

# Homeless Services Gap Analysis

## 2020 – Overview for Marion and Polk Counties<sup>1</sup>

### CURRENT LOCAL STATUS

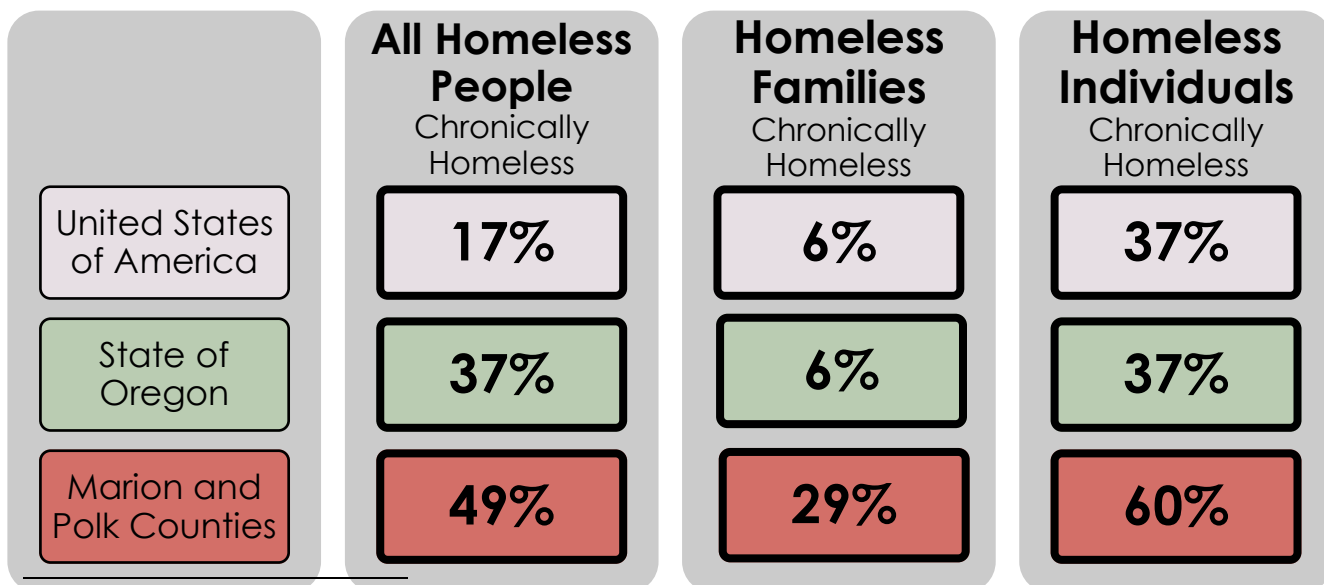
*Marion/Polk region is growing, aging, living in poverty, and becoming more diverse*

- ⇒ Nearly 26% (Marion) and 13% (Polk) of population identify as Hispanic/Latinx—both higher than 12% in Oregon
- ⇒ Marion/Polk has a higher % of members speaking a language other than English at home than Oregon
- ⇒ Nearly 15% of community members live with a disability, an increasing trend
- ⇒ More than 25% of Marion’s and 17% of Polk’s children live in poverty
- ⇒ 57% of Marion and 49% of Polk’s children live in homes that receive SNAP benefits—state rate is 45%
- ⇒ For every 100 households formed in Marion, only 89 housing units were built (Marion, 2000-16)

*Chronic homelessness rates far exceed national and state rates*

- ⇒ Chronically homeless defined by HUD: “either (1) an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition and continuously homeless for a year+, or (2) an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.”

### CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



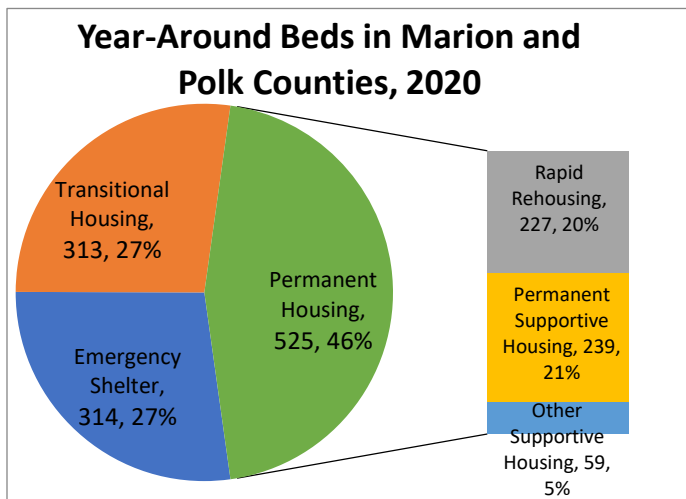
## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- ⇒ The region has a **1,200 unit deficit** in affordable housing
- ⇒ Affordable rent for SSI income is **\$250/mo**
- ⇒ Affordable rent at mean renter wage is: **\$694/mo (Marion) and \$502/mo (Polk)**
- ⇒ **40% (Marion) and 35% (Polk)** of all households are renting households
- ⇒ The region needs **30% more affordable housing units** to meet current demand

Affordable Housing Supply Vs. Need	Polk	Marion
Affordable Housing Units in Inventory	839	3146
Need (Equity) Distribution Percent	1.8%	7.1%
Equitable Distribution of Units	1169	4530
<b>Units/Equitable Distribution of Units</b> <small>*Calculates how severe the gap is for supply meeting demand. 100% is supply meeting demand; ideal is above 100%.</small>	<b>72%</b>	<b>69%</b>

## MWHA Housing Inventory Count

Total number of homeless beds =1,152



## HOMELESS SHELTERS

- ⇒ Families without minor children have no options to stay together in an emergency
- ⇒ No permanent, low-barrier emergency shelters for people with pets, male/female partners, or families with male children over the age of 12
- ⇒ Region lacks non-sobriety shelter options
- ⇒ Emergency warming shelter bed nights nearly doubled in one year to over 7,400 bed nights by creating a duration (full winter season) emergency shelter

## HOMELESS HOUSING

1. **Rapid Rehousing:** short term rental assistance and services
  - Most utilized housing program (40%)
2. **Permanent Supportive Housing:** affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> most utilized program (29%)

⇒ 1. Rapid Rehousing  
**63% Needs Unmet**

⇒ 2. Permanent Supportive Housing  
**46% Needs Unmet**

**74% of homeless population does not have access to a shelter bed**

Total # Shelter Beds Year-Around

**314**

Total # Known Homeless

**1,188**



## GAPS IN SHELTERS AND AVAILABLE HOUSING IN THE MARION/POLK REGION

<b>Females and Seniors</b>	<p><b>Sex/Gender</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 39% people experiencing homelessness nationally are women/girls</li> <li>⇒ Women and girls experiencing unsheltered homelessness rose by 12% nationally; men increased by 7%</li> </ul>	<p><b>Seniors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Disparities in available affordable housing (especially those ages 58 to 62 years) and accessing shelters, and are often the victims of violent crimes and robbery</li> <li>⇒ Only two properties for seniors age 58+ available in the region, both in Marion County</li> </ul>
<b>Domestic Violence Survivors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 44% of Marion individuals seeking homeless services report a history of DV</li> <li>⇒ 48% of Polk individuals seeking homeless services report a history of DV</li> <li>⇒ Only 31 DV-designated beds in Marion and Polk counties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 1 in 5 homicides in Oregon are the result of domestic violence, or 'intimate partner violence'</li> <li>⇒ More than 8,000 women experiencing sexual abuse in Oregon remain in need of DV services</li> </ul>
<b>Families</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 160 designated family beds (52 units) exist in the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 373 individuals for 160 family beds</li> </ul> </li> <li>⇒ 52 family-designated units exist to serve the 120 identified homeless families in the region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 31% of homeless individuals in the region experience homelessness as part of a family</li> <li>⇒ Families wishing to remain intact have no shelter options to stay together</li> </ul>
<b>Veterans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 10% of regional population is Veterans, surpassing Oregon with 9% total pop.</li> <li>⇒ Polk County has a larger proportion of Veterans than Marion County, and the state</li> <li>⇒ 34% of the region's homeless Veterans are chronically homeless</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 19% of the region's homeless Veterans are female</li> <li>⇒ 36 homeless service beds are designated for male Veterans, and none for female Veterans in Marion/Polk</li> </ul>
<b>Rural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 33% of Marion's and 16% of Polk's community members live in rural areas (outside of their respective five largest cities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Farm workers and their families have no designated shelter options</li> <li>⇒ Rural areas, similar to urban areas, lack sufficient year-around sheltering options</li> </ul>
<b>Youth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 20% of homeless community members are under the age of 24</li> <li>⇒ Polk County and rural Marion County do not have a youth shelter</li> <li>⇒ Salem has one 10-bed youth shelter for ages 11-18 and one 14-bed transitional housing program for ages 18-24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ 2,000+ students attending Marion/Polk public schools are identified as homeless* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16% are unaccompanied minors (n=316)</li> <li>• 10% are unsheltered (n=192)</li> </ul> </li> <li>⇒ Nearly 200 homeless students attend school in Polk (yet no youth shelter in Polk)</li> </ul>

\*U.S. Department of Education definition of homelessness for students includes those who are doubled up, in addition to those who are unsheltered.