



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
360-236-4030 | 711 Washington State Relay

March 17, 2026

Re: Informative- Homelessness Experience Mortality Data Release

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we are informing you that the Washington State Department of Health (WA-DOH) Center for Health Statistics (CHS) has released final 2023 and 2024 mortality data by housing status. This dataset contains flags for homelessness experience at or near the time of death and may be linked to other mortality files.

After discussion and review, this data is now available and approved for a limited release initially to Tribes and Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) only. A data sharing agreement (DSA) is required to access all vital records data including the new mortality data by housing status. If a DSA is currently in place to access vital records data, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will need to be signed authorizing access to the housing status data.

WA-DOH previously sent out a Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) in May 2021 to inform Tribes of the potential modification to the residence question during the death registration process. Information on housing stability had not been collected systematically across the state, and our electronic death registration system provided a unique opportunity to do so for all deaths registered in Washington. Information collected on a decedent's experience of homelessness does not appear on the death certificate and will only be present in the data set and aggregated statistics. Learn more [here](#).

For additional information, please contact the Tribal Data Team, TribalDataTeam@doh.wa.gov, or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Crutsinger-Perry".

Elizabeth Crutsinger-Perry
Assistant Secretary, Disease Control and Health Statistics (DCHS) Division

cc: Dennis E. Worsham, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson-Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH