

Warming Center Survey

February 2, 2016

64 Survey respondents over a three day period of time

98 People on average visiting the Warming Center per day

149 people served on our fullest day

125 average number of people over the past two weeks

15 years Average amount of time spent in Thurston County

80% responded that they have spent the most time in Olympia

8% responded that they have spent the most time in Lacey

4% responded that they have spent the most time in Tumwater

8% responded that they have spent the most time in
unincorporated county including Nisqually

1 person was most recently from Mason County

78% Warming Center guests that are from here, they have family here,
or they came for work.

22% responded with answers coded as "other" including discharge
from the military and pursuing education.

81% Cite downtown Olympia as the primary area they reside in each day

The well, 4th avenue and the library were most cited

10% stated the Union Gospel Mission

8% stated Westside

1% stated Lacey and Martin Way off ramp

40% Spend each night unsheltered in downtown Olympia

23% sleep at the IW shelter

18% at Salvation Army

9% in camps/wooded areas

10% cited "other" downtown locations including shelters such as
CYS, FSC, Drexel, in cars, or couch surfing

40 Average age of guests at the Warming Center

67% Male

31% Female

2% Identify as non-binary

82% Guests with a persistent mental illness

60% Guests with a physical disability/chronic health condition

60% Guests with substance use challenges

42% Guests experiencing all three sets of challenges simultaneously

These figures are based on what we know of people's situations at the Interfaith Works Overnight Shelter. We find that this breakout is consistent with research across the country and what we estimate to be true of guests that utilize the Warming Center as well.

When asked why people most utilize the warming center, their answers were:

**Rest, warmth, community, safety, bathrooms
and medical respite.**

At the Warming Center we continue to actively partner with area agencies including SideWalk, the PATH program through the Capital Recovery Center, Behavioral Health Resources, the Amahoro House (a local hospice and palliative care program), Northwest Resources Chemical Dependency and others to bring their services to our guests on site. We were also main partners for the Thurston County Homeless Census on January 28, 2016. This coordination of in-house services is key to our guests' success because navigating the complicated web of services often proves too difficult. Our partnerships provide a safety net to help prevent people in need from falling further.