Data Highlights from the Chicago Homelessness Services System

January to March 2021

all Chicago
making homelessness history

Contents

Introduction

This document contains a series of data sets related to homelessness and the homelessness response system in Chicago. The data in the report comes from Chicago's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and relates to the time period from January 01 to March 31, 2021[1]. Reports on the same data sets for 2020 can be found here.

Terminology

This document uses the All Chicago Data Dictionary to define several terms. You can find the All Chicago Data Dictionary here. These are terms that are used in this report:

- **Person/Client** – A person is any individual in the system that meets the calculation criteria; including minors and youth.
- **Household** – A single person or group of people living together as a social unit. Any calculation for households will use the data associated with the client that is identified as the head of household.
- **Currently Enrolled** – A client is considered currently enrolled in a project if the following criteria are met:
  - Entry date is on or before calculation date, AND
  - Exit date is after calculation date or is null.
- **Identification** – Identification refers to the date that a client was first identified to have experienced homelessness. For all enrollments associated with a client's unique ID, the earliest recorded enrollment date for a client is considered the date of *identification*.
- **Experiencing Literal Homelessness** – A person is experiencing literal homelessness if that person meets the first of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) categories of homelessness: people who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or who are exiting an institution where that person temporarily resided. Using HMIS records, a person meets this definition if she or he is:
  - Enrolled in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a safe haven project;
  - Enrolled in a project type that is not Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), other Permanent Housing (PH), or a joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) project, and their current or prior living situation indicates they are experiencing literal homelessness; or
  - Exited a project to a literal homeless destination.

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[1] Learn more about Chicago's HMIS here.

Homelessness Data Selections: Including Analysis Methodology

On Active List

Time Span: The active list counts any clients that were active on a single day. In this case, the data is the active list count on the last day of the quarter (03/31/2021).

Client Selection: Includes all clients that are considered active in the system as of the queried day. Being active in HMIS means an individual has accessed services from an HMIS participating agency within a specified time period. The time period varies based on the type of project.

Clients considered in this calculation must have an enrollment with recent activity, meaning that they have had an entry, interim review, or update to their current living situation or a service transaction conducted within the relevant time period for that project type.

Criteria for recent activity by project type are as follows.

- For Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven/Transitional Housing, projects are expected to do an annual assessment, regardless of when they did the most recent update. When an individual is continuously enrolled for 13 months with no sign of activity (meaning no service transactions or updates in that project), the HMIS team will interpret this to mean that the individual is no longer enrolled in the project. While the expectation is that the update should occur at 12 months, the HMIS team incorporates a one-month grace period in case the annual assessment is delayed.
- For Street Outreach and Drop-in programs, projects are expected to do updates every 30 days. Therefore, when an individual is continuously enrolled for 45 days with no sign of activity (meaning no service transactions or updates in that project), the HMIS team will interpret this to mean that the individual is no longer engaged in the project. While the expectation is that the update should occur every 30 days, the HMIS team incorporates a 15-day grace period in case the update is delayed.

Additional information can be found in our data dictionary.

Table 1. Active List

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
On Active List	8,200	9,657

Number Sheltered

Time Span: This counts the number of clients enrolled on a single day. In this case, the data counts the number of clients enrolled on the last day of the quarter (03/31/2021).

Client/Household Selection: Includes any clients that are considered to be experiencing literal homelessness that have a current enrollment into an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven project.

Table 2. Number Sheltered

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
# Sheltered	2,948	3,723

Number Unsheltered

Time Span: This counts the number of clients enrolled on a single day. In this case, the data counts the number of clients enrolled on the last day of the quarter (03/31/2021).

Client/Household Selection: Includes any clients that are considered to be experiencing literal homelessness that have a current enrollment into street outreach, day shelter, and service only (including drop-in center) projects.

Table 3. Number Unsheltered

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
# Unsheltered	999	1,050

Average number of days from identification to end of quarter – for those experiencing homelessness at end of quarter

Time Span: This includes any clients that were active on the last day of the quarter (03/31/2021). For each of these clients, the number of days from identification to the end of the quarter is calculated.

Client/Household Selection: Includes all clients that were found to be experiencing literal homelessness at the end of the quarter.

Notes: In this case, identification means the very first instance that a client was enrolled in a project in HMIS.

The average days from identification to the end of the quarter is often greater for *households* than for *persons*. *Households* counts only the head of household, while *persons* also counts spouses, children, etc. In many cases, the head of household is recorded in HMIS at an earlier date than that person's spouse or children, if they have them. For this reason, heads of household tend to have been in the system longer than other household members, such as spouses or children.

Table 4. Average number of days from identification to end of quarter

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
Average # of days	1,312	1,252

Median number of days from identification to end of quarter – for those experiencing homelessness at end of quarter

Time Span: This includes any clients that were active on the last day of the quarter (03/31/2021). For each of these clients, the median number of days from identification to the end of the quarter is calculated.

Client/Household Selection: Includes all clients that were found to be experiencing literal homelessness at the end of the quarter.

Notes: In this case, identification means the very first instance of a client's enrollment in a project.

The median days from identification to the end of the quarter is often greater for *households* than for *persons*. *Households* counts only the head of household while *persons* also counts spouses, children, etc. In many cases, the head of household is recorded in HMIS at an earlier date than that person's spouse or children, if they have them. For this reason, heads of household tend to have been in the system longer than other members, such as spouses or children.

Table 5. Median number of days from identification to end of quarter

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
Median # of days	572	553

Number experiencing homelessness for at least 150 days, as of the end of the quarter

Time Span: This includes any clients that were active on the last day of the quarter (03/31/2021).

Client/Household Selection: Includes all clients that were found to be experiencing literal homelessness both at the end of the quarter *and* at least 150 days prior to the end of the quarter.

Table 6. Number experiencing literal homelessness for at least 150 days, as of the end of the quarter

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
# Currently experiencing literal homelessness identified more than 150 days earlier	3,589	4,242

Average number of days from identification to housing - those housed from the start of the year to end of the quarter

Time Span: This includes any clients that moved into housing from 1/1/2021 to 03/31/2021.

Client/Household Selection: Includes any clients that were housed during the time span above. This includes clients moving into Permanent Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Youth Intentional Permanent Supportive Housing, Youth Project Based Transitional Housing, and Youth Scattered Site Transitional Housing.

Notes: Identification means the very first instance of a client's enrollment in a project.

The average days from identification to the end of the quarter is often greater for *households* than for *persons. Households* counts only the head of household, while *persons* also counts spouses, children, etc. In many cases, the head of household is recorded in HMIS at an earlier date than that person's spouse or children, if they have them. For this reason, heads of household tend to have been in the system longer than other members, such as spouses or children.

Table 7. Average number of days from identification to housing

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
Average # of days	1,771	1,722

Median number of days from identification to housing - those housed from the start of the year to end of the quarter

Time Span: This includes any clients that moved into housing from 1/1/2021 to 03/31/2021.

Client/Household Selection: Includes any clients that were housed during the time span above. This includes clients moving into Permanent Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Youth Intentional Permanent Supportive Housing, Youth Project Based Transitional Housing, and Youth Scattered Site Transitional Housing.

Notes: Identification means the very first instance of a client's enrollment in a project.

The median days from identification to the end of the quarter is often greater for *households* than for *persons. Households* counts only the head of household, while *persons* also counts spouses, children, etc. In many cases, the head of household is recorded in HMIS at an earlier date than that person's spouse or children, if they have them. For this reason, heads of household tend to have been in the system longer than other members, such as spouses or children.

Table 8. Median number of days from identification to housing

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
Median # of days	1,064	1,030

Number placed in permanent housing

Time Span: This includes any clients that moved into housing from 1/1/2021 to 03/31/2021.

Client/Household Selection: Includes any clients that were housed during the time span above. This includes clients moving into Permanent Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Youth Intentional Permanent Supportive Housing, Youth Project Based Transitional Housing, and Youth Scattered Site Transitional Housing.

Notes: This count does not include clients that recorded an exit to a permanent housing destination. Instead, this counts only clients that moved into permanent housing by enrolling in one of the program types listed above. Exits to permanent housing destinations are counted in the next two data sets.

Table 9. Number placed in permanent housing

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
# placed in permanent housing	487	611

Number exited to permanent destination from non-Homeless Prevention Projects (e.g. Shelter, Outreach, etc.)

Time Span: This includes any clients that had an exit documented from 1/1/2021 to 03/31/2021.

Client/Household Selection: Includes any clients that had an exit date from any kind of project (excluding the Homelessness Prevention Call Center and state homeless prevention projects) throughout the quarter with a recorded exit destination that matches any of the following:

- "Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house"
- "Staying or living with family, permanent tenure"
- "Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house"
- "Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure"
- "Moved from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA PH"
- "Rental by client, with GPD TIP housing subsidy"
- "Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy"
- "Permanent housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons"
- "Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy"
- "Rental by client, with Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) (tenant or project based)"
- "Rental by client in a public housing unit"
- "Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy"
- "Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy"
- "Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy"
- "Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy"

Table 10. Number exited to permanent destination from non-Homeless Prevention Projects

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
# exited	461	633

Number exited to permanent destination from the Homelessness Prevention Call Center and State Homeless Prevention Projects

Time Span: This includes any clients that had an exit documented from 1/1/2021 to 03/31/2021.

Client/Household Selection: Includes any clients that had an exit date from the call center and state homeless prevention projects throughout the quarter with a recorded exit destination that matches any of the following:

- "Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house"
- "Staying or living with family, permanent tenure"
- "Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house"
- "Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure"
- "Moved from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA PH"
- "Rental by client, with GPD TIP housing subsidy"
- "Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy"
- "Permanent housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons"
- "Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy"
- "Rental by client, with Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) (tenant or project based)"
- "Rental by client in a public housing unit"
- "Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy"
- "Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy"
- "Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy"
- "Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy"

Table 11. Number exited to permanent destination from Call Center and State Homeless Prevention Projects

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
# Exited to permanent destination	4,704	4,768

Number of housing or shelter placements from street outreach

Time Span: This includes any clients that had an exit documented from 1/1/2021 to 03/31/2021.

Client/Household Selection: Includes any clients that exited from a Street Outreach project to one of the following exit destinations:

- "Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher"
- "Safe Haven"
- "Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, or RHY-funded Host Home shelter"
- "Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house"
- "Staying or living with family, permanent tenure"
- "Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house"
- "Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure"
- "Moved from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA PH"
- "Rental by client, with GPD TIP housing subsidy"
- "Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy"
- "Permanent housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons"
- "Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy"
- "Rental by client, with Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) (tenant or project based)"
- "Rental by client in a public housing unit"
- "Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy"
- "Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy"
- "Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy"
- "Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy"

Table 12. Number of housing or shelter placements from street outreach

	Q1 2021	
	Households	**Persons**
# exits to a housing or shelter placement	111	129