



PSU HOMELESSNESS RESEARCH & ACTION COLLABORATIVE

The Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative (HRAC) is an interdisciplinary research center at Portland State University dedicated to reducing and preventing homelessness and its negative impacts on individuals, families, and communities, with an emphasis on communities of color. The center brings together expertise from academic fields across PSU and partners with people experiencing homelessness, advocates, service providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted first survey in the nation on homelessness/housing insecurity among students and employees to inform solutions at PSU and universities nationwide. More than 60% of students face food insecurity, housing insecurity, or homelessness: pdx.edu/homelessness
- Worked with local governments to interview people experiencing homelessness to establish best practices for [non-police first response](#), determine [shelter preferences](#) during COVID-19, and to help inform [METRO Supportive Housing Services plan](#).
- Transformed conversation on scale of homelessness in Portland region by taking an annual look, and including those living doubled up, in a study that found an estimated 38,000 people experienced homelessness. The report includes costs of proven solutions, potential revenue, and recommendations for improved regional collaboration and governance: bit.ly/RegionalHomelessness.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Build statewide data hub in partnership with OSHU to better understand outcomes for those experiencing homelessness with specific attention to racial equity. We will conduct longitudinal studies, develop predictors, and reveal health outcomes of homelessness disaggregated based on race.
- Create online data warehouse that tracks development of low-to-moderate-income housing through mapping technologies with specific attention to racial equity to help frame public discourse and inform policymakers and providers.
- Evaluate impacts of policy on displacement, homelessness, and evictions.
- Conduct survey of people experiencing homelessness to inform policy and improve effectiveness of nonprofits and agencies, with a focus on people of color.
- Evaluate tiny home villages to understand whether and how they work, for whom.