



The Community Partnership
For The Prevention
of Homelessness

The Annual Homeless Assessment Report: Looking at Homelessness in the District of Columbia

TCP
E-Newsletter
January
2008

The District of Columbia participates in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The AHAR is used to develop a congressional report on the extent of homelessness in the United States.

On behalf of the District, the Community Partnership reports to HUD on emergency shelter and transitional housing programs that serve homeless individuals and families. The data is used to identify gaps in services, understand the nature of homelessness in different regions of the country and to analyze Continuum of Care effectiveness and utilization. HUD uses the data to set the federal homeless policy that shapes our work on a local level.

This newsletter shares the statistics submitted in the AHAR on homeless individuals and persons in families in the District for the period October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.

AHAR Methodology

The Community Partnership utilized the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect data on homeless families and individuals in emergency and transitional programs that receive funding through the Department of Human Services and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

National data is gathered through the use of standardized table shells that aggregate information on participating programs and extrapolate information on programs that are not participating in the count.

Single Persons in the Shelter System

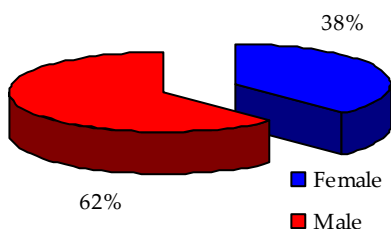
- There were **11,562** individuals served in the city's publicly funded emergency shelters from October 2006 through September 2007. On an average night in FY07, **1,796** men and women were in shelter.
- Of all single persons served in FY07, **17 percent** were women and **83 percent** were men.
- Median length of stay at emergency shelters was **20 days**.
- **12 percent** of homeless women and **8 percent** of homeless men stayed in shelter the entire year.
- **86 percent** of emergency shelter beds were occupied in January '07 compared to **75 percent** occupied in July.
- **One in ten** persons in emergency shelter reported disabilities.

Age Distribution: Individuals in Emergency Shelter, Oct. '06 – Sep. '07	
Ages 13-17	0.03%
Ages 18-30	8.0%
Ages 31-50	39.6%
Ages 51-60	17.8%
62 or Older	3.8%

Please note: the District of Columbia Homeless Services Reform Act redefined Hypothermia and Emergency Shelter as Severe Weather and Low Barrier Shelters. HUD does not recognize these terms, therefore for the purposes of this newsletter and all publications about the AHAR, they will be referred to as Emergency Shelter.

Gender Distribution:

Individuals in Transitional Housing,
Oct. '06 - Sep. '07



Single Persons in Transitional Housing

- **1,618** single persons used publicly funded transitional housing programs from October 2006 through September 2007.
- **25 percent** of persons served in transitional housing were also served in emergency shelter in FY07.
- **91 percent** of transitional housing beds were occupied on average throughout the year.
- Median length of stay in transitional housing was **172 days**.
- Nearly **one in ten** clients in transitional housing were military veterans.
- **Over half** of all transitional housing clients were disabled.

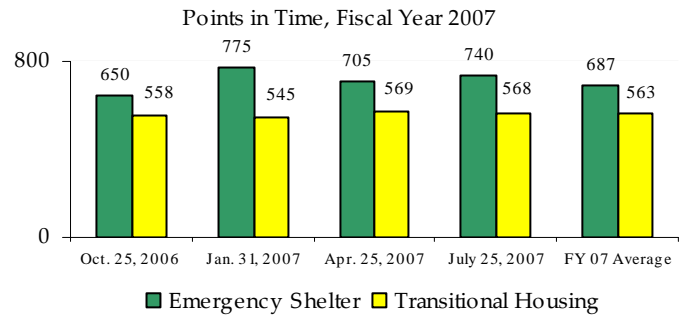
Families in the Emergency Shelter System

- **1,661** persons in **507** families were served in publicly funded emergency shelters in FY07.
- **1,008** of the persons served were children, accounting for **61 percent** of the population.
- **77 percent** of adult persons in families were female.
- Median length of stay for adults in family emergency shelter was **160 days**.
- **20 percent** of families served in FY07 were in shelter for the entire year.
- **40 percent** of the adults in families served were living with family or friends before entering shelter.

Families in Transitional Housing

- **769** persons in **256** families were served in publicly funded transitional housing for families in FY07.
- **480** of the persons served were children, or **62 percent** of the population.
- **89 percent** of the adult persons in families were female.
- Median length of stay for adults in family transitional housing was **361 days**.
- **53 percent** of families served in FY07 were in shelter for the entire year.
- On an average night during the period, **75 percent** of family transitional housing beds were occupied.

Persons in Families Served in Publicly Funded Facilities:



System Transformation Initiative

In keeping with Mayor Fenty's ten year plan to end homelessness, DC Village closed in October 2007. The closing drastically changed the landscape of homeless services for families.

Long-staying families already were placed in scattered site units of transitional housing through the District of Columbia's System Transformation Initiative.

The changes to the District's continuum of care caused by the System Transformation Initiative are not reflected in this year's data but will be reflected in the 2008 AHAR.

TCP News Corner

HUD awards Continuum of Care, Emergency Shelter Grants

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the District of Columbia nearly \$17.5 million in Continuum of Care (CoC) grants and an additional \$808,603 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) as a result of the SuperNOFA application submitted by the Community Partnership on behalf of the city. CoC grants provide permanent and transitional housing for homeless persons while ESG funds are used to operate local shelters and homelessness prevention programs and to provide other social services.

Newly-funded this year are programs at Covenant House Washington, DC, Transitional Housing Corporation, Community of Hope and New Endeavors by Women. The District of Columbia's Department of Mental Health was also awarded the Samaritan Initiative, a bonus project award that is dedicated to providing permanent housing to chronically homeless individuals.

Dashboard Reports online at TCP's website

Shelters in the District report a nightly census of clients served at their respective sites. The Community Partnership has taken this data and compiled a shelter "dashboard" report – an interactive, visual model that lets users see trends in shelter occupancy. Data is available for men's and women's low barrier shelters as well as the city's apartment style family temporary facilities. TCP's January dashboard is online and an archive of dashboards for previous months are available at: www.community-partnership.org/cp_dr-dashBrd.php.