



**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

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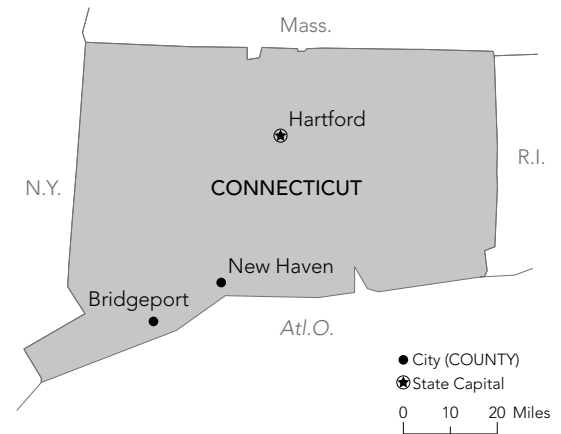
from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

Connecticut had an estimated 447 homeless families on a single night in 2010, with providers serving three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The Connecticut Interagency Council on Supportive Housing and Homelessness (established by executive order in 2004) makes recommendations on homelessness to the governor.

Governor's Appointee: Mary Ann Hanley, Director of the Governor's Office for Workforce Competitiveness, and Anne Foley, designee for Secretary Ben Barnes of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, have co-chaired the Connecticut Interagency Council on Supportive Housing and Homelessness since 2007 and 2011, respectively.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Connecticut	Hartford	Bridgeport ²	New Haven
Persons in homeless families ³	1,323	268	165	239
Number of family shelter beds ⁴	1,689	286	194	272
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁵	10	56	22	57
Percent of families in poverty ⁶	9.98%	38.14%	18.00%	27.21%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2005	2005	2005	2005
10-Year plan target population	All	Long-term	All	Long-term
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness	Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness	Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness	Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness*	Community Renewal Team	United Way of Coastal Fairfield County	New Haven Continuum of Care
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness*	Community Renewal Team	United Way of Coastal Fairfield County	New Haven Continuum of Care

*Corresponds to the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which comprises areas of Connecticut that are not included in a regional or local CoC.

Demographics of Family Homelessness in Connecticut

Connecticut's 2010 point-in-time survey reported 521 sheltered adults in homeless families, an increase of 23% since 2009. Three-quarters (74%) of these adults were homeless in 2010 due to economic factors, such as rent difficulties, eviction, or foreclosure, and three-quarters (75%) were unemployed at the time of the count. Nearly half (46%) had never previously experienced homelessness, two-thirds (68%) had completed at least high school, and over half (61%) reported no mental health, substance abuse, or long-term medical issues. Over three-quarters (80%) had at least one source of income. More than four-fifths (84%) received food stamps and the vast majority (93%) had health insurance through free state programs, while approximately one-third (31%) of single mothers accessed Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.⁷



The National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Connecticut and other states, visit www.icprwb.org

Connecticut is the sixth most expensive state for rental housing in the country and the fourth most expensive state for rental housing in non-metropolitan areas.⁸ In response to the need for housing options for homeless families and individuals, Connecticut's state and local ten-year plans focus on the creation of permanent supportive housing units. The state-level coalition to end long-term homelessness, Reaching Home, has united over 100 organizations to create 10,000 supportive housing units by 2014. A total of 4,400 units have been developed as of the most recent count in 2010.⁹ Journey Home, the non-profit leading the Hartford-area initiative, and the New Haven and Greater Bridgeport Area continua of care aim to add 2,133; 392; and 1,260 units, respectively, to their local supportive housing inventories by 2015.¹⁰

Chronic Homelessness Amongst Connecticut's Families

Almost one out of five (18%) of the 423 parents surveyed on a single night in 2009 were chronically homeless, defined as disabled and either continuously homeless for over one year or having experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Seventeen percent of all homeless parents have been hospitalized for mental health issues, 17% have received treatment for substance abuse, and 18% currently experience health conditions that limit their ability to work or achieve self-sufficiency. Parents have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS at a much lower rate (5%). Data on co-occurring health conditions are not available.¹¹

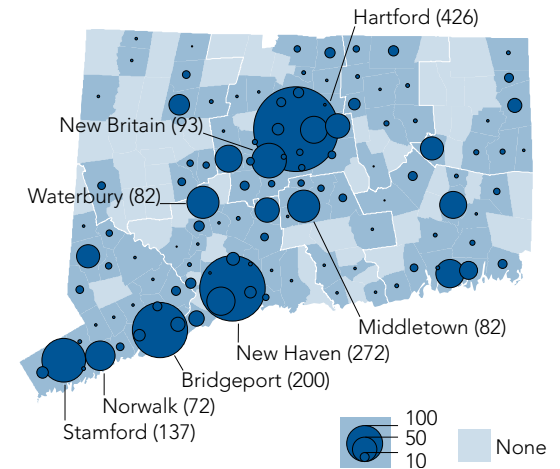
New Haven Home Recovery

New Haven Home Recovery (NHHR), a non-profit organization incorporated in 1990, offers shelter, housing, supportive services, and prevention programming to homeless and at-risk families and women throughout Greater New Haven County and the City of Bridgeport. Clients in NHHR's emergency shelters have access to accounting, vocational, case management, housing search, and medical services as well as an after-school program implementing a National Center on Family Homelessness curriculum.¹² Case managers connect persons in NHHR permanent supportive housing with employment, health, and other resources. In addition to administering one-time federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program funds as the lead city agency, NHHR averts eviction and increases access to mainstream benefits, career services, and physical and behavioral health care amongst families in public housing through its Stable Families Program. NHHR also assists and trains school liaisons in identifying homeless students and connecting them with services as the main organizing body in the New Haven Public Schools' McKinney-Vento program. In the first three quarters of fiscal year 2011, NHHR helped a total of 1,586 persons, including over 437 families and 851 children. This represents an increase of 19% over the total number of persons served in fiscal year 2010, indicating that final 2011 numbers will be significantly higher.¹³

Keeping Families Together in Hartford

The Salvation Army Marshall House operates the only shelter in Hartford with the capacity to keep families with children of all ages intact. Established in 1974, this 27-bed facility consists of nine semi-private bedrooms. Most local shelters lodge multiple families in the same room and separate older boys from their families or do not accept families with boys over a certain age. The Marshall House family shelter also houses single women when other local facilities have reached capacity. All clients can access case management, life-skills education, a pediatric clinic, and other supportive services. Between October 2009 and September 2010, the Marshall House shelter served 82 families and 34 single women, a total of 242 persons. The facility experienced a 103% utilization rate, with clients typically staying for two to three months.¹⁴

Number of Homeless Persons (2010) (by town of last residence)



Source: Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, *Portraits of Homelessness in Connecticut 2010*. County borders are represented in white.

Endnotes

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2010 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
- Statistics for Bridgeport include the cities of Fairfield and Stratford.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2010 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
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- Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, *Connecticut Counts: 2010 Sheltered Point in Time*; Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, *Portraits of Homelessness in Connecticut 2010*.
- National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach 2011: Renters in the Great Recession, the Crisis Continues*.
- Reaching Home, <http://www.ctreachinghome.org>
- Hartford Commission to End Homelessness, *Journey Home: Implementation Plan*, October 2007; Mayor's Homeless Advisory Commission, *The New Haven Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness: Implementation Plan*, March 2007; Greater Bridgeport Area Continuum of Care, *The Greater Bridgeport Area Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness*, 2005; United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, "Ending Chronic Homelessness," <http://unitedwaycfc.org>
- Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, *Connecticut Counts 2009: Point-in-Time Homeless Count*.
- National Center on Family Homelessness, "Physical and Emotional Awareness for Children Who Are Homeless (PEACH)," <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/peach.php?p=ss>
- Kristen McKay (Executive Assistant, New Haven Home Recovery), interview with ICPH, January 2011; Jackie Janosko (Quality Assurance Manager, New Haven Home Recovery), interview with ICPH, May 2011; New Haven Home Recovery, <http://www.nhhr.org>
- Sandy Barry (Director of Housing Stabilization Services, Salvation Army Marshall House), interview with ICPH, June 2011.