

Alliance For Housing – Oakland County's Continuum of Care

2012 Annual State of Homelessness Report



June 2013

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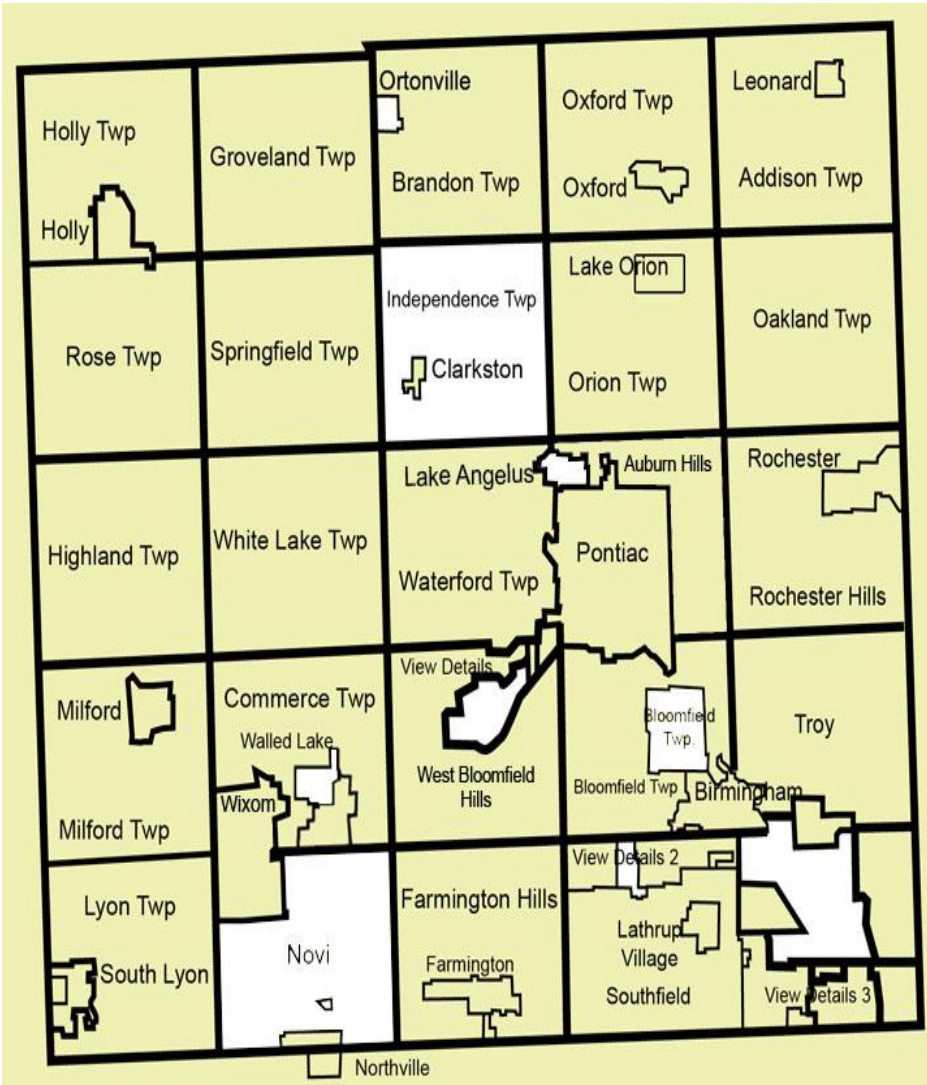
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Oakland County at a Glance. Oakland County Michigan is part of the Detroit metropolitan area and has an estimated population of 1,220,657 approximately 12% of the total estimated 9,883,360 Michigan residents (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/26/26125.html>¹). The county encompasses nearly 870 square miles including 62 cities, townships and villages. 2011 statistics report 526,755 housing units and the

homeownership rate at 73%. Median household income was \$66,456 with 10% of persons living below poverty level (under \$15,000 for a family of two).

The Alliance for Housing is the new name for Oakland County’s Continuum of Care. In response to the 2009 HEARTH regulations, HUD published the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim rule that established the regulations for a new Continuum of Care Program designed to oversee the CoC planning process. In 2011, members of the CoC formed a capacity building workgroup, and with guidance from HUD and agreement by all organizations, created the 501c3 entity whose mission is to “Support housing solutions by promoting community partnerships”. The Alliance for housing was born! The Alliance members address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness through a community based process of coordination of care including housing and self sufficiency through linking with community resources. The members are dedicated to ending homelessness and to make a difference in the lives of persons in need.



¹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/26/26125.html>

The 2012 Homeless Data Report is designed and intended to provide a snapshot of the state of homelessness in Oakland County using data extrapolated from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and data provided by various other service organizations that also serve homeless persons in local programs but do not use the HMIS.

This report contains data on the demographics of the people served in Oakland County and is a tool to inform the community of the types of services provided to persons seeking assistance and to show the success of the programs and the persons served. As part of Michigan's statewide system, the HMIS helps the Alliance for Housing measure and report out patterns of homelessness, measure service effectiveness and improve care.

In last 2012, HUD revised the homeless definition as part of the implementation of the HEARTH Act and there were several key benchmarks implemented statewide. HUD revised the Federal Homeless Definition in mid 2012 to include literally homeless, persons within 14 days of eviction, homeless by another Federal definition and those fleeing domestic violence. HUD also expanded the Chronically Homeless definition to include families where at least one adult had a disability of long duration. Michigan will be using the 2012 chronically homeless numbers as a benchmarking strategy to focus its efforts on reducing the number of chronically homeless in 2013. In addition, MSHDA restructured the service delivery system by funding 60 Housing Assessment and Resource Agencies (HARAs) and an intention to use funding to rapidly re-house those on the street or entering shelters.

Comparing 2011 and 2012 numbers (see Overall Demographics section) shows an increase in persons served, however, the change in the homeless definition during 2012 changes the measurement universe so it becomes difficult to measure the change.

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a web-based database used to collect homeless data including unduplicated counts of program participants, basic demographic data, and service delivery information. Data was entered by 11 organizations (9 HUD funded and 2 non HUD funded) representing over 100 programs and 100 end users. The organizations provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive services, short term rental assistance and permanent supportive housing in Oakland County.

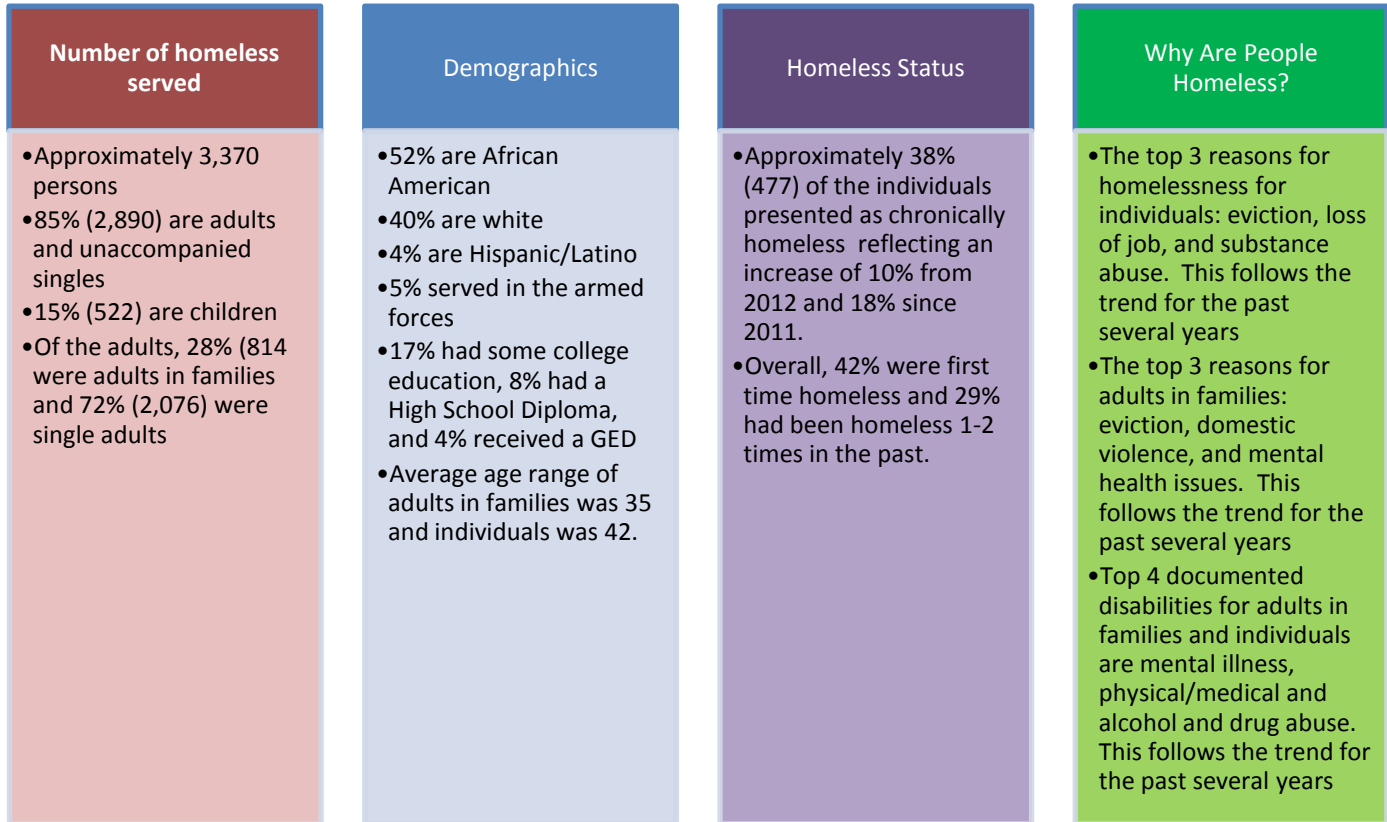


The HMIS Data is used to:



OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS

HMIS data shows an overall increase in the number of homeless persons assisted by the Alliance for Housing service providers. As noted below (Table 1 – 3 Year Data Comparison) the increase totals 523 people or 18%, however the change in the homeless definition changed the measurement universe and comparing the two year data is not recommended. It is noteworthy to mention that in 2012, the Emergency Solution Grant allocated nearly 40% to be used to provide prevention, rapid rehousing and housing stabilization services within the community. In addition, a new Leasing Assistance Program became operational. This program provides long term rental assistance for 32 chronically homeless persons and family members. The PATH outreach team was able to engage over 100 persons and link them with local programs.



3 Year Data Comparison – Table 1

	2010	2011	% Change 2010-2011	2012	% Change 2011-2012
Total number of homeless	2966	2847	-4%	3370	18%
Number of Individuals	1684	1750	4%	2076	19%
Number of adults in families	687	675	-2%	814	21%
Number of children in families	595	413	-31%	522	26%
Chronically homeless	329	289	-12%	447	55%
Individuals with disabilities	998	1168	17%	1413	21%
Adults in families with disabilities	290	349	20%	458	31%
First Time Homeless for individuals	515	400	-22%	403	1%
Chronically homeless individuals	402	320	-20%	477	40%
First Time Homeless families	216	196	-9%	231	18%
Chronically homeless families	61	51	-16%	73	43%

HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

- 2,076 individuals
- 44% are White, 43% are Black/African American and 4% are Hispanic/Latino.
- 55% are male and 45% are female.
- Nearly 20% of individuals have some high school education, and 38% have a high school degree or GED. A substantial number have some college education at 33%.
- 11% are employed.
- A small proportion of individuals are veterans at 8%.
- 34% of individuals are homeless for the first time and 38% are chronically homeless

HOMELESS FAMILIES

- 1,336 homeless persons in families (814 adults/522 children)
- 74% of clients are living in female single-parent households and 11% are living in two-parent households.
- A majority of adults and children in homeless families are Black/African
- 79% of homeless adults are female
- The average age of female adults is 34 and 37 for male adults
- The average of children in families is 8
- Nearly a quarter of homeless adults have less than a high school diploma or have a high school diploma and 34% have some college education.
- 27% are employed.
- The most frequent response for homelessness was eviction and no affordable housing followed by loss of job, domestic violence victim, and mental health.
- The majority of disabilities are categorized as mental health related at 53% and physical/medical at 18%.
- 51% are homeless for the first time and 33% have been homeless one to two times in the past

SUBPOPULATION DATA

HOMELESS SUBPOPULATION DEFINITION:

HUD further breaks down the definition of homelessness to include the following subpopulation categories.

1. Chronically homeless individuals
2. Chronically homeless families
3. Severely mentally ill
4. Chronic substance abuse
5. Veterans
6. Persons with HIV/AIDS
7. Victims of domestic violence
8. Unaccompanied children (Under 18)

These data extrapolated from HMIS for these subpopulation categories further inform HUD and the CoC of the different reasons people become homeless.

HOMELESS VETERANS

- In Oakland County during 2012 there were 173 homeless veterans.
- Overall trends are broken down by single and families in Table 1. Roughly 90% of homeless veterans are single and 10% are in families.
- Roughly 43% of veterans are White and 48% are Black/African American.
- 90% of veterans are male and 10% are female. This year, there was an increase in the numbers of male veterans.
- The average age of males is 49 and 43 for females.
- 36% of veterans have some college education or a college degree, 22% some high school education and 23% have a high school diploma.
- For veterans with disabilities, a majority (40%) presented with a mental health related concern, followed by physical/medical disability at 35% and alcohol abuse at 8%.
- There are numerous reasons why veterans become homeless. The number one reason is a mental health concern (15%), followed by loss of job at 10% and eviction at 5%.
- 31% were homeless for the first time and 30% were homeless one to two times in the past. These figures show a decrease from 2011 which means the number of chronically homeless veterans has increased.

Table 1. All Homeless Veterans

	Overall		Single		Families	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Primary Race						
White	74	43%	64	42%	10	50%
Black or African American	84	48%	75	49%	9	45%
Other Multi-Racial	7	5%	7	5%	-	-
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	148	84%	131	85%	17	85%
Hispanic/Latino	9	5%	9	6%	-	-
None Specified	16	11%	13	9%	3	15%
Gender						
Female	14	8%	9	6%	5	25%
Male	157	90%	142	92%	15	75%
Age Range						
Age 18 to 30	16	9%	11	7%	5	25%
Age 31 to 50	66	38%	62	41%	4	20%
Age 51 to 61	74	42%	66	43%	8	40%
Age 62 and older	16	9%	13	9%	3	15%
Employment						
No	27	23%	23	79%	3	75%
Yes	7	22%	6	21%	1	25%
Extent of Homelessness						
First Time Homeless	29	31%	26	30%	3	27%
1-2 times in the past	29	31%	25	29%	4	36%
3-4 times in the past	3	3%	3	3%	-	-
Chronic: 4 times in past 3 years	24	23%	21	24%	3	27%
Long term: 1 year or more	11	11%	10	12%	1	9%

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND HOMELESS YOUTH HOUSEHOLDS

The data below lays out the demographic information for homeless youth ages 11-24 who receive services at emergency shelter or transitional housing programs designated for youth and unaccompanied youth that includes young people who have run away from home; been thrown out of their homes, and/or been abandoned by parents or guardians.

- In Oakland County during 2012 there were a total of 80 homeless unaccompanied youth and homeless youth households (11-24)
 - 43 homeless unaccompanied youth
 - 37 homeless youth head of household
- In addition, there were approximately 153 youth (under 18) receiving services at the local youth shelter who are not homeless
- Majority of youth are black/African American at 75%
- 100% of youth head of household are female
- 14% of youth present with a disability
- Overall, 53% of youth are first time homeless except in youth households where the majority were homeless 1-2 times in the past

Table1. Unaccompanied Youth and Homeless Youth Households

	Overall		Unaccompanied		Youth Households	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Primary Race						
White	19	24%	13	30%	7	18%
Black or African American	59	74%	29	67%	30	79%
Other	2	2%	1	2%	1	3%
Gender						
Female	59	74%	22	51%	38	100%
Male	21	26%	21	49%	-	-
Age Range						
Age 15 to 17	4	5%	3	7%	1	3%
Age 18 to 20	50	63%	30	70%	21	55%
Age 21 to 24	26	33%	10	23%	16	42%
Disability						
No	69	86%	34	79%	36	95%
Yes	11	14%	9	21%	2	5%
Extent of Homelessness						
First Time Homeless	33	53%	20	48%	6	30%
1-2 times in the past	20	32%	14	33%	13	65%
3-4 times in the past	2	3%	2	5%	-	-
Chronic: 4 times in past 3 years	1	1%	1	48%	-	-
Long term: 1 year or more	2	3%	1	2%	1	5%
Long term: 2 years or more	4	6%	4	10%	-	-

HOMELESS AND DOUBLED UP STUDENTS

- During the 2011/2012 school year, the Oakland Schools Wrap Around Program served 1,872 students. This is an increase of 396 students (27%). 1,510 were school aged children attending school in the one of the four quadrants (Table 1 below), 37 were siblings of school kids and the remaining students attended school outside of Oakland County were temporarily living here. The number of students needing assistance has steadily increased over the past five years (2009/2010 school year).
- Oakland Counties unemployment rate quadrupled from 2006-2009 and the impact was an increase of approximately 48% in children living in poverty and receiving free/reduced price school lunches.
- During the 2011/2012 school year, a majority of students receiving services were from the Northeast quadrant at 42% followed by the Southeast quadrant at 29% (Table 1). The Northeast quadrant saw an increase of 234 students from the 2010/2011 school year.
- The grade level of students ranged from Pre-K to 12th grade. Approximately 45% of students were in elementary school, 14% in middle school, and 32% in high school.

Table 1. Quadrant Where Students Attended

Quadrant	Schools Included	Total
Northwest	Clarkston, Holly, Huron Valley, Waterford, Academy of Waterford, Holly Academy	165
Northeast	Avondale, Brandon, Lake Orion, Oxford, Pontiac, Rochester, Great Lakes Academy, Pontiac Academy of Excellence, Life Skills, ATAP, Walton Charter	635
Southwest	Bloomfield, Clarenceville, Farmington, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Walled Lake, West Bloomfield	274
Southeast	Berkley, Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Lamphere, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Royal Oak, Southfield, Troy, PACE Academy, Woodmont Academy, Bradford Academy, Academy of Southfield, Crescent Academy, Laurus Academy	436

Table 2. Grade Level of Students

Grade Level	Count	%
Pre-K	36	2%
K	142	8%
1	150	8%
2	157	8%
3	132	7%
4	130	7%
5	144	8%
6	132	7%
7	138	7%
8	133	7%
9	127	7%
10	144	8%
11	144	8%
12	199	11%

Oakland County – What’s Next

The numbers presented in this report tell a story, the story of persons in Oakland County who experienced homelessness in 2012 and sought out assistance from organizations committed to ending homelessness. In 2012, the Alliance for Housing revised their original “Ten Year to End Homelessness” blueprint (created in 2004) to continue strengthening the County’s efforts to address homelessness and increase the supply of sustainable, affordable housing. Sharing partners continue to work together to create an infrastructure that will bring a coordinated system of care to those in need to assist persons receiving services to progress along the continuum of care efficiently in order to achieve self sufficiency and achieve personal empowerment and economic independence.

Oakland County sharing partners have made great strides working together to become a data driven community using outcomes based reporting to secure continued funding through HUD and other local and statewide funders. The Outcomes Committee has reconvened and is reviewing the community wide outcomes measures written in 2011. The group is reviewing the measures that include adding additional affordable and subsidized housing units, providing case management services to assist in ensuring self sufficiency, improve coordination between service providers and mainstream services and to increase the number of homeless prevention activities to help people in maintaining their current housing situation. The committee is now creating a CQI template, a listing of the housing units, adding new outcome measures and talking about the need for a data warehouse.

A data driven community means data entered into the HMIS must be top priority for those organizations that are part of the HMIS project. Agencies have made the commitment to attend monthly Data Quality meetings and clean HMIS data. In addition, real time data entry process continues to be a priority because this insures that persons being served do not have to tell their story multiple times. Data shared includes basic demographics, household members, case notes, case managers and services provided. HUD will once again revise the Data Technical Standards to include data elements necessary to collect housing status, subpopulation data and outcomes related information. All providers are committed to providing the best data possible and will continue to work on data quality and outcomes.

In response to all the changes brought forth by HEARTH, HUD is updating the HMIS Data Technical Standards and will release the final document towards the end of 2013.

Appendix

The data in this report is not intended to provide a complete count of the homeless population because:

1. This data represents approximately 82% of homeless persons seeking services in the Oakland County during January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012. Not all organizations providing services are using HMIS.
2. All participating organizations are still working on data quality; therefore not all data included is 100% accurate.
3. The data for this report is pulled from multiple report queries in the HMIS; each query may have pulled the data slightly differently from the system, so there may not always be a one-to-one match of data among the graphs.