



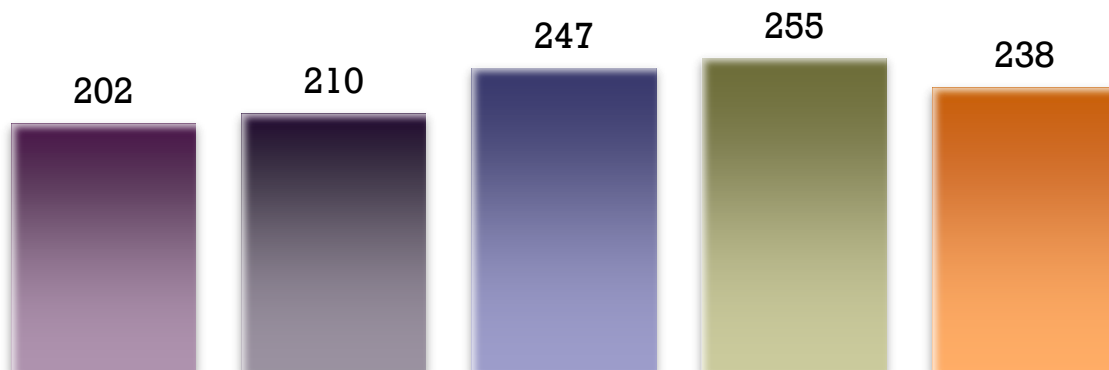
Macon County 2015 Point In Time (PIT) Survey Overview



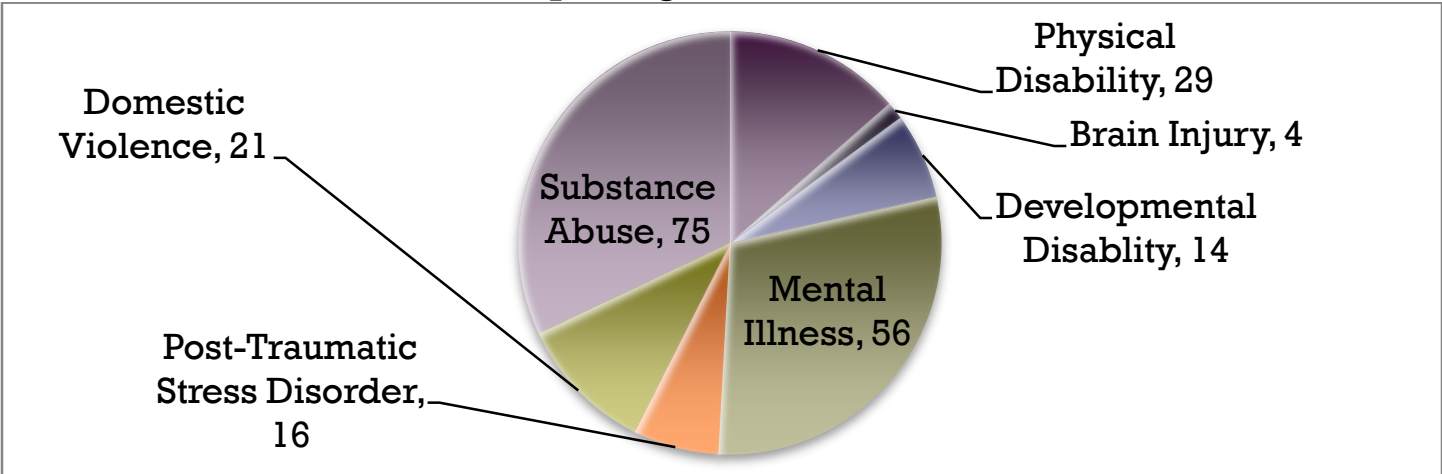
The homeless population according to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) includes *individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence and includes a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or fewer and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.* Each January, Macon County conducts a Point In Time (PIT) survey to gather data to gain a better understanding of the homeless population in Macon County. The data provide information regarding the number of individuals who are currently homeless and demographics related to those individuals including gender, race, ethnicity, veteran status, families, youth, as well as chronic homelessness. As of January 22, 2015, survey data collected revealed 238 individuals are experiencing homelessness in Macon County.

Total Number of Homeless Persons

■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015



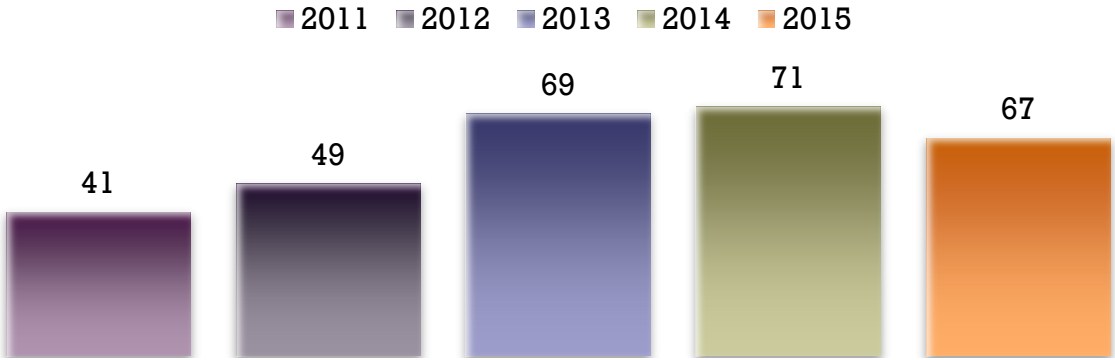
Issues Impacting Homeless Individuals



It does not matter in which county or state you live in, homelessness is a social issue across the country. Many individuals have misconceptions about the homeless population and what it means to be homeless. Many believe those who are homeless are drug addicts and alcoholics who got themselves into their current situation. Although substance abuse is the most prevalent issue amongst the homeless population, there are other issues impacting homeless individuals including PTSD, mental illness, physical disability, developmental disability, brain injury and domestic violence.

PIT data revealed that many individuals experience one or more of the issues listed above simultaneously. Further misconceptions of the homeless population include the idea that individuals are lazy and unwilling to work. Many homeless individuals are employed yet do not make enough money to support themselves or their family. These issues contribute to the number of chronically homeless (CH) persons in Macon County that includes individuals who have been homeless for more than year or have had 4 episodes of homelessness within the last three years and have a disability. The number of CH persons in Macon County is 67, showing a decline over the past two years. Although the numbers of CH individuals are decreasing, the rate of CH in Macon County is still 2.5 times that of the national rate, which is a rate of 10% of all homeless individuals.

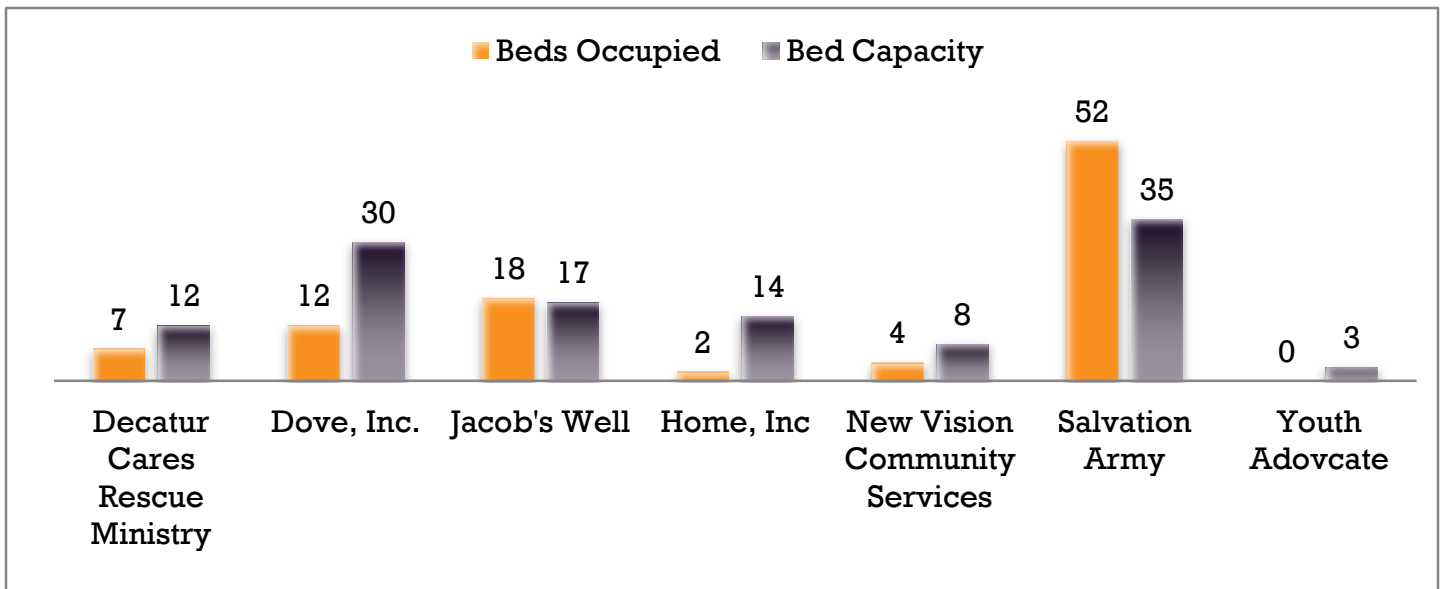
Total Number of Chronic Homeless Persons



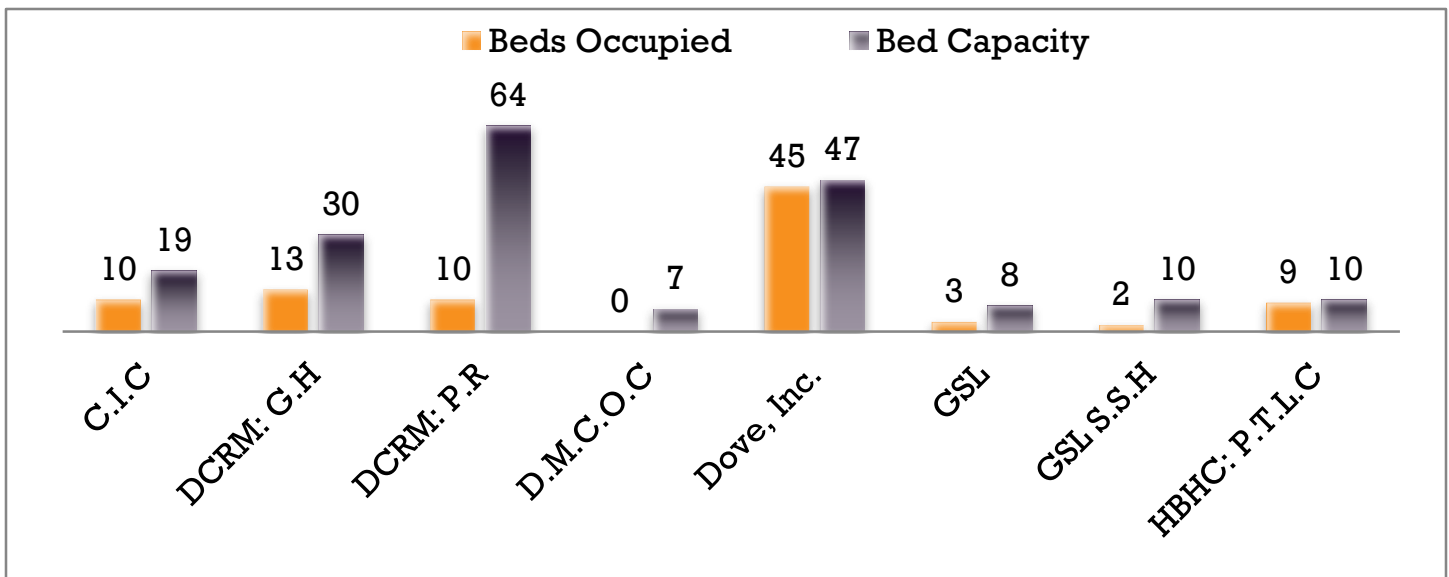
Bed Capacity

Bed utilization of Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing is important to assess and understand annually to ensure appropriate levels of need are available for homeless individuals. As shown in the graphs below, as of January 22, 2015, there were only two emergency shelters utilizing full bed capacity while five shelters were under capacity. All transitional housing units were under capacity. The under-utilization of beds in Macon County is concerning as there were still 39 unsheltered homeless individuals in Macon County as of the PIT survey. This begs the question regarding effectiveness of emergency shelters and transitional housing programs to provide shelter for homeless individuals and families.

Emergency Shelters



Transitional Housing



C.I.C: Community Investment Corporation, **DCRM: G.H.:** DCRM: Grace House, **DCRM: P.R:** DCRM: Pershing Road, **DMCOC:** Decatur Macon County Opportunities Corp, **GSL:** God's Shelter of Love, **GSL: S.S.H:** God's Shelter of Love Scattered Site Housing, **HBHC: P.T.L.C:** Heritage Behavioral Health Center Prairie Street Transitional Living Center

To gain a better understanding of why beds have gone unutilized, qualitative data was gathered and reflected that homeless individuals do not seek shelter for various reasons and beliefs. Reasons provided included being turned away due to having a criminal record, religious beliefs, health issues as well as being intoxicated while seeking shelter.

As a result of the PIT data, unmet needs have been identified and strategy determined to address the gaps and challenges for homeless individuals in Macon County. The unmet needs include a lack of shelters and additional housing options that are open to individuals with a criminal record, substance abuse and other health issues. Another major unmet need is the lack of shelters that do not turn people away because of their religious beliefs. Strategies to address these unmet needs include better funding, collaboration between agencies, and the Continuum of Care working toward effective solutions. With time it is the hope that the gaps in the system will be filled and the homeless population in Macon County will decrease.

The Homeless Council Continuum of Care has existed for over 15 years in Macon County and is diligently working to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families. Homeward Bound is a collaboration of its partnership agencies and is funded through grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Illinois Department of Human Services. Who are the Partnership Agencies?

- Dove, Inc.
- Decatur Housing Authority
- Decatur Macon County Opportunities Corporation
- Heritage Behavioral Health Center
- Community Investment Corporation of Decatur
- City of Decatur
- Millikin University
- Macon Piatt Regional Office on Education

Thank you to the individuals who have worked to collect and analyze the data as well collect qualitative data on unmet needs for the homeless population in Macon County. Those individuals include:

- Professor Mary Garrison, LCSW, ACSW, PIT Coordinator
- Sandra Romero, Research Assistant
- Addie Smith, Research Assistant
- Fred Spannaus, Consultant
- Darsonya Switzer, Program Director

