



Solving Homelessness in Washtenaw County 2012



Homelessness in Michigan and Washtenaw County

MICHIGAN 2011

94,033 persons
experienced
homelessness

48,333
Persons in
households with
children

Adults in Families
who were employed
28%

47,009
Individual adults

Individual
Adults who were
employed
???

WASHTENAW COUNTY 2011

4,069 persons
experienced
homelessness

2,252
Persons in
households with
children

Adults in Families
who were employed
37%

1,786
Individual adults

Individual
Adults who were
employed
21%

From: MSHDA. "Coming Home: Statewide Campaign to End Homelessness Synopsis". Published 2011; and the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and Office of Community & Economic Development, "Washtenaw County Michigan 2011 Homeless Data Report". Published Nov. 2012.

Washtenaw County

While our economy continues to slowly rebound, the impact on struggling families will be felt long after “the recovery”. In 2011, we saw a slight decrease in the number of households experiencing homelessness over 2009 (7%). In 2011, 50% of the families with children reported their first time being homeless and 42% of the individual adults reported the same.

Overall, despite people reporting having “*some employment*” and despite even having “*some college education*” (20-24%), the fact that Washtenaw County continues to be the most expensive rental market in the state is our biggest challenge. Affordable housing remains elusive to those people in need.

The reasons for homelessness and the barriers faced by those who become homeless have not substantially changed.

Families with children report eviction, loss of job, under employment and family conflicts as the contributing factors to their homelessness. Individual adults report unemployment, jail or prison and substance abuse disorders as their factors.

The Washtenaw Housing Alliance, and its partners in our community, continues to develop best practices based on solid data and proven strategies to address the myriad of problems contributing to this community significant human tragedy.



Homelessness among Veterans and Youth in Washtenaw County

There were **204** veterans experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw Co.

58 % were 51 years old and up

31% were unemployed

30% were homeless for the first time

31 % had been homeless 1-4 times in the past

Washtenaw County has 135 housing vouchers for veterans experiencing homelessness.

There were **95** youth experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw Co.

Unaccompanied youth includes young people who have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes, and/or been abandoned by parents or guardians.

57% were females

88% were between the ages of 10 and 17

15% were employed

44% had been homeless at least one time in the past

92% remained housed for one year after leaving shelter.

Working together, with best practices and data, we can see results in our community in...

Emergency Shelter

Left Shelter for
Positive Housing

75%

Stably Housed for 12
months after leaving
shelter

70%

Increased or
Maintained Income by
the time they left
shelter

80%

Transitional Housing

Left Program for
Permanent Housing

70%

Stably Housed for 6
months after leaving
the program

76%

Increased Employment
Income by time they
left the program

44%

Emergency shelter is provided by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County; IHN @ Alpha House; The Salvation Army; SOS Community Services; and Ozone House.

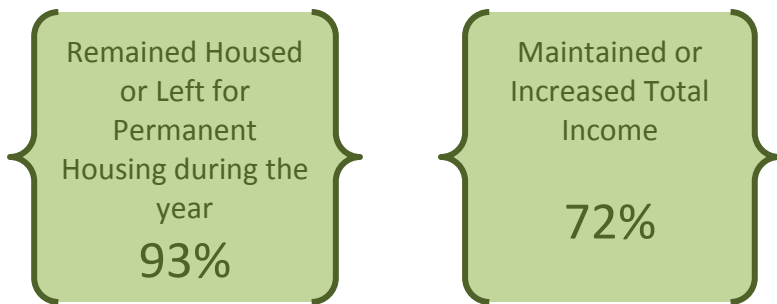
Transitional Housing, a two year program of intensive supports and rent assistance, is provided by SOS Community Services, Michigan Ability Partners and Ozone House.

Data provided by Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) provided by agencies.

...in Permanent Supportive Housing

The primary goal of Permanent Supportive Housing is that people will become and remain stably housed. PSH is permanently affordable (based on the tenant's income) with supportive services designed to provide assistance when needed to maintain stability. PSH has been proven to be the single most successful program for ending homelessness for people with significant challenges and disabilities.

Research confirms that it is 6 times less expensive to support a formerly homeless person in PSH than it is to pay for the costs of shelter and the other community costs that go with homelessness such as criminal justice, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations.



Permanent Supportive Housing is provided by Avalon Housing (231 units); Michigan Ability Partners (23 units); Ozone House (8 units); and the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County.

Data from: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) provided by agencies.

The Washtenaw Housing Alliance

Located in Washtenaw County, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA) is a unique coalition of 32 community-based organizations and government offices that serve people experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness. Founded in 2000, the WHA functions as a dynamic collaboration that harnesses the commitment, energy and resources of two major hospital systems, the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, institutions of higher education, the private sector and the community at large to end homelessness in Washtenaw County. The WHA has maximized this strong commitment to develop “A Home for Everyone: A Blueprint to End Homelessness in Washtenaw County”, our strategic plan. The WHA leads the way to creating a coordinated, thoughtful and responsive system of care for those in our community at risk of homelessness or who are experiencing homelessness.

For more information see: www.whalliance.org or

Call: 734-222-6544



**Know someone in need of assistance
with housing?**

HOUSING ACCESS

for WASHTENAW COUNTY

734-961-1999

Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm

Who should call?

- **Facing eviction**
- **Owe back rent**
- **Experiencing homelessness**
- **With no ongoing place to stay**

**All shelters in Washtenaw County are
filled by Housing Access**

HAWC is a partnership of The Salvation Army, IHN@ Alpha House, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, Ozone House, SafeHouse Center, Michigan Ability Partners, SOS, Housing Bureau for Seniors, Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development and the Washtenaw Housing Alliance.

Thanks to our funders: Washtenaw County, City of Ann Arbor, MSHDA, United Way of Washtenaw County and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation.