



A Snapshot of Homelessness in Washtenaw County in 2013

Although much of Washtenaw County is bouncing back from the recession, many individuals and families in our community **struggle to secure and maintain stable housing**. Multiple factors can lead to homelessness, including a lack of affordable housing, untreated mental disorders, untreated substance abuse or addiction, family system breakdown, and increased poverty. The ultimate end to homelessness is always stable housing.

Many who experience homelessness receive the supports they need to be stably housed – however this is not true for everyone. We, as a community of service providers and citizens, continue to confront the tragedy of homelessness as responsibly, compassionately, and efficiently as possible while striving to expand services in order to meet the needs of all residents.

This Snapshot outlines

Who experienced homelessness in Washtenaw County in 2013.

How service providers throughout the County are currently **addressing homelessness**.



Who received services to address homelessness in Washtenaw County in 2013?

4413 adults and children in total



63% single adults

(2779 total) with an avg. age of
40 years



2% unaccompanied youth under age 24 (70 total)

with an avg. age of **16 years**



22% adults in families (980 total) with an avg.
age of **34 years**



19% children in families (840 total) with
an avg. age of **7 years**

Contrary to popular belief, people experiencing homelessness are:

- **Families with Children** - **992 families** with children received homelessness services in Washtenaw County.
- **High School Graduates** - **70%** of people who received services had attained at least a high school diploma.

Several special populations who received services to address homelessness in 2013:

Unaccompanied Youth: **70**

Unaccompanied youth include young people up to age 24 who have been thrown out of their home, run away from their home, and/or been abandoned by parents or guardians.

Average age: **16 years**

94% were 15 -17 years old

49% female

49% male

2% transgendered

57% experienced homelessness for the first time



Domestic Violence Survivors: **119 adults & 112 children**

Domestic violence survivors who receive services have fled from domestic violence or sexual assault situations in their homes.

53 adults in families

112 children in families

66 single adults

53 total families

119 adult females

0 adult males



Veterans: **176**

Broadly, veterans include any person who has actively served in any branch of the United States armed forces.



Chronically Homeless: **690**

According to the Federal **Department of Housing & Urban Development's** definition, all chronically homeless individuals have a disabling condition and have either been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

We count only **individuals** who qualify as chronically homeless. Yet in reality, **some families** also experiences chronic homelessness. Thus, the actual number of chronically homeless people in 2013 was greater than reported here (greater than 690).

Average age: **43 years**

36% female

68% male

100% have a disabling condition (i.e. a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness)

71% have at least a high school diploma



How are we addressing homelessness in Washtenaw County?

12 agencies throughout Washtenaw County, coordinated by the Continuum of Care Board, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, and the Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development, specifically and collaboratively address homelessness with a continuum of services in order to meet each client's unique needs. Many additional agencies and institutions provide services to prevent, ameliorate, or end homelessness.

Types of Services Offered to People Experiencing Homelessness:

Temporary
Services



Emergency Shelter: Emergency shelter is a time-limited, housing-focused solution for people experiencing homelessness. At their most basic level, emergency shelters offer a place to sleep. In most communities, these shelters offer no additional services beyond meeting this basic need. Washtenaw County's emergency shelters, by contrast, work with clients to help them increase income and secure affordable housing. Often, individuals experiencing homelessness receive non-residential shelter services, such as meals and laundry facilities, prior to placement in residential shelter services.

Transitional Housing: Usually limited to a maximum of 24 months, transitional housing (TH) provides temporary housing for specific populations struggling with homelessness – specifically youth and those in recovery. Services provided in TH help residents establish self-sufficiency and transition into permanent, affordable housing.

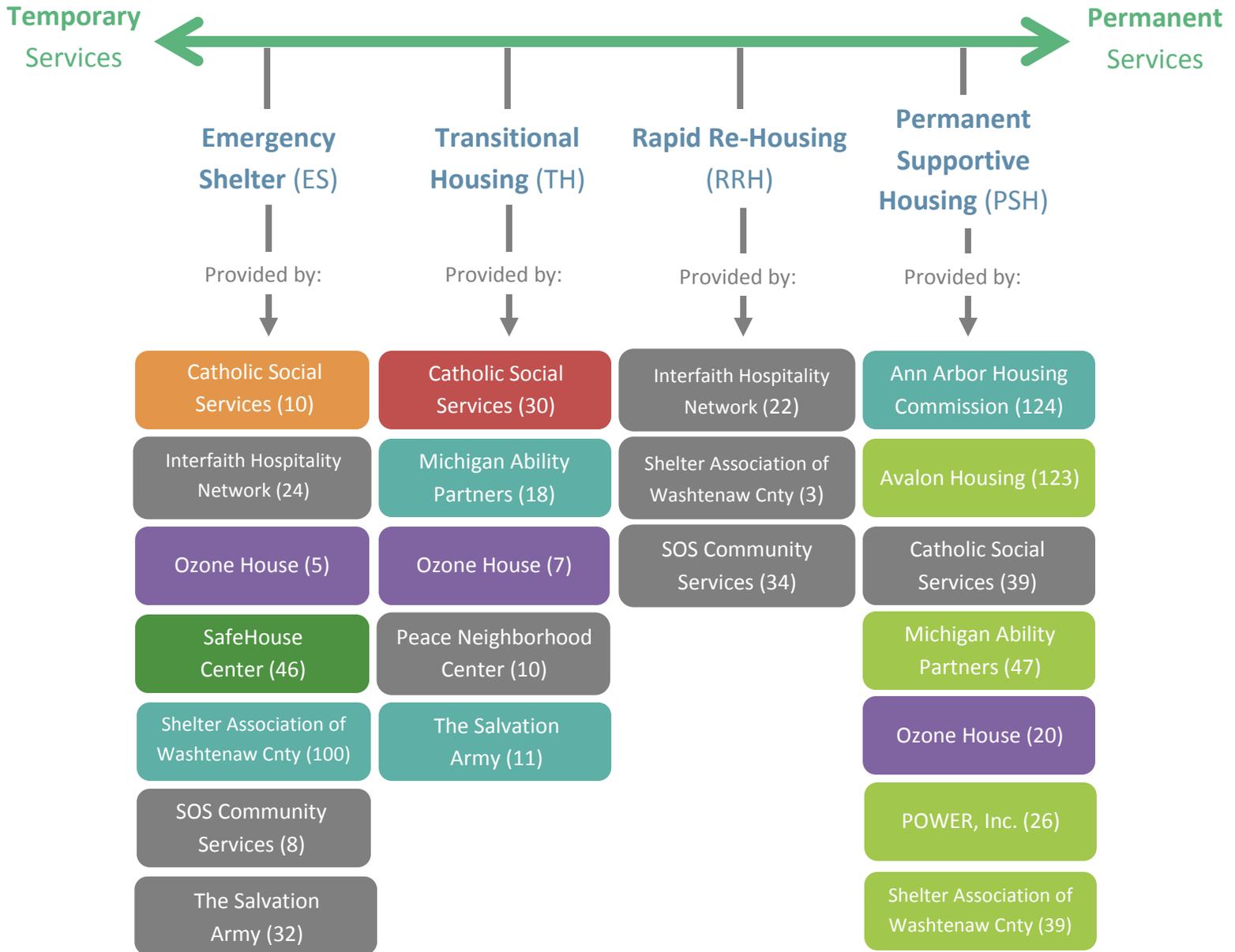
Rapid Re-Housing: An evidence-based strategy, rapid re-housing services (RRH) quickly re-house and stabilize people experiencing homelessness while providing services including coverage of move-in costs, a short-term rental subsidy, and support services such as case management. RRH's ultimate goal is to help consumers achieve housing sustainability at the fair market rental rate; to that end, the RRH rental subsidy is often provided on a graduated system.

Permanent Supportive Housing: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) provides a permanent rental subsidy and permanent support services to those who require it to remain stably housed – primarily those with complex and persistent challenges (i.e. a disability and/or chronically homeless). By providing flexible wraparound services – such as substance abuse counseling, employment training, transportation, crisis management, and symptom monitoring – attached to permanent housing, PSH has been shown to dramatically decrease rates of chronically homeless individuals in regions throughout the US.

Permanent
Services



Which agencies offer these services in Washtenaw County?



- = Serves Only Unaccompanied Youth
 - = Serves Only Domestic Violence Survivors
 - = Some Portion of Services are Dedicated to Formerly Incarcerated Returning Citizens
 - = Some Portion of Services are Dedicated to Veterans
 - = Some Portion of Services are Dedicated to the Chronically Homeless
 - = Some Portion of Services are Dedicated to Pregnant and Mothering Youth
 - = Serves All Populations except Unaccompanied Youth & Domestic Violence Survivors
- (##) = Number of Available Beds in 2014

On a given night in 2013 in Washtenaw County:



People are staying in emergency shelter,

and

those beds are in limited supply.



On a given 2013 night there were:

In 2013 there were a total of:

240 people in Emergency Shelter:

171 beds in Emergency Shelter

169* total single adults

109 beds for single adults

51 veterans

10 beds reserved for veterans

59 chronically homeless individuals

0 beds reserved for chronically homeless individuals

71* total adults & children in families

62 beds for families with children

54 domestic violence survivors

46 beds reserved for domestic violence survivors

+ **166 Unsheltered homeless individuals**

0 available beds

* Emergency shelters can sometimes accommodate more individuals than their number of beds allows by using overflow beds. While this enables them to provide additional shelter in times of high need, overflow beds are of substantially lower quality and are in limited supply.

This data was collected during a survey on January 29, 2013 known as the Point in Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC).

How effective are services to address homelessness?

4413 people received **services to address homelessness** in 2013

Of those:

\$ **15%** increased their income from employment by the time they exited services

28% increased their income from sources other than employment by the time they exited services

🍏 **45%** obtained non-cash mainstream benefits (such as SNAP food assistance) by the time they exited services

Of the 264 people in Permanent Supportive Housing:

🏠 **97%** remained stably housed at the end of the calendar year.

More information on the Washtenaw County Continuum of Care can be found on OCED's webpage:

www.ewashtenaw.org/OCED

Local Agencies that Focus on Addressing Homelessness:

Ann Arbor Housing Commission:

<http://www.a2gov.org/services/OtherServices/Housing/Pages/default.aspx>

Avalon Housing: <http://www.avalonhousing.org/>

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County: <http://csswashtenaw.org/>

Interfaith Hospitality Network: <http://alphahouse-ihn.org/>

Michigan Ability Partners: <http://www.mapagency.org/>

Ozone House: <http://www.ozonehouse.org/>

Peace Neighborhood Center: <http://www.peaceneighborhoodcenter.org/>

POWER, Inc.: <http://www.powerclf.org/>

SafeHouse Center: <http://www.safehousecenter.org/>

Shelter Association of Washtenaw County: <http://www.annarborshelter.org/>

SOS Community Services: <http://www.soscs.org/>

The Salvation Army: http://www.usc.salvationarmy.org/usc/www_usc_washtenaw.nsf

Acknowledgements:

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