

2009 EMERGENCY SHELTER SYSTEM

CHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MAY 2010

Overview

The Chester County Department of Community Development (DCD) provides funding for eight emergency shelters in Chester County, PA. Quarterly reports are submitted to DCD from these emergency shelters, which provide the information contained in the following report. This report describes the 2009 statistics from Chester County's emergency shelter system and was submitted to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the 2009 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) in March 2010.

According to Chester County shelter reports, 831 homeless cases existed in 2009, a 9% decrease (from 912) of homeless cases in 2008. Of the emergency shelters serving only individuals, 629 were single men (a 12% decrease from 2008) and 105 were single women (a 17% increase from 2008). Not uncommon with homeless individuals, more than 75% of those sheltered in 2009 were men.

Family shelters served 92 single-parent families (a 5% decrease from 2008) and 5 two-parent families (a 28% decrease from 2008). This is 64 less families served in 2009 than in 2008, representing a 40% decrease in the number of family cases served from 2008.

Demographic Summary

Overall, 53% (539 people) of those served in Chester County homeless shelters were Caucasian. Forty-six percent (469 people) of those served were African Americans. Asians (4 people), American Indians or Alaska Natives (5 people), and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (2 people) made up the remaining homeless cases. There were 144 U.S. Veterans

served as well, a 24% decrease from 2008.

Even with the reduction in the number of family shelter cases served in 2009, there was a 93% increase in the number of Hispanic/Latino families served in family shelters (29 out of 97 families in 2009 versus 15 out of 161 families in 2008). Consistent with this trend, a 150% increase was seen in the number of Hispanic/Latino clients accessing services at shelters serving individuals (25 people in 2009 compared to 10 people in 2008).

Female-headed households made up 90% of the family shelter cases served in 2009. Overall, 102 adults and 183 children stayed in Chester County family shelters in 2009. Out of the 64% of children sheltered, over 36% were under 5 years old.

Income & Employment

In shelters serving individual clients, 138 people (19%) were employed during their stay, representing a 20% decrease of employed clients since 2008. Furthermore, a 38% decrease in the number employed individuals accessing shelter services has been observed since 2007.

Among the family shelter clients, 28 people (28%) were employed in 2009, representing a 33% decrease from 2008. Of those unemployed family members, 49 people (50%) reported that they were seeking employment.

Among both family and individual shelters, 166 people (20%) were employed, representing an overall decrease of 23% since 2008. During 2009, there were 355 people (42%) in family and individual-client shelters who were seeking employment.

Special Needs

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In 2009, 266 people (32% of those who stayed in all County-funded emergency shelters) were drug dependent, while 245 people (29%) were alcohol dependent. Overall, these numbers represent a 10% decrease in shelter clients reporting drug dependency and a 5% decrease that reported alcohol dependency compared to 2008.

Shelters Serving Individual Clients:

- 261 people (36%) reported drug dependency in 2009, 7.5% less than in 2008.
- 243 individuals (33%) reported alcohol dependency, 3% less than in 2008.
- 226 people (31%) reported mental health issues (18% less than in 2008).
- 20 individuals (3%) were physically disabled.

Shelters Serving Families and Children:

Of the adults in family shelters, 36 (37%) were victims of domestic violence in 2009.

Notable decreases from 2008 to 2009 among family shelter adults included:

- 64% reduction in the number of drug dependent cases (a 2% reduction in the percentage of drug dependent clients);
- 71% reduction in the number of alcohol dependent cases (a 2% decrease in the percentage of alcohol dependent clients);
- 80% reduction in the number of intellectual and developmental disabilities (a 2% decrease in the percentage of intellectual and developmental disabilities cases);
- 81% reduction in the number of mental health cases (a 12% decrease in the percentage of mental health cases);
- 89% reduction in the number of physical disability cases (a 4.3% decrease in the percentage of physical disability cases)

* It is important to note the large decreases in the actual number of cases in 2009 are attributable to the fact that 64 less cases were served in family shelters in 2009 than in 2008, and therefore the actual number of cases for each category is subject to large variation between the years, producing higher perceived differences. A proportional change between the years is noted in the percentage difference in parenthesis to provide a picture of the representational difference.

**Emergency Shelters
Funded by DCD**

- Community, Youth & Women's Alliance: Gateway Shelter
- Domestic Violence Center of Chester County
- Friends Association for the Care & Protection of Children
- Good Samaritan
- Safe Harbor of Greater West Chester
- Saint Mary's Franciscan Shelter
- Salvation Army: Railton House
- W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Services Center

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOMELESS
SHELTER STATISTICS OR EMERGENCY
SHELTER SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT DCD.**



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Chester County Department of Community Development
2009 Demographics of Homeless in Emergency Shelters

Characteristic	Quarter				2009 Totals	Percent	2008 Totals	% +/- '08
	1	2	3	4				
# of cases served	283	200	187	161	831	100%	912	-8.88%
# of people served	341	239	237	202	1019	100%	1093	-6.77%
single man	222	154	135	118	629	75.69%	718	-12.40%
single woman	30	26	30	19	105	12.64%	90	16.67%
two-parent family	3	0	0	2	5	0.60%	7	-28.57%
single-parent family	28	20	22	22	92	11.07%	97	-5.15%
adult-only household	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
0-30% MFI	277	197	183	147	804	96.75%	814	-1.23%
31-50% MFI	5	2	1	6	14	1.68%	25	-44.00%
51-80% MFI	1	1	3	7	12	1.44%	28	-57.14%
81% MFI and over	0	0	1	0	1	0.12%	3	---
White	180	126	121	112	539	52.89%	511	5.48%
Black/African American	157	110	114	88	469	46.03%	393	19.34%
Asian	2	0	1	1	4	0.39%	2	100.00%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	2	1	1	5	0.49%	0	---
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1	0	0	2	0.20%	0	---
Multi-racial	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	15	13	18	8	54	6.50%	25	116.00%
female-headed household	26	20	22	19	87	10.47%	98	-11.22%
drug dependent	84	71	63	48	266	32.01%	296	-10.14%
alcohol dependent	68	67	65	45	245	29.48%	257	-4.67%
intellectual and developmental disability client	11	1	5	2	19	2.29%	24	-20.83%
mental health client	72	36	65	58	231	27.80%	302	-23.51%
physically disabled	10	4	3	4	21	2.53%	29	-27.59%
Aids/related diseases	1	2	0	3	6	0.72%	4	50.00%
veteran	62	34	25	23	144	17.33%	190	-24.21%
battered spouse	18	12	12	13	55	6.62%	59	-6.78%
employed	44	41	45	36	166	19.98%	216	-23.15%
seeking employment	123	87	72	73	355	42.72%	573	-38.05%
received govt. subsidy	50	34	27	14	125	15.04%	151	-17.22%
dropped frm govt. subsidy	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
children 0-5 years	37	20	28	19	104	10.21%	108	-3.70%
children 6-12 years	16	15	20	15	66	6.48%	52	26.92%
children 13-18 years	2	4	2	5	13	1.28%	14	-7.14%
Total number of adults served	286	200	187	163	836	82.04%	919	-9.03%
Total number of children served	55	39	50	39	183	17.96%	174	5.17%
Total persons served	341	239	237	202	1019	100.00%	1093	-6.77%
Total unduplicated cases					831	100.00%	912	-8.88%

Department of Community Development

2009 Homeless Demographics: Individuals vs. Families

Characteristic	2009 Individuals		2009 Families	
	Totals	Percent	Totals	Percent
# of cases served	734	100.00%	97	100.00%
# of people served	734	100.00%	285	100.00%
single man	629	85.69%	0	0.00%
single woman	105	14.31%	0	0.00%
two-parent family	0	0.00%	5	1.75%
single-parent family	0	0.00%	92	32.28%
adult-only household	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
0-30% MFI	712	97.00%	92	32.28%
31-50% MFI	11	1.50%	3	1.05%
51-80% MFI	10	1.36%	2	0.70%
81% MFI and over	1	0.14%	0	0.00%
White	442	60.22%	97	34.04%
Black/African American	281	38.28%	188	65.96%
Asian	4	0.54%	0	0.00%
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	0.68%	0	0.00%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	0.27%	0	0.00%
Multi-racial	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	25	3.41%	29	10.18%
female-headed household	0	0.00%	87	30.53%
drug dependent	261	35.56%	5	1.75%
alcohol dependent	243	33.11%	2	0.70%
intellectual and developmental disability client	18	2.45%	1	0.35%
mental health client	226	30.79%	5	1.75%
physically disabled	20	2.72%	1	0.35%
Aids/related diseases	5	0.68%	1	0.35%
veteran	144	19.62%	0	0.00%
battered spouse	19	2.59%	36	12.63%
employed	138	18.80%	28	9.82%
seeking employment	306	41.69%	49	17.19%
received govt. subsidy	102	13.90%	23	8.07%
dropped frm govt. subsidy	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
children 0-5 years	0	0.00%	104	56.83%
children 6-12 years	0	0.00%	66	36.07%
children 13-18 years	0	0.00%	13	7.10%
Total number of adults served	734	100.00%	102	35.79%
Total number of children served	0	0.00%	183	64.21%
Total persons served	734	100.00%	285	100.00%

The Chester County Department of Community Development (DCD) should be acknowledged as the data source in productions derived from these data.

Department of Community Development

2009 Homeless Demographics

Shelters serving male & female individuals only

Characteristic	Quarter				2009 Totals	Percent	2008 Totals	% +/- '08
	1	2	3	4				
# of cases served	252	180	165	137	734	100.00%	751	-2.26%
# of people served	252	180	165	137	734	100.00%	751	-2.26%
single man	222	154	135	118	629	85.69%	718	-12.40%
single woman	30	26	30	19	105	14.31%	33	218.18%
two parent family	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
single parent family	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
adult-only household	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
0-30% MFI	246	177	162	127	712	97.00%	662	7.55%
31-50% MFI	5	2	0	4	11	1.50%	17	-35.29%
51-80% MFI	1	1	2	6	10	1.36%	27	-62.96%
81% MFI and over	0	0	1	0	1	0.14%	0	---
White	152	109	94	87	442	60.22%	439	0.68%
Black/African American	96	68	69	48	281	38.28%	311	-9.65%
Asian	2	0	1	1	4	0.54%	1	300.00%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	2	1	1	5	0.68%	0	---
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1	0	0	2	0.27%	0	---
Multi-racial	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	6	7	7	5	25	3.41%	10	150.00%
Female headed household	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
drug dependent	82	70	63	46	261	35.56%	282	-7.45%
alcohol dependent	68	66	65	44	243	33.11%	250	-2.80%
intellectual and developmental disability client	11	1	5	1	18	2.45%	19	-5.26%
mental health client	72	34	65	55	226	30.79%	275	-17.82%
Physically disabled	10	4	3	3	20	2.72%	20	0.00%
Aids/related diseases	1	2	0	2	5	0.68%	4	25.00%
veteran	62	34	25	23	144	19.62%	188	-23.40%
battered spouse	8	4	2	5	19	2.59%	0	---
Employed	37	36	35	30	138	18.80%	174	-20.69%
Seeking employment	106	72	66	62	306	41.69%	475	-35.58%
Receive Govt. Subsidy	41	28	22	11	102	13.90%	117	-12.82%
Dropped frm Govt. Subsidy	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
children 0-5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
children 6-12 years	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
children 13-18 years	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
Total number of adults served	252	180	165	137	734	100.00%	751	100.00%
Total number of children served	0	0	0	0	0	---	0	---
Total persons served	252	180	165	137	734	100.00%	751	100.00%

**The Chester County Department of Community Development (DCD) should be acknowledged as the data source in productions derived from these data.*

Department of Community Development

2009 Homeless Demographics

Shelters serving one & two-parent families

Characteristic	Quarter				2009 Totals	Percent	2008 Totals	% +/- '08
	1	2	3	4				
# of cases served	31	20	22	24	97	100.00%	161	-39.75%
# of people served	89	59	72	65	285	100.00%	342	-16.67%
single man	0	0	0	0	0	---	0	---
single woman	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
two parent family	3	0	0	2	5	5.15%	7	-28.57%
single parent family	28	20	22	22	92	94.85%	97	-5.15%
adult-only household	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
0-30% MFI	31	20	21	20	92	94.85%	152	-39.47%
31-50% MFI	0	0	1	2	3	3.09%	8	-62.50%
51-80% MFI	0	0	1	1	2	2.06%	1	
81% MFI and over	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
White	28	17	27	25	97	34.04%	72	34.72%
Black/African American	61	42	45	40	188	65.96%	82	129.27%
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	1	---
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
Multi-racial	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	9	6	11	3	29	29.90%	15	93.33%
Female headed household	26	20	22	19	87	89.69%	98	-11.22%
drug dependent	2	1	0	2	5	5.15%	14	-64.29%
alcohol dependent	0	1	0	1	2	2.06%	7	-71.43%
intellectual and developmental disability client	0	0	0	1	1	1.03%	5	-80.00%
mental health client	0	2	0	3	5	5.15%	27	-81.48%
Physically disabled	0	0	0	1	1	1.03%	9	-88.89%
Aids/related diseases	0	0	0	1	1	1.03%	0	---
veteran	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	2	---
battered spouse	10	8	10	8	36	37.11%	59	-38.98%
Employed	7	5	10	6	28	28.87%	42	-33.33%
Seeking employment	17	15	6	11	49	50.52%	98	-50.00%
Receive Govt. Subsidy	9	6	5	3	23	23.71%	34	-32.35%
Dropped frm Govt. Subsidy	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	---
children 0-5 years	37	20	28	19	104	36.49%	108	-3.70%
children 6-12 years	16	15	20	15	66	23.16%	52	26.92%
children 13-18 years	2	4	2	5	13	4.56%	14	-7.14%
Total number of adults served	34	20	22	26	102	35.79%	168	49.12%
Total number of children served	55	39	50	39	183	64.21%	174	50.88%
Total persons served	89	59	72	65	285	100.00%	342	100.00%

The Chester County Department of Community Development(DCD) should be acknowledged as the data source in productions derived from these data.