



WHO ARE THE HOMELESS?

Numbers:

The Homeless Services group (the Consortium) reported that 495 families, 793 single men, 535 single women, and 69 unaccompanied minors were served in the emergency shelters during 2003. Over 1,673 individuals were served that same year in transitional, supported permanent housing, or residential treatment units.

In Dane County, homeless service agencies report that about 100 to 200 individuals may be homeless and without shelter on a given night. This varies with the season, with greater demand during the summer months. A local June 21, 2004 survey (during an higher average month) reported that 93 individuals and 52 families were 'unsheltered' on that single night.

Duration:

50% of the people in the emergency shelter system reported that they had been homeless for less than one month; 37% less than six months and 13% for more than six months.

Race:

Seven of ten people in shelter describe themselves as non-white.

Income source:

At the time of entering shelter, 13% of all sub-populations report some income from wages, 15% report income from social security, and 2% report income from unemployment insurance. 66% report no income. For families, 19% report income from wages, 17% report income from social security, and 16% report income from W-2 or TANF.

Veteran Status:

16% of the homeless men are veterans.

Origins of homelessness:

While people reported various contributing factors to their seeking shelter, families were most likely to indicate violence or threat of violence led them to seek shelter. Single men indicated that the primary reason to seek shelter was a result of being transient or in transit, while single women report low or no income.



WHAT IS THE SUPPLY OF HOUSING?

Supply

The continuum of care for people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless can be described in terms of four broad 'activity phases': prevention, and emergency, transitional, and permanent supported housing. The Madison-Dane County area, unlike many metropolitan areas across the country, has emphasized prevention, transitional, and permanent supported housing.

Capacity:

The housing 'continuum of care' for the Dane County area includes about 310 beds in nine **shelter** programs in addition to vouchers for motel rooms and a 'warming house for women and children. (Numbers vary slightly according to shelter flexibility and ad hoc arrangements.)

The continuum of care system includes 701 **transitional or supportive permanent housing** units. Of these, at least
232 beds/units are for single men;
280 beds/units are for single women;
114 beds/units are for families;
30 beds/units are for other special needs, such as those with HIV /AIDS or veterans.

Prevention services such as mediation or short-term rent assistance helped over 1,800 households in 2003, while longer term rent assistance through the housing authorities and private entities serve over 3,300 households each year. Private or non-profit agencies operating tax-credit properties managed over 2,550 units in 2003.

In addition, the private housing market is sometimes able to serve people with very low incomes or at risk of homelessness in certain market cycles, particularly when the rental market appears weak and vacancies increase.



WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY TRENDS?

The number of people served in the emergency shelter system has decreased in the last several years, except for the category of single women.

	1997	1999	2002	2003
Total Individuals served in homeless shelters	5,145	4,498	3,417	3,163
Detail: Families	963	1,012	576	495
Detail: Single men	1,397	1,046	939	793
Detail: single women	467	445	581	535

The number of people turned away from shelters also appears to have also decreased from prior years. This suggests that some people who formerly sought shelter are finding other sources of housing, gaining employment, are less mobile, or are able to maintain their housing through an improved and expanded system of support and transitional housing.

Figures reported from the Consortium agencies suggest that 'turn-aways' from the emergency shelters during the two winter quarters has decreased from 337 single men in 2001-2 to 115 in 2003-04. Individuals in families have decreased from 3,357 in 2001-2 to 747 in 2003-4. Single women have decreased from 169 in 2001-2 to 158 in 2003-4.

HOUSING SERVICES IN ACTION

The following programs tend to serve those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and are looking for housing or housing assistance.

Youth Services of S. Wi: Briarpatch <i>Services and shelter for youth</i>	251-6211
Community Action Coalition <i>Information and Counseling</i>	246-4730
Dane County Housing Authority	224-3636
Housing Initiatives <i>Housing for consumers of mental illness services</i>	224-3636
Interfaith Hospitality Network <i>Shelter for families</i>	294-7998
Madison Community Development Authority	266-4675
Milwaukee Fair Housing Council (Dane)	241-0105
Porchlight, Inc. <i>Shelter for men, Safe Haven, Hospitality House, housing</i>	257-2534
Salvation Army Shelter <i>General gatekeeper, Shelter for families, women, and those with medical issues</i>	256-2321
SOAR Case Management Services <i>Housing and services</i>	287-0839
Tellurian <i>Outreach and Program for homeless</i>	222-7311
Tenant Resource Center <i>Mediation services</i>	257-0143
Housing Kiosk at the Job Center	242-7406
United Refugee Services	256-6400
YWCA of Madison <i>For women and families</i>	57-1436
AIDS Resource Center of WI <i>Housing for persons with HIV/AIDS</i>	258-9103
Domestic Abuse Intervention Services <i>Shelter for women and families</i>	251-4445
Hope Haven/Rebos United <i>Residential AODA treatment</i>	251-8881
Legal Action of WI <i>Legal Advocacy for homeless</i>	256-3304
Society of St Vincent de Paul <i>Housing for single men, women, and children</i>	278-2920

MADISON GOALS

Since the early 1980's, the City has focused much of its resources and energy on either expanding the supply of transitional and supported housing, strengthening the system of homeless service groups through the cooperative efforts of the Consortium, or improving prevention efforts. In the last year, the Mayor encouraged some private donors to help expand a warming shelter for women and children.

The development, maintenance and improvement of the affordable housing supply in Madison involve the work of many City units, community organizations, other governments and funders, as well as the private market. Within the City of Madison, the Planning Unit and Plan Commission develop master plans and approve specific subdivision and site plans. Building Inspection operates inspection programs and reviews new plans and buildings. EOC promotes equal opportunities in housing and employment. CED and CDBG provide financial assistance to developers of housing. Housing Operations manages publicly owned housing and the Housing Voucher (Section 8) program.

ONGOING CDBG OBJECTIVES

The CDBG program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of the City of Madison. Community development funding actively supports the efforts of community-based, non-profit agencies to:

- Improve Madison's existing housing;
- Stimulate economic development;
- Expand and improve the quantity and quality of community services;
- Empower and revitalize Madison target area neighborhoods; and
- Improve access of lower income people to housing information and non-monetary resources.

For more information about any of the individual projects, call the individual agency. For more information about the City's investments in affordable housing, contact the CDBG Office at:

Room 280, Madison Municipal Building
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
P.O. Box 2985
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2985
Tel: (608) 267-0740 **TDD:** (608) 267-0744
Fax: (608) 261-9661
E-Mail: cdbg@cityofmadison.com
Web: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/cdbg>

HOUSING AND SERVICES RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS

CITY OF MADISON

In partnership with the

Dane County

Homeless Services Consortium,

Federal Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD),

the Wisconsin Department of Commerce

City of Madison Community Development

Authority,

Dane County Housing Authority,

United Way of Dane County,

and many other business and community

groups.

David J. Cieslewicz
Mayor of Madison

Brochure developed by the
City of Madison CDBG Office
(Rev. 12/04)

