State of Homelessness 2021

Annual Courage Awards

Executive Directors Report
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Welcome

Thank you!
This Year...
Why does homelessness happen?
$1,651.00

Average cost of a two-bedroom apartment in Rhode Island

Source: HousingWorks Housing Factbook 2020
65 weekly hours

needed to work at minimum wage to 1-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent

Source: NLIHC Out of Reach report 2021
Why does homelessness happen?

There is currently NO city/town in Rhode Island where a median renter household could affordably rent an apartment.

Gap between wages and housing costs is bigger!

Housing is STILL not affordable...

Median Income of Renters: $34,255

Average 2-Bedroom Rent: $1,651

Income to afford that rent: $66,040

Source: HousingWorks Housing Factbook 2020
Income at Entry - Shelter/Transitional Housing

Last year 43.21% of households earned $0 and 30.89% earned approximately $6,001-12,000.

Source: Annual Counts in HMIS (CAPER, ES, TH, and SO)), State Fiscal Years 18/19, 19/20, 20/21
Last year 48.53% of households earned $0 and 34.80% earned approximately $6,001-12,000.
A typical monthly rent a Rhode Islander experiencing homelessness could afford...

Note: Assuming annual gross income of $8,000, spending 30% of income on rent.
Current trends
Addressing public health crisis for COVID in homeless system is reliant on several factors:

- **Vaccination Rates**: Only estimated 45% of persons experiencing homelessness are vaccinated.
- **Protections for Congregate Settings**: Most homeless shelters have shared living spaces (e.g. bunk beds in large room, with shared bathrooms) in which disease spreads rapidly.
- **Quarantine and Isolation**: Persons who test positive for COVID need a safe and secure place to recover and avoid transmitting within their shelter or encampment.
January 2021 Point in Time Count

869 persons living in “Emergency Shelter” (+17%)

217 persons living in “Transitional Housing” (-14%)

181 persons living “Outdoors or in Cars” (+67%)

Total of 1,267 persons experienced homelessness on January 26th, 2021 (+14%)

Percent shows change from 2020 Point in Time (PIT) Count.

Source: Rhode Island/HUD PIT Reports 2020 & 2021, Data includes Domestic Violence Shelters and other non HMIS participating sites.
Homelessness LAST MONTH

881 persons living in “Emergency Shelter” or “Transitional Housing”

662 persons living “Outdoors or in Cars”

Total of 1,543 persons experiencing homelessness

This is one of the largest number of persons living outdoors Rhode Island has ever seen...


Data does NOT include Domestic Violence (DV) Shelters and other non HMIS participating sites. Any significant variation from PIT numbers is result of lack of DV data in HMIS, due to federal law.
Homelessness in June 2021

662 persons living in "Emergency Shelter"
134 persons living in "Transitional Housing"
485 persons living "Outdoors or in Cars"

Total of 1,281 persons experienced homelessness in June of 2021


Data does NOT include Domestic Violence (DV) Shelters and other non HMIS participating sites. Any significant variation from PIT numbers is result of lack of DV data in HMIS, due to federal law.

It's estimated that the number of those without housing could increase as much as 8x with the end of the eviction moratorium...
Why Has Unsheltered Homelessness Increased Dramatically?

Persons Living Outdoors/in Cars

Number staying outdoors or in cars usually decreases during winter (due to weather) and increased availability of shelter beds.

299+ Rhode Islanders Living Outside in last 14 days

Source: CES Data in HMIS, based on Current Living Situation, number is sum is total for last 14 days.
Why Has Unsheltered Homelessness Increased Dramatically?

- Nationally, unsheltered homelessness is increasing exponentially, particularly in large cities and expensive housing markets.
- RI has reached a tipping point of so little housing stock, that the market becomes completely overwhelmed, forcing people outside.
- Usually, when someone loses their housing, they can first stay with family or friends, however in a market where housing supply does not meet demand, housing is already too crowded and therefore have no choice but people turn outdoors.

Rhode Island has a shortage of **21,678** rental units for extremely low renters (30% of AMI).
Why Has Unsheltered Homelessness Increased Dramatically?

- Physical health, mental health, and substance use greatly impact homelessness and can drive persons to reside outdoors.
- Periods of high stress (like that experienced by a pandemic) often trigger crises for people and will negatively impact their wellbeing.
- In 2020, 35.0% of single adults staying in homeless emergency shelters and 32.8% of single adults residing outside, reported struggling with substance use disorders.*

Rhode Island had an increase of 24.7% of overdose deaths statewide from 2019 to 2020.

*Source: HMIS Report on Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach Persons on Adult Only Households (no families).
The new call center went live December 2020 with language line access and now boasts 10+ agents answering calls 365 days a year.

Clients can call **401-277-4316** to be put in touch with available services.
CES Hotline Calls Seeking Shelter Over Time

Source: Five9 Call Reports from 1/1/2021 - Present
Data from Our “Front Door”

Households Living Outdoors Waiting for Shelter

As of last week, we have:

- **53 Families w/ Children...**
- **58 Adult only Families...**
- **240 Single Adults...**

All living outdoors and waiting for shelter/emergency housing.

Source: CES Data in HMIS, based on Current Living Situation and Contact Seeking Shelter
On average we have a deficit of 139.4 of emergency housing units (shelter, hotel room, etc.) each month to meet demand.

Source: CES Data in HMIS, based on Current Living Situation and Contact Seeking Shelter
On average we have a deficit of 31.7 of emergency housing units (shelter, hotel room, etc.) each month to meet demand.

Source: CES Data in HMIS, based on Current Living Situation and Contact Seeking Shelter
Who experiences homelessness?

Demographics
Rhode Islanders who experience homelessness have an average life expectancy of around 49.5 years of age. Meaning they die 20 years sooner than housed populations.

Source: HMIS, HUD CAPER Report for ES, TH, and SO 7/1/20 - 6/30/21
Who Experiences Homelessness in Rhode Island?

Race of Homeless Families by Setting

Race

Although black persons make up only 6.6% of the state, they represent 53.3% of the families living outside or in their cars.

Source: HMIS, HUD CAPER Report for ES, TH, and SO 7/1/20 - 6/30/21
Who Experiences Homelessness in Rhode Island?

Race of Homeless Single Adults/Couples by Setting

Although black persons make up only 6.6% of the state, they represent 27.8% of the single adults living outside or in their cars.

Source: HMIS, HUD CAPER Report for ES, TH, and SO 7/1/20 - 6/30/21
Who Experiences Homelessness in Rhode Island?

Ethnicity of Homeless Families by Setting

Although hispanic or latinx persons make up only 15% of the state, they represent 41.5% of the families living in homeless shelters.

Source: HMIS, HUD CAPER Report for ES, TH, and SO 7/1/20 - 6/30/21
Who Experiences Homelessness in Rhode Island?

Ethnicity of Homeless Single Adults/Couples by Setting

Although hispanic or latinx persons make up only 15% of the state, they represent 17.29% of the single adults in homeless shelters.

Source: HMIS, HUD CAPER Report for ES, TH, and SO 7/1/20 - 6/30/21
Some good news to end with...
In 2021, our community has...

- Major federal grant wins!
  
  HUD *awarded* RI 3.4 million in Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) funds!
  
  HUD *awarded* RI 159 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) for persons experiencing homelessness!

- Major policy wins!
  
  Housing Bond *acquired*, Permanent Affordable Housing Funding *secured*
  
  Source of Income Discrimination *banned*, Pay for Success Act *passed*

- Major system wins!
  
  *New* Coordinated Entry System Help Center, now open 365 days a year until 9:00 PM
  
  *New* Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database with better features
What’s Next?

● We need the State of Rhode Island to:
  ○ Invest **$500 million** of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in **affordable housing**.
  ○ Treat rising homelessness as an **EMERGENCY** and immediately act to address this crisis.
  ○ **Support** and **fund innovative emergency programs** like ECHO Village, Hotels, Diversion Assistance, Safe Parking Lots, and other crisis response housing.

● We need the Federal Government to:
  ○ Expand **Housing Choice Vouchers** to an entitlement program (so all who are eligible can receive it)
  ○ Increase HUD funding for Homeless Assistance Grants
  ○ **Continue and expand regulatory waivers**, making programs more effective and nimble
Thank you!