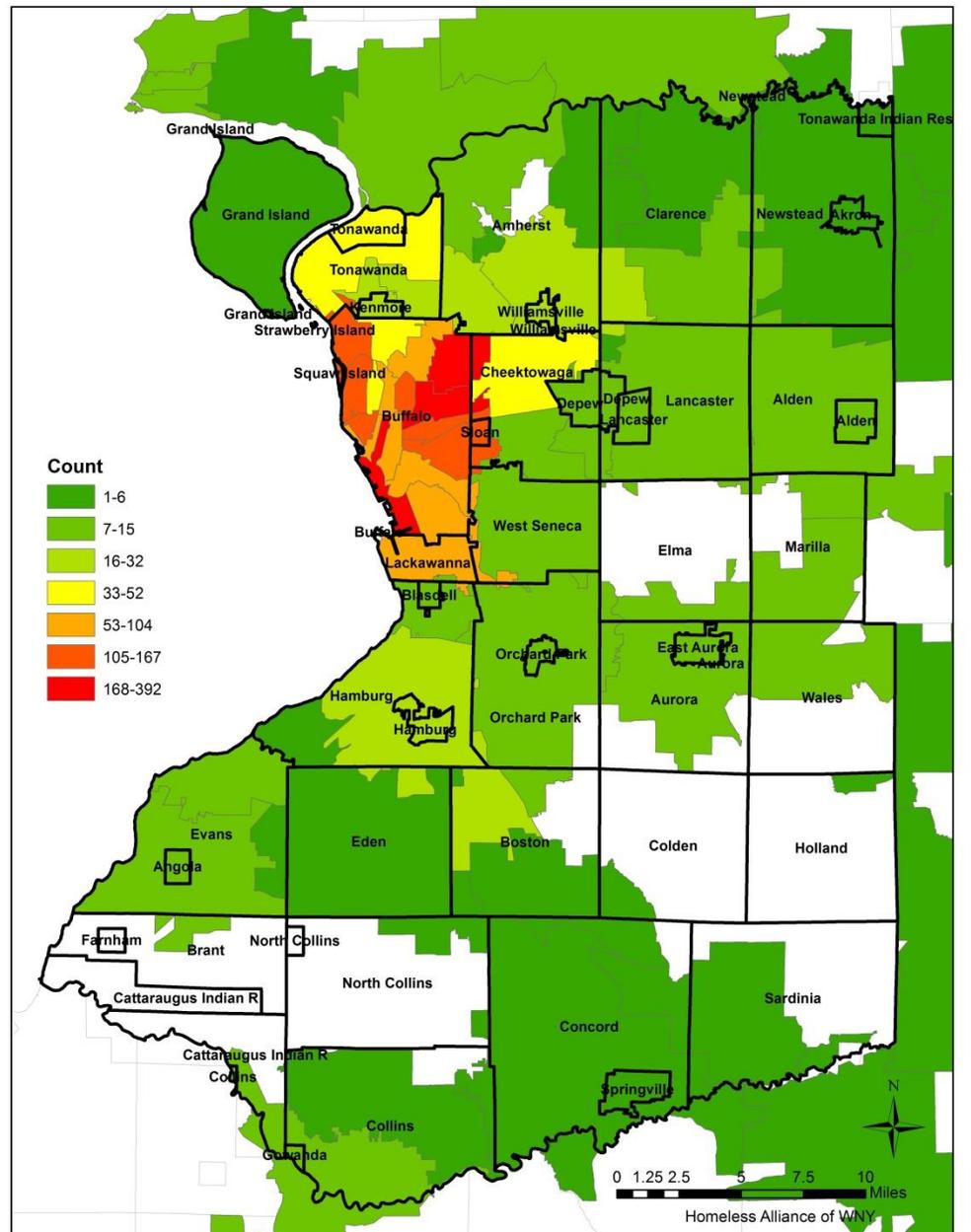


2013 Annual Report on the State of Homelessness in Erie County

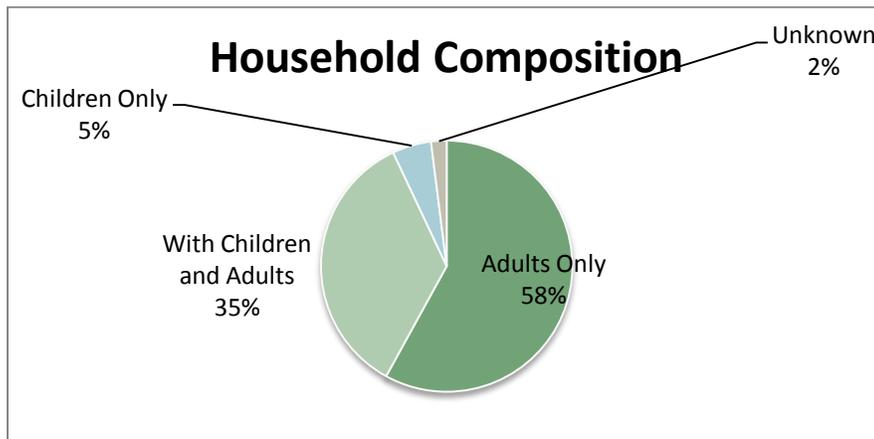
Executive Summary



Key Findings

	2012	2013	% change
Estimated total people who experienced homelessness	5681	5754	+1.2%
Point-In-Time	910	848	-6.8%

- While the number of people accessing homeless services remained steady, those needing housing assistance increased. The data shows that there are more people who received multiple services this year.
- An estimated 2,084 people in families with children stayed in Emergency shelter or Transitional Housing in 2013. This was a 3% (67 people) increase from the previous year.
- An estimated 3,190 adults without children stayed in Emergency shelter or Transitional Housing in 2013. This was a 5% (154 people) increase from the previous year.



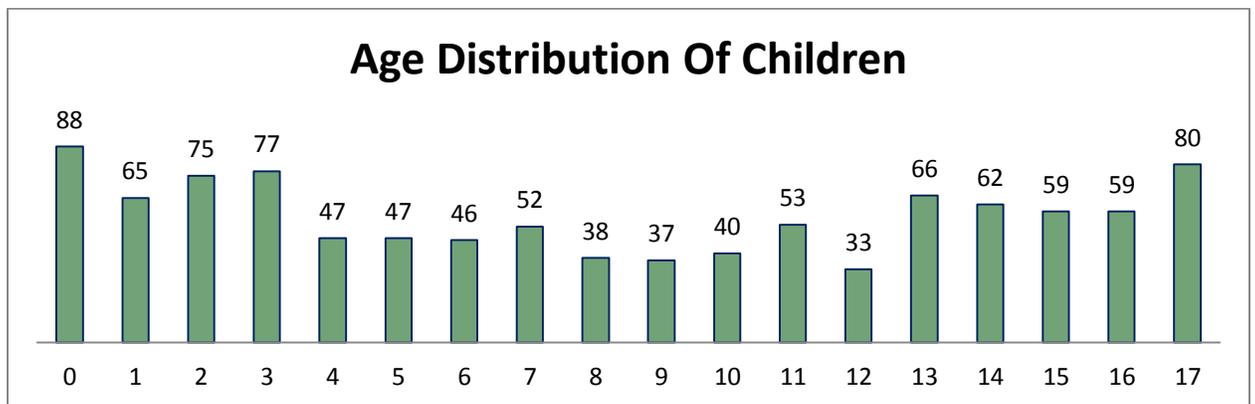
- A total of 2,270 people were Newly Homeless¹ in 2013.
- The two-year recidivism rate for people who experience homelessness is 23%.²

Repeated Homeless Household Composition	Household with Adults and children	Household with only adults	Household with only children
Persons	103	514	45
Households	45	512	45

¹ “Newly Homeless” means, for the purposes of this section, that a person that hasn’t entered the homeless system in the past two years (10/1/2010-9/30/2012), and had only one homeless episode during this report period (10/1/2012-9/30/2013).

² This statistic is calculated using the following criteria: A person that has been homeless during the prior two years (10/1/2010-9/30/2012) and entered the homeless system again within this report period (10/1/2012-9/30/2013) -OR- A person that has multiple entries in this report period and between each homeless episode has at least a 30 days’ interval.

- Selected racial and ethnic composition of the homeless population:
 - 50% African American
 - 38% White
 - 15% Hispanic
- 31% of people who experienced homelessness stayed with family and friend prior to becoming homeless.
- 81% of those who experienced homelessness in 2013 were located within the City of Buffalo.
- The majority of clients who stayed in Emergency Shelters remained there for less than 30 days.
- There were 257 Homeless Veterans in 2013, and 16% (41 individuals) of those were female.
- 44% (1,682) of the homeless population have one or more disabling conditions with the most common being mental illness and substance abuse.
- 26.6% of the total homeless population is made up of children under the age of 18.



- The overall gender composition is 64% Male and 36% Female. The majority of homeless individual adults are males and the majority of homeless families are female heads of household.
- HMIS records indicate that a total of 246 persons fit the definition of chronically homeless and are in need of housing.³

³ The standards for chronic homelessness include: Must have a disabling condition, has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years

Recommendations

- There is tremendous need for safe and affordable rental housing in the community. In addition to overall affordable housing, Erie County could use 500 Single Room Occupancy and 300 Housing First units for the chronically homeless.
- In order to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in Erie County a concentrated effort is needed to offer case management to those who experience multiple episodes of homelessness.
- The number of homeless households with children continues to grow. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and CoC funds could be used for Rapid-Rehousing. National research has indicated this is a successful model for assisting homeless families because most people require only modest and short-term assistance. We need to refine the current pilot programs to develop an effective local Rapid Re-housing program.
- The HAWNY staff will continue to research cost-effective prevention strategies.
- Expand the HMIS coverage rate and improve data quality for a more comprehensive and reliable data system. The current trend in decision-making and planning is to base funding decisions on data. With more accurate and complete data, our community will have better planning and decision-making.
- Develop a Coordinated Entry/Assessment system to effectively reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness and their length of stay by directing homeless persons to the most appropriate service(s).
- We need to better coordinate the available resources from federal, state, local and the private sector to end homelessness. CDBG, HOME, general funds and tax credits must be utilized for homeless populations.
- More living wage jobs are needed in order to stem the rise of poverty, and as a result, homelessness. The fundamental cause of homelessness is the inability to afford housing.