

Emergency shelters, transitional housing, and battered women's shelters

*Ramsey County data collection project
Thirteenth annual report*

D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 4

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Thirteenth annual report
(Based on data collected 1991 – 2003)*

December 2004

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Contents

Summary	1
Introduction.....	6
Emergency shelters	7
Background.....	7
Count of individuals.....	8
Count of adults.....	9
Profile of emergency shelter users	10
Sex and age of adults using emergency shelters	10
Race/ethnicity of adults using emergency shelters	10
Children in emergency shelters.....	13
Previous living arrangements and barriers: Shelters in Ramsey County’s central intake system.....	15
Living arrangements of adults before entering emergency shelters	15
Addresses of adults before entering emergency shelters	16
Educational level of adults in emergency shelters	18
Income sources of adults in the month before entering emergency shelters	19
Household income of adults in the month before entering emergency shelters	21
Reasons leading adults to enter emergency shelters	22
Housing outcome of adults exiting Ramsey County funded emergency shelters.....	23
Adults diverted from emergency shelter.....	23
Emergency shelter use patterns.....	24
Number of stays in emergency shelters	24
Total number of days adults stayed in emergency shelters.....	25
Repeat use of emergency shelters	27
Days in shelter for those repeating use of emergency shelters	28
Chronic use of emergency shelters	28
Emergency shelter stays from 1991 to 2003.....	29
Transitional housing programs	30
Background.....	30
Count of individuals.....	31
Count of adults.....	32

Contents (continued)

Profile of persons using transitional housing programs.....	33
Gender and age of adults using transitional housing	33
Race and ethnicity of adults using transitional housing.....	33
Children in transitional housing.....	37
Previous living arrangements and barriers: Transitional housing.....	39
Living arrangements of adults before entering transitional housing	39
Previous addresses of adults entering transitional housing.....	40
Educational level of adults upon entering transitional housing	42
Employment status of adults upon entering transitional housing	42
Employment status of adults upon entering transitional housing.....	43
Household income of adults in month before entering transitional housing	43
Status of adults at exit from transitional housing.....	44
Reasons leading adults to enter transitional housing	45
Adults returning to emergency shelter after leaving transitional housing	47
Transitional housing use patterns.....	47
Length of stay in transitional housing.....	47
Battered women’s shelters	48
Appendices.....	51
Data sources	53
Emergency, transitional and battered women’s shelter summary	54
Adult shelters	55
Battered women’s shelters	56
Transitional housing.....	57

Figures

1. Individuals entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003	8
2. Individuals entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003.....	9
3. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Family status while at shelter	9
4. Number of adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1991-2003.....	10
5. Characteristics of adults who entered Ramsey County emergency shelters in 1994-2003	11
6. Race and ethnicity of adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 ..	12
7. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003 percentage African American.....	12
8. Characteristics of children with adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003	14
9. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Previous living arrangements by family status (multiple responses).....	15
10. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Place of previous residence	16
11. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003 Last permanent address in Ramsey County.....	17
12. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003 Where lived most of last five years in Ramsey County	17
13. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Highest educational level.....	18
14. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003 Proportion completing high school or GED	19
15. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Income sources in the month before entering shelter (multiple response)	20
16. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Household income last month	21
17. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003 Average household income last month.....	22
18. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Self-reported reasons leading to shelter (multiple responses)	22
19. Housing status of adults with children exiting Ramsey County-funded emergency shelters, 2003.....	23
20. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Number of separate stays (with more than three nights between uses).....	25

Figures continued

21. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Total number of days in shelters	25
22. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003 Mean and median total number of days in shelters	26
23. Adults re-entering shelter within the same year, Ramsey County, 1994-2003	27
24. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Days in shelter for repeat users	28
25. Individuals using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003.....	31
26. Individuals using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994-2003	31
27. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Family status while in transitional housing.....	32
28. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994-2003 Family status while in transitional housing.....	32
29. Characteristics of adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994-2003...	34
30. Race and ethnicity of adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003	35
31. Race and ethnicity of adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994-2003	36
32. Characteristics of children with their parents in transitional housing (upon entering), Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003	38
33. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Previous living arrangements before entering (multiple responses)	39
34. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Last permanent address.....	40
35. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Where lived most of last five years	40
36. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003 Last permanent address.....	41
37. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003 Where lived most of the last five years	41
38. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Highest educational level upon first entering transitional housing.....	42
39. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003 Proportion completing high school or GED at the time of entry	42
40. Adults entering transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Income sources at entry (multiple responses).....	43

Figures continued

41. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Exit status (multiple responses).....	45
42. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Self-reported reasons leading to transitional housing (multiple response).....	46
43. Adults exiting transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003 Steady work in the month before entering, and steady work and in training at exit from transitional housing.....	46
44. Adults exiting transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2002 Length of stay in transitional housing.....	47
45. Number of women exiting from battered women’s shelters, Ramsey County, 1992-2003	48
46. Profile of women and children who exited battered women’s shelters, Ramsey County, 1998-2003	49
47. Lengths of stays (in days) of women exiting battered women’s shelters, Ramsey County, 1992-2003	50

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Summary

This is the thirteenth annual report about the use of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and battered women's shelters in Ramsey County. Emergency shelters and transitional housing programs participate in the project by providing client-level data that allows us to unduplicate the number of people served, track returns to shelter and total nights in shelter, and examine the flow between emergency shelter and transitional housing. Battered women's shelters provide counts of persons served and limited demographic information.

The most notable change affecting the information reported here is the conversion of Catholic Charities' 150 bed Dorothy Day program from a winter only shelter to a year-round shelter in 2003. Dorothy Day primarily serves adult men without children. This added capacity appears to have met a demand, as reflected in the increases in numbers using emergency shelter this year.

Emergency shelter use

In 2003, 4,215 individuals are known to have used emergency shelter; a 21 percent increase from 2002. This year the total number of adults entering emergency shelter – 3,544 – returned to the higher levels seen in the first five years of this project, after hovering around 2,500 from 1997 to 2002. On the other hand, the number of children in emergency shelter – 671 – is the lowest in this project's 13 year history.

Age and race/ethnicity of adults in emergency shelter

The average age of those using emergency shelter each year in Ramsey County generally has been increasing since the early 1990s and for the first time more than half of adults using shelter in 2003 were age 40 or older. The racial composition of adult shelter users has remained fairly stable for more than decade: about half of all adults were African American (compared with about 12% of all Ramsey County residents), and slightly more than one-third were White (compared with about 75% of all Ramsey County residents).

Patterns of emergency shelter use

In 2003 the trend was toward more frequent and shorter stays. Adult shelter users were more likely to return to shelter than has been the case since the project started, but the average length of stay was shorter than has been the case in the past two years. This was driven at least in part by the conversion of Dorothy Day from a winter only shelter to a year-round shelter, since the pattern of shelter usage there tends toward frequent and short stays.

For this report a shelter stay is defined as continuous residence in a shelter. A stay can include an absence of up to three nights; if a person is absent from shelter for four nights or more, that person's return to shelter is considered a new stay. The total number of separate stays for adults in shelter in 2003 – 9,395 – is the highest recorded since this project started. Additionally, for the first time half of all adult shelter users had more than one stay during the year. Also, the average number of stays in shelter during 2003, 2.7, was higher than all previous years in the project. On the other hand, average length of stay was down for adults without children.

In 2003, 148 households, including 403 individuals, benefited from Ramsey County's shelter diversion program. Through the diversion program intake workers at the County's central intake office identify households that could avoid having to stay in shelter by receiving immediate rent payment or some other form of emergency assistance. Over three-quarters of those receiving assistance were households headed by females and 65 percent of the diverted households included children. Only 15 of the 148 households, or 10 percent, returned to stay in shelter in 2003.

Since the start of this project we have tracked "chronic shelter use," defined as at least one night in shelter each quarter, or eight or more days per quarter for at least three quarters. In 2003 we identified 221 chronic shelter users. At over 6 percent of all adults using shelter, this far exceeds the 2 to 3 percent reported in any previous year of the project.

Transitional housing use

In 2003, 699 individuals stayed in one of the eight transitional housing programs that participated in the data collection project. This was 33 fewer than in 2002, but was higher than the numbers reported 1999-2001. Like previous years, nearly half of all people living in transitional housing were children, and about one-quarter were women without children. Only 4 percent were males without children.

The type of adults using transitional housing continues to differ substantially from those using emergency shelter. Forty-three percent are adults with children, compared with 12 percent of adults in shelter; 49 percent are women without children, compared with 16 percent of adults in shelter; and 8 percent are men without children, compared with 72 percent of adults in shelter.

According to the data maintained by this project, 27 percent of all adults living in transitional housing in 2003 had stayed in an emergency shelter in Ramsey County (not including battered women's shelters) at some time during the past 13 years, and 4 percent had previously stayed in transitional housing. Over the course of the data collection

project nearly 2,500 adults have exited transitional housing programs, with 18 percent of these later entering emergency shelters.

Use of battered women's shelters

Battered women's shelters reported 1,129 women exiting their programs in 2003. This is a decrease from the previous two years, but remains the fifth highest volume reported over the twelve years that battered women's shelters have participated in this project.

Fifty-nine percent of the adults exiting domestic violence shelters are women without children. Heightened data privacy practices among battered women's shelters prevent Wilder Research Center from tracking the number of women and children who stay in these shelters and the county's emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

Men alone in shelter and transitional housing

The number of men entering emergency shelter in 2003 (2,546), was nearly 40 percent higher than the number entering in 2002. Males alone continue to comprise the largest percentage of emergency shelter users (72% of all adults in 2003). Additionally, males alone are more likely to have repeat stays than either adult women alone or adults accompanied by children.

For the second consecutive year, adult men without children made up less than 10 percent of the transitional housing population; only 29 unaccompanied men lived in transitional housing in 2003. Forty-five percent of the men entering emergency shelters in 2003 were African American, while only two of the men without children in transitional housing were African American.

Women alone in shelter and transitional housing

In 2003, 571 females alone (without children) entered emergency shelter. This is an increase of 186 women, or nearly 50 percent more than the number that entered emergency shelter in 2002. Women not accompanied by children make up 16 percent of adults in shelter, and 49 percent of adults in transitional housing.

Like men unaccompanied by children, women alone tended to have more returns to emergency shelter and shorter stays in 2003 as compared with 2002. Over 40 percent had a repeat stay, compared with 33 percent in 2002, and the median number of days in shelter was 5, compared with 11 in 2002.

Families in shelter and transitional housing

The number of families using emergency shelter increased to 349 in 2003 from 337 in 2001. In general, the number of families in emergency shelter has dropped over the past several years from a high of 642 in 1992, largely due to a diversion program and residency requirements.

In 2003, 158 families lived in the transitional housing programs that participated in the data collection project.

Children in shelter and transitional housing

Fewer children with parents stayed in Ramsey County emergency shelters in 2003 than any of the 13 years of the data collection project. The 671 children reported in 2003 made up 16 percent of all emergency shelter users, which is the lowest such proportion ever reported. At 1.9, the average number of children per family served in shelter was below two for the first time. Note that this project does not include information from agencies serving homeless youth who are not accompanied by their parents.

There were no comparable drops in the number of children served by transitional housing or battered women's shelters. In 2003 children comprised 47 percent of transitional housing users, and 42 percent of those exiting battered women's shelters. The number of children staying in transitional housing programs that participate in the data collection project in 2003, 330, is somewhat lower than reported last year, but slightly more than reported in 1999 through 2001.

Unduplicated number of persons using emergency shelter and transitional housing

In 2003, 3,878 adults and 940 children used Ramsey County's emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or both. This includes 2,578 adult males unaccompanied by children, 753 adult females unaccompanied by children, and 546 adults with children. For comparison, the unduplicated numbers for the past two years were as follows:

- In 2002, 2,955 adults and 1,021 children used Ramsey County's emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or both. This included 1,857 adult males unaccompanied by children, 547 adult females unaccompanied by children, and 551 adults with children.

- In 2001, 2,924 adults and 917 children used Ramsey County's emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or both. This included 1,932 adult males unaccompanied by children, 521 adult females unaccompanied by children, and 470 adults with children.

From 1991 to 2003, 38,100 men, women, and children have used emergency shelter, transitional housing, or both, in Ramsey County. This includes close to 27,500 adults and over 10,600 children. By type of program, over the same 13-year period:

- 25,572 adults (mostly single men) and 10,529 children have used emergency shelter.
- 2,455 adults (mostly females) and 1,444 children have used transitional housing.

Introduction

This is the thirteenth annual report about the use of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and battered women's shelters in Ramsey County. The project does not include facilities whose primary clientele is unaccompanied youth. This project helps funders, policymakers, and providers make decisions about homelessness by providing reliable and useful information. Most of the community organizations listed in the acknowledgements have demonstrated strong and continuous support for the project since it began in 1991.

The project began by identifying common data elements that all sites wanted to collect. The data set was modified slightly in 1994 to reflect changing reporting needs. Data are collected at intake for all persons entering emergency shelter, transitional housing, and battered women's shelters. Additional data are collected for all persons exiting transitional housing and, starting in July 1994, for persons exiting emergency shelter through Central Intake. Data are collected via self-administered forms at the Union Gospel Mission and by staff at other sites.

Data are regularly submitted to Wilder Research Center. After being loaded into a common database, the data are aggregated and unduplicated for reporting. Unless otherwise noted, descriptive data are reported for the most current stay.

Policy changes in service delivery since the project started include Ramsey County's investment in a Central Intake office (1992) and a diversion program (1993). In 1999, Ramsey County closed the Lowry Family shelter and opened the Family Service Center in Maplewood. In 2000, Catholic Charities opened its Dorothy Day extended hours emergency shelter, which mainly houses single adult men, during the winter months. This past year Dorothy Day began providing year-round services.

Emergency shelters

Background

The information in this section comes from data submitted by the six emergency shelters for adults in Ramsey County, not including domestic violence shelters. Two of the shelters are largely privately funded and cater primarily to single adult males: Union Gospel Mission, which provides 82 beds nightly, and Catholic Charities' Dorothy Day extended hours program, which provides 150 beds. The Dorothy Day shelter, previously only open during the winter months, was open year-round for the first time in 2003.

The four other shelters operate under Ramsey County's central intake system and are subject to the County's residency, eligibility, and length-of stay requirements. Adult males without children are referred to Catholic Charities' Mary Hall shelter (22 beds). Families with children and adult women without children are referred to the Family Service Center (45 beds for family members and 10 for single women). When the Family Service Center is full, families and single women are referred to the St. Paul Council of Churches' Project HOME, which provides 40 beds for family members and three for single women at the churches that take turns hosting the shelter. When the church shelters are full, families are referred to the Family Place, which also provides daytime activities for Project HOME clients and hosts the County's central intake office.

In 2003, as in previous years, Wilder Research Center processed the intake data from paper forms sent in by the central intake system on a monthly basis. Both Union Gospel Mission and Catholic Charities' Dorothy Day program participated in the project by providing electronic data, including client identifiers, and intake and exit dates. Data from these programs allows us to provide a fairly comprehensive unduplicated count of shelter users, their lengths of stay, and number of returns to shelter.

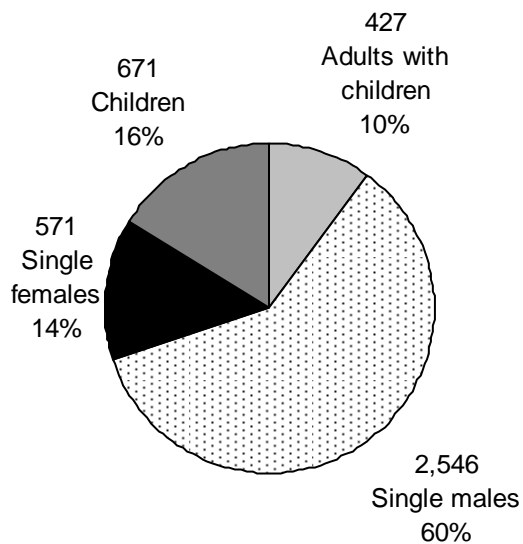
The two private shelters (Union Gospel Mission and Dorothy Day) provide a more limited set of data. Thus certain information, including educational status and income, is unknown for clients who only stayed at the private shelters. Additionally, as in 2001 and 2002, although some numbers of families are known to have stayed at the Dorothy Day shelter, Catholic Charities did not collect family status and child identifiers. Thus the counts of children, counts of families, and total counts of individuals reported here are likely somewhat conservative, and the counts of adult males and females alone are likely slightly inflated.

Count of individuals

In 2003, 4,215 individuals are known to have used emergency shelters in Ramsey County, 872 more than in 2002. Sixty percent were single men, and 14 percent were single women. About one-quarter (26%) were individuals in families, including the 16 percent who were children.

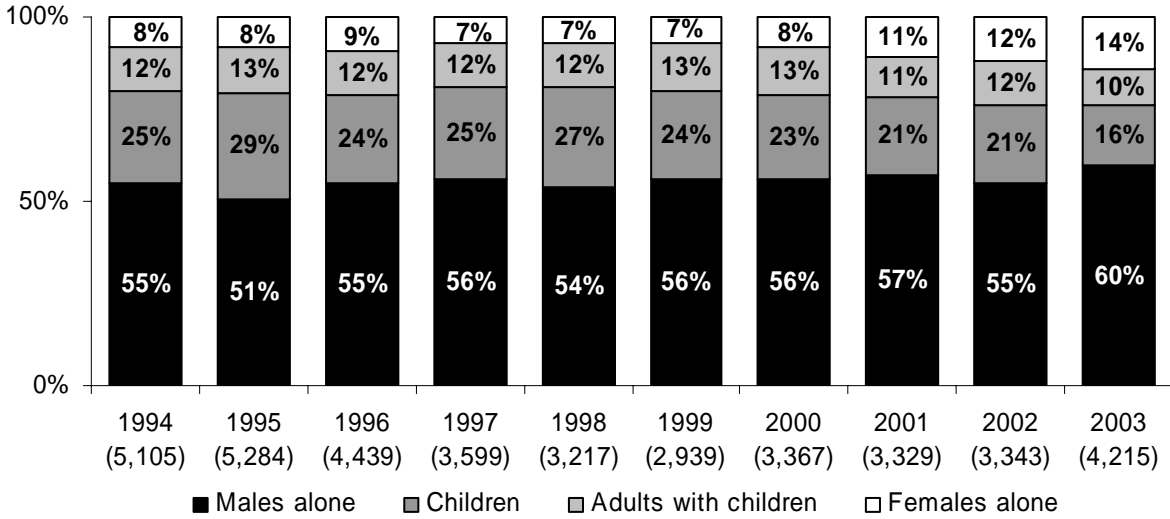
In the past 10 years, the percentage of females alone in emergency shelters has generally increased, from 8 percent in 1994 to 14 percent in 2003. Single males alone in emergency shelters generally have been in the range of 55 to 60 percent of all individuals in shelter for each of in the last 10 years. The proportion and number of children comprising all emergency shelter users is at its lowest point since this project began. The percent of the population of adults with children, however, has remained steady.

1. Individuals entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 (N=4,215)*



* Adults who entered shelters both alone and with children during the year are counted only as "with children."

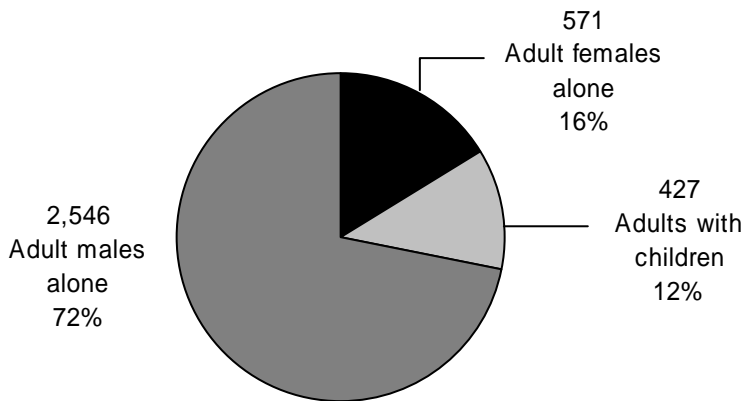
2. Individuals entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003



Count of adults

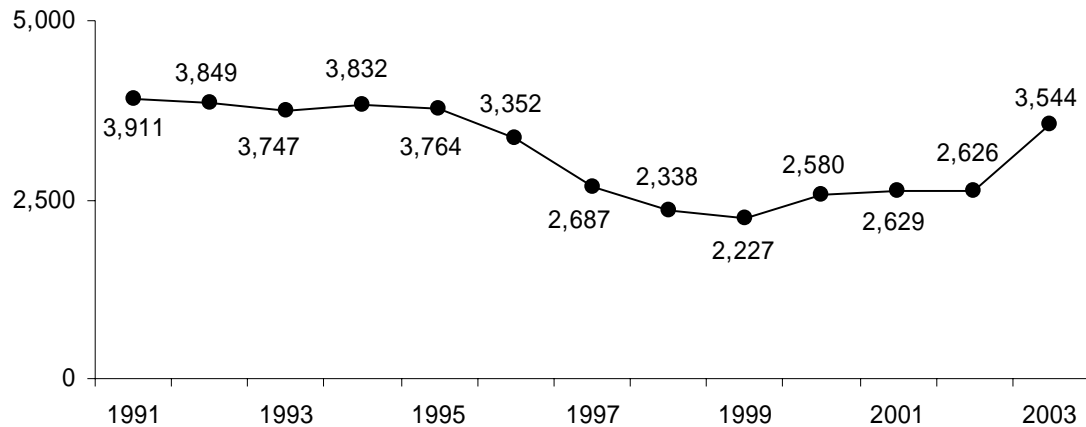
Over 3,500 different adults used emergency shelters in Ramsey County in 2003, an increase of over 900 adults from last year. The main reason for this increase is likely the opening of the Dorothy Day shelter to year-round service; in previous years Dorothy Day was only open during the winter months. The number of adults using emergency shelter services is at its highest since 1995, when 3,764 adults used shelters. Seventy-two percent of the adults were single men, and 16 percent were single women. Adults in families make up the remaining 12 percent of shelter users.

**3. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003
Family status while at shelter (N=3,544)***



* Adults who entered shelters both alone and with children during the year are counted only as "with children."

4. Number of adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1991-2003



Profile of emergency shelter users

Sex and age of adults using emergency shelters

In 2003, as in previous years, three-quarters of adult shelter users were male and one-quarter were female.

For the first time since the project began in 1991, more than half of adults using shelter were age 40 or older. This proportion has been on a steady upward trend starting at about 30 percent in the early 1990s. In 2003 the average age of single males in shelter was 42, compared with 39 for single females, and 31 for adults accompanied by children.

Race/ethnicity of adults using emergency shelters

Forty-seven percent of adults entering emergency shelter in 2003 were African American, and slightly more than one-third were White, similar to every year of the project except the first two, when the proportion of whites exceeded all other groups. Also similar to previous years, nearly 7 in 10 adults with children were African American.

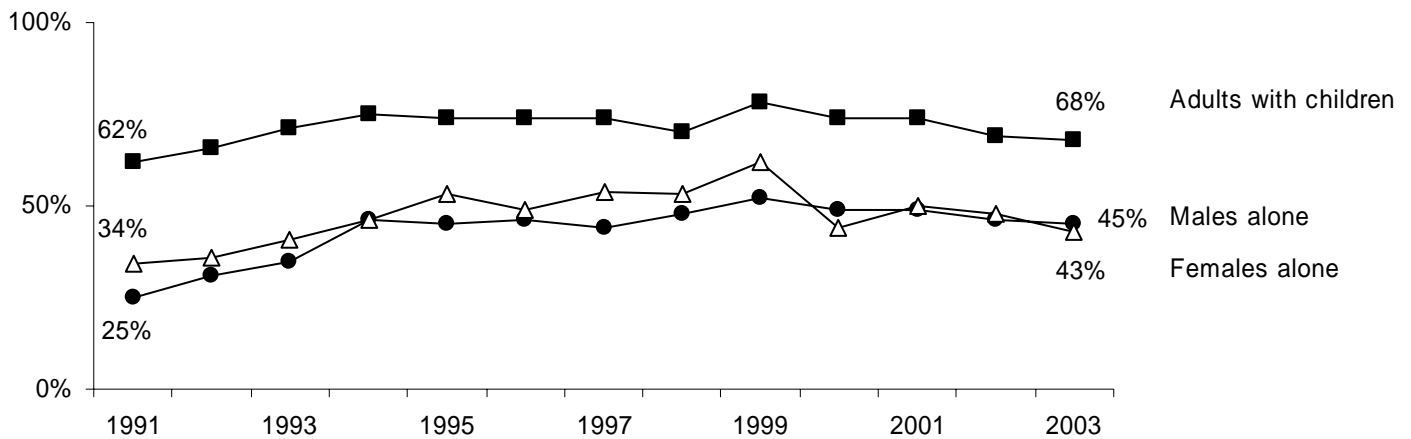
5. Characteristics of adults who entered Ramsey County emergency shelters in 1994-2003

	1994 (N=3,832)	1995 (N=3,764)	1996 (N=3,352)	1997 (N=2,687)	1998 (N=2,338)	1999 (N=2,227)	2000 (N=2,580)	2001 (N=2,625)	2002 (N=2,626)	2003 (N=3,544)
Sex										
Female	23%	26%	24%	22%	22%	22%	23%	24%	27%	25%
Male	77%	74%	76%	78%	78%	78%	77%	76%	73%	75%
Age	(N=3,504)	(N=3,546)	(N=3,188)	(N=2,525)	(N=2,257)	(N=2,169)	(N=2,528)	(N=2,580)	(N=2,604)	(N=3,508)
<20	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
20-29	30%	29%	24%	22%	19%	19%	19%	16%	18%	16%
30-39	40%	39%	41%	39%	39%	35%	35%	35%	31%	28%
40-49	17%	21%	22%	27%	28%	30%	32%	34%	34%	35%
50-59	6%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	11%	11%	15%
60+	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%
Race/ethnicity	(N=3,730)	(N=3,757)	(N=3,342)	(N=2,681)	(N=2,334)	(N=2,226)	(N=2,573)	(N=2,622)	(N=2,625)	(N=3,542)
White	32%	31%	32%	33%	33%	29%	33%	32%	35%	36%
African American	50%	51%	51%	50%	52%	57%	53%	53%	50%	47%
Hispanic	12%	14%	12%	12%	11%	10%	10%	10%	9%	9%
American Indian	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%

6. Race and ethnicity of adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003

	All adults (N=3,542)	Males alone (N=2,545)	Females alone (N=571)	Adults with children (N=426)
African American	47%	45%	43%	68%
White	36%	37%	43%	20%
Hispanic	9%	11%	4%	7%
American Indian	5%	4%	8%	3%
Other	3%	3%	3%	3%

**7. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003
percentage African American**



Children in emergency shelters

At least 671 different children used emergency shelters in Ramsey County in 2003, a decrease of 46 children from last year, and the lowest number reported since this project began in 1991. Note, however, that this count does not include any children whose only emergency shelter stay in 2003 may have been at the Dorothy Day shelter.

- About two-fifths of the children (41%) were age four or younger, similar to last year.
- Seventy percent of children were African-American, the lowest percentage since 1991. Eight percent of children were Hispanic. Although this is only three percentage points higher than last year, it is the highest percentage Hispanic recorded since the project began.
- Nearly half of families had only 1 child with them, and the average number of children per family (1.9) was below two for the first time since the beginning of the data collection project in 1991.

8. Characteristics of children with adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003

	1994 (N=1,273)	1995 (N=1,520)	1996 (N=1,087)	1997 (N=912)	1998 (N=879)	1999 (N=712)	2000 (N=786)	2001 (N=700)	2002 (N=717)	2003 (N=671)
Sex										
Boys	50%	48%	51%	52%	52%	51%	50%	50%	50%	53%
Girls	50%	52%	49%	48%	48%	49%	50%	50%	50%	47%
Age					(N=877)	(N=708)	(N=768)	(N=700)	(N=717)	(N=670)
2 or younger	29%	29%	29%	24%	24%	19%	21%	22%	24%	27%
3-4	17%	19%	17%	15%	15%	13%	11%	12%	15%	14%
5-9	32%	30%	30%	32%	31%	37%	34%	33%	31%	27%
10-12	13%	13%	13%	14%	16%	16%	16%	19%	16%	17%
13-14	5%	5%	7%	8%	8%	7%	9%	8%	7%	9%
15-18	3%	4%	5%	7%	6%	8%	7%	6%	8%	6%
Race/ethnicity					(N=870)	(N=710)	(N=750)	(N=700)	(N=716)	(N=670)
African American	82%	82%	76%	76%	75%	82%	76%	77%	76%	70%
White	9%	10%	11%	13%	15%	11%	15%	12%	11%	14%
Hispanic	5%	6%	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%	3%	5%	8%
American Indian	2%	1%	5%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%
Other groups	2%	2%	4%	4%	1%	2%	3%	5%	7%	6%
Number of children per family	(N=421 Families)	(N=520 Families)	(N=440 Families)	(N=358 Families)	(N=378 Families)	(N=314 Families)	(N=353 Families)	(N=312 Families)	(N=337 Families)	(N=349 Families)
1	35%	33%	40%	35%	33%	35%	37%	38%	41%	49%
2	28%	31%	28%	30%	30%	32%	28%	26%	30%	26%
3	18%	20%	17%	17%	18%	16%	19%	20%	14%	15%
4	11%	10%	9%	10%	12%	11%	11%	9%	8%	5%
5	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%	5%	4%	4%	6%	2%
6	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%
7 or more	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%
Mean	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9
Median	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Previous living arrangements and barriers: Shelters in Ramsey County's central intake system

Ramsey County's central intake system for emergency shelter includes Mary Hall men's shelter, the Family Service Center, Project Home, and the Family Place. Nearly 30 percent of all adults using shelter in Ramsey County stayed in one of these shelters in 2003, including 17 percent of all men without children, 33 percent of all women without children, and 100 percent of adults accompanied by children. Central intake staff collect a somewhat more comprehensive set of data than is the case for the other shelters, and therefore the information presented in this section pertain only to these adults served through the county's central intake system.¹

Living arrangements of adults before entering emergency shelters

Adults were asked to report all of their living arrangements during the month before entering shelter. In 2003, friends or relatives was the most commonly reported prior living arrangement for all adults, but "another shelter" was the most common previous living situation for males without children.

9. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Previous living arrangements by family status (multiple responses)

	All adults (N=772)	Males alone (N=318)	Females alone (N=136)	Adults with children (N=318)
Friends or relatives	47%	31%	49%	60%
Another shelter	35%	55%	29%	16%
Own place	13%	8%	9%	21%
On the streets	5%	10%	5%	1%
Correctional facility	2%	3%	4%	1%
Treatment facility	3%	5%	2%	1%
Hospital	3%	5%	3%	0%
Detox	<1%	1%	0%	0%
Other	5%	6%	6%	3%

Note: This table includes only adults served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system. Total served: 1,039 (421 males alone, 191 females alone, and 427 adults with children; numbers in table are somewhat lower due to missing data).

¹ In previous years we have reported information included in the following section for all shelters – but such information was actually only occasionally available from shelters outside of the County central intake system. To better define the population to whom this information pertains, this year we are including only those who entered through central intake in 2003.

Addresses of adults before entering emergency shelters

Upon intake, adults served through Ramsey County's central intake system were asked the geographic location of their last permanent, as well as where they lived for "most of the last 5 years." Not surprisingly, Ramsey County heads the list in both cases:

- 71 percent reported that their last permanent address was in Ramsey County.
- 56 percent reported that they lived in Ramsey County for most of the last five years.

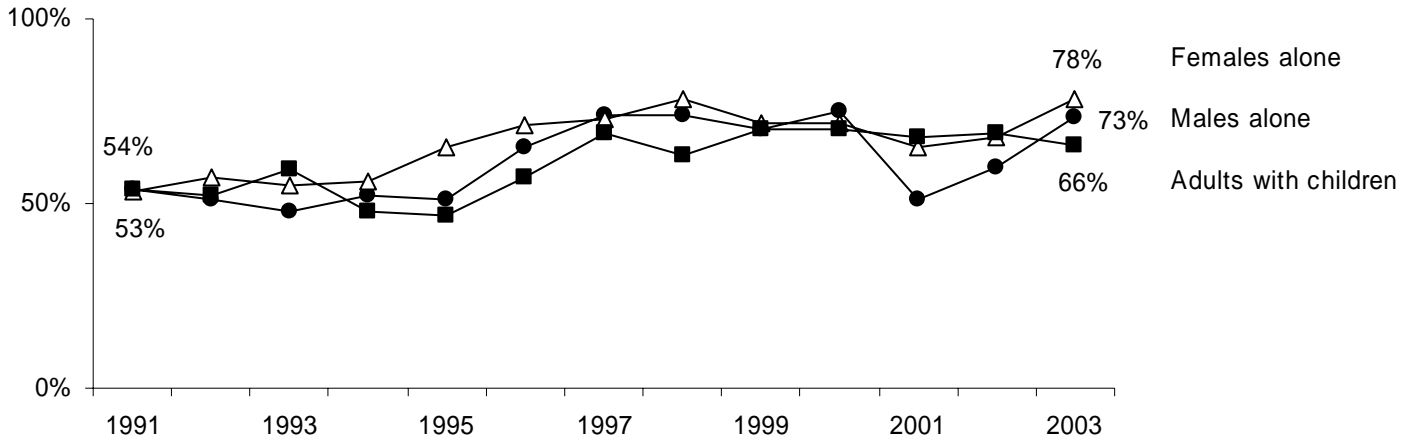
10. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Place of previous residence

	Last permanent address (N=1,034)	Where lived most of last five years* (N=869)
Ramsey County	71%	56%
Other Twin Cities Metro	5%	6%
Other Minnesota	2%	2%
Outside Minnesota	23%	36%

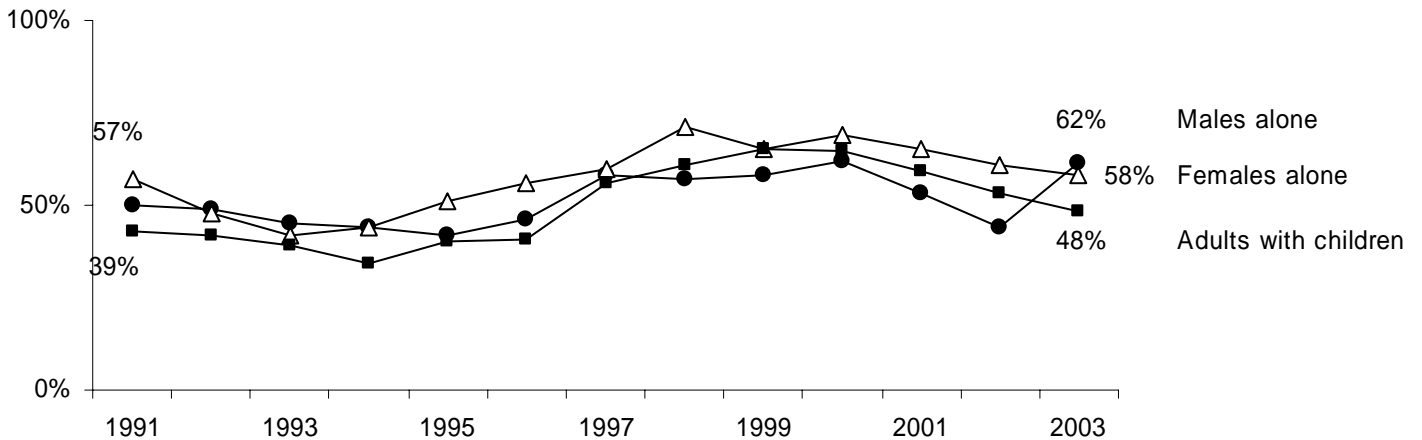
Note: This table includes only adults served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system. Total served: 1,039 (numbers in table are somewhat lower due to missing data).

The figures below show comparisons of previous locations by family status for 1994 to 2003.

11. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003
Last permanent address in Ramsey County



12. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003
Where lived most of last five years in Ramsey County



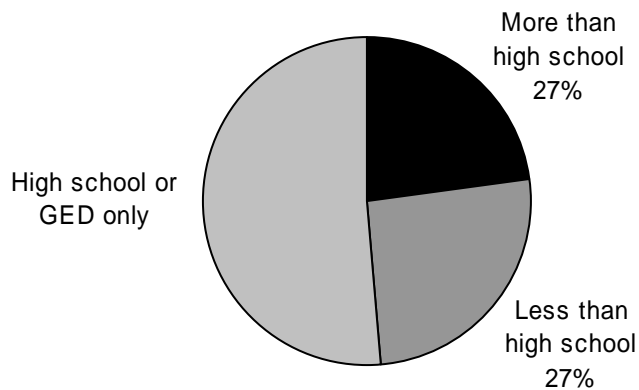
Note: These figures include only the sub-set of adults for whom the information was available. 2003 data includes only those served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system. Total served: 1,039 (421 males alone, 191 females alone, and 427 adults with children; numbers in represented in figures are somewhat lower due to missing data).

Educational level of adults in emergency shelters

Among adults entering shelter through Ramsey County central intake in 2003, three-fourths reported completing high school or having a GED, similar to recent years.

Over the past decade, the proportion of adults reporting that they have completed high school or earned their GED has generally increased. The greatest increase has been among adults with children, with 57 percent having completed high school or a GED in 1994, compared with 70 percent in 2003.

13. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Highest educational level (N=910)



Note: This figure includes only adults served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system. Total served: 1,039 (421 males alone, 191 females alone, and 427 adults with children; numbers represented in figure are somewhat lower due to missing data).

14. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003
Proportion completing high school or GED

Year	All adults	Males alone	Females alone	Adults with children
1994	(N=1,923) 68%	(N=953) 75%	(N=382) 66%	(N=588) 57%
1995	(N=1,430) 64%	(N=358) 70%	(N=412) 66%	(N=660) 59%
1996	(N=1,312) 67%	(N=445) 73%	(N=358) 66%	(N=509) 62%
1997	(N=975) 65%	(N=334) 74%	(N=226) 66%	(N=415) 57%
1998	(N=997) 65%	(N=414) 72%	(N=203) 62%	(N=380) 59%
1999	(N=906) 70%	(N=362) 79%	(N=183) 67%	(N=361) 61%
2000	(N=888) 74%	(N=348) 78%	(N=182) 75%	(N=358) 69%
2001	(N=1,164) 73%	(N=622) 76%	(N=216) 79%	(N=326) 66%
2002	(N=1,285) 72%	(N=630) 75%	(N=282) 76%	(N=373) 66%
2003	(N=910) 74%	(N=400) 76%	(N=158) 79%	(N=352) 70%

Note: This table includes the sub-set of the population for whom these data were available. 2003 data include only those entering through Ramsey County central intake (total served: 1,039, including 421 males alone, 191 females alone, and 427 adults with children; numbers represented above are somewhat lower due to missing data).

Income sources of adults in the month before entering emergency shelters

More than half of all adults entering shelter through Ramsey County's central intake system in 2003 reported no income for the 30 days prior to entry. Among those reporting an income source, the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) – Minnesota's version of Temporary Assistance for the Needy (TANF) – was the top-ranked source. Steady work was only reported as an income source by 6 percent of those entering in 2003.

15. Adults entering emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003
Income sources in the month before entering shelter (multiple response)

	All adults (N=979)	Males alone (N=406)	Females alone (N=183)	Adults with children (N=390)
No income	52%	65%	58%	37%
MFIP (TANF)	19%	0%	6%	44%
SSI	13%	13%	13%	14%
Steady work	6%	5%	8%	5%
GA	6%	8%	13%	1%
Other	5%	5%	2%	6%
SSD	4%	7%	1%	1%
Unemployment	1%	1%	1%	1%
Day labor	1%	2%	1%	1%

Note: This table includes only adults served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system. Total served: 1,039 (421 males alone, 191 females alone, and 427 adults with children; numbers in table are somewhat lower due to missing data).

Steadily employed shelter users

In 2003, 55 adults entering shelter through Ramsey County's central intake system reported steady work within the month prior to entering shelter. Compared to all adults in shelter, those with steady employment were:

- Likely to earn more per month (median income for those with steady work was \$803, compared with \$437 overall)
- No more or less likely to have a repeat stay in shelter (44% returned to shelter, compared with 47% of those not reporting steady work)
- Likely to have attained somewhat more education (83% had at least a high school diploma or GED, compared with 74% of those not reporting steady income)

Additionally, adults accompanied by children were somewhat more likely to report "steady work" as an income source if they were in two-parent (or two-adult households). Adults in couples made up half of the adults with children reporting steady work, but are only 36 percent of all adults with children.

Household income of adults in the month before entering emergency shelters

Income was only recorded for 60 percent of all adults entering shelter through Ramsey County central intake in 2003. Note, however, that over a quarter of those with data reported in this category actually had no income.

Adults in the Ramsey County central intake system most commonly reported incomes in the \$400 to \$600 range, with an overall median of \$437. Adults with no children tended to have lower incomes than those with children, largely because of the MFIP grants of those with children. Income varied considerably according to income source. For example, the median income of those including the following as at least one of their income sources were:

- Steady work \$803
- Day labor \$130
- MFIP or GA \$437

16. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003
Household income last month

	All (N=626)	Males alone (N=207)	Females alone (N=120)	Families with children (N=299)*
0	27%	36%	38%	17%
<\$200	1%	1%	3%	1%
\$200-399	15%	19%	25%	9%
\$400-599	35%	23%	23%	47%
\$600-799	12%	12%	7%	14%
\$800-999	4%	5%	1%	5%
\$1,000+	6%	4%	4%	7%
Mean	\$407	\$345	\$299	\$493
Median	\$437	\$203	\$203	\$437

* Unduplicated number of families with 358 adults.

Note: This table includes only adults served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system. Total served: 1,039 (421 males alone, 191 females alone, and 427 adults with children; numbers in table are somewhat lower due to missing data).

17. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003
Average household income last month

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Mean	\$308	\$280	\$352	\$349	\$350	\$304	\$381	\$576	\$558	\$407
Median	\$270	\$197	\$400	\$337	\$250	\$160	\$420	\$512	\$512	\$437

Note: Income levels are typically reported by about 20-35 percent of adults. 2003 data include only those entering through Ramsey County central intake (total served: 1,039, including 421 males alone, 191 females alone, and 427 adults with children; income was recorded for 626 of these).

Reasons leading adults to enter emergency shelters

Intake workers record which of several possible reasons for seeking shelter apply to each adult entering shelter through Ramsey County's central intake system. Lack of affordable housing leads the list, followed by employment and income problems.

18. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003
Self-reported reasons leading to shelter (multiple responses)*

	All adults* (N=662)	Males alone (N=218)	Females alone (N=139)	Adults with children (N=305)
Lack of affordable housing	82%	96%	78%	73%
Employment/income	73%	88%	67%	65%
Personal/family crisis	33%	22%	38%	38%
Eviction	12%	5%	10%	18%
Physical abuse	2%	0%	2%	2%
Unit condemned	2%	<1%	2%	2%
Drinking/drug use	1%	1%	2%	1%
Mental illness	1%	1%	2%	0%
Fear of crime/violence	1%	0%	3%	<1%

Note: This table includes only adults served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system. Total served: 1,039 (421 males alone, 191 females alone, and 427 adults with children; numbers in table are somewhat lower due to missing data).

Housing outcome of adults exiting Ramsey County funded emergency shelters

The housing status of adults leaving shelter appears to be difficult for staff to track. In 2003, as in previous years, housing status at exit was unknown or missing for over 80 percent of males without children and nearly 60 percent of females without children. Because of this, housing status at exit is only presented for adults with children.

Reporting rates are higher for adults with children partly because of Ramsey County's overflow arrangement. When the Family Service Center is full, families are entered into Project Hope, the Saint Paul Council of Churches program that coordinates housing in church basements for homeless families. Many of these families later exit from Project Hope to the Family Service Center, and their housing status as of this exit is recorded as "another shelter." Thus, "another shelter" was the second most common housing status at exit. The other most common destinations were new housing (21%), staying with friends or relatives (14%), and staying at a motel or hotel (15%).

19. Housing status of adults with children exiting Ramsey County-funded emergency shelters, 2003

	Adults with children (N=427)
New housing	21%
Another shelter	19%
With friends/relatives	14%
Motel/hotel	13%
Return to current housing	2%
Transitional housing	<1%
Other	3%
Unknown or missing	28%

Note: This table includes only adults served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system.

Adults diverted from emergency shelter

The Ramsey County central intake system includes a diversion program for those who could avoid a stay in shelter by receiving immediate rent payment or some other form of emergency assistance. In 2003, 148 households benefited from this program, including 176 adults and 227 children. Most of the households (77%) were female-headed, and most (65%) were accompanied by children.

Diverted females had an average of two children and a median gross income of \$610 per month, an increase from \$532 in 2002 and \$569 in 2001, but still lower than \$697 in 2000. Sixty-nine percent of diverted adults reported being homeless when they came to shelter, higher than the 62 percent reported in 2002 and 51 percent reported in 2001.

- Sixty-one percent received cash assistance for rent, mortgage, or damage deposit (38% received “other” services).
- Thirty-nine percent moved into new housing, 22 percent stayed in current housing, and 11 percent moved in with friends or relatives (for 30% the outcome was either “other” or missing).
- Fifteen of the 148 –10 percent – entered shelter in 2003 sometime after receiving diversion services.

Emergency shelter use patterns

In 2003 the trend was toward more frequent and shorter stays. Adult shelter users were more likely to return to shelter than has been the case since the project started, but the average length of stay was shorter than has been the case in the past two years. This was driven at least in part by the capacity added by converting Dorothy Day from a winter only shelter to a year-round shelter.

Note that the information in this section, unlike the above section on previous arrangements and barriers, includes information from all emergency shelters.

Number of stays in emergency shelters

For this report we have defined a shelter stay as continuous residence in a shelter. A stay can include an absence of up to three nights. If a client leaves shelter for four or more nights before entering shelter again, that re-entry is defined as a new stay.

Separate shelter stays for adults in 2003 – 9,395 – is the highest recorded since this project started. This record number stems from two things: (1) the number of adults in shelter returned to levels not seen since the early 90s; and, (2) there were more repeat stays than in previous years.

- 2003 is the first year that half of all adult shelter users had more than one stay, including well over half of all men unaccompanied by children.
- This year adults averaged 2.7 stays in shelter – more than any year on record.

20. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003**Number of separate stays (with more than three nights between uses)***

Number of stays	All adults (N=3,505)	Males alone (N=2,510)	Females alone (N=570)	Adults with children (N=425)
1	50%	44%	59%	74%
2	18%	19%	17%	15%
3	10%	11%	7%	8%
4	6%	7%	5%	1%
5	4%	5%	3%	1%
6	3%	3%	3%	1%
7 or more	9%	11%	6%	<1%
Mean	2.7	3.0	2.3	1.4

* Based on exited stays only.

Total number of days adults stayed in emergency shelters

To analyze days in shelter we only look at adults who entered and exited shelter during the calendar year. If, for example, a woman entered shelter in December 2002 and exited in January 2003, she is not included in this analysis. This year we found a trend toward shorter days in shelter:

- 22 percent of adults in shelter stayed only one day. Another 8 percent stayed just two days. Almost half of all adults (48%) stay in shelters a week or less.
- The median number of days in shelter was five days for females alone – a seven year low; eight days for males alone – lowest in three years; and 17 days for families – up from last year.

21. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003**Total number of days in shelters**

	Males alone (N=2,510)	Females alone (N=570)	Adults with children (N=425)
1 – 7 days	48%	55%	37%
8 – 14 days	11%	11%	9%
15 – 21 days	6%	5%	11%
22 – 28 days	5%	5%	10%
29+ days	29%	23%	34%

22. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 1994-2003
Mean and median total number of days in shelters*

	1994 (N=3,762)	1995 (N=3,715)	1996 (N=3,330)	1997 (N=2,670)	1998 (N=2,312)	1999 (N=2,206)	2000 (N=2,509)	2001 (N=2,546)	2002 (N=2,567)	2003 (N=3,505)
Males alone										
Mean	16	17	20	20	20	20	20	24	27	28
Median	6	4	6	6	7	6	7	11	11	8
Females alone										
Mean	13	12	9	8	11	14	14	16	17	19
Median	9	8	4	6	7	9	10	8	11	5
Adults with children										
Mean	14	15	14	14	17	18	18	24	20	22
Median	12	14	12	12	15	16	14	19	15	17

* Based on exited stays only.

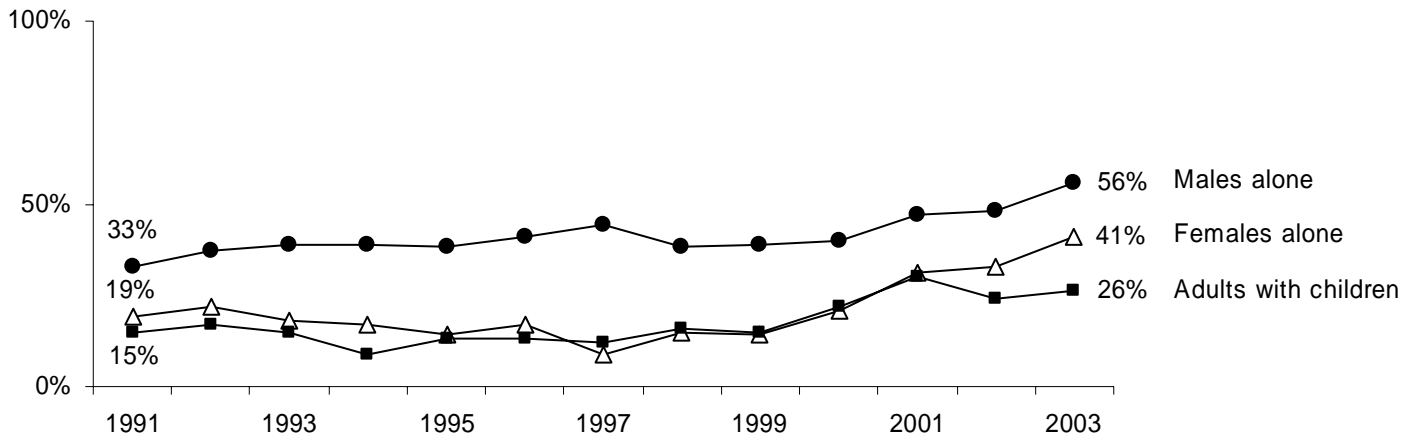
Note: In general medians are the preferable measure of central tendency in the table above, since means are influenced by the high number of total days in shelter by a small number of adults. In 2003 one male recorded 363 days in shelter, one female recorded 230 days in shelter, and one family recorded 164 days in shelter.

Repeat use of emergency shelters

Re-entering shelter after being gone for four or more nights is considered a new shelter stay. Half of the adults in shelter had more than one stay, accounting for 81 percent of the total number of stays.

Well over half of all males without children who used shelter had more than one episode of shelter use in 2003; this is the highest proportion of repeat usage recorded since the data collection project began. Likewise, the proportion of females alone repeating shelter use was higher than all previous years. Similarly, repeat use among families was more common than all but one other year in the study.

23. Adults re-entering shelter within the same year, Ramsey County, 1994-2003

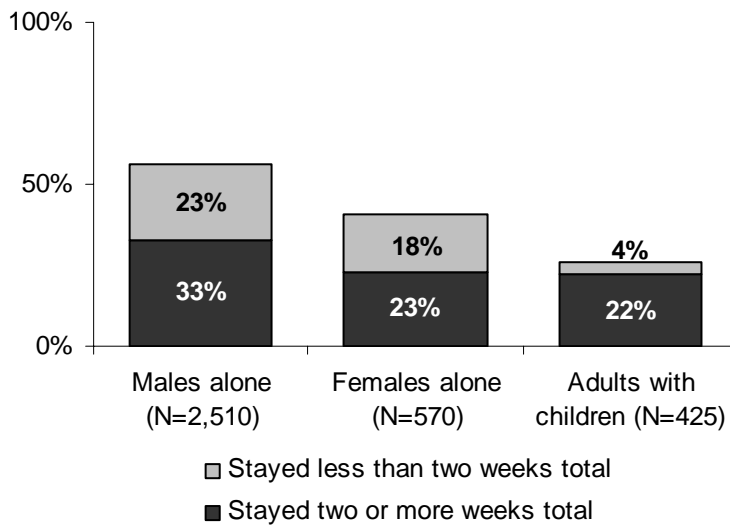


Along with an increase in repeat use, 2003 saw a decrease in average time between stays for all population groups. The average time between stays was 28 days for males alone, about 38 days for families with children, and 32 days for females alone. In comparison, across all years, 1991-2004, the average time between stays for single men was about three and a half months (107 days), a little less than five months for single women (142 days), and about six months for families with children (180 days).

Days in shelter for those repeating use of emergency shelters

For all adults who stayed in shelter more than once, the average length of time in shelter was 41 days, two days more than last year. Figure 24 highlights the days in shelter for those repeating shelter use. In 2003, 33 percent of male shelter users unaccompanied by children used shelter more than one time *and* stayed in shelter for at least two weeks. Not surprisingly, repeat shelter users tend to have more total days in shelter than is the case for those using shelter only once.

24. Adults in emergency shelters, Ramsey County, 2003 Days in shelter for repeat users



Chronic use of emergency shelters

For purposes of this report we have defined “chronic shelter users” as those who stay in shelters at least one night every quarter or eight or more days per quarter for three out of four quarters. From 1992 to 2002 the proportion of adults using shelter that could be defined as “chronic users” has been fairly stable, typically about 2 to 3 percent. In 2003, however, more than 6 percent were chronic shelter users.

- At 221, the number and proportion of chronic shelter users in 2003 far exceeded all other years in the project.

This increase may be due in part to the shelter capacity that was added with the conversion of Dorothy Day from a winter-only shelter to a year-round shelter.

In 2003, of the chronic users, 191 were single men, 26 were single women, and four were adults with children. In 2003, chronic shelter users averaged:

- 43 years of age;
- 10 stays during the year;
- 114 total days for the entire year, similar to previous years.

Emergency shelter stays from 1991 to 2003

From 1991 to 2003, 25,572 different adults used emergency shelters in Ramsey County, including 16,929 males alone, 3,317 females alone, and 5,326 adults with children. The total number of different children known to have used emergency shelter from 1991-2003 is 10,529.

Transitional housing programs

Background

The information in this section comes from data submitted by eight transitional housing providers.

- East Metro Women’s Council (44 beds for family members)
- Emma Norton Residence (40 beds for unaccompanied women)
- Rebuilding Our Own Futures, better known as the ROOF Project, which is a collaborative headed by the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, and in 2003 also included East Metro Women's Council, Project ReCONNECT, and the United Cambodian Association of Minnesota (308 total beds for family members)
- Rose Center (9 beds for unaccompanied women)
- Theresa Living Center (15 beds for family members, 5 for unaccompanied adult women)
- Union Gospel Mission’s Naomi Family Center (100 beds for family members, 20 for unaccompanied adult women)
- Wellsprings Living Center (19 beds for unaccompanied women)
- YWCA of St. Paul’s transitional housing program, including the Grotto, Lexington, and Oxford sites (136 beds total for family members)

The only change in reporting from last year’s report is the addition of complete data from East Metro Women’s Council (last year only their units that were part of the ROOF project were included in the report).

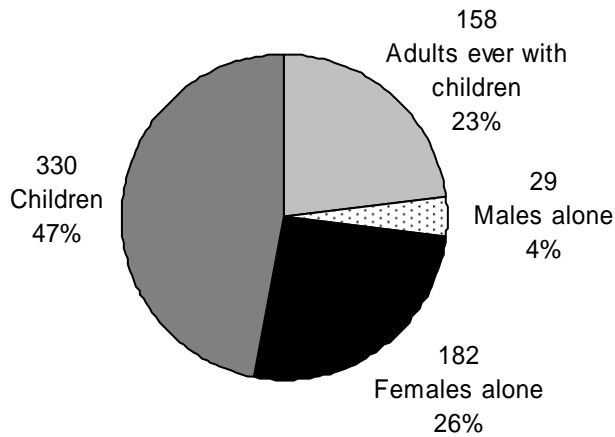
Note that the bed counts reported above are approximations; most transitional housing providers operate units rather than beds, and the units may house larger or smaller families or individuals, depending on the household compositions of those in need.

Count of individuals

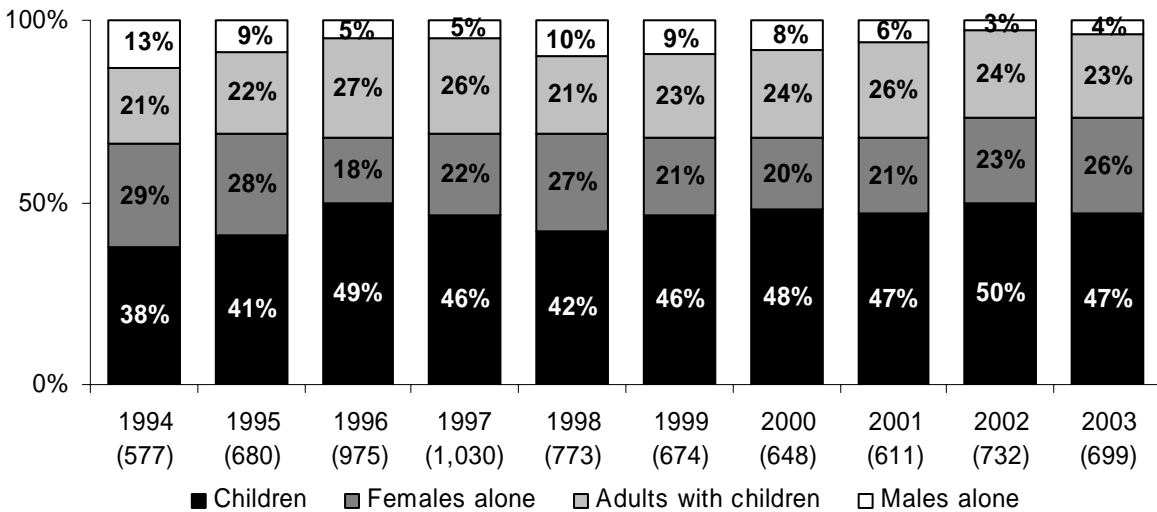
In 2003, 699 individuals (adults and children) lived in participating transitional housing programs in Ramsey County. This is a drop of 33 from last year, but higher than the number reported in 1999, 2000, and 2001.

- Children comprised approximately half of all individuals living in transitional housing, a trend that has remained fairly consistent since 1996.

25. Individuals using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 (N=699)



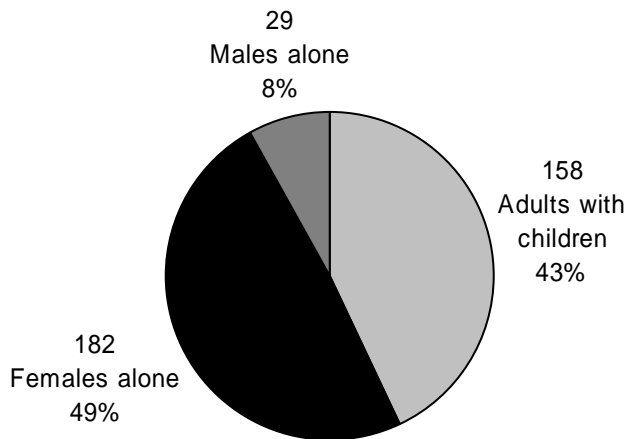
26. Individuals using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994-2003



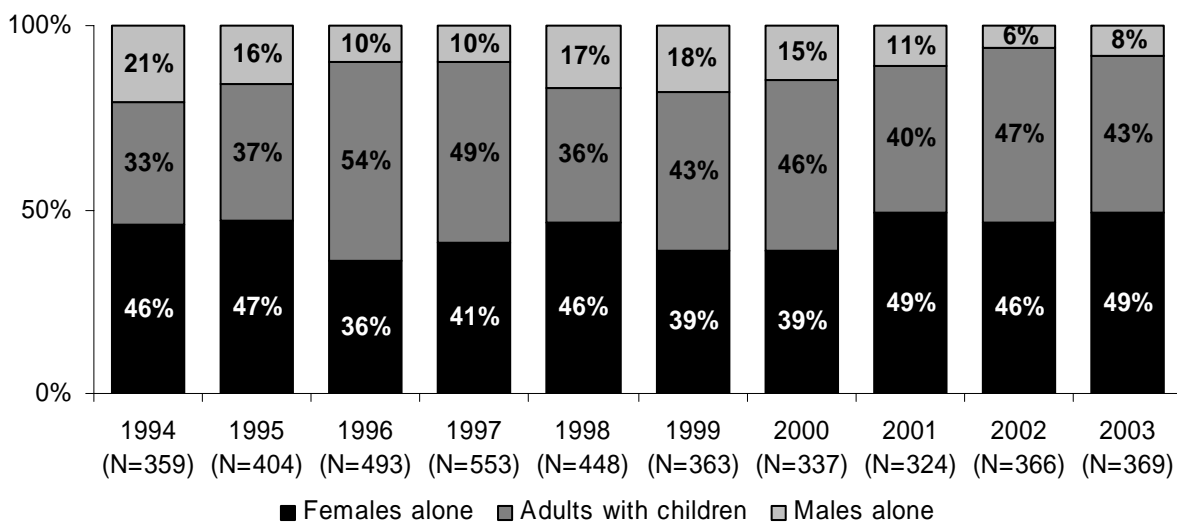
Count of adults

In 2003 participating transitional housing providers housed 369 adults – nearly identical to the number reported in 1999 and 2002, but somewhat higher than reported in 2000 and 2001. Similar to patterns reported over the past decade, females alone comprised nearly half of all adults in the transitional housing population, and adults with children comprised almost the other half of the adult population. Eight percent of transitional housing users were single men.

27. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Family status while in transitional housing (N=369)



28. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994-2003 Family status while in transitional housing



Note: 1996 and 1997 include counts provided by Naomi Family Center for its transitional housing program; data on individual women and children were not collected and submitted for this report.

Some of the changes shown in Figure 28 correspond with changes in the types of transitional housing offered in the county. For example, during 1994 to 1996 three programs serving families were added, while some transitional housing for males was lost.

Profile of persons using transitional housing programs

Unlike the profile of emergency shelter users, which has trended toward older adults in recent years, the profile of adults in transitional housing has remained fairly consistent over the past decade, as shown in Figure 29.

Gender and age of adults using transitional housing

In 2003, 89 percent of the adults in transitional housing were female. This is similar to 2002, but a slight increase over the past decade. The age of adults using shelter has been remarkably consistent since 1998, when the proportion older than 40 years old went from around 22 percent to 31 percent.

Race and ethnicity of adults using transitional housing

In 2003 about 45 percent of the adults in transitional housing were White, and 42 percent were African American, with the proportions of the remaining racial and ethnic groups each registering in the single digits.

The racial composition of adults in transitional housing has remained quite steady for much of the past decade, and continues to vary by sub-population. In 2003, adults in transitional housing without children were most likely to be White, while African American was the most common racial group among those accompanied by children.

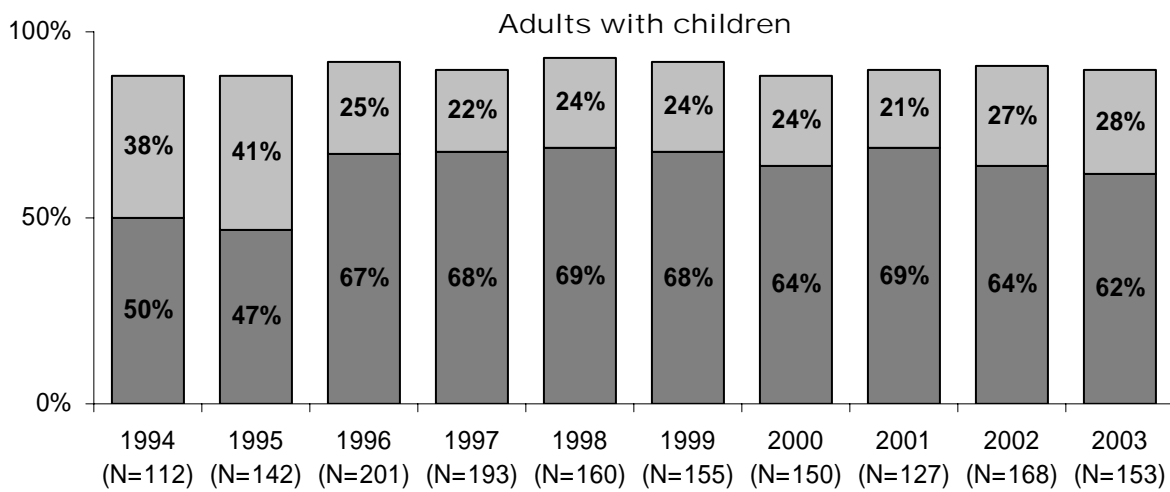
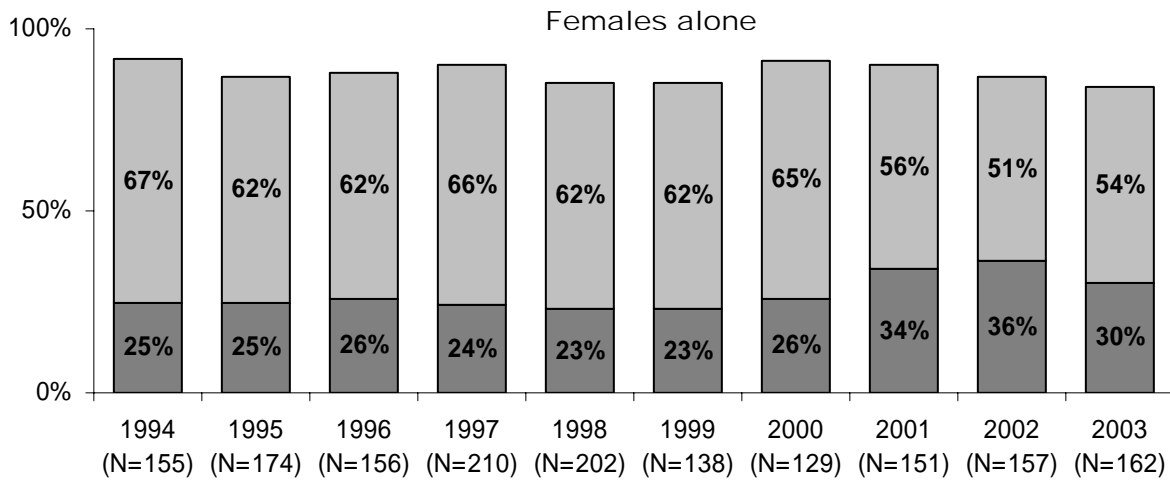
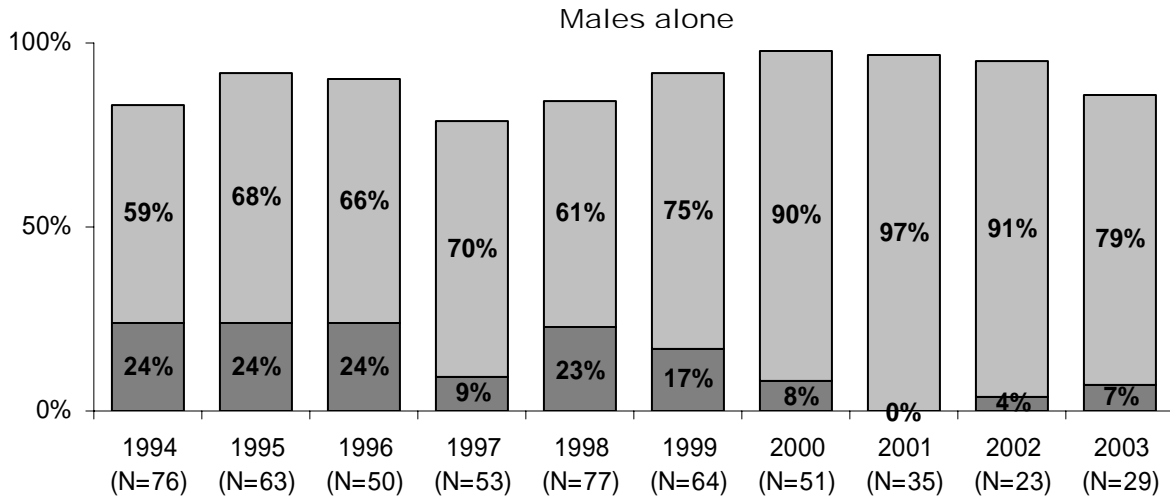
29. Characteristics of adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994-2003

Sex	1994 (N=359)	1995 (N=404)	1996 (N=420)	1997 (N=471)	1998 (N=448)	1999 (N=363)	2000 (N=337)	2001 (N=324)	2002 (N=366)	2003 (N=369)
Female	78%	84%	87%	89%	80%	80%	83%	87%	91%	89%
Male	22%	16%	13%	12%	20%	20%	17%	13%	9%	11%
Age	(N=354)	(N=392)	(N=413)	(N=469)	(N=443)	(N=361)	(N=334)	(N=316)	(N=361)	(N=361)
<18	1%	<1%	3%	3%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
18-19	6%	8%	9%	9%	8%	7%	5%	6%	8%	9%
20-29	37%	35%	35%	34%	28%	32%	35%	34%	35%	35%
30-39	34%	35%	31%	31%	31%	30%	29%	26%	27%	27%
40-49	17%	17%	17%	19%	23%	22%	22%	26%	24%	23%
50-59	5%	4%	4%	3%	6%	8%	8%	8%	6%	7%
60+	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%	1%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%
Race/Ethnicity	(N=343)	(N=379)	(N=406)	(N=457)	(N=439)	(N=358)	(N=330)	(N=313)	(N=348)	(N=344)
White	55%	55%	44%	48%	48%	48%	50%	46%	42%	45%
African American	33%	33%	46%	41%	40%	42%	41%	44%	47%	42%
American Indian	4%	3%	5%	6%	6%	5%	4%	3%	1%	2%
Hispanic	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	2%	3%
Asian	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	3%	4%
Other	2%	5%	2%	3%	5%	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%

30. Race and ethnicity of adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003

	All adults (N=344)	Males alone (N=29)	Females alone (N=162)	Adults with children (N=153)
African American	42%	7%	30%	62%
White	45%	79%	54%	28%
American Indian	2%	7%	2%	2%
Hispanic	3%	3%	2%	3%
Asian	4%	0%	5%	3%
Other	5%	3%	8%	1%

31. Race and ethnicity of adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994-2003



■ African American □ White

Children in transitional housing

In 2003, 330 children lived in transitional housing, somewhat fewer than last year, but slightly more than reported 1999 through 2001. As shown in Figure 32, the characteristics of children staying in transitional housing has remained fairly stable over the past decade. In 2003:

- 30 percent of children in transitional housing were two years old or younger, another 30 percent were in the 5 to 9 year-old bracket, and 11 percent were teen-agers.
- African American was the most common racial group of children in transitional housing.
- The average number of children per family was two, but a substantial proportion – 14 percent – had four or more children.

32. Characteristics of children with their parents in transitional housing (upon entering), Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003

	1994 (N=218)	1995 (N=266)	1996 (N=339)	1997 (N=363)	1998 (N=325)	1999 (N=312)	2000 (N=306)	2001 (N=285)	2002 (N=362)	2003 (N=322)
Sex										
Boys	52%	55%	51%	50%	48%	53%	54%	54%	53%	51%
Girls	48%	46%	49%	50%	52%	47%	46%	46%	47%	49%
Age		(N=276)	(N=341)	(N=365)	(N=321)	(N=310)	(N=309)	(N=284)	(N=362)	(N=327)
2 or younger	29%	33%	37%	35%	33%	29%	28%	29%	29%	30%
3 – 4	20%	20%	18%	16%	17%	17%	17%	16%	16%	16%
5 – 9	33%	27%	29%	30%	31%	33%	31%	35%	32%	30%
10 – 12	10%	13%	11%	11%	10%	11%	13%	12%	11%	13%
13 – 17	7%	7%	6%	9%	9%	10%	11%	9%	12%	11%
Race/Ethnicity		(N=270)	(N=253)	(N=237)	(N=169)	(N=179)	(N=179)	(N=170)	(N=213)	(N=216)
African American	62%	59%	64%	71%	69%	63%	59%	71%	67%	69%
White	23%	27%	19%	16%	20%	22%	20%	18%	16%	15%
Hispanic	1%	3%	4%	3%	1%	1%	3%	4%	6%	4%
American Indian	4%	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%	6%	2%	2%	2%
Asian	4%	3%	2%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%
Other groups	6%	7%	8%	3%	6%	11%	13%	5%	8%	9%
Number of children per family		(N=150 Families)	(N=183 Families)	(N=178 Families)	(N=151 Families)	(N=143 Families)	(N=143 Families)	(N=130 Families)	(N=169 Families)	(N=158 Families)
1	50%	48%	47%	48%	40%	40%	39%	42%	36%	39%
2	21%	25%	27%	24%	26%	25%	27%	22%	30%	32%
3	20%	22%	20%	19%	19%	20%	20%	18%	20%	15%
4 or more	8%	5%	6%	10%	14%	15%	15%	18%	14%	14%
Mean	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1
Median	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Note: 1996 and 1997 include counts provided by Naomi Family Center for its transitional housing program; data on individual women and children were not collected and submitted for this report.

Previous living arrangements and barriers: Transitional housing

Living arrangements of adults before entering transitional housing

Adults entering transitional housing are asked where they last lived. In 2003 the top three answers were the same as they have been for the past 9 years: another shelter, friends or relatives, and a treatment facility. The order among the three has shifted, however, with “another shelter” reported as the most common previous living arrangement only in 1997, 2001, and 2003. “Treatment facility” has been the third most common previous living arrangement for all adults since 1996, and has typically been the most commonly-reported previous residence of adults unaccompanied by children.

33. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Previous living arrangements before entering (multiple responses)

	All (N=342)	Females alone (N=182)	Adults with children (N=157)
Another shelter	42%	36%	49%
Friends/relative	33%	30%	37%
Treatment facility	18%	34%	0%
Own residence	8%	6%	10%
Hospital	3%	6%	1%
Correctional facility	2%	3%	0%
On street	2%	3%	1%
Other	6%	5%	7%

In addition to the gathering data on previous living arrangements from intake assessments, we are able to establish if adults in transitional housing had a prior history with either emergency shelters or the transitional housing providers that participate in the data collection project. The data show that:

- 98 adults – 27 percent of all adults – in transitional housing in 2003 previously stayed in emergency shelter in Ramsey County (not including domestic violence shelters). While a higher proportion might be expected, this proportion has consistently been in the 20 to 30 percent range for the past six years.
- 14 adults – 4 percent of all adults – in transitional housing in 2003 had previously exited a transitional housing program in Ramsey County that participates in the data collection project. This proportion has been below ten percent for each of the past five years. Most of the repeat transitional housing users had only one prior stay on record, but a few had two or more recorded episodes in transitional housing.

Previous addresses of adults entering transitional housing

The standardized Ramsey County intake form includes two indicators of the client's previous address: (1) "Client's last permanent address," and (2) "Where has the client spent most of the last 5 years?" In 2003, 56 percent of all adults residing in transitional housing reported their last permanent address to be in Ramsey County. This is the highest proportion reported since 1992. Most of the remaining adults come from elsewhere in Minnesota. In 2003 only 10 percent reported that their last permanent address was outside of Minnesota. This is the lowest proportion reported since 1991.

Despite the fact that more transitional housing clients in 2003 than ever before indicated their last permanent address was in Ramsey County, a smaller-than-typical proportion indicated that they had spent most of the past five years in the county. The proportion spending most of the past five years in the county was lower than it has been since 1993, and the proportion who had resided mainly outside of Minnesota in recent years was the highest it has been since 1995.

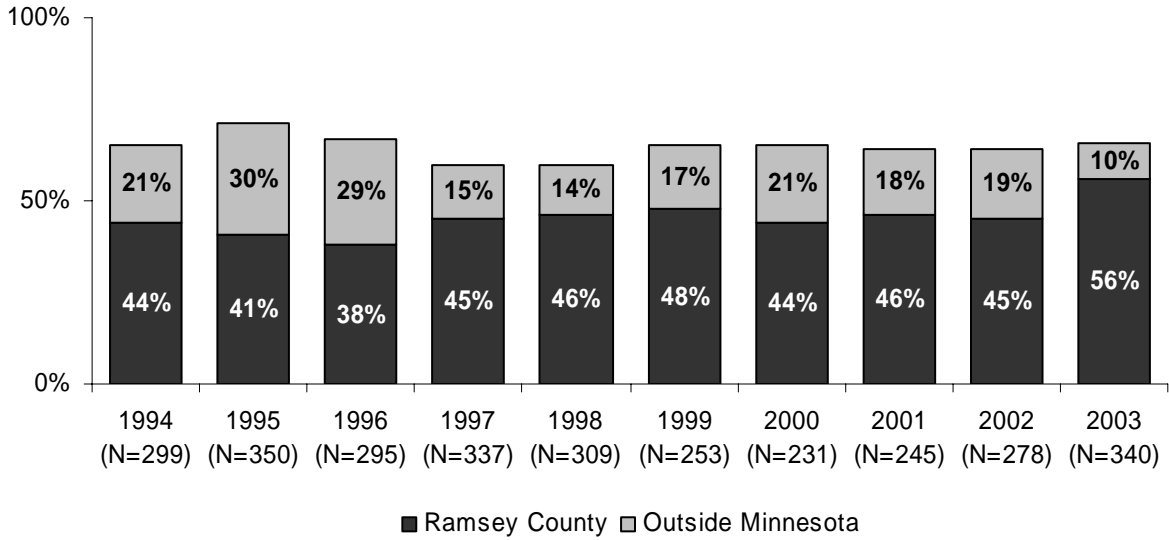
34. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Last permanent address

	All (N=340)	Females Alone (N=181)	Adults with Children (N=156)
Ramsey County	56%	52%	60%
Other Twin Cities Metro	28%	37%	18%
Other Minnesota	7%	3%	11%
Outside Minnesota	10%	9%	11%

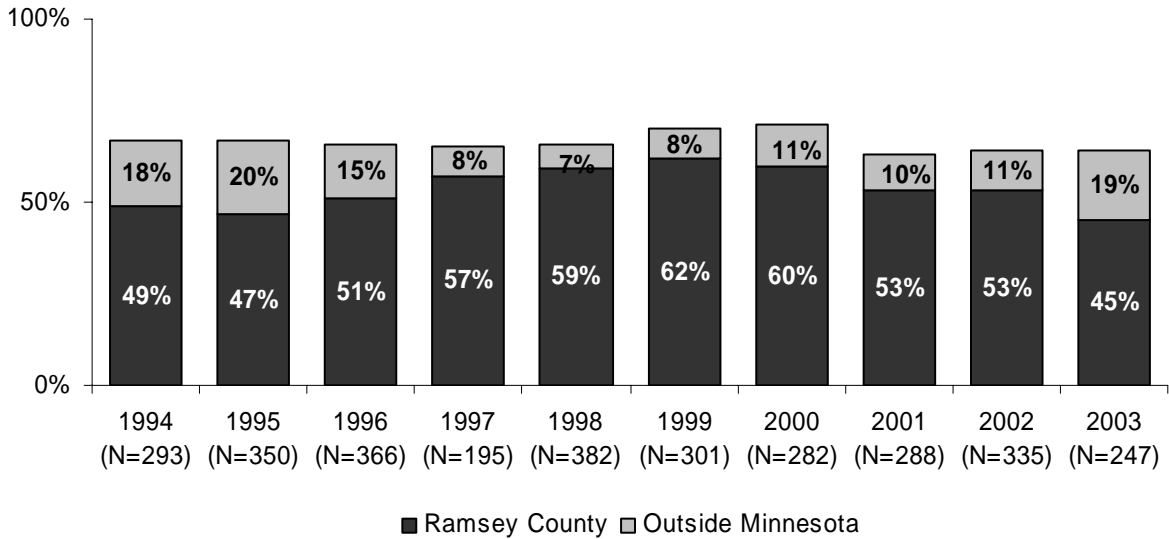
35. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Where lived most of last five years

	All (N=247)	Females alone (N=163)	Adults with children (N=84)
Ramsey County	45%	44%	46%
Other Twin Cities Metro	34%	36%	29%
Other Minnesota	3%	4%	2%
Outside Minnesota	19%	17%	23%

**36. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003
Last permanent address**



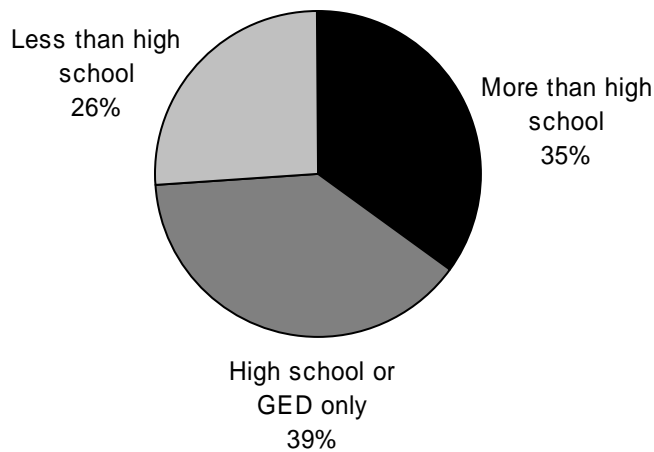
**37. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003
Where lived most of the last five years**



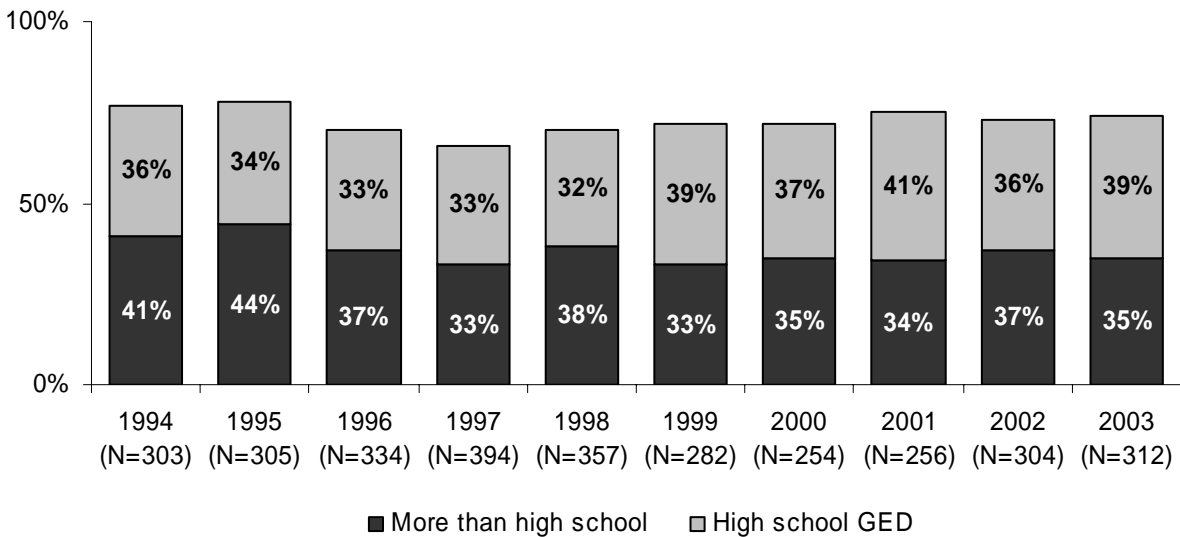
Educational level of adults upon entering transitional housing

Almost three-quarters of adults using transitional housing programs in 2003 reported having a high school level education or higher upon intake (74%). Note that intake was prior to 2003 for some clients, and this report does not include any educational gains made after intake.

38. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Highest educational level upon first entering transitional housing (N=312)



39. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003 Proportion completing high school or GED at the time of entry



Employment status of adults upon entering transitional housing

Twenty percent of all adults entering transitional housing in 2003 reported income from steady work.

- Of the 74 adults reporting their employment status at intake, 51 percent reported having full-time employment and 43 percent reported part-time employment.

Household income of adults in month before entering transitional housing

In general, there has been a small and gradual increase in average income for those entering transitional housing over the past decade. In 2003, the average monthly household income upon entering transitional housing was \$601, exactly the same as last year. As in years past, average income was higher for individuals with children (\$732) than for single females (\$471). This difference may be due to differences in income sources: the most common source for adults with children was Minnesota's version of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). The most common income source for women without children was General Assistance (GA; 28%), followed by steady work (23%).

40. Adults entering transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003 Income sources at entry (multiple responses)

	All (N=334)	Females alone (N=177)	Adults with children (N=154)
MFIP (TANF)	36%	2%	75%
Steady work	20%	23%	17%
GA	15%	28%	1%
SSI	9%	14%	5%
SSD	5%	9%	1%
Unemployment	4%	3%	4%
Day Labor	2%	2%	1%
Other	30%	16%	45%
None	9%	14%	3%
WR	<1%	0%	1%

Status of adults at exit from transitional housing

In 2003, 159 adults exited transitional housing in Ramsey County. There is, however, no exit data for the 23 single males who left transitional housing. Among the 75 single women and 61 adults with children:

- Twenty-eight percent of females alone and 10 percent of adults with children stayed with families/relatives after leaving transitional housing.
- Forty-eight percent of adults with children moved to rental housing, and 36 percent of females alone also moved into rental housing.
- While not related specifically to housing status, 36 percent of single women reported working steadily at exit, and 21 percent of adults with children reported steady work at exit.
- 20 percent of adults with children moved into Section 8 housing.

The geographic area to which single women and adults with children moved when they left transitional housing were as follows:

- Ramsey County: 53 percent of single women and 80 percent of adults with children.
- Metro area (other than Ramsey County): 41 percent of single women and 15 percent of adults with children.
- Greater Minnesota or outside of Minnesota: 5 percent of single women and 5 percent of adults with children.

41. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003
Exit status (multiple responses)

	Females alone (N=75)	Adults with children (N=61)
With friends/relatives	28%	10%
Rental housing	36%	48%
Section 8 housing	3%	20%
Public housing	9%	21%
Treatment	9%	0%
SRO housing	1%	0%
In training	4%	12%
Steady work	36%	21%
Unknown	21%	8%

Reasons leading adults to enter transitional housing

Persons entering transitional housing were given a checklist of things that may have led them to need transitional housing and were asked to report all that apply to them.

- Sixty percent of all adults said housing was an issue for them.
- Of adults with children, 73 percent reported lack of affordable housing as a reason leading them to transitional housing, compared to 51 percent of single women.
- Drinking and drug use was the next most commonly cited reason for needing transitional housing by all adults (38%). More than half of females alone (55%) reported drinking and drug use as a reason for using transitional housing, compared to 16 percent of adults with children.
- Forty-four percent of adults with children reported employment- or income-related issues as a reason for using transitional housing, compared to 30 percent of females alone.
- Mental illness was a common reason females alone used transitional housing, with 57 percent reporting such a reason in 2003.
- Forty-six percent of females alone reported personal/family crisis as a reason for using transitional housing.

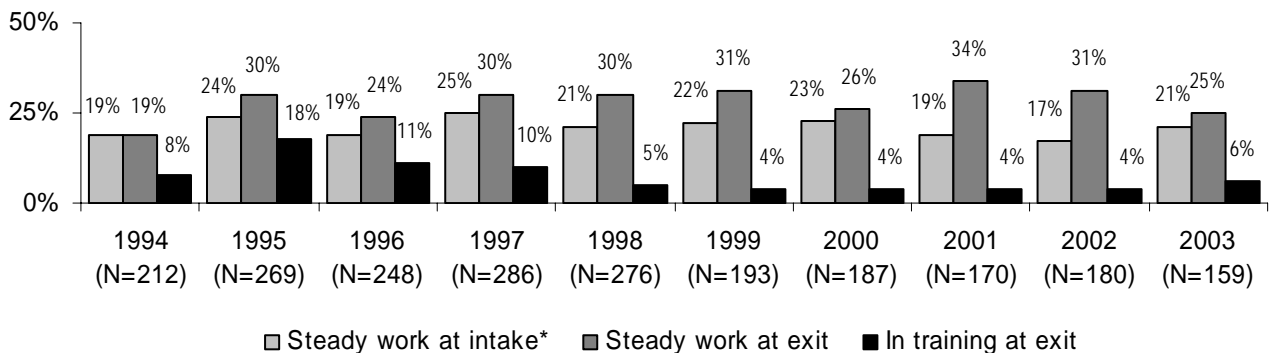
42. Adults using transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2003
Self-reported reasons leading to transitional housing (multiple response)*

	All (N=292)	Females alone (N=166)	Adults with children (N=125)
Lack of affordable housing	60%	51%	73%
Drinking, drug use	38%	55%	16%
Employment/income	36%	30%	44%
Personal/family crisis	36%	46%	22%
Mental illness	36%	57%	10%
Physical abuse	26%	22%	31%
Eviction	15%	15%	17%
Fear of crime/violence	11%	13%	7%
Displaced from housing	1%	1%	1%

* Percents are based on an unduplicated number of problems ever reported per person during one or more stays.

Among adults who left transitional housing in 2003, a larger proportion were steadily employed at exit than at intake. This trend has remained consistent since 1995.

43. Adults exiting transitional housing, Ramsey County, 1994 to 2003
Steady work in the month before entering, and steady work and in training at exit from transitional housing



* Number of cases (N) from which this proportion is taken includes all who reported their income status upon entering transitional housing. (N shown in figure includes only those exiting transitional housing and applies to the remaining categories.)

Adults returning to emergency shelter after leaving transitional housing

Altogether, 432 of the 2,455 adults (18%) who exited transitional housing from 1991 to 2003 later entered emergency shelters (14 of them more than once).

Transitional housing use patterns

Length of stay in transitional housing

Based on 159 reported exits during 2003:

- On average, all adults stayed in transitional housing about nine months.
- Families averaged transitional housing stays of approximately one year and two months.
- On average, females alone stayed in transitional housing for approximately seven and a half months, and males stayed slightly over two months.

44. Adults exiting transitional housing, Ramsey County, 2002 **Length of stay in transitional housing**

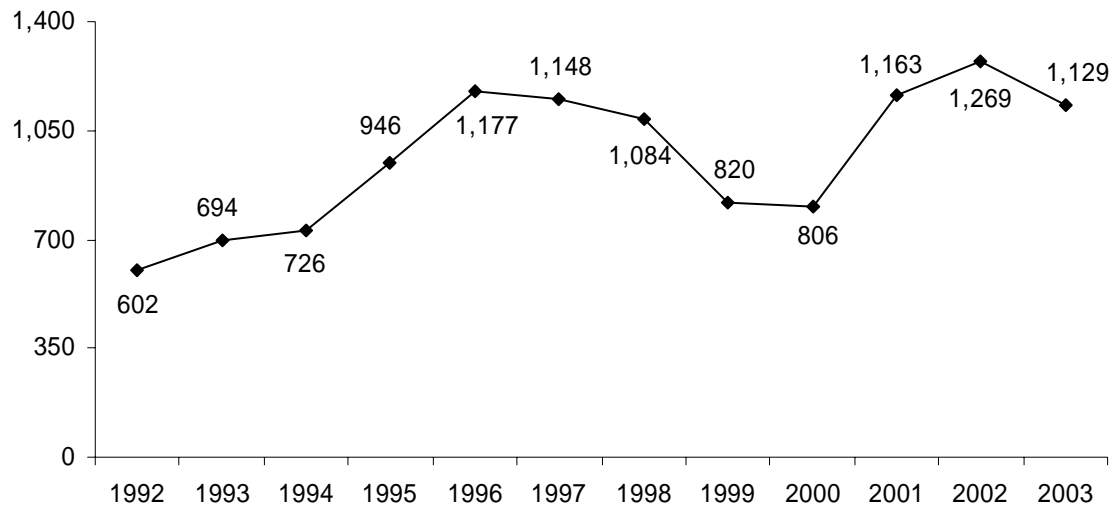
	All (N=159)	Males alone (N=23)	Females alone (N=75)	Adults with children (N=61)
<1 month	6%	13%	7%	2%
1 – 3 months	24%	57%	31%	3%
4 – 6 months	20%	30%	24%	12%
7 – 9 months	10%	0%	11%	13%
10 – 12 months	7%	0%	5%	12%
13 – 18 months	16%	0%	9%	30%
19 – 24 months	12%	0%	11%	18%
>2 years	6%	0%	3%	12%
Mean number of days	277	67	221	425
Median number of days	189	60	132	424

Battered women's shelters

This profile is based on exit information provided by Casa de Esperanza, Women's Advocates, and Eagle's Nest. These organizations periodically provide Wilder Research Center with counts and basic information about their clientele, including the age, race, entry and exit dates of the women they serve, and the number and age of any accompanying children. For data protection reasons domestic violence agencies do not report names or social security numbers. Therefore, unlike the other sections of this report the data in this section is not necessarily unduplicated; women and families who returned to shelter are counted more than once.

In 2003, women exited domestic violence shelters in Ramsey County 1,129 times. This is somewhat less than the number of exits reported over the previous two years, but remains substantially higher than total exits reported in the early 1990s and 1999-2000.

45. Number of women exiting from battered women's shelters, Ramsey County, 1992-2003



The characteristics of women exiting battered women's shelters have remained fairly stable over the past decade. In 2003, as in past years, the median age was 33, over half were African American, about one-third had not graduated from high school, and about half indicated that their last permanent address was in Ramsey County. The median length of stay in shelter was similar to the past few years; about one week.

One change that may be worth noting is that only 40 percent of women exiting battered women's shelters were accompanied by a child. This compares with around 60 percent in the late 90s and 2001.

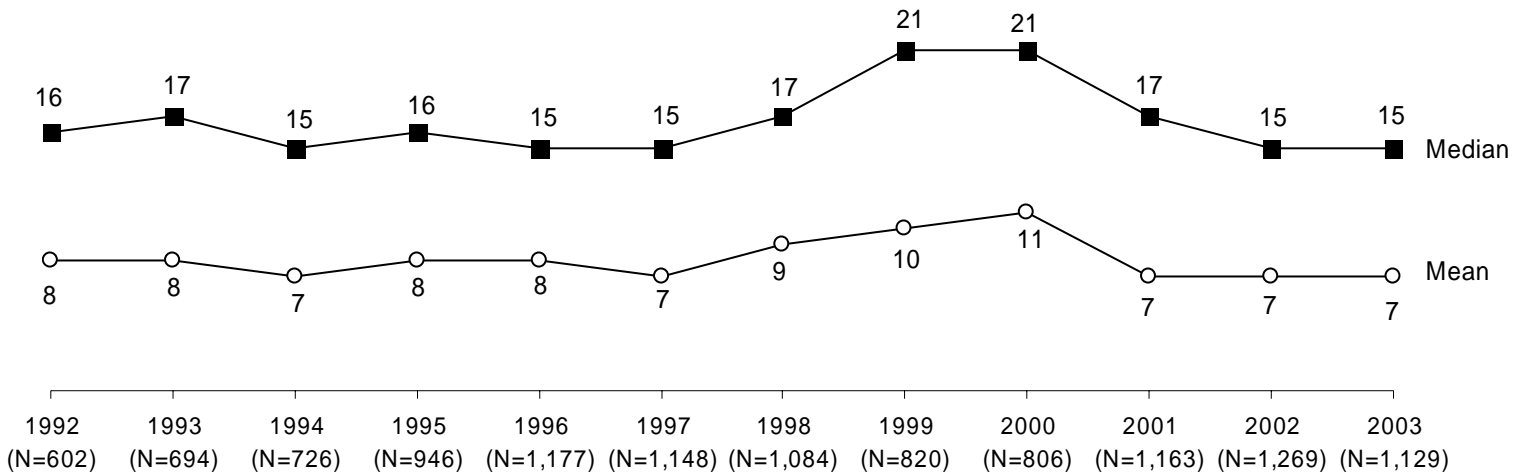
46. Profile of women and children who exited battered women's shelters, Ramsey County, 1998-2003

Age	1998 (N=1,083)	1999 (N=806)	2000 (N=799)	2001 (N=1,157)	2002 (N=1,258)	2003 (N=1,122)
16-19	8%	7%	7%	7%	6%	7%
20-29	39%	38%	40%	40%	34%	33%
30-39	40%	38%	36%	36%	37%	35%
40+	14%	17%	18%	17%	23%	25%
Race/Ethnicity	(N=1,028)	(N=771)	(N=760)	(N=1,088)	(N=1,203)	(N=1,099)
African American	60%	62%	58%	56%	54%	57%
White	22%	17%	17%	21%	22%	19%
American Indian	9%	11%	15%	11%	12%	11%
Hispanic	6%	6%	5%	8%	8%	8%
Asian	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Other groups	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%
Highest Education Level	(N=943)	(N=706)	(N=706)	(N=1,007)	(N=1,109)	(N=1,062)
Grade school	38%	35%	32%	30%	35%	32%
High school	39%	41%	46%	45%	40%	44%
Vocational/Technical	12%	16%	13%	11%	11%	7%
College	12%	8%	10%	14%	14%	17%
Post-college				<1%	0%	0%
Last Permanent Address	(N=991)	(N=751)	(N=735)	(N=1,089)	(N=1,180)	(N=1,010)
Ramsey County	51%	56%	56%	47%	50%	45%
Hennepin County	35%	32%	30%	39%	33%	36%
Washington County	3%	4%	4%	2%	2%	2%
Dakota County	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Anoka County	-	-	-	1%	1%	1%
Scott County	-	-	-	<1%	<1%	-
Carver County	-	-	-	-	<1%	<1%
Other Minnesota	6%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Other State	4%	4%	5%	6%	7%	10%

46. Profile of women and children who exited battered women's shelters, Ramsey County, 1998-2003 (continued)

	1998 (N=1,083)	1999 (N=820)	2000 (N=806)	2001 (N=1,163)	2002 (N=1,269)	2003 (N=1,129)
Has Children Along						
No	42%	40%	46%	41%	54%	59%
Yes	58%	60%	54%	59%	46%	41%
(If Yes) Number of children	(N=626 Families)	(N=491 Families)	(N=434 Families)	(N=691 Families)	(N=582 Families)	(N=468 Families)
1	41%	42%	44%	40%	41%	53%
2	31%	31%	30%	32%	31%	26%
3	15%	15%	15%	18%	18%	16%
4	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%	4%
5+	5%	5%	4%	5%	3%	1
Mean	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.8
Ages of Children	(N=992)	(N=1,013)	(N=871)	(N=1,428)	(N=1,177)	(N=819)
0-2	29%	29%	30%	28%	29%	33%
3-5	27%	22%	22%	19%	21%	23%
6-10	29%	31%	30%	33%	32%	24%
11-18	16%	18%	19%	20%	18%	20%
Length of Stay (in days)						
Mean	17	21	21	17	15	17
Median	9	10	11	7	7	8

47. Lengths of stays (in days) of women exiting battered women's shelters, Ramsey County, 1992-2003



Appendices

Data sources

Emergency, transitional and battered women's shelter summary

Data sources

Date Started with Project	Agency/Program	Male Alone	Female Alone	Couples with Children	Male with Children	Female with Children	Youth
Emergency Shelters							
01/01/91	Ramsey County Central Intake (Mary Hall and Project Home)	X	X	X	X	X	
01/01/91	Union Gospel Mission	X				X ⁽¹⁾	
02/01/99	Family Service Center (Ramsey County Central Intake)		X	X	X	X	
Transitional Housing							
01/01/91	Catholic Charities	X ⁽²⁾					
01/01/94	East Metro Women's Council			X	X	X	
07/01/91	Emma Norton Residence		X				
07/01/92	Juel Fairbanks ⁽⁵⁾	X	X		X	X	
01/01/96	Jendayi Place ⁽⁵⁾					X	X
07/0/191	Rose Center		X				
07/01/92	Sarah Family ⁽³⁾					X	
07/01/91	Theresa Living Center		X			X	
07/01/92	Union Gospel Mission	X	X ⁽⁴⁾			X ⁽⁴⁾	
07/01/92	Wellsprings Living Center		X				
01/01/96	ROOF Project			X	X	X	
01/01/91	YWCA (St. Paul)		X			X	
Battered Women's Shelters							
10/01/91	Casa de Esperanza		X			X	
04/01/92	Eagle's Nest (Women of Nations)		X			X	
10/01/94	Hill Home (Family Violence Network) ⁽⁶⁾		X			X	
07/01/91	Women's Advocates		X			X	

(1) Naomi Family Center's emergency shelter as of September 1, 1993.

(2) Catholic Charities' transitional housing program closed in the fall of 1993.

(3) Sarah Family discontinued project participation as of April 1, 1993.

(4) Naomi Family Center's transitional housing program as of July 1, 1995.

(5) Juel Fairbanks and Jendayi Place last provided intake data around 1999.

(6) Did not provide data in 2003.

Emergency, transitional and battered women's shelter summary

	Bed Capacity
Emergency Shelters for adults and families	
Dorothy Day Extended Hours (Catholic Charities)*	150 (mats)
Mary Hall Shelter for Men (Catholic Charities)*	22
Project Home (St. Paul Council of Churches)*	40
Family Service Center*	55
Union Gospel Mission*	82
Total	349
Battered Women's shelters	
Casa De Esperanza*	9
Doris and Stan Hill Home (Family Violence Network)*	30
Eagle's Nest* (Women of Nations)	43
Women's Advocates*	53
Total	135
Transitional Housing for adults and families	
Caroline Family Center (Theresa Living Center)	80
East Metro Women's Council*	100
Emma Norton Residence*	42
Juel Fairbanks	18
Mary Hall Supportive Housing (Catholic Charities)	80
Naomi Family Center*	120
Peta Wakan Tipi	8
ROOF Project (Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, East Metro Women's Council, United Cambodian Association)*	308
Rose Center (Good Shepard)*	9
Theresa Living Center*	17
Wellsprings (Good Shepard)*	19
YWCA Transitional Housing*	160
Total	961

Source: Ramsey County Community Human Services Department, Continuum of Care Exhibit 1 2004 Application Summary.

* indicates participant in this project

Adult shelters

Dorothy Day Extended Hours Program

This program is funded by Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul to provide 150 mats to homeless adults year-round starting in 2003.

Mary Hall Men’s Shelter

Offers 20 beds for October through April 15 in the former nurses’ residence (known as Mary Hall), north of St. Joseph’s Hospital. Occupants are sober adult males who are eligible for “Emergency Assistance.” Intake is conducted at The Family Place at 639 Jackson in Saint Paul. Open 24 hours, a man may stay at Mary Hall for no more than a total of 30 days per quarter. Accommodations are cots in former office space. On nights of excess demand, referrals are made to the Union Gospel Mission.

Family Service Center

This emergency shelter for homeless families and single women provides the following services: up to 30 consecutive nights of shelter; housing search advocate and resources; programming for children; three meals per day; health services; bus tokens; and laundry facilities. Income of residents must be at such a level where hotel/motel living is not an option. Intake is conducted through The Family Place.

The Union Gospel Mission, 435 E. University

Offers 80 dormitory style bunk beds. The beds are available free to those adult men who attend the evening chapel service. More than half the beds are reserved for paying customers (\$4.50/night paid in advance for up to 14 days). The remaining beds are free and distributed by a daily lottery. Those that do not win a bed are offered one of the additional 25 sleeping mats in the lobby. Those who are unable to obtain a sleeping mat or who arrive after evening services are offered a chair for the night.

On bitter cold nights this shelter is committed to not turning away adult men (even though they had been previously banned). Residents are required to leave in the morning with their possessions unless they rent one of the 45 lockers. Two free meals are available with the bed.

If a shelter guest has income such as General Assistance (\$203), Social Security, or work, he is expected to pay a modest amount (\$4.50/night). He is also put on a list to obtain a private room in the attached 142 unit, single room occupancy hotel.

The Union Gospel Mission hotel space rents for \$130- \$150/month. In addition, they offer a recovery program for alcoholics. Participants share a room and after a couple of months have the opportunity to graduate to the single room occupancy apartments also on site.

Project Home (Saint Paul Council of Churches,)

Several religious organizations in St. Paul take turns opening their spaces as an emergency overflow shelter each month. They take in families who cannot be placed in Ramsey County's Family Service Center. They provide sleeping space for up to 36 people at a time and provide them with a substantial evening snack and a continental breakfast. Hours are 5:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. during weekdays and 5:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. on weekends.

Battered women's shelters

Casa De Esperanza

Offers 15 beds to battered women and their children (if any). Length of stay may be as short as few hours or as long as 30 days. Meals are provided. Intake occurs at any time day or night. This agency provides weekly visits by a physician and on-site support groups. Casa conducts an aftercare program for former shelter residents which include assistance applying for welfare and finding housing. Shelter users may remain throughout the day.

Eagles Nest (Women of Nations)

Offers 48 beds to battered women and their children. The primary focus group is Native American families but in practice includes all ethnic groupings. They have a community advocacy program providing assistance obtaining Orders for Protection, housing and food. Children's programs are also available.

Women's Advocates

Offers 53 beds to battered women and their children. Length of stay may be several hours to over two months. All meals and personal items are provided. Intake occurs at any time day or night. Shelter users may remain throughout the day. Safety and protection planning is provided. A 24-Hour Information and Referral and Crisis Telephone Line is available. Support groups for both residents and community members are provided. Pro se divorce clinic monthly by appointment. Health Care for the Homeless staff provides an Acute Care Clinic weekly and a Chemical Health Education Group once a week. Women's Advocates staff Family Court twice weekly to assist community women in obtaining Orders for Protection. On-site services include support, advocacy, assistance in pressing criminal charges, in obtaining an Order for Protection and in obtaining housing.

Transitional housing

Emma Norton

This residence has 42 beds for women without children who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. They may be in recovery from chemical dependence, coping with mental health challenges, or coming from a battered situation. Others will be restabilizing their lives after having experienced a personal loss. The agency provides affordable housing (\$225/mo shared room, \$325/mo single room) in a secure setting, meals, assistance in goal setting, advocacy and referrals. Residents must be engaged in some effort that will move them beyond their state of transition to more permanency. Emma Norton also offers off-site family reunification, which reunites homeless women and their children. An additional eight families were enrolled in this program in 1997.

RoseCenter

RoseCenter is a transitional housing project for single women 18-24 years old. They house, educate and help the women to find jobs. The average stay is 9 to 12 months, however some stay for up to two years. Those women with mental health problems, chemical dependency and/or children are not eligible.

Naomi Family Center

Eighty-four units of transitional housing for women with children. The program offers on-site day care and job training. Mothers must be 18 or older with no more than children, with all children being 12 years of age or younger. Transitional housing is available for up to one year.

Theresa Living Center

“TLC” is a 12 unit transitional housing facility. They serve single women, those who are pregnant, or who have children (age 5 and younger) with them and help them to re-establish themselves. Residents are required to set and pursue goals. Intake is either direct or via referrals from other agencies. The women have four to eighteen months to become self-sufficient. TLC operates Caroline Family Services, scattered site housing for 10 single women.

St. Paul YWCA

The YWCA operates transitional housing for women (both single women and single parents) in six buildings on three sites. Residents have their own independent and complete apartments and benefit from subsidized rent. Program goals include job training and other educational activities and, when necessary, chemical dependency programs. Program participants receive extensive life skills counseling. When ready, the YWCA helps to establish and acclimate the woman into independent living.