

ANESTHESIOLOGY & PAIN MEDICINE

EDI BRIEF OCTOBER 2025

NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

According to the [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance 2025 Report to the Community](#), there were more than 22,000 people experiencing homelessness at the top of the year and over 7,000 of them did not have any shelter. Washington state has the 6th highest housing cost in the nation, and about 240,000 renters in Washington are considered extremely low-income. Due in part to the high cost of housing, there have been 23,000 eviction notices filed across the state—the highest number ever recorded. A renter in King or Snohomish County needs a salary exceeding \$51 per hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment in today’s market.

The [National Council of State Legislatures](#) estimates that around 4.2 million youth, teens, and young adults experience homelessness every year, and about 700,000 are unaccompanied minors. Data from the [Washington State Department of Health](#) shows that homelessness can cause severe health impacts and reduce someone’s life expectancy by up to 30 years. It also states that homelessness has increased by almost 30% since 2016. The 2021 report from the [US Government of Accountability Office](#) provided recommendations on how serving young adults through the coordinated entry process (i.e. assessing each person and connecting them to housing and other assistance based on their vulnerabilities and needs through a community-wide process) and how coordinating to serve accompanied minors could help to combat homelessness for young people.

As healthcare providers and educators, we all play a role in offering support to those who need it most and shifting the narrative about the unhoused population. It is important for patients who are currently experiencing homelessness to know we have resources like the [Homeless Palliative Care Team](#), [UW/Harborview Mobile Care Outreach](#), and the [Doorway Project](#) to provide them with assistance. During Native American History Month, we ask that you take the time to reflect on the challenges that Indigenous tribes historically faced including the loss of land, culture, and lives due to colonization.

Learn more:

- Explore resources for [Homeless Awareness Month Toolkit](#), [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth](#), [Youth Care](#), [Friends of Youth](#), [ROOTS Shelter](#), and [Teen Feed](#).

Department Highlights

EDI Council Name Change:

- The EDI Council has been renamed the Council for Community Building & Belonging.

UW-GAIN Winter Fundraiser:

- Please purchase your tickets for the [UW-GAIN Fundraiser](#) on Sunday, December 7.

Call for Speakers:

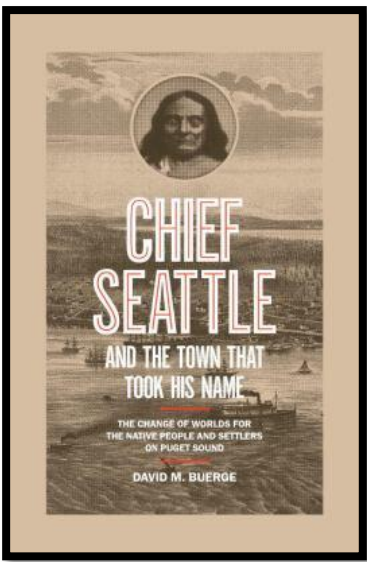
- The APM Postbaccalaureate Mentorship Program is looking for faculty guest speakers to connect with students in the Edmonds Postbaccalaureate Program. If interested, please contact Jaelen Barnett (jb82@uw.edu).

Call for Doctor For A Day (DFAD) Volunteers:

- We are looking for resident and faculty volunteers to lead a session on airways, breathing, and circulation on Saturday, December 13 (8am-2pm). If interested, please contact Jaelen Barnett (jb82@uw.edu).

Resources

Recommended Reading:



[Chief Seattle and The Town That Took His Name](#), David M. Buerge



[Ceremony](#), Leslie Marmon Silko

Visit [The Whole U](#) for events happening in the community and at UW:

- November 13 (12-1:30pm), 14 (11-1:30pm), & 24 (3-4:30pm): [Indigenous Health Series](#)
- November 21 (12-12:50pm): [Wellness Connection Series: Reflection & Goal Setting](#)