



on
ENDING & PREVENTING Homelessness
 in DuPage County

Indicators of community progress in ending homelessness

Who is homeless?

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, staying overnight in an emergency shelter; exiting an institution after less than 90 days of having resided in one of the above before entering an institution.
- An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and has nowhere to go and no resources.
- Unaccompanied youth under 25 or families with children and youth who don't meet other definitions.
- Any individual or family who must flee from their current residence because of violence or danger and has no other residence and no resources.

	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Homelessness			
Number of persons who utilized an emergency shelter* ⁽¹⁾	1,512	1,486	1,460
Number of nights emergency beds were used	57,021	48,537	54,827
<i>Number of:</i>			
Single Men	683	733	639
Single Women	554	520	330
Families with children under 18 years	203	254	258
Children under 18 years	368	359	280
Children under the age of 5 years	169	136	97
Single Adults 18-21 years	69	55	57
Housing			
Number of subsidized housing units ⁽²⁾	6,399	6,657	6,939
Number of persons on waiting list for subsidized housing ⁽³⁾	n/a	4,599	4,599
Rental vacancy rate ⁽⁴⁾	7.3%	7.7%	7.9%
Average rent for a 2 bedroom apartment in DuPage County ⁽⁵⁾	\$1004	\$1,015	\$1,016
Average rent for a 1 bedroom apartment in DuPage County ⁽⁵⁾	\$894	\$903	\$904
Income			
S.S.I. monthly benefit (Supplemental Security Income) ⁽⁶⁾	\$674	\$674	\$674
Minimum wage in Illinois ⁽⁷⁾	\$8	\$8.25	\$8.25
Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 2 bedroom apartment ⁽⁸⁾	\$19.31	\$19.52	\$19.54
Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 1 bedroom apartment ⁽⁸⁾	\$17.19	\$17.36	\$17.38

*Includes persons who accessed emergency shelter services, but did not stay.

Sources provided on page 2

IN DUPAGE COUNTY...

Indicators of the Homeless

The number of individuals using the shelter system decreased by 2%, from 1486 to 1460; 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. During the same two-year period the number of families using the shelter system increased slightly from 203 to 258.

Single men comprised the largest number of shelter users, accounting for 639 or 44% of the shelter population. The number of women using shelters decreased from 520 to 330; this can at least in part be attributed to the decrease in the number of available beds for domestic violence survivors.

Homelessness is a reality

Homelessness is a multi-dimensional problem. It's partly financial, the result of insufficient income combined with high local housing and transportation costs. Many people who are homeless are working, but earn far less than the \$17.38 per hour that is needed to afford even a one-bedroom apartment in DuPage County. The lack of education and training or a criminal background often impedes their ability to move up the economic ladder and break the cycle of poverty.

In addition, many people who become homeless struggle with physical ailments, chronic health problems, mental illness or substance abuse. Without health insurance, stable housing or affordable treatment options, their conditions often worsen, perpetuating their downward spiral.

While the reported number of homeless families rose 2%, local service providers know there are many more families living in unstable housing situations, crowded with friends or relatives because they are unable to afford their own housing.





Who is at risk of homelessness?

Individuals and families can lose their housing for any number of reasons, such as losing a job or 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:

- Illness, which if left untreated may result in the inability to hold a job and keep housing
- Substance abuse, which is associated with domestic violence, unemployment and mental illness
- Lack of adequate health care, which can result in deteriorating physical or mental conditions that pose real barriers to employment
- Domestic violence and experiences of trauma

Children and 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 19% 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 education and social/emotional development

Sub populations include:

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

1,460 people in DuPage County were homeless and stayed in a shelter in 2011*

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
- Investment in homeless prevention services to keep people in their homes
- Health care and access to treatment

*Fiscal year ending 6/30/11

DUPAGE COUNTY...

Homelessness Prevention... a strategic, cost-effective strategy

The Continuum of Care provides a coordinated system for distribution of homelessness prevention funding to qualifying households, using a small network of agencies throughout DuPage County.

Prevention services provided:

Number of unduplicated households ⁽⁹⁾	1,732
Number of unduplicated individuals ⁽⁹⁾	5,148
Average amount of financial assistance per household ⁽⁹⁾	\$1,129

85% of the households served remained housed six months or more after financial assistance was provided. These numbers served represent less than 20% of the number of households requesting assistance.

Financial assistance for homelessness prevention services has declined dramatically in recent years—leaving the burden to provide additional support to local communities. The State of Illinois provided \$9.5 million in FY 2008, but only \$1.5 million in FY 2011.



Efforts to end and prevent 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 of Care is comprised of providers of homeless and prevention services and businesses and government leaders who are 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.

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



Sources

- 1 DuPage County HMIS Homeless Management Information System; Catholic Charities Hope House; DuPage PADS Inc.; Family Shelter; Hamdard Center; 360 Youth Services
- 2 <http://dupageco.org/humanservices/>
- 3 DuPage Housing Authority
- 4 http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_DP_DPDP1&prodType=table
- 5 HUD Fair Market Rents
- 6 <http://www.ssa.gov/oact/COLA/SSI.html>
- 7 State of Illinois
- 8 <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2011/data.cfm?getcounty=on&county=611&state=IL>
- 9 HPP Coordination & Non-duplication List, DuPage County Community Services