
The 100,000 Homes Campaign
Detroit Fact Sheet
By Common Ground for the Community
April 9, 2010

In April 2010, several Detroit-area homeless service providers and volunteers in partnership with New York's Common Ground collaborated to create a name-by-name list of those homeless individuals living in Detroit. Over three nights during a three-hour timeframe, a team of 50 people encountered 281 homeless individuals, 211 of which participated in the survey.

The 100,000 Homes Campaign utilizes the Vulnerability Index, a 33 item questionnaire, to systematically gather the names and photos of homeless individuals. The teams also captured data on their health status, institutional history (jail, prison, hospital, and military), length of homelessness, patterns of shelter or mission use, and previous housing situations. The Corporation for Supportive Housing, Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion, the Homeless Action Network of Detroit, Southwest Solutions, Neighborhood Service Organization and Common Ground used the Index to identify those who have been homeless the longest and are most at risk of mortality. This list will be used to target new and available housing and service resources to the most vulnerable in an effort to reduce homelessness.

The Vulnerability Index is based on research by Dr. Jim O'Connell, which shows certain medical conditions place a homeless individual at a higher risk than others for dying if they remain homeless.

Results

- 211 surveys were administered – 75% response rate
- 129 pictures were taken as part of the survey
- 107 (51%) individuals met at least one high-risk criterion from the Vulnerability Index which is notably higher than the national average (42%)

At-Risk Indicators

| Indicator | Number | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| At-Risk Tri-Morbid | 55 | 51% |
| At-Risk ER or Hospitalized Over 3X | 71 | 66%* |
| At-Risk ER over 3X | 46 | 43%* |
| At-Risk Age Over 60 | 14 | 13% |
| At-Risk HIV/AIDS | 7 | 7%* |
| At-Risk Cirrhosis | 11 | 10% |
| At-Risk ERSD | 10 | 9% |
| At-Risk Cold/Wet Weather Injury | 23 | 21%* |

* indicates higher than national average

Older Adults

- 6 people (3%) are 62 years and older
- The oldest respondent was 72 years old

Years Homeless

- The average years homeless for the total population is 5.38
- The average years homeless for the Vulnerable Cohort is 6.75 years.
- The average years homeless for the Non-Vulnerable Cohort is 3.97 years.

Service Needs (Total Surveyed)

- 99 people (47%) reported a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse
- 74 people (35%) reported a history of substance abuse
- 13 people (6%) reported signs or symptoms of mental illness

Health Conditions (Total Surveyed)

- 21 people (10%) reported having asthma
- 28 people (13%) reported having diabetes
- 16 people (8%) reported having Hepatitis C
- 29 people (14%) reported having heart conditions
- 11 people (5%) reported having emphysema
- 6 people (3%) reported having Cancer

Veterans (Total Surveyed)

- 29 (14%) surveyed were Veterans
- 17 of the 29 Veterans (59%) are Vulnerable

Youth & Foster Care (Total Surveyed)

- 32 (15%) of respondents report having a history of foster care
- 1 respondent was under 22 years old
- The respondent under the age of 22 has an increased mortality risk specific to that age group (Youth risk factors are HIV/AIDS, drink alcohol everyday for past 30 days, injection drug use)

Inpatient Hospitalizations (Total Surveyed)

- A total of 358 inpatient hospitalizations were reported in the past year

Emergency Room Visits (Total Surveyed)

- A total of 456 ER visits were reported by in the past 3 months
- 1 respondent accounted for 42% of the reported ER visits

Health System Impacts (Total Surveyed)

- 103 (49%) report having no insurance
- The majority of reports having no insurance go to Detroit Receiving Hospital (52%) and Henry Ford Hospital (9%)

Jail & Prison

- 74 (35%) of respondents reported having been in prison
- 149 (71%) of respondents reported having been in jail

Income

- 71 (34%) of people report working off the books for their primary source of income
- 58 (27%) of people report having food stamps as their primary source of income
- 51 (24%) report having SSI and/or SSDI/SSA as their primary source of income
- 22 (10%) of people report having no income source

Violence

- 77 or 36% report being a victim of a violent attack since becoming homeless

Recommendations

- Obtain a minimum of 30 VASH vouchers
- Obtain 55 Shelter Plus Care vouchers
- Obtain 6 Section 202 Vouchers
- Continue the partnership with MSHDA
- Create local preference for the Detroit Housing Commission
- Encourage local HUD projects to serve the most vulnerable
- Pilot a FUSE program for frequent jail users

Local Detroit Partnerships

- The results of this week's effort will extend beyond the by-name registry of Detroit's homeless population. These outcomes will also be instrumental in the implementation of Detroit's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and for meeting the goals of achieving measureable census reduction on the streets, as well as reducing chronic homelessness. The Homeless Action Network of Detroit, in partnership with local providers and community stakeholders, will use the lessons learned from the results of the Vulnerability Index to further our efforts to provide safe, decent and supportive housing for those most at-risk.

Common Ground

- The mission of Common Ground is to end homelessness by transforming people, buildings, and communities. Founded in 1990, Common Ground rapidly grew to become the largest developer and manager of supportive housing in New York City, and has pioneered a new approach to outreach called Street to Home that is being replicated in cities across the country.

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