

Report Card

on ENDING Homelessness in DuPage County

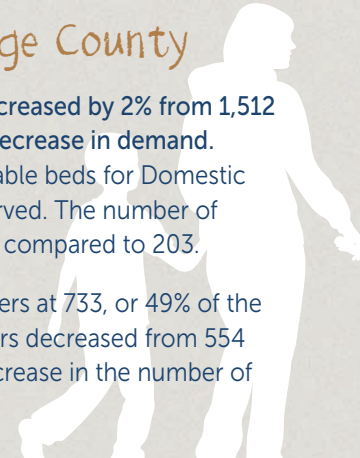
July 2009-June, 2010

Indicators of the Homeless in DuPage County

The number of individuals using the shelter system decreased by 2% from 1,512 to 1,486; however, this does not necessarily reflect a decrease in demand.

Funding cuts caused a decrease in the number of available beds for Domestic Violence services, limiting the number of individuals served. The number of families using the shelter system increased 24% to 254, compared to 203.

Single men comprised the largest number of shelter users at 733, or 49% of the shelter population. The number of women using shelters decreased from 554 to 520; this can at least, in part, be attributed to the decrease in the number of available beds for domestic violence survivors.



Homelessness

is often the direct result of underlying challenges people face with complex issues.

Not only do people become homeless, but they also have very low incomes, and some with serious, persistent issues that may include: mental illness, substance abuse, learning disabilities, credit problems, disabling health conditions, criminal backgrounds and poor job skills that makes it difficult for an individual to function well enough to meet their own needs, much less the housing needs of their children.

While the number of homeless families rose 24%



even more were homeless than those numbers suggest trapped in the discomfort of staying with friends and relatives for lack of their own home. Many of the people who are homeless are working at low wage jobs, and do not make the \$19.52 per hour that is needed to afford a two bedroom apartment, nor the \$17.36 per hours needed to afford a one bedroom apartment in DuPage County.

What is homelessness?

The term "homeless" or "homeless individuals or homeless person" includes:

- Living on the street
- Staying overnight in an emergency shelter
- Staying in places not meant for human habitation
- Persons coming from the street or an emergency shelter that stay in transitional housing

Current Progress Indicators in DuPage County

	FY 2009	2010
Homelessness (C)		
Number of persons who stayed in an emergency shelter (1)	1,512	1,486
Number of nights emergency beds were used	57,021	48,537
Number of:		
Single Men	683	733
Single Women	554	520
Families with children under 18 years.	203	254
Children under 18 years	368	359
Children under the age of 5 years.	169	136
Single Adults 18-21 years	69	55
Housing (C)		
Number of subsidized housing units (2)	6,399	6,657
Number of persons on waiting list for subsidized housing (3)	n/a	4,588
Rental vacancy rate (4)	7.3%	7.7%
Average rent for a 2 bedroom apartment in DuPage County (5)	\$1,004	\$1,015
Average rent for a 1 bedroom apartment in DuPage County (5)	\$894	\$903
Income (C)		
S.S.I. monthly benefit (Supplemental Security Income) (6)	\$674	\$674
Minimum wage in Illinois (7)	\$8	\$8.25
Hourly wage per household needed to live in 2 bedroom apartment (8)	\$19.31	\$19.52
Hourly wage per household needed to live in 1 bedroom apartment (8)	\$17.19	\$17.36

*(Sources provided on page 2)

A = Significant Progress B = Some Progress C = No / Slight Progress
 D = Some Loss F = Significant Loss



Who is “at risk of homelessness”?

Individuals and families can lose their housing for any reason, i.e. losing a job, having an income too low to stay in their housing, fleeing from domestic abuse.

Some are at risk because of mental illness, substance abuse, disabling health conditions, or lack the life skills or ability to live on their own.

Children & Homelessness

- Children who experience homelessness are more likely to be homeless when they are adults.
- Children are the fastest growing homeless group in the United States and in DuPage County they represent 24% of the homeless who stayed in an emergency shelter.
- Children who are homeless face increased physical and mental health problems and significant disruptions to their health, education and social/emotional development.

Sub-Populations

- Persons with mental illness, substance abuse, or disabling health condition
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Veterans
- Youth
- Ex-offenders
- Trauma survivors

Causes of homelessness:

- Mental illness left untreated may result in being homeless in the inability to hold a job and keep housing.
- Substance abuse is associated with domestic violence, unemployment and mental illness.
- Health care is difficult to access, limited resources available for needed health care; lack of access to treatment results in dental and severe vision problems; untreated depression poses real barriers to employment.

1,486 people in DuPage County were homeless and stayed in a shelter in 2010*

*Fiscal year ending 6/30/10

Efforts to End Homelessness: A county-wide issue

Ending homelessness requires the cooperation of the entire community as well as all levels of government. Many agencies and their dedicated staffs assist individuals and families who are homeless.

The DuPage Homeless Continuum is comprised of providers of homeless and prevention services, business and government leaders who are committed to working collaboratively to develop and support effective strategies to end homelessness in DuPage County. The mission of the DuPage Homeless Continuum of Care is to develop and support effective strategies to end homelessness in DuPage County. The vision is that all DuPage County residents faced with homelessness will have access to safe, affordable housing and a comprehensive and integrated system of support services.

What is needed?

- Access to affordable housing and, for many, ongoing community support and access to support services in order to remain housed.
- Jobs that pay a living wage
- Credit/budget education
- An investment in Homeless Prevention services to keep people in their home
- Health care and access to treatment

For more information about the Report Card or the Continuum, please call DuPage County Community Services at 630-407-6500. A PDF version of the Report Card on Homelessness in DuPage County is available at www.dupagehomeless.org.



RESOURCES

- 1 DuPage County HMIS Homeless Management Information System; Catholic Charities Hope House; DuPage P.A.D.S. Inc.; Family Shelter; Hamdard Center; NCO Youth-Cornerstone
- 2 <http://dupageco.org/humanservices/>
- 3 DuPage Housing Authority
- 4 <http://www.nationalrelocation.com/real-estate/Illinois/Dupage%20County.aspx>
- 5 HUD Fair Market Rents
- 6 <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2010/data.cfm?getcounty=on&county=5842&state=IL>
- 7 <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2010/data.cfm?getcounty=on&county=5842&state=IL>
- 8 <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2010/data.cfm?getcounty=on&county=5842&state=IL>