The Point-In-Time Count is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) national annual count of unsheltered and sheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. Data were collected through surveys and observations by the Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition. Data include all 28 people who stayed at Bethel Winter House (BWH) and all 17 adults who stayed at the Tundra Women’s Coalition’s (TWC) emergency domestic violence/sexual assault shelter and transitional housing the night of January 30, 2023, as well as street outreach contacts and Project Homeless Connect (PHC) attendees. Data were collected during outreach with Bethel Police Department on January 30, 2023, and at PHC, BWH, and TWC on January 31, 2023 (temp. 28°F).

76 Total people who were experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness.

7 People attended the event who were not homeless and are not included in the analysis.

72 People completed surveys who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness, including temporarily staying with friends/family and transitional housing. Surveyed during outreach (2), at PHC (28), BWH (25), TWC (17).

4 People were observed (did not complete surveys) during Project Homeless Connect (1) and BWH (3).

57 Total attended Project Homeless Connect (28 surveys, 21 attendees surveyed at BWH or TWC, 1 observation, 7 not eligible)

11 People (15%) surveyed had not been surveyed prior. 9 of the 11 were staying at TWC.

15 volunteers conducted the surveys representing the Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition, from:
 Bethel Community Services Foundation
 Bethel Police Department
 Bethel Winter House
 Choosing Our Roots
 Public Health
 Tundra Women’s Coalition
 UAF Kuskokwim Campus
 VFW Auxiliary
 Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Survey Analysis (72 Participants)

- Frequency of Age Ranges:
  - Age Range: 18-70
  - 18-24: 8%
  - 25-29: 11%
  - 30-39: 26%
  - 40-49: 28%
  - 50-59: 15%
  - 60+: 11%

- Average age: 42.3

- Gender:
  - Male: 44%
  - Female: 56%
  - Other genders: 0%

- Cohabitation Configuration:
  - Couple With No Children: 13%
  - Single Adult: 1%
  - Single Parent: 24%
  - Grandparent and Child: 63%

- Sexual Orientation:
  - Heterosexual: 93%
  - Lesbian: 3%
  - Doesn’t know: 1%
  - Refused: 1%

- 7% are veterans (and also served in National Guard)
- 74% are domestic violence survivors
- 82% are Calista shareholders (AK Native Regional Corp)

Race:
- 93% American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
- 3% White
- 1.4% American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous & Black, African American, or African
- 1.4% American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous & White
- 1.4% Black, African American, or African
95% of people with a disabling condition reported that at least 1 of their conditions prevents them from stability (i.e., long-lasting and impairs ability to live independently)

Prevalence of Disabling Conditions

- Alcohol Misuse: 29%
- Physical*: 18%
- Developmental / Intellectual: 14%
- Drug Misuse: 11%
- Chronic Health Condition: 10%
- Mental Health Condition: 6%
- Alzheimer’s / Dementia: 0.7%

*Physical includes 18 people with traumatic brain injuries

Of the people with disabling conditions:
- 65% have more than 1 condition, Average of 2.3 conditions
- 78% include Alcohol Misuse
- 45% include a Developmental / Intellectual Disability
- 68% include a Physical Disability

86% reported having at least one disabling condition
- 62 people; 144 conditions

Of the people with more than 1 condition:
- 72% include Alcohol Misuse
- 45% include a Developmental / Intellectual Disability
- 68% include a Physical Disability

Of the people with a disabling condition reported that at least 1 of their conditions prevents them from stability (i.e., long-lasting and impairs ability to live independently)

Primary Reason for Seeking Assistance

- Domestic Violence, 17%
- Substance Abuse, 15%
- Unemployed (More than 60 Days), 13%
- Loss of Job, 4%
- Living with Relative / Friend and Asked to Leave, 10%
- Legal Issues, 3%
- Illness / Injury, 3%
- Moved from within Alaska with Insufficient Funds, 4%
- Released from Jail / Prison, 3%
- House Repairs, 3%
- Death in Family, 7%
- Low Wages / Fixed Income, 7%

Additionally, 1 person (1%) each: loss of partner / roommate, new landlord evicted, overcrowding, not enough money to get to home community, theft victim, unemployed (less than 60 days).

An additional 4% declined to answer.
83% of all survey participants (n=60) were experiencing the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development’s (HUD) definition of homelessness.

![HUD-Defined Homelessness Pie Chart]

- **Literal homelessness** (emergency shelter, place not meant for habitation)
- Less than 7 nights in a temporary housing situation
- Not experiencing HUD-definition of homelessness
- Refused

### Where People Slept the Night Prior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place not meant for habitation*</th>
<th>TWC</th>
<th>BWH</th>
<th>Sobering center, jail, hospital, etc.</th>
<th>Institutional</th>
<th>Family / Friends</th>
<th>TWC transitional housing</th>
<th>Own place**</th>
<th>Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Outside, abandoned building, tent, vehicle, etc.

**50% of participants' own places lacked sufficient heat; the other 50% were temporary

### Length of Time at Current Location

- **One night or less**, 18%
- **Two-six nights**, 29%
- **One week-one month**, 32%
- **One month-90 days**, 14%
- **1 year+**, 1%

Notes: Bethel Winter House was closed 05.08.2022-10.01.2022 so people could not have stayed there for more than 1 year continuously at the time of the survey. Additionally, this section's data reflects continuous nights at the specific location, not cumulative.

73% of the people who were experiencing the HUD definition of homelessness (61% of all survey participants) have been experiencing an episode of continual homelessness longer than just their current location, i.e., they've moved between places, but always in a homeless situation.

### Length of Episode of Homelessness (HUD Definition)

- **Two-six nights**, 15%
- **One week-one month**, 12%
- **One month-90 days**, 23%
- **90 days-1 year**, 40%
- **1 year+**, 10%

96% have stayed in an emergency shelter or in a place not meant for habitation (including abandoned buildings, outside, and vehicles) at least once at some point in their lifetime.
In Bethel, we are also interested in how long individuals have been staying temporarily with friends or family to understand overcrowding and “couch surfing” in our community. We are therefore using a broader concept, housing instability, which would include these situations.

### Length of Housing Instability

- **Less than 1 year**: 55%
- **1-2 years**: 6%
- **2-5 years**: 19%
- **5-10 years**: 13%
- **More than 10 years**: 7%

**Average**: 2.7 years • **Range**: 5 nights to 20 years

### Where Participants have Been for the Past Year

- **YK Village**: 15%
- **Bethel**: 81%
- **Anchorage**: 3%
- **Incarcerated**: 1%

### Where the 81% of Participants are from who have been in Bethel for the Past Year

- **Been in Bethel & from Bethel**: 26%
- **Been in Bethel & from YK Village**: 51%
- **Been in Bethel & from Lower 48**: 3%

### Where Participants are From

- **Bethel**: 26%
- **Lower 48**: 3%
- **YK Village**: 71%

### Type of Assistance Wanted

- A permanent place to live (in Bethel or somewhere else)
- Only relocation assistance (already has a place to live somewhere other than Bethel)
- None: already owns or rents a place in Bethel
- Doesn't know

Of those **94% looking for a permanent place to live**, communities they would be willing to live in:

- **People mostly want to live in Bethel and the YK Region**:
  - **56%** want to **only live in Bethel**
  - **95.5%** willing to live in **Bethel and somewhere else**
  - **67.5%** want to **only live in the YK region (Bethel and/or YK villages)**

**Outside of Alaska**: 1.5%

**Bethel**: 56%

**YK Villages**: 1.5%

**Anchorage**: 3%

**Other Alaska**: 10%

**Alaska**: 4%

**Outside of Alaska**: 18%
Thank you to the people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness who shared their information for this report. Thank you also to the volunteers who conducted the surveys and the organizations that planned, conducted, and funded the surveys & Project Homeless Connect events. The Coalition uses reports from Bethel Project Homeless Connect events and Bethel Winter House to identify and secure more resources and supports and design data-driven services for people experiencing homelessness in our community. This report was prepared by Ariel Herman, Project Analyst supported by the Bethel Community Services Foundation.