

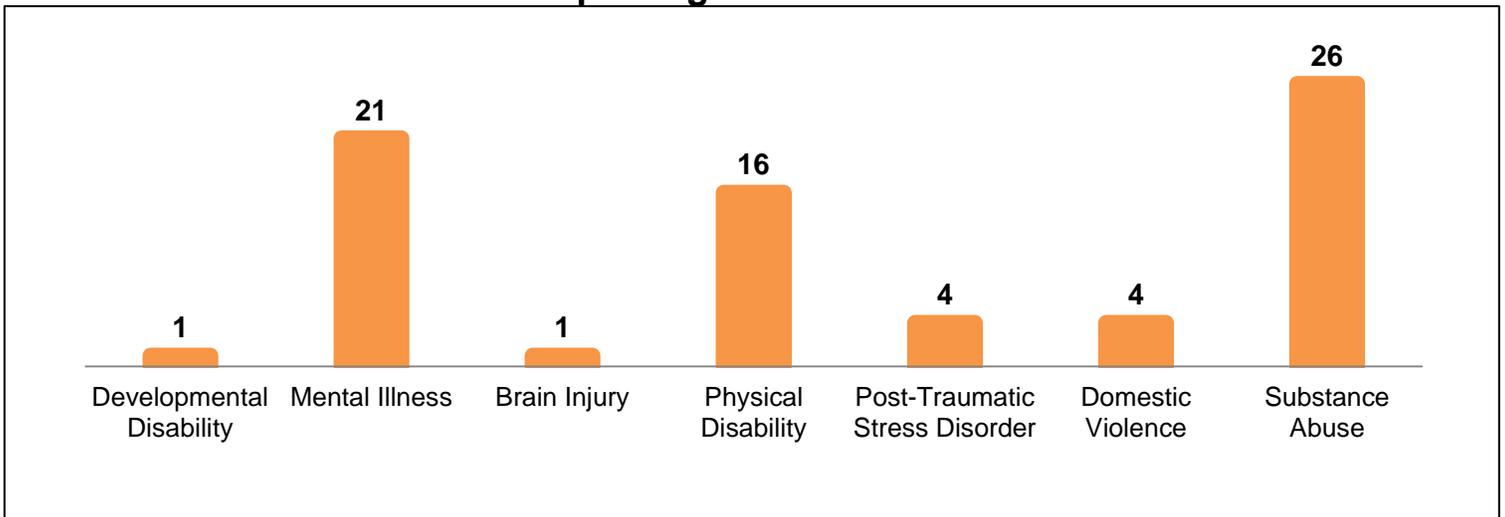
# Macon County 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) Survey & Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Overview

According to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the homeless population 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 and a Housing Inventory Count (HIC) to gather data to gain a better understanding of the homeless population in our community as well as the bed capacity usage in emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent housing. The data provides information regarding the number of currently homeless individuals and families, and demographics related to those individuals and families including gender, age, race, ethnicity, veteran status, youth, and chronic homelessness. As of January 28, 2016, survey data collected revealed that 157 individuals are experiencing homelessness in Macon County.

## Total Number of Homeless Individuals



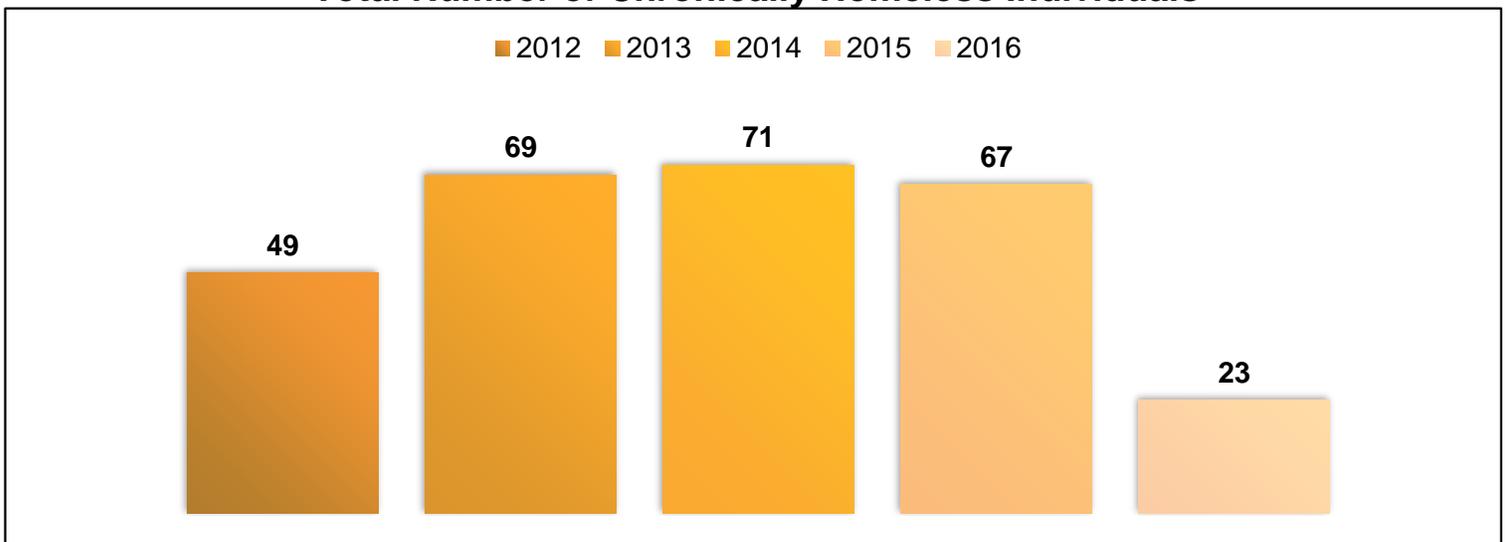
## Issues Impacting Homeless Individuals



Homelessness is a significant social issue affecting many individuals and families across the country. Many stereotypes and misconceptions exist regarding the homeless population. For instance, many believe that individuals experiencing homelessness are in their current situation because of a personal deficit. However, as shown above, many homeless individuals are impacted by issues out of their control. Such issues include PTSD, mental illness, physical disability, developmental disability, substance abuse, brain injury and domestic violence. PIT data revealed that a number of individuals experience two or more of these issues simultaneously.

A further misconception of the homeless population includes the idea that individuals are lazy and unwilling to work. Many homeless individuals are employed yet do not earn enough money to financially support themselves or their families. This issue contributes to the number of chronically homeless (CH) individuals in Macon County. Following HUD standards, one is considered CH when: the individual has a disability **and** has been homeless for more than a year **or** has had four episodes of homelessness within the last three years adding up to 12 months. Results of the 2016 PIT data collected indicate the number of CH individuals in Macon County as 23, showing a sharp decline in the last year. This decline may be attributed to several factors including the development of a Chronically Homeless Action Team (CHAT) in July 2015 as a result of the work of the CoC as well as the change in the HUD definition of chronic homelessness.

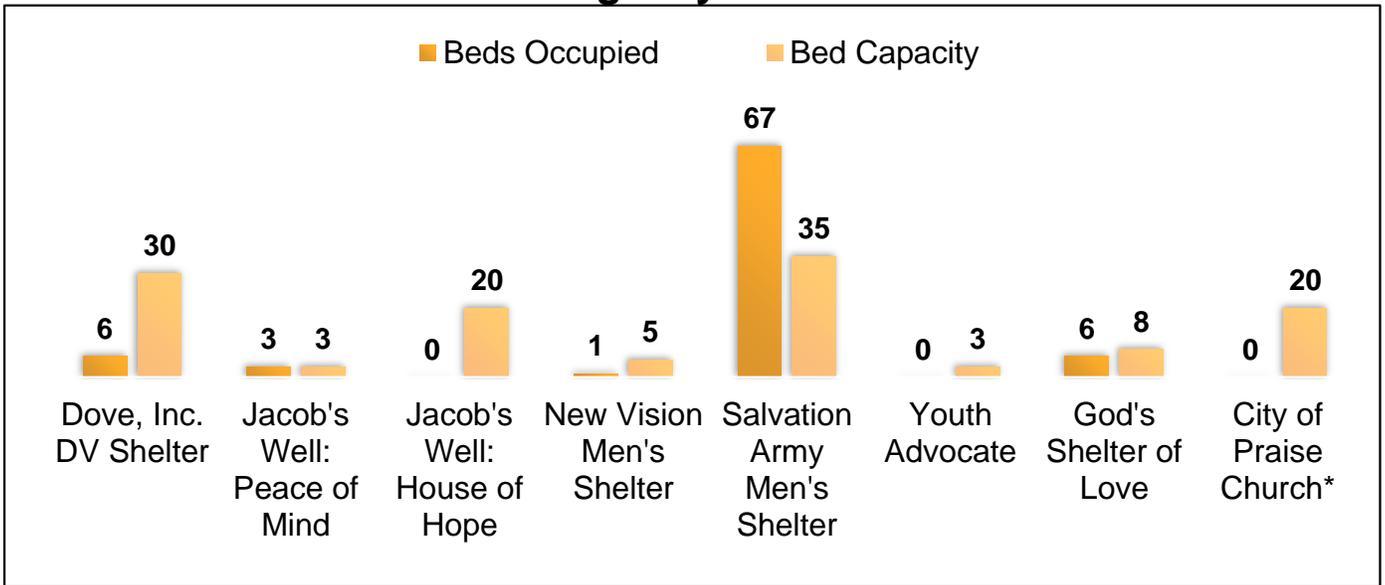
## Total Number of Chronically Homeless Individuals



# Bed Capacity

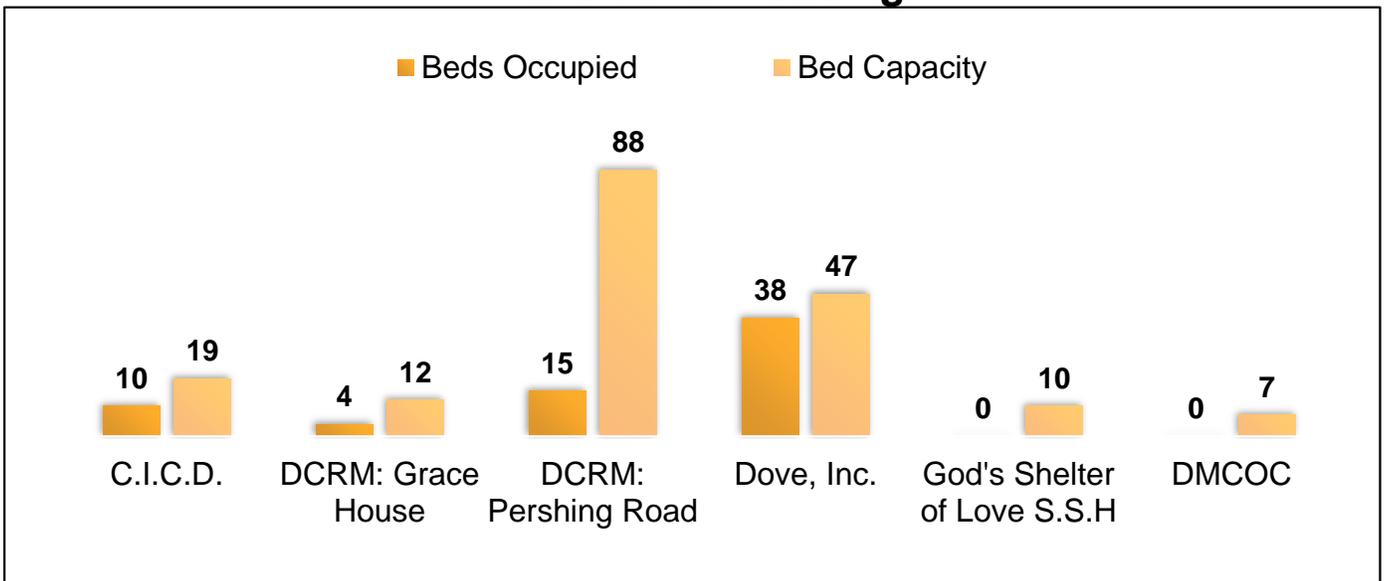
Bed utilization in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs is important to assess and understand annually to ensure appropriate needs are being met for homeless individuals as well as for strategic planning for future housing services. As shown in the graphs below, as of January 28, 2016, there were only two emergency shelters utilizing full bed capacity while six shelters were under capacity. The Salvation Army was over capacity by 32 individuals, which is a significant rise from last year. All transitional housing units were under capacity as well. 2016 HIC data reflects a sharp decline in the number of unsheltered persons from 39 individuals last year to only 7 individuals this year.

## Emergency Shelters



\* Beds available when temperature below 10 degrees

## Transitional Housing



**C.I.C.D.:** Community Investment Corporation of Decatur, **DCRM: G.H.:** Decatur Cares Rescue Ministry: Grace House, **DCRM: P.R.:** Decatur Cares Rescue Ministry: Pershing Road, **GSL: S.S.H:** God's Shelter of Love Scattered Site Housing, **DMCOC:** Decatur Macon County Opportunities Corporation



## Final Thoughts

Along with the collected PIT and HIC data, qualitative data was gathered to gain a better perspective of the underutilization of beds throughout Macon County. This data was obtained through one-on-one interviews with homeless individuals within our community. As a result of this data collection, unmet needs emerged. Specifically, the data revealed a lack of shelter bed utilization based on various reasons and beliefs including:

- required attendance and participation in programs that conflict with one's religious and spiritual beliefs
- programs that deny shelter because of substance use and abuse issues
- programs that deny shelter due to a person's criminal history

With this information, the Continuum of Care will diligently work to address these unmet needs in efforts to reduce the barriers and challenges to housing for homeless individuals in Macon County. Focused strategies to address these unmet needs include more creative and innovative funding sources, enhanced collaboration and partnerships between agencies and city government as well as community education on the needs of homeless individuals and families, and an ongoing focus and commitment toward effective solutions. With time, it is the hope that the system gaps, barriers and challenges will decrease in Macon County leading to improve conditions for homeless individuals, families and most importantly, safe and permanent housing.



The Homeless Council Continuum of Care (CoC) has existed for over 15 years in Macon County working diligently and actively 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. Partnership agencies include:

- 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
- Good Samaritan Inn
- Crossing Healthcare
- Salvation Army

Thank you to all the individuals who have worked to successfully gather, input and analyze the 2016 PIT/HIC data for the homeless population in Macon County. Those individuals include:

- Professor Mary Garrison, LCSW, ACSW, PIT Coordinator, Millikin University
- Professor RJ Podeschi, Millikin University
- Addie Smith, Research Assistant
- Kaylee Smith, Research Assistant
- Fred Spannaus, Consultant
- Darsonya Switzer, Homeward Bound Program Director
- Alex Tueth, Research Assistant
- Brock Trader, Research Assistant
- Homeward Bound Staff: Barb Blakey, Kim Fickes, Ashely Garner, Denise Jones, Hilda Margerum, Mary Miller, Brock Taylor, Nicole Turner, and Kendra Warnsley
- Community Volunteers: Vashida Apholon, Rachelle Born, Deborah Bursey, Lucy Brownlee, Dave Carpenter, Emily Cleveland, Christine Gregory, Tom Gregory, Tamica Hatchett, Emily Haycraft, Sue Hemp, David Horn, Howard Lloyd, Julie Mavec, Pat McDaniel, Linda Natereli, Dan O’Laughlin, Heather Schmid, Amy Schroeder, Ingrid Smith, Daryl Starner, George Virgil, and Linda Virgil

To learn more about the CoC and the annual Point-in-Time Survey and Housing Inventory Count or to volunteer, please contact:

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