



Virg Bernero, Mayor

# Homelessness in Greater Lansing/Ingham County

January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

## Who Is Homeless in Greater Lansing/Ingham County

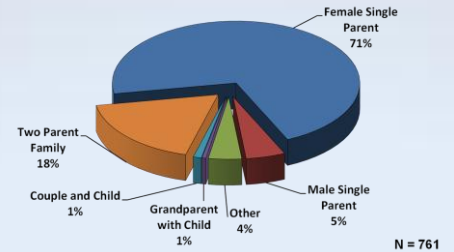
Throughout the 2011 calendar year, Lansing area human service agencies, organized through the Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network, served 4,394 homeless individuals, an increase of 1.3% compared to 2010. The greatest change was in the number of persons in households with minor children. Families now make up the majority of the clients served in the area. Conversely, the number of chronically homeless individuals and unaccompanied youth served declined as compared to last year. The number of single adults

receiving services remained relatively unchanged.

Annual increases in the number of families experiencing homelessness has emerged as a trend over the last four years. This year, more than 60% of the homeless clients served by local providers were either women or children. In 2011, one out of four homeless female parents was under twenty five years old. More than one third of homeless children in families were under five years old. This reflects the extreme vulnerability of young mothers and their children.

## Characteristics of Homeless Families

Household Types of Homeless Families  
Calendar Year 2011

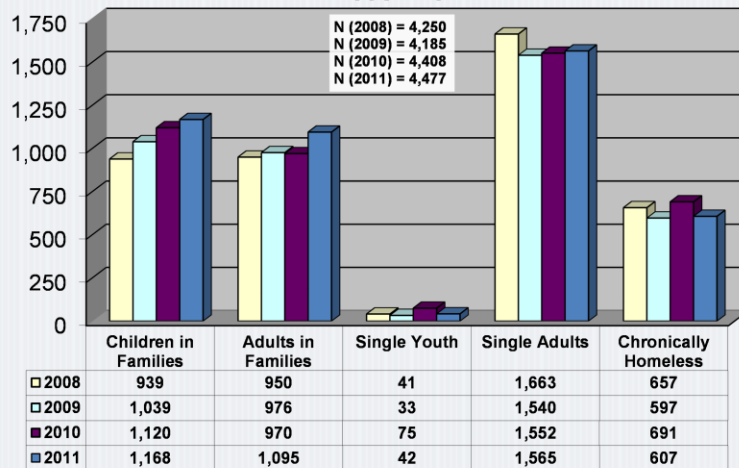


- Adults and children in family households make up the majority of homeless clients served (50.5%).
- Over 70% of homeless families are single, female headed households.
- Nearly half (47%) were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

## Characteristics of Single Homeless Adults

- Mostly male (67%) with an average age of 42.
- More likely to be afflicted with mental health problems or other disabilities (63%).
- 1 in 7 is a US Military veteran.
- More than two thirds (69%) had previously experienced homelessness.

Homeless Clients Served by Year  
2008 - 2011

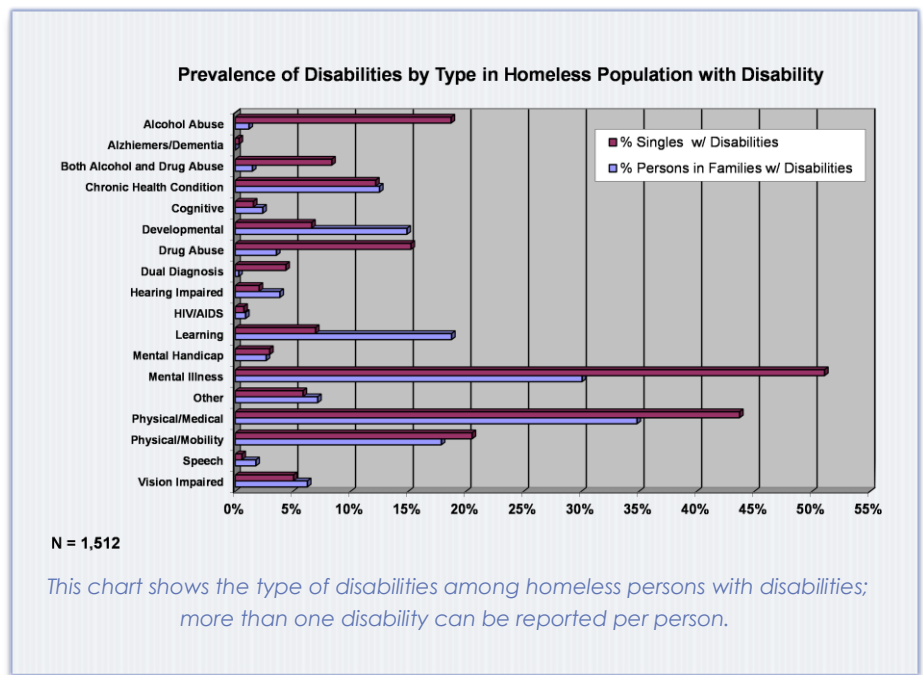


Note that a person may be counted in more than one grouping during the year and the sum of the categories is greater than the total unduplicated count of persons served each year.

## Additional Demographic Characteristics

The racial makeup of homeless people who receive services from local providers has not changed considerably in the last four years. Overall, the primary race, as identified by clients, is split evenly between blacks, or African Americans, and whites, each representing about 47% of the adult homeless population. No other racial group accounts for more than 2% of the entire population. African Americans account for a slightly larger percentage of the adults in families (54%), while whites represent a larger percentage of single adults (49%). Comparing these figures to the most recent Census, 12.3% of Ingham County residents and 25.3% of Lansing residents identified as African Americans, which points to an over-representation of African Americans among those experiencing homelessness in the community.

Many people receiving homeless assistance in 2011 were challenged with a disability that limits their day to day functioning and ability to earn a living wage through gainful employment. According to the 2010

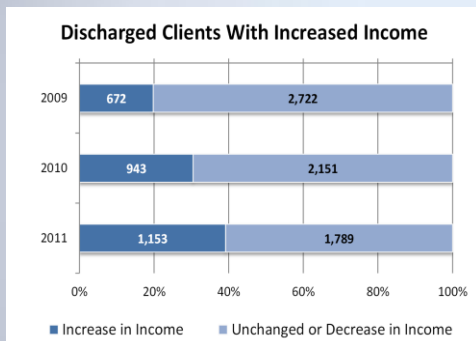


American Community Survey, 13.2% of the adult population in Ingham County had a disability; however, more than three out of five (63%) single homeless adults reported having at least one disability of long duration, while disabilities were less frequently reported by persons in families (19%).

The numbers show that homelessness afflicts a diverse range of people, but young female headed households, African Americans, and persons with disabilities are presenting the greatest concentration of need.

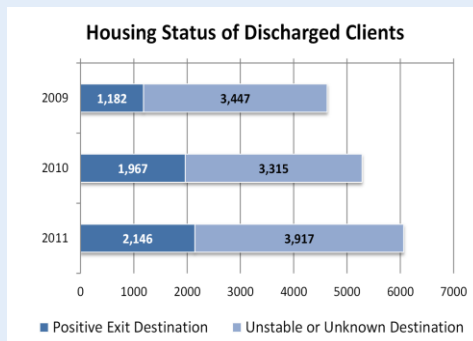
## Program Outcomes: Making A Difference

### Income:



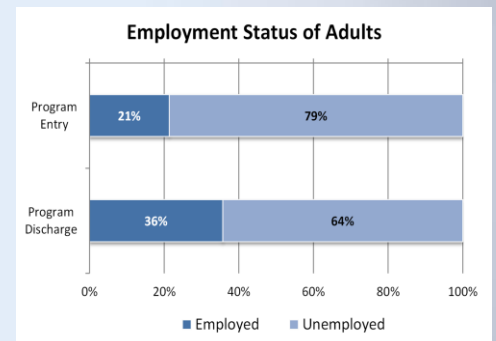
Income gains were realized by 39% of adults who were discharged in 2011. 43% of adults had either earned income, SSI/SSDI, or TANF income at program discharge.

### Housing Placements:



Positive exits are increasing each year. In particular, 63% of discharges from transitional housing and 85% from permanent supportive housing were to stable housing.

### Employment:



In a very competitive job market, when comparing program entry to exit, 15% of adults discharged from a program in 2011 had gained employment.