



NATIONAL SURVEY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

MICHIGAN
Fall 2010

www.icprwb.org

from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

Michigan had an estimated 2,012 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving nearly four times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: Michigan does not have an official taskforce on homelessness. *Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness*, a partnership between the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, and local providers, was launched in 2006 as an effort to end homelessness in the state by 2016.

Governor's Appointee: Michigan does not have an official appointee on homelessness. Gary Heidel, interim executive director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, has overseen homeless prevention and assistance efforts throughout the state since July 2010.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Michigan	Detroit	Kent County	Oakland County
Persons in homeless families ²	6,148	725	478	242
Number of family shelter beds ³	6,180	2,443	693	395
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁴	17	22	19	5
Percent of families in poverty ⁵	15.84%	38.19%	15.49%	8.13%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2006 ⁶	2006	2006	2006
10-Year plan target population	Locally managed	All	All	All
Point-in-time count frequency	Biennially*	Biennially	Biennially	Biennially
Point-in-time count managing agency	Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness*	Homeless Action Network of Detroit	Kent County Essential Needs Task Force	Oakland County Taskforce on Homelessness and Affordable Housing
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness*	Homeless Action Network of Detroit	The Salvation Army Booth Family Services	Community Housing Network
Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant or main organizing agency	Michigan State Housing Development Authority*	Homeless Action Network of Detroit	Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness	Oakland County Taskforce on Homelessness and Affordable Housing

*Corresponds to the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which comprises areas of Michigan that are not included in a regional or local CoC.

Michigan's Collective Effort to End Homelessness

In 2006, Michigan introduced *Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness*, a statewide initiative to end homelessness within ten years. Prompted by the state's commitment to the campaign, 60 plans covering all 83 counties were created by the end of October 2006. In addition to local plans, state agencies and private organizations developed over 40 statewide programs to support the effort.⁷ As a result of the collaboration, Michigan became the first and only state in the country to have each of its counties working under a ten-year plan to end homelessness. Promoting a housing first approach (93% of plans) and increasing access to and/or the supply of affordable housing (82%) are common strategies identified in the local plans. Other strategies include: raising community awareness (72%), increasing access and efficiency of supportive services (65%), and elevating prevention strategies

ICPH
Institute for
Children, Poverty
& Homelessness
www.ICPHusa.org

The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Michigan and other states, visit www.icprwb.org

(62%). In addition, 47% of plans call for a rapid re-housing approach; however, only 30% of those plans include a specified timeframe for the development of the intended amount of housing units. Moreover, less than half of the plans (43%) contain goals with quantifiable outcomes to evaluate plan progress.⁸ Despite the campaign's efforts, family homelessness grew by nearly one-quarter (24%) state-wide between 2007 and 2009. The economic recession was cited as a contributing factor to the rise in homelessness.⁹

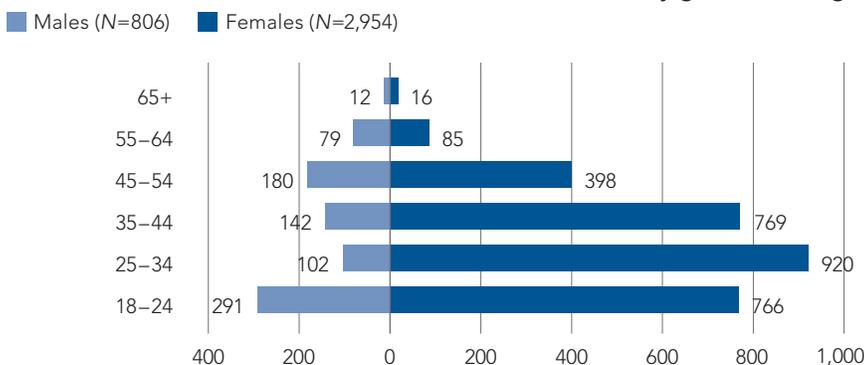
High Rates of Poverty, Unemployment, and Homelessness in Detroit

Detroit had the third highest number of both homeless individuals (11,913) and persons in families (6,149) in the country in 2008.¹⁰ Currently, with over one-third (36.4%) of city residents living below the poverty level and an unemployment rate of 15.2%, Detroit continues to feel the residual effects of the economic recession.¹¹ In 2009, families with children made up 41% of homeless persons in Detroit. Of the 3,760 adults in families, almost eight of ten (79%) were female, with nearly one-third (31%) between the ages of 25 and 34. Almost three-quarters (74%) of adults in families were unemployed at intake. However, only 9% cited unemployment (loss of job) as a reason for homelessness, while 40% attributed their housing instability to eviction. Over half (55%) of persons in families reported that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.¹²

Wraparound Services for Homeless Youth and Families

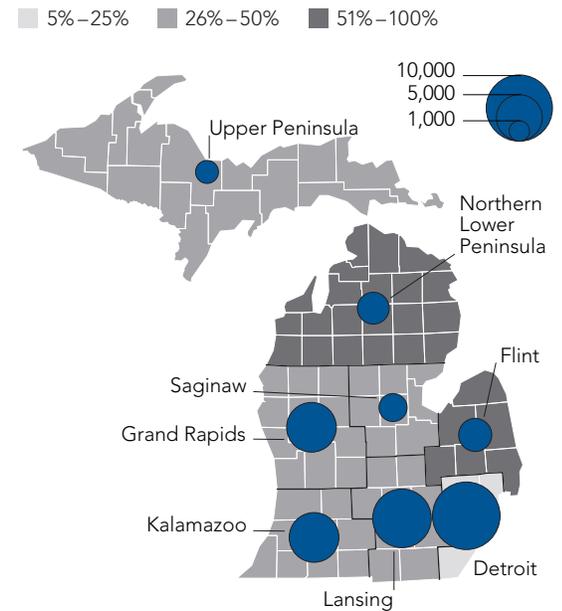
Wraparound is a family-focused, strength-based model that can be used to connect homeless and at-risk children and families with resources to prevent future housing instability. A state interagency Wraparound Steering Committee oversees wraparound programs at the state level and provides free technical assistance to local service providers.¹³ The Eastern Michigan University Wraparound Grant Project, a partnership between the university, local school districts, government agencies, and social service providers, offers comprehensive wraparound services for high-risk teen parents in Oakland and Washtenaw counties. Established in January 2009, the program serves pregnant and/or parenting teenagers between the ages of 13–21 at risk of or currently experiencing at least one of the following: homelessness, court involvement, aging out of foster care, or mental health issues. Homelessness was the top risk factor among teens utilizing services, as 23 of the 36 clients were homeless or at risk of homelessness upon entering the program. While in the program, 11 of the 23 homeless parents secured housing. The program is financed by a federal earmark grant from the Department of Justice and is expected to end in December 2010 due to a lack of continued funding.¹⁴

Number of Adults in Homeless Families in Detroit (by gender and age)



Source: Homeless Action Network Detroit, *Detroit HMIS Collaborative Report January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009*.

Number and Percent Change of Persons in Homeless Families (by region)



Source: Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness, *2008 Annual Summary*; Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness, *2009 Annual Summary*. The percent change of persons in homeless families corresponds to 2007–09, while the total number of persons is for 2009 only.

Endnotes

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations; U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 American Community Survey.
- Michigan does not have a formalized statewide ten-year plan to end homelessness, but state agencies, local providers, and all Continuums of Care operate under Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness.
- Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness, <http://www.thecampaigntoendhomelessness.org>
- Corporation for Supportive Housing-Michigan in collaboration with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, *Ten-Year Plans to End Homelessness Summary of Analysis*, November 2007.
- Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness, *2008 Annual Summary*; Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness, *2009 Annual Summary*.
- In 2009, the City of Detroit underestimated the number of unsheltered homeless persons; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations.
- Detroit has one of the highest unemployment rates (15.2%) among metropolitan areas with a population of one million or more; U.S. Census Bureau, *2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*; Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment*, July 2010.
- Homeless Action Network Detroit, *Detroit HMIS Collaborative Report January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009*.
- Connie Conklin (Director of Programs and Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance, Michigan Department of Community Health) and Mille Shepherd (Wraparound/Technical Assistance Coordinator, Michigan Department of Community Health), interview with ICPH, October 2010.
- Eastern Michigan University, <http://www.emich.edu/coe/wraparound>