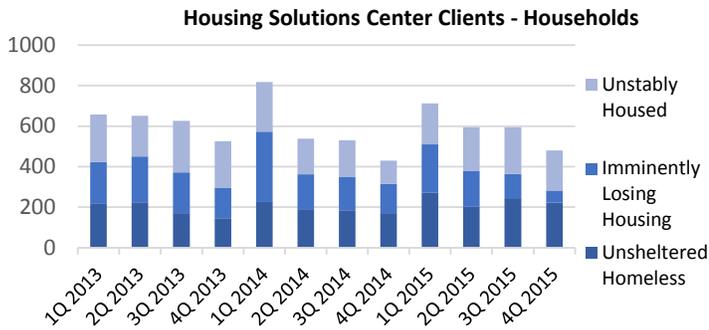


Homelessness in Kitsap County

Updated: February 2016

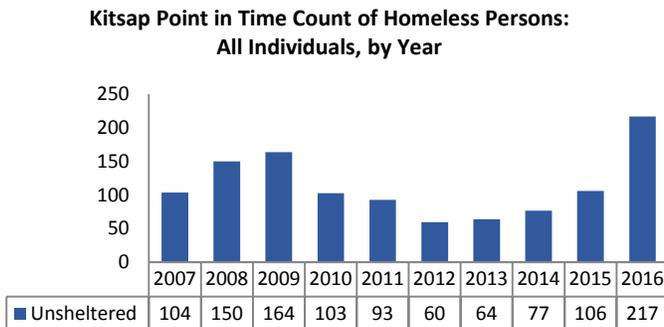
Households Experiencing Homelessness Rising

The Housing Solutions Center reports 941 literally homeless households during 2015 that were seeking housing assistance, 592 households at imminent risk of losing housing, and 848 that were unstably housed and seeking assistance. 2015 Total = 2,381 households. (Housing Solutions Center of Kitsap County)



Especially Unsheltered/literally Homeless Households

Households living without shelter in places not meant for human habitation (outside, abandon buildings, cars) has increased 100% (doubled) between 2015 and 2016 in the annual Point In Time Count (census of people experiencing homelessness).

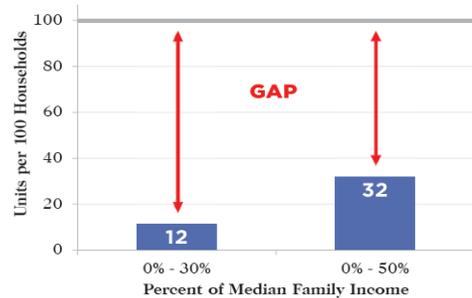


20% of Affordable Housing Units Disappearing

Between 2015 – 2017, 867 units of approximately 4,272 affordable housing units currently available are projected to be lost due to expiring restrictions on rental rates and existing subsidy programs ending. (2015 Washington Affordable Housing Needs Assessment)

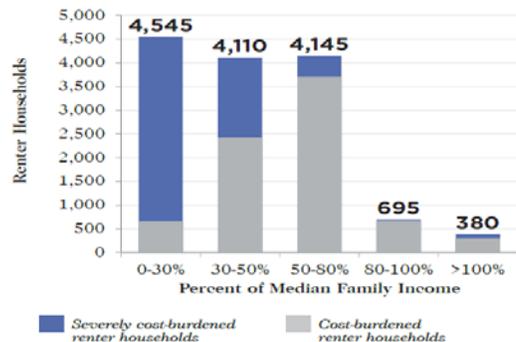
88% Affordable Housing Gap

For every 100 very low-income households who need affordable housing, there are only 12 units available; for low-income households, there are only 32 units available. The total number of very low-income renter households is 6,095 (\$22,600/year); there are 5,500 low-income households (\$37,800/year). (2015 Washington Affordable Housing Needs Assessment)



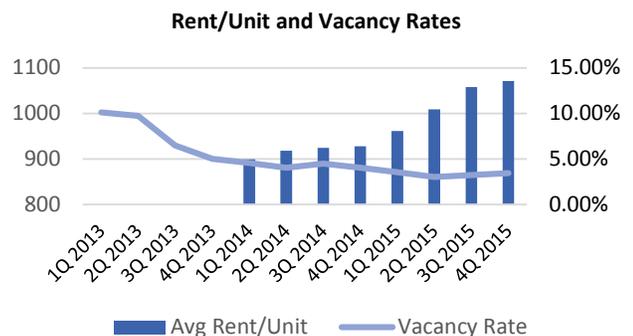
Housing Instability for 13,875 Renter Households

Many households are paying more than 30% (*cost burdened*) or 50% (*severely cost burdened*) of their income on housing, creating housing instability and loss of housing during household crises. (2015 Washington Affordable Housing Needs Assessment)



Rental Rates Increasing as Vacancy Rates Decline

The average unit rent increased 16% since the beginning of 2014, while vacancy rates fell to 3.44%. (Apartment Insights Washington)





Kitsap County Department of Human Services
 Housing & Homelessness Program
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 Bremerton, WA 98337
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What We Are Doing to Help People Experiencing Homelessness

- Kitsap has a single point of entry for any individuals or households who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability, called the Housing Solutions Center, 360-473-2035.
- Over 50 organizations participate in the Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition, a network of housing and social service providers assisting people experiencing homelessness and housing instability.
- Kitsap has a variety of subsidized housing options, including:
 - 130 emergency shelter beds (up to 90 days)
 - 102 Transitional Housing units (up to 24 months)
 - 273 Permanent Supportive Housing units (for people who need on-going case management)
 - 2719 Permanent Subsidized Housing units (for low-income households)
 - 1877 Housing Choice and Veterans Assistance Housing Vouchers (providing rental subsidies)
- Each year, Kitsap organizations receive funding for homeless programs, including (2014 amounts):
 - Federal Funding: \$673,107
 - Federal Veteran Funding: \$1.3M
 - State Funding: \$499,688
 - Local Funding: \$1.1M
- In 2015 Kitsap organizations provided housing and homeless services for more than 2,800 households; affordable housing subsidies providing an additional 4,500 low-income households with stable housing.

What You Can Do to Help

People often ask how they can help people experiencing homelessness. A brochure, called [*How to Help People Living Homeless*](#), is available at: www.kitsapgov.com/hs/housing/housing_grant.htm. It lists a variety of ideas, including:

Donate items to homeless service programs

- Hygiene kits: package up bags or purses with shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, etc.
- Socks: white tube socks and/or wool socks
- Diapers, baby formula, baby food, new car seats
- Hats, gloves, scarves
- Tents, sleeping bags, tarps
- Bus tokens, gas cards, phone cards
- Welcome baskets for people moving from shelter to permanent housing (towels, cleaning supplies, etc.)

Volunteer

- Volunteer at the Project Connect Services Fair: January 27, 2016, Sheridan Community Center, Bremerton
- Serve a meal at one of the local Community Meal Sites (hosted by many churches)
- Help at a Severe Weather Shelter (through Dept. of Emergency Management)
- Volunteer at a “Weekend Food Backpack” program for kids through schools
- Volunteer your time at one of the homeless service organizations
- Organize a community effort to gather: hygiene kits, socks, diapers, or food

Educate yourself and others

- Invite a speaker to your civic group, community group, or church
- Gather a group of friends and start a discussion group or volunteer together
- Attend Community Stakeholder Meetings about homelessness
- Read the Kitsap Homeless Housing Plan 2016 Update
- Access the Kitsap County Housing & Homelessness Program – Data and Reports page to keep up with recent statistics about homelessness: www.kitsapgov.com/hs/housing/ReportsAndData.htm

For more information about contacting Homeless Service Providers and What You Can Do, go to:

KitsapContinuumofCareCoalition.org