

# Preventing and Ending Homelessness

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# Presentation Roadmap

- State of Homelessness
- Is Homelessness Up or Down?
- How are the Economy and Foreclosures Affecting Homelessness?
- Promising and Evidence-Based Strategies to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Policy Landscape in Moving Forward

# State of Homelessness

- 1.6 million people used shelter system from October 2007 to September 2008
- 68 percent were single adults and 32 percent were persons in families
- Disproportionately affects minority households
- Two-fifths of sheltered homeless have a disability

# State of Homelessness

- Typical single adult: male, 31-50 years old, has a disability
- Typical Family: headed by single mother, under age 30, usually 2 to 3 members in family; 51 percent of homeless children are under 6 years old

# State of Homelessness

- Homelessness is an urban experience
  - o 1 in 66 persons in urban areas used homeless system
  - o 1 in 450 persons in suburban and rural areas used homeless system
  - o Sheltered individuals are more concentrated in urban areas than families
  - o Changing? Share of sheltered population in suburban and rural areas grew from 23 to 32 percent in 2008

# Homelessness Up or Down?

Point-in-Time Counts have limitations and caveats

- **Decreased** from 2006 to 2007:

From 759,101 to 671,888 (11 percent decline)

- **Level** from 2007 to 2008:

671,888 to 664,414 (1 percent decline)

- **2009?** Communities reporting significant increases, especially among families

# How is Foreclosure Affecting Homelessness?

- Largely unknown
- Pathways to homelessness long (rent, double up, motels, etc.)
- Some communities are tracking foreclosure
  - Michigan
  - New York City
  - DC

# Promising and Evidence-Based Strategies

- Research Literature– Programs That Show Results
- Best Practices and Community Snapshots  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
[www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org)

# Housing First

- An approach that puts emphasis on housing first and then services as needed
- Shift from “housing readiness” models
- Program models vary:
  - Permanent supportive housing
  - Rapid re-housing

# Housing First or Linear Model?

Figure 1: Current Shelter Model



Figure 2: Getting Housed, Staying Housed Model



# Policy and Program Shifts to Housing First

## Community Plans to End Homelessness

### Housing First/Supportive Housing

- HUD funding for supportive housing

### Rapid Re-housing and Prevention

- HUD Rapid Re-housing Demonstration
- \$1.5 billion stimulus

# Chronically Homeless Adults

**150,000 to 200,000 chronically homeless adults**

**Frequent System Users: jails, hospitals, mental health, police, prison**

## **Interventions:**

- **Systems Prevention - Jail / Prison in-reach and discharge planning**
- **Permanent Supportive Housing is Effective**
  - Housing First Umbrella
  - Cost off set in some areas
  - Lower service utilization
  - Housing Stability

# Homeless Families

- **150,000-200,000 Homeless Families Annually**
- **Homeless Families Similar to Poor Housed Families**  
Both have low levels of education, high rates of interpersonal violence, depression, PTSD
- **Some Observable Differences**  
Lower incomes, slightly higher substance abuse (although low reporting), younger, pregnant or young children, weaker social networks
- **High rates of child welfare involvement**

# Homeless Families

## **Period of Residential Instability Before Entering Shelter**

- Moved frequently before entering shelter
- 30 percent stayed with friends or family before shelter entry
- 17 percent renters and only 3 percent homeowners
- (AHAR, 2008)

## **Most Families Enter and Exit Homelessness Quickly**

- 72 to 80 percent are “short stay” group
- 5 to 8 percent are “episodic”
- 18 to 22 percent are “long stay”
- (Culhane et al., 2007)

## **Housing Subsidies End Homelessness For Families**

- 97 percent who received a subsidy were stably housed five years after
- 35 percent who did not receive a subsidy were stably housed five years after
- (Shinn et al., )

# Homeless Families

- Assessment and Triage
  - Prevention
  - Rapid Re-housing
  - FUP Vouchers
  - Housing Vouchers
  - Transitional Housing
  - Supportive Housing

# Policy Landscape

- Rapid Re-housing and Prevention (HRRP)
- Homeless Veterans
- Housing Affordability?
- Sustainable Communities / Choice Neighborhoods
- Remaining Puzzles:
  - Accomplishing systems change
  - Youth
  - Rural
  - Non-chronic single adults

# Contact

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