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SOCIAL RESEARCH

2009 Saskatoon HIFIS Report on Homelessness



"I'm on assistance, all I get is \$933.00 my rent is 850.00, guess what, does it sound like enough?"

Keep an eye open!
When you see a box such as this you are looking at the wish list of one of our many service providers. These essential items will help these organizations to continue their valuable work in our community.

Welcome to Saskatoon's 1st Annual HIFIS Report on Homelessness! The Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) Saskatoon Team has worked hard to gather data from Saskatoon's shelters and service providers to better understand the magnitude of homelessness and shelter use in our community. In the 2009 HIFIS Report you will be able to see both monthly and annual data for January 1 to December 31, 2009.

HIFIS has had many of our committed service providers contribute data to make the 2009 HIFIS Report possible including: Lighthouse Supported Living; Salvation Army's New Frontiers, Noah's Ark, Serenity Cove, Al's Place, Chapel Dorm, Emergency Shelter, & New Horizons; the YWCA Saskatoon's Crisis Shelter, Margaret's Place, Mental Health Room, Turning Points, & Youth Program; the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.'s (CUMFI) Infinity House & McLeod House; Quint Male Youth Lodge; and Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre. We are putting forth a continued effort to increase the number of shelters and service providers supplying data and, as increasing numbers of shelters adopt HIFIS, we will be able to develop an increasingly comprehensive understanding of homelessness in our community.

As mentioned above, this is the first HIFIS Report on Homelessness in Saskatoon and the current data represents baseline data, after which we will be able to track annual trends. The primary limitation for the data presented in the current HIFIS Report is that not all of Saskatoon's shelters are currently using HIFIS and it is important to note that all of the numbers presented in this HIFIS Report represent an underestimation of the magnitude of shelter use in Saskatoon.

To supply the community with ongoing information, HIFIS Saskatoon intends to issue quarterly updates as well as larger annual HIFIS Reports in the future.

All quotes were collected anonymously by the Saskatoon Food Bank unless otherwise noted.

About HIFIS

The Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) is an electronic database developed for shelters and service providers as part of the national Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The database assists shelters and service providers in their day-to-day operations and reporting and enables the collection of standardized information on homeless individuals and families. Over 500 shelters and service providers (with over 16000 beds) are registered nationally.





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“Education is key in promoting change and overall improvement to the community as well as individuals”

Homelessness is:

- Living on the street, under a bridge, or in a tent or makeshift shelter (“living rough”)
- Staying overnight in emergency shelters
- Living in temporary housing, such as transitional housing
- Temporarily staying with friends, family, or strangers (“couch surfing”)
- Staying in places not fit for human habitation (e.g., cars, abandoned buildings)

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Currently, 83% of all of Saskatoon’s emergency shelters and 68% of all transitional shelters have implemented HIFIS. The Saskatoon HIFIS initiative has reached 100% coverage in the shelters specialized in violence against women. This means almost 61% of all shelters in Saskatoon are represented on HIFIS.



In This HIFIS Report

1. **Bed Count** is the number of registered beds a shelter has to offer. This includes all overflow beds. Overflow beds refer to the number of beds the shelter fills above capacity. When not in use, overflow beds are not counted towards general statistics and are not for general use.
2. **Type of Service Provider** identifies the type of shelter (emergency, transitional, addictions, etc...) or services provided (food bank, clothing depot, counselling, etc...).
3. **Date of Birth** is gathered to help examine trends in age.
4. **Gender** is collected from the client as they self-identify themselves, some common examples are male, female, & transgendered.
5. **Book In & Out Date** is the day a client books into a shelter or uses a service. Book Out Date is the day the client departs the shelter. Length of Stay was calculated from these dates. Only overnight stays are included in the HIFIS Report.

“Opening their eyes to what poverty looks like and, how they could be there.”



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Annual Numbers of Individuals and Families Using HIFIS Shelters

| Emergency | |
|--|---------------|
| <i>Number of Clients</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| Total | |
| Number of Single Individuals | 1,083 |
| Number of Family Heads | 195 |
| Number of Dependants | 261 |
| <i>Number of Stays</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| Total | 2,449 |
| Single Individuals | 1,872 |
| Family Heads | 255 |
| Dependants | 322 |
| <i>Gender</i> | |
| Male | 1,772 |
| Female | 677 |
| <i>Average Length of Stay</i> | <i>Days</i> |
| Total | 13 |
| <i>Bed Nights</i> | <i>Days</i> |
| Male | 22,836 |
| Female | 9,579 |
| Total Number of Bed Nights Used | 32,415 |

| Transitional | |
|--|---------------|
| <i>Number of Clients</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| Total | |
| Number of Single Individuals | 326 |
| Number of Family Heads | 46 |
| Number of Dependants | 59 |
| <i>Number of Stays</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| Total | |
| Single Individuals | 414 |
| Family Heads | 51 |
| Dependants | 60 |
| <i>Gender</i> | |
| Male | 314 |
| Female | 211 |
| <i>Average Length of Stay</i> | <i>Days</i> |
| Total | 114 |
| <i>Bed Nights</i> | <i>Days</i> |
| Male | 38,255 |
| Female | 18,571 |
| Total Number of Bed Nights Used | 56,826 |



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Emergency vs. Transitional

- Emergency shelter is commonly thought of as a shelter that will temporarily house people on a day-by-day basis.

- Transitional shelter provides people with a temporary residence where they can sleep in a bed, keep their belongings in the house, and live communally while they work to get their life back on track. Transitional shelters allow people the time necessary to make lasting changes in their life.



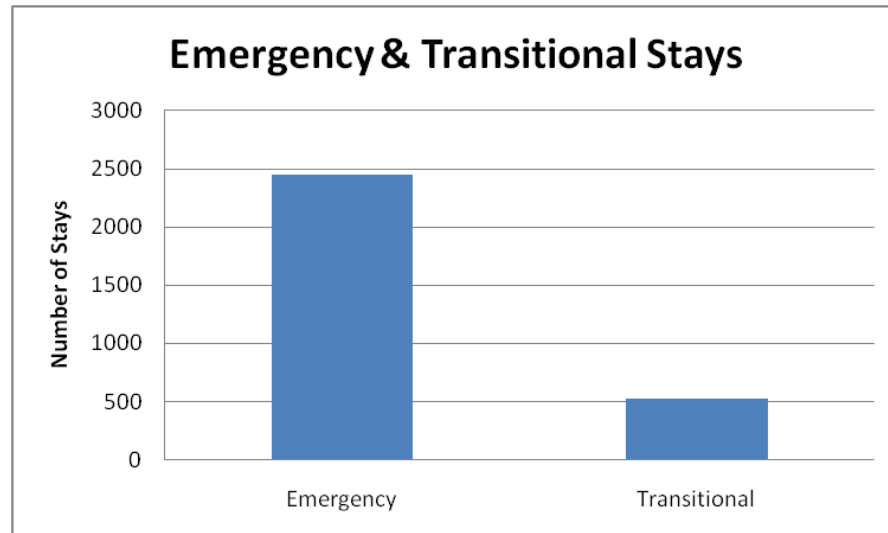


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Number of Stays and Type of Service Provider

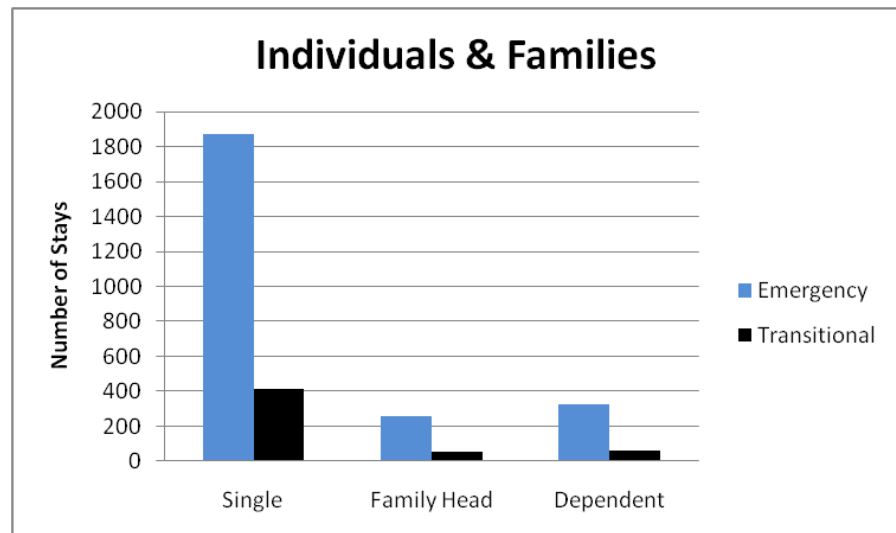
The graph below shows the number of stays in both emergency and transitional shelters throughout 2009. The emergency shelters approximately 2,500 stays this past year and transitional shelters had approximately 500 stays.



"Rent goes up 10% or more every year, but income stays the same. Rent has to be controlled."

Number of Emergency and Transitional Shelter Stays for Individuals and Families

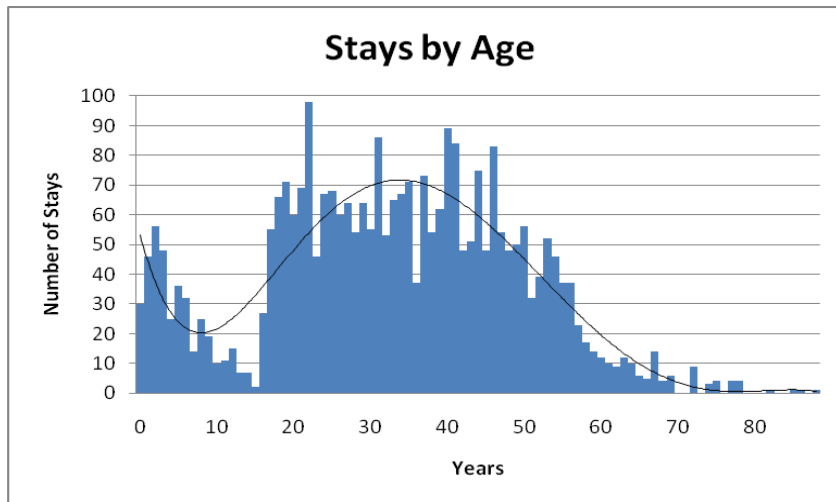
When examining the number of stays for each family type staying in emergency and transitional shelters, there were more than 3 times more single people than members of a family. Proportionately, families and single people were nearly equally likely to use either an emergency or transitional sheltering service.



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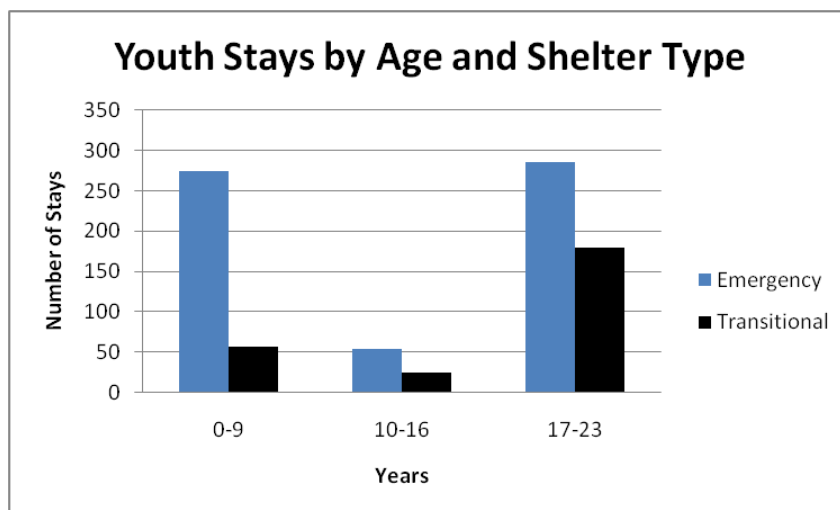
Overall Frequency Distribution for Number of Stays by Age in Years

This graph is a frequency distribution chart that looks at shelter users' age (in years) compared to the number of stays (in days) at both emergency and transitional shelters. There appears to be two primary age groups using shelters in Saskatoon: users between the ages of 0 and 10 and users between 20 and 50 years.



Number of Emergency and Transitional Shelter Stays for Youth

The graph below displays the number of stays according to shelter type based on youth aged 0-9 years, 10-16 years, and 17-23 years. A larger number of youth stayed in emergency shelters than in transitional shelters. Of youth staying in emergency shelters, 45% of stays were clients between 0 and 9 years, 10% of stays were clients between 10 and 16 years, and 45% of stays were youth between the ages of 17 and 23 years old. This graph also highlights that there are more youth between the ages of 0-9 and 17-23 staying in shelters of both types than youth ages 10-16.



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*"By not eating well
my body and mind
became so depressed
for lack of good food-
I feel like ending it
all. Soon.
I feel that the world
does not care about
me."*





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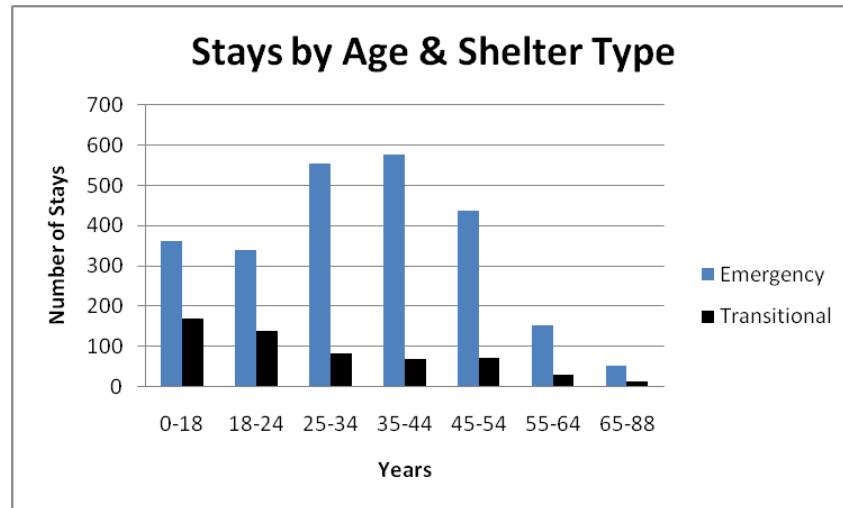
- Acceptable housing is defined as adequate and suitable shelter that can be obtained without spending 30 per cent or more of before-tax household income.
- Adequate shelter is housing that is not in need of major repair.
- Suitable shelter is housing that is not crowded, meaning that it has sufficient bedrooms for the size and make-up of the occupying household.
- The subset of households classified as living in un-acceptable housing and unable to access acceptable housing is considered to be in core housing need.

Source: CMHC (census-based housing indicators and data: Saskatoon Data Tables)

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Number of Emergency and Transitional Shelter Stays by Age

The following graph shows the number of stays for different age groups based on type of shelter. The highest number of transitional shelter clients are 18 years or younger while clients between 25 and 44 are more likely to use emergency sheltering services than transitional sheltering services. Individuals aged 55 and over are seen less in shelters of all types than any other age group.



“Often, I have to choose between paying bills or buying food.”

Wish-Lists

Many of our dedicated service providers are in desperate need of many items. If you are able to donate any of these items it will help alleviate the strain on these service providers.

Elizabeth Fry Society Wish List Caring-for-you-Kit



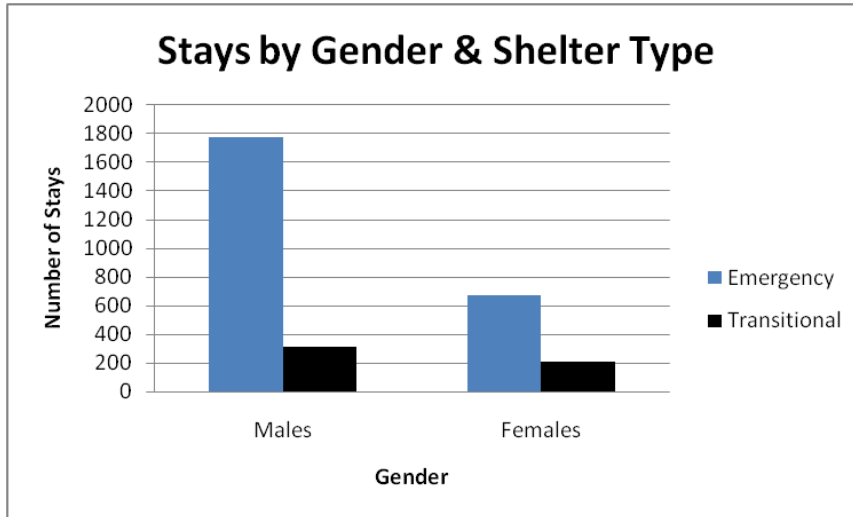
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 toothpaste (approx. 75ml)
- 1 wide tooth comb
- 1 shampoo (approx. 300ml)
- 1 conditioner (approx. 300ml)
- 1 deodorant stick (e.g.: Lady Speed Stick approx 45g – no roll-on or spray types)
- 1 bar of soap
- 1 small box of feminine pads (approx 15 pads)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 journal notebook (without coil bindings)



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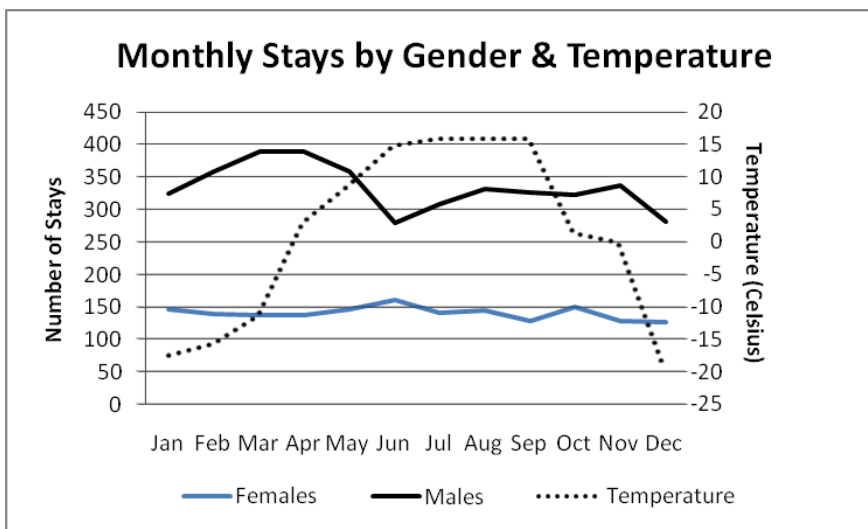
Emergency and Transitional Stays by Gender

Of the 2,974 stays recorded in 2009, 888 (30%) were females and 2086 (70%) were males. Females make up about 40% of transitional stays and 28% of emergency stays. Female clients are less likely to use emergency sheltering services and more likely to use transitional sheltering services.



Seasonal Gender Trends

For the graph below, we have compared the number of female and male clients against the average temperature for each month in 2009. This shows that the shelter usage by women is consistent year-round despite temperature fluctuations. However, males are more likely to use shelters between the months of January to May. The largest factor in the male shelter usage fluctuation is the males' use of emergency sheltering services. We are likely to find new or more pronounced seasonal trends as we add more shelters to our database.



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"Federal, provincial, and local leaders do near nothing to see proper safe housing built for low income people. CANNOT STRESS THIS POINT TO EXCESS. SOCIETY-WAKE UP."

Groups at Risk:

The City of Saskatoon's 2008 Housing Business Plan identified the following groups as being at risk of homelessness:

- Individuals of Aboriginal descent
- Individuals reintegrating from incarceration
- Low-income seniors
- Single parents
- Single people
- Students
- Recent immigrants
- Visible minorities
- Working families





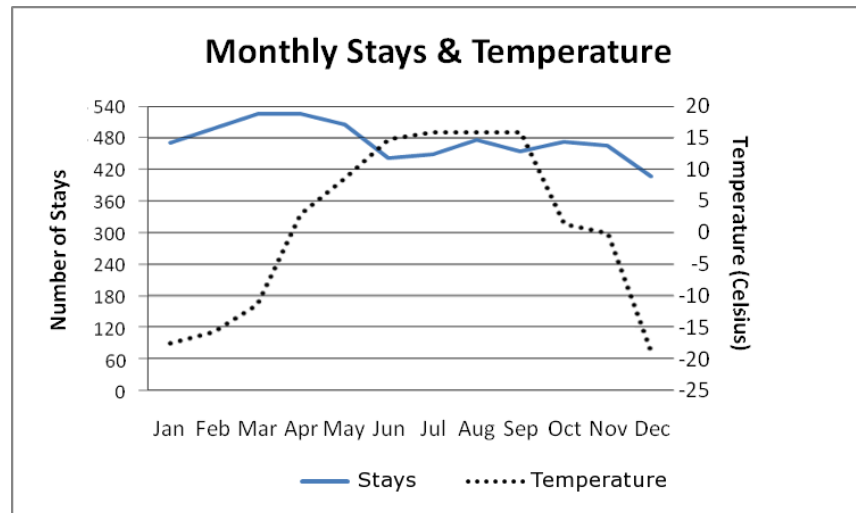
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"I just think more should be done for low-income families; some moms have to go without food just so their kids can eat, and more resources where we can help our children stay in school and not go without food."

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Seasonal Overnight Stay Trends with Temperature

The early part of the year was the busiest time of the year for shelters due to an increased amount of clientele. The highest stay numbers happened in March and April of 2009, with a decreased number staying relatively steady after May.



Months of Stay for Emergency Shelters, Transitional Shelters, and All Stays

Nearly 2,400 of our recorded stays stayed one month or less and fewer than 500 stays were for 2 months or more. Emergency shelter users are far more likely to stay for one month or less compared to transitional shelter users.

| Months | Number of Stays | | | Percentage of Stays |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|---------------------|
| | Emergency Shelters | Transitional Shelters | Total | |
| Up to 1 | 2,203 | 193 | 2,396 | 85 |
| 2 | 168 | 52 | 220 | 8 |
| 3 | 16 | 20 | 36 | 1 |
| 4 | 7 | 19 | 26 | 1 |
| 5 | 0 | 24 | 24 | 1 |
| 6 | 0 | 12 | 12 | <1 |
| 7 | 0 | 16 | 16 | 1 |
| 8 | 0 | 12 | 12 | <1 |
| 9 | 1 | 19 | 20 | 1 |
| 10 | 1 | 11 | 12 | <1 |
| 11 | 2 | 9 | 11 | <1 |
| 12 or more | 0 | 6 | 25 | 1 |



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Saskatoon Food Bank HungerCount 2009*

Saskatoon Food Bank Usage Statistics

Between August 24 and September 22, 2009, the Saskatoon Food Banks conducted the Food Banks Canada HungerCount.* The HungerCount is an annual survey of Food Bank clients to better determine the demographics and needs of clients. This survey collected data from individuals who used the Food Bank once over the 21 day period. Food Bank clients may use the food bank once every 10 business days.



During the HungerCount, the Food Bank served over 7,900 clients from over 3,000 households. Almost half (44%) of the Food Bank's clients were children. The number of people using the Food Bank increased by 18% when compared to the previous HungerCount in 2008.

Half of all clients were in families with children; of those families, 58% were single parents. Of the remaining clients, 16% were couples and 84% were single. One quarter of Food Bank clients were women and 3% of clients were seniors; less than 1% completed post-secondary education; and over 10% were newcomers who have been in Canada for less than ten years. More than half of Food Bank clients identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.

Over 21% of clients were employed, with their jobs being their primary source of income. More than half of Food Bank clients relied on social assistance and nearly 6% of Food Bank clients had no source of income. Other sources of income included: provincial or private disability payments (about 3%), student loans (about 3%), pension (about 6%), Employment Insurance (about 3%, who were either looking for work; upgrading their skill set; are sick, pregnant, or caring for a child; or looking after a seriously-ill family member).

More than 5% of Food Bank clients owned their own home, over 62% rented from another person, and over 18% rented from a social housing initiative. A total of 13% of all Food Bank clients were staying at a temporary shelter, with friends, or on the street.

* All information is taken from The Food Banks Canada *HungerCount* survey.



Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre Wish-List Most Wanted Food Items

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Baby Food | • Canned Beans |
| • Infant Formula | • Canned Meat |
| • Canned Soup | • Whole Grain Cereals |
| • Peanut Butter | • Canned Fruit & Vegetables |



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"I would buy more healthy food and just more food if I could afford it when times get tough."

In 2009, the Saskatoon Food Bank donated 53367.5 kilograms of food to community agencies & schools.

"I think access to healthy and affordable food would give the community a great boost."





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"I rely on the food bank to survive."

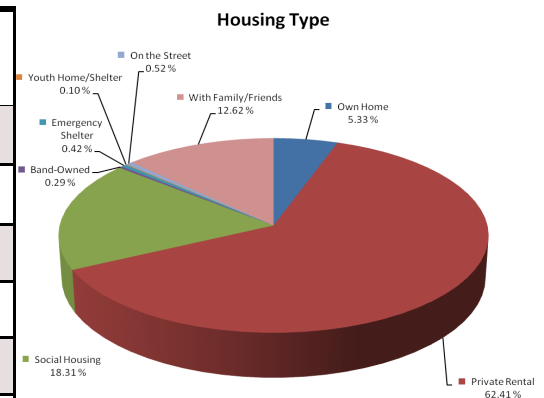


"Junk food is more cheaper than healthy food"

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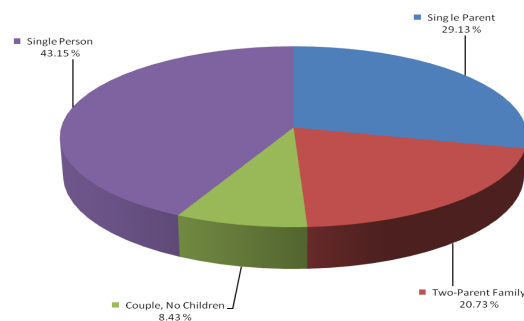
From the data collected it is apparent that housing issues and food issues are closely related. Only 5% of Food Bank clients owned their own home but a substantial 32% live in emergency, transitional, or affordable housing. See table and graph below.

| Housing Type of Food Bank client | Percentage of Total Clients |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Youth Home/Shelter | <1 |
| Band-Owned Housing | <1 |
| Emergency Shelter | <1 |
| On the Street | <1 |
| Own Home | 5 |
| With Family / Friends | 13 |
| Social Housing | 18 |
| Private Rental | 62 |



"I go looking in the garbage cans to get the majority of my food."

Family Type



| Family Type | Percentage of Total Clients |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Single-Parent Family | 29 |
| Two-Parent Family | 21 |
| Couple, No Children | 8 |
| Single Person | 43 |



2009 Saskatoon HIFIS Report on Homelessness

HIFIS Profile: YWCA Shared by: Mirna Funes-Klaassen

The Saskatoon YWCA offers emergency and transitional shelter to women, children, and youth at risk and in crisis.

Shelter's Occupancy Rate

Our shelter runs at full capacity every day. Often a big frustration from the community is that we are always full. ***Last year we served 951 shelter clients, including 353 children and 89 at-risk youth.***

The State of Homelessness in Saskatoon

In the last 2 years since the housing boom in our city, we have received numerous calls daily from women and children needing housing because they have been evicted due to rent increases, rental properties being turned into condos, or landlords have sold their properties. ***Our stats show that last year we turned 3,334 women away because there was no room.***

Homelessness and Housing Issues

Securing affordable housing that is safe and adequate proves to be an ongoing challenge for the women that we serve with the housing market that it is today.

Women frequently complained that landlords do not want to rent to them because they are on social assistance. Clients have also reported to us that some rental properties will charge up to \$100 dollars to process applications. Social Services rates do not reflect the rent increase in our city.

The harsh reality for the women we work with is that often even after looking day after day for housing, they are unsuccessful at finding a place or some will take whatever they can get even if it is not adequate or safe in core neighborhoods with high crime rates.

Another housing issue is that there not much available for bigger families of 5 or more children. Rental properties that could accommodate these families are not affordable for those who are on social assistance. Low-income housing that would accommodate these families has long waiting lists up to a year or longer.

YWCA Wish-List

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dishes • Baby Bottles • Children's cups • Toiletries • Shampoo and conditioner • Soap • Brushes and combs • Toothpaste and floss • Lotion • Diapers (size 5 & 6) • Feminine hygiene supplies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby formula * We are unable to accept aerosol containers • Clothing for Children and Women (new and gently used) • Socks (children's and women's sizes) • Women's panties (new only please) • Women and Children's bathing suits • Appropriate seasonal clothing for women and children |
|--|--|



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"Social Services rates do not reflect the rent increase in our city."

Mirna Funes-Klaassen

"Subsidized housing that we currently have in Saskatoon does not meet the demand; they have long waiting lists anywhere from one year or more. It is very rare that the women we house are able to get into low-income housing."

Mirna Funes-Klaassen





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CUMFI Wish-List

- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Feminine products
- Shampoo
- Conditioner/ cream rinse
- Diapers
- Towels & face cloths
- Face soap
- Laundry soap
- Gift certificates for
 - emergency food & supplies
 - recreational passes



CUMFI
Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.

"Only a major paradigm shift in how the "haves" THINK about the "have-nots" will end poverty. Condescending attitudes, prejudicial treatment and snap judgements do more harm than many other factors."

"I think pressure needs to be put on levels of government (local, provincial, and federal) to DO THEIR JOB and allocate resources to initiatives that help all of us."

Salvation Army Wish-List

- New Packages of men's underwear (Size: medium & larger)
- New or used bath towels
- Televisions
- Pentium IV or later personal computers & monitors
- Books, music/entertainment tapes/CD's
- Backpacks/Duffle bags
- Phone cards
- Writing journals
- Radio alarm clocks
- Gift certificates - books, movies, food etc.
- Recreation passes - gym, swimming, bowling, local sporting events
- Saskatoon Transit: monthly bus pass or tickets
- Towels

When winter comes, we are always in need of socks, gloves, scarves, & toques.



2009 Saskatoon HIFIS Report on Homelessness

HIFIS Profile: Salvation Army

Shared by: Captain Rhonda Smith

The Saskatoon Salvation Army offers Saskatoon a shelter for men, teens, and young children, and have now opened the doors of their women's shelter. They have both emergency and transitional homes for people in need.

The problem with housing in Saskatoon is that housing can't keep up with demand. Cost is twofold. There is either nothing available or what is available in the client's price range is not acceptable. ***It's not good housing so our clients are caught, because if they do happen to find something, often they can't really afford it.*** That's where they get trapped because sometimes it will come down to and this is how they come to be with us. Someone will come through our program and they'll get out, and find an apartment and then, either their rent increases or they thought they could make with that but then they couldn't and they end up not paying the rent and being evicted and then they come back to our system again. That happens quite a bit. It is sort of a revolving door. A couple of months and then they are back with us. We do have clients that just can't get out of this situation on their own; its more families in that regard.

One of the things we do have to look at is 'what can we do for rental housing for the people we work with?' ***They may never own a house but they need a place to live.***

We are excited about the fact that we've started a case management program here. I have two staff who are working with the individual guys trying to figure our more long term solutions as far as getting an apartment, or sharing with a roommate. They are working with them to do that and that is helping people.

Sometimes it is the issue of "you have to deal with other things before you can deal with the housing" and sometimes its "you deal with housing first and then you deal with the other issues"

The concept of housing first is that you help someone find housing and then you deal with all their issues after that. Sometimes, especially the people who tend to use our services are not going to be able to deal with other things they have. Simple things like hygiene, or just to get in touch with their mental health worker, or something like that, to help them to give them those supports and then they can move forward. It is not once size fits all.

I am sure there is definitely more that we could do. It would be great if we worked ourselves out of a job, but in the foreseeable future that doesn't look like a reality so we have to work together. I am happy to see that different groups that are working with this population are trying to work together. We have the emergency shelter providers who are meeting every couple of months now. The dialogue and the talking is happening and I think those are very important elements. It makes it different.

Swimming upstream together makes a difference! You can try to swim upstream by yourself and have a very difficult time or you can let others swim with you and get further.



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"...we need more affordable rental units. Or else we need to give people money. It's those kinds of things we are faced with." Captain Rhonda Smith

"The solution is that it's not one size fits all. There are many solutions to the problem we have. It's working together to find that solution, those solutions; that's kind of the situation." Captain Rhonda Smith





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Housing Resources in Saskatoon include:

Emergency shelters:

- Interval House
- Lighthouse Shelter
- Salvation Army Community Services
- Saskatoon Crisis Nursery
- STC Urban Safe House
- YWCA

Transitional housing:

- Adelle House
- CUMFI Infinity House
- CUMFI McLeod House
- CUMFI Wellness Centre
- CUMFI Kanaweyimik Home
- EGADZ My Homes 1-13
- John Howard Cedar House
- Lighthouse Supported Living
- Quint Male Youth Lodge
- Quint Pleasant Hill Place
- Salvation Army Mumford House
- Salvation Army Community Services
- Tamara's House
- YWCA

Other supports:

- Calder Centre
- Larson House
- Mental Health and Community Addictions
- EGADZ Mobile Outreach
- Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre
- Saskatoon Food Bank
- Saskatoon Health Region Health Bus
- Saskatoon Health Region Kids-First
- White Buffalo Youth Lodge

Canada 

2009 Saskatoon HIFIS Report on Homelessness

Contributors to the HIFIS Report on Homelessness

Transitional Shelters who contributed data to the 2009 HIFIS Report:

- Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.'s
 - Infinity House
 - McLeod House
 - Kanaweyimik Home
- Saskatoon Interval House
 - Adelle House
- Lighthouse Supported Living
- Quint Lodge
 - Male Youth Lodge
- Salvation Army Community Services
 - New Frontiers
 - New Horizons
- Tamara's House
 - Drop In
 - HarmonySong
- YWCA
 - Berryridge Project
 - Margaret's Place
 - Turning Points

Emergency Shelters who contributed data to the 2009 HIFIS Report:

- Salvation Army Community Services
 - Noah's Ark
 - Serenity Cove
 - Al's Place
 - Chapel Dorm
 - Emergency Shelter
- YWCA
 - Saskatoon Crisis Shelter
 - Mental Health Room
 - Youth Program
- The Lighthouse— Shelter
- Saskatoon Interval House

Service providers who contributed data to the 2009 HIFIS Report:

- Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre
 - Clothing Depot
- Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre

Service providers who will contribute data to 2010 HIFIS Report:

- CUMFI Wellness Center
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan
- EGADZ My Homes
- Lighthouse Emergency Shelter

***Shelters that were able to contribute to the HIFIS Report were shelters that had collected data on HIFIS between January 1 – December 31.**

"By the time I pay rent and utilities I don't have much money for groceries. I am a senior living on pension only. My last CPP was 1.34 raise but everything in the store is higher."



2009 Saskatoon HIFIS Report on Homelessness

Limitations

While this HIFIS Report is based on the most accurate and standardized data available in Saskatoon, we still have some gaps.

- The primary limitation of the current HIFIS Report is that not all sheltering organizations are currently represented by HIFIS. While homelessness is a city-wide problem, the current HIFIS Report provides us with a partial view of homelessness. This problem will be reduced as more organizations sign on to HIFIS. The HIFIS Report also contains limited information on non-sheltering service providers as few are currently using HIFIS in Saskatoon.
- There are some differences in how service providers define transitional and emergency sheltering and classify clients.
- Data on number of clients may contain duplicate clients both within and between shelters. This will be lessened with the implementation of a central server that will allow shelters to add data in real time.
- At times, it was difficult to convert number of family units to a total number of beds in our shelters. We are working on developing a uniform way to count family unit usage across the city.
- An underestimate of room nights used was derived from the number of single & family heads booked into the shelter, as dependents are often booked into a room alone. These statistics undercount because of unused beds when a family or single person does not occupy all beds in a room.
- 365-day data were available only for 2009; thus, this HIFIS Report represents a baseline measurement for tracking homelessness in Saskatoon. The 2010 HIFIS Report will provide us with an opportunity to begin tracking longer term and annual trends.

Benefits of HIFIS

HIFIS can benefit organizations by collecting information on service provider usage, client characteristics, and service use. The software allows shelters book clients in and out and keep case management records. In addition, HIFIS has functions that can be used to create reports for funders, management boards, and policy makers.

HIFIS has the potential to increase our knowledge regarding the prevalence and characteristics of homelessness in the community, which will inform local, provincial, and national responses to homelessness. The more organizations that collect standardized data, the greater our capacity to inform policy, program development, and resource allocation to develop evidence-based solutions to homelessness.

Organizations that sign onto HIFIS receive free software and computers, courtesy of HIFIS's partnership with Computers for Schools. There are opportunities to have free computer networking setup through HIFIS' partnership with the Saskatchewan Telecom Pioneers. HIFIS Saskatoon also offers free local technical support, setup, and training. Nationally, the HIFIS project provides a toll-free help desk.



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"Thank you for helping us to survive, to greet us with a smile and to treat us with donating & respect that we are here because we need help, not because we chose to be..."



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“Don’t stop, its not a perfect system but it’s worth building on. Feel proud of your work. THANK YOU”

If your organization has a Wish-List that you would like to have included in our online edition of the Saskatoon HIFIS Report on Homelessness please forward to the Community Co-ordinator of HIFIS

2009 Saskatoon HIFIS Report on Homelessness

Current, Upcoming, and Potential HIFIS Initiatives

Quarterly Updates and Fact Sheets

To provide ongoing information on homelessness in HIFIS shelters, we plan to issue small quarterly reports that will include tracking trends and new information being tracked by the HIFIS Team. These reports will compliment the larger annual HIFIS Report.

Provincial HIFIS Report

The HIFIS Teams in Regina, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon are exploring the possibility of partnering on a provincial HIFIS Report and other potential research projects that could use HIFIS data.

Alternate Map of Saskatoon

The Salvation Army and HIFIS have discussed working together to develop a map of services for homeless people. The map would pinpoint agencies and other resources and would include descriptions of the type of services available and important contact information for accessing those services.

Data Entry Projects

CUISR often has access to political studies undergraduate students completing a work experience class. Some of these interns have assisted at various HIFIS shelters to enter data to transition from paper to electronic records. This assists shelters in their day-to-day operations and will increase the amount of data available for subsequent HIFIS Reports.

HIFIS Saskatoon

HIFIS Saskatoon has been hosted by the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) since October 2008.

CUISR’s HIFIS Team

CUISR Community Co-Director and HIFIS Supervisor: *Bill Holden*

Team Leader: *Nicola Chopin*

Training Coordinator: *Jesse Katzman*

Community Coordinator: *Renata Andres*

For information on HIFIS, please call 966-2592 or email cuisr.hifiscommunity@usask.ca. For information about research projects, please call 966-2120 or email cuisr.research@usask.ca.

HIFIS Saskatoon is funded by the Government of Canada’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy. We would like to thank the Government of Canada and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy’s Community Advisory Board for their support and input into this HIFIS Report.

Canada 

