



Q: How many people are homeless?

A: The October 2004 Annual One Night Count of people who are homeless in King County, Washington (published by the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless), found 4,636 people in shelter or transitional programs and 2,216 people surviving outside. Another estimated 1,484 people were homeless that night throughout the county.

Q: What do we know about who they are?

A: We know that 27% are under age 18 and 20% are children 12 and under. We also know that people of color are over-represented. In 2004, the local One Night Count found that 33% were African Americans, 10% were Hispanics, and 3% were Native American (even though these groups together make up just 9% of the general population). 39% of people in shelter and transitional housing were women. Beyond that, homeless people come from all ages and backgrounds.

Q: Why don't homeless people just get a job?

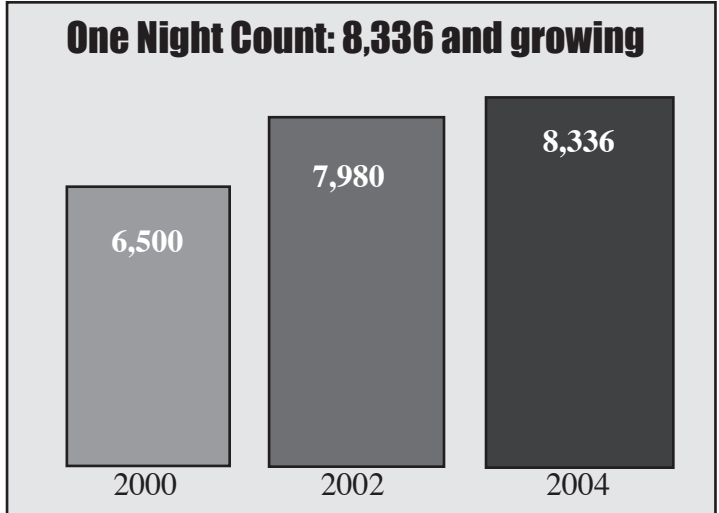
A: Many do. 22% of homeless households report employment as their primary source of income, while another 30% are temporarily or permanently disabled and receive state or federal disability income to help meet their needs (SSI, GAU, or ADATSA.) Many who are not working are seeking work.

Q: Is homelessness growing?

A: Yes. The US Conference of Mayors has reported an average growth of more than 13% annually in demand for shelter since 1999. Last year alone, shelter demand in America grew by 6%. While it's good news that last year's growth was smaller than recent years, we should be moving in the other direction.

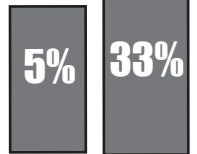
Q: Can we end homelessness?

A: Finally, people are talking about ending homelessness, not just managing it. For those efforts to succeed, federal, state, and local leaders have to commit resources to develop affordable housing, services to help people get back on their feet, and jobs that pay a living wage. We won't end homelessness by cutting programs that help. To end homelessness, people like you will need to speak up and tell leaders to make it a priority.

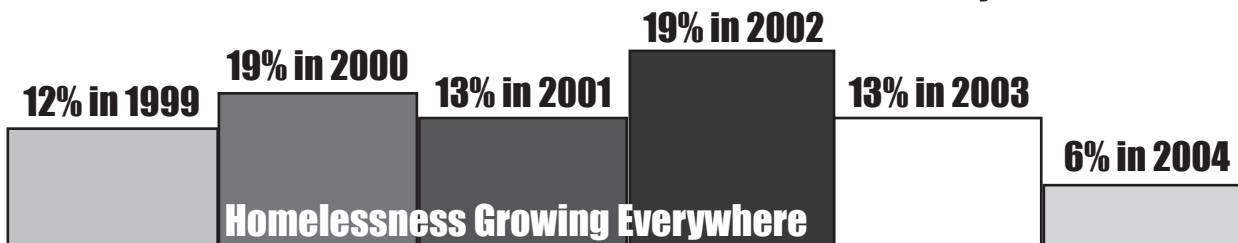


AFRICAN AMERICANS AS PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION

AFRICAN AMERICANS AS PERCENTAGE OF HOMELESS



A National Problem: annual increase in shelter demand in major cities



Sources: US Conference of Mayors, King County Annual One Night Count