

Memo

To: Homeless Services Consortium (HSC) Members
From: Sue Wallinger, CDBG Office
Date: May 23, 2008
Re: 2007 Year End Data, Previous Years End Data Comparisons for Persons Served in Emergency Shelter, Transitional & Supportive Permanent Housing, and Services-Only programs.

This report includes year-end totals for 2007. Data reported to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Office is collected from agencies that primarily use the Wisconsin ServicePoint (WISP) homeless management information system. Agencies make a concerted effort to report unduplicated numbers, however, it is possible that some duplication is included here. The anticipated shift by the agencies from collecting data from client files on a quarterly basis to producing a client-based report on an annual basis should minimize duplicate counts. For example, using WISP reporting a family who stayed at The Salvation Army shelter and also the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) shelter during the course of a year would be counted as one family rather than counted as one family each for The Salvation Army and IHN. The first attempt at accessing WISP data via a new report feature was filled with pitfalls. CDBG Office staff is working with state Bureau of Supportive Housing to be able to run reports that will eliminate duplicate counts and minimize the work for the agencies.

Entering client-served data into WISP does not address collecting reliable information on persons turned away without services. While it is possible to enter abbreviated data on household into WISP to reflect that there was an unmet need (in this case shelter), in 2007, no agency collected "turn-away" data in this way. Without using a client based data system there is no reliable way to collect turn-away data that is not duplicated. For example, a single women being served at The Salvation Army who is on Porchlight's Safe Haven waiting list will be counted twice: one time as served by The Salvation Army and one time as turned away/waiting list by Porchlight. Efforts are on-going to correct these problems.

2007 Year End Totals Emergency Shelter

Number Served in Shelter

In 2007, there were a total of 3,432 individuals served in 364¹ emergency shelter beds, motel rooms paid for by vouchers, warming house mattresses, and volunteer host homes. During the same time period, the shelters reported that 2,963 individuals were turned away without shelter. Of those individuals turned away without shelter, a majority, 84%, were individuals in families.

¹ Includes year round and overflow beds as DCPC Hope House; DAIS shelter; IHN shelter; Porchlight Drop-In Shelter; Porchlight Safe Haven; SVdP Port St. Vincent; The Salvation Army family shelter, single women shelter, warming shelter; YSOSW Host Homes; and YWCA shelter. The number served in shelter includes year round and overflow beds, as well as motel vouchers.

Forty-eight percent, 48%, of the total number of individuals were turned away from shelter because there was no shelter space or vouchers available. As stated previously, there could be some duplication in the numbers reported as turned away. One way to eliminate this duplication is for each agency performing intake to enter each unaccompanied youth, single adult and family into a shared data system that would report on unique households, eliminating duplication.

	Total # Individuals²	# of Individuals in Families and # of Families	# Minor w/ Children	# Couples w/o Children	# Single Men	# Single Women	# Youth³
Served in Shelter in 2007	3,432	1,317 individuals 423 families w/ 848 children	0 individuals	2 individuals	1,558 individuals	515 individuals	40 < 18 yrs
Turned Away without Shelter in 2007	2,978	2,516 individuals	NA	NA	194 ⁴ individuals	268 individuals	0

Single adult men make up the largest percentage (45%) of persons using emergency shelter followed by individuals in families (38%). An increase in the number of single men and decrease of individuals in families from 2006 widens the gap between single men and families. In 2006, 42% were single men and 41% were individuals in families. Single adult women make up 15% while unaccompanied youth make up 1% of the total homeless served in shelter.

	Total # Individuals⁵	# of Individuals in Families and # of Families	# Minor w/ Children	# Couples w/o Children	# Single Men	# Single Women	# Youth⁶
Percent of Total Homeless Population in Shelters	100%	Individuals in Families – 38% Children in Families – 25%	0%	<1%	45%	15%	1%

Unaccompanied Youth

The number of homeless unaccompanied youth under 18 years of age who were provided shelter has declined somewhat in 2007 to 40 youth from 43 youth in 2006. This compares with 61 youth provided with shelter in 2005, 67 youth in 2004, 65 youth in 2003 and 64 youth in 2002. Of those homeless youth provided with shelter through Youth Services of Southern WI - Briarpatch (YSOSW), the majority are female. Eighty-percent (80%) or 32 youth said that family or roommate conflict was the cause of their homeless situation. A smaller number, 20% or 8 youth indicated that violence or threat of violence was the primary reason. Sixty-eight percent (68%) consider themselves non-white. This is a large increase over 2006 when only 38% self-reported being non-white. All of the youth who were served in a YSOSW volunteer host home reported living on the street prior to being sheltered. According to crisis line calls to YSOSW, the number of homeless (runaway and “throw away”) youth may actually be much higher. In addition to the 40 youth that received shelter, 160 youth who identified themselves as homeless received services through YSOSW.

Percentage of Homeless Who Are Minority

Seventy percent (70%) of homeless households that were served by Consortium agencies identified themselves as non-white. This is a slight increase over 2006. The majority of the non-white population identify themselves as Black/African American (85%). The largest sub-population of homeless minorities are individuals in families. By sub-population, 86% of families, 63% of single women, 59% of single men, and 68% of unaccompanied youth identified themselves as minority.

Length of Homeless Episode

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of all those homeless served indicated that their current episode of homelessness had been less than one month. Eleven percent (11%) of all households reported that their current episode of homelessness has lasted between one and six months, while 10% reported their current homeless episode has lasted more than six (6) months (1% did not answer the question).

² Includes shelter programs operated by YSOSW, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network, The Salvation Army, Porchlight, Dane County Parent Council, and the YWCA.

³ Youth served through Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin – Briarpatch. HUD uses the term “unaccompanied youth”, term used by agencies working with the population is “runaway/throw away youth”.

⁴ Porchlight staff state that this number may very well be higher as the Drop-In Shelter likely did not report anyone turned away in 2007.

⁵ Includes shelter programs operated by YSOSW, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network, The Salvation Army, Porchlight, Dane County Parent Council, and the YWCA.

⁶ Youth served through Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin – Briarpatch.

It is not known from the data submitted from the Consortium agencies which homeless individuals meet the HUD definition of chronic homelessness⁷. Since Consortium agencies do not report on specific lengths of homelessness over six (6) months, the closest one can estimate the number of chronic homeless is to look at those who indicated that their episode of homelessness was six (6) months or more for parallels. The percentages of long-term homeless listed in the table below translate into approximately 44 families, 140 single men, and 57 single women with extended episodes of homelessness. The number of households who reported longer-term homeless episodes decreased to 241 households in 2007 from 431 households in 2006.

The numbers for families homeless over six (6) months has fluctuated in the past three (3) years – 44 in 2007, 63 in 2006 and 49 in 2005. The number for single women homeless over six (6) months has declined - 57 in 2007, 68 in 2006, and 70 in 2005. The number for single men being homeless more than six months has also fluctuated – 140 in 2007, 298 in 2006 and 88 in 2005⁸.

Porchlight reports that 431 individuals served at the Drop In Shelter meet the chronically homeless definition; this number is more than three times the number reported being homeless six (6) months or more.

	Percent Homeless Less Than 1 month	Percent Homeless 1 – 6 months	Percent Homeless More Than 6 months	Percent Homeless Episode Unknown
Families with Children	59%	30%	10%	1%
Single Men	89%	2%	9%	<1%
Single Women	67%	19%	11%	3%

Family Overflow Shelter

A warming shelter for families was operated in 2007 at The Salvation Army shelter building on East Washington for families with no other options, either because they are no longer eligible for shelter or because there is no bed availability at the shelter. The Salvation Army provided over-night staff to provide a safe and secure place for homeless families to sleep on mattresses on the floor. Families were able to spend the daytime hours at the Interfaith Hospitality Network day center and receive support services. In 2007, the warming shelter operated only during the coldest months of the year: January through the end of March and November through the end of December. Starting in 2008, the warming shelter is operating year round.

During the 2007 calendar year, 51 families with 112 children spent an average of 7.5 nights on mattresses at the warming shelter. This is a small decrease in families but increase in children from 2006. Of the 51 families, 11 were two-parent households with children, 39 were headed by a single female and one was headed by a single male. Eight-four percent (84%) reported being non-white – the majority being Black/African American.

Prior to coming to the warming shelter, 41% of families reported that they had doubled up with friends or families, 8% of families reported having stayed in emergency shelter and 18% of families reported sleeping on the street or in a vehicle. Eighteen (18) of the families reported they had been evicted, 10 reported they were leaving a violent or threatening situation. Remaining families reported a variety of reasons for seeking shelter. More than one-third (37%) reported having an existing medical condition, 24% reported issues with mental health, 22% reported developmental and/or physical disabilities, and 8% reported alcohol and/or other drug issues.

In 2007, the majority of families reported being new to the area: 57% reported living in Dane County for less than one year (47% less than one month) and 49% reported living in Wisconsin for less than one year (41% less than one month). These numbers indicate a slight increase in the number of families using the warming shelter who reported living in Dane County for less than one month from the previous year.

Reasons for Seeking Shelter

The reasons most frequently given for seeking emergency shelter vary somewhat by sub-population. Families most often said that “violence or threat of violence” (36%) brought them to seek emergency shelter as do single women (32%). Single men reported that they were seeking shelter most often as a result of “no or low income” (18%). For runaway/throw away youth, “conflicts with family/roommate” was mentioned by 80% of those seeking shelter. The reasons given have generally been consistent year to year with just a few differences. In 2007, the number of single women who report seeking shelter because of violence or threats of violence rose to 32% from the 23% the previous year.

⁷ Permanently disabled single adult with four episodes of homelessness in three years or homeless continually for 12 months or more.

⁸ In 2005, more than half of the single homeless men did not answer this question.

	Families w/Children	Single Men	Single Women	Unaccompanied Youth Runaway/Throw away Youth
Reasons Given for Seeking Shelter	Violence or threat of violence (36%) Evicted/lease not renewed (21%) Low/no income (13%) Family conflicts (11%) All Other (19%)	Low/no income (18%) Roommate/family conflicts (9%) Can't find housing (9%) Institutional discharge (8%) Transient/ In transit (8%) Evicted/lease not renewed (6%) All Other (42%)	Violence or threat of violence (32%) Roommate/family conflicts (15%) Transient/ In transit (12%) Low/no income (10%) Evicted/lease not renewed (7%) All Other (24%)	Family conflicts (80%) Violence or threat of violence (20%)

Where Homeless Slept Prior to Shelter

Where members of households slept prior to seeking shelter is also different depending on the sub-population. Over half of families were likely to have been doubled up with friends or family. However, the trend for families show they are becoming less likely to double up; the 57% in 2007 is a decrease from 63% in 2006 and 75% in 2005. Almost half of single women and one-quarter of single men said that they were doubled up, which is consistent with 2006.

The number of households who reported sleeping on the street or in a vehicle differed by sub-population: 100% of all runaway/throw away youth, 16% of single women, 15% of single men and 11% of families reported sleeping on the street or in a vehicle. These percentages translate into 47 families with children (down from 79 families in 2006), 234 single men (down slightly from 256 single men in 2006), 82 single women (up from 68 single women in 2006) and 40 runaway/throw away youth (down slightly from 43 youth in 2006) spent time on the street or in a vehicle prior to seeking shelter.

Prior to Seeking Shelter	Families w/Children	Single Men	Single Women	Runaway/Throw away Youth
Doubled up with friends/family	57%	25%	44%	0%
Emergency Shelter⁹	23%	18%	8%	0%
Street/vehicle	11%	15%	16%	100%
Institutional/treatment facility discharge	<1%	9%	4%	0%
Other	9%	33%	28%	0%

Length of Time Living in Dane County and in Wisconsin

In 2007, 32% of those households in shelter reported they lived in Dane County less than one year while 22% reported living in the county for less than one month. Four percent (4%) lived in Dane County for one to two years and 57% lived in Dane County for two years or more. Shelter households were more likely to have lived in Wisconsin than in Dane County indicating at least a number of households were relocating from other Wisconsin areas. This would indicate that of the households who relocate to Madison, they come from both out-of-state and from other locations in Wisconsin. One quarter of households reported living in the state for less than one year, 4% for one to two years, and 69% lived in the state for two years or more.

In 2007, 55% of families, 55% of single women, and 51% of single men reported that they had lived in Dane County for one year or more. For families and single women, this is about the same as reported in 2005 and 2006. Data for the majority of single men was not available in 2005 and 2006.

For families, slightly less than half (45%) reported living in Dane County for less than one year; 30% report living in Dane County for less than one month. In 2006, 48% lived in the county less than one year while 33% lived in the county less than one month.

Forty-five percent (45%) of single women reported living in Dane County for less than one year with 33% reported living in Dane County for less than one month. In 2006, 49% lived in the county less than one year while 33% lived in the county less than one month.

Less than one-half of single men reported living in Dane County for less than one year with 20% lived in Dane County for less than one month.

⁹This answer could indicate that they stayed in another Dane County shelter or a shelter in another part of the state or region.

Prior to Seeking Shelter.....	Families w/Children	Single Men	Single Women
Lived in Dane County for One Year or More	45%	45%	49%
Lived in Wisconsin for One Year or More	55%	55%	51%

Veterans

Veterans make up a relatively small number of the homeless served in shelters. In 2007, 9% of the homeless served (219 individuals) identified themselves as veterans. There were 12 fewer vets in 2007 than the previous year. Thirteen percent (13%) of single men are reported as veterans, followed by 2% of families and 2% of single women.

Physical Barriers to Housing

Thirty-four percent (34%) of families reported that they have one or more members who suffer from mental illness; 10% report that someone in the family has an alcohol or drug abuse issue; and 50% report that someone in the family has a physical disability or existing medical problems (other than, or in addition to, mental illness or AODA).

Forty-eight percent (48%) of single women reported having issues with mental illness and 22% reported issues with alcohol and/or drug abuse. Sixty-five percent (65%) of single women reported that they have a physical disability or an existing medical problems (other than, or in addition to, mental illness or AODA).

Twenty-two (22%) of single men reported issues with mental illness and 34% reported alcohol or other drug abuse issues. Twenty-one percent (21%) indicate that they have a physical disability or existing medical problems (other than, or in addition to, mental illness or AODA).

While the reasons for homelessness are complex, the physical barriers identified by homeless individuals are significant. One-half of homeless families and two-thirds of single homeless women report physical disabilities or medical problems and one-half of single homeless men report mental health and/or AODA issues.

Probation/Parole

Ten percent (10%) of single women, 9% of single men and 7% of adults in families reported they are on probation or parole. What is not known is how many homeless individuals are ex-offenders, released from corrections but not on probation or parole. With the data currently collected, it is not known the number of households that find involvement with the court system to be a significant barrier in finding stable housing.

Income/Benefits

Fifteen percent (15%) of homeless families reported that they earned wages at the time they entered shelter, 19% received SS/SSI/SSDI, 6% received W-2 payments, and 47% reported no income or other. Thirteen percent (13%) of families did not provide an answer to the question. About 50% of families reported receiving medical assistance and food stamps.

Single women were about as likely as families to earn wages at the time they entered shelter. Thirteen percent (13%) of single women reported earning wages, 28% reported receiving SS/SSI/SSD, and 49% reported no income or other. One-third of single women said that they received medical assistance and food stamps.

Eighteen percent (18%) of single men reported earning wages at the time they entered shelter, 16% were receiving SS/SSI/SSDI, 24% reportedly received other income while 33% reported no income. Less than one in ten reported receiving medical assistance or food stamps.

Shelter Comparisons 1997-2007

The following table compares the number of individuals who had contact with providers of emergency shelter from 1997 – 2007:

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Individuals Served in Shelter	5,145	4,884	4,498	4,728	3,417	3,356	3,727	3,342	3,039	3,487	3,432
Individuals Turned Away without Shelter	3,409	5,604	6,729	10,746	7,542	4,277	8,192	2,484	2,476	3,207	2,978
Total Estimated Homeless in Dane County ¹⁰	8,554	10,488	11,227	15,474	10,959	7,749	11,919	5,826	5,515	6,694	6,410

Individuals in Families	2,796	3,147	2,995	2,025	1,865	1,928	1,701	1,466	1,355	1,432	1,317
Families in Shelter ¹¹	963	898	1,012	595	576	553	494	445	444	469	423
Children in Shelter	1,966	2,058	1,522	1,242	1,121	1,216	982	865	834	875	848
Single Women in Shelter	467	436	445	416	453	463	433	464	482	523	515
Single Men in Shelter	1,397	1,301	1,046	1,087	1,016	939	1,520	1,343	1,129	1,481	1,558
Unaccompanied Youth ¹²	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	64	65	67	61	43	40
Couples w/o Children ¹³	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	4 ¹⁴	1	6	4	1

Trends in Shelter

After increases in 2006 for nearly all sub-populations, the numbers of individuals and families declined slightly in 2007. The only exception was single homeless men. In 2007, there were 77 additional single men served in shelter. However, there were 49 fewer families with 27 fewer children, 8 fewer single women and three (3) fewer unaccompanied youth in shelter.

The number of individuals turned away without shelter also decreased in 2007.

The number of families with children has fluctuated somewhat, but since 2004 has remained in the mid-400's. The majority of families with children are headed by single females. The number of families headed by two parents has slowly declined since 2002. There are relatively few single male head of households and households headed by minors (none in 2007).

	Number of Households					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Single Female Head of Households	443	398	341	337	382	353
Two Parent Households	92	74	85	74	74	61
Single Male Head of Household	18	22	19	33	13	9
Minor Households with Children ¹⁵	0	0	1	3	3	0
Total Households with Children	553	494	445	444	469	423

Average Number of Days in Shelter

The trend for length of time in shelter varies by sub-population. On average, families have spent an additional three (3) days in shelter while the average for single men decreased by slightly more than two (2) days. The average number of days spent in shelter is determined by each shelter program so if a families spent 60 days in The Salvation Army shelter and then an additional 20 days in shelter operated by IHN, it would be reported as two separate shelter stays rather than one total stay of 80 days. As there is additional opportunity to shift to client-based rather than bed-based reporting, it eventually will be possible

¹⁰ This number assumes that there is no duplication between those who are turned away from shelter and those who are served in shelter. It is likely that some households are counted more than once because they have been turned away more than once during 2007 or because they were both turned away and served at different point in time during 2007.

¹¹ Includes minors with children.

¹² Most unaccompanied youth are served by volunteer host homes, but female youth may be served at the YWCA.

¹³ Couples without children are served in motel rooms through the use of vouchers, or otherwise served as individuals in the single men's and single women's shelter.

¹⁴ Couples include two adult individuals.

¹⁵ Number included in one of female head of household, male head of household or two parent household.

to get a more accurate count on the average number of days it takes a homeless family to move out of shelter. For single men and single women, there are fewer shelter options, so the average number of days is likely more a reflection of the total average time spent in shelter.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Families with Children	21.21	27.58	31.60	32.84	32.10	35.09
Single Men¹⁶	31.66	18.30	21.30	26.36	25.14	22.98
Single Women¹⁷	18.33	21.89	22.85	18.93	20.20	21.40

62 Years of Age or older

It is difficult to determine if the number of homeless individuals who are 62 years or older is being reported correctly as the number reported has shifted wildly since 1997. Data will be followed in coming years to determine any trend.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total Number of Persons in Shelter Aged 62 or Older	50	29	62	22	38	7	7	5	8	44	49

Percent Who Consider Themselves as Non-White

In 2007, 70% of the homeless served identified themselves as non-white. Fifty-eight percent (58%) identified themselves as Black/African American. This is a slight increase over 2006. The number of households who identify themselves as non-white fluctuates by sub-population. Families are more likely to be non-white than single women or single men. More than eight out of ten families reported that they are non-white, with the majority being Black/African American. For families and single women, the numbers of minorities who seek shelter remained somewhat steady. The number of single men who consider themselves non-white increased to its highest level.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total Percent Who Identify Themselves as Non-white	69%	68%	67%	68%	70%	69%	69%	71%	65%	68%	70%
Percent of Individuals in Families Who Identify Themselves as Non-White	85%	85%	83%	83%	85%	83%	84%	86%	84%	87%	86%
Percent of Single Men Who Identify Themselves as Non-White	51%	51%	51%	51%	53%	50%	56%	50%	48%	52%	59%
Percent of Single Women Who Identify Themselves as Non-White	61%	46%	48%	42%	54%	51%	50%	55%	61%	63%	63%

Homeless Veterans

Nine percent (9%) of homeless households include a veteran. This is the same as in 2006. There are many more single homeless men who are veterans than any other sub-population. The wide fluctuations of male veterans in years past is likely the result of poor data collection. In 2007, the number of single male veterans decreased from the previous year even though the total number of homeless single men increased.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Families with Children	32 ¹⁸	46	39	15	11	9	7	19	13	5	7
Single Men	392	301	198	222	177	107	121	75	62	212	203
Single Women	--	--	--	22	19	15	24	16	10	16	9

Homeless Individuals with Mental Illness(s)

At the time of intake, individuals are asked to self report if they have issues with mental illness. For the last two years, the number of individuals reporting a mental illness has fluctuated very little. Single homeless women were the most likely to report a mental illness – 49% of all homeless single women in 2007.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Families with Children	133 ¹⁹	175	297	137	120	150	168	147	152	148	146

¹⁶ Calculated using Porchlight Drop-In Shelter data.

¹⁷ Calculated using The Salvation Army Single Women's shelter data.

¹⁸ For 1997, 1998 and 1999, data on single women was included with families with children. Starting 2000, single women data was separated out.

Single Men	367	329	208	358	253	183	109	92	131	390	347
Single Women	--	--	--	236	217	250	222	194	230	223	249

Homeless Individuals with Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Issues

All three sub-populations reported decreased numbers of individuals reporting issues with alcohol and/or other drugs. Single homeless men were the most likely to mention AODA issues – 34% of homeless single men in 2007.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Families with Children	74 ²⁰	157	189	96	97	75	59	63	54	58	43
Single Men	594	567	648	706	331	118	70	62	77	596	531
Single Women	--	--	--	142	144	158	131	125	119	132	114

Homeless Individuals with Existing Medical Problems/Physical Disabilities

More single women and single men reported in 2007 that they have physical health issues (other than or in addition to mental illness or AODA issues) than in 2006. Single women were the most likely to report physical health issues. The number of homeless single women with physical health issues rose significantly in 2007 to 65% from 56% in 2006.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Families with Children	99 ²¹	72	319	297	292	334	296	243	276	274	212
Single Men	151	114	141	295	198	150	99	63	56	251	320
Single Women	--	--	--	295	285	345	300	248	323	291	334

Length of Homeless Episode

The data indicates a trend towards households being homeless for shorter periods before they are served in shelter. The data also shows that there are fewer households whose current episode of homelessness is more than six months. While the data on those who reported being homeless for less than one month fluctuated a great deal between families and single adults, one in ten of all sub-populations reported being homeless for more than six months. What this data does not indicate is how many homeless episodes a household has had previously, if any.

More than one-half of families with children served in shelter reported that their recent episode of homelessness was less than one month. The homeless episode appears to be slightly shorter (less than one month) but generally has held constant since 2000.

Percent of Families	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Homeless episode < 1 month	57%	59%	57%	58%	56%	52%	55%	57%
Homeless episode 1-6 months	28%	25%	30%	28%	26%	36%	29%	30%
Homeless episode > 6 months	10%	11%	13%	11%	14%	11%	13%	11%
Homeless episode unknown	5%	5%	0%	3%	4%	1%	3%	2%

For 2007, the percent of single men who reported that their current homeless episode was less than one month rose significantly from previous years. It is difficult to determine if this is a real trend or an error in 2007 or in previous years data. One in ten report being homeless for more than six month (a decrease from previous years).

Percent of Single Men	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005²²	2006	2007
Homeless episode < 1 month	37%	49%	51%	59%	50%	18%	45%	78%
Homeless episode 1-6 months	13%	23%	29%	25%	29%	17%	19%	11%
Homeless episode > 6 months	49%	15%	12%	12%	14%	8%	22%	10%
Homeless episode unknown	1%	13%	8%	4%	7%	57%	15%	2%

¹⁹ For 1997, 1998 and 1999, data on single women was included with families with children. Starting 2000, single women data was separated out.

²⁰ For 1997, 1998 and 1999, data on single women was included with families with children. Starting 2000, single women data was separated out.

²¹ For 1997, 1998 and 1999, data on single women was included with families with children. Starting 2000, single women data was separated out.

²² Over half of the single men in shelter did not respond to this question.

Single women report the highest percentage of homeless episodes lasting less than one month: two of three women reporting episodes of less than one month.

Percent of Single Women	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Homeless episode < 1 month	61%	63%	57%	50%	57%	63%	62%	67%
Homeless episode 1-6 months	21%	18%	24%	21%	15%	15%	19%	20%
Homeless episode > 6 months	18%	19%	18%	22%	23%	16%	16%	11%
Homeless episode unknown	0%	0%	1%	7%	5%	6%	3%	3%

Length of Time in Dane County Prior to Seeking Shelter²³

Since 1991, agencies providing emergency shelter have collected data on residency prior to shelter and what is known is that there are fewer people new to Dane County (lived here less than one month before seeking shelter) in 2007 than there were in 1991. In 1991, 50% of families, 48% of single men and 47% of single women reported living in Dane County for less than one month prior to shelter²⁴ compared to 30% of families and 33% for both single men and women in 2007.

In 2007, 22% of the total homeless households (551 total households) lived in Dane County less than one month prior to seeking shelter. This is an increase from the previous year when 313 total households were new to Dane County (or 13% of the total). The data for families, single men and single women differ slightly, but for all sub-populations approximately one in three have lived in Dane County for less than one month before seeking shelter. According to the data collected on residency in Wisconsin prior to seeking shelter, families are slightly more likely to have come to Dane County from outside of the state.²⁵

The percentage of families who reported that they were new to Dane County (lived in Dane County less than one month) has declined slightly since 2000, while the number of families who have lived in the county more than two years has increased.

Families w/Children	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Lived in Dane County for less than one month	33%	39%	34%	33%	34%	31%	33%	30%
Lived in Dane County for less than one year	46%	53%	50%	50%	51%	52%	48%	45%
Lived in Dane County from one to two years	7%	5%	8%	7%	10%	10%	10%	8%
Lived in Dane County for two or more years	47%	42%	42%	40%	39%	38%	42%	47%

Last year, one in three single men lived in Dane County for less than one month and one-half lived in Dane County for less than one year prior to seeking shelter. While the data for 2005 and 2006 was incomplete, the 2007 data appears to reflect a single male population that was more likely to have lived in Dane County prior to becoming homeless than previous years.

Single Men	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Lived in Dane County for less than one month	53%	48%	53%	55%	53%	NA	NA	33%
Lived in Dane County for less than one year	62%	56%	64%	69%	68%	NA	NA	50%
Lived in Dane County from one to two years	4%	4%	3%	2%	3%	NA	NA	5%
Lived in Dane County for two or more years	34%	27%	27%	26%	25%	NA	NA	46%

Homeless single women are more likely than any other homeless sub-population to have lived in Dane County for two years or more.

²³ Some columns do not add up to 100%. In some cases, not all agencies reported data on this question.

²⁴ Complete residency data is available in the Annual Report on Homeless Served appendices.

²⁵ 25% of families, 21% of single women, and 14% of single men report living in Wisconsin less than 1 month.

Single Women	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Lived in Dane County for less than one month	40%	40%	31%	37%	33%	31%	33%	33%
Lived in Dane County for less than one year	51%	54%	40%	50%	48%	45%	49%	45%
Lived in Dane County from one to two years	3%	7%	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	4%
Lived in Dane County for two or more years	46%	40%	33%	47%	48%	51%	47%	51%

Where Homeless Households Slept Prior to Shelter

Families with children are most likely to double up with friends or family prior to seeking shelter. The percentages of households who slept in uninhabitable places are similar among sub-populations; there are significantly more single men who sleep on the street or in a vehicle than families or single women.

The percentage of homeless families who reported that they doubled up with friends and/or family prior to shelter has decreased since 2000. The percentage who reported having slept on the street or in a vehicle has also decreased. In 2007, the fewest number of homeless families reported having slept in an uninhabitable place prior to shelter. However, there were 53 families with children who said that they slept in an uninhabitable place during 2007.

Families w/children	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Doubled up with friends/family	71%	58%	74%	67%	71%	70%	63%	57%
Slept in an uninhabitable place	9%	15%	9%	19%	15%	17%	16%	13%
Number of Individuals in Families sleeping in uninhabitable places	18	98	71	94	67	74	79	53

The percentage of single men who reported doubling up with friends and family has changed little from 2006 to 2007. Two hundred thirty (230) men slept on the street or in a car last year.

Single Men	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Doubled up with friends/family	57%	55%	55%	53%	58%	60%	26%	25%
Slept in an uninhabitable place	18%	28%	27%	29%	20%	23%	17%	15%
Number of Single Men sleeping in uninhabitable places	65	266	200	191	79	97	256	230

The percentage of single women who reported doubling up with friends and family has changed little from 2006 to 2007. Eighty-two (82) women slept on the street or in a car last year, 14 more women than in 2006.

Single Women	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Doubled up with friends/family	59%	56%	59%	52%	49%	59%	43%	44%
Slept in an uninhabitable place	14%	17%	18%	24%	26%	25%	16%	16%
Number of Single Women sleeping in uninhabitable places	24	67	76	101	107	88	68	82

Summary

All sub-populations of homeless households decreased in 2007 from 2006 except single men. Nearly half, 45% of all homeless individuals, are single men. This was the first year since 2003 that the number of homeless single women did not increase.

Homeless families with children and single homeless women most often report that violence or the threat of violence was the main reason that they were seeking shelter. For single homeless men, the lack of income brings most to seek shelter. Nearly all homeless unaccompanied youth report that they seek shelter because of conflicts with family or roommates.

While nationally the number of homeless veterans is reported to be increasing, the number of homeless veterans in Dane County appears to be decreasing.

Less than one of three of homeless households report having any income at the time that they enter shelter. This includes earned income and government benefits such as social security, social security supplemental income and social security disability income.

The majority of homeless individuals identify themselves as non-white. Families are most likely to be non-white. Eight of 10 individuals in families consider themselves non-white.

In 2007, 365 individuals slept in an uninhabitable place such as the street or in a vehicle which is 38 fewer individuals than in 2006.

Year End 2007 Totals Transitional and Supportive Permanent Housing

Individuals and families access transitional or supportive permanent housing units directly or through referrals from emergency shelters. During 2007, there were 1,316 individuals who were served in 514 transitional and supportive permanent housing units.

	Total # Individuals	# of Individuals in Families and # of Families	# Single Men	# Single Women
Persons Served in Transitional or Supportive Permanent Housing ²⁶	1,316	536 individuals 161 families w/ 267 children	778 individuals 1 couple w/o children	
Percent of the Total	100%	40%	60%	

In 2007, there were more individuals served than in previous years (with the exception of 2002). As there were no new beds/units added between 2006 and 2007, the reason could be a mix of clients that were successful in transitional and supported permanent housing and moved to more independent housing OR clients who were unsuccessful and moved out. While the data reported through this process does not provide the answer to this question, the majority of agencies who contract with the City's CDBG Office report that 75% or more will maintain stable housing at the 6 month mark and 65% or more will maintain stable housing at the twelve month mark.

	Individuals in Transitional/Supportive Permanent Housing					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Single Adults	728	478	674	713	701	780
Families w/Children	693	349	394	481	588	536
Total Number of Individuals Served	1,421	827	1,068	1,194	1,289	1,316
Total Number of Households Served	905	578	788	872	881	940

Percent Who Consider Themselves as Non-White

Fifty-three percent (53%) of transitional and supportive permanent housing residents consider themselves to be non-white. Forty-three percent (43%) identify themselves as Black/African American.

Participants over 62 Years of Age

The majority of individuals served in transitional and supportive permanent housing are adults. Of these adults, 47 individuals identify themselves as over the age of 62. This is an increase from 46 served in 2006, 29 served in 2005 and 22 served in 2004. There are also 267 children whose families are being served in transitional and supportive permanent housing.

²⁶ Includes Porchlight, Inc. (scattered sites and Brooks Street), Tellurian (SOS and THP), Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Port St. Vincent and Seton Houses), Housing Initiatives (scattered sites and S+C slots), The Salvation Army (Holy House), IHN/YWCA (Second Chance Apartment Project), Veterans Assistance Foundation (Green Avenue) and the YWCA (Third Street). Does not include data from AIDS Resource Center of WI, ARC Community Services, Hope Haven/REBOS United, Rodney Scheel House, Tellurian (groups homes and Willie Street SRO), Goodwill Industries (Northport) and Women in Transition which contain an additional 269 beds/units. Year-end totals for these agencies will be included in the 2007 Annual Report on Homeless Served.

Where Homeless Households Slept Prior to Transitional/Supportive Permanent Housing

Many single adult households come directly from homelessness into transitional housing; other individuals come to housing through emergency shelter, following a release from a treatment facility, having doubled up with friends or family or from places not meant for habitation such as living on the street or in a vehicle. One in three households come from emergency shelter into transitional/permanent housing which is a decrease from 2006. The percentage of people who report having doubled up with friends and family prior to housing has been decreasing since 2002, as well as the percentage of individuals being discharged from treatment facilities. One in ten (86 individuals in 2007) reported that they have previously slept in an uninhabitable place prior to transitional/permanent housing. In 2006, 138 individuals reported sleeping in a place not meant for habitation.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Doubled Up with Family or Friends	32%	25%	17%	15%	19%	14%
Emergency Shelter	41%	36%	34%	32%	42%	31%
Treatment Facility	16%	18%	12%	15%	8%	7%
Uninhabitable Place (i.e. streets/car)	13%	11%	14%	12%	16%	10%
Other	0%	10%	23%	26%	15%	38%

Length of Homeless Episode

Prior to moving into transitional and supportive permanent housing, over half reported being homeless for six months or less. This is the same percentage as in 2006. About one of five individuals were homeless for more than six months. However, this question was not answered by over a quarter of the households in supportive housing.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Less than one month	29%	33%	21%	19%	26%	27%
One to six months	48%	46%	31%	28%	28%	27%
More than six months	21%	15%	26%	15%	17%	19%
Unknown	2%	6%	22%	38%	29%	27%

Transitional/Supportive Permanent Housing Units

The majority of individuals housed in transitional or supportive permanent housing in Dane County are single adults who make up 60% of the total. Unlike family units, many of the transitional and supportive permanent units for single adults are SRO units (sleeping room only), efficiency units and dormitory beds with shared common space and cooking/dining areas; the remaining housing opportunities are self-contained apartment units. Of the total units available, 43% are SRO units, 51% are apartment units, and 6% are dormitory beds.

Length of Time in Dane County Prior to Seeking Housing

Individuals and families who reside in transitional or supportive permanent housing tend to have spent more time in the Madison/Dane County area than households utilizing emergency shelter. Of those persons who answered the question, 73% indicated that they had lived in Dane County for more than one year. Only 2% of those who answered the question reported living in Dane County for less than one month.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Less than one month	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Less than one year	19%	16%	11%	8%	11%	11%
More than one year	75%	65%	63%	48%	66%	73%
Did not answer question	6%	17%	26%	44%	23%	16%

Source of Income

Approximately 40% of households report earning income from wages, 44% report income from social security and related entitlement programs, 15% report income from other sources and 1% report having no income.

Homeless Veterans

The percentage of previously homeless veterans residing in transitional and supportive permanent housing is higher than the percentage of veterans served in emergency shelter. The combined number of individuals served in emergency shelter, transitional and supportive permanent housing in 2007 is 368, which closely parallels the number of veterans in 2006 which was 363.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Individuals who are Veterans	11%	13%	12%	12%	15%	18%

Homeless Individuals with Mental Illness(s)

The percentage of individuals in transitional/supportive permanent housing who self report having issues with mental illness(s) has increased since 2002. In 2007, three of four individuals reported mental health issues.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Individuals with Mental Illness	54%	51%	46%	55%	61%	74%

Homeless Individuals with Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Issues

Just like issues with mental illness, the percentage of individuals in transitional/supportive permanent housing who self report having AODA issues has increased since 2002. In 2007, one-half of those served in housing reported alcohol and other drug abuse issues.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Individuals with AODA Issues	34%	37%	37%	38%	41%	50%

Summary

Single adults make up 60% of those served in both emergency shelter and in transitional and supportive housing. Homeless single adults and families with children who are being served in transitional and supportive permanent housing are more likely to have lived in the area prior to seeking housing assistance. They are also more likely to have issues with mental illness(s) and alcohol and other drug abuse than those served in emergency shelter, possibly indicating they are less likely to be successful in independent housing and need housing with supportive services.

The data on the number of individuals in households who reside at transitional or supportive permanent housing has been fairly consistent since 2002 with the exception of 2003. It is unclear why in this specific year there were so many fewer individuals reported. Continued diligence in data collection and reporting by HSC agencies will show if the more recent year's numbers are the most accurate.

**Year End 2007 Totals
Eviction Prevention / Support Services**

In 2007, five agencies²⁷ reported assisting 2,168 households with services and financial assistance to help them maintain stable housing. This is a reported increase from the 1,977 households served in 2006. Activities include: support services; budget counseling; financial assistance in the form of back rent, first months rent, short-term rental subsidies and utility assistance; landlord/tenant mediation; and tenant education. It is unclear what accounts for the increase in numbers served since in 2007, as there is actually one less agency, Legal Action of Wisconsin, reporting clients served data in 2007.

Year	Received Support Services Only				
	Total # Households	# Families	# Single Men & # Single Women	# Runaway/ Throw Away Youth	# Couples w/o Children
2007	2,168	846 families w/1,301 children no minors w/ children	890 individuals	272 individuals	80
2006	1,977	1,101 families w/ 1,267 children 2 minors w/ children	638 individuals	54 individuals	184
2005	2,366	1,248 families w/ 1,402 children 5 minors w/ children	684 individuals	176 individuals	253
2004	2,207	1,225 families w/ 1,137+ children 5 minors w/ children	615 individuals	182 individuals	185

In 2007, 72% of those receiving services reported having income less than 30% of the area median income compared to 61% in 2006. This means that nearly three-quarters of those households served made less than \$15,450 annually for a single individual or \$22,100 for a family of four. Forty percent (40%) indicated that they received income from wages, 17% received

²⁷ Community Action Coalition Financial Services, Porchlight DIGS Program, Tenant Resource Center Housing Mediation Services, Youth Services of Southern WI – Briarpatch Crisis Services, and YWCA Second Chance Tenant Education Workshops.

income from SSI/SSDI, 24% received income from other sources and 19% reported no income. Thirty-two percent (32%) received food stamps and 39% received medical assistance.

Of those assisted, 67% consider themselves non-white. Households receiving assistance have generally lived in the area for some time. Of those who reported, 52% say that they have lived in Dane County, and 59% say they have lived in Wisconsin, for two or more years.

Case Management for Unaccompanied Youth – Youth SOS WI

YSOSW reported providing support services for 272 unaccompanied youth, sometimes referred to as runaway or throw-away youth. Fourteen (14) of these youth were under the age of 12 years old while the balance were aged 13-17 years old. Slightly more than half of these youth are males. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of them consider themselves to be non-white with the majority being Black/African American. All of the homeless youth served through YSOSW reported that they lived on the street prior to receiving services at YSOSW.

Financial Assistance for Housing – Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin and Porchlight

Two agencies provided financial assistance to prevent an eviction or provide security deposits and first months rent to a total of 2,362 individuals in 950 households. Slightly less than half (46%) identify themselves as non-white. Of those receiving assistance, 323 were single individuals, 127 were adults without children, and 500 were families with children.

Tenant Education and Tenant/Landlord Mediation – YWCA of Madison and Tenant Resource Center

Two hundred and four (204) households attended two days of workshops in an effort to become better informed on their rights and responsibilities and as a result found it possible to obtain affordable rental housing. A large number of these households also took advantage of case management services offered to assist in their search for housing. During 2007, the program assisted 29 single adults, 9 couples without children and 166 families with children.

Tenant Resource Center provided housing mediation services for 381 households in an effort to prevent an eviction where possible or to provide for a planned move to avoid homelessness. Housing mediation is provided to anyone who has a five-day notice to vacate. During 2007, TRC provided mediation for 207 single adults, 20 adults without children and 154 families with children.

Summary

Through the assistance of these HSC agency programs, 2,168 households received support services and/or financial assistance that helped them avoid homelessness or to either move from homelessness to stable housing as quickly as possible.

Point In Time Survey January 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

Dane County Homeless Services Consortium agencies participate in a Point In Time survey that is required by HUD as part of the annual Continuum of Care (COC) Homeless Assistance Programs grant application. Locally a day is chosen from the week and month specified by HUD. While this data is not as comprehensive as the data reported by agencies for the full calendar year, it does give information on the unsheltered and chronically homeless. Since 2005, the date of the Point In Time survey has been designated for sometime during the last week of January.

In the surveys done in 2005, 2007, and 2008, the information was provided by Consortium agencies on single adults and families served. Data on the number of unsheltered single adults and families was provided by outreach workers and police officers as well as agency staff who know of specific individuals or families unsheltered. In 2006, data was collected by a group of volunteers headed by a UW student. Volunteers collected numbers from the housing providers as well as physically counting unsheltered people. In addition to the Point In Time data, the volunteer group also completed approximately 200 need assessment questionnaires from both sheltered and unsheltered homeless households.

Point In Time Data on Homeless Households

The following chart indicates those households that were considered homeless on a specific date that year ; HUD defines a "homeless person" as living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing or in an uninhabitable place. The Point In Time data indicates that the number of homeless households is decreasing. The largest change is reflected in single adults – more single adults using emergency shelter. In 2008, there were fewer single adults and families with children living in transitional housing in 2008 than in 2005. This difference is partly reflected as HUD's instructions has narrowed the type of shelter/housing to be included in the count and the change in capacity of Tellurian's SOS Program. The number of

unsheltered single adults has decreased over time while the number of unsheltered families with children remains a small, but significant, number. In January 2008, there were 414 emergency shelter beds available and 171 transitional housing units available.

	1.25.2005	1.26.2006	1.27.2007	1.29.2008
Single Adults in Emergency Shelter	149	166	166	172
Families with Children in Emergency Shelter	46	47	39	46
Single Adults in Transitional Housing	313	297	218	110
Families with Children in Transitional Housing	99	100	67	47
Unsheltered Single Adults	54	68	68	45
Unsheltered Families with Children	1	6	6	3
Total Homeless Households – Point In Time	662	684	554	423

Chronically Homeless Single Adults

HUD’s definition of chronically homeless applies only to single adults with a permanent disability who has been homeless continuously for one year or four times in three years. Agency staff use their best judgment in determining what individuals likely meet this definition. In 2005, the number of chronically homeless was higher than reported in 2008. In 2004, the number of chronic individuals was reported even higher – 231 chronically homeless individuals²⁸.

	1.25.2005	1.26.2006	1.27.2007	1.29.2008
Chronically Homeless Individuals ²⁹	193	127	127	129

Summary

It has been a local priority to increase the inventory of permanent supportive housing for homeless single adults and families to minimize the negative effects of homelessness. As new units are constructed/rehabilitated and existing units are made affordable, the number of homeless individuals is projected to decrease. In 2008, the Community Action Coalition and a coalition of family shelter providers (The Salvation Army, Interfaith Hospitality Network, YWCA) will begin operation of two new programs providing supportive permanent housing to homeless families with children. Also in 2008, Housing Initiatives will be adding housing units for single adults with a disability.

Single individuals who experience long term homelessness are often the most visible face of homelessness in the community. While the number of homeless individuals who meet the chronically homeless definition appears to be decreasing, the public’s perception of homelessness is often determined by this sub-population. The federal government, including HUD, has set a priority on serving this long-term homeless population. Locally, Porchlight, Tellurian and Housing Initiatives have initiated federally funded programs to house and serve this difficult population. The intended result is that there will be fewer chronically homeless individuals in the years to come.

²⁸ Complete 2004 data found in the 2004 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance grant application to HUD.

²⁹ Defined by HUD as homeless four times in three years or continuously for one year.