Trends in Philadelphia’s Housing for Families Who Experience Homelessness

This report summarizes Philadelphia’s various housing programs for families who experience homelessness.

The data comes from reports by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing (OSH). HUD’s data can be searched and viewed at https://www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/coc-housing-inventory-count-reports/, unless otherwise noted.

Data from the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing has been used to present the HUD data as accurately as possible. For unknown reasons, HUD sometimes changes the different categories in its online reports.

Policy considerations: How do advocates, funders, and policymakers know if more or less beds are needed to combat homelessness in Philadelphia? Readers are cautioned when interpreting this data. Decreases and increases in the number of beds are caused by several reasons and not necessarily because of funding cuts. Changes seem to occur mostly due to changes in how the data is collected and categorized.

Unfortunately, there is no easy answer. Just understanding the trends over time can be challenging. This report has numbers of the available beds for homeless families, providing a sense of the size of the system and trends in types of housing.

Overall, this data seems to suggest:

- An overall very slight decline in the number of beds
- A decline in emergency, transitional and rapid rehousing housing beds
- An increase in Safe Haven and in permanent housing beds
Chart #1: The number of permanent housing units has increased since 2011. These numbers include the categories of “permanent supportive housing” and the “PHA Blueprint” housing, i.e., accessing conventional housing at the Philadelphia Housing Authority. This accounts for the large increase occurring between 2012 and 2013, according to OSH.

Chart #2: The number of Emergency Housing (EH) units for families has declined since 2011.
Chart #3: The number of Transitional Housing (TH) units for families has declined since 2011.

Chart #4: The number of Rapid Rehousing Family units have decreased since 2011. Originally funded, in Philadelphia, by the federal stimulus funds, Rapid Rehousing provides short-term rental assistance for qualified homeless families. The decline is heavily influenced by the elimination of stimulus funds.
Chart #5: Using data from the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing’s “Unmet Need” figures, Chart #5 shows the increase in the percentage of families who are turned away from shelter. Source of the data for this chart is United States Conference of Mayors Hunger and Homelessness Survey.
**Chart #6:** For comparison, this chart shows overall “# year-end beds” for all categories of homeless individuals and families. The number of beds changes annually due to a variety of reasons, including changes in how the data is collected, categorized, and reported.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Year-Round Beds</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12,187</td>
<td>11,371</td>
<td>11,622</td>
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<td>应急</td>
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<tr>
<td>安全</td>
<td>Safe Haven</td>
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<td>115</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>过渡</td>
<td>Transitional</td>
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<td>2,293</td>
<td>1,998</td>
<td>1,929</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rapid Re-Housing</td>
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<td>781</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>612</td>
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<tr>
<td>永久</td>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>4,732</td>
<td>4,840</td>
<td>5,409</td>
<td>5,502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FUNDING TRANSITIONAL AND PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Chart #7: Overall, funding has increased. HUD’s funding of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) has increased since 2011, while funds for Transitional Housing (TH) has declined since 2011. TH funding has been reduced 5% reduction, totaling a $3.2 million since 2011.

Chart #8: As a percentage of HUD funds, Transitional Housing (TH) funds have declined compared to overall Philadelphia’s Continuum of Care program total McKinney Vento funding.

PEC is grateful for the support from staff the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing for reviewing the data.