WHO IS HOMELESS IN WISCONSIN?
A LOOK AT STATEWIDE DATA
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About the Data Sources

Data are reported from two origins:

- **Longitudinal**: count over time, typically a 12-month period
- **Point-in-Time**: single day snapshot
About Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- HMIS is the primary source of homeless data in Wisconsin
- Statewide database generates unduplicated counts of people served by homeless programs
HMIS Nuts and Bolts

- Organizations providing specific services to people experiencing homelessness document client level data in system
- Services include: emergency shelter, transitional housing, street outreach, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, case management, and eviction prevention
- Client level information is used to create a variety of aggregate reports
HMIS Report Examples

- Total people served by date range, program, etc.
- Program performance
- Trends
- Demographics
- Progress
- Program utilization
Continuum of Care (CoC) Basics

- A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a collaboration of service providers (non-profits, government, health care, etc.) working together towards the common goal of providing solutions to homelessness in communities across the state.

- CoCs also apply for competitive annual federal funding to provide housing and supportive services in their communities.
Four CoCs in Wisconsin

- Milwaukee City/County
- Madison/Dane County
- Racine City/County
- Balance of State
  - Due to large geographic reach of Balance of State, most meetings and organization is further broken down into smaller regions
  - High-population counties typically operate as one CoC
The Numbers (Some of Them)

Between October 2015 and September 2016, homeless services providers in Wisconsin reported serving 22,050 people in emergency shelter and transitional housing in Wisconsin.
22,050 In Depth

- 46% were in families with minor children
- 58% were served outside Dane & Milwaukee Counties
- 9% were U.S. military veterans
- 8% met the federal definition for chronic homelessness
- 2% were unaccompanied youth under the age of 18
In Depth, Continued

- 88% of people served from October 2015 – September 2016 were served in emergency shelters, totaling 19,312 people
- 28% (5,332 people) were youth under the age of 18
- The average age of a sheltered person is 30.4 years old
Emergency Shelter Use by County, October 2015 – September 2016
Point-in-Time (PIT) Data

- Point-in-Time data are used to create a snapshot of homelessness on a single day/night within a jurisdiction.
- Count is of people in literal homeless situations: on streets/place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, transitional housing programs.
- Count is inclusive of ALL providers in state.
- Count is conducted on same night throughout state.
- 2017 count is TODAY.
Point-In-Time Recent Trends

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<td>Balance of State</td>
<td>3,569</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee County</td>
<td>1,499</td>
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<td>Dane County</td>
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<td>771</td>
<td>629</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
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2016 Count In Depth

- 22% had a severe mental illness
- 22% were victims of domestic violence
- 15% had chronic substance abuse
- 7% were veterans
- 6% were chronically homeless
- 6% were unaccompanied youth under the age of 25
- 188 youth under the age of 25 were parents to 267 children
2016 Count In-Depth, Continued

- People equally distributed between single people and people in families
- 7% of people counted were in places not meant for human habitation
- Severely mentally ill comprise largest sub-population of people counted
Total homeless people in Wisconsin
PIT count, 2007-2016
Progress is Happening

- Continua of Care are replacing transitional housing programs with permanent rapid re-housing programs

- Continua of Care have also implemented a coordinated entry system, which prioritizes people for the most appropriate services available (i.e., no longer first-come, first-served)
Progress, Continued

- Additional programs targeted to specific populations have been developed:

**State Programs**
- Street Outreach Program for homeless veterans
- Rapid Re-Housing Program for youth aging out of foster care
- Expanded a program aimed at assisting homeless people access SSI/SSDI (SOAR)
The Interagency Council

- Key stakeholders from various state departments and key community organizations convene quarterly.

- Functions of the council include:
  - Reviewing data
  - Information sharing
  - Identifying needs and gaps
  - Improving inter- and intra-agency coordination
  - Fostering systems change and improvement
For More Information

Additional Interactive Data Can be Found on Our Website:

http://www.icalliances.org/wisfamilyimpact