--
31 to 50 years	681	24.5%	442	29.7%	248	44.2%	--	--
51 to 61 years	151	5.4%	137	9.2%	14	2.5%	--	--
62 and older	25	0.9%	24	1.6%	1	0.2%	--	--
Unknown	24	0.9%	19	1.3%	4	0.7%	1	0.1%

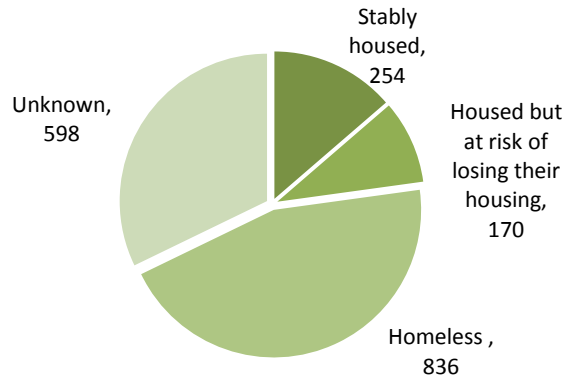
<sup>7</sup> Some individuals were served in multiple household types. The total column uses their last service record in the system, while the breakout uses their last identifiable record within that family type. This is why the columns do not add up correctly across.

<sup>8</sup> Several individuals identified as transgender, but the number was not large enough to create a separate category, so they were included in the "Other or Unknown" category.

### Household Demographics (Non-Housing Programs)

Housing status is collected at the time an individual or household enters a program. Non-housing programs serve both homeless and housed clients. A total of **1,858** households were served in non-housing programs. The chart below provides data on households.

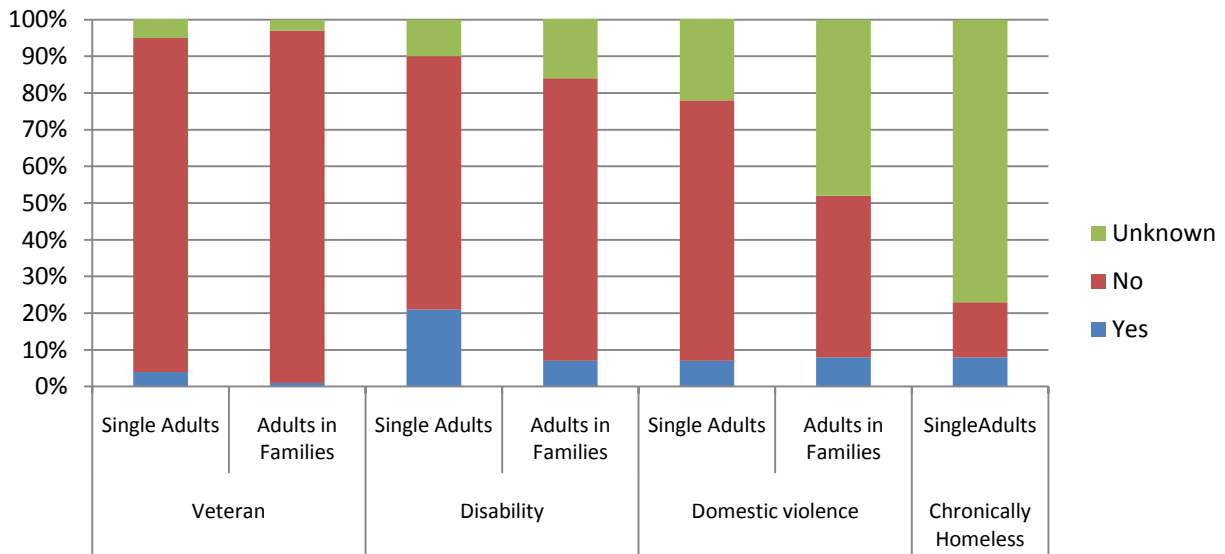
**Chart 5. Housing Status at Entry for Non-Housing Programs**



- Nearly 80% of households served (N=1,858) were single individuals, 12% were single adults with children, 8% were multiple adults with children, and nearly 1% were multiple adults without children.
- Forty-one percent of households reported an income. For those households reporting an income (n=771), median monthly income was \$1,157 for families (n=295) and \$773 for single individuals (n=476).

### Subpopulation: Adult Clients Served in Non-Housing Programs

**Chart 6. Subpopulations of Adult Clients Served in Non-Housing Programs**

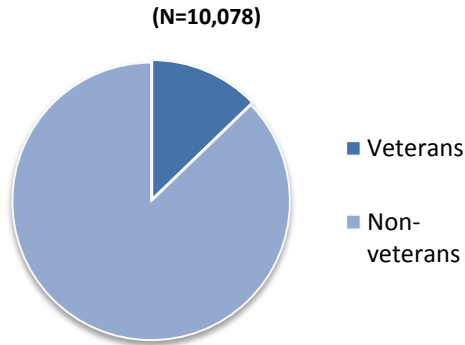


- For single adults, the most commonly reported disability was mental health problems followed by substance abuse problems and physical disability. For adults in families, mental health problems was the most commonly reported disability, followed by physical disabilities and chronic health conditions.

## Veterans (All Program Types)

1,289 single individuals served in all program types reported being a veteran. This is 13% of the total number of single individuals and 15% of those who responded to the veteran question.

**Chart 7. Veterans served in All Program Types**



- 340 veterans were identified as chronically homeless.
- Just under one-third of veterans (388 individuals) reported having spent the previous night in a shelter.
- 762 veterans reported being disabled. Mental health problems was the most commonly identified disability followed by substance abuse and physical disabilities.

## Demographics of Veterans (All Program Types)

**Table 7. Demographic Summary of Veterans Serve in All Program Types**

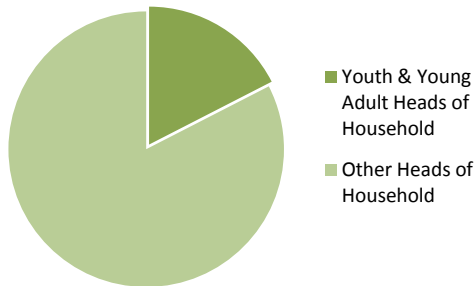
	N	%	% Known <sup>9</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,289</b>		
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	1,190	92.3%	92.5%
Female	96	7.4%	7.5%
Unknown	3	0.2%	
<b>Race</b>			
American Indian or Alaska Native	56	4.3%	4.6%
Asian	13	1.0%	1.1%
Black or African American	424	32.9%	34.7%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	10	0.8%	0.8%
White, Hispanic/Latino	28	2.2%	2.3%
White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino	675	52.4%	55.3%
Multiple Races	15	1.2%	1.2%
Other or Unknown	68	5.3%	
<b>Latino/Hispanic Ethnicity</b>			
Yes	61	4.7%	4.8%
No	1,206	93.5%	95.2%
Unknown	23	1.8%	
<b>Age</b>			
18 to 30 years	68	5.3%	5.3%
31 to 50 years	447	34.7%	34.9%
51 to 61 years	565	43.8%	44.2%
62 and older	199	15.4%	15.6%
Unknown	10	0.8%	

<sup>9</sup> The “% Known” column calculates the percent in each category without the “unknowns,” clients from whom information was not collected.

## Youth and Young Adults (All Program Types)

A total of **196** youth heads of households (ages 13 – 17) and **1,774** young adult heads of household (ages 18 – 24) were served in all program types.

**Chart 7. Youth and Young Adults Served**  
(N=11,284)



- 86% of young adults were unaccompanied, 11% were heads of single parent families, and 4% were in households with multiple adults. Nearly all of the youth served were unaccompanied.
- Nearly half of youth and young adults reported staying with friends or family (30%), emergency shelter (10%), or a place not meant for habitation (8%) the night before being served.
- 272 youth and young adults reported having a disability. 366 youth and young adults reported being the victim of domestic violence.

### Demographics of Youth and Young Adults (All Program Types)

**Table 8. Demographic Summary of Youth and Young Adults Served in All Program Types**

	Youth			Young Adults		
	N	%	% Known <sup>10</sup>	N	%	% Known
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>			<b>1,774</b>		
<b>Gender<sup>11</sup></b>						
Male	124	63.3%	63.6%	839	47.3%	47.6%
Female	71	36.2%	36.4%	925	52.1%	52.4%
Other or Unknown	1	0.5%		10	0.6%	
<b>Race</b>						
American Indian or Alaska Native	11	5.6%	6.0%	79	4.5%	4.9%
Asian	5	2.6%	2.7%	34	1.9%	2.1%
Black or African American	59	30.1%	32.1%	568	32.0%	35.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3	1.5%	1.6%	32	1.8%	2.0%
White, Hispanic/Latino	12	6.1%	6.5%	77	4.3%	4.8%
White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino	65	33.2%	35.3%	663	37.4%	41.2%
Multiple Races	29	14.8%	15.8%	156	8.8%	9.7%
Other or Unknown	12	6.1%		165	9.3%	
<b>Latino/Hispanic Ethnicity</b>						
Yes	29	14.8%	15.7%	212	12.0%	12.3%
No	156	79.6%	84.3%	1511	85.2%	87.7%
Unknown	11	5.6%		51	2.9%	
<b>Age</b>						
13 to 17 years	196	100.0%	100.0%	--	--	--
18 to 21 years	--	--	--	1022	57.6%	57.8%
22 to 24 years	--	--	--	747	42.1%	42.2%
Unknown	--	--	--	5	0.3%	

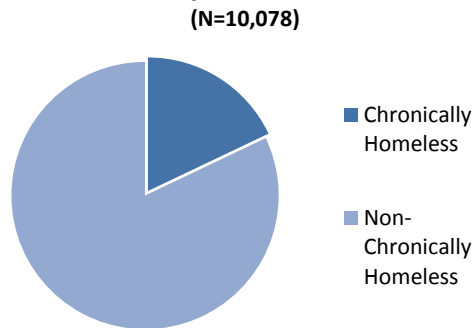
<sup>10</sup> The “% Known” column calculates the percent in each category without the “unknowns,” clients from whom information was not collected.

<sup>11</sup> Several individuals identified as transgender, but the number was not large enough to create a separate category, so they were included in the “Other or Unknown” category.

## Chronically Homeless (All Program Types)

1,807 single individuals were reported as being chronically homeless from all program types. This is 18% of the total number of single individuals but 53% of those who responded.<sup>12</sup>

**Chart 8. Chronically Homeless Individuals Served**



- 340 or 19% of chronically homeless adults were identified as veterans.
- Over half were staying in emergency shelter (42%) or a place not meant for habitation (10%) before entering a program.
- Mental health problems was the most commonly identified disability (982 individuals) followed by substance abuse problems (899 individuals) and physical disabilities (487 individuals).

### Demographics of Chronically Homeless Individuals (All Program Types)

**Table 9. Demographic Summary of Chronically Homeless Individuals Served in All Program Types**

	N	%	% Known <sup>13</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,807</b>		
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	1,410	78.0%	78.1%
Female	395	21.9%	21.9%
Other or Unknown	2	0.1%	
<b>Race</b>			
American Indian or Alaska Native	101	5.6%	6.0%
Asian	42	2.3%	2.5%
Black or African American	556	30.8%	33.2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	21	1.2%	1.3%
White, Hispanic/Latino	117	6.5%	7.0%
White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino	813	45.0%	48.5%
Multiple Races	27	1.5%	1.6%
Unknown	130	7.2%	
<b>Latino/Hispanic Ethnicity</b>			
Yes	174	9.6%	10.1%
No	1,550	85.8%	89.9%
Unknown	83	4.6%	
<b>Age</b>			
18 to 30 years	151	8.4%	8.4%
31 to 50 years	941	52.1%	52.2%
51 to 61 years	571	31.6%	31.7%
62 and older	138	7.6%	7.7%
Unknown	6	0.3%	

<sup>12</sup> In 2009, chronically homeless was not a required field in HMIS so the response rate for this question was low. In addition, it was a yes or no question in the HMIS, and not determined based on the length or episodes of homelessness and disability (as defined by HUD). Given the community interest in this group of homeless individuals this was changed in the system in 2010 so agencies will be able to provide a more accurate picture of chronically homeless clients.

<sup>13</sup> The "% Known" column calculates the percent in each category without the "unknowns," clients from whom information was not collected.

## Appendix: Agencies Participating in Safe Harbors in 2009

Archdiocesan Housing Authority	Multifaith Works
Asian Counseling & Referral Services	Multi-Service Center
Auburn Youth Resources	Muslim Housing Services
Black Diamond Community Center	Neighborcare Health-45th Street Clinic
Catholic Community Services (King County)	Neighborhood House
Child Care Resources	Pioneer Human Services
Church Council of Greater Seattle	Plymouth Housing Group
Community Psychiatric Clinic	Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Street
Consejo Counseling and Referral Service	Refugee Federation Service Center
Downtown Emergency Services Center	ROAR of Washington
Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns	Rising Out of the Shadows
El Centro de la Raza	SHARE-WHEEL
Evergreen Treatment Services	Solid Ground
FAVOR	St. Stephens Housing
First Place School	Compass Housing Alliance
Friends of Youth	The Salvation Army (King County)
FUSION	The Sophia Way
Goodwill Development Association	Therapeutic Health Services
Harborview Medical Center Mental Health	United Indians of All Tribes
Hopelink	Urban League of Seattle
Immanuel Community Services	Valley Cities Counseling
Interaction Transitions	Vashon Youth & Family Services
International District Housing Alliance	Wellspring Family Services
Kent Youth and Family Services	Workforce Development Council
King County Work Training Program	YMCA of Greater Seattle
Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing (KITH)	Dove House Youth and Outreach Services
Lifelong AIDS Alliance	YouthCare
Low Income Housing Institute	YWCA of King and Snohomish Counties

## Glossary of Terms

*Chronically Homeless:* HUD defines a chronically homeless person as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

*Continuum of Care:* HUD defines a Continuum of Care as networks of organizations that participate in local homeless assistance program planning.

*Duplicate Record:* Additional service records for Unique Identifiable Clients. Clients are often served at multiple programs and receive a new service record for each program.

*Emergency Shelter:* Any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of homeless persons. The length of stay can range from one night up to as much as three months.

*HPRP (Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing) Program:* Programs that provide financial assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

*Household:* A household is defined as an individual or group of people who are served together. This could refer to a single unaccompanied individual, a family, multiple families, or unrelated individuals who are being served together.

*Identifiable Record:* A record that has sufficient identifying information (Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number) to be matched to other records in the system.

*Permanent Supportive Housing:* Long-term community-based housing and supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities. The intent of this type of supportive housing is to enable this special needs population to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or provided by other public or private service agencies. There is no definite length of stay.

*Safe Havens:* A form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions who are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. It is expected that clients will be re-engaged with treatment services as they become stabilized and learn to trust service providers.

*Service Record:* A service record refers to a collection of data on a client served in a program. A client can have multiple service records depending on the number of times the client was served by programs.

*Services Only Program:* Non-housing services providing support to those who may be homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

*Transitional Housing:* HUD defines transitional housing as a project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate support services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months. For purposes of the HOME program, there is not a HUD-approved time period for moving to independent living.

*Unique Identifiable Client:* A client that has sufficient identifying information to be recognized as a unique person. Because this unique person could have multiple records in the system, their last record is often used for analysis.

*Veteran:* Anyone who has been discharged from the military generally after at least two years of service whether they served on active duty in a conflict or not.

**Safe Harbors is a project of**

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United Way of King County

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**Gretchen Bruce**, Program Manager



**Safe Harbors**

