

Blueprint to End Homelessness
in Allen County Ohio
2007 - 2016
A Ten Year Strategy



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vision Statement

Within the next ten years, all persons and families experiencing the possibility of homelessness in Allen County will have a permanent, safe, and affordable place to call home.

Definition of Homelessness

Individuals and families who lack a permanent, affordable, safe and suitable address¹

Lima and Allen County

General Information Concerning the County

Allen County, Ohio covers four hundred and five square miles in Northwestern Ohio, located halfway between Toledo and Dayton. The County, established in 1831, is home to 108,473 persons with its County Seat housed in Lima, a city of 40,081 with a CBSA of 155,084. The County serves as a regional employment, shopping and service center for a ten county area. Located on the automotive corridor of Interstate 75, Allen County is within 600 miles of 67% of the U.S. population, 72% of U.S. purchasing power and 70% of all U.S. manufacturing firms.

Transportation

In addition to I-75 (north/south) and U.S. 30 (east/west), Allen County is served by five major state routes - 309,117,81 (all east/west), 65 and 66 (north/south). Both light truck load and truck load overnight services are provided by nearly 30 freight companies with several Lima-based carriers providing "just-in-time" movement of production support materials

The deepwater Port of Toledo is located one hour north of Allen County offering access to international shipping through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. Direct overnight container service is available to most major North American seaports on the East and West coasts.

Rail freight service is provided by Conrail, CSX, Norfolk Southern, Indiana & Ohio and R.J. Corman. These combined Class I and short-line services create a grid of long-haul transportation options for local manufacturers. Several development sites with rail access are available.

¹ Definition used in the Houghton Michigan Blueprint

A regional airport serves Allen County. The Allen County Airport has a fixed base operator, a 5,149 foot lighted runway, all-weather landing facilities, and jet fuel and maintenance service for all types of aircraft. The airport is capable of accommodating aircraft up to the size of a 727 or DC9. Commercial air service is available at Dayton international Airport and Toledo Express airports, each only 65 miles from Allen County.

Utilities

County water systems obtain water from the City of Lima. Supply derives from up-ground storage reservoirs filled from the Ottawa and Auglaize rivers. The reservoirs have total storage volume of approximately 10 billion gallons with a safe yield of 27.60 million gallons daily (mgd) and a capacity of 30.00 mgd. Supply is adequate to meet projected demands beyond the year 2020. Lima's water rates are among the lowest in the state. Additionally, municipal water systems are located in the City of Delphos, and the Villages of Bluffton, Elida, Spencerville and Beaverdam.

EMBARQ, is the primary local telecommunications service provider. The natural gas service provider for the County is Dominion East Ohio. The primary provider of electricity is American Electric Power with Midwest Electric, a rural cooperative serving some, primarily residential areas.

Health Services

Lima/Allen County serves the residents of West Central Ohio with a wide range of health care services and facilities. Health care is also a major industry in the County with more than 200 physicians representing over 35 areas of medical specialization and 70 dentists practicing in the area through Lima Memorial Hospital, St. Rita's Medical Center and Bluffton Community Hospital that provide full comprehensive medical services with over 800 beds available. In addition to traditional hospital services, health care is available through a network of twenty five convalescent and nursing homes, adult daycare and extended care facilities, an urgent care center, home health care, a women's health center, visiting nurses, hospice, phone assistance and referral services.

Lima Memorial Hospital and St. Rita's Medical Center continue to add new services to meet patient needs for the region. A major recent addition is The Heart Center, a joint effort between the two hospitals, offering up-to-date cardiac care including cardiac catheterization and open-heart surgery.

St. Rita's has added "Easy Street", a rehabilitation facility and program designed to help patients resume their normal physical routines and has a "Millennium Project" under way which will produce \$50 million in investment and an additional 300 jobs over the five span of the project that began in 2001. Ninety percent of the project is targeted for completion within the next year.

The Millennium Project includes a new helicopter pad, a fourth medical office building, \$15 million worth of technology investments, a freestanding laboratory for multiple hospitals, the addition of 13 critical-care, 11 medical/surgical and 50 patient beds in the 320-bed hospital, a \$1 million operating room (the ninth), a \$2 million emergency department expansion, a disease management center, relocation and expansion of the medical care clinic and improvements to the hospital entrance to ease congestion.

In 2001, St Rita's opened a thirty thousand square foot, state-of-the-art cancer care facility that integrates radiation oncology and medical oncology into one freestanding facility and an ambulatory care facility in the City of Delphos. Also in 2001, Lima Memorial Hospital opened The Medical Park on a sixty-seven acres campus west of Lima to address space needs for their cancer institute and women's wellness center and has just broken ground on a \$15 million emergency room expansion.

Education

The City of Lima has a public school system comprised of one high school, three middle schools and five elementary schools with a combined enrollment of approximately 5,400 students. The Lima City School District has just completed a \$100 million capital improvements project that has replaced or renovated all of its existing buildings. Community residents passed two levies to secure this project; one to provide an 11% match to receive over \$92 million from the Ohio School Facilities Commission and one to raise \$5.5 million of which \$3.5 million was used for the consecution of an auditorium at the new high school.

Eight other public school districts with a combined enrollment of approximately 11,835 students serve Allen County. The County is also home to three parochial school systems offering primary and secondary programs, and a regional technical high school.

Adult technical education is available through the Apollo Career Center and Lima Senior High School. Rhodes State College, Ohio State University Lima, the University of Northwestern Ohio, Bluffton College, Ohio Northern University (adjoining county), Wright State University Lake Campus and Mt. Vernon Nazarene College offer two and four-year degree programs with various graduate degree programs available through Ohio Northern University, Bluffton College, Ashland University, The University of Dayton and the University of Findlay. Enrollment is at all time highs for all of the local intuitions and investment in housing and educational facilities continues to expand.

Personal Income, House Values and Housing ...Population

The following shows the Median Household Income, Median Family Income, Per Capita Income and median Value of Owner – Owned Housing Units for 2000 for Allen County in comparison to the State of Ohio and the nation:

	Allen County	State of Ohio	US
Median Household Income	\$37,048	\$40,956	\$41,994
Median Family Income	44,723	50,037	50,046
Per Capita Income	17,511	21,003	21,587
Median Home Value	81,800	103,700	119,600

Population

Population statistics of the County are as follows for the years indicated:

Allen County Ohio

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
2000	108,473	(2.6%)
1990	109,755	(2.2%)
1980	112,241	1.0%
1970	111,144	7.2%
1960	103,691	17.6%
1950	88,183	-

Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Commerce Department

The fifteen largest **non-governmental** employers within the County are believed to be:

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product</i>	<i>Number of Employees</i>
1. St. Rita's Medical Center	Hospital	2,700
2. Ford Motor Company	Automobile Engines	1,785
3. Lima Memorial Hospital	Hospital	1,450
4. DTR Industries	Automotive Rubber Hoses	700
5. Sun Management	Retail / Supermarket	611
6. General Dynamics – Land Systems	Military Equipment	600
7. Meijer	Retail/Supermarket	500
8. Chef Solutions (I & K)	Food Products	450
9. MetoKote Corporation	Coating Products	450
10. Roundy's	Food Distribution	425
11. Dana Corporation	Truck Parts	404
12. Nickels' Bakery of Ohio	Bakery Products	400
13. Proctor & Gamble	Distributor	400
14. Premcor Lima Refinery	Refining	395
15. B. P. Chemicals	Chemical refining	362

The twelve largest **governmental** employers within the County are believed to be:

1. Allen County Schools	Education	1,588
2. Allen County	County Government	1,252
3. Lima City Schools	Education	752
4. City of Lima	City Government	639
5. Ohio Department of Transportation	Highway Maintenance	365
6. Allen County Corrections Institute DRC		350
7. Rhodes State College	Education	348
8. Oakwood Correctional Facility	DRC-Psychiatric Hospital	286
9. U. S. Postal Service	Postal Service	218
10. Delphos City Schools	Education	160
11. Head Start	Education	135
12. Ohio State University	Education	128

Communications

The Allen County Area is served by the following forms of media:

Local Television

WLIO-TV	NBC
WOHL-TV	FOX
WTLW-TV	CBN
WBGU-TV	PBS
WLMO	CBS

Newspaper

The Lima News	Daily
Delphos Herald	Daily
Bluffton News	Weekly
Spencerville Journal News	Weekly

RADIO STATIONS

WIMA-AM	news/sports	WIMT-FM	country	WTGN -FM	Christian
WDOH-FM	mix	WUZZ-FM	rock	WLJM -AM	ESPN
WMLX-FM	mix	WGDE-FM	PBS	WFGF -FM	country
WONB-FM	ONU	WBUK-FM	oldies	WZOQ-FM	rock

CABLE / DIRECT TV SERVICES

Time Warner Cable

Direct TV

Watch TV

Development of Housing Consortium and Continuum of Care

The Allen County Housing Consortium has been meeting on a consistent basis since 1996 to address housing issues in Allen County. In February 2004 the Consortium began the discussion of developing a Continuum of Care for the purpose of focusing on issues related to homelessness in Allen County and the City of Lima, Ohio. In April 2004 a presentation was given to the members of the Housing Consortium. The Housing Consultant of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize and Hardin counties gave the presentation to the Consortium. At that time the Consortium decided to support the development of the Continuum of Care Committee as a partner with the Consortium. During the months of May and June a chairperson was assigned to the Continuum of Care Committee. Specific members were also assigned based on their involvement with homeless persons and families. In July training was held with the Continuum of Care subcommittee. This training focused on the completion of the housing survey for the development of the Continuum of Care document. Members also signed up to be on working groups for membership, point-in-time studies, data collection and goal development. The Continuum of Care Committee submitted a grant to Ohio's Balance of State Group in 2005 and was successful in being funded for 25 Shelter Plus Care vouchers for severely mentally ill adults. The Housing Consortium, the Continuum of Care and the Outreach subcommittee each meet monthly. The Housing Survey subcommittee completes an annual housing inventory and the Point In Time subcommittee completes a homeless count every January and one again in August in years when it is required. The Membership subcommittee continually works on acquiring new members. A gaps analysis is not currently available but will be a focus for the Continuum in future months.

HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Who is Homeless?²

DEMOGRAPHICS - Affordable rental housing and an increase in poverty have been two trends that have led to an increase number of homeless in the past 20-25 years

AGE - In 2003, children under the age of 18 accounted for 39% of the homeless population – 42% of these children were under the age of 5. Often the numbers in rural areas are much higher. (National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 2004).

GENDER - Single men comprised 43% and women comprised 17% of the homeless (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005)

FAMILIES - Families with children are the fastest growing slice of the homeless population. Families with children comprised 33% of homeless population (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005)

ETHNICITY - In its 2004 survey of 27 cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayor found that the homeless population was 49% African-American, 35% Caucasian, 13% Hispanic, 2% Native American, and 1%Asian. (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005) Homeless in rural areas are much

² Information adapted from National Coalition for the Homeless Fact Sheet – Who is Homeless:
National Coalition for the Homeless - 1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005-3471
Phone: (202) 737-6444. Fax: (202) 737-6445 Website: <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>

more likely to be white; homelessness among Native Americans and migrant workers is also largely a rural phenomenon.

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - Nationally, approximately half of all women and children experiencing homelessness are fleeing domestic violence. (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2001)

VETERANS – 11% of the homeless population were veterans (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005)

PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS - Approximately 22% of the single adult homeless population suffers from some form of severe and persistent mental illness. (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005)

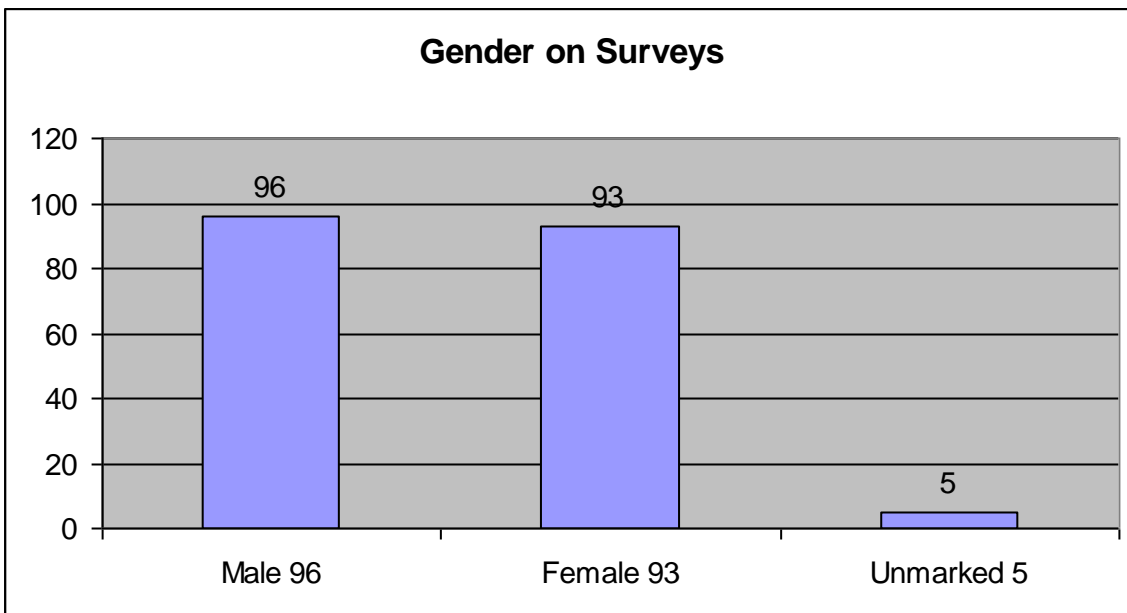
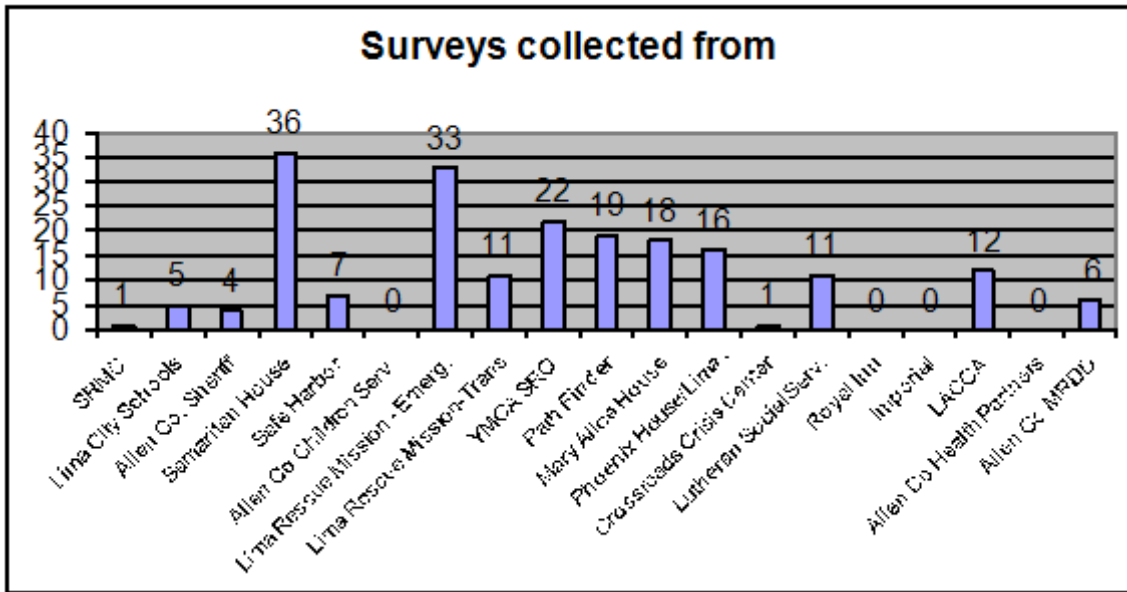
PERSONS SUFFERING FROM ADDICTION DISORDERS – Approximately 30% of homeless population have an addiction disorder. (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT – Lack of living wage jobs that provide adequate income has led to homelessness for many workers.

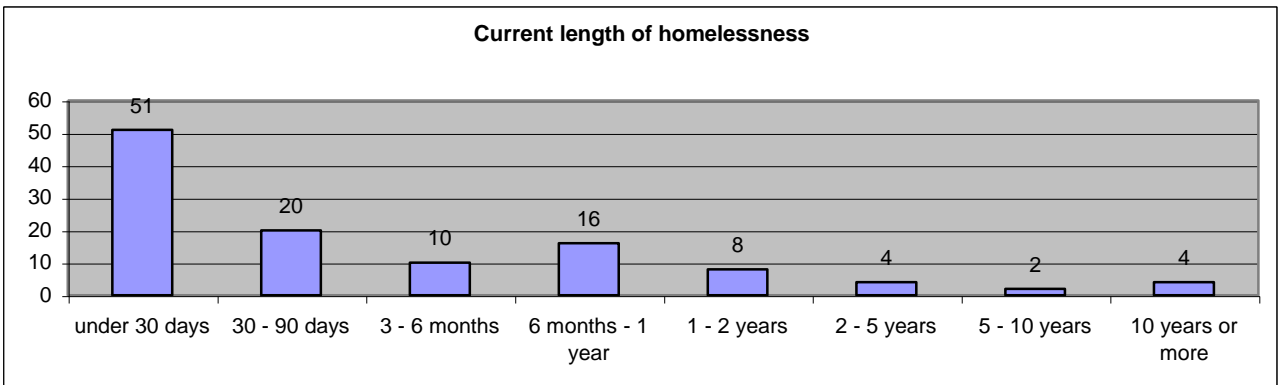
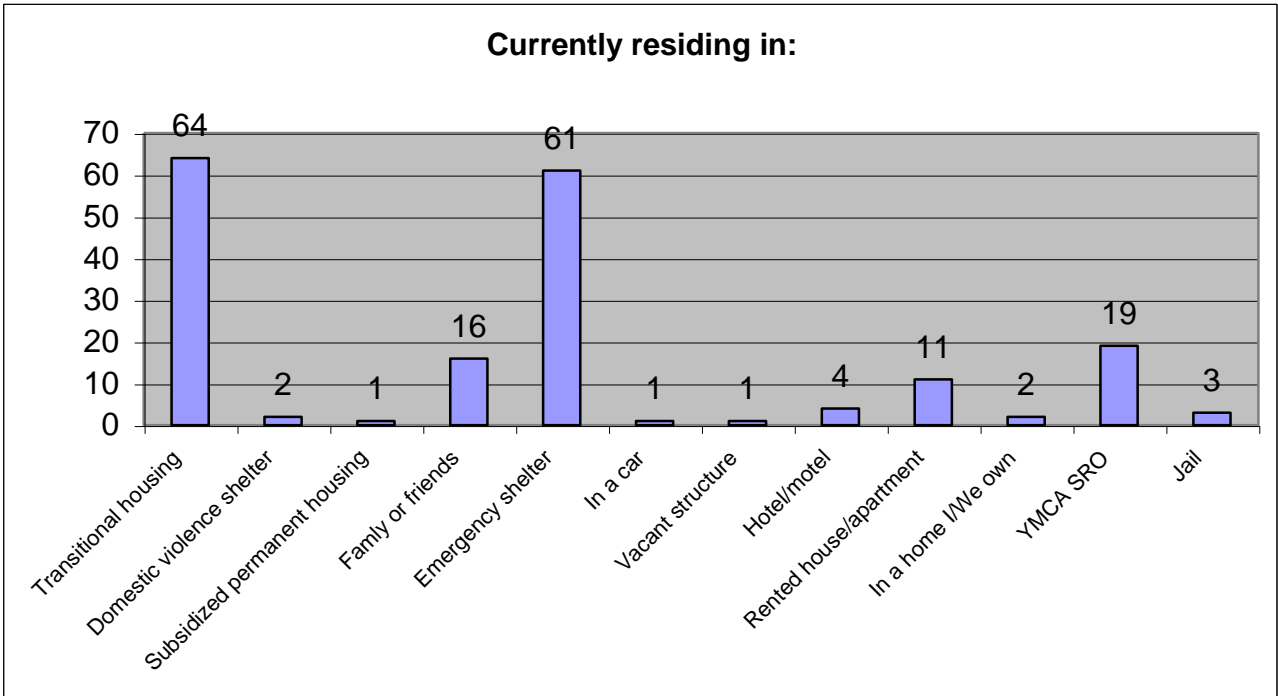
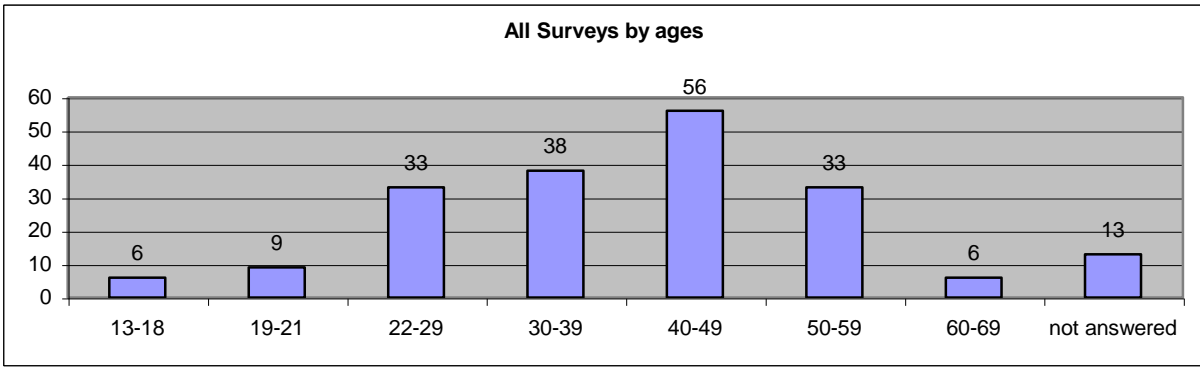
IMPLICATIONS – *Homeless do not fit into one generic description. Homeless need affordable housing, adequate income, health care, and some need supportive services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment*

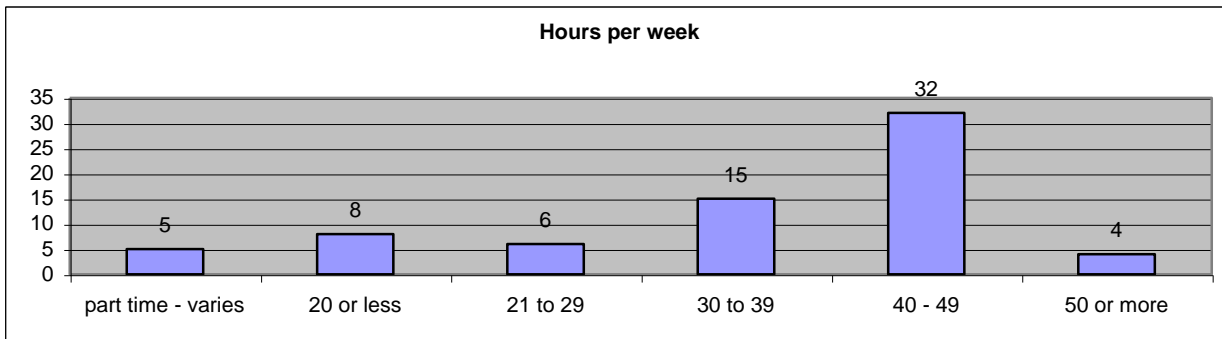
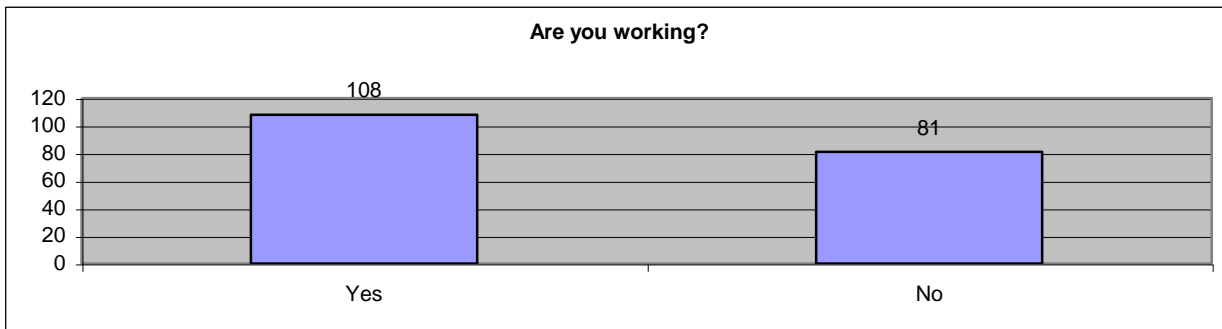
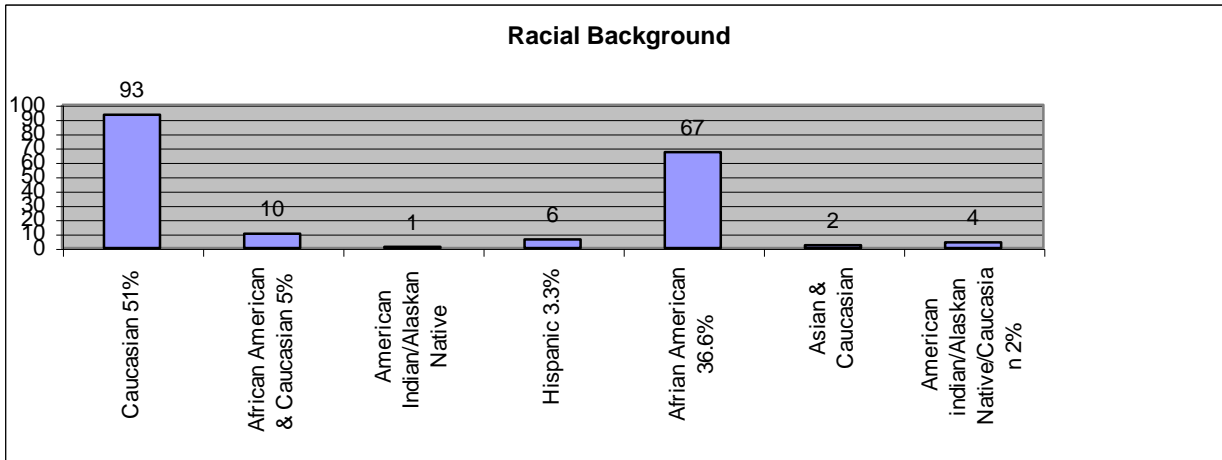
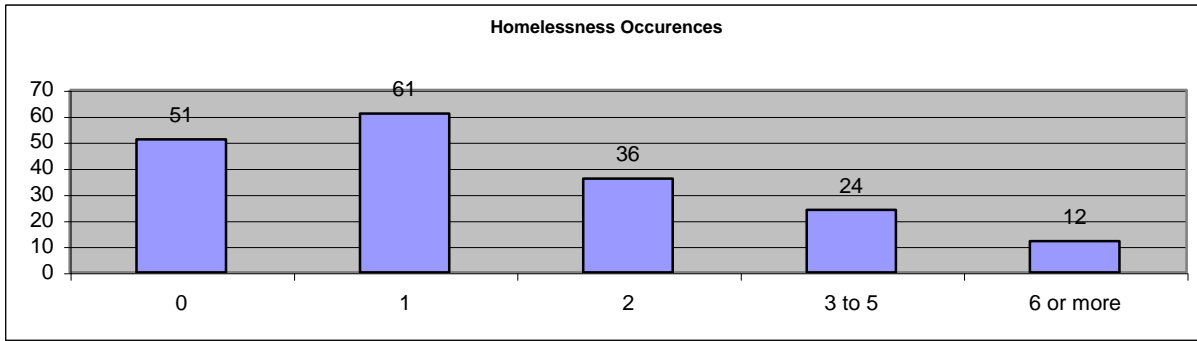
30 Day Point in Time Survey April 1 – April 30 2007 ³

The following information is taken from a 30 day homelessness survey conducted between April 1 – April 30 2007. In Lima / Allen County 202 surveys were collected.

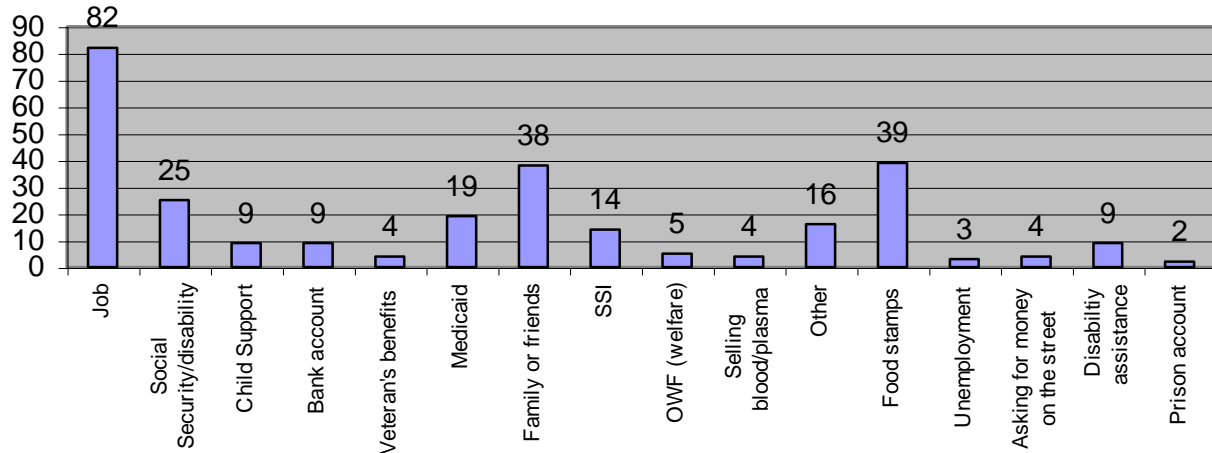


³ 202 surveys collected in Lima / Allen County

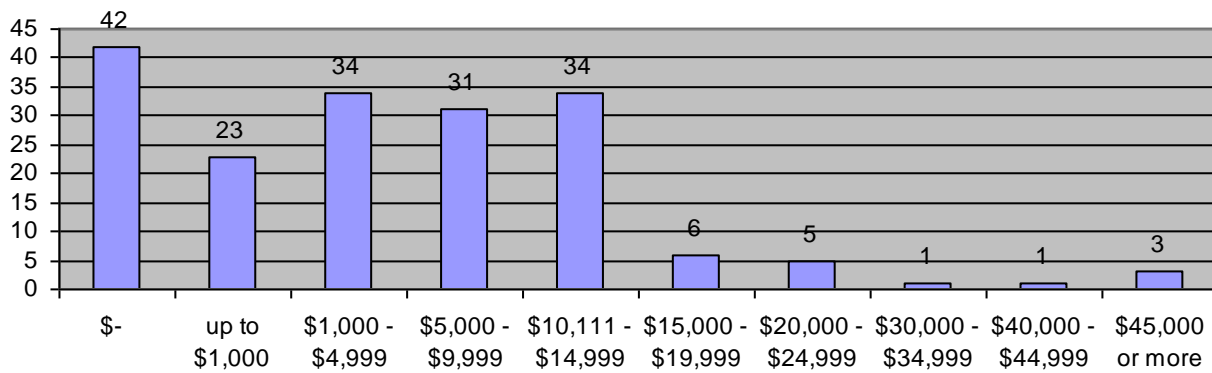




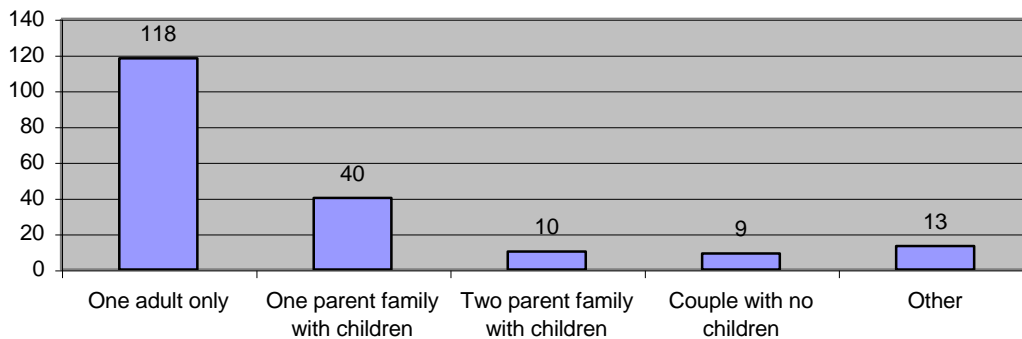
Sources of income/support



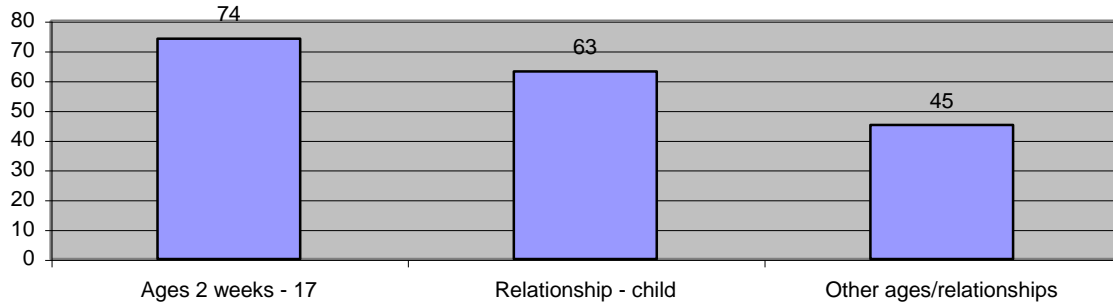
Annual household income for 2006



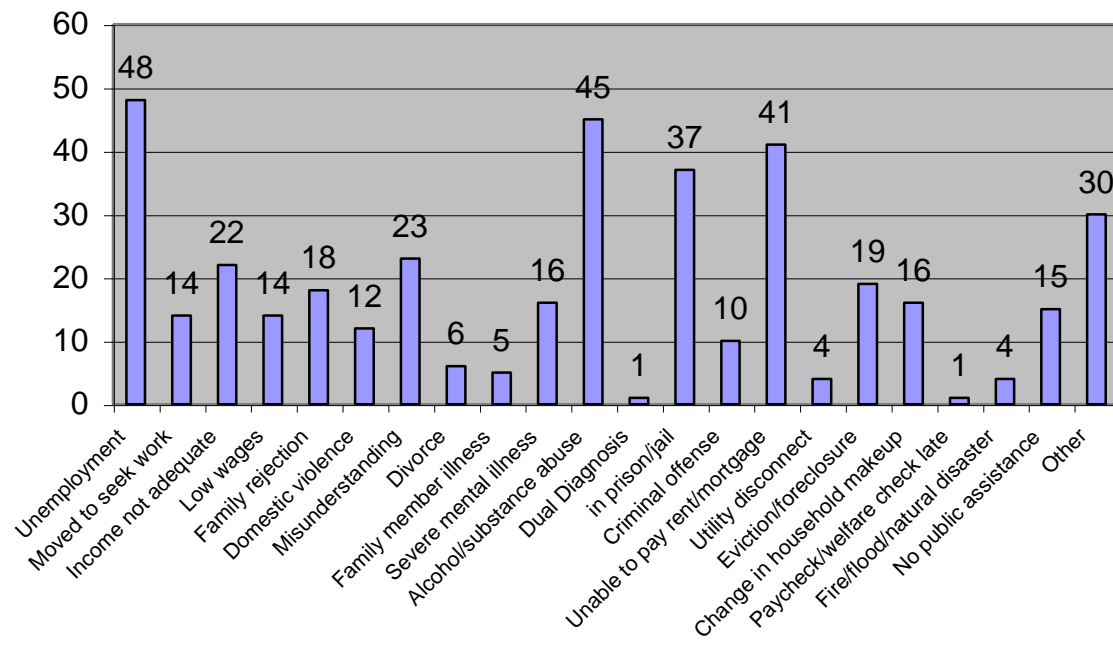
Family Size

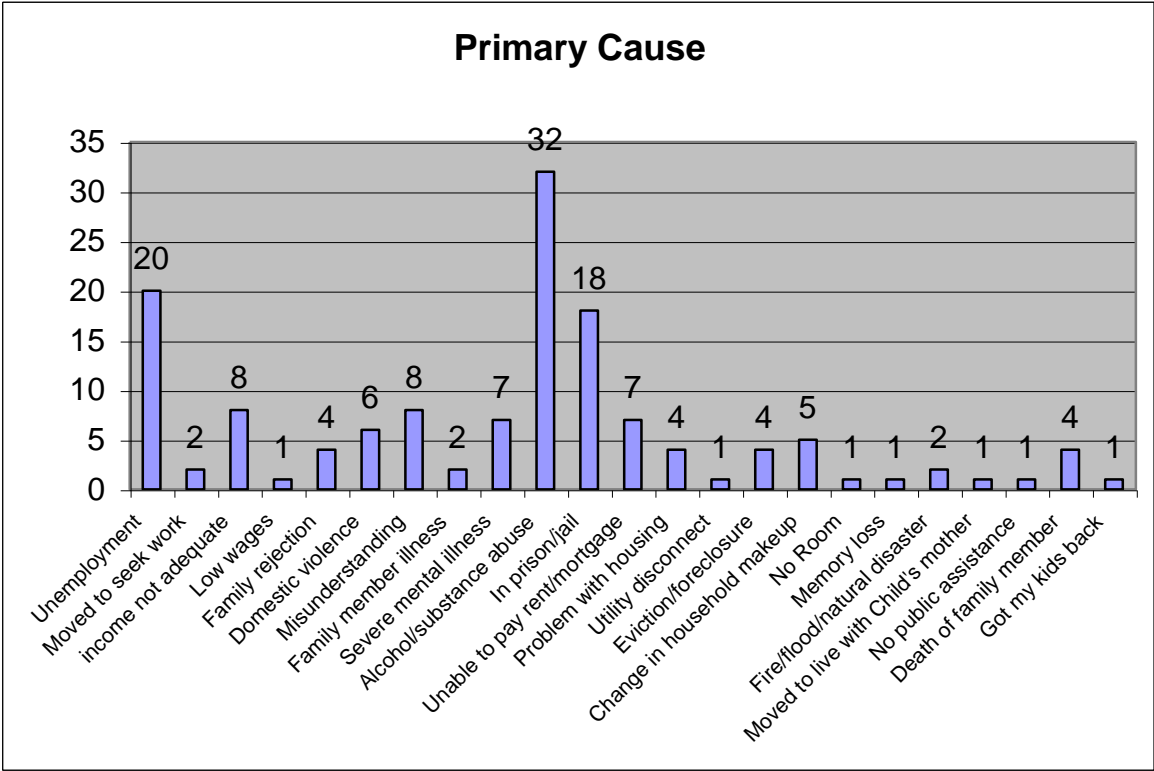
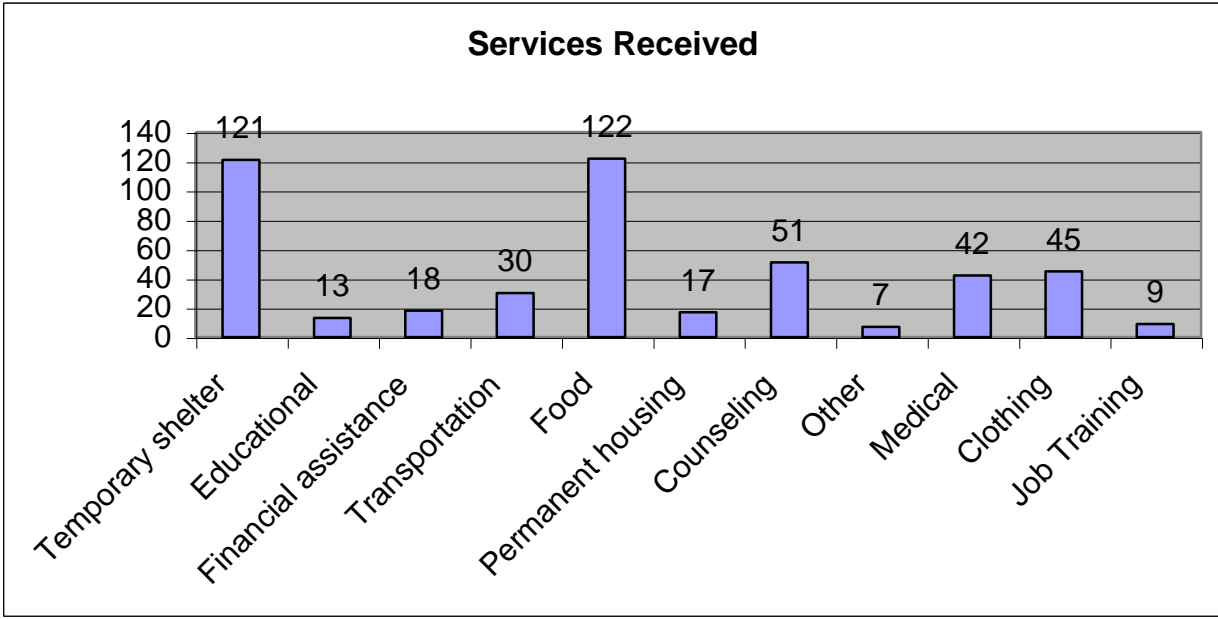


Total "Other" family household members 119

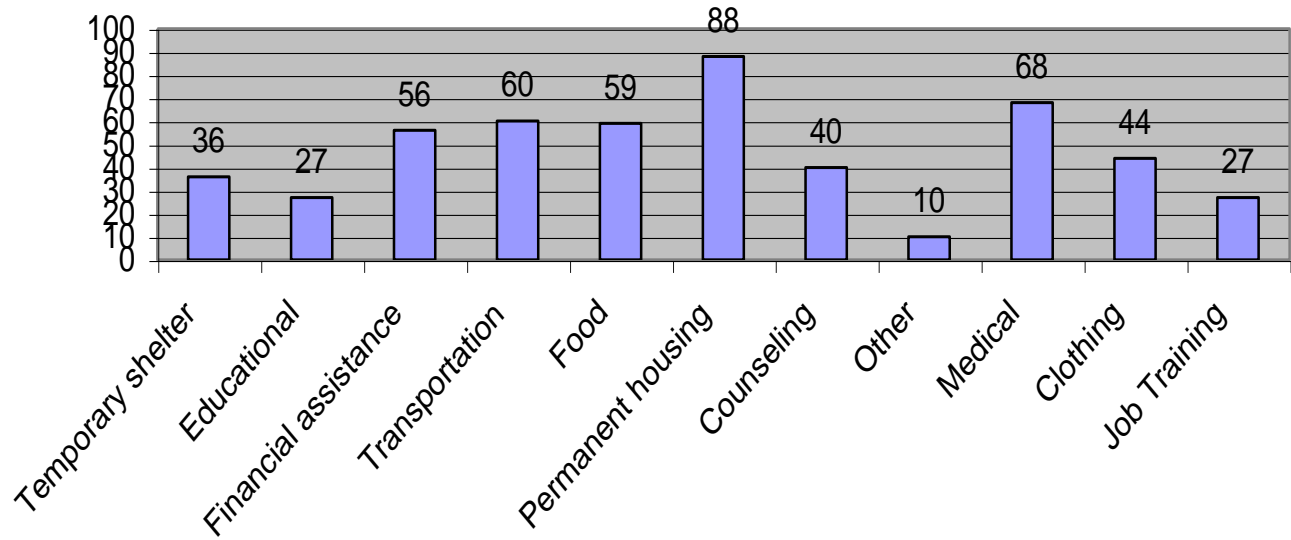


Causes of homelessness or at risk

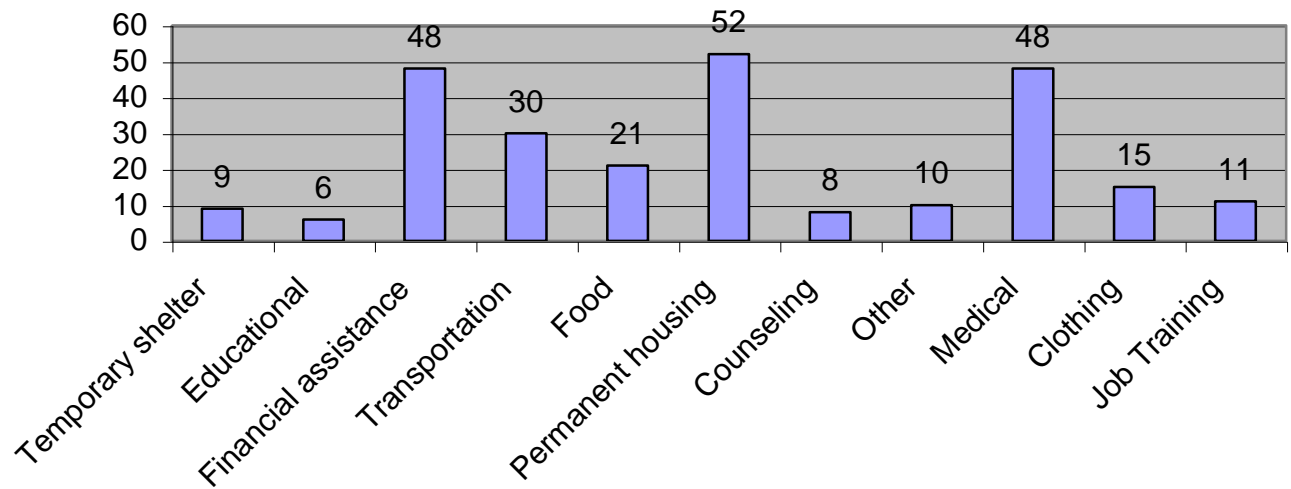




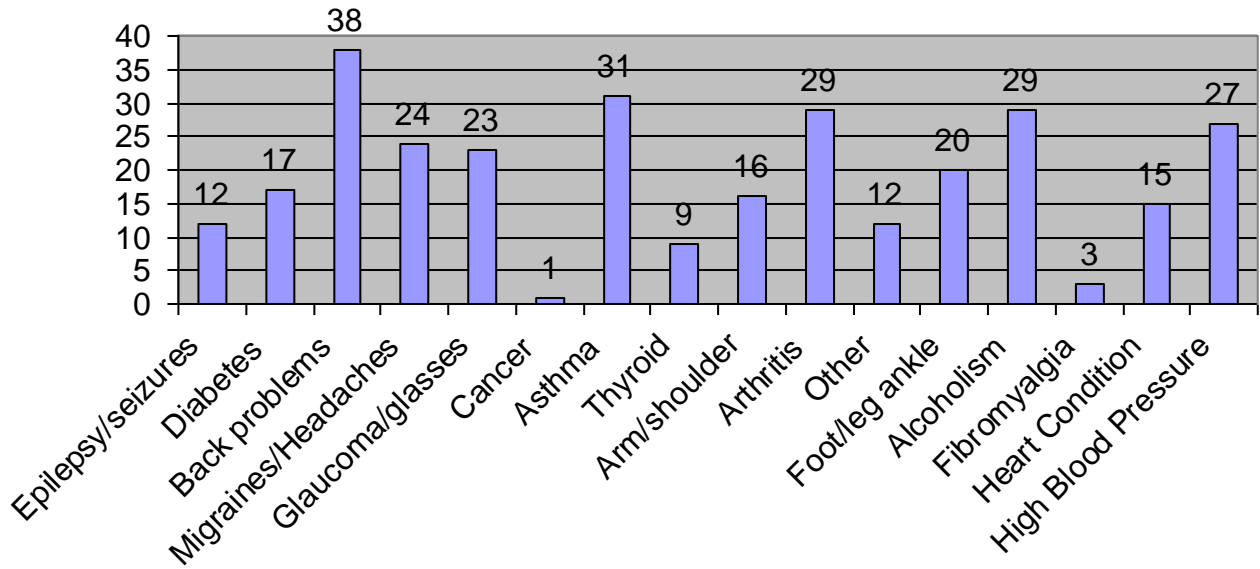
Services needed



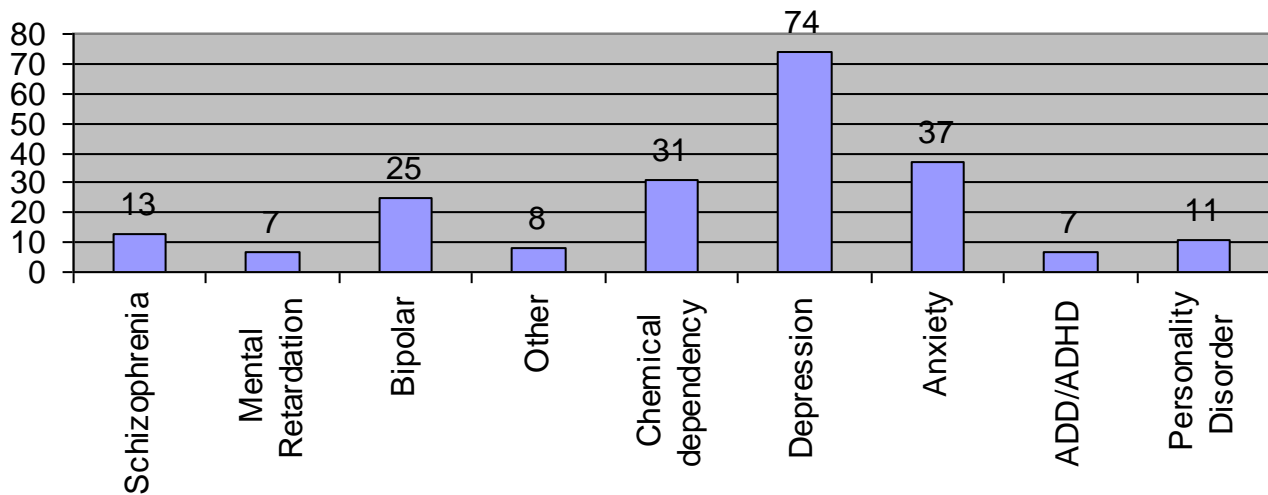
Services applied for - difficulty receiving



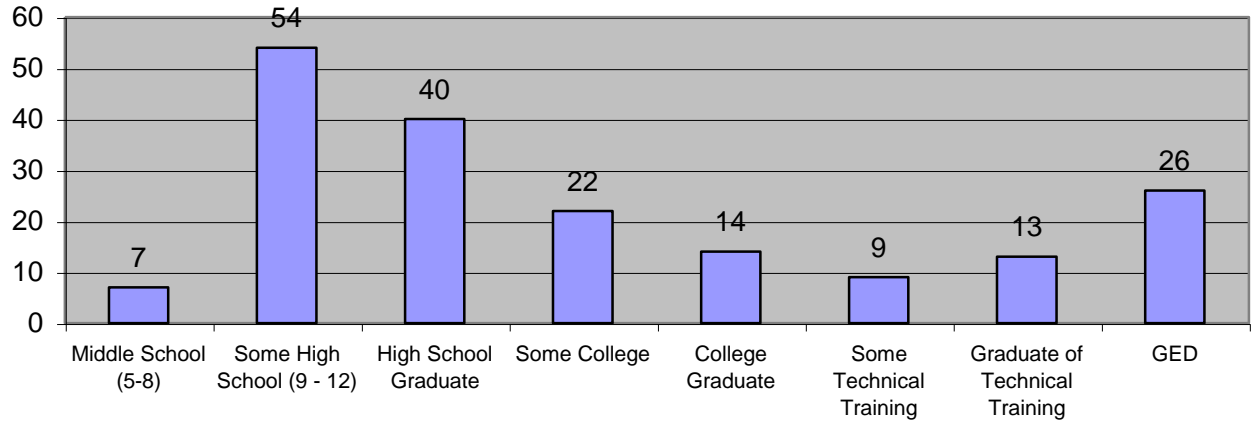
Illness/Disability



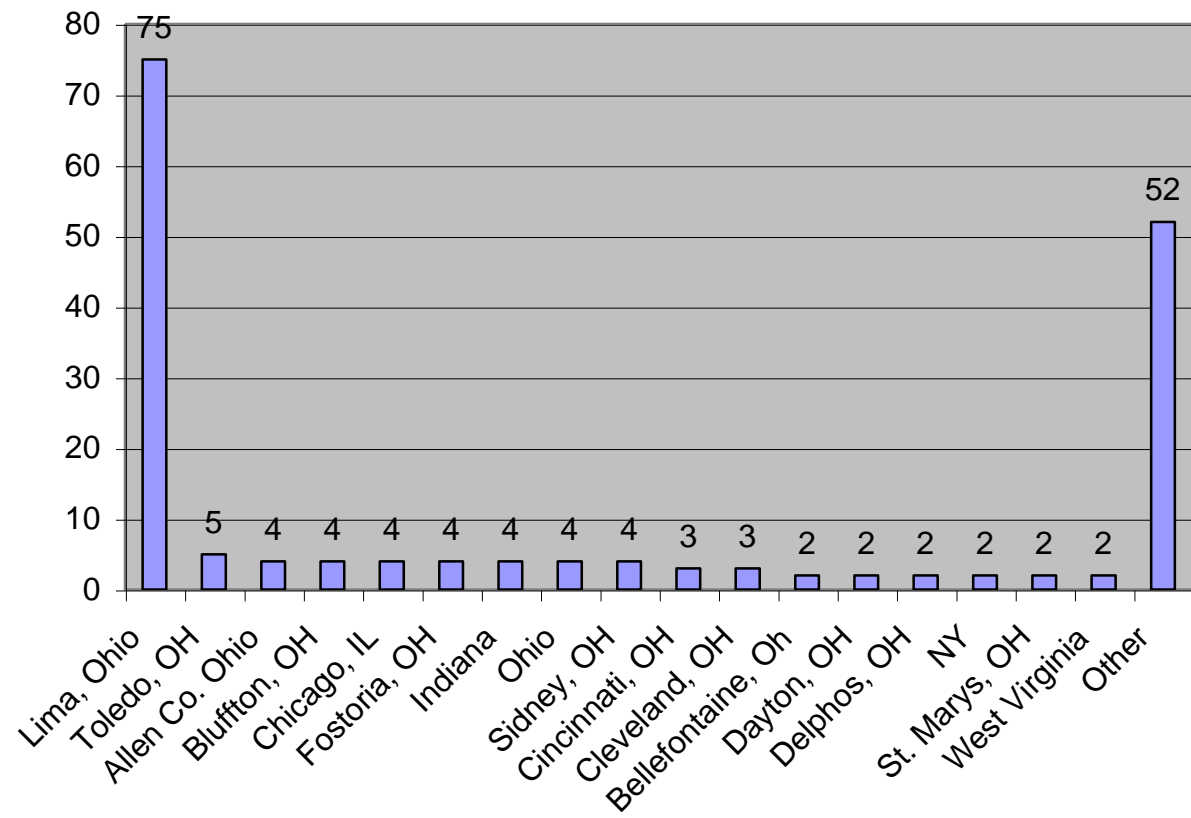
Behavioral Health Diagnoses



Education



Where were you born?



Homeless Families Assessment

<u>Homeless families statistics</u>	30 day survey	Lima City School	Families in Transition	Total Not Unduplicated
Total count	45	84	50	179
Male	6	9		15
Female	39	75		114
Staying in:				
Transitional housing	14			14
Family/Friends	9	60		69
Emergency shelter	10	16		26
Rented house or apartment	6			6
Subsidized permanent housing	1			1
Home they own	1			1
Hotel/Motel		7		7
Camper		1		1
Working				
Yes	21	42	13	76
No	24	10	21	55
Student		5	1	6
Collecting support or benefit		28	5	33
Annual Salary				
0	10			10
up to \$1,000	5			5
\$1,000 to \$4,999	13			13
\$5,000 to \$9,999	6			6
\$10,000 to \$14,000	6			6
\$15,000 - \$19,999	3			3
Single parent				
Yes	40	75	24	139
No	10	9	16	35
Number in house				
Ages 17 & under	66	164	95	325
Cause for homelessness				
Unemployment	8			8
Seeking work	1			1
Utility disconnect	1			1
Unable to pay rent/mortgage	14			14
Income not adequate	2			2
Low wage	1			1
Education				
High School graduate	23	41		64
No diploma or unknown	21	43		64

Referrals from:	
CS	1
FRC	6
LCS	18
Met	4
Self	7
S.H.	7

Point in Time survey conducted on Jan. 30, 2007

	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total
Homeless Individuals	19	245	0	264
Homeless Families	2	4	0	6
Persons in Homeless families with children	6	10	0	16
	<u>27</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>286</u>

Chronically Homeless	103
Seriously Mentally Ill	77
Chronic Substance Abuse	71
Veterans	6
Persons with HIM?AIDS	0
Victims of Domestic Violence	4
Youth	12
Dual Diagnosis (SA/MH)	0
At Risk of Homelessness	0

Responders were Samaritan House, Crossroads Crisis Center, Lutheran Social Services Allen Co. Children Service, Lima Rescue Mission, YMCA SRO, Safe Harbor, Path Finder, Mary Alice House.

Point in Time survey conducted on Jan. 31, 2006

	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total
Homeless Individuals	23	121	0	144
Homeless Families	0	2	0	2
Persons in Homeless families with children	0	4	0	4
	<u>23</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>150</u>

Chronically Homeless	108
Seriously Mentally Ill	10
Chronic Substance Abuse	114
Veterans	6
Persons with HIM?AIDS	0
Victims of Domestic Violence	6
Youth	2
Dual Diagnosis (SA/MH)	0
At Risk of Homelessness	0

Responders were Samaritan House, Crossroads Crisis Center, Lutheran Social Services Lima Rescue Mission, YMCA SRO

Contributing Factors to Homelessness in Allen County

Respondents to the surveys identified the following:

- Lack of adequate jobs in the community 22%
- Relationship problems / challenges 13%
- Health, AoD, Mental Health 41%
- Criminal Justice involvement 13%
- Lack of affordable housing and supported housing 11%

Core Team members identified the following⁴:

- Lack of effective service coordination – single point of entry / contact
- Lack of awareness of current services available
- Lack of funds to effectively address the problems
- Mental Illness
- Drug/Alcohol addictions
- Crime
- Unemployment
- Affordable housing
- Sex Offenders
- Discharge planning
- Emergency shelters
- Early Identification
- Band Aid approaches
- Transitional Housing
- Long term support – sponsors
- Impact on children in homeless families

Cost of Homelessness

In Ohio, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is **\$640**. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$1,793 monthly or \$21,520 annually. Assuming a 40-hour workweek, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$12.31.

In Lima, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is **\$538**. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$2,133 monthly or \$25,596 annually. Assuming a 40-hour workweek, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$10.35.

In Ohio, a minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$6.85. In order to afford the FMR for

⁴ April 17, 2007 Blueprint to End Homelessness – Core Team Meeting

a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 80 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, a household must include 12.0 minimum wage earner(s) working 40 hours per week year-round in order to make the two bedroom FMR affordable.

In Ohio, the estimated mean (average) wage for a renter is \$9.07 an hour. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment at this wage, a renter must work 46 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 1.1 worker(s) earning the mean renter wage in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.

Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$603 in Ohio. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, \$181 in monthly rent is affordable, while the FMR for a one-bedroom is \$515.

A unit is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter's income.

	Ohio	Lima, OH MSA
Number of Households (2000)		
Total	4,445,773	40,646
Renter	1,373,259	11,356
% Renter	31%	28%
2006 Area Median Income ¹		
Annual	\$58,736	\$52,200
Monthly	\$4,895	\$4,350
30% of AMI ²	\$17,621	\$15,660
Maximum Affordable ³ Monthly Housing Cost by % of Family AMI		
30%	\$441	\$392
50%	\$734	\$653
80%	\$1,175	\$1,044
100%	\$1,468	\$1,305
2007 Fair Market Rent (FMR) ⁴		
Zero-Bedroom	\$448	\$429
One-Bedroom	\$515	\$435
Two-Bedroom	\$640	\$538
Three-Bedroom	\$825	\$663
Four-Bedroom	\$893	\$681

Strengths and Weakness that Impact Housing for Allen County⁵

Strengths

1. **Community/Individual Agency Involvement 4**
2. **Affordable Housing 3**
3. **Facility availability 2**
4. No duplication of Services
5. Midsize community
6. Lima is a good location
7. Great medical facilities
8. Diversity
9. Church involvement
10. Schools
11. **Community Spirit 2**

Weaknesses

1. **Lack of Funds 4**
2. Increase in public housing/subsidized housing
3. **Single point of entry/centralized referral 3**
4. Lack of facilities for entire spectrum
5. Coordination of resources
6. **Education/Awareness 2**
7. Property owner restrictions
8. Lack of long-term services
9. **Lack of awareness of services 2**
10. Restrictions of services for single people
11. Lack of quality jobs (to pull people out of chronic homelessness)
12. Lack of transportation
13. Lack of emergency services

Observations from “point in time” surveys:

1. Younger women
2. Older men
3. 46 living with family & friends (16 in surveys and 430 from Lima City Schools)
4. Working poor
5. 130 below poverty guidelines
6. 80 families with 186 children (74 on surveys and 112 from Lima City Schools)
7. Education levels higher than anticipated could be due to illiterate not completing surveys
8. Causes:
 - a. Jobs 22%
 - b. Relationships 13%
 - c. Health, AoD, Mental Health 41%
 - d. Criminal Justice 13%
 - e. Housing 11%

⁵ May 15, 2007 Blueprint to End Homelessness - Core Team Meeting

Community Resources (Agency descriptions and services to the homeless)

Allen County Community Development is funded through State and Federal Grants and payments on mortgages that were generated through the Down Payment Assistance and Home Rehabilitation projects. We coordinate the grant applications, fiscal reporting and local issues with contractors and homeowners. Individual assistance is income based and available for homeowners anywhere in Allen County outside of the City of Lima.

Projects funded through the housing grants include: repair, rehabilitation, down payment assistance – rehabilitation, new home construction, and emergency repair.

Allen County Department of Job and Family Services Prevention, Retention and Contingency Program is designed to help families overcome immediate barriers to achieve or maintain self-sufficiency and personal responsibility. In addition the agency provides transportation, childcare, tutoring, medical, emergency rent and assistance, food stamps, cash assistance and Medicaid. Eligibility requirements must be met.

Allen County Health Partners, also known as Lima Community Health Center, is a federally qualified health center providing comprehensive health care to members of our community who are primarily uninsured or underserved. The services provided include primary medical, dental, behavioral health care, as well as pharmacy services, health and wellness programming, prescription assistance and outreach for children in need of health insurance. The goal is to improve the health of our community by providing a “health care home” that addresses the physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being of our patients with a special emphasis on people living on limited resources.

Allen County Probate Court is a division of the Allen County Common Pleas Court. Probate Court has county-wide jurisdiction in such matters as: Adoptions; Adult Protective Service cases; Civil Commitment cases; Estates; Guardianships; Marriage Licenses; and Trusts. Probate Court works with a number of other governmental offices and community agencies/services. As it relates to homeless persons, the Probate Court would most likely be involved in cases where a person requires a guardian, compelled mental health treatment, or Adult Protective Services. The Court is funded through the Allen County Commissioners. Court costs and attorney fees may be incurred when proceedings are filed in the Court. Costs may be waived and other assistance may be available for persons who meet indigent guidelines.

Allen County Veterans Service Commission provides temporary emergency financial relief assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents. Financial assistance is temporary in nature and is meant to prevent undue hardship for veterans and their families until other government benefits can be obtained or their financial situation has changed. The commission assists with food, utilities, rent/shelter, and prescriptions.

Career Development Company (CDC) is a private, for-profit Ohio corporation started in 1995. CDC seeks to provide job placement services and related support programs to help persons with disabilities identify, obtain and maintain meaningful community employment that is consistent with their individual goals, skills, abilities and limitations. CDC currently offers these services at no cost to the individual consumer through referrals from the Ohio Bureau of Rehabilitation Services; the Ohio Worker’s Compensation system and Lutheran Social Services. We believe all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, age sexual preference, financial standing, or homeless status; and regardless of the nature of their mental, visual or physical disability have the right to be employed in the community. CDC provides a broad range of meaningful job placement, training and related support services to our consumers utilizing a staff which is both experienced and caring. Some of our services include testing and evaluating our consumers and their disabilities and determining what jobs they may be already qualified for, or may be trained to do. We can teach how to look for a job, apply

for a job, and interview for a job. We can also help our consumers find a job, learn the job, and keep the job. We provide our services in Allen County and the immediate surrounding counties.

Department of Rehabilitation & Correction, Adult Parole Authority: supervises adult felony offenders on parole/probation. The Department subsidizes hotels for the homeless for up to a week @ per diem of under \$75. The Department also has contracts under the guise of “Independent Housing” which will house offenders for up to 90 days upon their release from prison. The per diem for this program is \$30. There are currently 6 Independent Houses in the State. There is one in Lima, namely; Mary Alice’s House.

The Families In Transition program at the Family Resource Centers offers case management services to families that have been determined homeless and have children. As a community support provider for the Families In Transition program I am able to offer my families the case management for them to tap into the local resources for them to obtain housing. I am also able to help with transportation, if that is a barrier. The goal for my program is to work with the family after they have obtained housing to prevent them from becoming homeless again through education and advocacy. This program has not been funded for after June 30, 2007.

Family Promise of Lima Allen Co. is a new non-profit organization that will provide overnight lodging for three to five families, a maximum of fourteen individuals, working with host congregations in the community. Local churches and volunteers provide meals, shelter and companionship to the families. Families will use a day center from 8 AM to 5 PM to shower, care for pre-school children, and seek employment. The center provides guests with a mailing address and a home base from which to conduct their housing search. They also are provided transportation to and from the host congregation to the day enter. Family Promise is planning to serve families in October 2007.

Lima Allen Council on Community Affairs provides the following Housing Services:

Down payment assistance – In partnership with Sky Bank, this program assists individuals with planning to buy a house along with offering financial assistance to eligible participants.

Homeownership program provides participants with information needed to obtain a loan to buy a house. Participants take a class on budgeting and credit report review, while earning credits by participating in various community activities. The credits obtained are used to determine how much money the participant is eligible to receive. These two programs assist families in transition with information on budgeting and how to obtain and keep a home through careful assessment of credit history.

Fair housing program provides information about the fair housing law as it pertains to both tenants and landlords in Lima and Allen County. The program also provides information on tenant landlord rights and responsibilities to both tenants and landlords in Lima and Allen County. The program offers referrals to available housing units inside Lima and Allen County and assists individuals from becoming homeless by offering housing referrals to participants in the process of transition. LACCA also provides tenant/landlord mediation to resolve disputes and keep people in their housing.

Lutheran Social Services provides behavioral health services, including various housing options, to severely mentally ill adults. The housing options include group homes, single room occupancy at the local YMCA, emergency rent & utility assistance, temporary rent subsidy assistance and in coordination with Allen Metropolitan Housing Authority shelter plus care vouchers for homeless SMI adults. The funding for these housing programs is from the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Counties, and the Ohio Dept. of Development.

The Allen County Board of MR/DD serves individuals with developmental disabilities who meet established eligibility criteria and reside in Allen County. The County Board provides a variety of educational and vocational services for individuals and their families. The Board also provides Service and Support Administration services to assist with planning, coordination and monitoring of all services.

The Allen County Board of MR/DD partners with LODDI, Inc., a non-profit housing board, to provide affordable housing for eligible individuals receiving residential services. The Board plans and authorizes the provision of residential supports with a variety of certified providers. The current need for these programs/services far exceeds the availability of funding. Service and Support Associates (Case Managers) work with individuals who are homeless, or in danger of becoming homeless, by collaborating with community resources that already exist to meet the individual's health and safety needs.

SAFE HARBOR Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter began providing services for youth in March of 1992. The shelter's location is at 1012 W. Market St. in Lima, Ohio 45805. The shelter has been designed to meet the needs of youth in a seven-county area of Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer, Putnam, Van Wert and Hancock, through a Federal Grant. SAFE HARBOR is capable of sleeping ten youth who are separated by gender. Also, the shelter has a nursery equipped for a teen parent with a small child. SAFE HARBOR is open to youth on a 24 hour basis, seven days a week, 365 days a year. All services provided by SAFE HARBOR are free of charge to all teens and families in crisis who are directly referring themselves. Services are not just for youth from these counties, but for any youth wanting services at this location. Those services that are provided include: Shelter, Meals, Clothing, Transportation, Crisis Intervention, Individual/Family sessions, "Teens Only" Group, a Systematic Step-Teen Parenting Group, Aftercare Services, tutoring, and Monthly Educational Trainings. Any youth age 12 through 17 who is a runaway, throwaway, homeless or in crisis have access to Safe Harbor.

Lima Rescue Mission is a homeless shelter for men. We can house up to 28 men in our overnight dorm. These beds are available on a night by night basis for those who need temporary or emergency help with shelter. The building is closed down for these men during the daytime except for times of below freezing weather. The building is open again at 4:30P.M and available for them to come in. Check-in time for the overnight beds is 7:00P.M. They must attend a chapel service at that time in order to stay. We have towels and washcloths for them to use and hygiene products available. The cost for this is .50 per night. Payment is not required before they can stay. We allow them to owe up to \$5.00 before we start enforcing payment. We can sometimes help those with this if they are in genuine need of it. If they are new to the overnight dorm we give them their first three nights free. This can give them a little chance to see if they want to stay or work something else out.

We also offer sleeping rooms for those that choose to stay here on a more permanent basis. These rooms are available to those who have been in our overnight dorm for at least 7 days and have the means to pay \$120.00 per month plus a \$10.00 key deposit. Application process is needed for this. Most of these guys have jobs or collect S.S, S.S.I. Etc. They are not required to be in at 7:00P.M. They are more free to come and go. They are not shut out of the building through the day like those in the overnight dorm. There are 32 rooms available.

The Lima Rescue Mission is for men of at least 21 yrs. of age, except in case of an emergency situation we can take men younger for a night or two, and we do not take sexual offenders.

Lima's Samaritan House is a homeless shelter for women and children providing food, shelter and essential services to approximately 450 homeless and/or abused women and children per year. Services provided include intense one-on-one case management, drug and alcohol education, and lesson on nutrition, budgeting, parenting, health care instructions, resumes and job interviewing techniques. Resident may stay up to ninety days in which time they are expected to establish an income through employment or entitlement and save 80% of that income to ultimately find permanent housing.

The shelter also has an overnight program for single women who do not qualify or are not ready to follow through with a structured plan. Rather than risk having them stay in an unsafe environment, sleep in a car or under a bridge, this program allows them to come in at 6:00 pm, eat supper, take a shower, watch TV, play cards or just 'hang-out'. They are given a clean bedroll. In the morning after breakfast and meal clean up at 8:00 am they must leave. Unlike the regular admissions, they are not permitted to leave any of their personal belonging. There is no time limit on the number of times they spend the night. Some become residents while others move on and return sporadically.

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is the state agency responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to eligible Ohioans with physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities. Our mission is to partner with individuals with disabilities to achieve quality employment, independence, and disability determination outcomes.

There are three separate bureaus: The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) which focuses on assisting individuals with disabilities attain and maintain employment; The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) which focuses on assisting individuals with visual impairments attain and maintain employment; and The Bureau of Disability Determination (BDD) which determines whether applicants for SSI and/or SSDI meet the criteria for being awarded social security or disability funding.

Once a person is determined eligible for BVR or BSVI, he and his counselor work together to decide which specific vocational goal is best suited for him given his abilities, interests, aptitudes, limitations, etc. Then services are provided based on what he needs to meet his specific vocational goal. General services may include evaluation and assessment, vocational counseling and guidance, vocational training, rehabilitation technology, job placement assistance, job coaching, and follow-along. Once a consumer acquires a job within his vocational goal that is suited to his capabilities as well as his limitations, his case is closed after 90 days of successful employment.

St. Vincent DePaul Society's core purpose and goal is to provide food and clothing to families who for reasons beyond their control are in need of help. They are a Catholic Faith Community of women and men from the four parishes in Lima. They are a non-profit organization supported financially by the local parishes and free-will contributions. All of the members contribute their time and talents to serve the Lord and those in need with no remuneration.

YMCA-SRO (single room occupancy) is for men of 18 years of age and older and they must be able to walk steps. The Y dormitory has sixty six rooms, twenty two on each of the 4th, 5th, and 6th floors of the YMCA Annex at the corner of South Elizabeth Street and West Spring Street. Each tenant has a key for his room and he can come in and leave the dorm at anytime. This is great for those tenants who work at night. Alternative Clinic, Dr Chapple, offers free health care for the tenants between 5:30 – 6:00 PM most Wednesdays on the 1st floor of the Annex. The tenancies must pay 30% of their income for their rent. If unemployed they must pay \$25. per month with HUD's financial help until they get a job. The Y-SRO works with the Allen County Veterans Affairs office, Lutheran Social Services, United Church's food pantry and Allen Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Housing Inventory

Emergency Shelter: Fundamental Components in CoC System – Housing Inventory Chart														
Provider Name	Facility Name	HMIS Part. Code	Number of Year-Round Beds in HMIS		Geo Code <input type="checkbox"/>	Target Pop		Year-Round			Total Year-Round Beds	Other Beds		
						A	B	Fam. Units	Fam. Beds	Indiv. Beds		Seas-onal	Overflow & Voucher	
Current Inventory			Ind.	Fam.										
Crossroads Crisis Center	Crossroads Crisis Center	N	0	0	399003	FC	DV	8	21	0	21	na	0	
Lima Rescue Mission	Lima Rescue Mission	N	0	0	399003	SM		0	0	28	28	na	0	
Safe Harbor	Safe Harbor	N	0	0	399003	YMF		0	0	10	10	na	0	
HOPE House	HOPE House	N	0	0	399003	SM	Vets	0	0	4	4	na	0	
Samaritan House	Samaritan House	A	8	0	399003	FC	DV	0	0	8	8	na	0	
SUBTOTALS:					SUBTOT. CURRENT INVENTORY:				8	21	50	71	na	0
New Inventory in Place in 2005 (Feb. 1, 2005 – Jan. 31, 2006)			Ind.	Fam.										
SUBTOTALS:					SUBTOTAL NEW INVENTORY:									
Inventory Under Development		Anticipated Occupancy Date												
SUBTOTAL INVENTORY UNDER DEVELOPMENT:														
Unmet Need			UNMET NEED TOTALS:											
1. Total Year-Round Individual ES Beds:				50	4. Total Year-Round Family Beds:				21					
2. Year-Round Individual ES Beds in HMIS:				8	5. Year-Round Family ES Beds in HMIS:				0					
3. HMIS Coverage Individual ES Beds: Divide line 2 by line 1 and multiply by 100. Round to a whole number.				16%	6. HMIS Coverage Family ES Beds: Divide line 5 by line 4 and multiply by 100. Round to a whole number.				0%					

Transitional Housing: Fundamental Components in CoC System – Housing Inventory Chart

Provider Name	Facility Name	HMIS Part. Code	Number of Year-Round Beds in HMIS		Geo Code <input type="checkbox"/>	Target Pop		Year-Round			Total Year-Round Beds	
						A	B	Family Units	Family Beds	Individ. Beds		
Lutheran Social Services	Renaissance House	N	0	0	399003	SMF		0	0	14	14	
Mary Alice's House	Mary Alice's House	N	0	0	399003	SMF		0	0	45	45	
Pathfinder House	Pathfinder House	N	0	0	399003			0	0	59	59	
Phoenix House	Phoenix House	N	0	0	399003	SF		0	0	7	7	
Lima Rescue Mission	Lima Rescue Mission	N	0	0	399003	SM		0	0	32	32	
Samaritan House	Samaritan House	A	0	38	399003	FC	DV	0	0	40	40	
ADAMH Board	HAP Program	N	0	0	399003	SMF		0	0	29	29	
SUBTOTALS:					SUBTOT. CURRENT INVENTORY:			0	0	226	226	
New Inventory in Place in 2005 (Feb. 1, 2005 – Jan. 31, 2006)			Ind.	Fam.								
SUBTOTALS:					SUBTOTAL NEW INVENTORY:							
Inventory Under Development		Anticipated Occupancy Date										
SUBTOTAL INVENTORY UNDER DEVELOPMENT:												
Unmet Need								UNMET NEED TOTALS:		3	7	7
1. Total Year-Round Individual TH Beds:			226	4. Total Year-Round Family Beds:								
2. Year-Round Individual TH Beds in HMIS:			40	5. Year-Round Family TH Beds in HMIS:								
3. HMIS Coverage Individual TH Beds: Divide line 2 by line 1 and multiply by 100. Round to a whole number.			18%	6. HMIS Coverage Family TH Beds: Divide line 5 by line 4 and multiply by 100. Round to a whole number.								

Permanent Supportive Housing*: Fundamental Components in CoC System – Housing Inventory Chart											
Provider Name	Facility Name	HMIS Part. Code	Number of Year-Round Beds in HMIS		Geo Code <input type="checkbox"/>	Target Population		Year-Round			Total Year-Round Beds
						A	B	Family Units	Family Beds	Individual/C H Beds	
Current Inventory			Ind.	Fam.							
Lutheran Social Services	Erma Rose & O'Brien	N	0	0	399003	SMF		0	0	12	12
YMCA	YMCA	N	0	0	399003	SM		0	0	66	66
SUBTOTALS:			0	0	SUBTOT. CURRENT INVENTORY:			0	0	78	78
New Inventory in Place in 2005 (Feb. 1, 2005 – Jan. 31, 2006)			Ind.	Fam.							
SUBTOTALS:					SUBTOTAL NEW INVENTORY:						
Inventory Under Development		Anticipated Occupancy Date									
SUBTOTAL INVENTORY UNDER DEVELOPMENT:					UNMET NEED TOTALS:			3	8	70	78
Unmet Need											
1. Total Year-Round Individual PH Beds:			78	4. Total Year-Round Family Beds:			0				
2. Year-Round Individual PH Beds in HMIS:			0	5. Year-Round Family PH Beds in HMIS:			0				
3. HMIS Coverage Individual PH Beds: (Divide line 2 by line 1 and multiply by 100. Round to a whole number.)			0%	6. HMIS Coverage Family PH Beds: (Divide line 5 by line 4 and multiply by 100. Round to a whole number.)			0%				

*Permanent Supportive Housing is: S+C, Section 8 SRO and SHP-Permanent Housing component. It also includes any permanent housing projects, such as public housing units, that have been dedicated exclusively to serving homeless persons.

Causes of Homelessness in Allen County⁶

1. Mental Illness / Addiction (untreated mental illness – self medicating) - Lack of Knowledge of Social Services
2. Lack of Quality Jobs – Underemployment
 - a. Lack of Education / Job Skills
 - b. Unemployment / Job Loss
3. People being Evicted
 - a. Lack of Family Support
 - b. Credit Card Debt / Mortgages / Misuse of Credit
 - c. Lack of Knowledge of Social Services
4. Lack of Emergency / Transitional Housing for:
 - a. Fathers with Children
 - b. Mothers with Teen Boys
 - c. Intact Families
 - d. People with Symptomatic Mental Illness
 - e. Males 18 – 21 Years Old
 - f. Males after 11:00 PM
5. Lack of Awareness of Homelessness in the Community. Belief that homelessness is not something we can do anything about.
6. DYS Discharge Planning – 18 year olds on their own / Foster Children aging out of the system.
7. Offenders – Ex Offenders / Sex Offenders
8. Culture of Poverty – engaging this population
 - a. Services are not Enticing
 - b. Service Coordination – System Spanner
 - c. Trust in the system lacking
 - d. Lack of Knowledge of Social Services

⁶ Identified at the June 19, 2007 Core Team Meeting

Strategies

Prevention: “Close the Front Door” – Reduce the number of people who become homeless.

1. Emergency Shelter and Outreach to Homeless Families with Children (Supporting Current Efforts and Developing Ongoing Supportive Services) – **Addressing problem #4**

Activities	Responsible	Costs	Funding Sources	Timelines	Performance Metric
Family Promise	Tammy Geoff, Trinity UMC		Donations	October 2007	# Churches volunteer and trained, # Homeless families served
School Based Homelessness Coordinator	Sara Bowsher		Lima City Schools Grant	September 2007 and ongoing	# Children linked to schools

2. Emergency Shelter and Outreach to Homeless Persons with Symptomatic Mental Illness – **Addressing problem #4**

Activities	Responsible	Costs	Funding Sources	Timelines	Performance Metric
Get more data about the need for short term shelter	Police, St. Rita’s ER, Crisis Center, LSS	Time	N/A	July 2008	# Persons identified in need of emergency shelter

3. Cultural Awareness (Emphasis on Culture of Poverty and Training in the Bridges Out of Poverty Model) – **Addressing problem #8**

Activities	Responsible	Costs	Funding Sources	Timelines	Performance Metric
Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World	LACCA	Staff Time	N/A	Fall 2007	# People Attending
Create trainers for each agency in Bridges Out of Poverty	LACCA	\$4000	Each Agency	Fall 2008	Trainer identified and sessions scheduled, # Trainers trained, # Attendees, # Agencies participating
Assess need for ongoing cross system discussions among provider staff	Continuum of care	Time	N/A	Fall 2008	Plan for Cross System Training

4. Improve Job Skills / Employment – **Addressing problem #2**

Activities	Responsible	Costs	Funding Sources	Timelines	Performance Metric
Convene a focus group of job skill / employment resources to develop strategies	Continuum of Care / Housing Consortium	Time	N/A	Fall 2009	Strategy Developed

5. Coordination of Social Services (Single Access Point with Emphasis on Behavioral Health Services – Mental Illness and Addiction) – **Addressing problems #1, #3 c, #5, #6, #7, #8**

Activities	Responsible	Costs	Funding Sources	Timelines	Performance Metric
Hire a Cross System Homelessness Coordinator - Single Point of Access for housing services for working families	Met Housing	\$40,000	ODOD Grant	January 2008 – December 2009	Coordinator Hired Agency Host Identified 22 Families for average 15 months # Successfully placed
System Coordination Team of Major Agencies	Outreach Committee, Lima City Homeless Coordinator, etc.	Staff Time	ACDJFS, LACCA, AMHA, LCS Homeless Coordinator	January 2008	# of individuals/families helped with housing and other needs

Intervention: “Open the Back Door” - Increase placement into supported housing of people who are currently experiencing homelessness.

6. Increase and enhance permanent supported housing for people with disabilities. **Addressing problems #1, #6, #7**

Activities	Responsible	Costs	Funding Sources	Timelines	Performance Metric
Supportive housing for people with mental illness and/or addiction	Mental Health and Met Housing		Mental Health and Met Housing	Ongoing	# People maintain stable housing
Supportive housing for people with developmental disabilities	MRDD and Met Housing		MRDD and Met Housing	Ongoing	# People maintain stable housing

7. Improved discharge planning for - youth aging out of DYS, youth aging out of foster care, offenders returning to the community from prison / jail. **Addressing problems # 6, #7**

Activities	Responsible	Costs	Funding Sources	Timelines	Performance Metric
Rely Re Entry for Local Youths ages 10 - 21	DYS, FRC, LSS & Allen Co. Juvenile Court	Staff Time	DYS, FRC, LSS & Allen Co. Juvenile Court	Ongoing	# Successfully Returned to Community
Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Task Force	MRDD / MHR SB / DRC / JAIL	Time	MRDD / MHR SB	Ongoing	# Prisoners Successfully Linked to Community Services
Develop Focus Group for 18 – 21 year olds to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency housing– focus on CJ system • Supportive housing 	Housing Consortium / Continuum of Care			Fall 2008	Plan Developed for this Population

8. Ongoing Oversight of Blueprint Strategies (Monitor and Assess Progress / Identify New Priorities) **Addressing problem #5**

Activities	Responsible	Costs	Funding Sources	Timelines	Performance Metric
To Be Determined	Housing Consortium / Continuum of Care				

BLUEPRINT CORE TEAM

Charter

Mission: All families and persons experiencing the possibility of homelessness in Allen County will have a permanent, safe and affordable place to call home.

Goal: To develop a strategy by August 2007 approved by the Continuum of Care to end homelessness in Allen County in 10 years.

Background: Over 150,000 Americans experience homelessness every year according to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Over 330 people have been identified in Allen County as homeless in the latest “Point in Time” Survey conducted by the Survey Committee of the Allen County Continuum of Care.

Why should we be concerned?

- The group consumes a disproportionate amount of costly resources.
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Psychiatric Treatment
 - Detox Facilities
 - Shelters
 - Law Enforcement and Corrections
- There is a visible impact on the community’s safety and attractiveness.
- This group is in great need of assistance and special services.

Why focus on this issue now?

- New technologies exist like Housing First Strategies and Assertive Community Treatment to keep people off the streets and in their own homes.
- There is a new commitment by the President to end homelessness.
- There is a new spirit of partnership and trust among diverse agencies, organizations and churches to work together toward a solution.

Scope Overview: The project will involve the following phases to be completed over the course of the next four months –

1. Identify the members of a Core Team to serve in an advisory / oversight role in the writing of the 10 year plan
2. Collect data to be used in decision making
3. Define the homelessness problem in Allen County
4. Develop strategies and an action plan to address the problem
5. Present the plan to the Continuum of Care for approval

Final Deliverable: A ten year plan to end homelessness in Allen County that will be approved by the Continuum of Care to be presented to the Housing Consortium of Allen County for final approval.

Budget: Time commitment of the writing team and the members of the Core Team

Boundaries / Constraints / Authority: The Core Team serves on a time limited basis as an advisory committee to the writing team. Once the plan is written and approved for submission to the Continuum of Care the work of the Core Team is completed.

Communication / Feedback: The Core Team will have four monthly meetings, the third Tuesday of April, May, June and July. Material to be discussed at each meeting will be sent at least one week prior to the meeting via email. Each meeting will last no more than 2 hours.

Any changes will be communicated to each Core Team member through email within a week.

Estimated Date for Completion: August 15, 2007

Sponsor: Allen County Continuum of Care

Core Team Members: Alex Clow, Mike Stahl (APA); Alice Giesken, Mike Schoenhofer (Mental Health and Recovery Services); Amy Sackman Odum, Joann Hamel (City of Lima); Reverend J. Norbert Howe (Catholic Charities); Barb Massa (New Lima); Bev Driver (Allen County Health Department); Bruce Wells (Allen County); Chuck Ferguson (Lima Rescue Mission); Cora Hamman (Career Development); Darrel Craft (Allen County Jail); Tammie Colon, Dan Faraglia, Deb Stinson (Lutheran Social Services); Daniel Hughes (Metropolitan Housing); Dick Weichart (St. Vincent de Paul); Anne Dunbar (MRDD); Heather Powell (DRC); Veronica Hyde (LACCA); Ed Monford (Criminal Justice Coordinator); Jackie Youngblood (RSC); Jody Slemmons (ODOT); Joe Moran (ODNR); John Smith (YMCA); John Schneider (Pathfinder House); Jolene Joseph (Allen County Health Partners); Katie Sielschott (ASTOP); Marilyn Cipollone (Samaritan House); Mark Skaja (St. Rita's Medical Center); Marketa Robinson (Lima UMADAOP); Mary Early (Allen County FCFC); Melissa Carl (Family Resource Center); Michael Hayden (United Way); Tamara Curtis (Veterans Affairs); Rhonda Henderson-Laidlaw (SAFY); Sara Bowsher (Lima City Schools); Tracy Taylor, Caryn Strayor (Allen County DJFS); Tami Gough (Trinity United Methodist Church).

CONTINUUM OF CARE MEMBER AGENCIES

Allen County Dept. of Job and Family Services
Allen County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Allen County Children Services
Allen County Council on Aging
Allen County Health Department
Allen County Health Partners
Allen County Community Development
Allen Metropolitan Housing Authority
Catholic Charities
Family Promise
Family Resource Centers
Habitat for Humanity
Lima Allen Council on Community Affairs
Lima City Community Development
Lima City Schools
Lima UMADAOP
Lima Police Dept.
Lima Rescue Mission
Lutheran Social Services
Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Counties
Pathfinder House
Safe Alternatives for Family and Youth
Samaritan House
YMCA

HOUSING CONSORTIUM MEMBER AGENCIES

Allen County Community Development
Allen Metropolitan Housing Authority
Habitat for Humanity
Leal Aid of Western Ohio
Lima Allen Council on Community Affairs
Lima Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership
Lima City Community Development
Lima Police Dept.
Lutheran Social Services
Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Counties
New Lima, Inc.
Pathfinder House
Safe Alternatives for Family and Youth
Samaritan House
Sky Bank
YMCA