

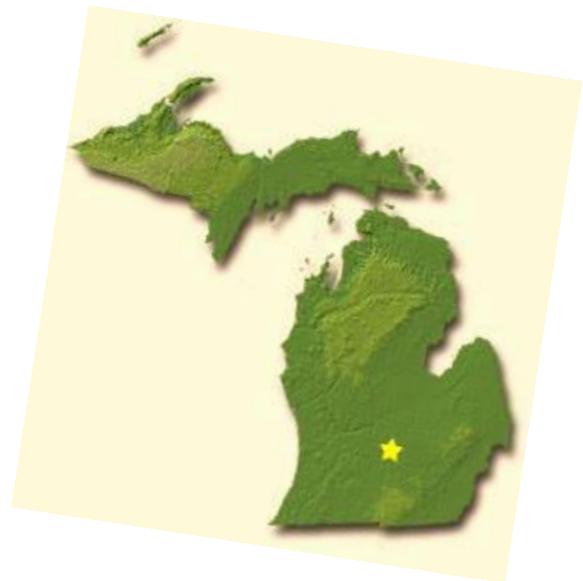
# Greater Lansing Area 2015 Annual Homeless Report



Virg Bernero, Mayor



*The state of homelessness in  
Ingham County*



***Our mission*** is to serve the most vulnerable in our community with dignity and respect, valuing self-determination and choice while prioritizing services for those most in need.

## Our Vision

We envision a community where homelessness no longer exists and those who are “at risk” get assistance before they lose their housing. We believe we can create a system that addresses the many causes of homelessness – unemployment, poverty, lack of affordable housing, high health care costs, mental and physical disabilities, addiction, domestic violence – working to avoid the crises caused by homelessness. The needs of homeless people in our community are being addressed by the collaborative work of the **City of Lansing Human Relations and Community Services Department, the Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network (GLHRN) member agencies, and our community partners.**

The City Of Lansing Human Relations and Community Services Department (HRCS) manages the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that provides accurate data on who is homeless in our community, their needs, and the services they receive. HRCS acts as fiduciary, assists in planning, and is the CoC Collaborative Applicant for homeless funds in our community.

The Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network (GLHRN), as the Continuum of Care (CoC) for Ingham County, is a group of more than 40 member and partner agencies devoted to ending homelessness in the Lansing/East Lansing/Ingham County area.

This report is a profile of the state of homelessness in our community – who is homeless, what services they receive, and how those services address their needs.

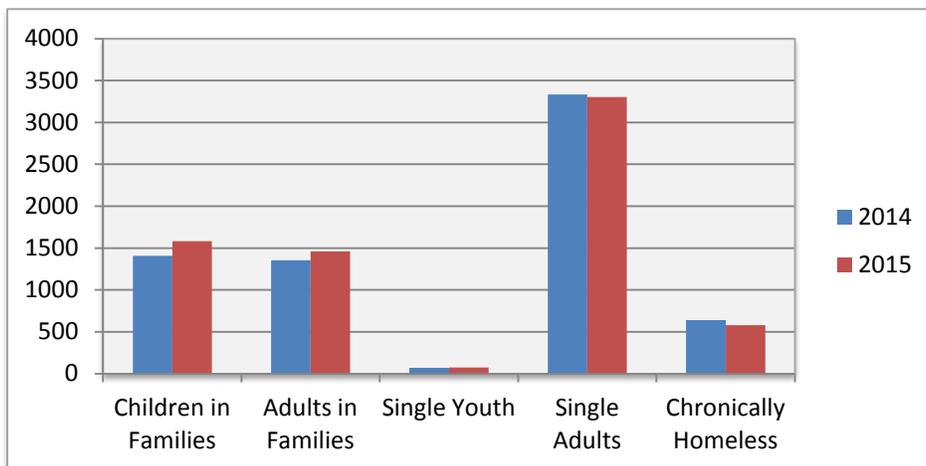
## Homelessness in Ingham County

4,969 people experienced homelessness in 2015 in Ingham County, a 1.8% decrease from 2014, and the first decrease in 5 years. The data shows that people of ALL ages, races, and family backgrounds were served by CoC agencies. In fact, 46% of people who experienced homelessness were families and children, while 1.5% were unaccompanied youths.

## A Day in Ingham County

Each year in January, agencies in the Greater Lansing area come together for a Point in Time, or PIT, count. This measures the number of people staying in local shelters or on the streets on a single day. **Although almost 5,000 people were assisted throughout the year, about 418 were homeless on any given night.** The PIT is a snapshot of homelessness in our community.

## People Experiencing Homelessness by Year 2014 - 2015



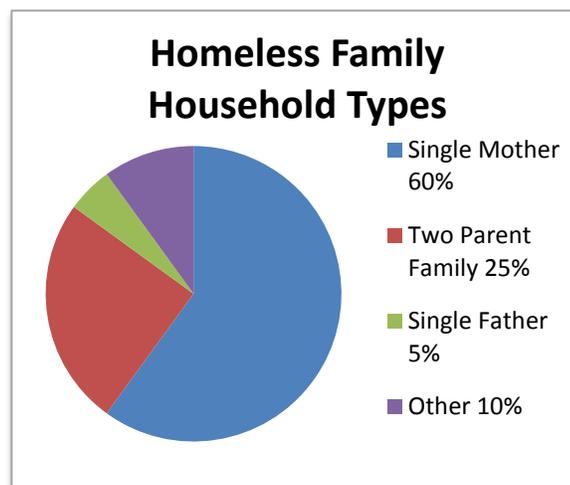
	Children in Families	Adults in Families	Single Youth	Single Adults	Chronically Homeless	Total
2014	1,410	1,355	72	3,334	640	5,064
2015	1,584	1,462	76	3,305	581	4,964

\* A person may be counted in more than one grouping during a year so the sum of the categories is greater than the total unduplicated count of persons served.

- African Americans comprised 53% of the homeless population in 2015, while whites are 44% and other races 3%.
- Children (under 18) comprised 27% of the homeless population.
- Almost half (45%) of all homeless adults in 2015 had a disabling condition.

### Homeless Families

- Households with adults and minor children made up more than half of all people (51%) who sought homeless assistance or prevention services.
- 74% of homeless families are literally homeless and 26% are “at imminent risk” of becoming homeless.
- 60% of homeless families are headed by a single, female parent. On average a homeless family is a single mother in her early 30’s with two children. She has a high school diploma, with some college, but is unemployed.
- A large percentage (22%) of 18-24 year olds are parents experiencing homelessness.



### Single Adults

- Single adults constituted 66% of people seeking assistance in our agencies last year.
- 91% are literally homeless and 9% are “at imminent risk” of becoming homeless.

- These individuals are more likely to have a disability such as a mental illness or physical impairment (45%), and are predominantly male (61%).
- 1 in 7 is a US Military veteran
- More than two-thirds (69%) have a history of prior homelessness.
- 35% of homeless single adults have a high school diploma while 33% have had at least some college or technical schooling.
- Nearly 1 in 5 is 55 or older

## Chronically Homeless

**There was an 11% decrease in 2015 in the number of chronically homeless individuals.** Chronically homeless are people who have been diagnosed with a severe, permanent disability, have been homeless 4 or more times in the past 3 years, or have been homeless continuously for a year. 581 people met this definition. These people are at the greatest risk in our community and are a priority for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs. It is more cost effective to house the chronically homeless, as it reduces use of emergency rooms, police, and other systems.

## Homeless Veterans

Local agencies have developed strategic goals to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2016. The CoC and local VA office, along with community partners, have formed a collaborative workgroup to locate and house every homeless veteran in Ingham County.

**There were 268 homeless veterans in the Greater Lansing area, a 45% decrease from 2014 (485).** 92% of homeless veterans are male and over half (51%) have a disability that impedes their ability to maintain stable housing.

- 91% of homeless vets were unaccompanied, single adults.
- More often considered to be chronically homeless than non-veterans.
- 106 veterans were housed in 2015, many with veteran-specific housing resources

## Where Our Clients Come From

Although the majority of our clients appear to come from the Lansing area, homelessness affects households throughout Ingham County.

- In some cases, the zip code of a Lansing-based shelter is used as their “last residence” which may overstate the numbers originating from Lansing.
- 388 clients came from outside Ingham county and 144 from outside Michigan.

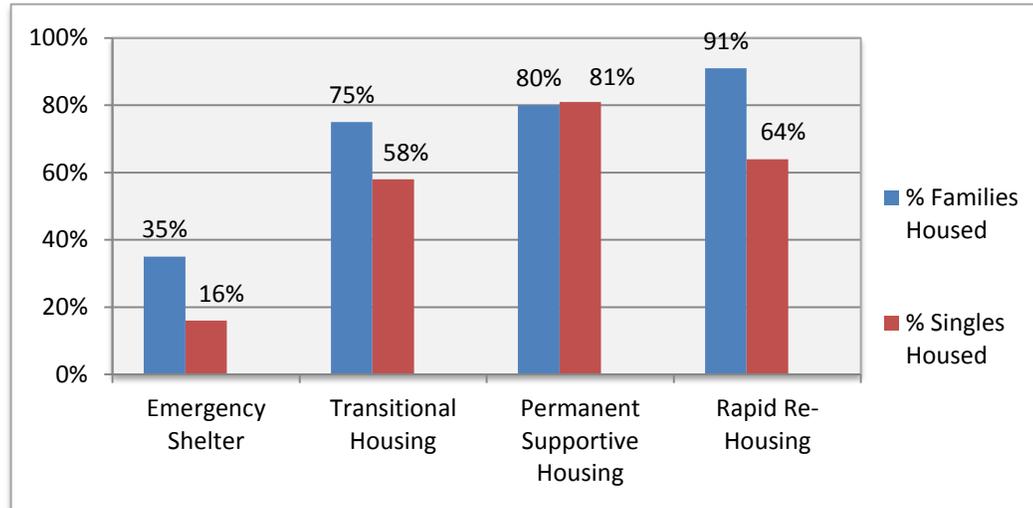
## 2015 Achievements

The HRCS Department, on behalf of the GLHRN, monitors success rates of all CoC member agencies. It is an outcome-based endeavor that continually monitors agencies’ performance based on established targets. The agencies are committed to providing the best assistance possible to those in need.

## Client Engagement and Stable Housing

Housing people in safe, affordable housing is a top priority. Knowing where a client goes after they leave a program is crucial in evaluating effectiveness. This is known as the “engagement rate”. There has been a steady improvement in this area over the past 2 years. 2015 saw a 78.6% client engagement rate. The target rate is 80%, excluding shelters, which often have a much lower engagement rate, due to the nature of their services.

Another important measure is the permanent housing rate that looks at the percentage of clients who leave a program for housing. Subsidized and unsubsidized rentals and moving in with family or friends are the most common housing destinations.



- There is a higher rate of exits to housing for families, particularly from emergency shelters, partly due to more available Rapid Re-Housing programs and mainstream resources for families with children.
- 18% of people who left shelters stay with family or friends temporarily. Often people will leave shelters for a temporary situation and then find permanent housing. This accounts for some of the low rates of exits to housing from shelters.
- 17.4% report staying in a shelter for 30 days or less and leaving for permanent housing.
  - Most people getting assistance only interact with the Emergency Shelter system
  - Most TH programs only serve special populations, i.e., veterans, youth, and those recovering from substance use.

## Rapid Re-Housing

- Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) programs provide short term rental assistance and case management, placing individuals and families back into housing as soon as possible.
- Clients are provided with deposits, application fees, and rental assistance, as needed.
- 84% of RRH clients exit to stable housing. This is a 2% increase over last year.

## Recidivism Rate – Returns to Shelter

- Recidivism is the number of people who left an emergency shelter and returned within that same calendar year. 33% of people who stayed in an emergency shelter in 2015 had to return on at least one or more occasions. During the past 3 years, the majority of people who stayed at a shelter did NOT return after their initial stay (66%).
- Most homelessness is not long-term and many people are able to resolve their housing crisis with help from family, friends, or other support networks.

## **Income and Employment**

- Helping clients obtain stable employment is critical to reducing homelessness. It is essential clients are assisted in locating jobs, and securing cash and non-cash benefits. This has been a positive trend for local agencies in the past few years. In 2015, 25% of adults who left a homeless assistance program had employment income and 78% were receiving at least 1 cash or non-cash benefit.
- Employment income and SSI/SSDI remain the most common sources of income, due to a high incidence of disability.
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is the most common non-cash benefit.
- Permanent Supportive Housing
  - Because PSH is targeted primarily to people with disabilities, it has a higher rate of individuals with SSI/SSDI income (65%)
  - 14% have earned income or are employed
  - 94% maintained or increased their income during their time in a PSH program
- Transitional Housing & Rapid-Re-Housing
  - Adults in families, particularly in RRH programs, often leave the program with income that will permit them to maintain their housing
  - 82% leave with a source of cash or non-cash income at exit
  - 43% leave with employment income at exit
- Emergency Shelter/Supportive Services Programs
  - People with SSI/SSDI income often need some form of housing subsidy in order to afford housing. People with disabilities or low incomes may be eligible for public housing or housing vouchers.

## **Permanent Supportive Housing**

- PSH combines housing with case management for people with severe barriers to maintaining housing. Individuals with a history of chronic homelessness or are permanently disabled are a priority for this assistance.
- There is usually a wait list associated with PSH, however funding for 36 new units was awarded for 2016-17.
- 81% of clients who leave a PSH program move into stable housing, most frequently transitioning to subsidized housing.
- 88 households were moved into PSH units in 2015, 16 more than in 2014.
- 119 people successfully transitioned out of PSH programs in 2015.
- PSH is a pivotal program for clients to gain the essential life skills needed to maintain a stable housing environment.

## **Looking Forward**

HRCS, the Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network, and our community partners are making a measurable impact on ending homelessness. In order to continue this positive trend, agencies are advocating for more affordable housing and seeking additional grant funding. Concerted efforts are being made to end homelessness for veterans, by implementing best practices and proven strategies. Drastically reducing homelessness in our community is an attainable goal, reachable by continued cooperation and building positive relationships between agencies and those we serve, the most vulnerable in our community.

