

Iowans Experiencing Homelessness



Annual Snapshot of Service and Shelter Use

A report to the Governor of the State of Iowa on behalf of the Iowa Council on Homelessness, prepared by the Iowa Institute for Community Alliances.

January 2007—December 2007

17,908

Is the number of Iowans that were homeless and received services from I-Count agencies in 2007

I-Count is the Statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) used by most homeless agencies across Iowa.
Approximately 75% of Emergency and Transitional beds are included in this information network

17,908 unique Iowans were homeless last calendar year and served by one of our homeless service providers.

An additional **10,010** Iowans were at risk of becoming homeless and were served by these agencies to prevent homelessness.

This is not a homeless census; rather, this is a homeless service count for 2007.

Putting it into Perspective -

A total of **27,571** people were homeless or near homeless in 2007 and were served by a reporting agency. Of that number, 10,206 were under the age of 18!

These are Real people, not an estimate of actual people in need. These are people in crisis and stress, unimaginable to most of us.

Unfortunately, 84% of these clients that were seen in 2007, were not seen in 2006 by Service providers.

This means that 47,498 unique people were served during the last two years.

Only 1,286 people entered into emergency shelter in 2006 and re-entered Emergency Shelter in 2007.

While this is good news that most people are not staying homeless for extremely long periods of time, it is bad news that there are so many new people that need assistance each year.

Overall decrease since 2006

We show a decrease from 2006 of 1,325 people. While this would seem to be a positive note, because of regulatory changes related to domestic violence providers we had 27 fewer agencies reporting in 2007 than 2006. The Des Moines Continuum of Care, which did not report Domestic Violence data in 2006 or 2007, showed a 9% increase in homeless clients served. Further study and review of 2008 data will indicate trends with our homeless and near-homeless populations.

Emerging Concerns -

Of course we are just seeing the beginning of foreclosure and disaster issues for Iowans. We anticipate that both of these issues will have a greater impact on "at-risk" Iowans in the coming years.

Who are we missing?

As noted last year, we know that many people are missing from this number.

- *Families are under-reported for several reasons. We have very few shelters for families, and information is not recorded for people who are turned away for lack of space. Also, domestic violence shelters did not submit information for this report. Lastly, many people, particularly families, avoid shelters, living instead in cars or doubling up with another family.*
- *Veterans often fail to report their status to providers and federally funded, Veteran-specific programs do not participate in this data effort.*
- *Information for children in families is not always recorded by providers, and children are often left in another's care while a parent is in a shelter.*
- *Individuals - Many faith-based facilities do not receive government dollars and choose to not participate in the statewide data network. In some cases, these programs account for a significant number of beds in a community.*

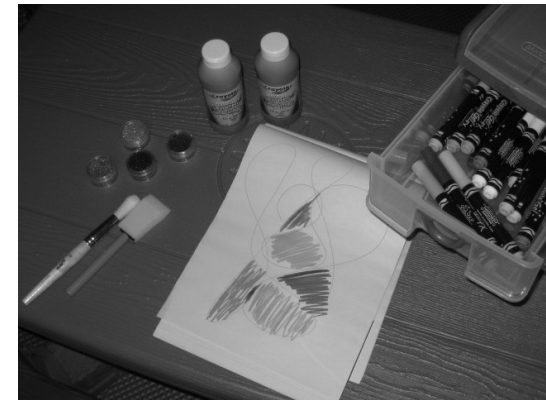
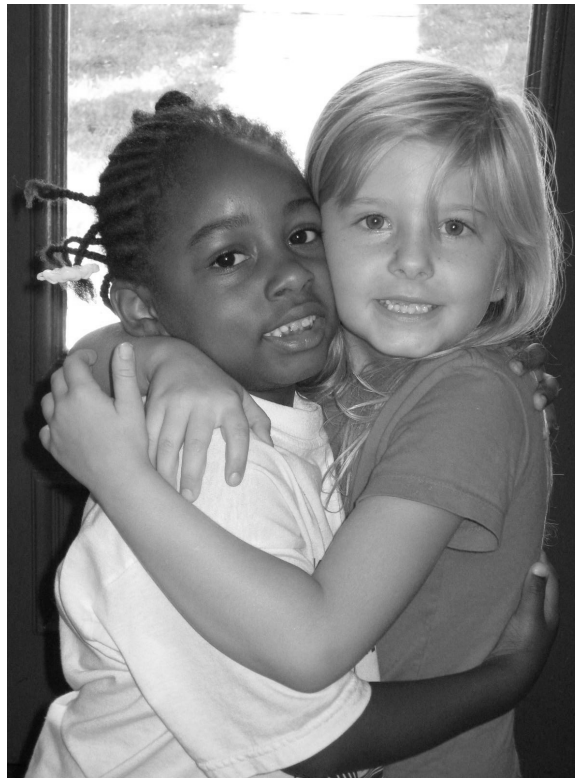
Our Ongoing Hope . . .

Is that this report makes real the extent of need in our communities, recognizes the hard work done by our service agencies and results in policy changes to improve services to those in need; ensuring that homelessness be avoided when possible and to help minimize the impact when it cannot.

Families Experiencing Homelessness In 2007

“We need a community that cares. There are some communities that help people get jobs, this community wants to sweep people away.”

-Participant in a Des Moines Focus Group on Homeless Services

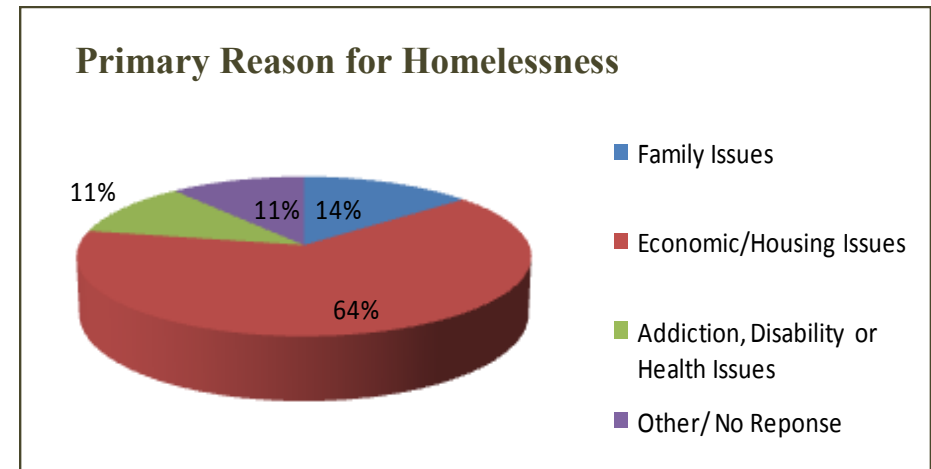


Service agencies helped **8,534** homeless Iowans
in families during 2007

56% of homeless families experienced homelessness for the first time in 2007

1/3 of homeless families are working poor

33% of homeless adults in families
reported a long-term disability



57% of homeless people in families are children

5% of homeless families lived on
the streets prior to receiving services

67%

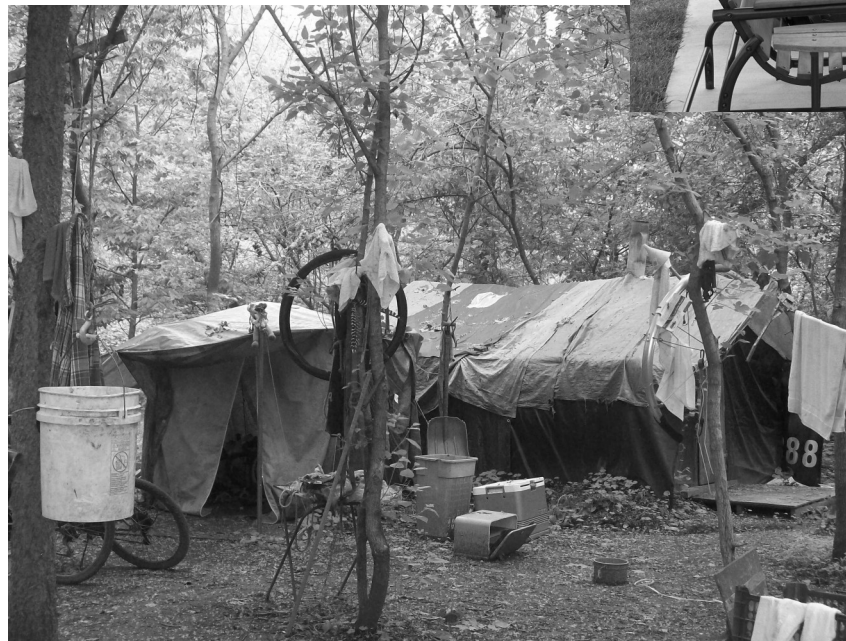
of adults in families have completed high
school or received their G.E.D.

*More Families are working, have a disability or
have their GED as compared to 2006*

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness In 2007

"I'm finally a person I like again. I didn't like myself for a real long time. I don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for the staff."

Angelia,
now living in
permanent housing



13% of homeless individuals are under 18

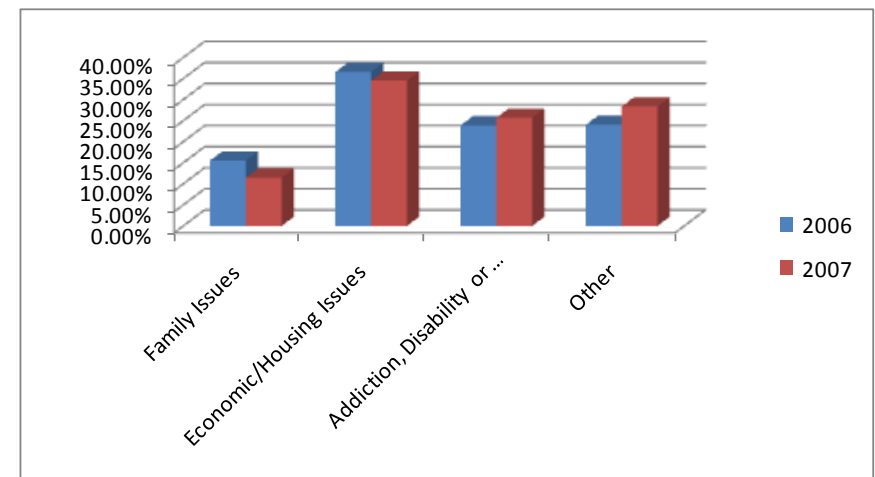
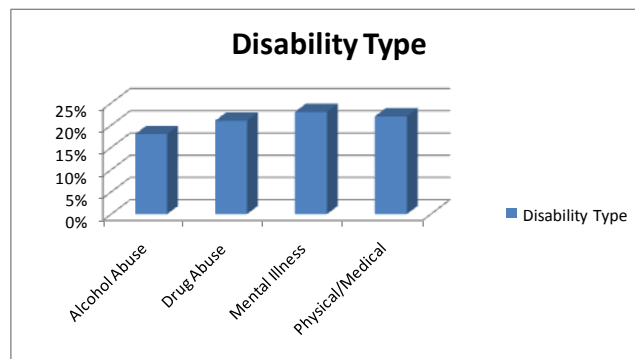
63% of homeless individuals have been homeless in the past

21% of adults are employed when beginning services

58% of homeless adult individuals report a long term disability

12% of homeless adult individuals served in the Armed Forces

12% of individuals had been living on the streets prior to receiving services



64% Homeless individuals have completed high school or received their G.E.D.

Service providers helped **9,822** homeless individuals in 2007

Employment rates, Disability rates and numbers of clients entering program from the Streets were all higher in 2007 than in 2006

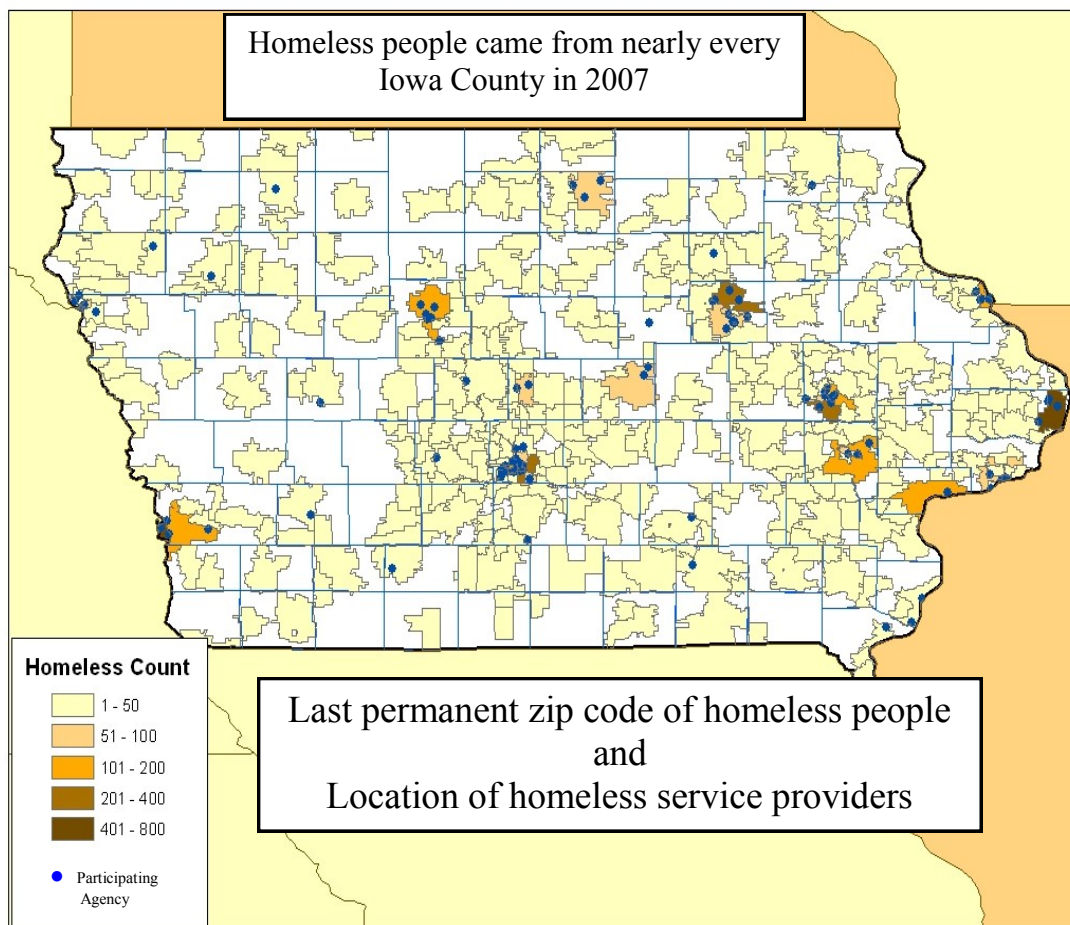
Nearly **4** out of **10** homeless Iowans are **children**.

8,345
unique people stayed in Emergency Shelter in 2007

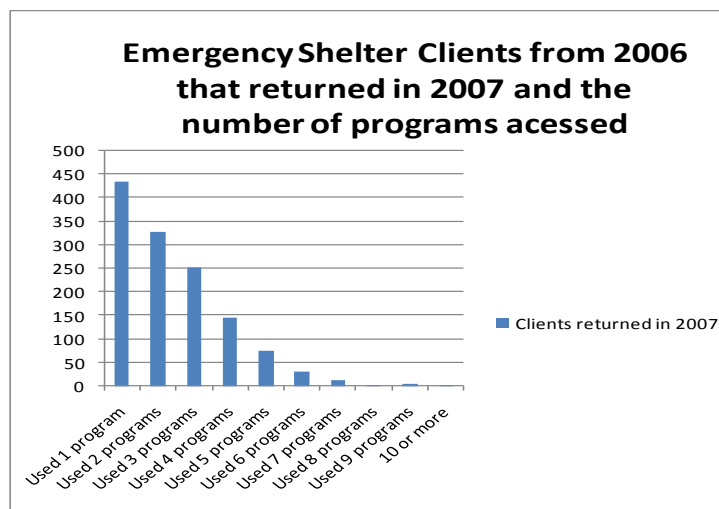
4,314
unique people stayed in Transitional Shelter in 2007



Boxes from the Sleep Out awareness event in Mason City



Economic/ Housing issues were the largest reason for homelessness for both families and individuals



Number of E.S. clients that didn't return in 2007

8,602



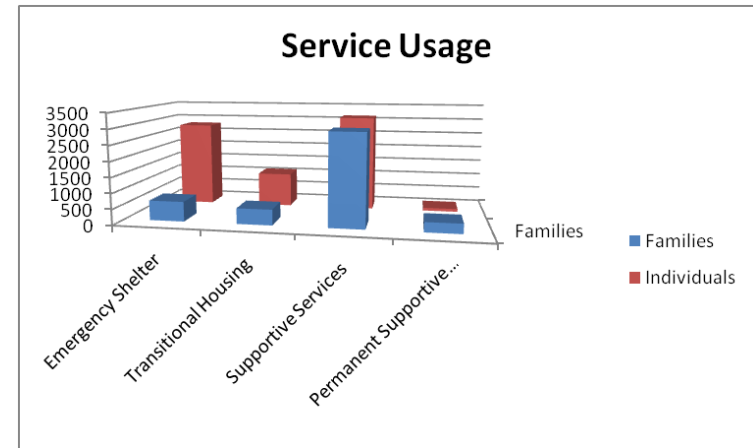
Des Moines Continuum of Care

This information is a subset of the Statewide Data included in this report



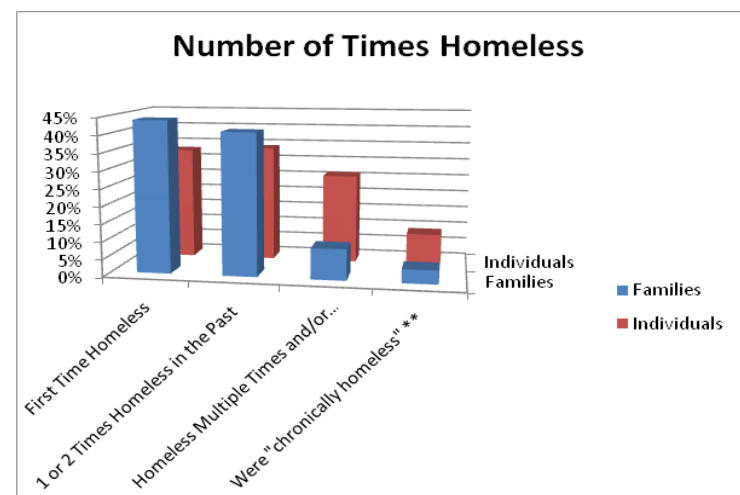
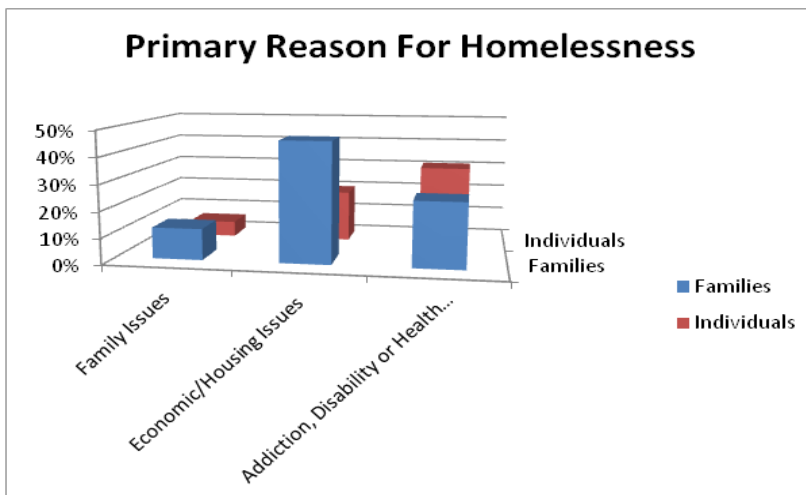
10,031 people were homeless or near homeless in 2007, a 12% increase from 2006

5,707 Homeless individuals and families members were served by Des Moines Agencies in 2007, a 9% increase from 2006



13,253 Unique clients over the 2 year period – 70% unique

526 people left Emergency Shelter in 2006 and re-entered Emergency Shelter in 2007 – 16%



Siouxland Continuum of Care

This information is a subset of the Statewide Data included in this report

1,219 Homeless People
were served in 2007

214 Near-Homeless
were served in 2007

661 Children were Homeless
in Sioux City Last year.

Half as many adults

have their GED or H.S. diploma

as compared to the rest of the State.

25% of Homeless people in Siouxland, served in 2007 were American Indian or Alaskan Native, as compared to

3% for the entire state.

Success Stories for Iowa



A new Permanent Supportive Housing Project in Dubuque.



The new One-Stop "Shop" for Social services and the new MICA House Shelter in Council Bluffs.

Thank You. . .

- To the service providers that have provided quality information and for their hard work helping our fellow Iowans.
- To the volunteers that share gifts of time and financial resources to help make our programs successful.
- To our Governor, First Lady and other state officials who have continued to recognize the impact of this issue on Iowans.
- And a special thanks to the Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Department of Economic Development for their support of our work.



We sincerely thank you for your efforts to make Iowa a great place to live for everyone.

About our Organization -

The Iowa Institute for Community Alliances has worked in partnership with service providing agencies for more than 13 years and has been involved in the evolving “science” of data collection during this period. It is our hope that we can assist the service providers by giving them the tools to demonstrate their success. Please contact our organization if you have any questions regarding this report or the work that we do.

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*Home,
Sweet*

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Everyone deserves a home!