



*Image from the annual Point In Time Count - Madison, Wisconsin.*

# 2017

## Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Report

### July 2018



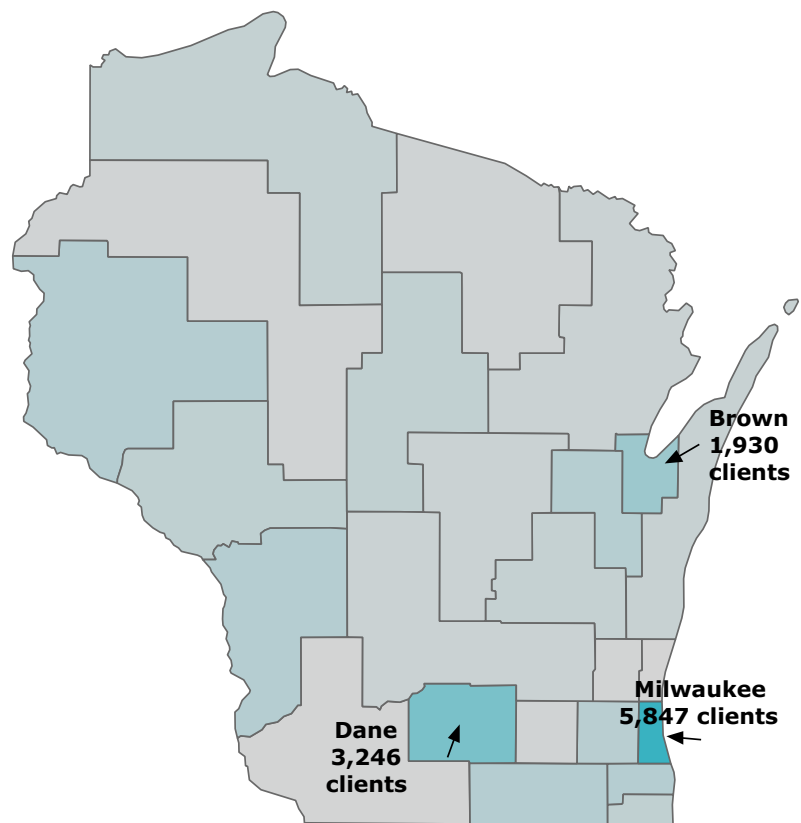
**The State of Homelessness in Wisconsin**

# Total Clients Experiencing Homelessness in 2017: 21,906

**21,906** clients experiencing homelessness received services and shelter from HMIS agencies in Wisconsin in 2017. This includes clients who were served in the following project types:

- \* Emergency Shelter
- \* Transitional Housing
- \* PATH Street Outreach
- \* Rapid Re-Housing (entering only)
- \* Permanent Supportive Housing (entering only)

The greatest number of persons experiencing homelessness in Wisconsin are in and around population centers. Nationally, the distribution of persons experiencing homelessness is overwhelmingly urban. Many people in rural areas facing extreme poverty will live "doubled up" with family or friends, or they may live in substandard housing. In other cases, they may leave rural areas for the promise of increased employment opportunities and social services in larger communities.



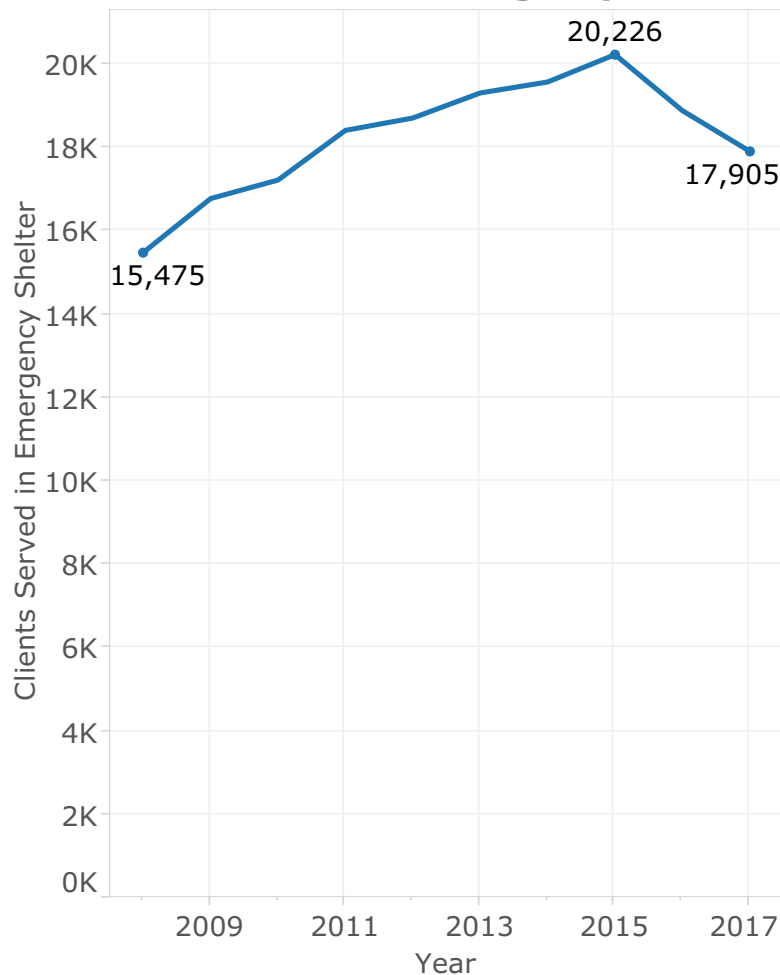
# Clients in Emergency Shelter over Time

**17,905** clients had an emergency shelter stay with HMIS agencies in Wisconsin in 2017.

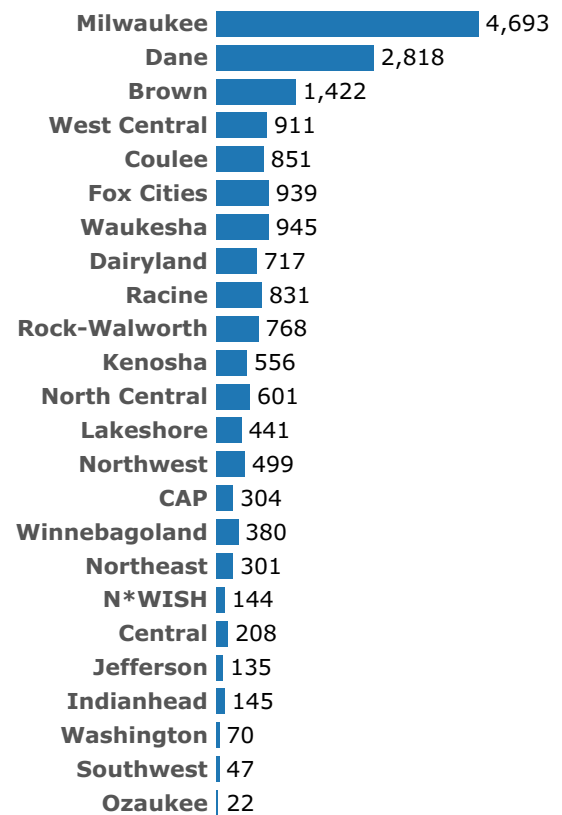
**10,015** of those clients (56%) sought emergency shelter in the Balance of State.

Since the most recent peak in 2015, the number of clients using HMIS-reporting emergency shelter beds has decreased over 10%.

**Total Clients Served in Emergency Shelter**



**2017 Distribution of Emergency Shelter Clients**



# Household Types

## Homeless Single Adults

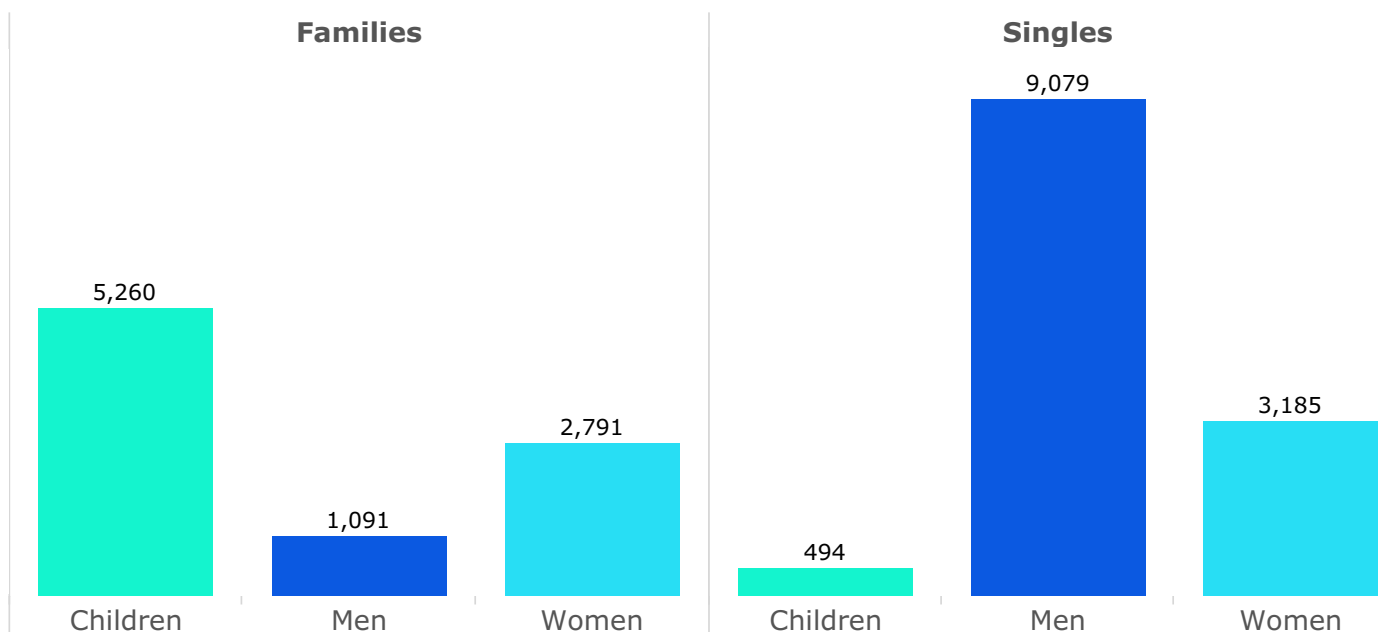
56% of clients served by HMIS projects in 2017 were single adults

About 3 out of 4 single adults experiencing homelessness are men. 60% of single adults experiencing homelessness in Wisconsin have a disabling condition of long duration.

## Homeless Families and Children

42% of persons experiencing homelessness in Wisconsin who sought services did so as members of a family or household.

90% of these households contain at least one adult and one child. 10% of households are adults only, though they may include adult children. The majority of families (65%) are households with one adult and at least one child.



Gender non-conforming adults (<0.1%) are excluded from this visualization.

# Youth and Unaccompanied Children

Youth ages 18-24 represent 10% of persons served by HMIS homeless service providers in Wisconsin in 2017. The majority of youth (63%) are served as singles, not as members of a family.

Transgender youth experience homelessness at a higher rate than their peers. An estimated 0.3% of the total US population is transgender, and 0.6% of youth experiencing homelessness in Wisconsin identify as transgender. According to the Williams Institute, as many as 40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBT. (As most homeless service providers in Wisconsin do not collect information on sexual orientation, this data is not available at the local level.)

LGBT+ individuals may face discrimination and rejection from family members, which can play a role in becoming homeless and struggling to regain housing. Many shelters in Wisconsin and throughout the United States are sex segregated, and LGBT+ individuals often have difficulty finding shelters that are safe and welcoming.

HUD's Equal Access Rule requires that HUD-funded housing and shelter programs are available to individuals and families without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. HUD expects that providers place a client in a shelter or facility that corresponds to the gender with which they identify, taking the client's own health and safety concerns into consideration.

92% of children who experience homelessness are members of a family unit.

In 2017, there were 494 unaccompanied children who received homeless services. This is about 2% of the total homeless population. 89% of unaccompanied children are teens (age 13- 17) compared to 14% of children experiencing homelessness as members of a family unit.

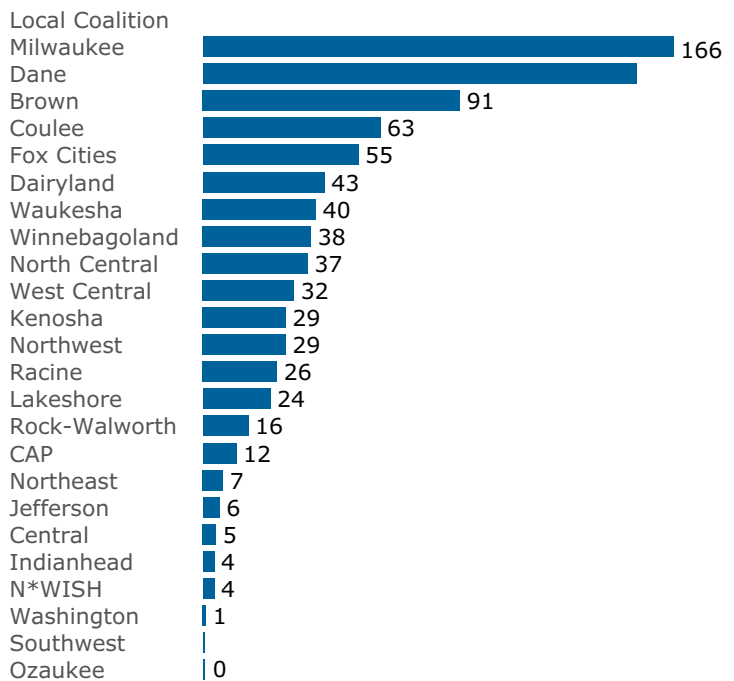
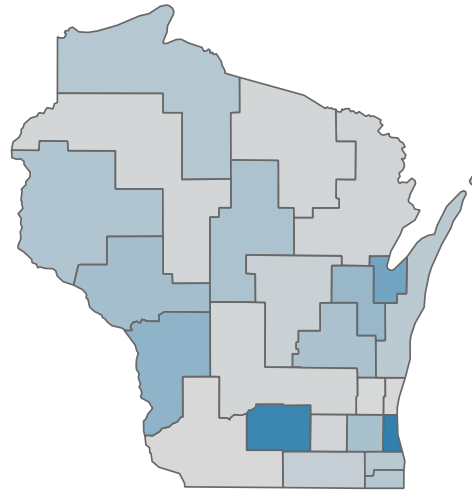


# Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

## Veterans Served in Emergency Shelter, 2017

**6% of adults who sought emergency shelter** in Wisconsin in 2017 are veterans, and **10% of adults experiencing homelessness** in Wisconsin are veterans.

There are many projects in Wisconsin dedicated specifically to preventing and ending homelessness for veterans. The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program funds prevention and rapid re-housing for veterans and their families. The Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program funds transitional housing, and the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program funds permanent supportive housing for veterans.



# Clients Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

## Chronically Homeless Clients

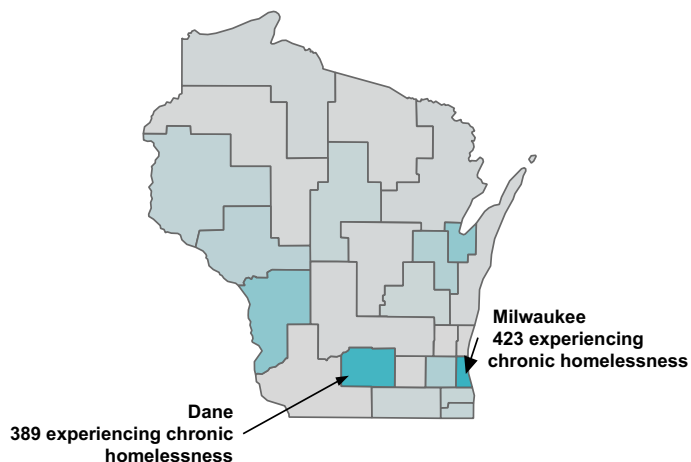
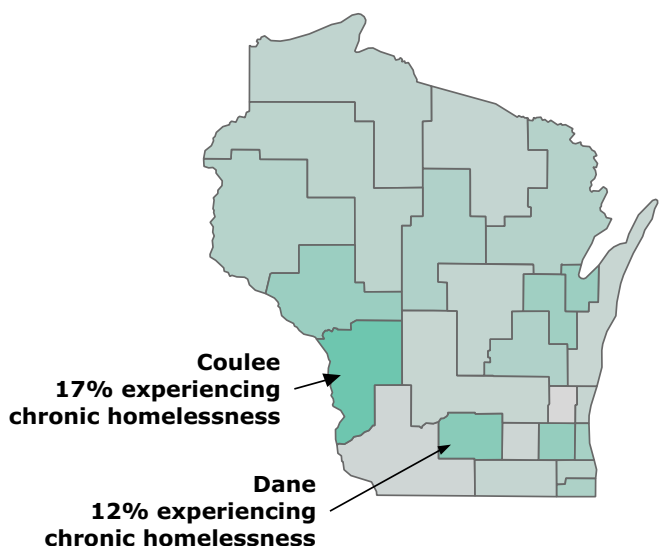
Clients with a disability who have been homeless continuously for 12 months or longer, or four times in three years for a total of 12 months, may be consi..

[See full HUD definition for more information]

8% of clients served by HMIS providers in 2017 were chronically homeless.

Coulee CoC has the highest percent of clients experiencing chronic homelessness (17%) followed by Dane County (12%)

Nearly 50% of all folks experiencing chronic homelessness are served in Milwaukee and Dane Counties.



# Racial Disparities

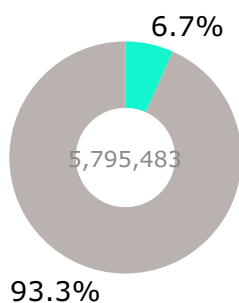
**1 out of 46 Black or African American Wisconsinites experienced homelessness in 2017**

**1 out of 454 White, non-Hispanic or Latino/a Wisconsinites experienced homelessness ..**

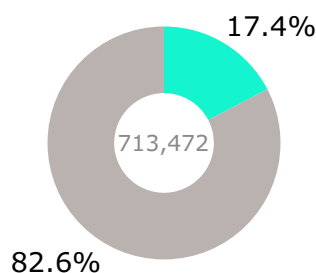
"This is no accident; it is the result of centuries of structural racism that have excluded historically oppressed people—particularly Black and Native Americans—from equal access to housing, community supports, and opportunities for economic mobility."

*SPARC Phase One Findings, Center for Social Innovation*

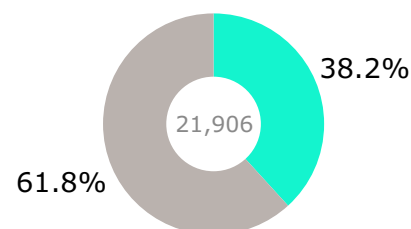
**Wisconsin Population**



**Wisconsin Poverty Population**



**Wisconsin Homeless Population**



**Black or African American** Wisconsinites are **10.3 times as likely** to experience homelessness

**Selected Race**

Black or African American

Black Wisconsin residents are 10 times as likely to experience homelessness compared to white, non-Latino Wisconsinites. Wisconsin residents who are multi-racial or American Indian are more than 5 times as likely to experience homelessness, and Latino/a residents are twice as likely to experience homelessness. The racial disparity in Wisconsin homelessness cannot be explained by poverty rates alone.

Throughout the United States, people of color are much more likely to experience homelessness than White people. The Center for Social Innovation has launched SPARC, an initiative to research racial disparities in homelessness and work toward solutions.

[SPARC Phase One Findings](#)



# About ICA and the Wisconsin Annual Report

***The State of Homelessness in Wisconsin*** was compiled by the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) reporting tool.

ICA is a non-profit organization based in Des Moines, Iowa that provides HMIS training and support for homeless service agencies around the country. Wisconsin HMIS staff are located in Madison, WI and across the state. The Institute for Community Alliances engages in research and produces reports on homelessness and related issues. In cooperation with state and federal agencies, private research firms, and university researchers, ICA works to inform regional and national efforts to end homelessness.

We welcome your questions, feedback, and input. Please direct correspondence to:

**Jesse Dirkman**

*Data Analyst*

[jesse.dirkman@icalliances.org](mailto:jesse.dirkman@icalliances.org)

**Adam Smith**

*Wisconsin HMIS Director*

[adam.smith@icalliances.org](mailto:adam.smith@icalliances.org)

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## ***Racial Disparities***

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