

## IDENTIFIED SHELTER NEEDS AND GAPS

POPULATION/ISSUE	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
1. Families with Children	65 – 85 FWC residing in motels currently is not conducive to long-term well-being of children
2. Young Adults (18-24)	Young adults are more vulnerable living unsheltered. Last year approximately 20 young adults utilized a shelter dedicated to their age group.
3. Elderly women (55+)	This population has experienced an increase in living unsheltered and tend to be more vulnerable.
4. Medically Fragile and/or cognitive decline (Alzheimer's, dementia, etc.)	Medical care at an inpatient level is no longer needed, but exiting to homelessness may exacerbate one's condition. Need a step-down facility to extend care at a lower level.
5. Special Populations at risk	Some populations face higher risk of harassment and potential harm and would benefit from shelter opportunities that promote safety and security. (LGBTQ, BIPOC, Disabled)
6. Small Tent Encampments	Approximately 80 – 90 small encampments are located throughout the county. Access to waste removal and toilet facilities is limited or non-existent. A number of people who are camping may not be interested in accepting other forms of shelters offered by government or private organizations.
7. Tiny Homes	In order to qualify as "shelter" as defined by HUD/Commerce, the following criteria must be met: a) ability to adjust living structure to climate (heat, opening window, fan); b) semi-permanent structure to prepare or eat food; c) living structure must have four walls, ceiling and a door that closes (lockable?); d) must have reasonable access to sanitation facilities (less than 100 yards away, with ability to shower, with hot & cold running water, and toilets; e) electricity to the living unit.
8. Local Governments may not be able to provide every type of shelter desired	Need to identify humane responses to people living unsheltered who may not utilize shelter options that are available to them.
9. Under-utilization of available shelters	During the past winter as many as 80 beds on a given night were not utilized.
10. Methamphetamine Use	Use of methamphetamine poses unique challenges to offering shelter and housing to people who use the drug. Symptoms of use include aggression, volatility, and contamination of living/shelter units.
11. Shelter availability in neighboring counties	Skagit County does not have a night-by-night/quick access shelter for its residents similar to Base Camp. (They have increased access to motel stays, created access to shelter for 12 FWC, purchased 80 tiny homes, and other efforts.) Skagit residents are referred to Whatcom resources at times.
12. Point in Time (PIT) Count	2021 count of people living unsheltered mirrored the 2020 count. 218 living unsheltered. (NOTE: ~80 vacancies in shelter spots during count). Had 171 more spots available in 2021. See Data.