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# 2019 Shelter Study Group Report Summary

— Focusing on Men's Shelter —

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# Basics of Homeless Crisis Response System

# It is expensive to live in Dane County.

Rising rents, stagnant wages, historically low vacancy rate, and severe decline of federally subsidized housing have led to a critical shortage of affordable housing units and homelessness.

**Table 1.** The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Select Family Types\*  
Dane County, WI 2019

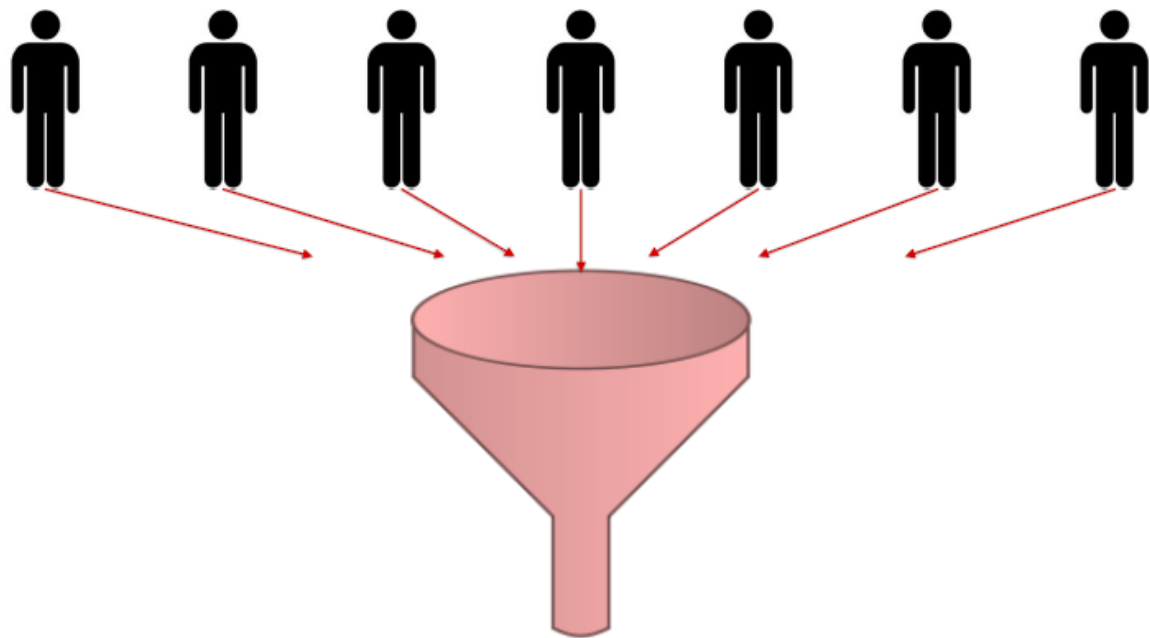
|                               | 1 ADULT        | 1 ADULT<br>1 PRESCHOOLER |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>MONTHLY COSTS</b>          |                |                          |
| Housing                       | \$931          | \$1,093                  |
| Child Care                    | \$0            | \$1,213                  |
| Food                          | \$261          | \$395                    |
| Transportation                | \$280          | \$288                    |
| Health Care                   | \$177          | \$448                    |
| Miscellaneous                 | \$165          | \$344                    |
| <b>Taxes</b>                  | <b>\$324</b>   | <b>\$873</b>             |
| Earned Income Tax Credit (-)  | \$0            | \$0                      |
| Child Care Tax Credit (-)     | \$0            | (\$50)                   |
| Child Tax Credit (-)          | \$0            | (\$167)                  |
| <b>SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE</b>  |                |                          |
| <b>Hourly**</b>               | <b>\$12.15</b> | <b>\$25.21</b>           |
| Monthly                       | \$2,138        | \$4,438                  |
| Annual                        | \$25,653       | \$53,252                 |
| <b>Emergency Savings Fund</b> | <b>\$47</b>    | <b>\$147</b>             |

# There are three types of people who are experiencing homelessness.

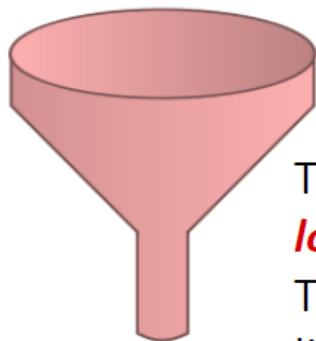
- About 80% are **transitionally** homeless. They are homeless once in their lives, usually for about a week.
- About 10% are **episodically** homeless. They cycle in and out of homelessness.
- About 10% are **chronically** homeless. They are homeless for over a year, some for much longer.



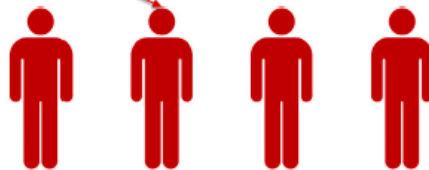
These people are all **homeless**  
but they are *not a homogeneous* group



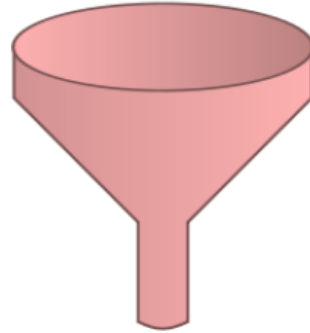
They need to all be *assessed*  
using a **common tool**,  
which will determine their **acuity**  
and the best intervention for them



These folks have  
*lower acuity.*  
They should receive the  
lightest touch possible



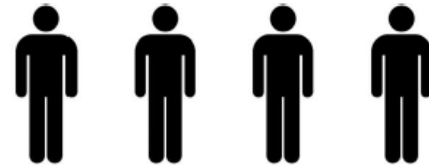
**Lower Acuity**



These folks have *moderate acuity*. They should usually receive **time-limited** financial and/or case management supports



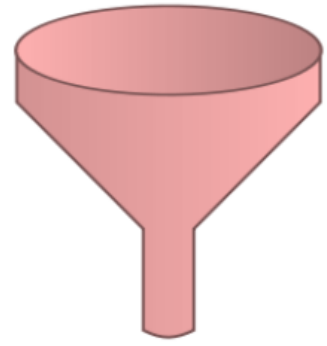
**Moderate Acuity**



**Lower Acuity**



These folk(s) have *higher acuity*. They usually need a **Housing First** intervention and/or **Permanent Supportive Housing**



**Higher Acuity**



**Moderate Acuity**



**Lower Acuity**

# Shelter serves an essential purpose in the homeless crisis response system.

- Identify people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
- (Prevent homelessness whenever possible through diversion)
- Provide immediate access to beds and crisis services
- Assess and connect people to housing assistance and services they need

**An effective crisis response system provides immediate and low-barrier access to safe and decent shelter to anyone that needs it and aims to house people as quickly as possible.**

**People have to be able to get *in*...  
...and be able to get *out* (to housing).**

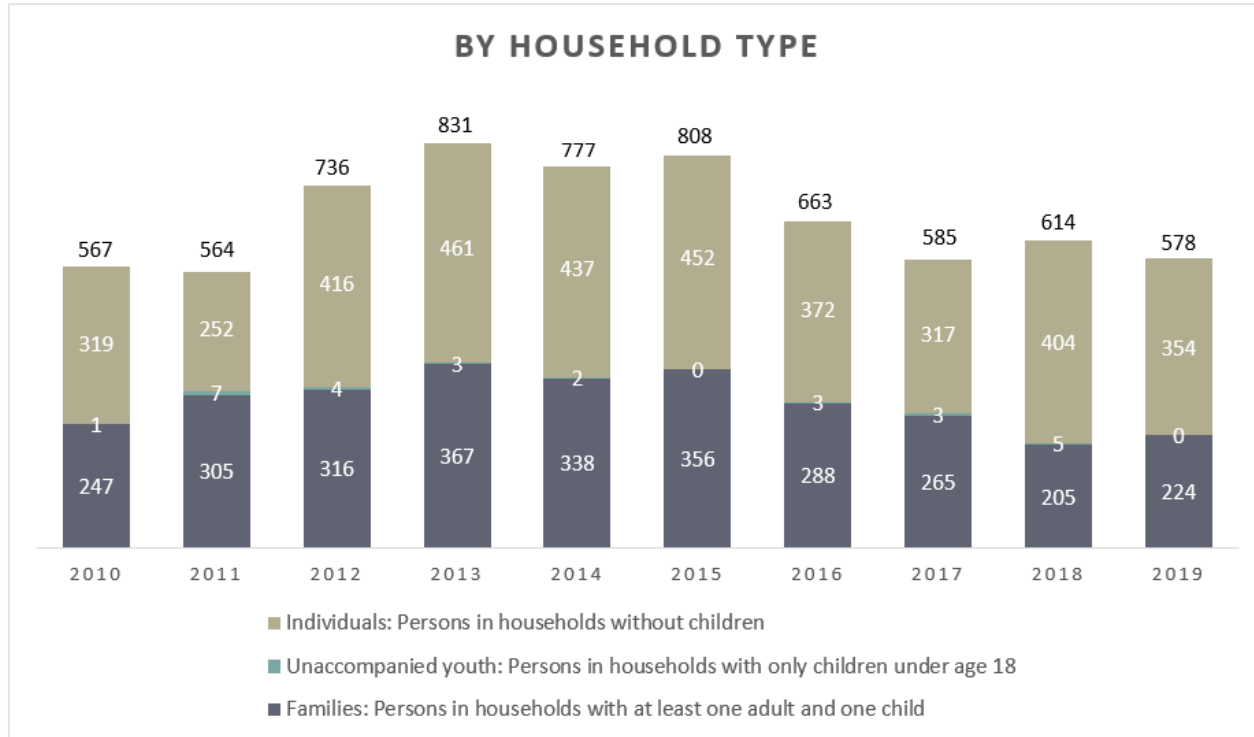


# An effective emergency shelter greatly impacts the system's performance

- Decrease the length of homelessness
- Increase exit to permanent housing
- Decrease returns to shelter/homelessness

# Homelessness in Dane County

# The number of people experiencing homelessness peaked at the height of the recession and has been decreasing.



# How many people experience homelessness in Dane County?

## On a given night

2019 January Point in Time

**578+**

persons

## Annually

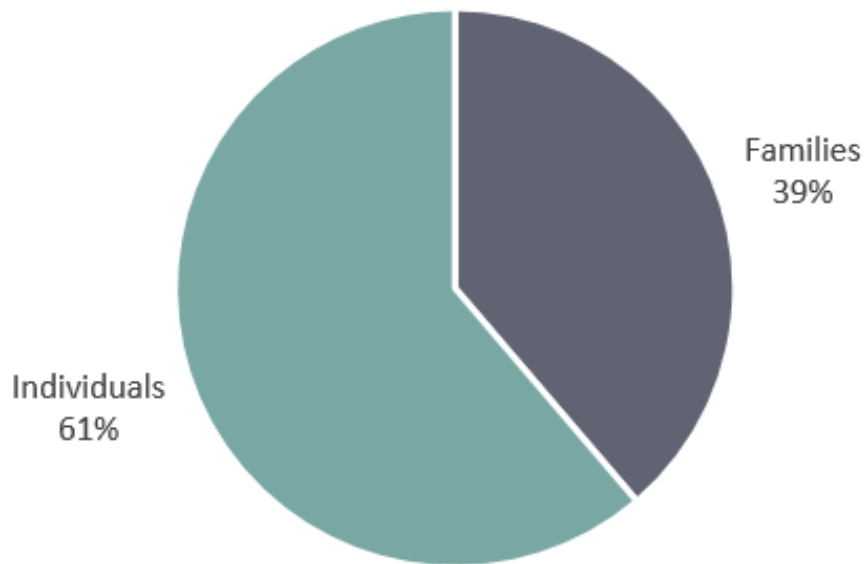
FY 2018 AHAR in ES and TH

**2,681**

persons

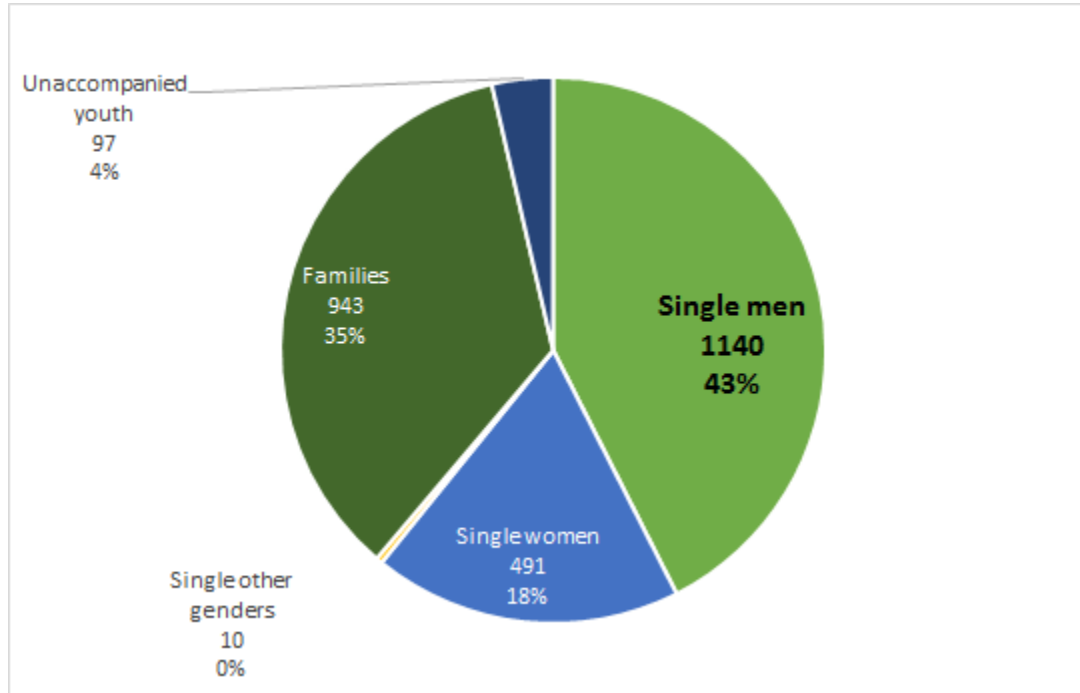


# Single individuals make up the majority of the Dane County homeless population.



2019 January PIT  
&  
FY2018 AHAR

# Single men make up the biggest portion of the shelter users.



FY2018 AHAR  
ES and TH  
participants

# **2019 Shelter Study Group Report Summary Capacity Considerations**

# Porchlight Men's Shelter Capacity

Porchlight is the only provider of emergency shelter for single men in Dane County. Three sites are used:

- Shelter 1 : Grace Episcopal Church, open year-round, max 70 persons  
  
All services are provided here, including intakes, breakfast and dinner, showers, laundry, overnight lockers, and case management
- Shelter 2: St. John's Lutheran Church, available year-round, max 60
- Shelter 3: First United Methodist Church, available Nov 1 - Mar 31, max 35

Total capacity: **130** persons year-round, **165** persons in winter

# Porchlight Men's Shelter Utilization

- Total capacity is **130** persons year-round and **165** persons in winter.
- **1,173** persons used the shelter in 2018.
- Highest number served per night was **163** persons in 2018.
- About **70-80** people use the shelter in the summer.

# Things to Consider about Utilization

- 90 day per-year limit

There is a 90 day per-year limit for the single men's shelter. On extreme weather nights (e.g. nights with temperature below 20 degrees), people who have used up their 90 days can use the shelter. The 90 day calendar starts on November 1 at Men's Shelter.

- Rules regarding intoxication

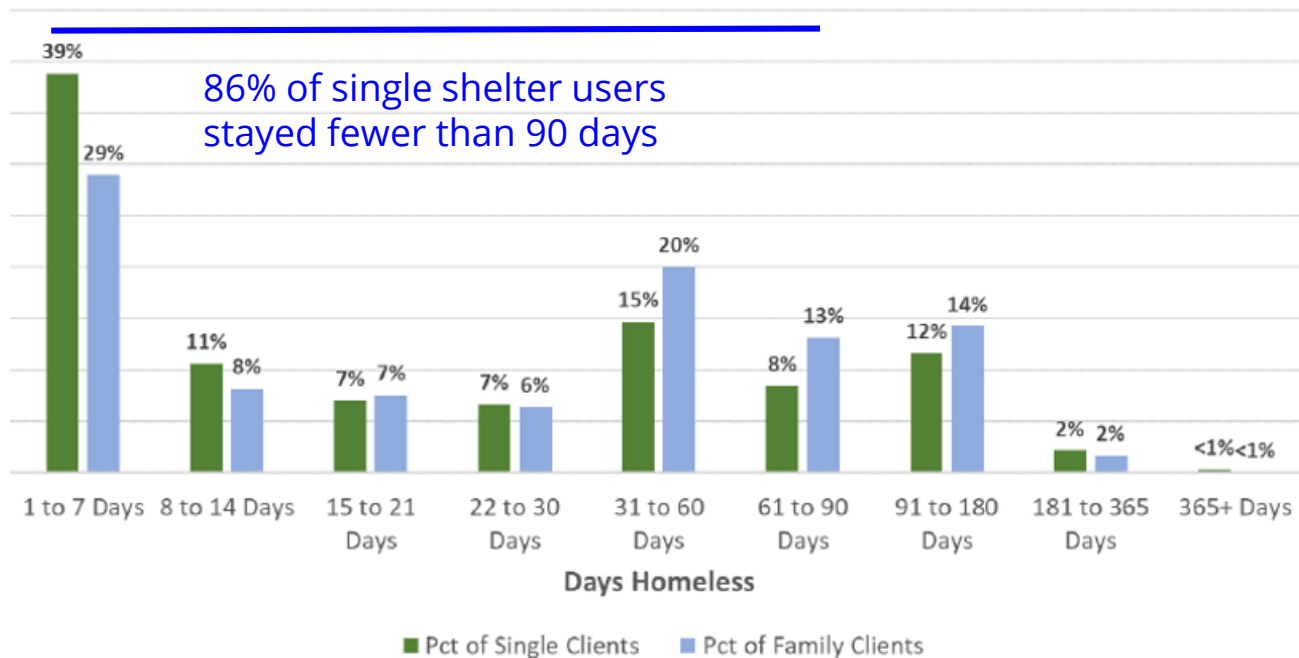
Porchlight has not been turning people away due to capacity issues. However, individuals are turned away if they are intoxicated or under the influence.

# The majority are newly homeless.

- 43% entered the shelter from housed situations, such as rental by client, staying or living with a family or a friend.
- 45% came from place not meant for human habitation or other shelters or transitional housing programs.
- 11% came from institutions such as jails or hospitals.
- 56% of the Porchlight Men's Shelter users were newly homeless, meaning they did not have any shelter stays in the previous 24 months.

# The majority single shelter users have brief stays.

Length of Homelessness: Family vs. Single Clients  
Dane County CoC, FY2018





# Few people exit to permanent housing.

- We don't have good data on where people exit to.

Porchlight Men's Shelter known exit was 17% in 2018.

- Few people leave the Men's shelter for permanent housing.

Only **5%** were identified as having exited to permanent housing in 2018.

# Shelters alone can't solve the problem. We need a lot more permanent housing for singles.

| Housing Intervention   | Existing Stock on Point-in-Time* | Number of Units Available Annually through Turnover** | Annual Needs *** | Annualized Over/(Under) Units |
|--|----------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - Families                            | 131 units                        | 13 units  | 39 units         | (26 units)                    |
| Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)- Individuals                          | 450 beds                         | 45 beds   | 180 beds         | (135 beds)                    |
| Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Other Permanent Housing Programs- Families     | 129 units                        | 182 units   | 170 units        | 12 units                      |
| Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Other Permanent Housing Programs - Individuals | 364 beds                         | 151 beds  | 1,196 beds       | (1,045 beds)                  |

2019  
Housing  
Intervention  
Needs  
Projection

# **2019 Shelter Study Group Report Summary Facility Design Considerations**

# Higher Ground Shelter in St. Paul provides a good example.









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