



28,430  
people  
now have a place  
to call home.

# Preface

by the Michigan Interagency  
Council on Homelessness

**Co-Chair Lisa Chapman, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)**  
**Co-Chair David Verseput, Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH)**

We believe that housing is a basic need and the elimination of homelessness is an achievable goal. No man, woman or child should be forced to sleep on the streets, in the woods or on a cot in a shelter on any night, in any town or city in Michigan.

Together, our vision is to end homelessness by providing the most vulnerable members of our society with access to housing, services and the necessary income supports they need in a time frame they deserve. We are committed to implementing local “Plans to End Homelessness” across our entire state. In the end, we will realize our vision of ending homelessness in Michigan because the collective capacity of our compassion is greater than the depth of the challenge.



*Lisa Chapman*  
Lisa Chapman



*David Verseput*  
David Verseput

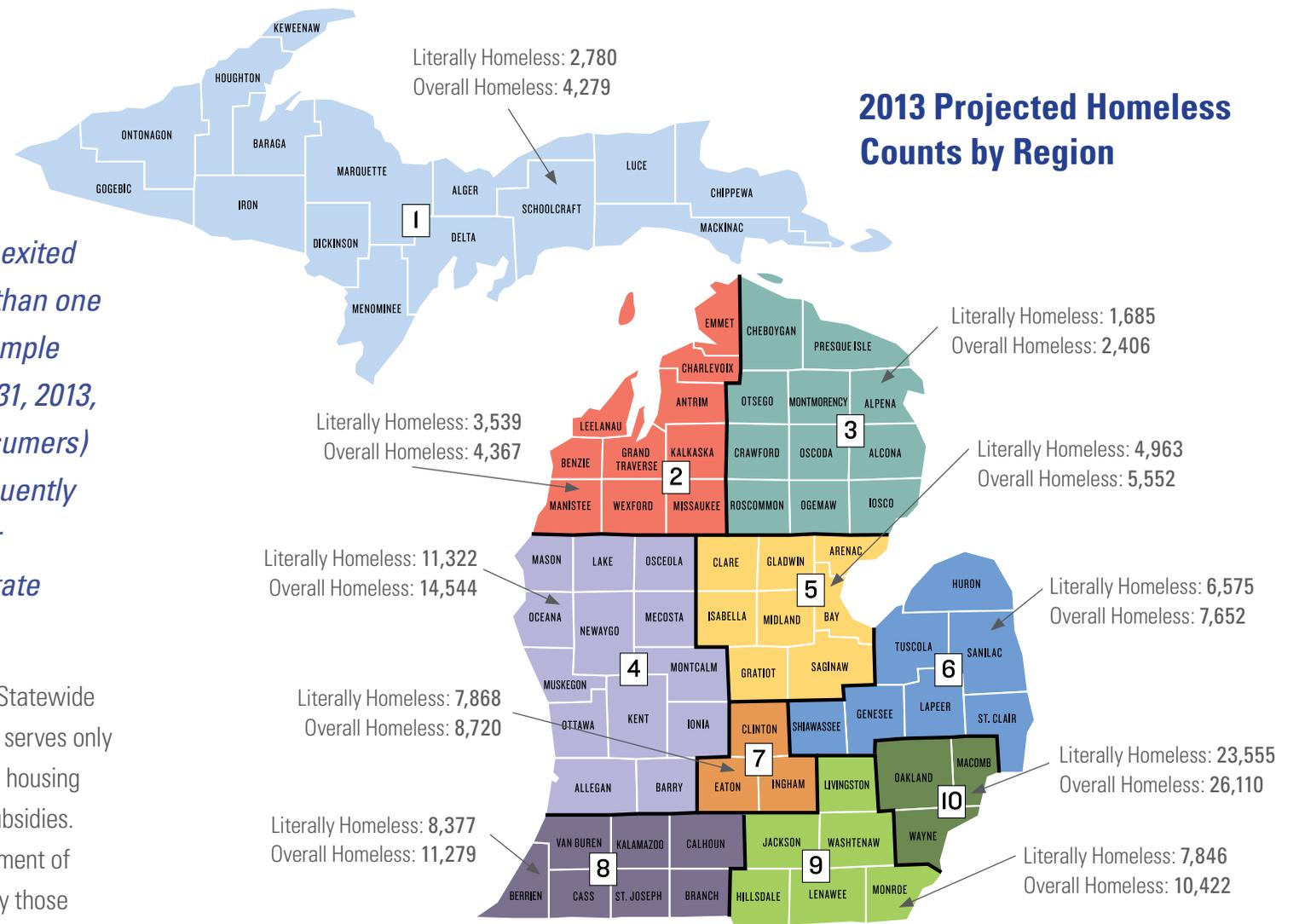
# Our Best Strategies

## Are Our Housing Services

**Rapid Re-housing Program:** A study of Michigan's Rapid Re-housing program funded through the American Recovery Act followed a total of 4,251 consumers who received short- and medium-term housing assistance. With 98% of the consumers having exited the program more than one year prior to the sample date of December 31, 2013, only 12% (515 consumers) overall had subsequently returned to shelter anywhere in the state of Michigan. That is, 88% retained housing after assistance ended.

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs** that report to the Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System (MSHMIS) served 9,699 persons in 2012. PSH serves only those households where an adult has a significant disability. Eighty percent left for a stable housing environment, primarily subsidized housing without additional supports or rentals without subsidies. Across both active and inactive households, the percentage that exceeded the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) target of seven months remained high at 88%. Only those who left within the first 30 days were more likely to return to homelessness.

*With 98% of the consumers having exited the program more than one year prior to the sample date of December 31, 2013, only 12% (515 consumers) overall had subsequently returned to shelter anywhere in the state of Michigan.*



# Did You Know?

1. Overall 83% of the homeless were living in shelters or on the street when they were counted.
2. Nearly half (42%) of the homeless were homeless for the first time this year.
3. Wayne County accounts for 26% of the homeless statewide.
4. Region 10 (urban Southeast Michigan) accounts for a third of the homeless and Region 4 (the next most populous Region) accounted for 16%.
5. Within the year, the homeless stayed largely in their home county or region. Only 2% were served in multiple counties and 6% in multiple regions.
6. Domestic violence agencies provided 258,158 bed nights in shelters during 2013.

There were 92,341 total homeless persons counted during 2013. This included 70,636 with detailed information provided by MSHMIS and another 21,705 estimated from providers that do not participate in the MSHMIS (mostly those seeking shelter escaping domestic violence).<sup>i</sup> The information that follows is largely based on the HMIS data where sufficient detail is available. The "Literally Homeless"



Paula Kaiser VanDam, Director, Bureau of Community Services, Michigan Department of Human Services, directs statewide programs that fund shelters, temporary rental assistance, domestic violence services, and the Homelessness AmeriCorps Program.

include those who are on the street or in shelters. The overall homeless count includes those living with friends or family due to a housing crisis and are facing immediate eviction with no other resources.<sup>ii</sup>

# Our Accomplishments

## 115,114 people received our care and support when they experienced a significant housing crisis

- Organizations statewide provided services to 70,636 people experiencing homelessness and 44,478 at significant risk

## We housed 28,430 people who were homeless living in shelters, on the street or just evicted from their housing

- 50% (14,153) found housing while receiving case management services
- 39% (11,180) received less than 6 months of rental assistance
- 11% (3,097) were provided long-term housing resources such as Shelter Plus Care, Housing Choice Vouchers, Project Based Vouchers and HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH)

## We developed 3,105 affordable housing units in Michigan

- 514 units were added for the chronically homeless, veterans, and other disabled populations<sup>iii</sup>

## We have focused on housing the chronic population

- Since 2011, there has been a 17% decline in persons counted living on the streets

## We prevented nearly 19,272 persons at significant risk of losing their housing from becoming homeless

- 3,965 (21%) benefited and received short-term rental assistance
- 1,329 (7%) were helped with overdue utilities and shut-offs
- 13,978 (73%) were stabilized with a mix of case management services and referral of other supports

## We helped 17,315 adults increase their income

- Safety-net agencies supported this work and generated an average increase of household income by \$281 per month

## We assisted 9,656 persons with securing and continuing to work

- 2,202 gained employment while homeless and 7,454 retained their employment

## We ensured that 39,330 children experiencing homelessness stayed in school<sup>iv</sup>



Janet attending a MSHDA Housing Choice Voucher briefing meeting after her name was pulled from the waitlist to get a voucher. Joining her is Justin Petrusak from Neighborhood Service Organization.

RPI Housing Agent Chinelle Wellons and Neighborhood Service Organization AmeriCorps Volunteer Chelsea Rose Larmon working together to help people secure their MSHDA Housing Choice Vouchers.



# Our Concerns

## Our veterans are older, disabled and experience long periods of homelessness

- 4,526 veterans were identified within our homeless population
- That number has increased as our soldiers return home from war
- 73% struggle with significant disabilities
- Over a third, 36%, have had multiple periods of homelessness
- 37% are over the age of 55

## Our minority populations are overrepresented in experiencing homelessness

- 56% of Michigan's homeless population are minorities
- Although African Americans make up only 14.3% of Michigan residents, they represent 51% of the homeless population

## Our senior population increases year after year. These individuals represent very high risk for our health care system

- 7,585 adults over the age of 55 were homeless in our state
- 2,229 experienced multiple or extended periods of homelessness
- Nearly all (80%) had identified disabilities of long duration including chronic health conditions, mental health and cognitive conditions and substance abuse

## Our homeless families are largely comprised of young women and children

- 63% of the women were under the age of 35, and 88% of the children were under the age of 11 with an average age of 6.8 years

## Our working households are not able to afford housing

- While average income for households with children increased to \$911 per month, most will continue to struggle to sustain housing

## We remember our friends

- 161 people died on our streets, in our shelters and in our specialized housing programs

**Poverty in combination with illness, disabilities, disaster, violence, crime, war and extreme family conflict drive homelessness. None of our systems of care and support work well when individuals and families are changing neighborhoods multiple times throughout the year.**

# Understanding Who We Serve

**Homeless persons fall into three basic categories distinguished by age, family structure and the conditions that lead to homelessness.**

## **13,794 family households with children were counted in 2013**

- Homeless family households were comprised of 15,732 adults and 18,592 children, and are largely young women with young children
- 63% of the women were under the age of 35
- 88% of the children were under the age of 11 with an average age of 6.8 years
- 65% were living in families headed by single female parents
- Poverty, family violence/conflict and, to a lesser extent, disabilities are drivers of homelessness in these families
- Mental health issues, chronic medical conditions and developmental issues were identified in 20% of adults in these families
- 2,249 children were also identified with disabilities

## **1,189 unaccompanied youth under age 18 were counted on the streets and in shelters**

- Another 796 were “couch surfing” (temporarily doubled up with family friends)
- The average age was 16 and a slight majority (58%) were female. The majority (58%) of these youth were homeless for the first time
- 20% were attending school and 13% of youth had either dropped out, been expelled or were suspended from school. 29% had identified disabilities, primarily mental health (66%) and developmental issues (22%)

## **39,580 single adults were counted in 2013**

- 63% were male with an average age of 41
- 66% of all singles had an identified disability, 72% were mentally ill, 33% had addiction issues, and 33% had chronic health conditions
- 66% reported more than one homeless event in their past, and a third (33%) reported more than two events or had homeless periods of long duration
- 23% of singles met the standard for being chronically homeless—homeless frequently or for long periods with a disability—with 11% being veterans, and 18% were over the age of 55

Tara Truax and Wayne Kennerly of MI Department of Community Health coordinate SOAR, PATH, and the Shelter + Care programs that provide assistance in securing disability benefits, street outreach and supportive housing for the disabled homeless.



## **Among our homeless:**

### **9,384 chronically homeless were identified<sup>v</sup>**

- 100% of the chronically homeless are disabled and 77% have severe mental illness, the highest prevalence of mental illness of all the sub-populations
- 6% of chronically homeless persons were living in family households
- 64% are older males with an average age of 46 years
- 133 persons successfully applied for disability income through Michigan’s SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Project

### **4,526 homeless veterans were counted**

- Nearly all veterans (93%) were “literally homeless” living in shelters or on the street when counted
- Most homeless veterans are male (89%) and living as a single person (88%)
- Among the 498 female veterans counted, 41% were age 35 or younger
- 31% (1,383) were identified as chronically homeless and 37% were seniors (age 55+)
- Veterans had the highest mobility rate between counties of all sub-populations with 11% counted in more than one county during 2013

### **7,585 persons were over age 55**

- Overall, the average age was 60 with 13% (996) over the age of 65
- Most seniors (87%) were “literally homeless” living on the streets or in shelters when counted
- 28% were identified as chronically homeless
- A high proportion were minorities (60%), mostly African American (56%)
- A very high proportion was identified with disabilities (80%), 63% had mental health disorders, 46% medical or cognitive conditions, and 37% suffered from substance abuse
- Like veterans, this population was more likely to be mobile, with 7% counted in more than one county



### **A Veteran Found a Home and a New Caring Community:**

He goes by the name Cowboy and his home was once a tarp in the woods. Cowboy describes those days as a life he lived for a long time and says that his

body is getting too old to live outside. Community enCompass provided housing services, connected Cowboy to the Veterans Administration, and assisted him in securing a housing voucher through the HUD-VASH program. After receiving services, Cowboy decided to give back by volunteering at Community enCompass in its homeless services program.



# Homeowners

## How These Two Families Beat the Odds

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, in partnership with Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), provided services and resources to two families that were once without a home. By working hard and participating in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program and the Key to Own Homeownership Program offered to MSHDA Housing Choice Voucher holders, these two families were able to build savings and eventually purchase homes.

Ricardo Calhoun described his success by saying, "I started seeing that dreams I had in the past were becoming reality." Ricardo has since returned to college to pursue a career in social work.

Qiana Stovall spoke of this experience as "accomplishing my mission," though she also plans to build an emergency fund and savings for her next, bigger home.

Ricardo Calhoun with his wife and son.



Qiana Stovall and her two daughters.





Gregory T. (dressed in the sweater) and the CCSS Path (Street Outreach) Team Eric Brown, Debra Baldwin, Daniel Lewis, and Catherine Cato.



# A SOAR Success Story

Gregory, age 57, had been homeless for more than five years. He walked the city of Detroit with his coat, hat and boots all year round, even in 90-degree temperatures, sleeping wherever he could find a place. Gregory was guarded and withdrawn, making it very difficult for him to build trust with community mental health organizations.

After many months of outreach with Gregory, the Cass Community Social Services PATH team linked with Community Mental Health Services and opened an SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) case. Due to the lack of mental health information, Gregory's initial claim for SSI was denied. With representation from the team, an expedited appeal hearing was requested. The medical summary was so helpful, because the team knew that if the judge could have a mental picture of Gregory, along with seeing him, he would be approved. Gregory was approved five minutes after the team entered the courtroom and was awarded SSI benefits.

The PATH team was able to move Gregory into permanent supportive housing. He was excited given this was his first apartment. Gregory remains housed, has secured his first car and gives back to the community by participating in a homeless choir that travels throughout the country.

## Reflections In the Field

### How the CSH's Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE) Program Made a Difference

by Lyla Ryckman Green

James was known among service providers and the criminal justice system in our community due to his long-standing history of chronic homelessness and complex medical needs. He was frequently hospitalized and rarely attended specialty care appointments and dialysis, which caused his health to deteriorate.

Today James is stably housed and accepts FUSE services. He engages with me, reaching out when needing help managing his issues. James is attending his appointments, thereby allowing me to play a role in his care coordination. He attends dialysis regularly. Moreover, James is honest with me; he opens up to me, allowing me to provide solid support. As a result, I believe the therapeutic rapport we have developed combined with the FUSE Program has led to his housing success and overall quality of life. Today, James is not fighting multiple complex medical challenges on the streets. James has the dignity that supportive housing lends by having a place to call home.



#### Lyla Ryckman Green, Washtenaw County FUSE

FUSE helps people who are frequent users of crisis services, jails and shelters by providing permanent supportive housing with intensive case management services. These services generate significant cost savings to communities and save lives by ending the cycle of homelessness among people with disabilities and chronic medical conditions.

# State of Michigan Demographics Summary

## Persons Experiencing Homelessness (Calendar Year 2013)

Client Characteristics	Adults in Families	Children in Families	Single Adults	Unaccompanied Youth
Total in HMIS accounting for 77% of overall homeless.	15,732 Adults in 13,794 HH	18,592	39,580	1,189
Male	26%	49%	63%	41%
Female	74%	50%	37%	58%
Age 0 to 4	NA	38%	NA	NA
Age 5 to 10	NA	34%	NA	NA
Age 11 to 17	NA	28%	NA	100%
Age 18 to 34	63%	NA	35%	NA
Age 35 to 54	33%	NA	47%	NA
Age 55+	4%	NA	18%	NA
Average age adults	32.4	6.8	41.0	16
White	50%	42%	44%	56%
African American	46%	54%	52%	39%
Other race	4%	4%	4%	5%
Working poor at intake	33%	NA	19%	NA
Average income		NA		NA
Disability of long duration	20% MH-53% Medical-34% Devel.-14%	9% Devel.-38% MH-30% Medical-28%	66% MH-72% Subst Ab-33% Medical-33%	29% MH-68% Devel.-22% Medical-10%
First time homeless (Adults)	47%	49%	34%	58%
1 or 2 times homeless in the past (Adults)	38%	39%	33%	32%
Homeless multiple times and/or long duration (Adults)	15%	12%	33%	10%
Dropped out of school prior to HS diploma and did not earn a GED	32%	NA	31%	NA
GED or high school diploma (no college)	39%	NA	42%	NA
At least some college or technical school	29%	NA	26%	NA

	Overall Homeless	Chronically Homeless	Veterans	Seniors
4,457 persons reported as part of a Family and as a Single person during the year.	70,636	9,384	4,526	7,585 577-in Family
	53%	65%	89%	73%
	47%	35%	11%	26%
	10%	<1%	NA	NA
	9%	<1%	NA	NA
	9%	<1%	NA	NA
	30%	23%	13%	NA
	31%	53%	50%	NA
	10%	22%	37%	100%
	30.1	44	49	59
	45%	40%	46%	40%
	51%	56%	51%	56%
	4%	4%	3%	<1%
	21%	11%	12%	13%
	45% MH-68% Medical-22% Subst Ab-14%	100%	73% MH-60% Medical-43% Subst Ab-40%	80% MH-63% Medical-46% Subst Ab-37%
42%	NA	35%	32%	
35%	NA	29%	32%	
23%	100%	36%	36%	
31%	34%	12%	28%	
41%	41%	47%	39%	
28%	25%	40%	33%	