

Homeless Services in Maryland

Maryland Department of Human Resources
Office of Grants Management



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Executive Summary

The Department of Human Resources, Office of Grants Management (OGM) collects information from emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and other agencies that provide services to homeless people. Once a year, they conduct a survey of shelters in Maryland to assist them in determining the nature and scope of the needs of the homeless in the state. Homeless shelters throughout the state, regardless of how they receive funds, voluntarily report on the services they provide. The results of the survey is published as the *Annual Report on Homelessness Services in Maryland (the Report)*, which is presented herewith for the state fiscal year 2008 – July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 (FY 2008).

In addition to survey results, the Report provides an overview of other homeless services which are specifically funded through OGM and provides observations of subpopulations of the homeless population.

This Report is based on information gathered from surveying existing homeless shelters. Following the end of the state fiscal year (June 30), survey forms are sent to all known providers of emergency shelters, emergency motel placements, and transitional housing programs. The surveys are requested from emergency shelter and transitional housing program providers regardless of the programs' funding sources. Of the 178 surveys distributed, 174 providers responded. A summary of the results of the survey include:

- There were 6,835 emergency, transitional, and undesignated beds in Maryland shelters. Shelters reported an over all increase in all types of shelters beds. This is a 105 bed increase from FY 2007.
- There were 1,547,434 bednights available from shelter providers. The largest total bednights were found in Baltimore City (445,891), Montgomery County (262,086), Prince George's County (173,880), and Baltimore County (129,998).
- There were 37,995 people served by Maryland homeless shelters.
- There were 38,462 occasions when people were refused shelter or motel placements because of lack of space or lack of funds.
- The average length of stay for people in transitional housing was 127 nights. 27 nights for people in an emergency shelter (according to longer stay in transitional).
- The largest percentage of homeless people range in age between 31-50. Children 0-17 make up 26.5% of those reported on the survey.
- Fifty-eight percent of the homeless, according to the survey are African-American.

While the Department of Human Resources collects specific data associated with its funding requirements, an overview of sub-populations of Maryland Homelessness is presented for information purposes of other data gathered from the organizations and agencies who touch the homeless population.

- Veterans -- According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, about one-third of the adult homeless population have served their country in the Armed Services. Many

other Veterans are considered near homeless or at risk because of their poverty, lack of support from family and friends, and dismal living conditions in cheap hotels or in overcrowded or substandard housing. While the number of homeless veterans was not available statewide, information reported by Baltimore City, the jurisdiction with the largest number of reported homeless, indicate that 17% of the sheltered adults indicated they were veterans.

- Aged – It is reported that 30% of the homeless in the U.S. are over the age of 45; however, there are not generally studies conducted on the population of the elderly homeless. The elderly homeless are those who are age 55 years of age or older. Statistics are normally provided of homeless families, homeless children or adults in general. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). Of the 11,731 different homeless individuals served by Health Care for the Homeless in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford County, Montgomery County, and the City of Frederick in 2008, 266 individuals were 65 years of age and older; 4,968 individuals were 45 - 64 years of age; 1,575 were 55 years of age and older.
- Domestic Violence Victims- Battered women who live in poverty are often forced to choose between an abusive relationship and homelessness. In a study by the National Coalition for Homelessness of 777 homeless parents (the majority of whom were mothers) in ten U.S. cities, 22% said they had left their last place of residence because of domestic violence.
- People with Disabilities – The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development estimated in 2004 that 28,000 people with disabilities in Maryland lacked access to affordable and accessible housing, causing them to remain in institutional settings, or to become homeless.
- Youth – According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, there are approximately 575,000 to 1.6 million unaccompanied youth on the streets and in shelters in the United States (sometimes referred to as runaway youth). These young people are unattached to families and range in age from 16 to 22 years. Family conflict and violence is the primary cause of their homelessness, and nearly half (46%) have been abused. In Maryland, according to the same study, 12,810 children were homeless in 2008.

I. Introduction

Homelessness in America occurs in urban, suburban and rural areas. The homeless population is made up of families, individuals, youth, and the elderly. The factors that contribute to homelessness can be complex and vary for individuals and families. People who are in danger of becoming homeless may not make enough money to afford decent, livable housing, suffer from mental illness and addiction, have been victims of domestic violence, or not have the education or skills to secure employment of any substantial nature.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) states that persons may also be considered homeless if they:

- (1) live in transitional or supportive housing for homeless people;
- (2) live in transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons but originally came from streets or emergency shelters;
- (3) ordinarily slept in transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons but are spending a short time (30 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution;
- (4) face eviction in a week from private dwelling units and no subsequent residences have been identified and they lack resources and supportive networks needed to obtain access to housing; or
- (5) are being discharged within a week from institutions in which they have been residents for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residences have been identified and they lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing.

For agencies that serve the homeless, this population is very difficult to count. The most recent national information is from the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) 2009 report, *Homelessness Counts: Changes in Homelessness from 2005 to 2007*. The report estimated that on any given night 248,511 family members and 423,348 individuals are homeless in the United States.

In Maryland, the Department of Human Resources relies predominately on data collected from emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and other agencies that provide services to homeless people. In addition to the data collected and reported in this report, additional descriptions of homeless programs are also provided.

II. The Department of Human Resources' Homeless Services

The Office of Grants Management (OGM) of the Department of Human Resources provides funding and oversight of local government and community-based organizations for homeless services. The programs are described below:

- **The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)**

This program provides grants to persons who are evicted. The funds also support counselors who work with tenants and landlords to prevent evictions. HPP provides services in all Maryland jurisdictions. Funding is available for short-term mediation and links to resources that help families and individuals at risk of eviction stay in their homes. In FY 2008, the program helped prevent evictions for 13,632 households statewide: 2,108 through eviction prevention grants and the remainder 11,524, through mediation, court action, or other intervention services.

- **The Emergency and Transitional Housing Services Program (ETHS)**

The Emergency and Transitional Housing Services Program (ETHS) provides State funding for emergency shelters and transitional housing programs throughout Maryland. Funding is provided for shelter beds and support services, such as food and transportation. Funds are also used to provide eviction/foreclosure prevention assistance. ETHS operates through local governments, with significant involvement of local homelessness services agencies in each jurisdiction.

- **The Housing Counselor & Aftercare Program (HCP)**

The Housing Counselor and Aftercare Program (HCP) operates in five Maryland jurisdictions: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford County, Montgomery County and Washington County. HCP provides funds to assist low-income families who are homeless or in imminent danger of becoming homeless. Counselors help families establish credit references and apply for subsidized housing. The counselors also help families to access local, public and private resources available to them for payment of their first and last month's rent, security deposit, utility payment, or donation of furniture.

- **The Service-Linked Housing Program (SLH)**

The Service-Linked Housing Program provides funds to hire local resident advocates to help link low-income residents of permanent housing to community services in 13 jurisdictions: Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Caroline County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Washington County. Advocates, through staff referrals and case management, help link residents who are facing issues such as job loss, lack of health care, substance abuse, mental illness and other issues that can lead to episodes of homelessness. The Resident Advocate helps to link residents appropriate resources. In FY 2008, the program helped 2,231 households to maintain their permanent housing.

- **Homeless Women-Crisis Shelter Home Program (HW-CSP)**

The Homeless Women-Crisis Shelter Home Program provides shelter, room and board, counseling, and referral services to homeless women and children. In addition to safe accommodations and meals, the shelter offers a 24-hour crisis hotline. Other services include: direct resource referral for housing, physical and mental health care, education, training, employment services, and case management. This program is located in 13 jurisdictions in

Maryland: Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Garrett County, Harford County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, St. Mary's County, Wicomico County and Worcester County. In FY 2008, the Homeless Women-Crisis Shelter Home Program helped approximately 2,005 women and children receive emergency shelter and related services.

- **The Supportive Housing Program (SHP)**

Through SHP, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funds to local jurisdictions to fill gaps in their continuum of care for homeless persons and families, with a long-term focus on ending homelessness. Funds may be used for permanent housing, supportive services and for information systems that count and track services for the homeless. Since 2001, DHR has worked to support local entities as they apply to HUD for these funds. Currently, DHR works with local organizations, providing technical assistance in writing of the application for funds, and coordinating, training and information distribution with the local HUD office.

III. The Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness

The Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) was established in 2002 to address homelessness as a multidimensional problem. The ICH recognizes that homelessness encompasses a variety of situations.

ICH devises strategies by which State agencies can collaborate to help those without shelter and prevent homelessness in Maryland. The Secretary of the Department of Human Resources serves as Chair of the Council. The primary tool to accomplish this mandate is the Maryland 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

The ICH consists of 12 cabinet level agencies that work cooperatively to serve this very vulnerable population. Those agencies include:

- The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED)
- The Maryland Department of Aging (MDA)
- The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)
- The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)
- The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- The Department of Human Resources (DHR)
- The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR)
- The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSC)
- The Governor's Office for Children (GOC)
- The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)
- The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

During 2008, the ICH made a number of accomplishments. Three of these accomplishments are provided below:

- Developed a strategy to implement the Maryland 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and recommended resource, policy and regulatory changes necessary to accomplish the goals of the plan during the first two years of the 10-year cycle.
- Formed a workgroup that includes along with State agencies, members representing homeless youth and advocates for health care for the elderly. The workgroup also includes the Baltimore City Homeless Services and representation from the local DSS.
- The workgroup was productive in recommending five specific areas to work towards during the coming year: Income, Housing, Data Collection, Discharge Proceedings, and Employment Activities.

IV. Results of the Annual Survey on Homeless Shelters and Programs in Maryland

A. Methodology

This report is based on information gathered from surveying existing homeless shelters. Following the end of the state fiscal year (June 30), survey forms are sent to all known providers of emergency shelters, emergency motel placements, and transitional housing programs. The surveys are requested from emergency shelter and transitional housing program providers regardless of the programs' funding sources. Of the 178 surveys distributed, 174 providers responded.

Data was requested for State Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008). Services other than overnight stays, such as daytime drop-in services, referral services, food or clothing assistance, transportation assistance, and eviction prevention are not included in this report.

B. Assumptions and Definitions

This report is a count of the number of homeless persons served by the 174 providers responding to the survey. Counting the number of people who are homeless is a difficult task, as some may be transient and many live on the streets and choose not to obtain services at a shelter; these individuals may not be captured in this report. Due to the difficulties inherent in counting the entire homeless population, the Office of Grants Management gathers and reports information only on people who have stayed in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs or who have received emergency motel placements. The data in this report reflects the extent of shelter services provided to people who are homeless as reported by emergency shelter and transitional housing providers on the Homelessness Services Survey form.

An assumption inherent in this report is that some duplication exists in the reported number of people served by shelters. For example, shelter providers are asked to provide an unduplicated count of the number of people provided with shelter. However, people who stay in more than one shelter during the fiscal year are counted by each individual shelter. Although data collection systems are improving, the prevention of duplicate counting remains challenging. The extent of duplication is unknown.

For the purpose of this report, people are considered homeless if they received overnight shelter in an emergency shelter, motel, or transitional housing facility. While acknowledging the existence of people who are living in overcrowded or unsuitable housing, and those who do not access needed shelter, this report includes counts for those who are only served at overnight shelters.

This report does not include data from a shelter without beds for day time shelter or “drop-in centers” if those centers do not have overnight accommodations. It is important to emphasize that the **number of people served** in this report is not a count of all homeless people in Maryland. It is also not an absolute count of the number of different people (unduplicated) served by shelter providers during the fiscal year.

A **bednight** is the most accurate and unduplicated, unit of measure to study the use of homeless shelters. Each night a shelter bed is filled by a person is considered one bednight. If one bed is used for an entire week then the total number of bednights for the week is seven. If a shelter with five beds is fully occupied for a week, the total number of bednights is thirty-five (seven multiplied by five).

Each time an individual is refused shelter or a motel placement because of a program's lack of space or funds, it is counted as a “**turn-away occasion**”. The number of turn aways is thought to be an indicator of unmet need.

Shelter providers were asked whether they provide **emergency shelter, transitional housing, or undesignated shelter**, and whether they are open year-round or only part of the year. In general, stays in **emergency shelters** are short term. Stays in **transitional shelters** are longer term, from three months to two years, and may include additional services, such as residence counseling, and/or case management. Some providers pay for emergency motel placements for people, providing bednights when the facility has lacks sufficient bed space for all the people who seek shelter. Undesignated beds are those beds used as either transitional or emergency shelter.

The **average length of stay** in shelters is calculated by dividing the number of bednights by the number of people served. Using this method, the average length of stay for all types of placements combined (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and motel placements), and the average length of a stay for each of the three types of placements (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and motel placements) is provided. The data, however, applies only to nights spent in the fiscal year period of the survey (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008). Some transitional housing programs allow residents to stay for two or more years. If a shelter is full for all 365 days, but each bed turns over once (serves two different people that fiscal year), then each person’s “average” length of stay is 182.5 days, although a person may actually stay for over a year, including the days not in that fiscal year. Therefore, this average does not necessarily reflect the actual average length of a shelter stay, but can be used to compare to prior years.

Local homeless service agencies are also asked to submit demographic information about people served. Shelter providers are asked to provide data pertaining to the **ages, household composition, gender, and ethnicity** of the population served. However, some providers do not keep demographic data on their customers, so demographic totals for each jurisdiction may not equal the reported total number of people served.

V. Data Collection Results

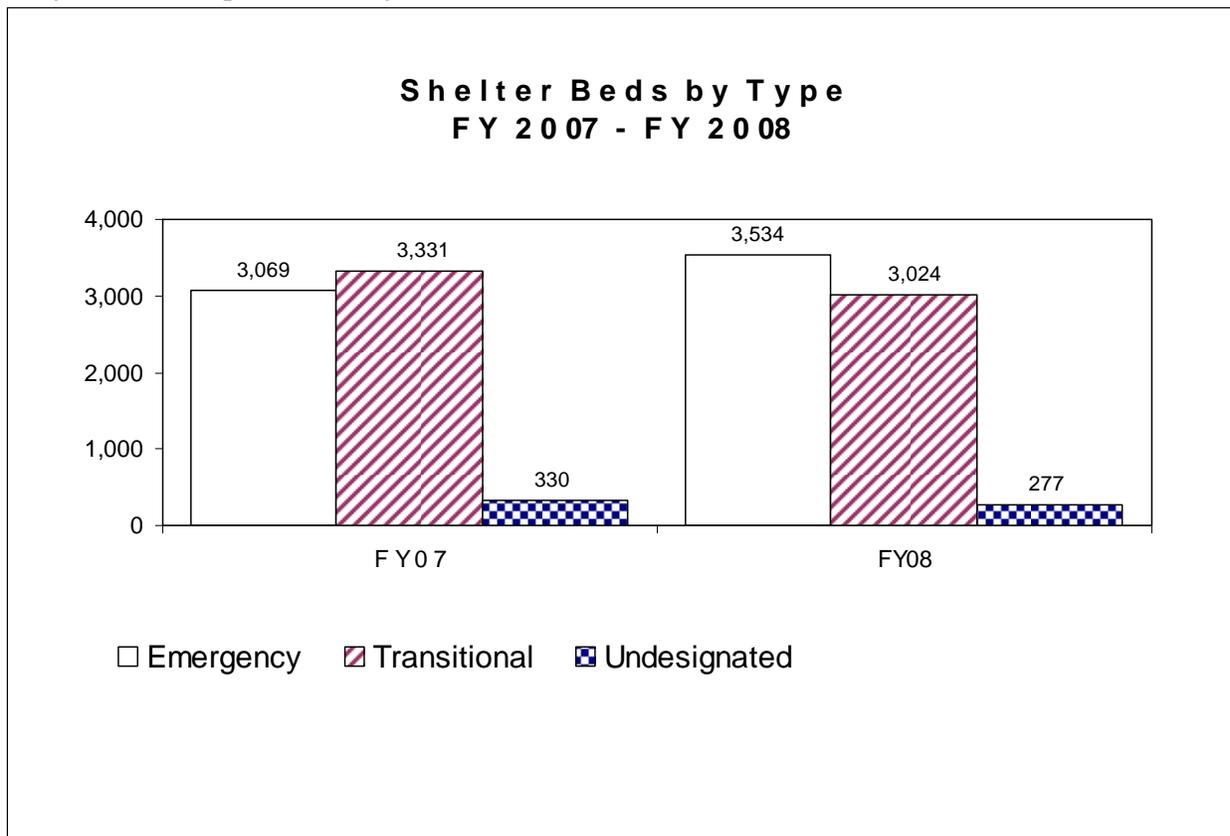
A. Shelters

Each year new shelters open and others close. This report includes data from surveys received from 174 known providers of emergency shelter, transitional shelter, and motel placements in Maryland in FY 2008. Some agencies operate multiple emergency shelters or transitional housing programs and combine their data on a single survey. Other agencies submit surveys specific for each emergency shelter or transitional housing program.

B. Shelter Beds

In FY 2008, there were 6,835 emergency, transitional, and undesignated beds in Maryland shelters, an increase of 105 beds from FY 2007. There were more emergency shelter beds than transitional housing beds available in Maryland. In comparing data from FY2007, there was an increase in the number of emergency shelter beds by 465, a decrease in transitional housing beds by 307, and a decrease in “undesignated” beds by 53. Some shelters categorize their beds as “undesignated” when the beds are used as either transitional housing or emergency shelter depending on their need.

The graphs below show the number of shelter beds by type and total number of shelter beds in Maryland for the past 2 fiscal years.



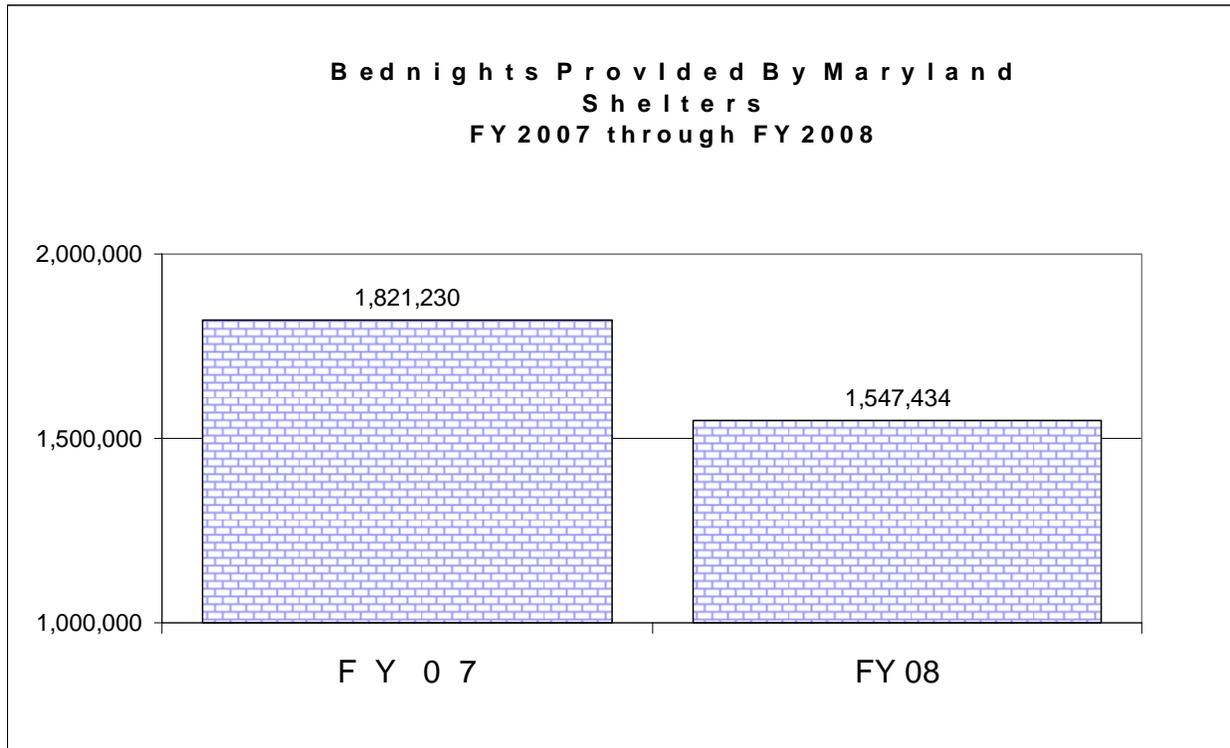
The table below shows the number and type of shelter beds reported available in each Maryland jurisdiction in FY 2008. There were 105 more shelter beds reported available in FY 2008 than FY 2007.

**SHELTER BEDS IN MARYLAND
by Jurisdiction
State Fiscal Year 2008**

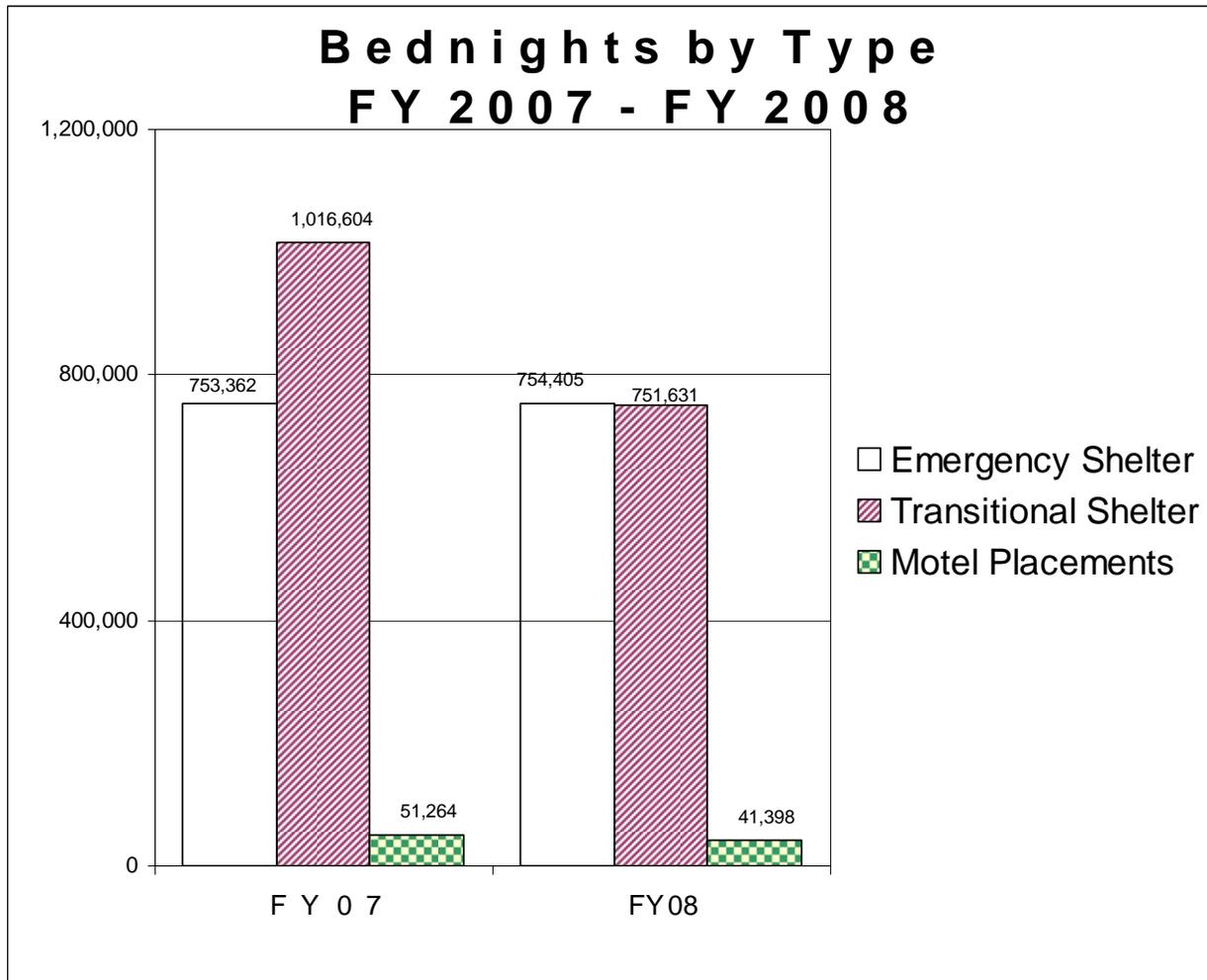
Jurisdiction	Emergency	Transitional	Undesignated	Total	Change from FY 07
Allegany	20	72	30	122	-41
Anne Arundel	162	299	15	476	202
Baltimore City	1411	760	108	2279	229
Baltimore County	266	141	0	407	-155
Calvert	25	7	27	59	-4
Caroline	0	12	0	12	-30
Carroll	104	105	0	209	-109
Cecil	82	93	0	175	47
Charles	86	12	0	98	-20
Dorchester	9	7	0	16	-2
Frederick	113	221	0	334	-5
Garrett	15	9	15	39	15
Harford	56	65	0	121	-31
Howard	34	65	53	152	22
Kent	9	0	0	9	2
Montgomery	487	497	1	985	-58
Prince George's	337	359	0	696	-100
Queen Anne's	0	0	0	0	0
St. Mary's	32	93	13	138	17
Somerset	0	8	0	8	0
Talbot	0	6	0	6	0
Washington	183	122	0	305	-39
Wicomico	71	61	0	132	-5
Worcester	32	10	15	57	1
TOTAL	3,534	3,024	277	6,835	105

C. Bednights

Counting bednights measures the number of nights each shelter bed was occupied. This data is reported by the type of shelter bed (emergency, transitional, or motel placement). In FY 2008, a total of 1,547,434 bednights were reported as provided. This is a decrease of 273,796 bednights as compared to FY 2007.



Bednights provided by transitional shelters comprised 48.6% of all bednights reported in FY 2008. There were 751,631 transitional bednights, 754,405 emergency bednights, and 41,398 motel bednights. The graph on the following page shows the number of bednights provided over the past two years by type of shelter bed provided.



The following chart shows the number of bednights reported in FY 2008, by type of bednight, for each jurisdiction in Maryland.

Bednights Provided by Jurisdiction FY 2008

Jurisdiction	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Shelter	Motel Placements	Total Bednights	Change from FY 2007
Allegany	4,517	13,039	42	17,598	-9,367
Anne Arundel	36,276	23,658	274	60,208	-3643
Baltimore City	262,455	182,805	631	445,891	-201,294
Baltimore County	66,666	62,863	469	129,998	-29,077
Calvert	7,928	7,507	0	15,435	-407
Caroline	0	5,357	25	5,382	604
Carroll	21,265	26,101	27	47,393	3,633
Cecil	17,821	21,086	2,179	41,086	-2,543

Bednights Provided by Jurisdiction FY 2008

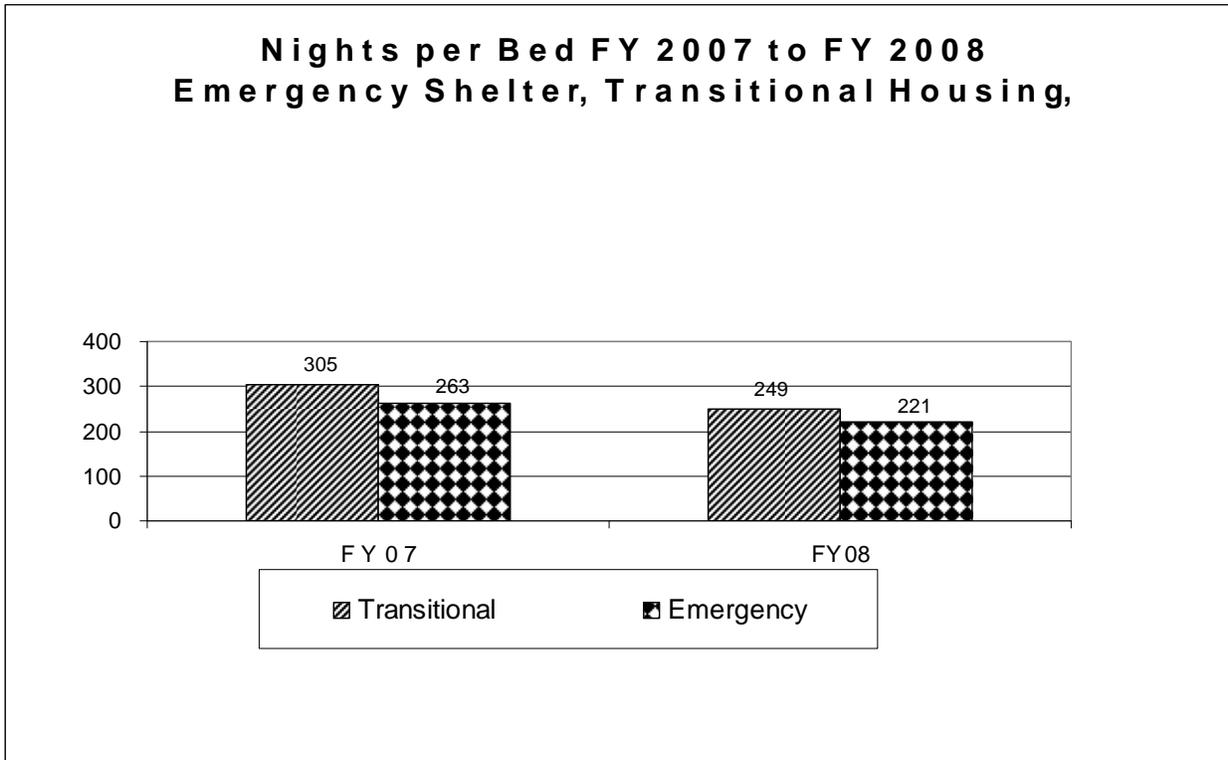
Jurisdiction	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Shelter	Motel Placements	Total Bednights	Change from FY 2007
Charles	18,187	4,380	434	23,001	1,202
Dorchester	1,108	1,674	0	2,782	-1,427
Frederick	25,962	49,997	926	76,885	8,598
Garrett	1,309	660	177	2,146	724
Harford	12,005	21,708	2,339	36,052	-6,155
Howard	16,464	17,792	7,218	41,474	3,749
Kent	247	0	88	335	-104
Montgomery	112,777	128,786	20,523	262,086	-38,007
Prince George's	75,633	97,284	963	173,880	-27,655
Queen Anne's	0	0	44	44	12
St. Mary's	11,461	33,385	3,712	48,558	15,310
Somerset	0	492	150	642	-828
Talbot	813	655	0	1,468	-35
Washington	32,581	25,871	438	58,890	3,410
Wicomico	19,162	21,535	643	41,340	6,960
Worcester	9,768	4,996	96	14,860	2,544
TOTAL	754,405	751,631	41,398	1,547,434	-273,796

In Maryland, as in most of the country, the data collected has a variety of limitations. Antidotal information helps us paint the picture of shelter counts. This is important to state, because the question becomes for example, how is it that in Baltimore City there is a decrease in bednights (occupancy of one person, one night) from 2007, but there is an increase in shelter beds in the city? The responses we received from the analyst who studied these phenomena are that there were shelters that closed at the beginning of the fiscal year, which accounts for the decrease in the bednights. However, by the end of the year, other shelters would have opened that increased the number of beds. But the number of bednights would not have been counted for the period that the shelter wasn't opened yet, resulting in a lower over all count of bednights.

D. OCCUPANCY

It is important to relate the number of available beds to the number of bednights. These two indicators are not affected by duplication so comparing the two can be useful. There were 1% more beds available and 17% fewer bednights provided in FY 2008 as compared to FY 2007.

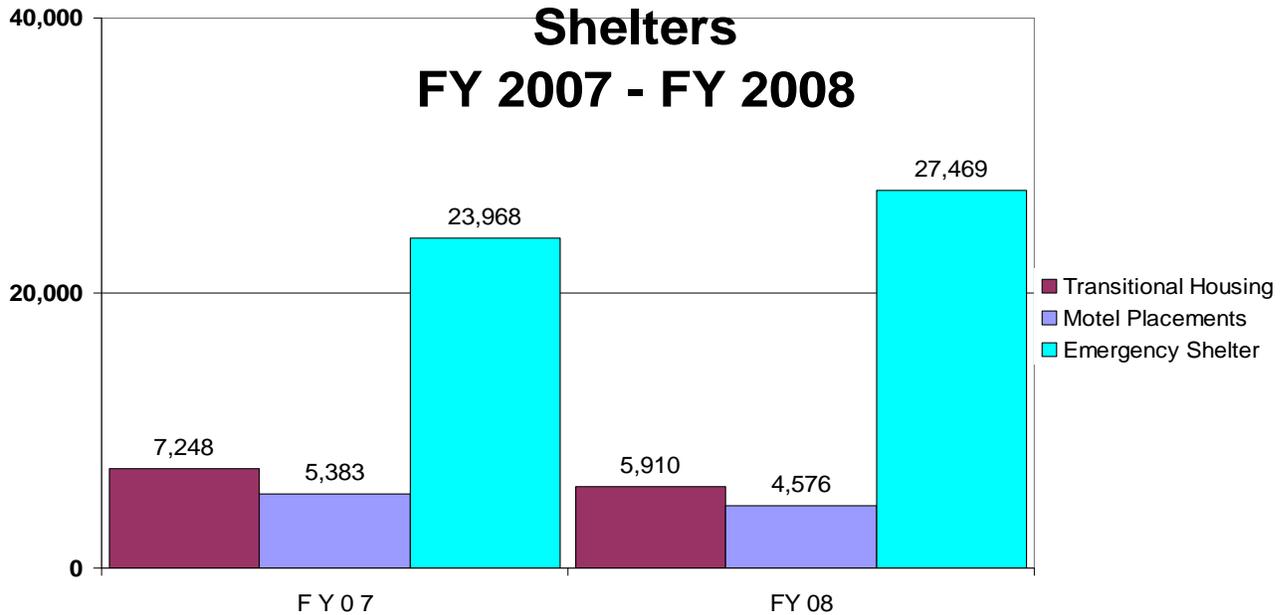
The number of nights per bed decreased for transitional housing in FY 2008 compared to FY 2007. The number of nights per bed decreased for emergency shelter in FY 2008 compared to FY 2007.



E. NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHELTERED

The total number of people who were served by Maryland's homeless shelter providers in FY 2008 was 37,955. This is a 3.5% increase from 36,599 people served in FY 2007. The chart on the following page shows the number of people sheltered, by type of shelter, over the last two years.

Number of People Served by Maryland Shelters FY 2007 - FY 2008



The number of people served (37,955), as reported by Maryland's known homeless shelters,* was less in FY 2007 than was reported for FY 2006. On the other hand, it is slightly above the mean, of 36,766, for the last four years. It is difficult to draw conclusions from this figure because the rate of duplication – the same person being reported by different shelters - is unknown. However, with the implementation of the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), shelters are becoming much more sophisticated with data collection and duplication of data is being reduced. The HMIS is designed to coordinate reporting of people between shelters, especially within jurisdictions.

* Known shelter, as opposed to just shelter: some shelters are unknown to us because they receive no government funding and therefore they may not wish to fill out the survey.

The table below shows the number of people served as reported by emergency shelters, transitional housing, and by motel placements in twenty-three counties and Baltimore City.

Number of People Sheltered by Jurisdiction FY 2008

Jurisdiction	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Motel Placements	Total Served	Change from FY 07	Percent of State
Allegany	178	122	14	314	-217	0.8%
Anne Arundel	1,042	165	251	1,458	-19	3.8%
Baltimore City	14,009	1,523	92	15,624	3,886	41.2%
Baltimore County	2,334	234	88	2,656	-1,159	7.0%
Calvert	217	42	0	259	-219	0.7%
Caroline	0	34	8	42	-15	0.1%
Carroll	503	357	13	873	-31	2.3%
Cecil	375	204	461	1,040	-451	2.7%
Charles	406	36	69	511	-124	1.3%
Dorchester	70	9	0	79	-66	0.2%
Frederick	418	549	517	1484	44	3.9%
Garrett	65	22	95	182	-29	0.5%
Harford	310	129	602	1,041	227	2.7%
Howard	291	94	243	628	-10	1.7%
Kent	15	0	68	83	-58	0.2%
Montgomery	2,572	769	962	4,303	-422	11.3%
Prince George's	1,269	459	326	2,054	-544	5.4%
Queen Anne's	0	0	20	20	4	0.1%
St. Mary's	196	111	218	525	-60	1.4%
Somerset	0	5	22	27	-36	0.1%
Talbot	0	39	0	39	11	0.1%
Washington	1,321	864	294	2,479	523	6.5%
Wicomico	1,604	84	117	1,805	-6	4.8%
Worcester	274	59	96	429	65	1.1%
TOTAL	27,469	5,910	4,576	37,955	1,356	100%

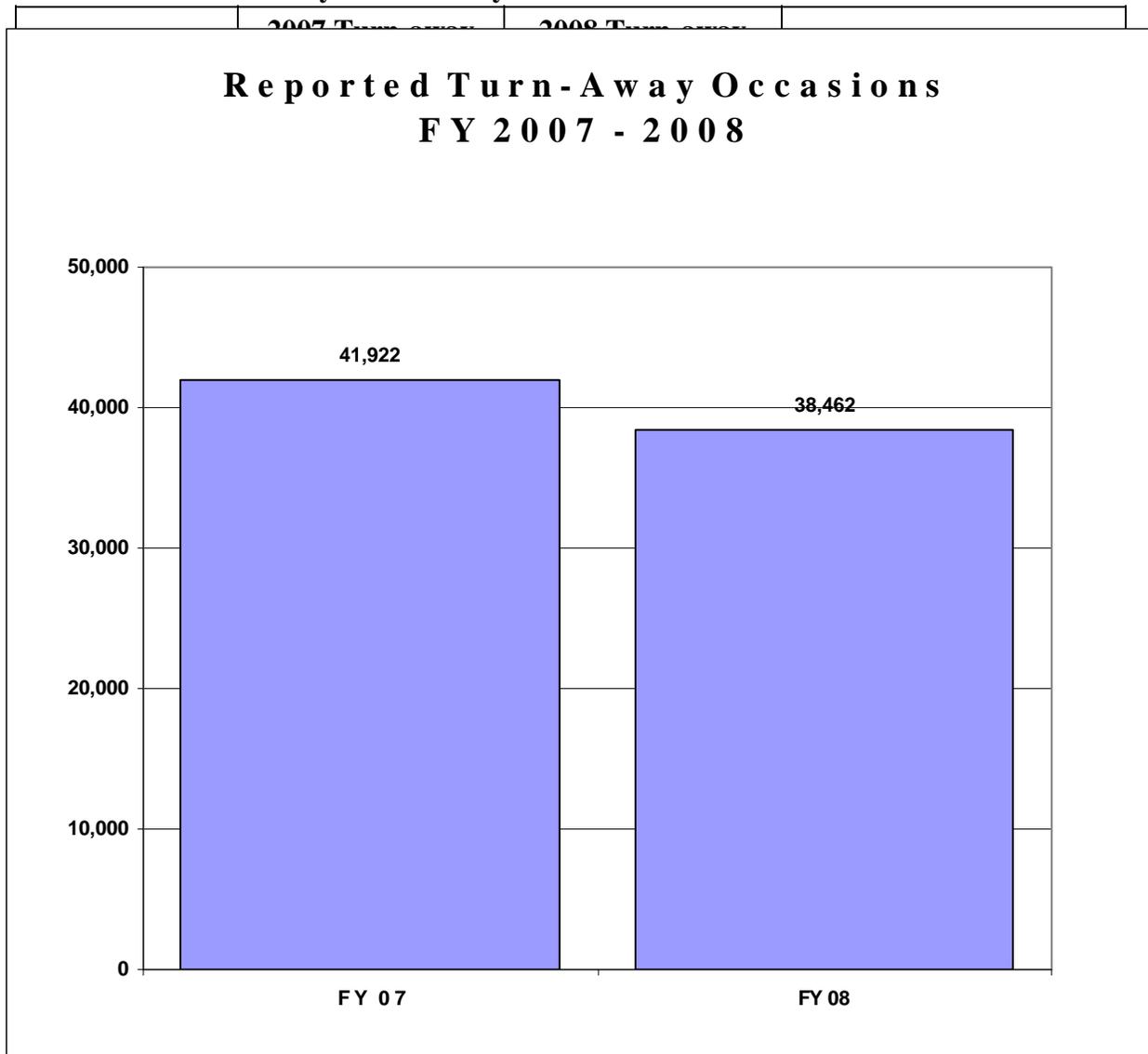
F. TURN-AWAY OCCASIONS

Shelter providers reported that on 38,462 occasions people were refused shelter or motel placements because of lack of space or lack of funds during FY 2008. There were 3,460 less turn-away occasions reported for FY 2008 as compared to FY 2007.

An accurate count of turn-away occasions would demonstrate the unmet need for homeless shelter beds. Most providers are members of a network of homeless services and do not receive walk-in applicants for their services. Persons in need of shelter are referred to the providers through the local Department of Social Services. Consequently, several providers do not collect turn-away occasion data. When shelters report that turn-away occasion data is not collected, the number of turn-away occasions is reported as zero when data is compiled for this report. Some shelter providers estimate the number of turn-away occasions. Estimates by shelter providers are included in the data compiled for this report. The chart below shows the number of turn-away occasions reported in each jurisdiction as well as the change in the reported total number of turn-away occasions for FY 2008 when compared to FY 2007. However, this data does not show an accurate accounting due to the fact that certain shelters do not collect turn-away information and on the report enter zero.

Also, the degree to which duplication exists in the reporting of turn-away occasions, as a person or family looks to several shelters before finding a bed, is unknown.

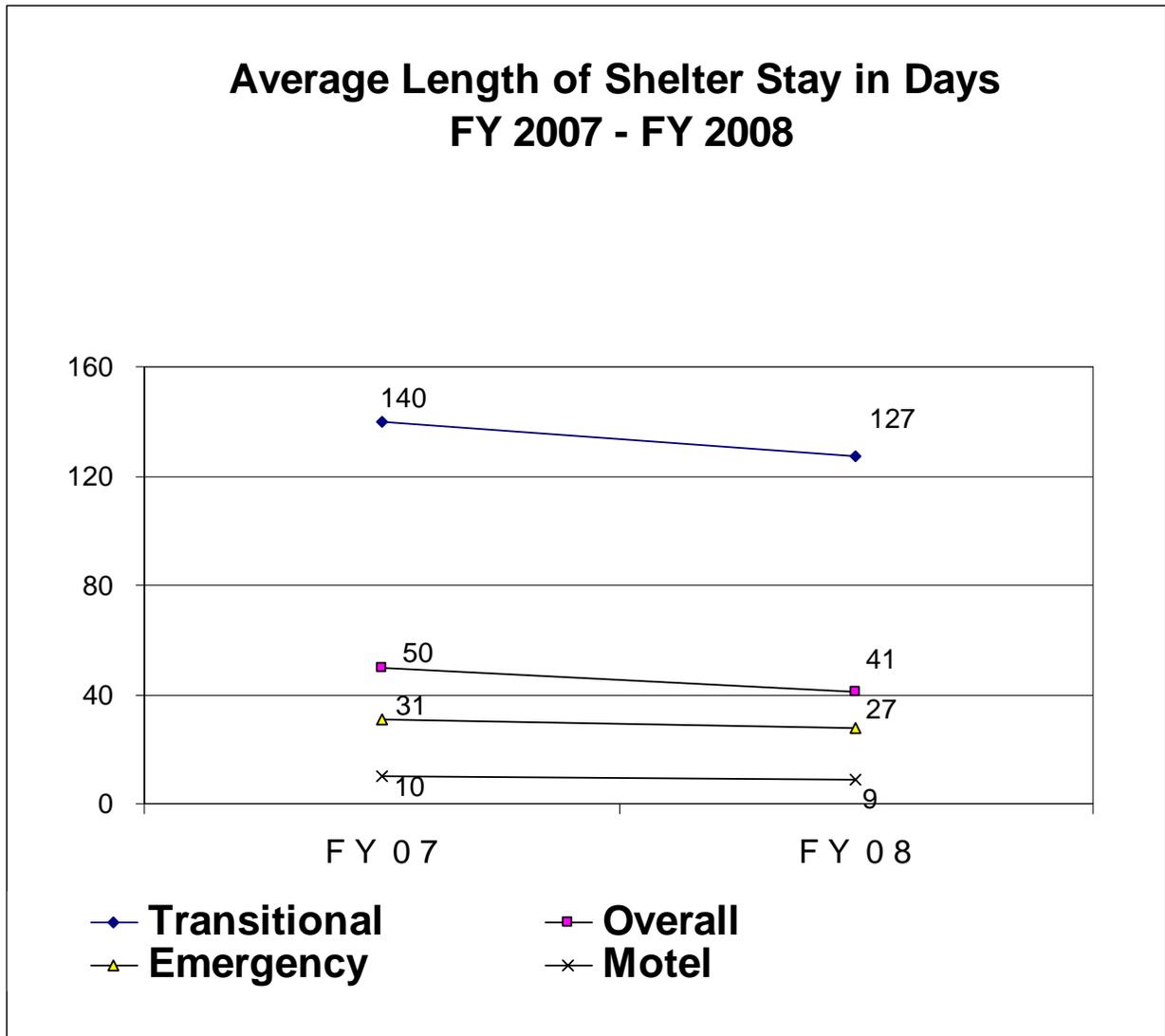
Turn-away Occasions by Jurisdiction FY 2007 and FY 2008



Talbot	15	11	-4
Washington	135	147	12
Wicomico	2,951	1,605	-1,346
Worcester	1,823	1,951	128
TOTAL	41,922	38,462	-3,460

G. AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

The overall average number of nights in FY 2008 that a person stayed in a homeless service placement was 41. The average stay in an emergency shelter was 27 nights, 9 nights for a motel placement, and 127 nights in a transitional shelter. The graph below illustrates the change in average length of shelter stays during the past two years, by type of shelter.



It is important to emphasize that the average length of stay is determined by dividing the number of bednights by the number of people served. The number of people served includes some duplication, whereas the number of bednights does not.

Also, bednight data collected for FY 2008 does not take into account the time spent by the same person at the same shelter before or after FY 2007. If a shelter is full for all 365 nights, but each bed turns over once, (serves two different people that fiscal year), then each person's "average" length of stay is 182.5 nights, although the person may actually stay for over a year, including the nights not in that fiscal year. This figure is therefore more useful in comparing figures from successive years, rather than as an accurate measure of the length of time people stay in a shelter.

The average length of stay decreased by 4 for emergency shelter for FY 2008 as compared to FY 2007. The average length of stay for transitional housing decreased by 13 nights. The average length of stay decreased by 1 night for motel placements.

The average length of stay for people in a transitional housing program decreased by 13 nights to 127 in FY 2008. Transitional shelter providers report that longer stays afford people the opportunity to acquire resources to move out of the shelter system permanently, particularly given the lack of affordable housing throughout Maryland.

H. DEMOGRAPHICS

Age, household composition, gender of adults, and ethnicity are the four demographic characteristics collected from shelters. Demographic numbers provided for each jurisdiction may not equal the total number served because some providers do not collect and report some or any demographic data.

1. AGE

Providers are asked to report the number of people served in four age categories (0-17, 18-30, 31-50, 51-61, and 62+).

Not all providers surveyed collect or report age data for people they serve. Of the providers reporting demographic data from FY 2008, Children ages 0 – 17 represented 26.5% of homeless people served by those providers. The largest age category for homeless people served is the 31 to 50 year olds who represented 37.9% of homeless people served in FY 2008.

When data from Baltimore City's shelter providers is removed from the totals, the percentages for the age groups change significantly. The percentage of children ages 0 – 17 served increases to 31.5% and the percentage of adults ages 18 – 30 increases to 25.5.0% from 22.0%.

The chart below shows the age breakdown by jurisdiction.

Age Breakdown by Jurisdiction FY 2008

Jurisdiction	0 – 17	18 – 30	31 – 50	51 - 61	62 +
Allegany	166	80	55	12	1
Anne Arundel	464	199	362	146	10
Baltimore City	3,051	2,046	7,185	2,437	838
Baltimore County	669	582	853	507	70
Calvert	91	59	94	14	1
Caroline	22	9	13	1	0
Carroll	213	311	245	62	13
Cecil	295	212	338	102	22
Charles	109	115	208	35	8
Dorchester	17	18	29	12	3
Frederick	502	360	544	65	14
Garrett	61	40	63	14	4
Harford	174	184	405	107	28
Howard	305	51	276	4	0
Kent	11	18	28	6	1
Montgomery	1,474	839	1,486	425	82
Prince George's	779	446	648	154	29
Queen Anne's	10	4	2	2	0
St. Mary's	234	110	145	32	4
Somerset	14	3	9	1	0
Talbot	0	12	21	7	0
Washington	481	390	683	227	31
Wicomico	455	1,209	79	18	4
Worcester	101	130	134	51	8
State Total	9,698	7,427	13,905	4,441	1,171
Percent of Total	26.5%	20.3%	37.9	12.1%	3.2%

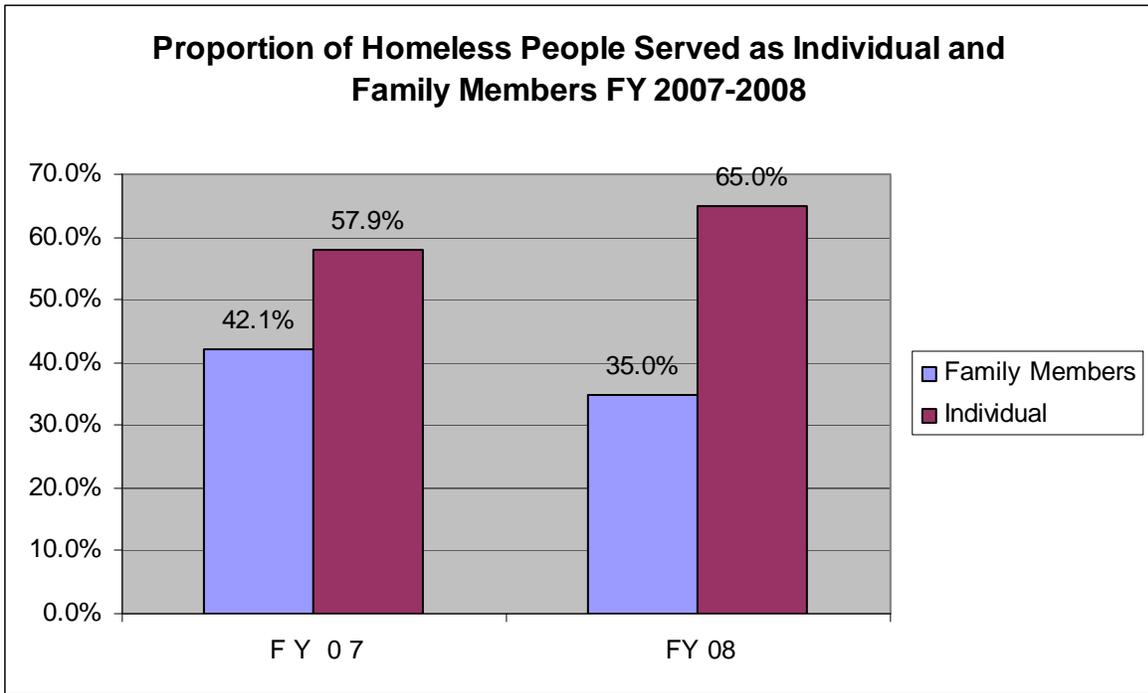
2. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Studying the household composition of homeless people served helps to gain insight into the types of programs needed to best serve them. Individuals and families may require different sets of resources. Providers are asked to identify the people they served as individuals or as members of a family.

Of the agencies collecting and reporting family status data, the number of people in families receiving shelter services represents 35% of homeless people served by those agencies. The chart below shows the breakdown of family status by jurisdiction for FY 2008.

Family Status by Jurisdiction FY 2008				
Jurisdiction	Individuals	Family Members	% Individuals	% Family Members
Allegany	55	259	18%	82%
Anne Arundel	968	564	63%	37%
Baltimore City	10,663	4,838	69%	31%
Baltimore County	1,472	1,184	55%	45%
Calvert	110	137	45%	55%
Caroline	17	27	39%	61%
Carroll	535	338	61%	39%
Cecil	7,859	593	93%	7%
Charles	271	179	60%	40%
Dorchester	48	31	61%	39%
Frederick	658	783	46%	54%
Garrett	63	119	35%	65%
Harford	757	314	71%	29%
Howard	128	502	20%	80%
Kent	40	43	48%	52%
Montgomery	2,033	2,270	47%	53%
Prince George's	797	1,257	39%	61%
Queen Anne's	3	17	15%	85%
St. Mary's	159	366	30%	70%
Somerset	3	24	11%	89%
Talbot	39	0	100%	0%
Washington	1,007	839	55%	45%
Wicomico	1,071	734	59%	41%
Worcester	242	187	56%	44%
State Total	28,998	15,605	65%	35%

The graph below shows the proportion of homeless people served as individuals in relation to the number of homeless people served as family members.



3. GENDER OF ADULTS

Providers were asked to report the gender of adults (18 years old and older) who were served. Of the agencies that collect and report gender data, women represent 47 percent of adults served in FY 2008.

The chart below shows the gender breakdown of homeless people served.

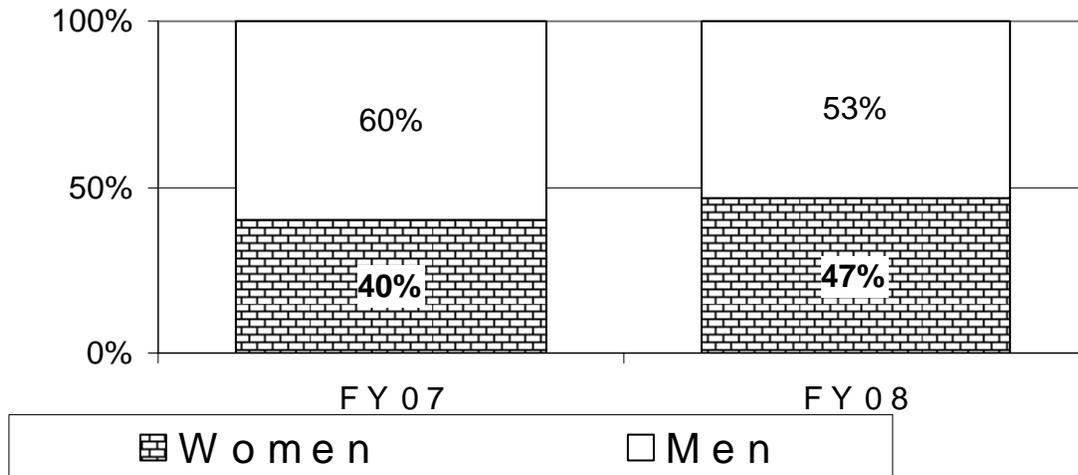
Gender of Adults by Jurisdiction FY 2008				
Jurisdiction	Men	Women	% Men	% Women
Allegany	4	148	3%	97%
Anne Arundel	293	596	33%	67%
Baltimore City	7,179	5,843	55%	45%
Baltimore County	1,296	716	64%	36%
Calvert	53	115	32%	68%
Caroline	5	17	23%	77%
Carroll	461	261	64%	36%
Cecil	300	420	42%	58%
Charles	142	260	35%	65%
Dorchester	43	19	69%	31%
Frederick	580	429	57%	43%
Garrett	58	63	48%	52%
Harford	480	420	53%	47%

Gender of Adults by Jurisdiction FY 2008				
Jurisdiction	Men	Women	% Men	% Women
Howard	125	207	38%	62%
Kent	31	22	58%	42%
Montgomery	1,396	1,501	48%	52%
Prince George's	658	577	53%	47%
Queen Anne's	3	17	15%	85%
St. Mary's	140	151	48%	52%
Somerset	2	11	15%	85%
Talbot	27	13	68%	33%
Washington	938	570	62%	38%
Wicomico	726	703	51%	49%
Worcester	208	159	57%	43%
State Total	15,148	13,238	53%	47%

Note: The numbers shown in the chart above for each jurisdiction may not be equal to the total number of adults served for each jurisdiction because some shelter providers do not collect and report gender data.

The graph below shows the proportion of homeless men and women adults (18 years old and older) from FY 2007 through FY 2008 for shelter providers that collect and report gender data.

**Proportion of Homeless
Adult Men and Women
Served FY 2007 - FY 2008**



4. ETHNICITY

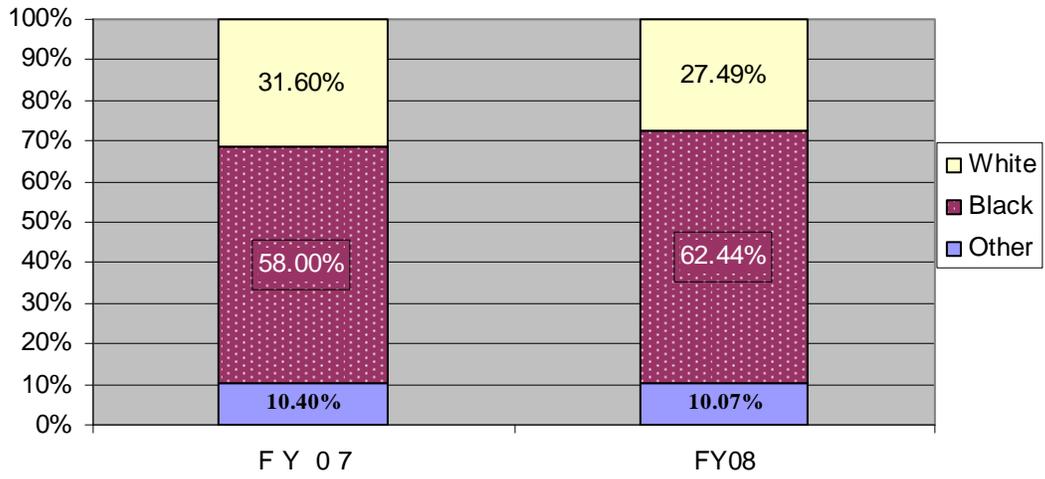
The chart below is a breakdown of the ethnicity of people served by jurisdiction for FY 2008. Please note that not all local providers collect and report ethnicity data.

Ethnicity Breakdown by Jurisdiction FY 2008					
Jurisdiction	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
Allegany	201	66	7	40	0
Anne Arundel	349	470	38	34	290
Baltimore City	2,098	12,651	201	164	450
Baltimore County	880	1,739	56	57	12
Calvert	136	108	3	12	0
Caroline	16	6	0	0	0
Carroll	630	185	28	30	0
Cecil	669	160	18	9	15
Charles	272	181	12	10	0
Dorchester	43	26	8	1	1

Ethnicity Breakdown by Jurisdiction FY 2008					
Jurisdiction	White	African American	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
Frederick	811	538	61	65	10
Garrett	169	3	1	1	8
Harford	581	398	55	26	30
Howard	126	370	36	41	63
Kent	27	26	0	2	0
Montgomery	766	2,376	565	248	100
Prince George's	175	1,633	45	105	110
Queen Anne's	0	0	0	0	20
St. Mary's	267	236	4	14	4
Somerset	15	12	0	0	0
Talbot	17	23	0	0	0
Washington	1,129	479	87	35	83
Wicomico	142	394	41	5	40
Worcester	266	142	11	10	162
State Total	9,785	22,222	1,277	909	1,398
Percent	27.5%	58.0%	3.6%	2.6%	3.9%

The chart below shows the ethnicity of sheltered homeless people served in agencies that collect and report ethnicity data from FY 2007 through FY 2008.

Proportion of Homeless People Served by Ethnicity: FY 2007 - FY 2008



VI. Conclusion

The number of people sheltered during this reporting period has increased by 3.5% due primarily to a large increase in demand within Baltimore City. Nonetheless, the general trend of the data from the report period, State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2008 (July 2007 to June 2008), suggests that there are slightly more shelter beds available and lower utilization rates for available beds relative to SFY 2007. The number of shelter beds available has not increased uniformly throughout the service area, however. A spike in demand is expected this fiscal year due to the deteriorating economic situation.

Expectations of an increase in demand for beds in area shelters suggest that the positive trends seen in SFY 2008 will be difficult to sustain in SFY 2009.