



homelessness in DuPage County

2009 The First report card

The current situation

Homelessness Indicators: Fiscal Year 2009

No. of persons who stayed in an emergency shelter ¹	1,512
No. of nights emergency beds were used	57,021
No. of: Single Men	683
Single Women	554
Families with children under 18 years	203
Children under 18 years	368
Children under the age of 5 years	169
Single Adults 18-21 years	69

Housing Indicators

Number of subsidized housing units	6,399
Number of persons on waiting list for subsidized housing ²	closed since 2001
Rental vacancy rate ³	4.8%
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in DuPage County ⁴	\$1,004.00

Income Indications

S.S.I. monthly benefit (Supplemental Security Income) ⁵	\$674.00
Minimum wage in Illinois ⁶	\$ 8.00
Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 2-bedroom apartment ⁷	\$19.31

Sources provided on back

A stark reality in DuPage County that Impacts us All!

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: substance abuse, mental illness, 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. Many of the people who are homeless are working at low wage jobs, and do not make the \$19.31 per hour that is needed to afford a two 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

Who is at risk?

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.

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.



1,512 people in
dupage county
were **homeless**
and stayed in a
shelter in 2009*

*Fiscal year ending 6/30/09

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 they represent over 40% of the homeless in DuPage County.
- Children who are homeless face increased physical and mental health problems and significant disruptions to their health, education and social/emotional development.

sub populations include:

- Mental illness, substance abuse, or disabling health condition
- Domestic Violence
- Veterans
- Youth
- Ex-offenders
- Trauma

The System's patterns of usage:

Many different kinds of people experience homelessness and show patterns of usage of the homeless systems:

Episodic: Individuals and families who go in and out of shelters, usually for short stays

Transitional: Individuals and families who become homeless due to a housing, financial or health care crisis

Chronic: Individuals and families who have been homeless for a year or more or four times in the last three years.



What is needed?

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

Efforts to end homelessness:

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

The **DuPage Homeless Continuum** is comprised of providers of homeless and prevention services, business and government leaders committed to working collaboratively 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.

Progress has been made and tools and solutions are emerging to help DuPage County address homelessness.

This is the first **Report Card** on Homelessness in DuPage County, Illinois. It presents a profile of homelessness in the county and introduces many organizations that work to reduce the impact of homelessness. Future progress or lack of progress will be measured using the indicators in the table (shown on front).

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



¹ DuPage County HMIS Homeless Management Information System; Catholic Charities Hope House; DuPage P.A.D.S. Inc.; Family Shelter; Handard Center; NCO Youth-Cornerstone

² The list was exhausted earlier this year after no new names from the public have been added since 2001. Currently DHA staff is working to develop a process to begin accepting new applicants.

³ <http://www.nationalrelocation.com/real-estate/Illinois/Dupage%20County.aspx>

⁴ <http://www.heartlandalliance.org/whatwedo/advocacy/reports/povertyreport2008.pdf>

⁵ http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OP_Home/handbook/handbook.21/handbook-2180.html

⁶ Department of Labor, State of Illinois

⁷ <http://www.heartlandalliance.org/whatwedo/advocacy/reports/povertyreport2008.pdf>