

# IOWANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



**January-December 2011  
Snapshot of Service and Shelter Use**

Prepared by the Iowa Institute for Community Alliances

# 19,526



This photo CC make poverty history  
Cover photo CC Karl Han

19,526 Iowans were homeless and served by I-Count agencies in 2011

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.

These are real people forced to seek help because of insecure housing and other social ills.

19,526 Iowans were homeless during 2011.  
(2,470 of whom were in HPRP rapid re-housing)

27,567 people were at risk of homelessness.  
(12,634 of whom were in HPRP homeless prevention)

**43,515**  
people in total  
were served



**This is not an estimate**

Each of these numbers is an unduplicated count. Though each person is counted only once within the homeless population and once within the at risk population, there is an overlap between the two populations. 3,578 people were both homeless and at risk during the year. The total unduplicated population served in 2011 was 43,515.



# Polk County

5,729 Homeless (↓1.76%)

4,069 At-Risk (↓0.14%)

CC Carol VanHook

A homeless person lacked a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence or had a primary nighttime residence that was a supervised temporary shelter or a place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

# Balance of State

12,855 Homeless (↑0.78%)

31,674 At-Risk (↑100.27%)

CC Peter Zarria

A person at risk of homelessness sought services to prevent

# Siouxland

1,404 Homeless (↑3.3%)

733 At-Risk (↓48.4%)

CC ELT pics

# Cedar Rapids

2,445 Homeless (↓0.3%)

8,012 At-Risk (↓2.9%)

# IOWA COMMUNITIES

(HOMELESS/AT-RISK)

Decorah (0/444)

Ankeny (3/122)

Remsen (6/110)

Adel(12/14)

Osceola (13/102)

Harlan (39/722)

Eagle Grove (43/682)

Boone (49/71)

Carroll (49/447)

West Des Moines (63/703)

Creston (89/245)

Ottumwa(98/0)

Waverly (100/0)

Washington (111/0)

Burlington (196/989)

Indianola (203/1079)

Fort Dodge (249/579)

Hiawatha (309/520)

Muscatine (353/3)

Clinton (458/1929)

Mason City (468/466)

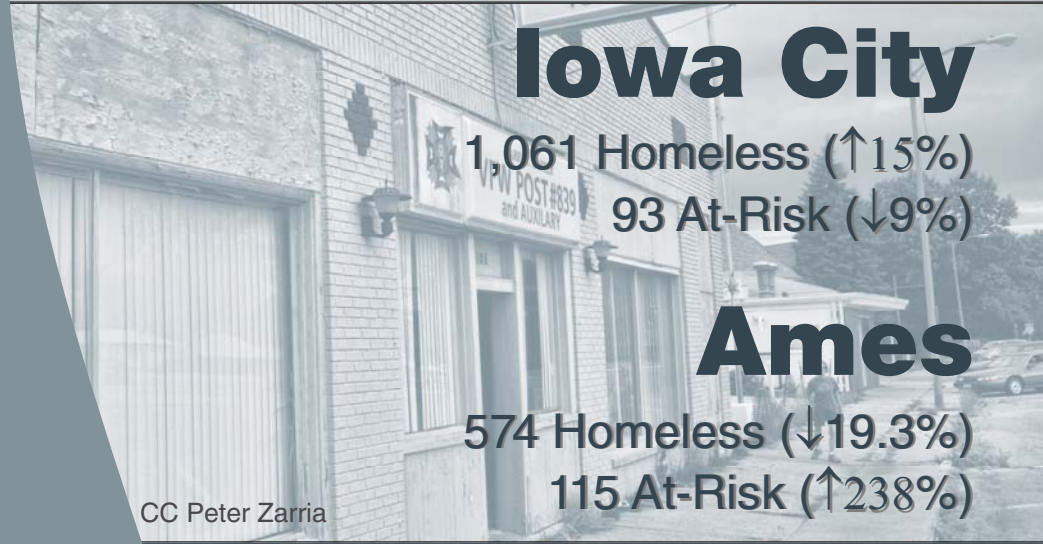


## Marshalltown

532 Homeless (↑0.6%)

1181 At-Risk (↓17.4%)

CC Travelin' Librarian



## Iowa City

1,061 Homeless (↑15%)

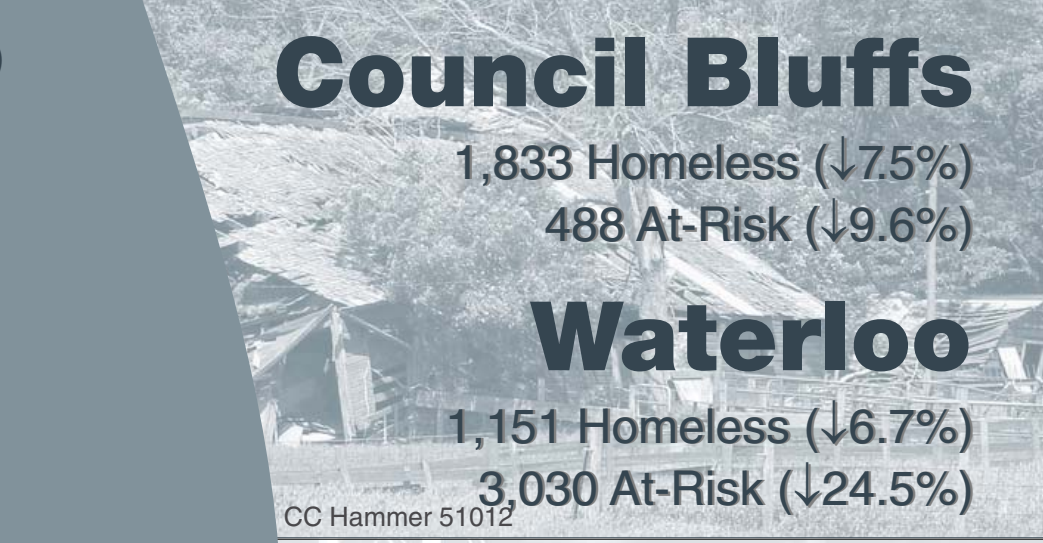
93 At-Risk (↓9%)

CC Peter Zarria

## Ames

574 Homeless (↓19.3%)

115 At-Risk (↑238%)



## Council Bluffs

1,833 Homeless (↓7.5%)

488 At-Risk (↓9.6%)

CC Hammer 51012

## Waterloo

1,151 Homeless (↓6.7%)

3,030 At-Risk (↓24.5%)




## Davenport

2,058 Homeless (↑21%)

1,311 At-Risk (↓45.4%)

CC Sean Marshall



59% of households report economics as the primary or secondary cause of their homelessness.

# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

57% of households report being homeless for the first time

58% of adults in homeless families have finished high school, have a GED or have even gone on to college.

The average head of household is responsible for just over 2 kids.

Yet, these households make on average just \$812 per month. That's 13.3% of the area median income.

And 23% of heads of households suffer a disability, predominantly mental health (15.9%) or substance addiction (10%).

# CAUSES OF HOMELESS ECONOMI

Median housing costs in Iowa are \$1,140/month including mortgages. Median gross rent is \$629/month.

25% of homeless adults were employed at intake. 31% among families and 22.6% among unaccompanied. This is consistent with last year.

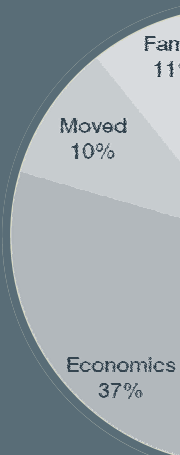
3% of homeless collected unemployment. This is down half a percent from last year.

17% had no financial resources. Up 1.5% from last year.

24% of homeless have not completed high school. This is an impediment to steady

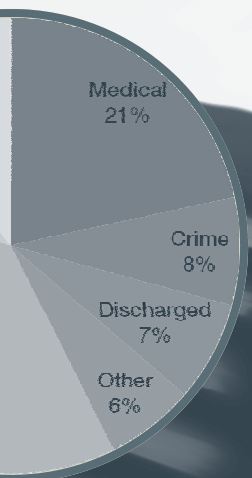
## CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

37% of homeless listed economics as the primary cause. 58% including secondary causes.





# NESS: CS



# Disability & Chronic Homelessness

**Clients with...**

<b>...a drug addiction</b>	<b>are 7% ...</b>
<b>...a mental disability</b>	<b>are 2% ...</b>
<b>...an alcohol addiction</b>	<b>are 10% ...</b>
<b>...a developmental disability</b>	<b>are 36% ...</b>
<b>...HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>are 25% ...</b>
<b>...an entry from the street</b>	<b>are 19% ...</b>

**...less likely to exit to a permanent destination than to a temporary destination.**

## **CHRONIC CLIENTS**

**Are 35% less likely to go to a permanent destination.**

**Clients who are homeless for the first time are 13% more likely to exit to a permanent destination while those homeless 4 or more times or a year or longer are 26% less likely to exit to a permanent situation.**



# **A PERMANENT DESTINATION AT EXIT is the immediate goal of housing programs that serve the homeless.**

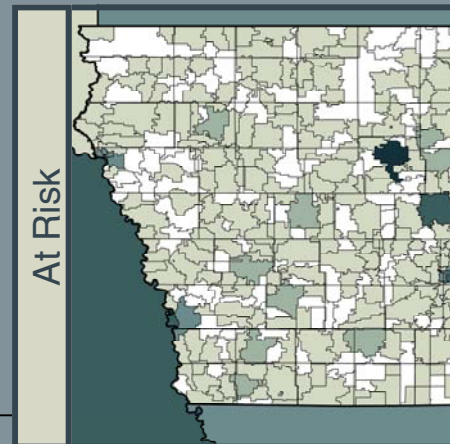
**Clients exiting to a permanent destination stay in service, on average, twice as long. This is in large part because transitional programs have 8x the probability of exiting clients to permanent destination compared to emergency programs.**

**Employed homeless are 43% more likely to exit to a permanent destination, but make 17% less income than those exiting to a temporary destination.**

**Homeless households with children are 26% more likely to exit to a permanent destination than to a temporary destination.**

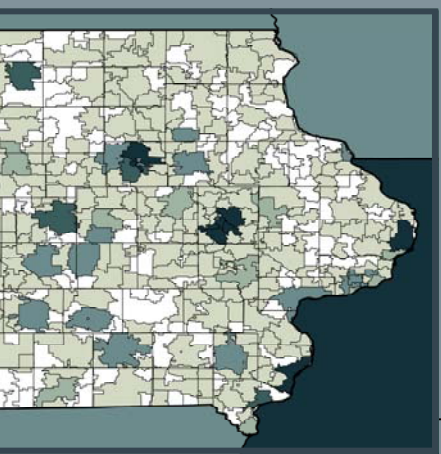
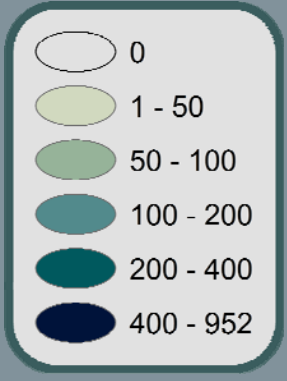


Last permanent zip code of people experiencing ho



People from every Iowa county

# Homelessness & location of homeless service providers



experienced homeless in 2011

A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing large headphones and a dark jacket with a fur-lined hood. He is looking down at a smartphone in his hands. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a crowd.

**25%** of

people who encounter the  
criminal justice system are also  
in the system.

**9%**

But less  
than of people  
in the system encounter  
HMIS  
criminal



# CRIME

## AND HOMELESSNESS

There is a great deal of overlap between criminal and homeless populations. One theoretical perspective is that many of the activities of the homeless are made illegal by their public nature; that if these same activities are done in private, then they are not considered criminal. This is why people will sometime refer to the criminalization of homeless status.

Another perspective is that people who are engaged in criminal activity, and therefore experiencing instability across many aspects of their lives, are more likely to also be homeless, but that the criminal population among the homeless should really be treated as a separate problem; that homeless people should not be assumed to be criminal. This is a perspective that is supported by our data.

Sometimes people become homeless as a result of criminal activity committed against them. Victims in precarious housing situations may become homeless, even in cases where criminal proceedings are handled correctly, if restitution is slow or incomplete. 11% of families and 6% of individuals list crime as the primary cause of their homelessness.

DEDICATED TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN  
WOUNDED IN ALL OUR WARS



MY STONE IS RED  
THE BLOOD THEY  
THE MEDAL I BEAR  
IS MY COUNTRY'S  
TO SHOW THEY  
IF I COULD BE SE  
BY ALL MANKIND  
MAYBE PEACE WI  
COME IN MY LIFE

ERECTED BY DEPT. OF IOWA  
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

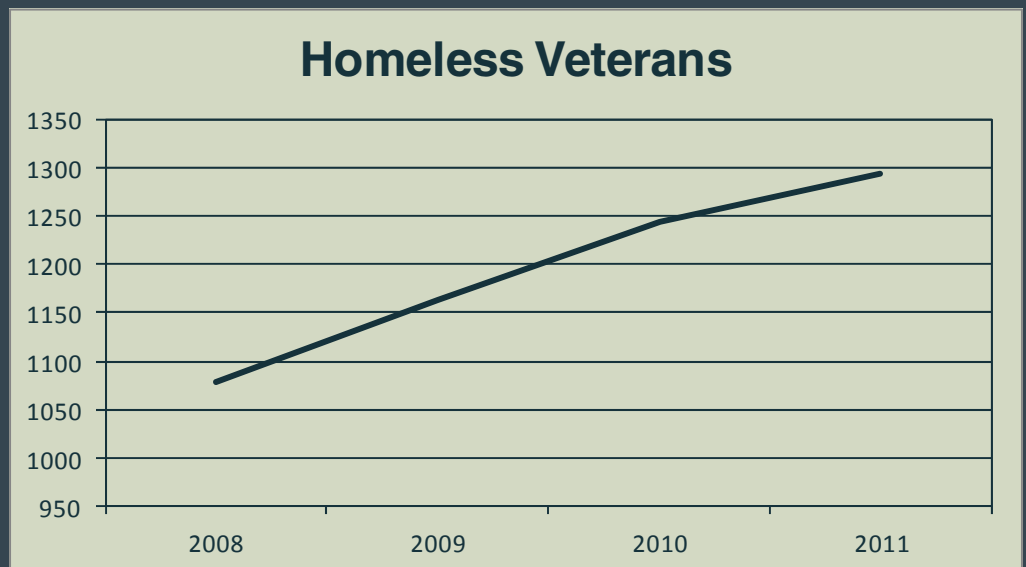


# VETERAN

## IOWA HOMELESS AND NEAR HOMELESS VETERANS

The men and women who served in the Armed forces and chose Iowa as their home afterward account for 10% of Iowa's homeless adults. 3.2% among households and 12.4% among unaccompanied and 3.8% among at-risk populations.

The Veteran's Administration has set a goal of eliminating veteran homelessness.





# Housing

30% of Area Median Income (AMI) is the standard by which “extremely low income” is measured, and no more than 30% of a family’s income should be spent on housing.

**\$6,297/month** is AMI for 2011 in Iowa. Half of families make more and half of families make less. So, for them, up to **\$1,889** is reasonable housing costs.

		Average monthly	% of AMI	Reasonable rent
Emergency	Families	\$480.34	8%	\$144.10
	Singles	\$897.00	14%	\$269.10
Transitional	Families	\$566.33	9%	\$169.90
	Singles	\$810.65	13%	\$243.20
P.S.H	Families	\$978.36	16%	\$293.51
	Singles	\$1,259.12	20%	\$377.74
Homeless Prevention	Families	\$638.71	10%	\$191.61
	Singles	\$647.07	10%	\$194.12
Rapid Rehousing	Families	\$841.99	13%	\$252.60
	Singles	\$796.88	13%	\$239.06

Median gross rent is \$629.

Iowa has  
more than  
400,000  
families  
under 30%

About  
**11%**  
of housing units  
with cash rents  
fall into these



# NEW CLIENTS

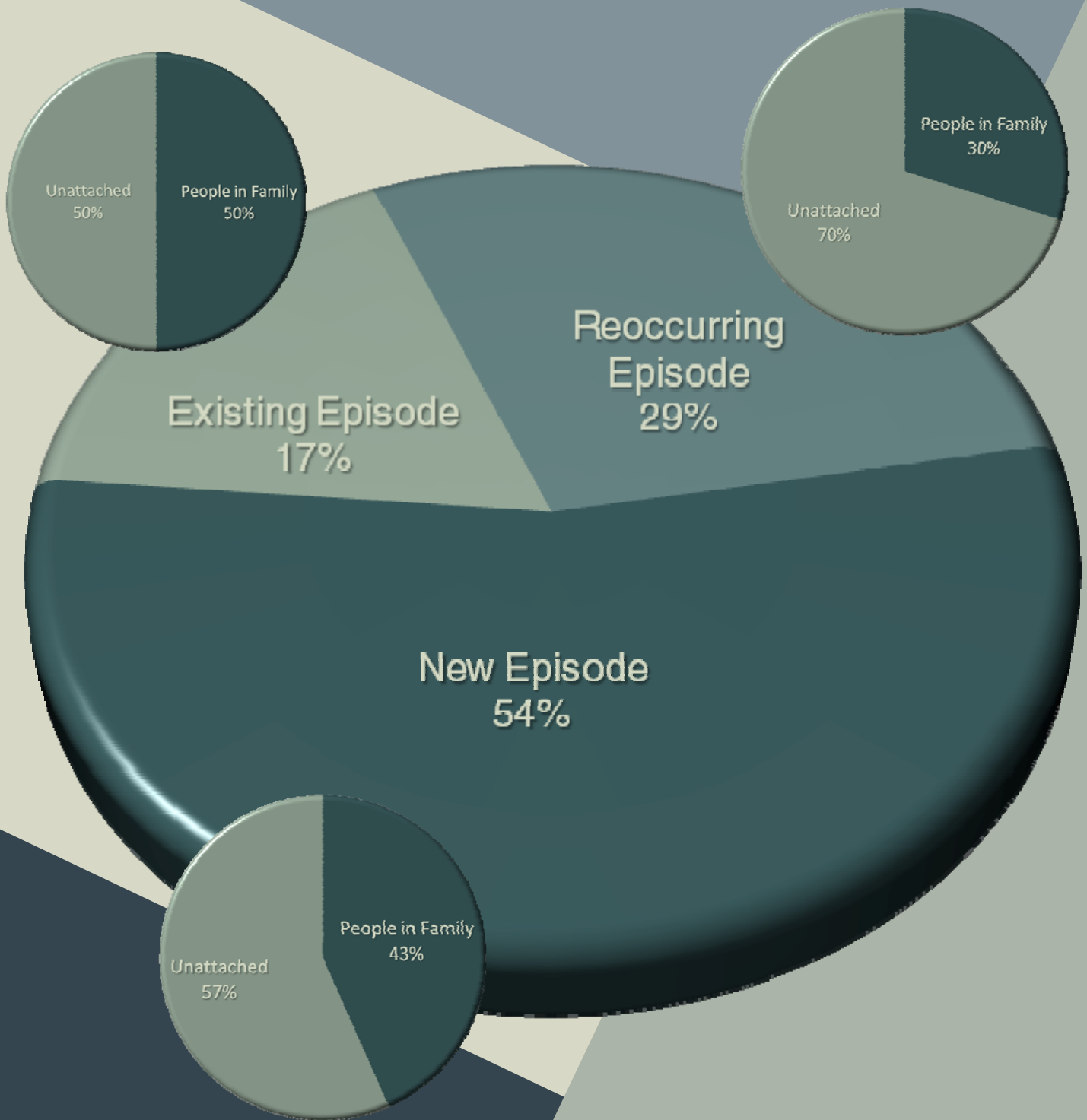
ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN AT SHELTER IN MORE THAN TWO YEARS OR WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN HOMELESS

An Episode begins at entry into Emergency Shelter (ES) or Transitional Housing (TH). The end of an episode is indicated by an exit to permanent housing or a gap in service of at least 24 consecutive months.

New episodes are case where an individual began their first episode or began a non-reoccurring episode of homelessness this year. Existing episodes are where individuals started a new homeless episode before this year. Reoccurring episodes are homeless individuals with a previous episode of homeless years

# REOCCURRANCE OF HOMELESSNESS

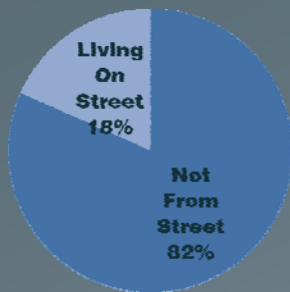
SOMETIMES CALLED RECIDIVISM is when a client exits to a permanent destination then has an entry into a shelter or rapid rehousing program.



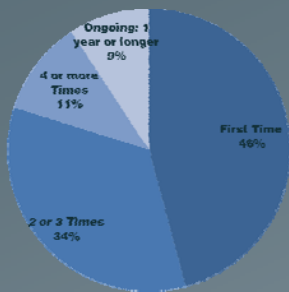
# EMERGENCY SHELTER

8,321

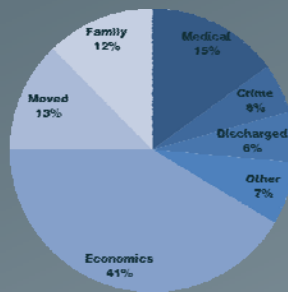
Night Before Entry



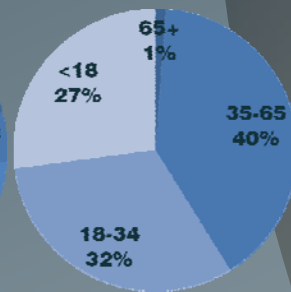
Extent of Homelessness



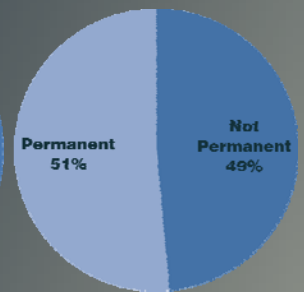
Cause of Homelessness



Age at Entry



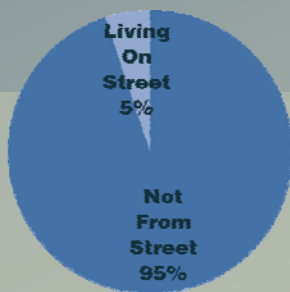
Destination at Exit



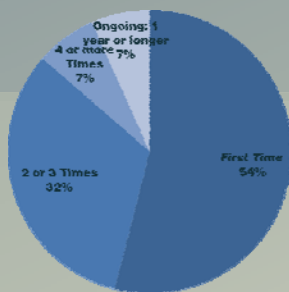
# TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

4,044

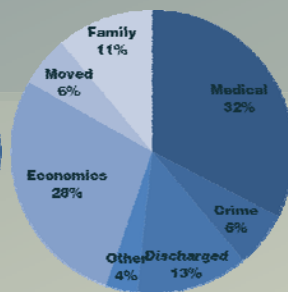
Night Before Entry



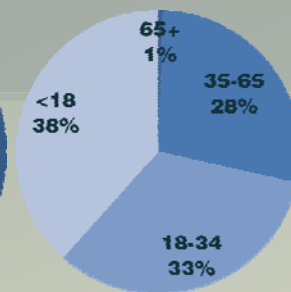
Extent of Homelessness



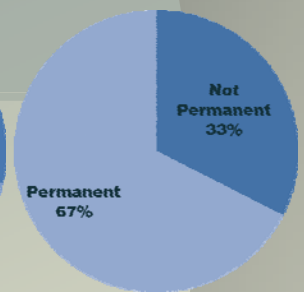
Cause of Homelessness



Age at Entry



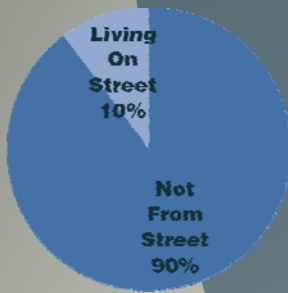
Destination at Exit



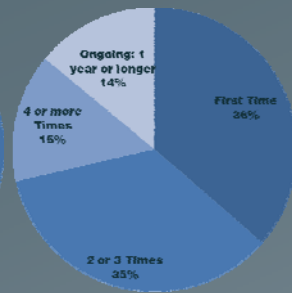


# PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING 996

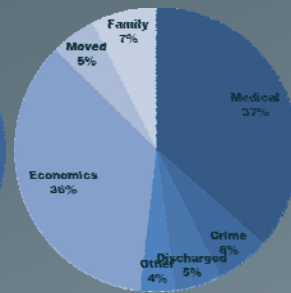
Night Before Entry



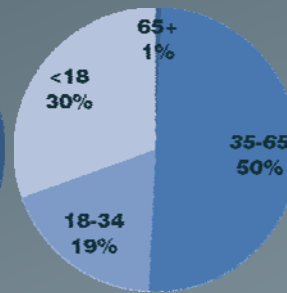
Extent of Homelessness



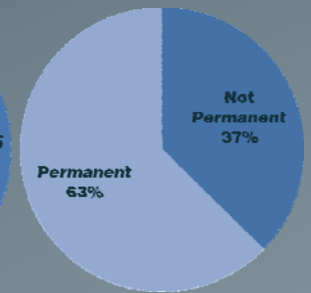
Cause of Homelessness



Age at Entry

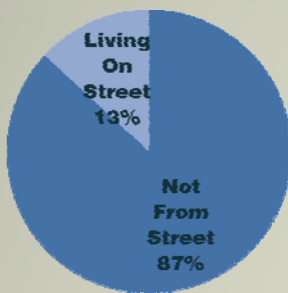


Destination at Exit

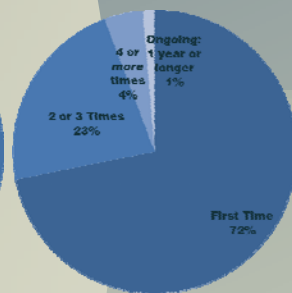


# RAPID REHOUSING 2,470

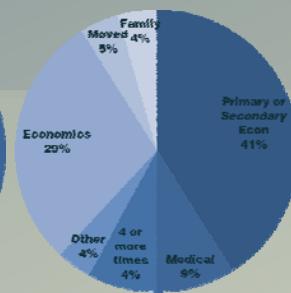
Night Before Entry



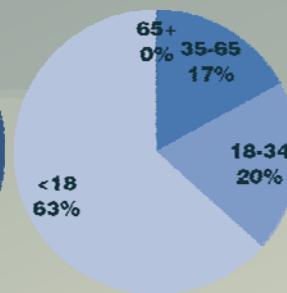
Extent of Homelessness



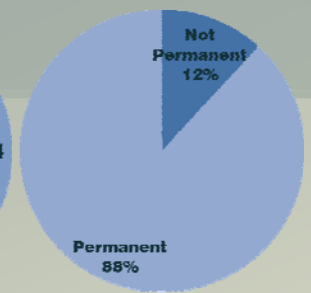
Cause of Homelessness



Age at Entry



Destination at Exit



# Rural Homeless

To qualify as an urban area, the territory identified according to criteria must encompass at least 2,500 people, at least 1,500 of which reside outside institutional group quarters. For a list of rural and urban areas visit <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/2010urbanruralclass.html>

% From a Rural population

Emergency	7.4%
Transitional	6%
P.S.H	2.3%
Homeless Prevention	14.4%
Rapid Rehousing	7.9%

## Summary Analysis

2011 was the 11th year that the I-Count network collected data statewide on homelessness in Iowa. I-Count is a real-time database that captures information from service providers across the state about Iowa's homeless and near homeless citizens. Changing needs and resource availability change the nature, capacity and emphasis of homeless service programming in Iowa.

Compared to 2010 which had 18,210 homeless and a total of 51,332 people in service, 2011 had a 7.23% increase in statewide homelessness and a 15.23% decline in overall service. At-risk populations were down 22.9%. This change was largely a result of changes in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) programming. Non HPRP programs saw an increase of 2.5% in persons served. Outreach was up 8.8% and emergency shelter was up 22%. Transitional shelter was down slightly. Permanent supportive housing was up by almost 16%.

2009 saw the introduction of HPRP and in 2010 it was in full effect. HPRP program was operational for the entirety of 2011, but there a reduction in services as providers got a better sense of how far funds would extend. As a result, HPRP was down from 2010 to 2011 by about 41%, most of that was seen in prevention, which fell 43.8% on higher overall numbers. Rapid rehousing also declined by 27.8%.

This shift in programming focus also saw a movement from rural to urban zip codes reported as zip code of last permanent residence. There was an overall 11.5% reduction in rural clients. The primary source of that shift comes from HPRP, where prevention saw a 35% numeric decline in rural zip codes and rapid rehousing saw a 44.6% numeric decline in rural zip codes, although the rural-urban distribution among HPRP programs stayed fairly consistent. Emergency shelter saw a 10% numeric increase in rural clients accompanying the reduction in rural HPRP services.

2011 was very much a year of transition with so much going on with HPRP. It is very difficult, as a result, to place 2011 in the larger picture of homeless trends. We are going to have to take a wait and see approach, largely



CC Karl Hans

The Iowa Institute for Community Alliances has worked in partnership with service providing agencies for more than 15 years and has been involved in the science of data collection during this period. Please contact our organization if you have any questions regarding this report or the work that we do.

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# EVERYONE DESERVES A HOME



CC Green Kozi

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the Iowa Institute  
for Community Alliances