

Counting on shelter

*Emergency and transitional housing use in
Ramsey County, 2004 and 2005*

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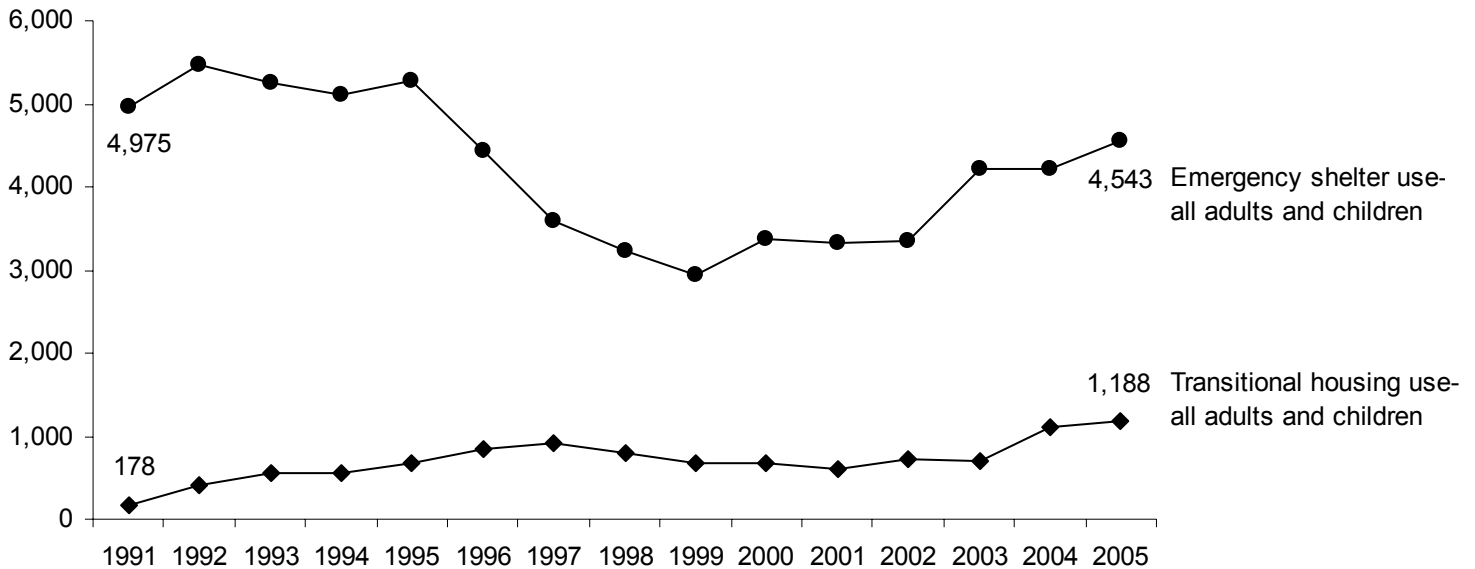
Summary

This report, which covers emergency shelter and transitional housing use in Ramsey County in both 2004 and 2005, is the fourteenth in a series started in 1991. Emergency shelters and transitional housing programs participate in the project by providing client-level data that allow 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.

While far from providing a comprehensive look at homelessness in Ramsey County, this report does convey fairly comprehensive information about the use of adult and family emergency shelter programs (excluding domestic violence and youth shelters), and a continuous trend line on the characteristics of individuals served by a fairly stable set of transitional housing providers.

Besides reporting two years' worth of data, the most notable change for this year's report is our attempt to operationalize "long term homelessness" and identify those meeting this definition. Long term homelessness has received increased attention in recent years, with the implementation of plans to end long term homelessness at both the state and local levels.

1. Trend of emergency shelter and transitional housing use, 1991-2005



Note: Figure represents single adults and families staying in Ramsey County emergency shelters (not including shelters for unaccompanied youth or domestic violence victims), and transitional housing programs that participate in this project (accounting for approximately 62% of transitional housing capacity in Ramsey County).

Emergency shelter use

In 2005, 4,543 individuals are known to have used emergency shelter, which is an 8 percent increase from 2003 when this report was last produced. This year the total number of adults entering emergency shelter – 3,907 – returned to the highest level seen since the first year of this project, after hovering around 2,500 from 1997 to 2002. Following a 27 percent jump in 2003 with the expansion of the Dorothy Day shelter, the number of single males has continued to rise, with 2,732 sheltered in 2004 (a 7% increase) and 2,927 sheltered in 2005 (another 7% increase). The number of single females in shelter has also risen over the last few years. On the other hand, the number of children in emergency shelter in 2004 – 622 – is the lowest in this project’s 15-year history.

Demographic characteristics of adults in emergency shelter

The gender breakdown of adults using shelter has hardly changed over the years, with four out of five adults being male and one of five adults being female. The average age of those using emergency shelter each year in Ramsey County has generally increased since the early 1990s and, for the third year in a row, more than half of adults using shelter in 2005 were age 40 or older. The racial composition of adult shelter users has shifted somewhat, with the percentage of African American adults decreasing (from 57% in 1999 to 44% in 2005) and the percentage of White adults increasing (from 29% in 1999 to 39% in 2005).

Patterns of emergency shelter use

In 2004 and 2005, the trend continued toward more frequent and shorter stays. For this report, 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 number of separate shelter stays for adults in 2004 was 9,466 and in 2005 was 10,755 – the highest recorded since this project started. In 2005, the average number of stays for an adult was 2.8, but only 1.4 for adults with children.

The proportion of adults who exited and returned to shelter in the same calendar year, or the proportion experiencing “repeat shelter use,” was also up in 2004 and 2005. In 2005, the proportion of females with repeat stays was the highest since the project started (45%) and the second highest recorded for single males (54%). Somewhat surprisingly, higher numbers of repeat stays have not coincided with more days of shelters; except for adults with children, there has been a slight decrease in the median total days in shelter over the past few years.

In total, 120,780 bednights of emergency shelter were provided to 4,543 individuals in 2005, with four out of five nights used by single adults and one out of five nights used by families. We estimate that the five shelters participating in this project provide a combined

yearly capacity of about 134,685 bednights (369 beds x 365 nights); thus, Ramsey County shelters were used to 90 percent of their capacity in 2005. A total of 29,129 different adults and 11,538 different children have used emergency shelters in Ramsey County over the past 15 years (1991-2005).

Long term homeless using emergency shelter

This year we identified a new category of shelter users in consideration of the state’s goal to end “Long Term Homelessness,” which the state defines as being without permanent shelter for at least 12 months or four times in the last three years.¹ It is important to note that since episodes of homelessness often include stays in places other than shelters, the numbers in this report underestimate the actual number of individuals in Ramsey County who would meet the state’s definition.

For the purposes of this report, an individual is considered “long term homeless” if either: a) they have lived continuously in shelter for 12 months or more, or b) have had separate shelter stays during at least four calendar quarters in the past three years. In 2004, 858 adults met this report’s definition of long term homeless. In 2005, 1,049 adults were long term homeless. Ninety-eight percent of these were single adults in 2004, and 99 percent were single adults in 2005. In both 2004 and 2005, 4 percent of all families served in shelter were long term homeless. Of the 3,839 adults using emergency shelter in 2005, the 27 percent who were considered long term homeless consumed about 50 percent of the emergency shelter bednights used by adults.

2. Adults entering emergency shelters by household type and long term homeless status, 2005

Household type	All adults N=3,839	Long term homeless adults N=1,049
Males alone	2,927	900 (30%)
Females alone	575	136 (24%)
Adults with children	405	13 (3%)
Families	314	11 (4%)
Total	3,839	1,049 (27%)

Note: Because of missing exit dates for some clients, N of 3,839 for this table differs from the N of 3,907 total adultt shelter users mentioned at the beginning of this section. Percents in parentheses represent percent of adults using shelter who are long term homeless. Due to the way in which data is collected, it is not possible to determine how many children are considered long term homeless.

¹ http://www.mhfa.state.mn.us/multifamily/LTH_Definitions.htm

Transitional housing use

In 2004, 1,114 individuals stayed in one of the eight transitional housing programs that participated in the data collection project. In 2005, 1,188 individuals stayed in these units. While these are the highest numbers ever recorded in this project, they do not necessarily reflect an increase in demand, since the providers participating in this report represent only about 60 percent of the total transitional housing capacity in the county.

Demographic characteristics of adults in transitional housing

The type of adults using the transitional housing programs participating in this project continues to differ substantially from those using emergency shelter. Over half of all people living in transitional housing were children (compared to 15% of children in shelters in 2005), and over one-quarter were women without children. Single males represent only 1 percent of people living in transitional housing in 2005, compared to 64 percent in shelters.

Unlike adults in emergency shelters, the proportion of individuals over age 40 in transitional housing has been decreasing since the late 90s and was around 25 percent in 2005. As with emergency housing, non-Whites (especially African Americans and American Indians) are overrepresented in comparison to the general population. In 2004 and 2005, the percentages of African Americans in transitional housing went up slightly from 2003.

Half of all adults in transitional housing said they had most recently come from another shelter, which is in keeping with 2003 and several other years. Additionally, in 2005, more transitional housing clients than almost ever before indicated that their last permanent address was in Ramsey County.

The lack of affordable housing was the most common reason adults gave for their choice to enter transitional housing, and was cited far more commonly by families than by single individuals. Physical abuse, drinking or drug abuse, employment and income, and mental illness are the four issues that were roughly tied for the second most commonly cited reason to use transitional housing. On average, adults stayed in transitional housing for about ten months.

About 200 adults exited from the transitional housing programs that participate in this project in both 2004 and 2005. By far, the top destination for exiting adults was rental housing, followed by friends and relatives. Looking back over the course of the entire data collection project, 2,834 adults have exited transitional housing programs, with 17 percent of these later entering emergency shelters.

Unduplicated number of persons using emergency shelter and transitional housing

In 2004, 4,091 adults and 1,170 children used Ramsey County's emergency shelters, the select transitional housing programs that participate in this project, or both. This includes 2,749 single males, 719 adult single females, and 622 adults with children. In 2005, 4,429 different adults and 1,240 different children used Ramsey County's emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or both. This includes 2,940 single males, 794 single females, and 694 adults with children. These counts represent a steady upward trend from the past several years, indicating that these Ramsey County housing services are being accessed by a growing number of different individuals.

From 1991 to 2005, 43,260 men, women, and children have used emergency shelter, transitional housing, or both, in Ramsey County. This includes 31,385 adults and almost 11,875 children. By type of program, over the same 15-year period:

- 29,129 adults (mostly single men) and 11,538 children have used emergency shelter.
- 2,840 adults (mostly females) and 2,117 children have used transitional housing.

Introduction

This is the fourteenth report in a series started in 1991 about the use of emergency shelters and transitional housing in Ramsey County. The aim of this project is to help funders, policymakers, and providers make decisions about homelessness by providing reliable and useful information. Most of the 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. Data are collected at intake for all persons entering emergency shelter and transitional housing. Additional data are collected for all persons exiting transitional housing and, starting in July 1994, for persons exiting emergency shelter through Ramsey County central intake.

Data are regularly submitted to Wilder Research. 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. Some of the trend data presented in this report have been updated and differ slightly from data presented in earlier reports in this series.

Programmatic changes in service delivery since the project started include Ramsey County's investment in a central intake office in 1992. 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. In 2003, Dorothy Day began providing year-round services. See the appendix for a comprehensive list of participating organizations by year.

A word about HMIS

This report marks the first time that data collected via Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is used in a report available to the general public. The organizations that originally established the Ramsey County shelter data collection effort, including Ramsey County, the City of Saint Paul, the United Way, The Saint Paul Foundation, and Wilder Research, as well as the service providers who contributed data, were pioneers in establishing what is now known as a "homeless management information system."

The hallmark of an HMIS is that it centralizes data, so that it is possible to obtain unduplicated counts of people using services provided by organizations targeting those experiencing homelessness. HMISs also enable those interested to track trends in such service use over time, as we have done in this report.

Homeless Management Information Systems are now required nation-wide for jurisdictions receiving certain federal homeless assistance funds, including Ramsey County. Wilder Research's involvement in the Ramsey County shelter data collection project led to our participation in the development of Minnesota's HMIS, which we now administer. The new system, complete with detailed federal and state data requirements and a multi-purpose functionality, has led to changes in the way data is collected for some of the providers that participate in this report.

We hope that this is the first of many public reports to use data collected via Minnesota's HMIS to help inform the community's response to homelessness. Additionally, the HMIS project offers an opportunity to consider expanding the scope of this report to include services not currently reported on, such as youth shelters, permanent supportive housing providers, and homeless prevention programs.²

² For more information about Minnesota's HMIS, see www.hmismn.org.

Emergency shelters

Background

The information in this section comes from data submitted by the five emergency shelters for adults and families in Ramsey County. It does not include domestic violence or youth 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 170 beds. The Dorothy Day shelter, previously only open during the winter months, was open year-round for the first time in 2003.

The three 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 ten for single women). When the Family Service Center is full, families and single women are referred to the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches' Project Home, which provides up to 40 beds for family members at the churches that take turns hosting the shelter. The Family Place, which serves as the County's central intake office and provides daytime activities for Project Home clients, used to provide overnight shelter for families when the church shelters were full, but stopped doing so in early 2004.

In 2004 and 2005, data from shelters in the central intake system were collected via Minnesota's HMIS. Both Union Gospel Mission and Catholic Charities' Dorothy Day program participated in the project by providing electronic data collected in their own systems (not HMIS), including client identifiers, and intake and exit dates. Since these two private shelters provide a more limited set of data, the last section of this chapter only includes information on clients served through central intake.

Certain information that has appeared in previous reports, including educational status and income, is not presented in this report given the limited availability of data. Other information, for example housing status at exit, is reported for some groups (adults with children) but not for others (males or females alone).

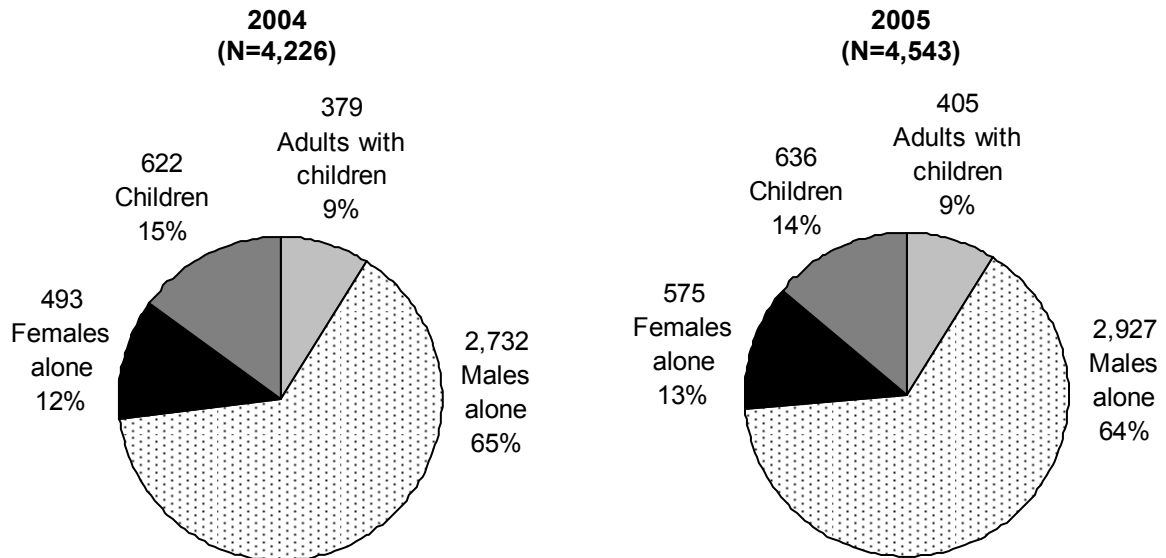
Count of individuals

In 2004, 4,226 individuals are known to have used emergency shelters in Ramsey County, which was consistent with the previous year (4,215 in 2003). In 2005, however, shelter use increased to the highest level since 1995, with 4,543 individuals using shelters in Ramsey County. As shown in Figure 3, percentages by family status were similar in both years. In 2004, 65 percent were single men (up from 60% in 2003 and the highest percent recorded for this project), and 12 percent were single women. About one-quarter (24%) were individuals in families, including the 15 percent who were children.

The number of females alone using emergency shelter has generally been rising since 1997 (Figure 4). On the other hand, the number and proportion of children comprising all emergency shelter users has been dropping steadily over the last eight years and is at its lowest point since this project began (622 in 2004 and 636 in 2005). The number and percent of adults with children, however, has remained fairly constant (379 in 2004 and 405 in 2005), suggesting that families are smaller than they have been in previous years.

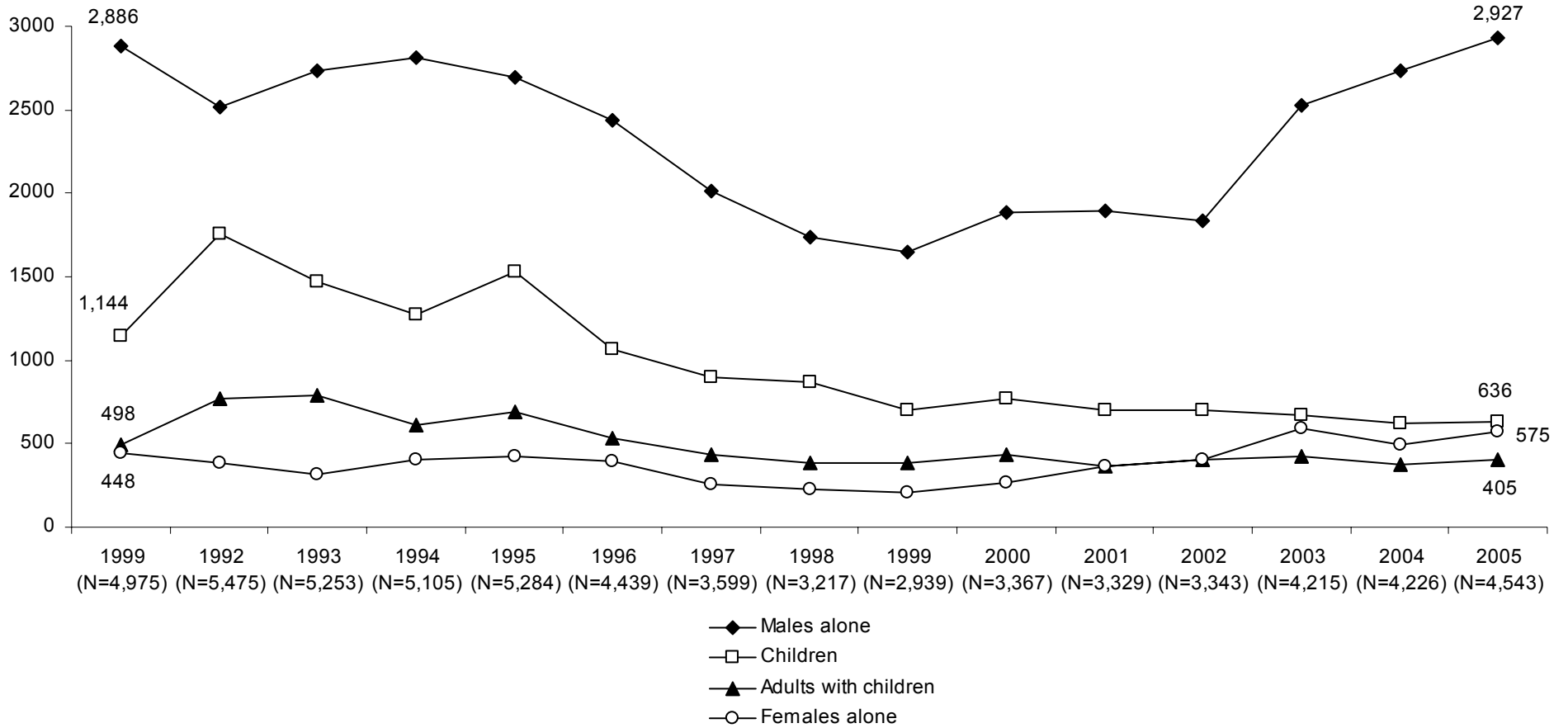
An increasing percentage of individuals using emergency shelter are single men, due in part to the added capacity that came with the year-round expansion of Dorothy Day shelter in 2003. The number of single males alone in emergency shelters has been increasing since 1998 and is at its highest in the history of this project (2,927 in 2005).

3. Individuals entering emergency shelters by household type, 2004 and 2005*



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

4. Individuals entering emergency shelters by household type, 1991-2005



Unduplicated count of individuals using shelter from 1991 to 2005

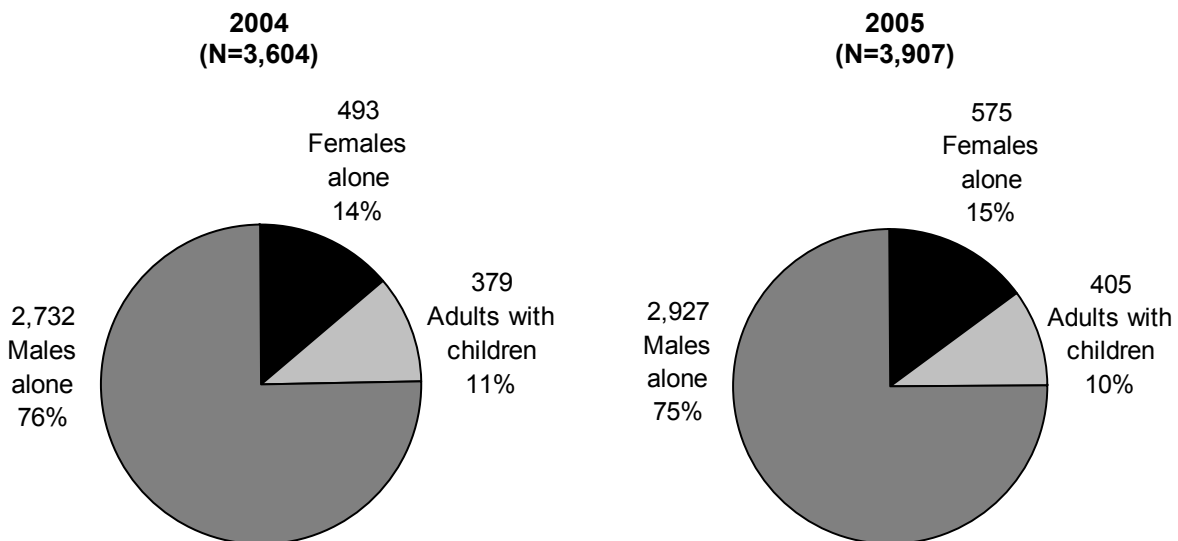
From 1991 to 2005, 29,129 different adults used emergency shelters in Ramsey County, including 19,358 males alone, 3,869 females alone, and 5,902 adults with children. The total number of different children known to have used emergency shelter from 1991-2005 is 11,538.

Count of adults

Over 3,600 different adults used emergency shelters in Ramsey County in 2004, and over 3,900 different adults used emergency shelters in 2005. These numbers are up from 2003, and reflect a steady increase since shelter use was at its lowest in 1999. The largest jump during that time was in 2003 when, as mentioned previously, Catholic Charities expanded its Dorothy Day shelter to year-round operation. The number of adults using emergency shelter services is now at its highest since 1991.

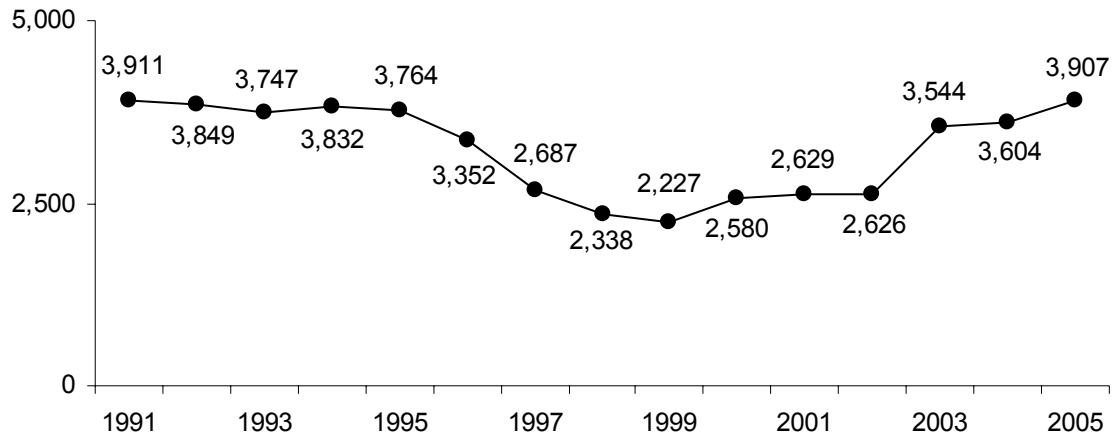
As shown in Figure 5, about three-quarters of all adults in shelter were males alone in both 2004 and 2005. About 15 percent were females alone and the remainder were adults with children. Looking only at those with children, over half were single women, nearly two in five were couples, and less than 10 percent were single males.

5. Adults entering emergency shelters by household type, 2004 and 2005*



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

6. Number of adults entering emergency shelters, 1991-2005



Profile of adults using emergency shelter

Sex and age of adults using emergency shelters

Continuing a trend first seen in 2003, more than half of adults using shelter in both 2004 and 2005 were age 40 or older. This proportion has been on a steady upward trend starting at about 30 percent in the early 1990s. In 2005, the average age of single males in shelter was 42, compared with 40 for single females, and 31 for adults accompanied by children (and the same for 2004, except that the average age of adults with children was 32).

Race and ethnicity of adults using emergency shelters

In 2004 and 2005, like all but the first two years of the project, there were more African American adults served in the shelter than any other racial group (see Figure 7). Whites are the second most common group. In recent years, however, there has been a decrease in the proportion of adults in shelter who are African American (from 57% in 1999 to 44% in 2005) and an increase in adult shelter users who are White (from 29% to 39%). The percent of Hispanics in shelters has generally been declining over the 15 years of the project.

Looking only at adults entering shelter with children, the percentage who were African American went down between 2004 and 2005, from 72 to 63 percent, while the percentage who were White increased, from 19 to 26 percent (see Figures 8 and 9).

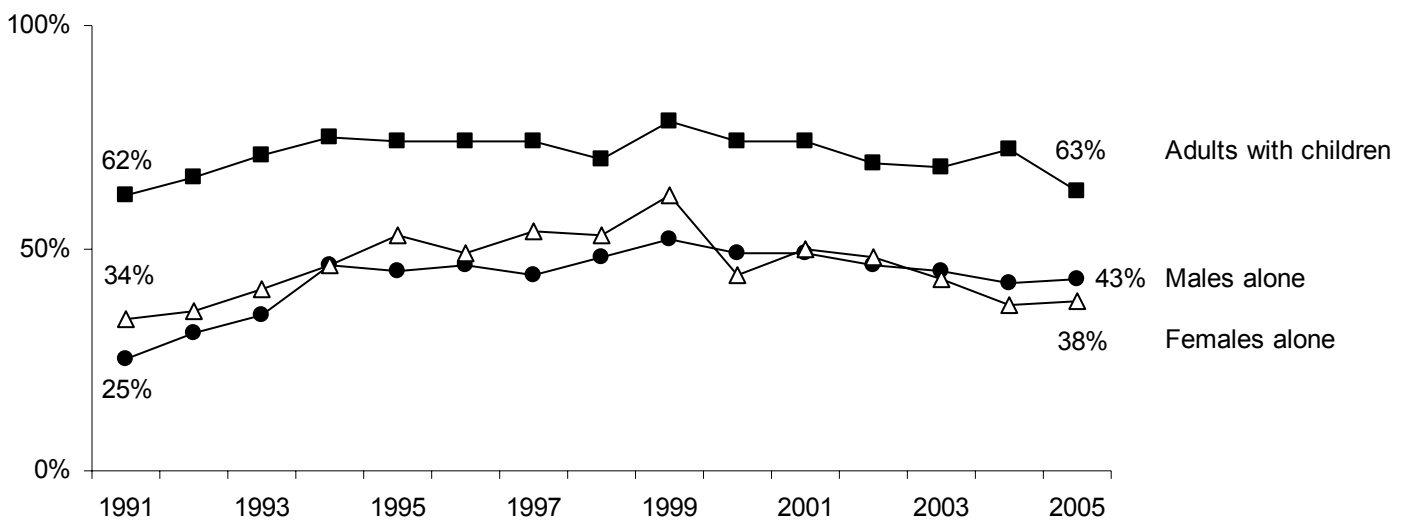
7. Characteristics of adults who entered Ramsey County emergency shelters, 1991-2005

Sex	1991 (N=3,911)	1992 (N=3,849)	1993 (N=3,747)	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)	2004 (N=3,604)	2005 (N=3,907)
Female	23%	27%	25%	23%	26%	24%	22%	22%	22%	23%	24%	27%	25%	21%	22%
Male	78%	73%	75%	77%	74%	76%	78%	78%	78%	77%	76%	73%	75%	79%	78%
Age	(N=3,507)	(N=3,655)	(N=3,622)	(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)	(N=3,578)	(N=3,878)
<20	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%
20-29	31%	32%	30%	30%	29%	24%	22%	19%	19%	19%	16%	18%	16%	17%	17%
30-39	37%	37%	38%	40%	39%	41%	39%	39%	35%	35%	35%	31%	28%	26%	25%
40-49	19%	17%	19%	17%	21%	22%	27%	28%	30%	32%	34%	34%	35%	35%	35%
50-59	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	11%	11%	15%	16%	17%
60+	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Race/ethnicity	(N=3,905)	(N=3,816)	(N=3,762)	(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)	(N=3,602)	(N=3,907)
White	49%	40%	36%	32%	31%	32%	33%	33%	29%	33%	32%	35%	36%	37%	39%
African American	30%	39%	42%	50%	51%	51%	50%	52%	57%	53%	53%	50%	47%	45%	44%
Hispanic	15%	16%	16%	12%	14%	12%	12%	11%	10%	10%	10%	9%	9%	11%	9%
American Indian	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%
Asian	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Multi-racial/Other	-	-	-	-	-	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%

8. Race and ethnicity of adults entering emergency shelters by household type, 2004 and 2005

	All adults (N=3,602)	Males alone (N=2,732)	Females alone (N=492)	Adults with children (N=378)
2004				
African American	45%	42%	37%	72%
White	37%	39%	44%	19%
Hispanic	11%	13%	5%	3%
American Indian	4%	4%	9%	1%
Asian	1%	1%	1%	1%
Multi-racial/Other	2%	2%	4%	5%
2005	(N=3,907)	(N=2,927)	(N=575)	(N=405)
African American	44%	43%	38%	63%
White	39%	40%	46%	26%
Hispanic	9%	11%	3%	5%
American Indian	4%	4%	9%	2%
Asian	2%	2%	2%	1%
Multi-racial/Other	2%	1%	2%	3%

9. Percentage of adults entering emergency shelters who are African American, by household type, 1991-2005



Children in emergency shelters

As shown in Figure 10, at least 622 different children used emergency shelters in Ramsey County in 2004, and 636 children used shelters in 2005. This continues a fairly steady decrease over the past decade. The number of children using shelter in 2004 is the lowest number reported since the project began in 1991.

The demographic characteristics of children in shelter have been fairly consistent since the project began. Two recent exceptions are:

- 1) A shifting racial composition. In 2004, 72 percent of children were African American, and in 2005 this figure dropped to 65 percent, which is the lowest percentage since 1991. The percent of White children increased to 19 percent in 2005.
- 2) A trend toward slightly smaller family size. Nearly half of families had only one child with them (47% in 2004 and 46% in 2005), and the average number of children per family was at or below two for only the third consecutive year since the project began.

10. Characteristics of children with adults in emergency shelters, 1991-2005

Sex	1991 (N=1,064)	1992 (N=1,874)	1993 (N=1,447)	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)	2004 (N=622)	2005 (N=636)
Boys	49%	49%	50%	50%	48%	51%	52%	52%	51%	50%	50%	50%	53%	52%	51%
Girls	51%	51%	50%	50%	52%	49%	48%	48%	49%	50%	50%	50%	47%	48%	49%
Age								(N=877)	(N=708)	(N=768)	(N=700)	(N=717)	(N=670)	(N=622)	(N=636)
2 or younger	31%	30%	23%	29%	29%	29%	24%	24%	19%	21%	22%	24%	27%	24%	29%
3-4	14%	17%	17%	17%	19%	17%	15%	15%	13%	11%	12%	15%	14%	17%	14%
5-9	32%	30%	33%	32%	30%	30%	32%	31%	37%	34%	33%	31%	27%	25%	24%
10-12	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%	13%	14%	16%	16%	16%	19%	16%	17%	18%	15%
13-14	5%	5%	7%	5%	5%	7%	8%	8%	7%	9%	8%	7%	9%	9%	10%
15-18	5%	4%	5%	3%	4%	5%	7%	6%	8%	7%	6%	8%	6%	7%	8%
Race/ethnicity							(N=900)	(N=870)	(N=710)	(N=750)	(N=700)	(N=716)	(N=670)	(N=622)	(N=636)
African American	69%	76%	77%	82%	82%	76%	76%	75%	82%	76%	77%	76%	70%	72%	65%
White	16%	14%	10%	9%	10%	11%	13%	15%	11%	15%	12%	11%	14%	14%	19%
Hispanic	6%	5%	6%	5%	6%	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%	3%	5%	8%	3%	5%
American Indian	6%	3%	4%	2%	1%	5%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	<1%	1%
Asian	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	-	-	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Multi-racial/Other	3%	1%	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	1%	2%	2%	5%	6%	5%	9%	9%
Number of children per family	(N=479 Families)	(N=642 Families)	(N=627 Families)	(N=421 Families)	(N=574 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)	(N=307 Families)	(N=329 Families)
1	37%	27%	29%	35%	33%	40%	35%	33%	35%	37%	38%	41%	49%	47%	46%
2	31%	28%	30%	28%	31%	28%	30%	30%	32%	28%	26%	30%	26%	25%	31%
3	19%	22%	19%	18%	20%	17%	17%	18%	16%	19%	20%	14%	15%	14%	16%
4	7%	12%	10%	11%	10%	9%	10%	12%	11%	11%	9%	8%	5%	9%	4%
5	2%	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%	5%	4%	4%	6%	2%	4%	2%
6	4%	4%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%	<1%	1%
7 or more	1%	4%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%
Mean	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.9
Median	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Emergency shelter use patterns

The general trend over the past several years has been for more frequent stays for all adults. In 2004 and 2005, 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.

Total number of days adults stayed in emergency shelters

To analyze days in shelter, we only look at adults who entered during the calendar year. If, for example, an individual entered shelter in 2003, he or she is not included in the count for 2004.

- In 2004, 24 percent of adults in shelter stayed only one day, and in 2005, 21 percent of adults stayed only one day. In 2004 and 2005, another 8 percent stayed just two days. Approximately half of all adults (51% in 2004 and 50% in 2005) stayed in shelters fewer than 10 days.
- In 2004 and 2005, approximately 30 percent of males alone and one-third of families stayed in shelters about a month or more.
- In 2004 and 2005, the median number of days in shelter was down for males alone and especially for females alone, relative to recent years. On the other hand, the median number of days in shelter was up for adults with children.

11. Total number of days in shelter for adults by household type, 2004 and 2005

	All adults (N=3,563)	Males alone (N=2,706)	Females alone (N=491)	Adults with children (N=366)
2004				
1 – 7 days	47%	48%	54%	33%
8 – 14 days	10%	10%	8%	9%
15 – 21 days	8%	7%	10%	11%
22 – 28 days	6%	6%	6%	14%
29+ days	29%	30%	22%	33%
2005	(N=3,823)	(N=2,872)	(N=564)	(N=387)
1 – 7 days	46%	48%	52%	27%
8 – 14 days	11%	11%	11%	14%
15 – 21 days	7%	7%	8%	10%
22 – 28 days	6%	5%	7%	12%
29+ days	29%	29%	21%	36%

12. Mean and median number of days in shelter by household type, 1991-2005*

	1991 (N=3,791)	1992 (N=3,639)	1993 (N=3,676)	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)	2004 (N=3,563)	2005 (N=3,823)
Males alone															
Mean	16	16	18	16	17	20	20	20	20	20	24	27	28	31	30
Median	4	5	7	6	4	6	6	7	6	7	11	11	8	9	9
Females alone															
Mean	11	13	15	13	12	9	8	11	14	14	16	17	19	22	21
Median	6	8	13	9	8	4	6	7	9	10	8	11	5	5	6
Adults with children															
Mean	13	15	14	14	15	14	14	17	18	18	24	20	22	22	22
Median	11	11	10	12	14	12	12	15	16	14	19	15	17	19	20

* Based on exited stays only.

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

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.

As shown in Figure 13, the number of separate shelter stays for adults in 2004 was 9,466 and in 2005 was 10,755 – 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.

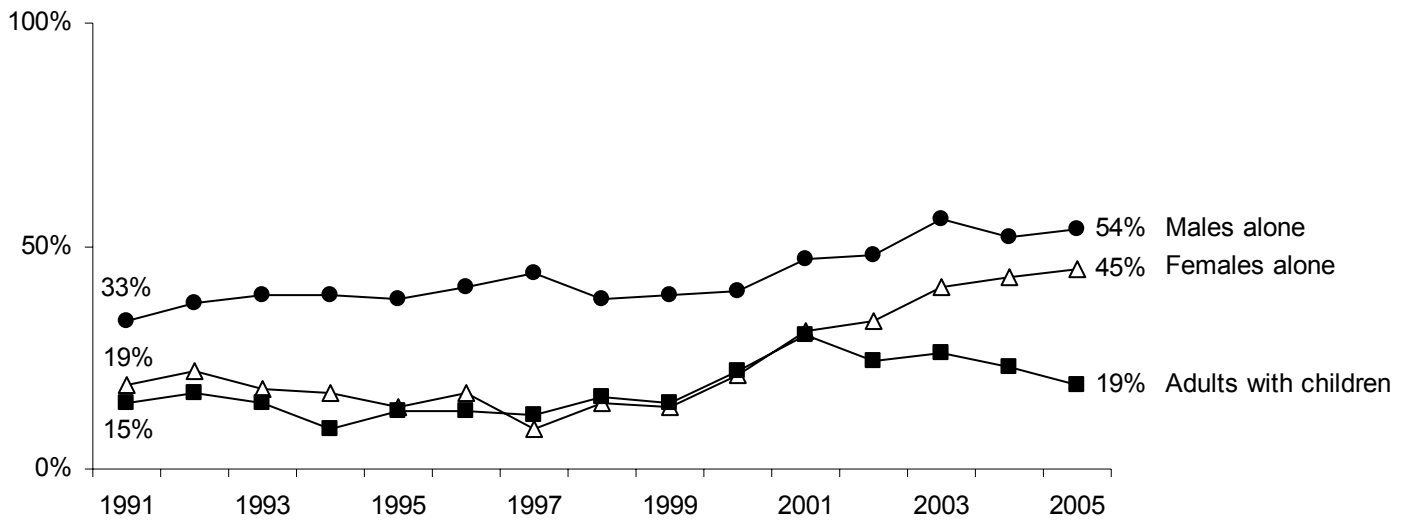
- Just under half of all adult shelter users had more than one stay in 2004 and 2005, accounting for 80 percent of the total number of stays in 2004 and 82 percent in 2005.
- The majority of females unaccompanied by children stayed in shelter just once (57% in 2004 and 55% in 2005), and at least three-quarters of adults with children stayed in shelter just once (77% in 2004 and 81% in 2005).
- Adults overall averaged 2.7 stays in shelter in 2004 and 2.8 stays in shelter in 2005 – more than in any other year on record.

13. Number of separate stays for adults in emergency shelters, by household type, 2004 and 2005

	All adults (N=3,563)	Males alone (N=2,706)	Females alone (N=491)	Adults with children (N=366)
2004 number of stays				
1	52%	48%	57%	77%
2	17%	18%	16%	16%
3	9%	10%	8%	3%
4	6%	6%	7%	1%
5	4%	5%	2%	1%
6	3%	3%	3%	1%
7 or more	9%	10%	7%	1%
Mean	2.7	3.0	2.4	1.4
2005 number of stays	(N=3,823)	(N=2,872)	(N=564)	(N=387)
1	51%	46%	55%	81%
2	16%	17%	15%	11%
3	10%	10%	10%	4%
4	6%	7%	6%	3%
5	4%	4%	3%	<1%
6	3%	4%	3%	-
7 or more	10%	12%	8%	1%
Mean	2.8	3.0	2.5	1.4

Well over half of all males without children who used shelter had more than one episode of shelter use in 2004 (52%) and 2005 (54%). Other than in 2003 (56%), this is the highest proportion of repeat usage recorded for single males since the data collection project began. Likewise, the proportions of females alone repeating shelter use in 2004 (43%) and in 2005 (45%) were higher than in all previous years. Repeat use among families was down, however, from 26 percent in 2003 (to 19% in 2005).

14. Adults re-entering shelter within the same year by household type, 1991-2005



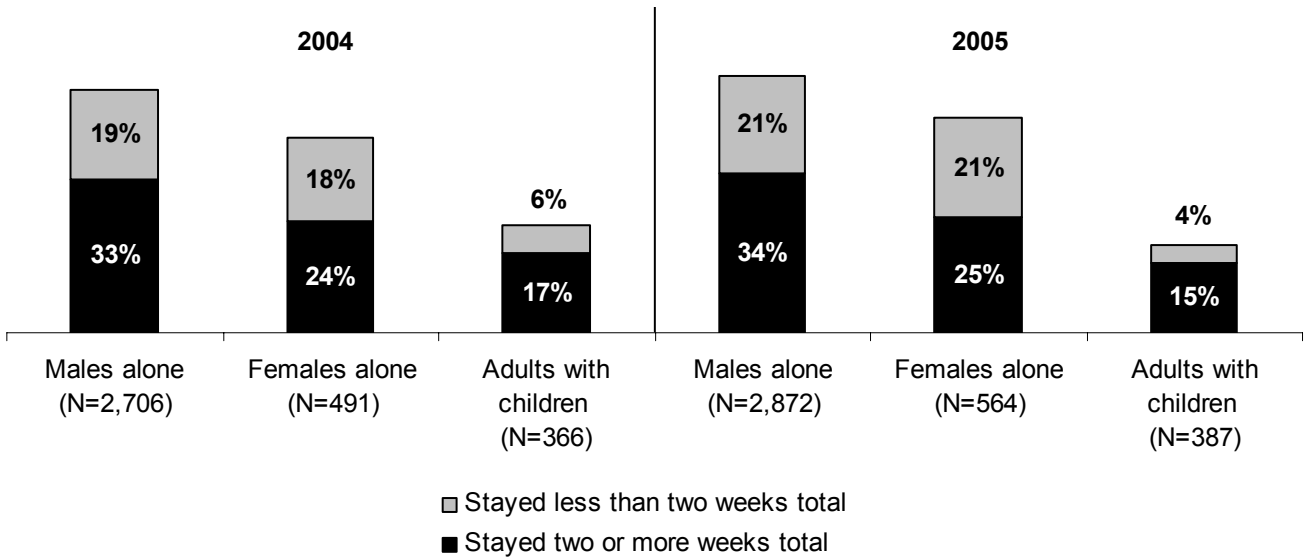
Along with a general trend of increase in repeat use, in comparison with 2003, 2004 and 2005 saw a decrease in average time between stays for families (from 38 days in 2003 to 35). The average time between stays for males alone and females alone remained fairly constant; 29 days in both 2004 and 2005 for males alone, and 32 and 34 days, respectively, for females alone. When we look across all years (1991-2005, rather than just a single year), the average time between stays for all individuals was just over three and a half months (108 days), and five and a half months for families with children (166 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 47 days in 2004 and 45 days in 2005, which is up by several days from the past couple of years. As shown in Figure 15, in both 2004 and 2005, about one-third of single males used shelter more than one time and stayed in shelter for at least two weeks. About one-quarter of single females used shelter more than once and stayed in for at least two weeks. The percents of families staying in shelter more than once and for two or more weeks total went down from 22 percent in 2003 to 17 percent in 2004 and 15 percent in 2005.

Not surprisingly, repeat shelter users tend to have more total days in shelter than those who use shelter only once.

15. Days in shelter for repeat adult users by household type, 2004 and 2005



Bednights of capacity and actual usage

Over the course of a year, each shelter bed represents 365 “bednights” of capacity. Thus, the 369 beds of capacity collectively provided each night by the five shelters in this report represent 369 x 365, or 134,685 bednights of shelter capacity. We should note, however, that this number is only an approximation, since, for example, a unit in a family shelter that contains three beds could be considered full if it were housing as few as two people, or as many as six or more if several small children need to be housed in the same bed. Additionally, on any given night some family beds may house individuals or vice-versa, depending on the needs confronting shelter staff.

That said, 87 percent of the estimated bednights of capacity were used in 2004 and 90 percent were used in 2005, with actual usage closer to full capacity for individual beds than for family beds. Finally, of the total bednights of shelter consumed in both 2004 and 2005, 77 percent were used by single males and females, and 23 percent were used by families.

16. Bednight capacity and usage by household type, 2004 and 2005

Type of unit	Estimated capacity (2004 and 2005)	Usage	
		2004	2005
Total	134,685	116,670 (87%)	120,780 (90%)
Singles	103,660	94,850 (92%)	98,858 (95%)
Families*	31,025*	21,820 (70%)	21,922 (71%)

* Note that capacity is particularly difficult to estimate for family shelters. Bednights used as a proportion of total estimated capacity are shown in parentheses.

Note: Capacity is derived from Ramsey County Continuum of Care 2006 Exhibit 1 application to the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Inventory Chart 2006.

Use of shelter by long term homeless

Since the beginning of this project and specifically 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. Given the State of Minnesota’s recent emphasis on ending long term homelessness, for this report we have also attempted to identify those individuals who meet the state’s definition of Long Term Homeless: being without permanent shelter for at least 12 months or four times in the last three years. It is important to note that since episodes of homelessness often include stays in places other than shelters, the numbers in this report underestimate the actual number of individuals who would meet the state’s definition.

For purposes of this report, we have operationalized the state’s definition so that an individual is considered “long term homeless” if either: a) they have lived continuously in shelter for 12 months or more, or b) have had separate shelter stays during at least four calendar quarters in the past three years.

Because this definition is similar to the report’s definition of chronic homeless, it is not surprising to find a large percentage of overlap between the two groups. Eighty-two percent of adult chronic shelter users also met this report’s definition of long term homeless in 2004, and in 2005, 90 percent of adult chronic shelter users met the definition of long term homeless.

Chronic use of emergency shelters

From 1992 to 2002 the proportion of adults using shelter who met our definition of “chronic shelter users” has been fairly stable, typically about 2 to 3 percent. In the past three years, however, the proportion of chronic shelter users has risen, from over 6 percent in 2003, to 7 percent in 2004, and 8 percent in 2005. This increase in the past three years 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.

- At 309, the number and proportion of chronic shelter users in 2005 far exceeded all other years in the project. (This compares to 221 individuals in 2003.)
- In 2005, of the chronic shelter users, 273 were single men, 33 were single women, and three were adults with children.

In 2004, 27 percent of all emergency shelter bednights were used by those defined as chronic shelter users, and in 2005, 29 percent of all emergency shelter bednights were used by those defined as chronic shelter users.

Long term homeless use of shelters

In 2004, 858 adults (or 24% of all adults in shelter) met this report’s definition of long term homeless. In 2005, 1,049 (or 27% of all adults in shelter) were long term homeless. As shown in Figure 17, 98 percent of these were single adults in 2004 (2% were adults with children), and 99 percent were single adults in 2005 (1% were adults with children). In both 2004 and 2005, 4 percent of all families served in shelter were long term homeless (or 11 of 297 families in 2004 and 11 of 314 families in 2005).

17. Number of adults considered to be long term homeless by household type, 2004 and 2005

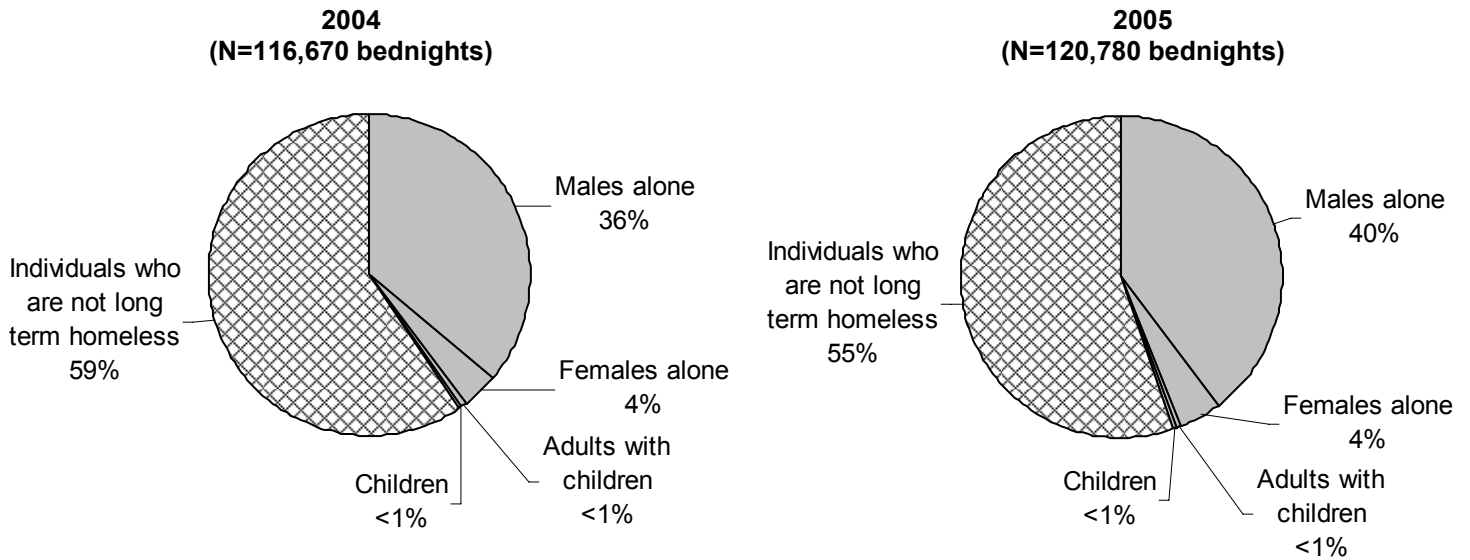
Household type	2004	2005
Males alone	750 (87%)	900 (86%)
Females alone	94 (11%)	136 (13%)
Adults with children	14 (2%)	13 (1%)
Total	858 (100%)	1,049 (100%)

Note: Due to the way in which data is collected, it is not possible to determine how many children are considered long term homeless.

As shown in Figure 18, in 2004, 41 percent of all bednight stays were used by individuals considered to be long term homeless (40% by singles, or males alone and females alone, and 1% by families). In 2005, 46 percent of all bednight stays were used by individuals considered to be long term homeless (45% by singles and 1% by families).

Focusing only on adults, in 2004, the 24 percent of all adults in shelter who were long term homeless used 45 percent of the total bednights used by adults. In 2005, the 27 percent of all adults who were long term homeless used 50 percent of the total bednights used by adults.

18. Bednight use by individuals considered long term homeless, by household type, 2004 and 2005



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 25 percent of all adults using shelter in Ramsey County stayed in one of these shelters in 2004, including 16 percent of all men without children, 24 percent of all women without children, and 93 percent of adults accompanied by children. Similarly, in 2005, 23 percent of all adults using shelters in Ramsey stayed in one of these four shelters, including 13 percent of all men without children, 22 percent of all women without children, and 92 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 pertains only to these adults served through the county's central intake system.

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 (71% in 2004 and 73% in 2005 for all adults) as shown in Figure 19, followed by employment and income problems (56% in 2004 and 53% in 2005).

19. Reasons leading adults to enter shelter, by household type, 2004 and 2005

	All adults (N=845)	Males alone (N=409)	Females alone (N=111)	Adults with children (N=325)
2004				
Lack of affordable housing	71%	75%	67%	68%
Employment/income	56%	66%	41%	50%
Eviction	15%	6%	15%	27%
Mental Illness	5%	7%	10%	<1%
Drinking/drug use	3%	3%	5%	2%
Physical abuse	2%	-	8%	3%
Unit condemned	1%	2%	-	1%
Fear of crime/violence	<1%	1%	-	<1%
2005	(N=579)	(N=162)	(N=65)	(N=352)
Lack of affordable housing	73%	84%	65%	69%
Employment/income	53%	64%	57%	48%
Eviction	18%	4%	12%	25%
Mental Illness	6%	9%	14%	3%
Physical abuse	4%	-	2%	6%
Personal/family crisis	3%	1%	3%	4%
Drinking/drug use	3%	3%	5%	2%
Unit condemned	2%	1%	2%	2%
Fear of crime/violence	2%	-	2%	2%

Note: Case workers record up to two reasons for each client. This table only includes adults served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system.

Living arrangements of adults before entering emergency shelters

Adults were asked about their living arrangements the night prior to entering shelter. In 2004 and 2005, “another shelter” was the most commonly reported prior living arrangement for all adults and males alone, but friends or relatives was the most common previous living situation for females alone and adults with children (Figure 20).

20. Previous living arrangements of adults entering emergency shelters by household type, 2004 and 2005

	All adults (N=897)	Males alone (N=426)	Females alone (N=120)	Adults with children (N=351)
2004				
Another shelter	42%	71%	24%	14%
Friends or relatives	35%	15%	51%	54%
Own place	11%	4%	12%	21%
On the streets	3%	3%	7%	2%
Treatment facility	1%	2%	1%	-
Correctional facility	1%	2%	-	-
Hospital	1%	1%	3%	-
Detox	<1%	<1%	-	-
Other	6%	3%	3%	10%
2005	(N=885)	(N=382)	(N=129)	(N=374)
Another shelter	43%	79%	36%	10%
Friends or relatives	35%	10%	41%	58%
Own place	10%	2%	9%	19%
Correctional facility	1%	2%	-	-
On the streets	1%	1%	1%	-
Treatment facility	1%	1%	1%	<1%
Hospital	1%	1%	3%	-
Detox	1%	1%	1%	<1%
Other	9%	4%	9%	13%

Note: This table only includes adults served through Ramsey County’s emergency shelter central intake system and only those who responded to this question.

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 address, as well as where they lived for “most of the last five years.” Not surprisingly, Ramsey County heads the list in both cases, as shown in Figure 21.

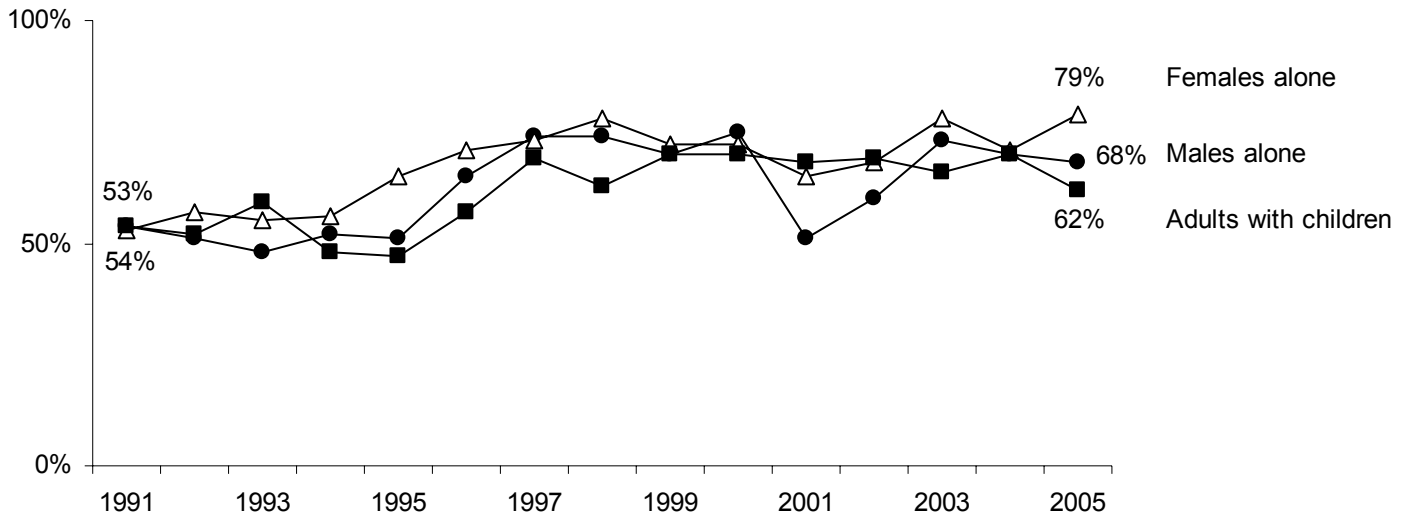
21. Place of previous residence of adults entering emergency shelters, 2004 and 2005

	Last permanent address (N=895)	Where lived most of last five years (N=847)
2004		
Ramsey County	70%	55%
Other Twin Cities Metro	5%	6%
Other Minnesota	3%	3%
Outside Minnesota	22%	36%
2005	(N=887)	
Ramsey County	67%	NA
Other Twin Cities Metro	5%	NA
Other Minnesota	3%	NA
Outside Minnesota	25%	NA

Note: This table only includes adults served through Ramsey County’s emergency shelter central intake system. Data regarding where clients have lived for most of the past five years is no longer being collected.

Figure 22 below shows comparisons of previous locations by family status for 1991 to 2005. The percent of males alone with a last permanent address of Ramsey County decreased for 2001, but rose sharply in 2002 and 2003. It has leveled off in the past two years. The percentage of females alone from Ramsey County is at its highest ever recorded for the project. In 2005, the proportion of adults with children whose permanent address was in Ramsey County was the lowest it has been since 1996.

22. Percentage of adults in shelter whose last address was in Ramsey County, by household type, 1991-2005



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 2004 and 2005, as in previous years, housing status at exit was unknown or missing for at least 80 percent of males without children and nearly 50 percent or more 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 Home, the Saint Paul Council of Churches program that coordinates housing in churches. Many of these families later exit from Project Home to the Family Service Center, and their housing status as of this exit is recorded as “another shelter.” Figure 23 shows that in 2004, the most common known destinations were new housing (34%), staying with friends or relatives (15%), and another shelter (9%). In 2005, the most common known destinations were return to current housing (33%), staying with friends or relatives (15%), and motel/hotel (7%).

23. Housing status of adults with children exiting Ramsey County-funded emergency shelters, 2004 and 2005

2004	Adults with children (N=350)
New housing	34%
With friends/relatives	15%
Another shelter	9%
Return to current housing	8%
Motel/hotel	7%
Transitional housing	1%
Unknown	22%
Other	5%
2005	(N=358)
Return to current housing	33%
With friends/relatives	15%
Motel/hotel	7%
New housing	3%
Another shelter	3%
Transitional housing	2%
Unknown	34%
Other	4%

Note: This table only includes adults served through Ramsey County's emergency shelter central intake system. Information on males alone and females alone is not reported due to missing data.

Transitional housing programs

Background

The information in this section comes from data submitted by eight transitional housing providers. As shown in the Appendix, many of these providers have contributed data to this project for 10 or more years. Also as shown in the Appendix, these organizations provide approximately 62 percent of the total capacity for the region, including 70 percent of family beds and 39 percent of individual beds. They consist of the following:

- East Metro Women’s Council (100 beds for family members)
- Emma Norton Residence (42 beds for unaccompanied women)
- Peta Wakan Tipi (4 units for single women in its Mother Earth Lodge program and 4 units for single males in its Sacred Fire Lodge program)
- Rebuilding Our Own Futures, better known as the ROOF Project, which is a collaborative headed by the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, and in 2004 and 2005 also included East Metro Women's Council, Model Cities, and the United Cambodian Association of Minnesota (220 total beds for family members)
- Home of the Good Shepherd’s Rose Center (9 beds for unaccompanied women)
- Theresa Living Center (Caroline Family Center has 80 beds for family members and the Residential Center has 10 beds for family members and 7 beds for individuals, for a total of 97 beds)
- Home of the Good Shepherd’s Wellsprings Living Center (18 beds for unaccompanied women)
- YWCA of Saint Paul’s transitional housing program, only at the Grotto site (32 beds for family members)

The only changes in reporting from the 2003 report are the addition of data from the ROOF Project’s Model Cities and Peta Wakan Tipi. Union Gospel Mission did not provide data on their transitional housing program.

As with emergency shelter data, certain information on transitional housing residents that we have provided in past reports, including educational status, employment status, and where adults lived most of the last five years, is not presented given the limited data

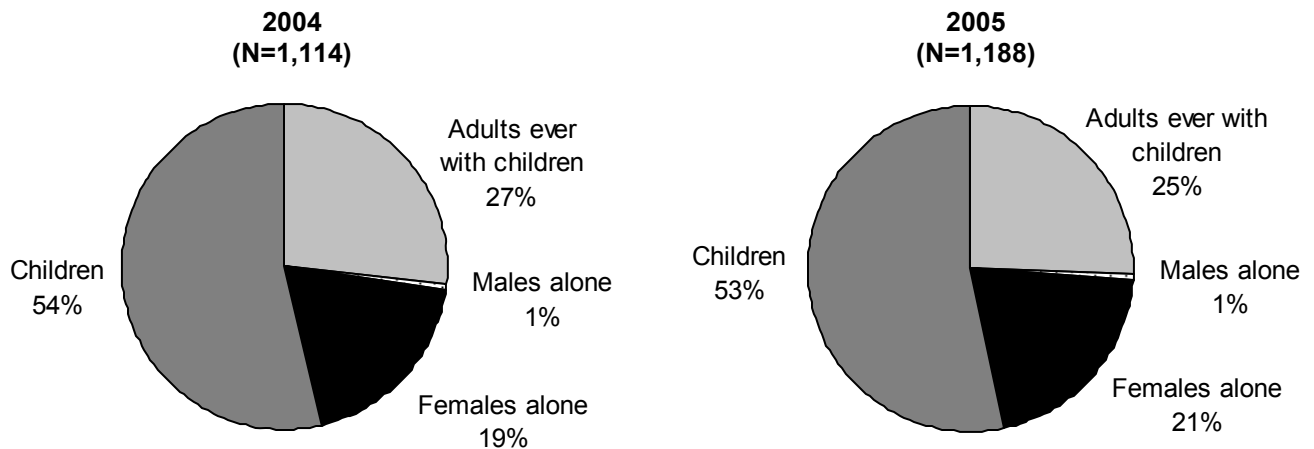
available. Information regarding clients' last permanent address and where individuals move once they exit a program is reported for some groups (adults with children and females alone) but not for all (males alone).

Count of individuals

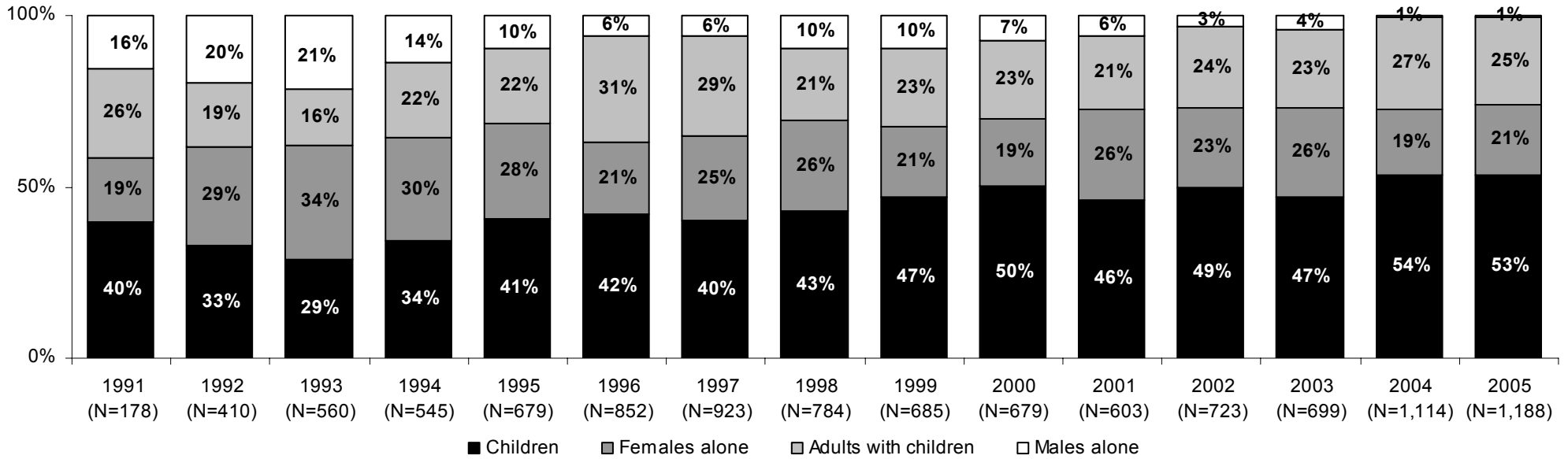
In 2004 and 2005, transitional housing providers participating in this project contributed data on more individuals than has ever been the case for this project (1,114 and 1,188, respectively). While the increase in data does indicate an increase in the use of transitional housing for the providers that participate in this project, it does not necessarily indicate an increase in capacity or demand for transitional housing county-wide. The continued trend lines of characteristics of clients served by participating providers may, however, help inform the picture of transitional housing use in the region.

- As shown in Figure 24, children comprised over half of all individuals living in the transitional housing programs participating in this report (54% in 2004 and 53% in 2005), an increase from 2003 and an upward trend over the span of the project.
- The percentages and counts of families (children and adults with children) have generally been increasing since 2001, as shown in Figure 25.

24. Transitional housing use by household type, 2004 and 2005



25. Transitional housing use by type of household, 1991-2005

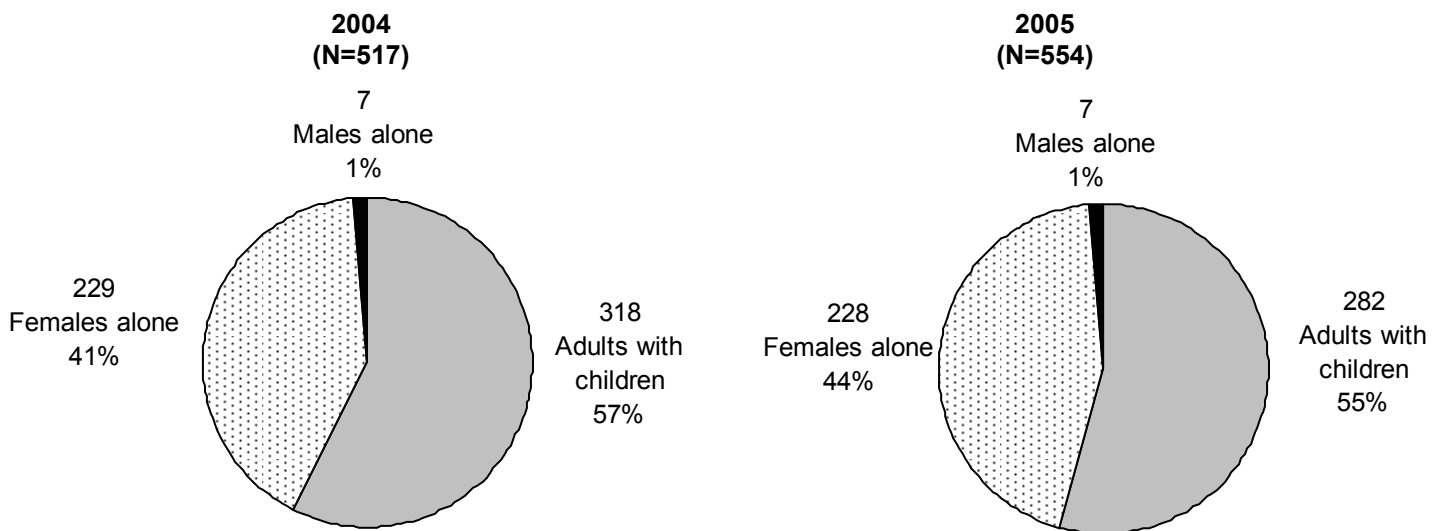


Count of adults

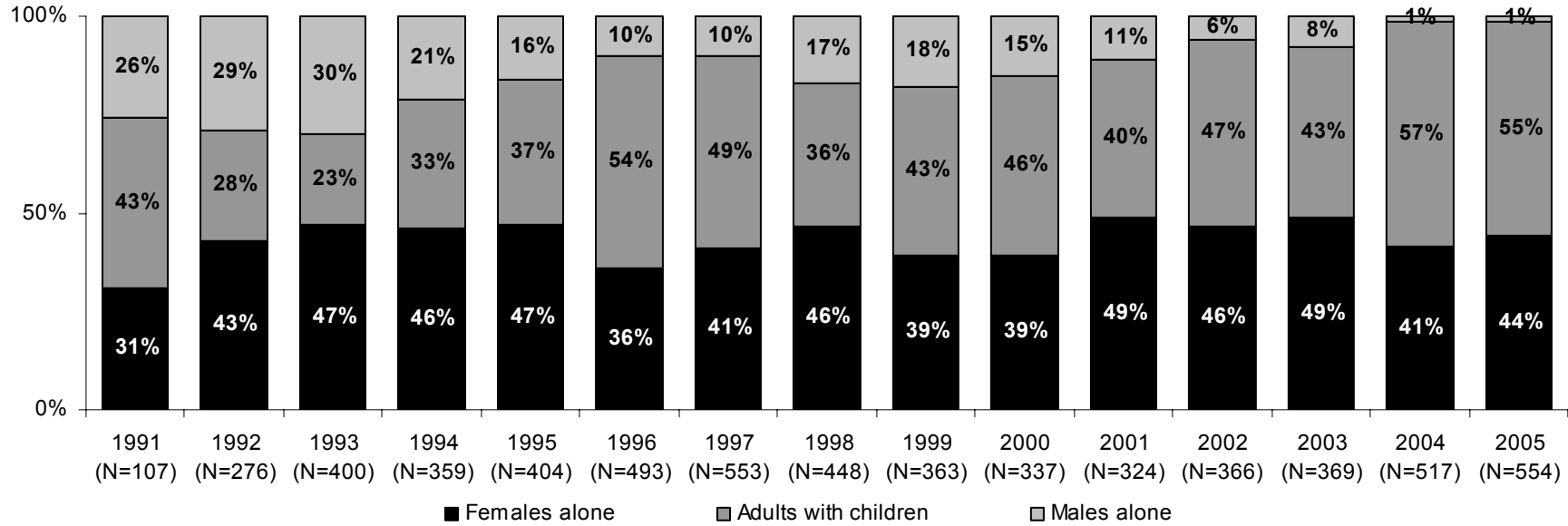
Participating transitional housing providers housed 517 adults in 2004 and 554 for 2005 (Figure 26). This is a dramatic increase from the 369 adults housed in 2003 and previous years, although this is not necessarily indicative of an increased demand for transitional housing, as noted earlier. As shown in Figure 27, adults with children were at their highest percent in the history of the project, comprising more than half of the adult population (57% in 2004 and 55% in 2005). Females alone comprised 44 percent of all adults in the transitional housing population in 2005 (41% in 2004), and only 1 percent of transitional housing users were single men, down from 8 percent in 2003, and the lowest percent over the span of the project. Since we received data on so few single males for this report, we generally do not show them as a separate category in the figures that follow.

As shown in Figure 27, some of the changes in transitional housing over the past 15 years correspond with changes in the types of 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.

26. Adults using transitional housing by household type, 2004 and 2005



27. Adults using transitional housing by household type, 1991-2005



Profile of adults using transitional housing programs

Unlike the age profile of emergency shelter users which has trended toward older adults in recent years, the age profile of adults in transitional housing has trended slightly younger in recent years. As shown in Figure 28, the proportion of adults 40 years and older jumped dramatically between 1997 and 1998 (from 22% to 41%), but it has been steadily decreasing since then and was around one quarter in both 2004 and 2005.

In 2005, 96 percent of the adults in transitional housing were female (97% in 2004). The proportion of females in the transitional housing programs tracked in this report has been increasing steadily over the past 15 years.

There are two very different types of imbalance in terms of the racial composition of adults using transitional housing. First, as with emergency housing, non-Whites, especially African Americans and American Indians, are highly over-represented in comparison to the general population. On the other hand, however, in comparison to the population of those served in emergency housing, at times there has been some concern that transitional housing providers may be under-serving African Americans and American Indians.

In 2004 and 2005, the racial composition of those using transitional housing moved toward that of emergency shelter users, with a roughly 10 percentage point decrease in the proportion of White adults and corresponding (if somewhat smaller) increases in the proportions identified as African American, American Indian, and multi-racial.

The racial composition continues to vary by household type, as shown in Figure 29. In 2004 and 2005, females alone were most likely to be White, while adults with children are most likely to be African American.

The percentages of African Americans with children and as females alone in 2004 and 2005 went up slightly from 2003 as shown in Figure 30. There was not enough data on males alone to report this information.

28. Characteristics of adults using transitional housing, 1991-2005

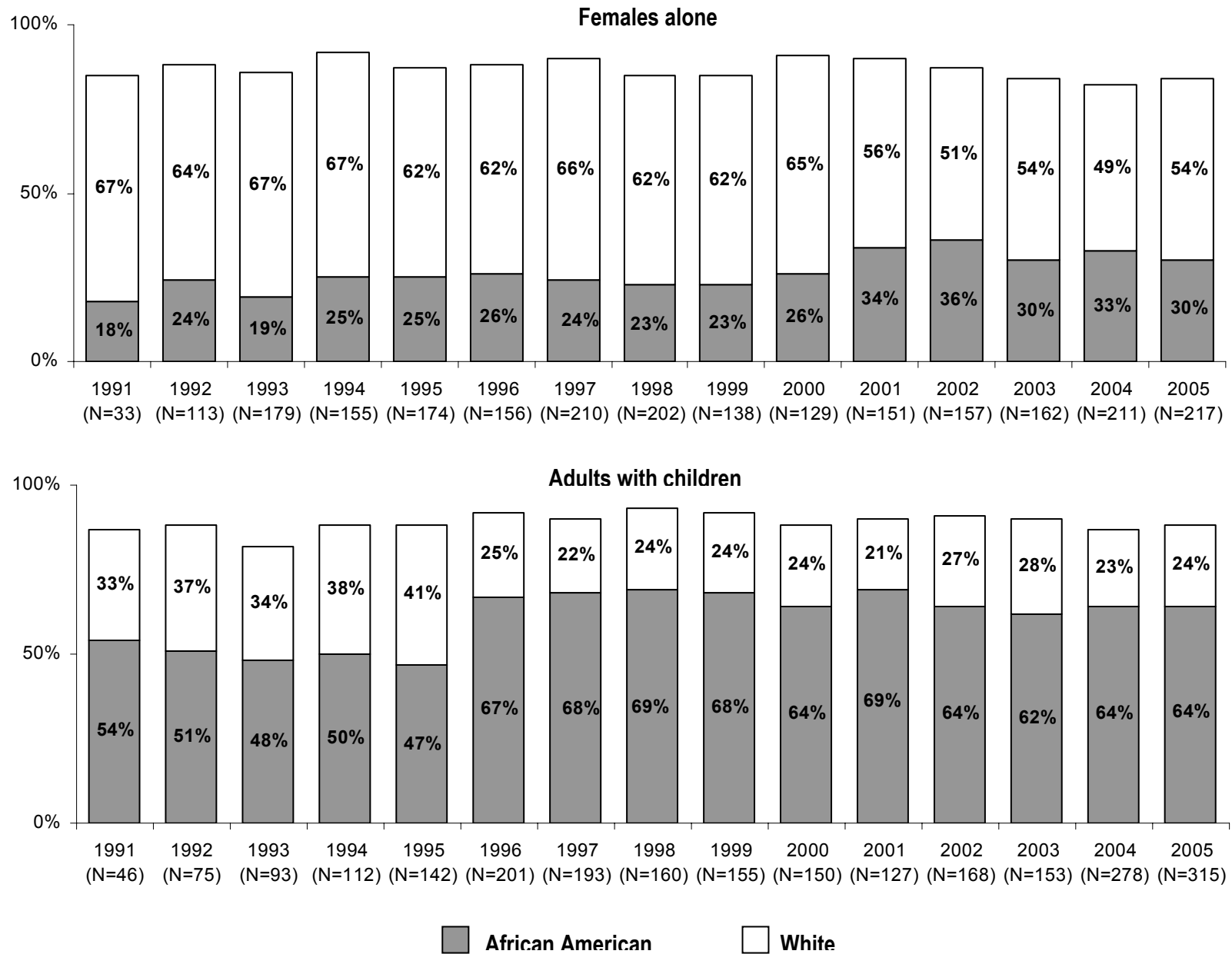
Sex	1991 (N=107)	1992 (N=276)	1993 (N=400)	1994 (N=359)	1995 (N=404)	1996 (N=420)	1997 (N=471)	1998 (N=448)	1999 (N=363)	2000 (N=337)	2001 (N=324)	2002 (N=366)	2003 (N=369)	2004 (N=517)	2005 (N=554)
Female	74%	70%	71%	78%	84%	87%	89%	80%	80%	83%	87%	91%	89%	97%	96%
Male	26%	30%	30%	22%	16%	13%	12%	20%	20%	17%	13%	9%	11%	3%	4%
Age				(N=354)	(N=392)	(N=413)	(N=469)	(N=443)	(N=361)	(N=334)	(N=316)	(N=361)	(N=361)	(N=510)	(N=548)
<18	2%	2%	2%	1%	<1%	3%	3%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<1%	1%
18-19	7%	8%	6%	6%	8%	9%	9%	8%	7%	5%	6%	8%	9%	8%	7%
20-29	41%	38%	38%	37%	35%	35%	34%	28%	32%	35%	34%	35%	35%	41%	38%
30-39	33%	33%	33%	34%	35%	31%	31%	31%	30%	29%	26%	27%	27%	27%	28%
40-49	16%	15%	17%	17%	17%	17%	19%	23%	22%	22%	26%	24%	23%	18%	19%
50-59	2%	5%	4%	5%	4%	4%	3%	6%	8%	8%	8%	6%	7%	4%	7%
60+	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%	1%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%
Race/Ethnicity				(N=343)	(N=379)	(N=406)	(N=457)	(N=439)	(N=358)	(N=330)	(N=313)	(N=348)	(N=344)	(N=496)	(N=539)
White	43%	50%	52%	55%	55%	44%	48%	48%	48%	50%	46%	42%	45%	34%	36%
African American	42%	37%	32%	33%	33%	46%	41%	40%	42%	41%	44%	47%	42%	50%	49%
American Indian	5%	6%	7%	4%	3%	5%	6%	6%	5%	4%	3%	1%	2%	4%	5%
Hispanic	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%
Asian	5%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	3%	4%	3%	2%
Multi-racial/Other	1%	2%	3%	2%	5%	2%	3%	5%	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%	7%	5%

29. Race and ethnicity of adults using transitional housing by household type, 2004 and 2005

2004	All adults (N=496)	Females alone (N=211)	Adults with children (N=278)
African American	50%	33%	64%
White	34%	49%	23%
American Indian	4%	4%	3%
Hispanic	2%	1%	3%
Asian	3%	3%	2%
Multi-racial/Other	7%	9%	6%
2005	(N=539)	(N=217)	(N=315)
African American	49%	30%	64%
White	36%	54%	24%
American Indian	5%	5%	3%
Hispanic	3%	2%	4%
Asian	2%	3%	2%
Multi-racial/Other	5%	7%	4%

Note: *There is not enough data to show the race and ethnicity of males alone.*

30. Race and ethnicity of adults using transitional housing, 1991-2005



Children in transitional housing

In 2004 and 2005, 597 and 634 children, respectively, were housed by the transitional housing programs that participate in this report. These figures are up dramatically from previous years, and are the highest reported during the span of this project. This is not necessarily indicative of an increased demand for transitional housing. As shown in Figure 31, the characteristics of children staying in transitional housing have remained fairly consistent over the past decade.

- In both 2004 and 2005, almost one-third of children in transitional housing were two years old or younger. In 2004 and 2005 nearly one-half were below school age (4 years or younger) and around two in five were elementary school age (ages 5 to 12).
- Nearly two-thirds of children in transitional housing were African American in both 2004 and 2005.
- The average number of children per family was 2.1 in 2004, and 2 in 2005, but a substantial proportion – 14 percent in 2004 and 11 percent in 2005 – had four or more children.

31. Characteristics of children with adults in transitional housing (upon entering), 1991-2005

Sex	1991 (N=71)	1992 (N=134)	1993 (N=154)	1994 (N=173)	1995 (N=265)	1996 (N=357)	1997 (N=366)	1998 (N=330)	1999 (N=315)	2000 (N=337)	2001 (N=277)	2002 (N=353)	2003 (N=322)	2004 (N=594)	2005 (N=632)
Boys	49%	54%	55%	56%	54%	51%	49%	49%	54%	54%	55%	53%	51%	52%	52%
Girls	51%	46%	46%	45%	46%	49%	51%	52%	46%	46%	46%	47%	49%	49%	48%
Age	(N=71)	(N=134)	(N=160)	(N=186)	(N=275)	(N=359)	(N=370)	(N=333)	(N=321)	(N=339)	(N=276)	(N=353)	(N=327)	(N=591)	(N=625)
2 or younger	32%	37%	30%	30%	32%	38%	35%	32%	29%	25%	27%	27%	30%	32%	32%
3 – 4	14%	14%	18%	22%	20%	18%	16%	17%	17%	17%	15%	16%	16%	15%	14%
5 – 9	31%	27%	29%	33%	28%	28%	30%	32%	32%	33%	34%	32%	30%	31%	28%
10 – 12	10%	13%	15%	9%	14%	10%	10%	10%	12%	14%	13%	13%	13%	12%	12%
13 – 17	13%	9%	8%	6%	7%	5%	9%	9%	10%	11%	11%	13%	11%	11%	15%
Race/Ethnicity	(N=71)	(N=134)	(N=156)	(N=181)	(N=270)	(N=266)	(N=222)	(N=172)	(N=184)	(N=186)	(N=151)	(N=202)	(N=216)	(N=551)	(N=623)
African American	69%	62%	59%	61%	57%	66%	73%	74%	67%	69%	78%	73%	69%	64%	65%
White	18%	22%	21%	23%	27%	18%	16%	14%	14%	10%	9%	8%	15%	15%	14%
Hispanic	7%	6%	4%	5%	3%	3%	1%	1%	1%	3%	5%	6%	4%	4%	6%
American Indian	0%	6%	10%	1%	2%	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%
Asian	0%	2%	4%	4%	4%	2%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Multi-racial/Other	6%	2%	2%	7%	8%	8%	4%	6%	14%	12%	5%	9%	9%	14%	11%
Number of children per family	(N=38 families)	(N=70 families)	(N=84 families)	(N=99 families)	(N=149 families)	(N=195 families)	(N=185 families)	(N=156 families)	(N=149 families)	(N=151 families)	(N=124 families)	(N=163 families)	(N=158 families)	(N=281 families)	(N=314 families)
1	47%	44%	51%	52%	48%	48%	46%	40%	41%	37%	40%	35%	39%	37%	39%
2	29%	30%	19%	18%	25%	28%	25%	29%	26%	26%	24%	31%	32%	32%	34%
3	13%	16%	18%	21%	23%	19%	17%	17%	17%	19%	16%	19%	15%	18%	16%
4 or more	11%	10%	12%	9%	5%	6%	11%	15%	15%	18%	19%	15%	14%	14%	11%
Mean	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0
Median	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

Note: Ns may vary within a given year due to missing data.

Previous living arrangements and barriers

Living arrangements of adults before entering transitional housing

Adults entering transitional housing are asked where they last lived. In 2004 and 2005, the top three answers were the same as they have been for the past nine years: another shelter, friends or relatives, and a treatment facility (Figure 32). “Another shelter” has been the most commonly reported previous living arrangement for three consecutive years, sometimes trading places before 2002 with “friends and relatives.” “Treatment facility” has been the third most common previous living arrangement for three consecutive years.

32. Living arrangements of adults before they entered transitional housing, by household type, 2004 and 2005

	All adults (N=405)	Females alone (N=210)	Adults with children (N=192)
2004			
Another shelter	52%	41%	63%
Friends/relative	27%	26%	29%
Treatment facility	18%	34%	0%
Own residence	5%	4%	6%
Hospital	3%	5%	1%
On street	2%	2%	2%
Correctional facility	1%	2%	0%
Other	3%	5%	1%
2005	(N=319)	(N=172)	(N=145)
Another shelter	50%	41%	60%
Friends/relative	25%	24%	26%
Treatment facility	18%	31%	3%
Own residence	6%	4%	8%
Hospital	3%	4%	1%
On street	2%	2%	3%
Correctional facility	1%	2%	0%
Other	3%	4%	1%

Note: Program entries recorded in Minnesota’s HMIS only include living arrangements the night prior to program entry. Program entries recorded prior to the use of HMIS (a minority of cases) were able to indicate several previous living arrangements.

In addition to gathering data on previous living arrangements from intake assessments, it is possible 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:

- In 2004, 120, or 18 percent of all adults in the transitional housing programs included in this report previously stayed in emergency shelter in Ramsey County (not including domestic violence shelters). In 2005, 117, or 16 percent of all adults in transitional housing had previously stayed in emergency shelter in Ramsey County. These figures are down from 2003 (27%) and from the past several years, when they have consistently been in the 20 to 30 percent range.
- Sixteen adults in 2004 (3%) and seven adults in 2005 (1%) in transitional housing had previously exited a transitional housing program in Ramsey County that participates in this report. This proportion was 4 percent in 2003 and has been below 10 percent for each of the past six years. Most of the repeat transitional housing users had only one prior stay on record, but in 2004 three individuals had two or more recorded episodes in transitional housing.

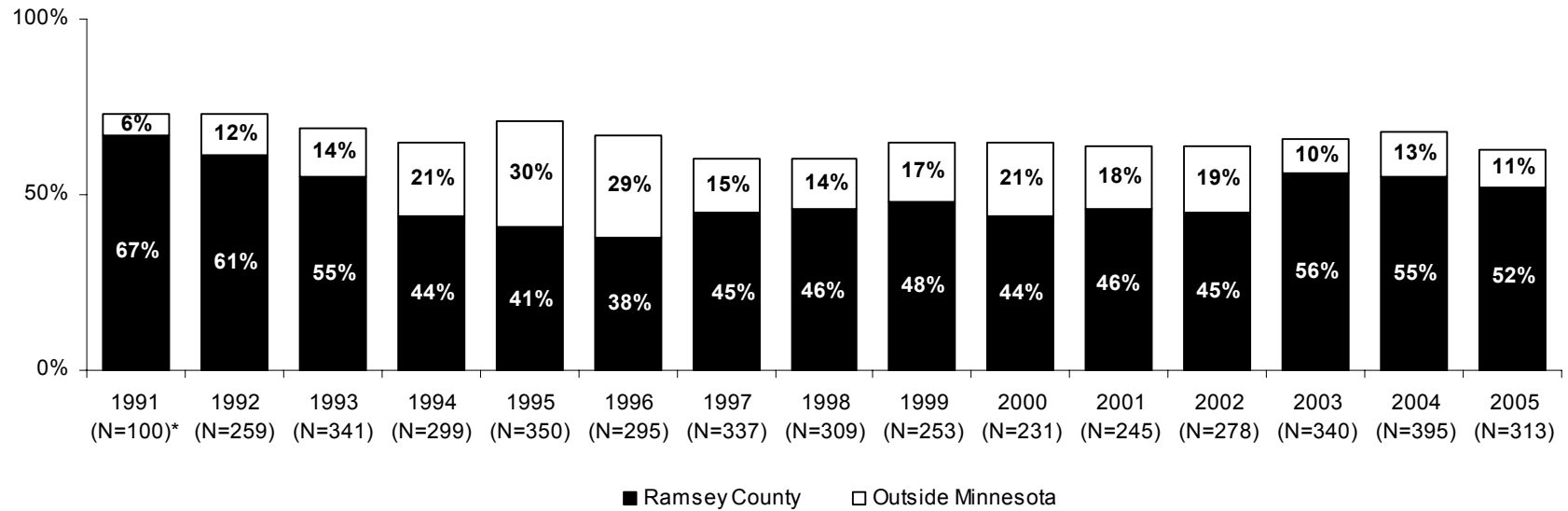
Previous addresses of adults entering transitional housing

In 2004, 55 percent of all adults residing in transitional housing reported their last permanent address to be in Ramsey County, which is the highest proportion reported since 1993 (Figure 33). In 2005, this figure dropped to 52 percent. Most of the remaining adults come from elsewhere in Minnesota. In 2004, 13 percent reported that their last permanent address was outside of Minnesota (and 11% in 2005). These are some of the lowest proportions of individuals that have come from other states, as shown in Figure 34.

33. Last permanent address of adults using transitional housing, by household type, 2004 and 2005

2004	All adults (N=395)	Females alone (N=202)	Adults with children (N=190)
Ramsey County	55%	54%	56%
Other Twin Cities Metro	26%	31%	22%
Other Minnesota	6%	8%	5%
Outside Minnesota	13%	8%	18%
2005	(N=313)	(N=164)	(N=147)
Ramsey County	52%	51%	53%
Other Twin Cities Metro	28%	31%	24%
Other Minnesota	10%	13%	6%
Outside Minnesota	11%	6%	17%

34. Last permanent address of adults using transitional housing, 1991-2005



Reasons leading adults to enter transitional housing

Persons entering transitional housing were asked what led them to need transitional housing. While some clients were given a checklist of issues and were asked to report all that apply to them, others (at providers who use HMIS to collect data) were asked for a primary and secondary reason for homelessness or for seeking services.

- In 2004 and 2005, as in prior years, three in five adults indicated that lack of affordable housing was an issue for them (Figure 35).
- Lack of affordable housing is cited far more commonly by families than by single women. In both 2004 and 2005, four out of five adults with children indicated “lack of affordable housing,” compared to roughly two in five single women.
- In both 2004 and 2005, drinking and drug use along with mental illness are the most common reasons for females alone to use transitional housing (55%-57%), compared to 8 percent or less for adults with children.
- After lack of affordable housing, four issues were roughly tied for the second most commonly cited reason for all adults to use transitional housing: physical abuse; drinking or drug use; employment and income; and mental illness.
- The likelihood of indicating that one of these four issues led to transitional housing varied considerably by household type, with single females far more likely to indicate that drinking or drug use and mental illness were issues, and adults with children more likely to report that physical abuse and income were problems.

35. Reasons leading adults to use transitional housing, by household type, 2004 and 2005 (multiple response)*

2004	All adults (N=388)	Females alone (N=197)	Adults with children (N=190)
Lack of affordable housing	60%	42%	78%
Physical abuse	32%	21%	44%
Drinking, drug use	31%	56%	5%
Employment/income	31%	23%	41%
Mental illness	30%	55%	5%
Personal/family crisis	21%	31%	11%
Eviction	14%	12%	16%
Fear of crime/violence	7%	9%	5%
Unit condemned	2%	1%	3%
2005	(N=324)	(N=172)	(N=151)
Lack of affordable housing	59%	40%	82%
Physical abuse	36%	24%	50%
Drinking, drug use	34%	57%	8%
Mental illness	32%	57%	3%
Employment/income	30%	23%	37%
Personal/family crisis	18%	24%	11%
Eviction	10%	7%	13%
Fear of crime/violence	9%	11%	7%
Unit condemned	2%	1%	2%

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

Status of adults at exit from transitional housing

In 2004, 192 adults exited from the transitional housing providers participating in this project. In 2005, 208 adults exited. As shown in Figure 36, among the single women and adults with children:

- As in 2003, the top destination for both single females and adults with children in 2004 and 2005 was rental housing. Thirty percent of females alone moved to rental housing in both 2004 and 2005; 55 percent of adults with children moved to rental housing in 2004, and 76 percent in 2005.

- In 2004, 26 percent of females alone and an unusually high 23 percent of adults with children stayed with families/relatives after leaving transitional housing. In 2005 the proportion exiting to stay with friends or relatives remained steady for females alone, and dropped back to a more typical percentage for adults in families (12%).

36. Exit status of adults using transitional housing, by household type, 2004 and 2005 (multiple response)

	All adults (N=192)	Females alone (N=103)	Adults with children (N=88)
2004			
Rental housing	41%	30%	55%
With friends/relatives	25%	26%	23%
Steady work*	10%	19%	0%
Public housing	6%	6%	5%
SRO housing*	2%	4%	0%
Treatment	2%	3%	1%
Section 8 housing*	1%	0%	2%
Unknown	25%	34%	15%
2005	(N=208)	(N=104)	(N=102)
Rental housing	53%	30%	76%
With friends/relatives	18%	24%	12%
Steady work*	4%	8%	1%
Treatment	3%	5%	1%
Public housing	1%	2%	1%
Section 8 housing*	1%	0%	2%
Unknown	25%	39%	11%

* *These items were not collected by service providers using HMIS, so are likely to be underreported.*

Transitional housing use patterns

Length of stay in transitional housing

Based on 192 reported exits during 2004 (see Figure 37):

- On average, all adults stayed in transitional housing about 10 and a half months.
- Families averaged transitional housing stays of almost 14 months.
- On average, females alone stayed in transitional housing for approximately seven and a half months.

Based on 208 reported exits during 2005:

- On average, all adults stayed in transitional housing about ten months.
- Adults with children averaged transitional housing stays of almost 13 months, which is down one month from the average in 2004, but up more than four months from the average in 2003.
- On average, females alone stayed in transitional housing for approximately seven and a half months.

37. Adults' length of stay in transitional housing, by household type, 2004 and 2005

2004	All adults (N=192)	Females alone (N=103)	Adults with children (N=88)
<1 month	6%	9%	2%
1 – 3 months	17%	21%	11%
4 – 6 months	21%	28%	13%
7 – 9 months	8%	10%	6%
10 – 12 months	11%	10%	13%
13 – 18 months	15%	11%	21%
19 – 24 months	18%	10%	27%
>2 years	5%	2%	8%
Mean number of days	315	229	418
Median number of days	237	164	408
2005	(N=208)	(N=104)	(N=102)
<1 month	6%	11%	0%
1 – 3 months	16%	24%	8%
4 – 6 months	21%	28%	14%
7 – 9 months	16%	15%	17%
10 – 12 months	11%	3%	20%
13 – 18 months	14%	10%	17%
19 – 24 months	10%	7%	14%
>2 years	8%	3%	12%
Mean number of days	302	221	388
Median number of days	229	146	353

Unduplicated number of persons using emergency shelter and transitional housing

In 2004, 4,091 adults and 1,170 children used Ramsey County's emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or both. This includes 2,749 single males, 719 adult single females, and 622 adults with children. In 2005, 4,429 different adults and 1,240 different children used Ramsey County's emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or both. This includes 2,940 single males, 794 single females, and 694 adults with children. These counts represent a steady, upward trend from the past several years, indicating that these Ramsey County housing services are being accessed by a growing number of different individuals.

From 1991 to 2005, 43,260 men, women, and children have used emergency shelter, transitional housing, or both, in Ramsey County. This includes 31,385 adults and almost 11,875 children. By type of program, over the same 15-year period:

- 29,129 adults (mostly single men) and 11,538 children have used emergency shelter.
- 2,840 adults (mostly females) and 2,117 children have used transitional housing.

Adults returning to emergency shelter after leaving transitional housing

Altogether, 482 of the 2,834 adults (17%) who exited from transitional housing programs participating in the program from 1991 to 2005 later entered emergency shelters. These numbers are consistent with 2003, when 18 percent of exited transitional housing clients later entered shelters.

Appendices

Summary of data sources

Summary of family and individual bed capacity of emergency and transitional shelter providers

Emergency shelter - data sources summary

Agency program	Intake year														
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Union Gospel Mission (Shelter)	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
ACCESS (Motel Overflow)	×	×													
Catholic Charities (Mary Hall Men's Shelter)	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Lowry Family Shelter	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×					
Emma Norton Residence				×	×										
Union Gospel Mission (Naomi Center)				×	×	×	×	×							
Saint Paul Area Council of Churches (Project Home)					×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Catholic Charities (Dorothy Day)										×	×	×	×	×	×
Family Service Center (Maplewood)										×	×	×	×	×	×
The Family Place											×	×	×	×	

* *Indicates that data was provided through the HMIS system.*

Transitional housing - data sources summary

Agency program	Intake year														
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
YWCA of Saint Paul (Transitional Housing-Grotto site only)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x*	x*
Union Gospel Mission		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Catholic Charities	x	x	x												
Emma Norton Services (Dual Disorder)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x*	x*
Home of the Good Shepherd (Rose Center)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x*	
Theresa Living Center (Caroline Family Services)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x*	x*
Jules Fairbanks		x	x	x		x	x	x	x						
Home of the Good Shepherd (Wellspring)			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sarah Family Services		x	x												
East Metro Women's Council (Transitional Housing- Home Again)			x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x*	x*
Union Gospel Mission (Naomi Transitional)					x	x									
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation															
ROOF Program (Wilder units)					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x*	x*
ROOF Program (Jendayi units)					x	x	x								
Reconnect												x			
ROOF Program (Model Cities units)															x*
ROOF Program (E. Metro Women's Council units)												x	x	x*	x*
ROOF Program (United Cambodian Assoc of Minnesota units)													x		
Peta Wakan Tipi															
Mother Earth Lodge														x*	x*
Sacred Fire Lodge														x*	x*

* Indicates that data was provided through the HMIS system.

Emergency and transitional housing providers in Ramsey County, 2004 and 2005

Provider	Bed Capacity		Total Bed Capacity
	Family Beds	Individual Beds	
Emergency Shelters for adults and families			
Catholic Charities (Dorothy Day)*	-	170 (mats)	170 (mats)
Catholic Charities (Mary Hall Men's Shelter)*	-	22	22
Family Service Center*	45	10	55
Project Home (Saint Paul Area Council of Churches)*	40	-	40
Union Gospel Mission*	-	82	82
Total (and percentage of beds represented in this report)	85 (100%)	284 (100%)	369 (100%)
Battered Women's Shelters			
Casa De Esperanza	12	-	12
Tubman Family Alliance (Doris and Stan Hill Home)	30	-	30
Women of Nations (Eagle's Nest)	46	-	46
Women's Advocates	45	7	52
Total	133	7	140
Youth Emergency Shelters			
Ain Dah Yung	-	10	10
Lutheran Social Services (Life Haven)	6	-	6
Lutheran Social Services (Safe House)	-	6	6
Total	6	16	22

Source: Ramsey County Continuum of Care 2006 Exhibit 1 application to the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Inventory Chart 2006.

Note: Bed capacity should be viewed as approximations, especially for family beds.

* Indicates that the provider is a participant in this project and submitted data for 2004 and/or 2005.

***Emergency and transitional housing providers in Ramsey County, 2004 and 2005
(continued)***

Provider	Bed Capacity		Total Bed Capacity
	Family Beds	Individual Beds	
Transitional Housing for adults and families			
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation (ROOF Project-East Metro Women's Council, Model Cities)*	220	-	220
Catholic Charities (Mary Hall Transitional Housing)	-	80	80
East Metro Women's Council*	100	-	100
Emma Norton Residence*	-	42	42
Home of the Good Shepherd (Rose Center)*	-	9	9
Home of the Good Shepherd (Wellsprings)*	-	18	18
Juel Fairbanks	4	14	18
Peta Wakan Tipi (Mother Earth Lodge)*	-	4	4
Peta Wakan Tipi (Sacred Fire Lodge)*	-	4	4
Sarah Family Ministry	-	5	5
Theresa Living Center (Caroline Family Center)*	80	-	80
Theresa Living Center (Residential units) *	10	7	17
Union Gospel Mission (Naomi Family Center)	100	20	120
YWCA (Transitional Housing-Grotto site)*	32	-	32
YWCA (Transitional Housing-Lexington and Oxford sites)	84	-	84
Total (and percentage of beds represented in this report)	630 (70%)	203 (39%)	833 (62%)
Youth Transitional Housing			
Ain Dah Yung (Beverly A. Benjamin Youth Lodge)	-	6	6
Lutheran Social Services (Rezek House)	4	10	14
Lutheran Social Services (Youth Transitional)	-	50	50
Salvation Army (Booth Brown House)	-	20	20
Total	4	86	90

Source: Ramsey County Continuum of Care 2006 Exhibit 1 application to the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Inventory Chart 2006.

Note: Bed capacity should be viewed as approximations, especially for family beds.

* Indicates that the provider is a participant in this project and submitted data for 2004 and/or 2005.