

Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties

Unsheltered Client Totals

	2019 HMIS	2019 Estimated Total Count	2020 HMIS	2020 Estimated Total Count	% Change
Genesee County	183	209	179	194	-7.18%
Orleans County	271	300	91	121	-59.67%
Wyoming County	0	69	64	92	+33.33%

Table 1: Total homelessness in the last 2 years

Overall, there was a net decrease in the number of individuals served by Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming counties during fiscal year 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020). Orleans county saw the greatest decrease in clients served which they attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, both because there were fewer people in need and because they may not have been able to accurately track all of the clients they served as a result of a change in their working conditions. At the same time, Genesee county's total remained consistent and Wyoming county's total appears to have increased by a third. While an overall increase is accurate, it appears to be greater than it actually is because of a non-HMIS participating project underreporting the total individuals served in 2019.

Demographics for Clients Seeking Shelter through DSS

In FY2020, the Department of Social Services for Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming counties were the only HMIS-participating providers for clients seeking immediate shelter the area. The only other HMIS-participating program, Eagle Star, is based in Genesee county but works with veterans who are often referred to them from outside of the Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming region. For this reason, we have not included their demographics.

The following charts represent the 283 clients served by the Department of Social Services in the three counties. DSS serves as the entry point for individuals to gain services in each county and is considered the first step for clients who are looking for shelter and other housing assistance.

Household Type	# of Households	% of Households	# of Clients	% of Clients
Single Adult	209	90.5%	209	73.9%
Families	22	9.5%	74	26.1%
Couple with No Children	1	0.4%	2	0.7%
Female Single Parent	14	6.1%	51	18.0%
Male Single Parent	1	0.4%	2	0.7%
Other	1	0.4%	2	0.7%
Two Parent Family	5	2.2%	17	6.0%
Grand Total	231		283	

Table 2: Family type distribution of the households experiencing homelessness (1 single adult = 1 household)

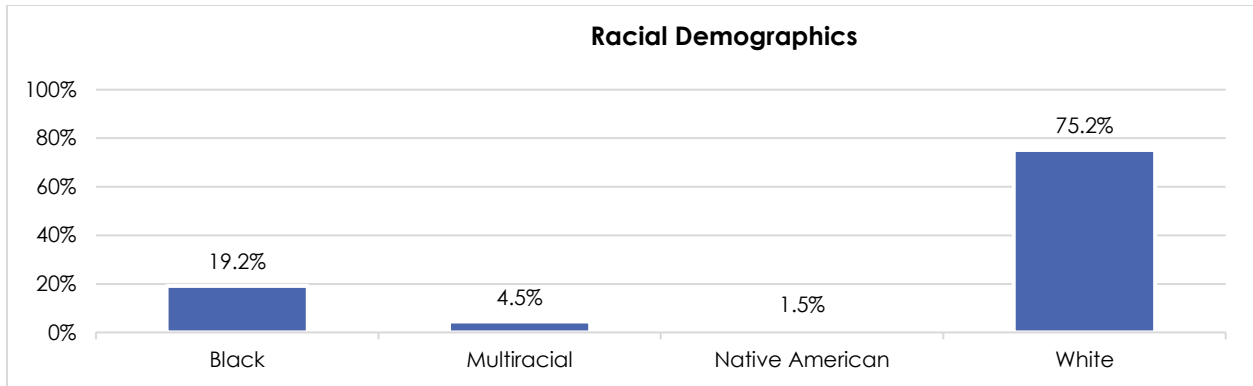


Figure 1: Percent of population in each racial category who reported their race (267 clients)

	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	Data not collected	Total
Black	0	46	5	51
Multiracial	5	7	0	12
Native American	1	3	0	4
White	13	178	9	200
Data not collected	1	1	14	16
Total	20	235	28	283

Table 3: Breakdown of the race and ethnicity for all clients served (283 clients)

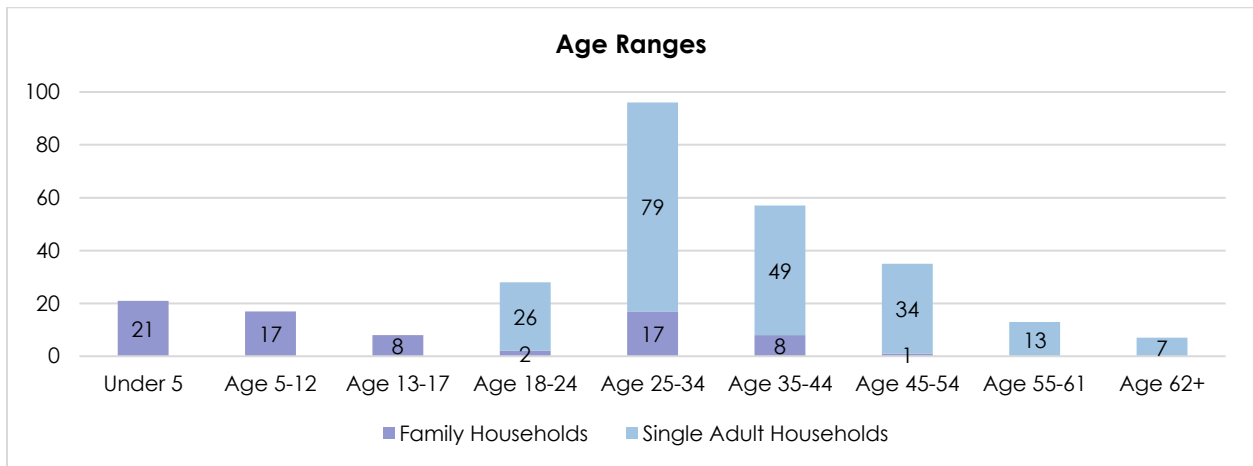
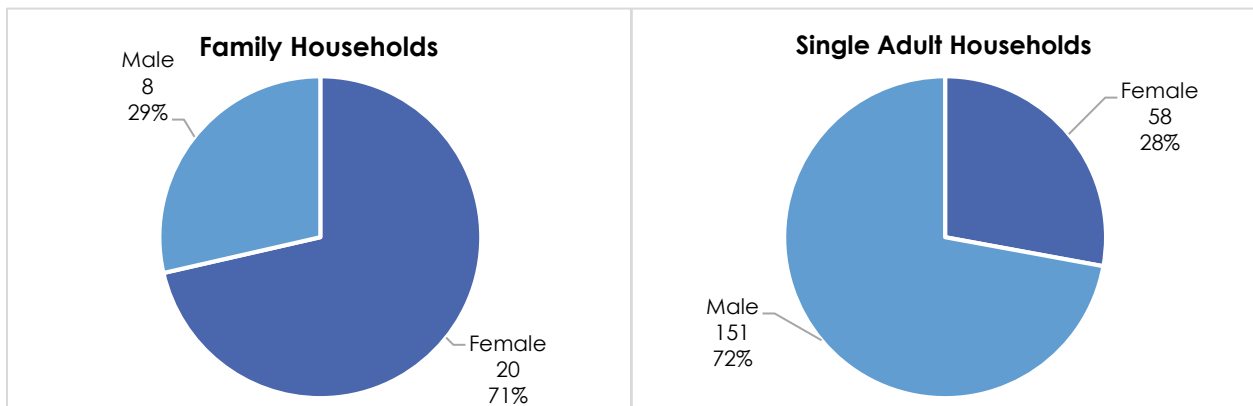


Figure 2: Age of all clients served who provided a date of birth broken down by household type (282 clients)



Figures 3 and 4: Breakdown of gender by household type for heads of households and their spouses (237 clients)

Residence Prior to Project Entry	Client Count	%
Emergency shelter, hotel/motel paid for w/ voucher, or RHY Host Home shelter	55	31.8%
Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility	47	27.2%
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house	18	10.4%
Place not meant for habitation	16	9.2%
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house	16	9.2%
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	8	4.6%
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	6	3.5%
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	4	2.3%
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	1	0.6%
Rental by client in a public housing unit	1	0.6%
Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	1	0.6%

Table 4: Locations where clients stayed the night before requesting housing assistance according to heads of households, not including those who did not provide a response (173 clients)

Exit Destinations		
Permanent	130	47.8%
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	10	3.7%
Permanent housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons	4	1.5%
Rental by client in a public housing unit	2	0.7%
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	73	26.8%
Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy	32	11.8%
Staying or living with family, permanent tenure	7	2.6%
Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure	2	0.7%
Temporary	34	12.5%
Emergency shelter, hotel/motel paid for w/ voucher, or RHY Host Home shelter	1	0.4%
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	21	7.7%
Staying or living with family, temporary tenure	2	0.7%
Staying or living with friends, temporary tenure	10	3.7%
Institution	6	2.2%
Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility	4	1.5%
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	2	0.7%
No Data Available	102	37.5%
Client doesn't know	24	8.8%
Client refused	8	2.9%
Data not collected	50	18.4%
Deceased	1	0.4%
No exit interview completed	16	5.9%
Other	3	1.1%
Grand Total	272	

Table 5: Exit destinations provided by the heads of households after exiting (272 households)

Demographics for Clients Assisted Through Rapid Rehousing

Clients from Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming counties who are seeking housing assistance after experiencing homelessness are referred to Independent Living of the Genesee Region's Rapid Rehousing program. This is the only HMIS-participating housing program that serves clients in this region. These clients are housed for most of their stay in the program, so they are not included in the count of clients experiencing homelessness.

The following charts represent the clients Independent Living of the Genesee Region's Rapid Rehousing program has served and entered into HMIS. These clients have already been assessed by a shelter or DSS and reached a level of vulnerability that recommends housing assistance.

Household Type	# of Households	% of Households	# of Clients	% of Clients
Single Adult	52	69.3%	52	43.0%
Families	23	30.7%	69	57.0%
Couple with No Children	2	2.7%	4	3.3%
Female Single Parent	15	20.0%	45	37.2%
Male Single Parent	1	1.3%	2	1.7%
Two Parent Family	5	6.7%	18	14.9%
Grand Total	75		121	

Table 6: Family type distribution of the households served by rapid rehousing (1 single adult = 1 household)

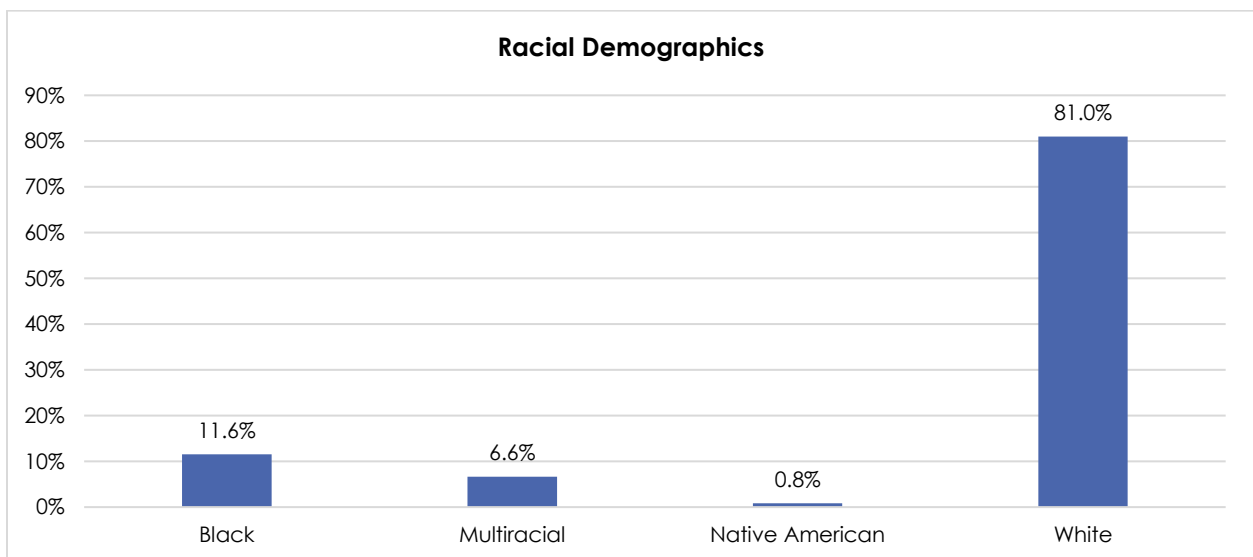


Figure 4: Percent of population in each racial category who reported their race (121 clients)

	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	Data not collected	Total
Black	0	14	0	14
Multiracial	0	7	1	8
Native American	0	1	0	1
White	7	91	0	98
Total	7	113	1	121

Table 7: Breakdown of the race and ethnicity for all clients served (121 clients)

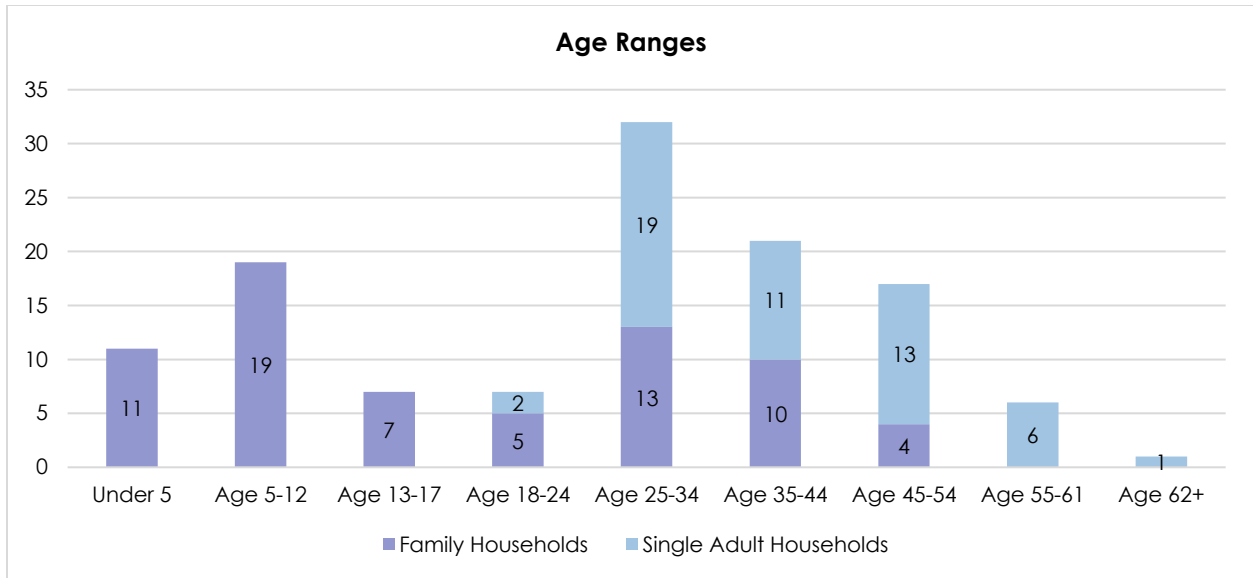
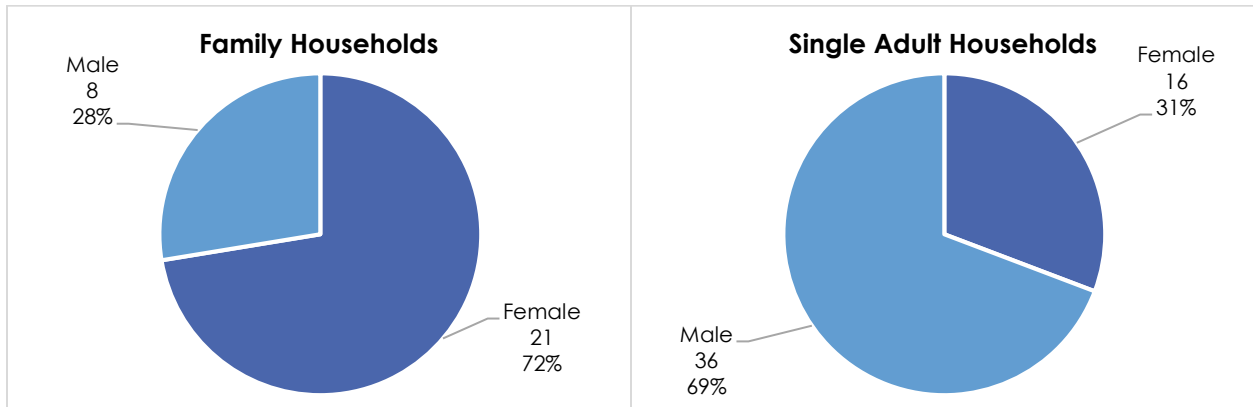


Figure 5: Age of all clients who provided a date of birth broken down by household type (121 clients)



Figures 6 and 7: Breakdown of gender by household type for heads of households and their partners (81 clients)

Residence Prior to Project Entry	Client Count	Percent
Emergency shelter, hotel/motel paid w/ voucher, or RHY Host Home shelter	52	70.3%
Place not meant for habitation	9	12.2%
Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy	4	5.4%
Jail, prison or juvenile detention facility	3	4.1%
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house	2	2.7%
Interim Housing	1	1.4%
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house	1	1.4%
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	1	1.4%
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	1	1.4%

Table 8: Locations where clients stayed the night before requesting housing assistance according to heads of households, not including those who did not provide a response (74 households)

Exit Destinations	Count	%
Permanent	10	47.6%
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	6	28.6%
Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy	4	19.0%
Temporary	11	52.4%
Emergency shelter, hotel/motel paid for w/ voucher, or RHY Host Home shelter	11	52.4%
Grand Total	21	

Table 9: Exit destinations provided by the heads of households after exiting from rapid rehousing during FY2020 (21 households)

Conclusion: Policy Recommendations

The solutions to homelessness is a home. Some people may need more support to remain housed but the basic solution is still finding people safe, affordable and decent housing. The biggest problem is there are not enough affordable housing units available for those at the lowest income levels.

While New York State's laudable initiative to create 100,000 affordable housing units and 6,000 supportive housing units is a good start, these projects often don't reach those at the lowest income levels. A soon-to-be released study by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is going to verify and quantify the deficit of housing options for those at the lowest income levels. Until we address this deficit, homelessness and people living in substandard housing will continue to be an issue.

Even with the additional Section 8 vouchers provided by the federal government, homelessness will still be an issue because there are not enough available housing units. Some people are losing their allocated vouchers because they can't find housing.

National, State and local elected officials will proclaim they are doing the best they can to address this issue, and there is no doubt of their sincerity, it simply isn't enough. We all have to do better.

The Homeless Alliance of WNY recommends:

1. There are three ways to provide housing to those most in need:
 - a. Subsidize renters with more Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)
 - b. Further subsidize the developers with HOME funds and project based Section 8 vouchers.
 - c. Invest in public housing through rehabilitation of existing units and the creations of new public housing units.
2. The housing marketing study conducted by LISC cannot be allowed to collect dust on a shelf. Once it is released, all levels of government, nonprofits and the private sector must embrace and commit to building more affordable housing for those at the lowest income levels.
3. Housing is an undisputed Social Determinant of health. The medical community must be more involved in providing housing and end questionable releases of patients into homelessness and unstable housing.

4. There needs to be better discharge planning between correctional facilities and homelessness providers. Too often, people cycle between homelessness and corrections. It's been proven that stable housing reduces recidivism.

In conclusion, the solution to homelessness is housing, housing and housing. It isn't rocket science. There are no magic bullets. The solution is very easy and very complex at the same time. The question is do we have the collective will to finally end homelessness?