

Memo

To: Homeless Services Consortium Members
 From: Sue Wallinger, CDBG Office
 Date: April 29, 2009
 Re: 2003 Year End Statistics for Shelter, Supported Housing, Services, and Year-End Comparisons

2003 Shelter

In 2003, there were a total of 3,163 individuals served in 296 emergency shelter beds, a number of motel rooms paid for by vouchers, on warming house mattresses, and through volunteer host homes. During the same time period, the shelters report that 8,192 individuals were turned away without shelter.

	Total # Individuals ¹	# of Individuals in Families and # of Families	# Single Men	# Single Women	# Youth ²
Served in Shelter in 2003	3,163	1,701 individuals 495 families w/ 1,131 children	793 individuals	535 individuals	69 < 18 yrs 65 > 18 yrs
Turned Away without Shelter in 2003	8,192	7,855 individuals	275 individuals	62 individuals	0

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of homeless households that were served by Consortium agencies identified themselves as non-white. By sub-population, 84% of families, 56% of single women, 49% of single men, and 45% of unaccompanied youth identified themselves as minority.

Fifty percent (50%) of all those homeless served indicated that they had been homeless less than one month, while 13% reported being homeless more than six months.

The most often reasons given for seeking shelter vary somewhat by sub-population: Families most often said that "violence or the threat of violence" (45%) and "being evicted or their lease not renewed" (42%) brought them to seek emergency shelter. Single women had more of a variety of answers but most often reported seeking shelter because of "threat of violence" (18%), "low or no income" (18%), having "conflicts with roommates or family members" (17%) and being "in transit" or "transient" (16%). Single men most often reported that they were seeking shelter as a result of being "transient" or "in transit" (27%) or had a "roommate or family conflict" (26%). Sixty-seven percent (67%) of unaccompanied youth reported "conflicts with family and/or roommates" as the reason for seeking shelter.

Prior to coming to shelter, 56% of the households reported having doubled-up with friends or relatives. Twenty-seven percent (27%) or 432 households reported having slept on the street or in a vehicle. Nineteen percent

¹ Includes shelter programs operated by YSOSW, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network, The Salvation Army, Transitional Housing Inc. (now Porchlight, Inc.) and the YWCA.

² Unaccompanied youth served through Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin – Briarpatch.

(19%) of families, 24% of single women, 34% of single men and 66% of unaccompanied youth reported having slept in uninhabitable places.

When homeless households served in shelter were asked how long they have lived in Dane County, 50% of families said "less than one year" (31% answered less than one month). For homeless single women, 42% reported living in Dane County for "less than one year" (31% answered less than one month). For homeless single men, more than half – 58% - reported living in Dane County for "less than one year" (46% answered less than one month). Homeless single adults were more likely to have come to Dane County from other Wisconsin cities than homeless families.

Veterans make up 8% of the homeless - 13% of single men were veterans. Twenty-six percent (26%) of the homeless served reported mental health issues and 13% reported alcohol and other drug issues – single women were likely than families or single men to report issues with mental illness and AODA.. Nine percent (9%) of the homeless report they are on probation or parole.

Twelve percent (12%) of homeless reported that at the time they entered shelter, they earned wages. This was true of 22% of homeless families; single men were the least likely to earn wages at shelter entry. Fourteen percent (14%) of the homeless reported that they received social security at entry; single women were the most likely to received social security (22%) followed by families (19%). Eighteen percent (18%) of families received W-2 payments.

Shelter Comparisons 1997-2003

The following table compares the number of individuals who had contact with providers of emergency shelter from 1997 – 2003:

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Individuals Served in Shelter	5,145	4,884	4,498	4,728	3,417	3,472	3,163
Individuals Turned Away without Shelter	3,409	5,604	6,729	10,746	7,542	4,277	8,192
Total Homeless in Dane County	8,554	10,488	11,227	15,474	10,959	7,749	11,355
Single Women in Shelter	467	436	445	416	453	481	535
Single Men in Shelter	1,397	1,301	1,046	1,087	1,016	939	793
Families in Shelter	963	898	1,012	595	576	576	495
Children in Shelter	1,966	2,058	1,522	1,242	1,121	1,216	1,131

Generally the number of individuals reported as served in shelter has decreased since 1997. The number of homeless households turned away has fluctuated greatly over the years. It is unknown as to the reason the number of individuals turned away has fluctuated so much over the past years. Some of the fluctuation may be due to changes in funding or program requirements, or may be errors due to changes in in-take staff.

The number of families served has declined from a high of 1,012 in 1999 to 495 families served in 2003. The reduction in families served from 2002 – 2003 is partially as a result of Dane County Human Services funding changes that allows the family shelter gatekeeper (The Salvation Army) to serve families for a maximum of 90 days at one time rather than the previous 30 days. The lifetime limit on the number of shelter days available to homeless families remains at 90; the difference is that a family can use the 90 days in one stretch as long as they are complying with other program requirements. Starting in 2003, there was no longer an exemption for households that contained a pregnant woman or an infant under 6 months old. In previous years, there were a number of households who remained in shelter beyond the 30 day limit as a result of these exemptions.

In 2003, half of all families requesting shelter had lived in Dane County for one year or less (one-third of those requesting shelter had lived in Dane County for one month or less). The changes from year to year on residency have been very slight, however, the number of those who have lived in the area for one month or less has shown a decrease from 39% in 1997 to 31% in 2003.

The number of single men served in shelter has also declined from a high of 1,397 in 1997 to 793 in 2003. Single homeless women in shelter is the single sub-population that has been consistently increasing over the years – from 416 in 2000 to 535 in 2003³. No policy changes have been made that would have significantly impacted the number of single adults seeking shelter.

The number of families who indicate that they have doubled up with friends and family has fluctuated somewhat (71% in 2000, 58% in 2001, 74% in 2002 and 67% in 2003) and does not indicate a specific trend. The same could be said for those families who reported have slept on the street on in vehicles – 9% in 2000, 15% in 2001, 9% in 2002, and 19% in 2003.

For homeless single women, there has been reported a decline in the number who indicate issues with AODA and/or mental illness. Twenty-four percent (24%) of single women report issues with alcohol and other drugs in 2003, which is down from 34% in 2000. Forty-two percent (42%) report issues with mental illness in 2003 which has also declined from 2000 when 57% reported mental health issues.

For homeless single men the numbers of those who identify mental illness and alcohol and other drug abuse has significantly dropped. The degree to which the numbers has dropped over a relatively short period would suggest that the intake process for single homeless men has not been consistent. In 1997, 26% reported mental illness and 43% report substance abuse issues. In 2003, 12% reported mental illness (with a high of 33% reported in 2000) and 7% reported substance abuse (with a high of 65% reported in 2000).

Transitional and Supportive Permanent Housing

Some individuals and families access transitional or supportive permanent housing units directly or through referrals from emergency shelters. During 2003, there were 855 individuals who were served in 347 transitional and supportive permanent housing units.

	Total # Individuals	# of Individuals in Families and # of Families	# Single Men	# Single Women
Persons Served in Transitional or Supported Permanent Housing ⁴	855	363 individuals 100 families w/ 239 children	492 individuals	

The majority of individuals housing in transitional or supportive permanent housing in Dane County are single adults, many with AODA issues (37%) and/or mental illness (50%). More individuals report receiving SSI/SSDI than report receiving wages, unemployment insurance or workman's compensation. Nearly one in five individuals is on probation or parole.

There has been an increase in the number of transitional/supportive permanent units in Dane County operated by non-profit agencies. Transitional Housing, Inc. (now Porchlight, Inc.) added 42 units. In the last two years, The Salvation Army has added 8 units. The number of individuals served has also increased. (Data on transitional and supportive permanent housing was collected in 2003 by reporting all those being served on the first quarterly report and then only reporting new residents in subsequent quarterly reports. In 2002, all residents were counted in each quarterly report and a mix of methods was used prior to 2002. This makes the transitional/permanent housing data difficult to compare by year.)

³ Prior to 2000, stats on single women were combined with families and children.

⁴ Includes programs operated by Community Housing and Services and Transitional Housing, Inc (now Porchlight, Inc.), Tellurian, Port St. Vincent, and the YWCA. Does not include data from Hope Haven/REBOS United, Housing Initiatives, Rodney Scheel House, IHN/YWCA Second Chance Apt. Project, Seton House, Green Avenue, and Women in Transition. In 2002, these additional agencies served an additional 491 individuals in 218 beds/units.

The number of individuals in transitional and supportive permanent housing who have come to housing from homelessness from the geographic area has declined somewhat, evidenced by the percentage of individuals who report living in Dane County and Wisconsin over two years. In 2003, 58% reported that they have lived in Dane County for two years or more which is a decline from 77% in 2002, 71% in 2001, 75% in 2000 and 84% in 1999. In 2003, 62% of the households reported that they have lived in Wisconsin for two years or more which is a decrease from 85% in 2002, 80% in 2002, 82% in 2000, and 92% in 1999.

Eviction Prevention Services

In 2003, five agencies⁵ reported assisting 2,781 households with services and financial assistance to help them maintain stable housing. Three of the reporting agencies provided grants to pay back rent; 2,506 households were assisted with a total of \$367,270 from both public and private sources. The households that were assisted to maintain their housing were less likely to have barriers such as mental illness and alcohol and other drug abuse in addition to lack of financial resources. Twelve percent (12%) report someone in the household has AODA issues and 17% report mental health issues.

	Total # Households	# of Individuals in Families and # of Families	# Single Men	# Single Women
Received Services Only in 2003	2,781	5,212 individuals 1,839 families ⁶ w/1,516 children	687 individuals	

Summary

In summary, there were 3,163 individuals who were served in emergency shelter in 2003 with an additional 8,192 turned away without services. When compiling data from the reporting agencies, there is an effort made to adjust the reported numbers so as to minimize duplication in the number of persons turned away and the number of individuals who are served by both motel vouchers and shelter. Some adjustments are also made to reported numbers that serve more than one sub-population; for example Domestic Abuse Intervention Services provides shelter for both single women and women with children and Porchlight’s Safe Haven provides shelter for both single men and single women. Based on historical data on previous populations, the numbers are adjusted to reflect the different populations.

The total number of homeless individuals homeless in Dane County, included those served and those in need of service but turned away, was 11,260. It could be argued that the number of individuals who are served in transitional and supportive permanent housing should be added to this number as many individuals access these housing units and services directly from homelessness. A more inclusive number of homeless for 2003 would be 12,115 individuals. It should be noted that this does not include the number of people who identify themselves as doubled up with friends and family.

⁵ Includes Community Action Coalition, DAIS Crisis Response, Tenant Resource Center, Porchlight DIGS, YWCA Second Chance Program.

⁶ Some of the programs keep stats on households only and do not keep separate stats on children in the households served.