

Marion-Polk

Executive Order 23-02 Community Plan overview



On Jan. 10, 2023, Governor Kotek signed Executive Order 23-02, declaring a state of emergency due to unsheltered homelessness in seven Continuum of Care regions across the state. The Governor chose the regions based on the 2022 Point-in-Time Count data, which showed an increase in unsheltered homelessness of 50% or greater since 2017.

In alignment with the emergency order, the Governor proposed House Bill 5019 to provide a down payment to achieve three actionable goals by Jan. 10, 2024:



A whole-community approach

Oregon's response to this crisis requires bold action and coordination among government agencies and service providers. That's why Oregon created Multi Agency Coordination (MAC) groups, which include representatives from multiple sectors. Staff from Marion County and the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance lead the region's MAC group. MAC group and Alliance membership includes representatives from Marion and Polk counties; the Cities of Salem, Keizer, Independence, and Monmouth; Salem Health, PacificSource, and county public and behavioral health departments; United Way; Salem, Marion County, and West Valley housing authorities; Salem-Keizer School District; Community Action; Church at the Park; Center for Hope & Safety; Santiam Integration Team; Union Gospel Mission of Salem; Be Bold Street Ministries; Catholic Community Services; Ideal Option; A Ray of Hope Today!; Bridgeway Recovery Services; and Northwest Human Services.

Executive Order 23-02 Community Plan

The Marion-Polk MAC group leveraged data from the recent Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, OR-504 (Alliance) plan; developed by a workgroup that included people with lived experience of homelessness, and the region's Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to End Youth Homelessness. The qualitative and quantitative data from the Unsheltered Homelessness, the Comprehensive Plan, and the Youth CCP helped inform the region's Community Plan. The MAC group will review data and amend their plan throughout the year to ensure they meet their region's goals.

Comparison of unsheltered homelessness and overall population by race in Marion-Polk

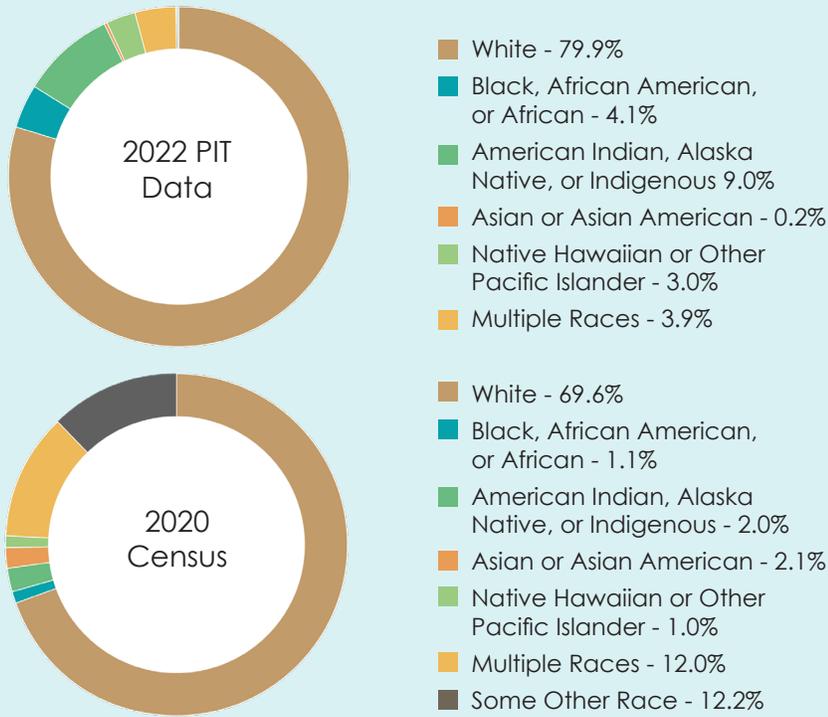
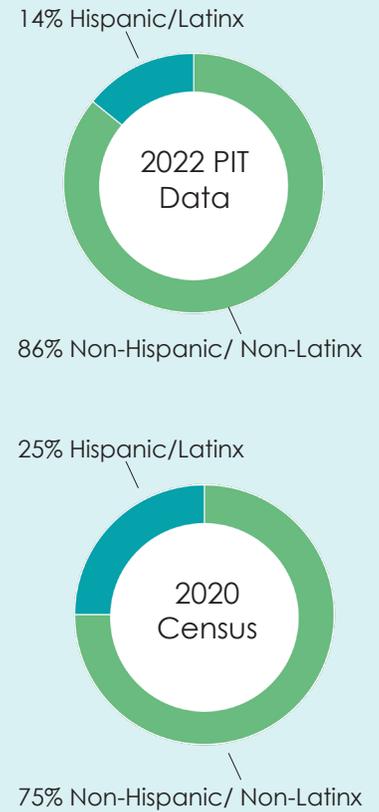


Figure A. Racial disparities within the unsheltered homeless populations in Marion and Polk counties. In this region, 2.0% of all residents self-identify as American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous, while 9.0% of the unsheltered homeless population self-identify that way. The Black, African American, or African population makes up 1.1% of all residents and 4.1% of the unsheltered homeless population. Additionally, one out of every 70 people who self identify as Black, African American, or African experience unsheltered homelessness, compared to one out of every 200 White residents.

Comparison of unsheltered homelessness and overall population by ethnicity in Marion-Polk



Rehousing goal

The Marion-Polk region is using several strategies to achieve its rehousing goal, including collaboration with local housing providers to make direct payment for rental assistance, and covering costs that include utility deposits and payments, arrears, moving costs, and renter's insurance. Other strategies they are implementing include supportive services and case management for those moving directly from unsheltered homelessness into a home, and transportation assistance to medical appointments, jobs, and the like.

Rehouse
158 unsheltered households
by Jan. 10, 2024

Shelter bed goal

To meet their shelter bed goal, the Marion-Polk region is renovating and expanding existing emergency shelter locations, including more beds, additional bathrooms, shower, and laundry facilities. There is also great interest in integrating services in ongoing operations, including access to medical and behavioral health care.

Add
79 low-barrier shelter beds
by Jan. 10, 2024