



REGION OF WATERLOO

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Planning, Policy & Program Administration

PLANNING, HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Housing

TO: Chair Sean Strickland and Members of the Community Services Committee

DATE: September 10, 2013

FILE CODE: S13-40

SUBJECT: 2012 HOMELESSNESS TO HOUSING STABILITY REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION:

For information

SUMMARY:

This report reviews the results of the Homelessness to Housing Stability 2012 Data Summary Report (attached as Appendix 1) and the 2012 Emergency Shelter Data Report (attached as Appendix 2).

In previous years, the Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG) released an annual two-page report card summarizing homelessness and rental housing data for Waterloo Region. Funding to complete this project was time-limited, and has now expired. As the HHUG will no longer be producing a report card, Region of Waterloo Social Planning, Policy and Program Administration in partnership with Planning, Housing and Community Services are committed to producing an annual data summary report to help inform the community of current trends in housing and homelessness in Waterloo Region. The 2012 Homelessness to Housing Stability Data Summary Report (the "Data Summary Report" attached as Appendix 1) does not provide "grades" but covers similar topics such as emergency shelter use, income, rental housing affordability and availability, and supportive housing.

Analysis of the Data Summary Report shows significant increases in the number of people accessing emergency shelter in Waterloo Region. Between 2008 and 2012, there was a 45 per cent increase in bed nights, and a 24 per cent increase in the number of people accessing emergency shelter. Further, the number of families accessing emergency shelter has grown 229 per cent, from 65 families in 2008 to 214 families in 2012.

With these unprecedented increases in emergency shelter use, it is timely to provide more detailed 2012 Emergency Shelter Data Report (attached as Appendix 2), which includes trends from 2006 to 2012. This Emergency Shelter Data Report is also intended as a tool with which to report on trends in homelessness for use by community stakeholders, advocates and agencies who serve people experiencing homelessness.

Both of these reports support community planning efforts regarding both short term and longer term housing needs, and provide information used by the Region and many agencies and groups for community education and advocacy. Trends illustrated in the Data Summary Report and the Emergency Shelter Data Report are discussed below.

REPORT:**1.0 Data Summary Report**

The Data Summary Report (attached as Appendix 1) compares data between 2008 (the year the recession began in Canada) and 2012 (the most recent full year of data and a point where the effects of the recession are beginning to be quite evident in homelessness and housing trends).

Research shows that communities will experience increased rates of homelessness two to three years after the beginning of a recession, due to the financial hardship caused by job loss and a lack of jobs available post-recession. These researchers speculate that this lag occurs because the use of an emergency shelter is often a last resort – people will attempt to exhaust all other avenues (Employment Insurance, Social Assistance, ‘doubling-up’ with family or friends) before going to a shelter¹. Therefore, there is often a few years lag time from the beginning of a recession, to a significant increase in the numbers of people experiencing homelessness. This trend has been seen in local data, with the marked increase in homelessness, particularly among families with children, beginning in 2011 and continuing on an upward trend in 2012.

1.1 Emergency Shelter Use

In Waterloo Region, the emergency shelter system has served an unprecedented number of people in 2012 (3,447 unique individuals). This is a 24 per cent increase since the beginning of the recession in 2008. In addition, people accessing shelter are staying longer and accessing shelter more often with an increase of 45 per cent in bed nights since 2008 (63,277 bed nights in 2008 to 91,697 bed nights in 2012).

Data in Waterloo Region is consistent with the research indicating that families most often experience homelessness due to economic hardship as the result of income-loss or unaffordable housing options². In 2012, 214 families accessed emergency shelter in Waterloo Region, representing a 229 per cent increase since 2008. There was also a distressing 300 per cent increase of children in emergency shelter since 2008 (from 105 children to 420). More detailed data related to emergency shelters is included in Appendix 2.

1.2 Income (Affordability)

Minimum housing wage refers to the minimum amount of income earned per hour that is necessary to afford a unit at the average market and meet basic needs for the long term. The 2012 Data Summary Sheet shows that the average minimum housing wage have increased at the same rate for all unit types since 2008 (13 per cent for a bachelor apartment, 8 per cent for a one bedroom apartment and 7 per cent for two or more bedroom apartments).

While minimum wage in Ontario has increased 15 per cent from \$8.75 per hour in 2008 to \$10.25 per hour in 2012, at no point did the Ontario minimum wage meet the minimum housing wage required to maintain affordable housing. The housing wage required for a bachelor apartment was \$10.78 in 2008 and \$12.38 in 2012. Furthermore, the minimum wage rate has not changed since 2010.

¹ Falvo, Nick. “Calm Before the Storm: The Great Recession’s Impact on Homelessness”. School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University. 2010. Accessed online: <http://www.homelesshub.ca/Library/Calm-Before-the-Storm-The-Great-Recession%e2%80%99s-Impact-on-Homelessness-48777.aspx>

² Social Planning, Policy and Program Administration (2013). Approach to End Family Homelessness in Waterloo Region Report Project: A Literature Review. Waterloo, ON: Regional Municipality of Waterloo. Available at: <http://www.homelesshub.ca/Library/Approach-to-End-Family-Homelessness-in-Waterloo-Region-Report-Project-A-Literature-Review-55949.aspx>

An even greater gap exists for people in our community who access social assistance. For a single Ontario Works (OW) recipient, the shelter allowance has increased 7 per cent from \$349 in 2008 to \$376 in 2012. For a single Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipient, the shelter allowance has increased 8 per cent from \$445 in 2008 to \$479 in 2012. Given these rates, even a bachelor rental apartment (at an average cost of \$644 per month) is impossible to afford using the shelter portion of the OW or ODSP allowance. Further, the above only considers the cost of housing and does not include the cost of food and other living expenses (an analysis of the overall ability to maintain housing stability including the cost of food and other living expenses is examined in the Region of Waterloo Public Health Report “The Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket Fact Sheet 2013”). When these costs are considered, the gap for people who access social assistance is even greater.

1.3 Rental Housing Availability

The number of completed Community Housing rental units increased by 3 per cent (from 10,034 in 2008 to 10,320 in 2012) and the number of households on the Community Housing Waiting List increased by 2 per cent during this same time frame (from 3,100 in 2008 to 3,162 in 2012). The average wait time for bachelor and one bedroom community housing units has remained relatively long at four to six years, and for a family requiring three or more bedrooms, the wait time is two years or more.

The number of private market rent units available in Waterloo Region remained unchanged from 2008 to 2012. Further, while the vacancy rate increased marginally from 1.8 per cent in 2008 to 2.6 per cent in 2012, this still falls below what housing researchers indicate is a ‘healthy rate’ of 3 per cent. A low vacancy rate and no increase in available private market rental units can create increased competition for the stock available, often shutting out people in our community who experience marginalization, therefore increasing housing instability and contributing to greater rates of homelessness.

1.4 Supportive Housing

Supportive housing in the Region includes both “specific” supportive housing³ and “non-specific” supportive housing⁴. Overall, the total number of housing spaces with specific and non-specific support has increased 5 per cent from 1,473 in 2008 to 1,552 in 2012. However, the number of households waiting for support has increased 16 per cent from 1,176 to 1,361 within the same timeframe.

Specific supportive housing is showing a decrease of 8 per cent with 658 households on the waitlist in 2008 and 603 households waiting in 2012. This decrease does not necessarily reflect decreased need, but rather is largely the result of changes to the way waitlists are managed. For non-specific supportive housing, the waitlist has increased 46 per cent from 518 households in 2008 to 758 households in 2012. The high number of people in Waterloo Region waiting for supportive housing, increases the likelihood that housing stability may be threatened without these supports, placing people at risk of homelessness.

³ “Specific” Supportive Housing refers to housing intended for people in the community who have diagnosed physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, acquired brain injuries, mental health issues, or problematic substance use issues

⁴ “Non-specific” Supportive Housing refers to housing intended for people who generally require support to maintain housing but are not required to have diagnosed disability

2.0 Emergency Shelter Data

Appendix 2 provides more detailed emergency shelter data and analysis, including trends from 2006 to 2012.

As illustrated in the report, there has been a steady increase in the number of people accessing emergency shelter in Waterloo Region from 2006 to 2012. The number of unique individuals who accessed shelter between 2006 and 2012 has increased by 20 per cent. The highest increase was seen at YWCA-Mary's Place, with a 64 per cent increase since 2006.

While single adult males make up the largest population group in the shelter system, the total number of single adult males accessing emergency shelter has remained relatively stable between 2006 and 2012; however, the number of women accessing emergency shelter has increased 21 per cent (from 656 in 2006 to 795 in 2012). The number of seniors increased 45 per cent between 2006 and 2012 (from 31 in 2006 to 45 in 2012). Most notable is the 193 per cent increase in families between 2006 and 2012.

3.0 Implications and Next Steps

These reports indicate continued issues with housing affordability and distressing increases in the number of people accessing emergency shelter and on supportive housing waitlists. Emergency shelters, while extremely busy, continue to manage capacity pressures through the Emergency Shelter Referral Protocol and overflowing people into motels when necessary. Opportunities to address the needs of particular populations and make changes to improve the Housing Stability System were identified in the Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy and are underway as identified in the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Update report SS-13-030, also provided at this time.

Some key housing needs in the community are being addressed through the Affordable Housing Strategy. On October 29, 2008, Regional Council endorsed the Affordable Housing Strategy (AHS) for the period 2008 to the end of 2013 to help create at least 500 new units of sustainable affordable housing (P-08-105). Two priority areas identified in the AHS relate to affordability for lower income households and to create 100 supportive housing units. The Region is on target to meet the overall goal of 500 new units and the two priority areas. Staff are working on a new draft Affordable Housing Strategy for the period 2014-2019 that will be the subject of a future report for consideration by Regional Council later this year. Housing Staff are also updating Waterloo Region's longer term Community Action Plan for Low to Moderate Level Housing for consideration by Regional Council that will encompass actions that will contribute to the Region's vision, working to address community-identified housing needs and barriers, covering both rental and ownership market housing for households with low to moderate incomes.

These reports support these community planning efforts and provide information used by the Region and many agencies and groups for community education. These reports are available on the Region of Waterloo's website and will be provided to the Homelessness Hub (national research clearinghouse at www.homelesshub.ca). The 2-page Homelessness to Housing Stability 2012 Data Summary Report (Appendix 1) will be published and distributed through the HHUG's listserv and hard copies of the report will be sent to community agencies within the Housing Stability System in Waterloo Region. The Emergency Shelter Data Report (Appendix 2) will be published and broadly distributed in the community through community agencies, meetings, and established networks.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN:

Working to strengthen the housing stability system and build the community's capacity to address issues of homelessness is consistent with the 2011-2014 Region's Corporate Strategic Plan, Focus Area 4: Human Services: to "promote quality of life and create opportunities for residents to develop to their full potential"; and specifically, Strategic Objective 4.2 to "enhance services to people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness" through "implementation of the Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy" (Strategy). Development of data summaries supports Action 37b related to the Region's Service Manager Role in data integration and dissemination.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NIL

OTHER DEPARTMENT CONSULTATIONS/CONCURRENCE:

NIL

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 - Homelessness to Housing Stability 2012 Data Summary Report
Appendix 2 - 2012 Emergency Shelter Data Report

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Appendix 1 Homelessness to Housing Stability 2012 Data Summary Report

The Homelessness to Housing Stability 2012 Data Summary Report⁵ captures key indicators around homelessness and housing in Waterloo Region, in an effort to demonstrate the possible economic and structural barriers to housing stability for people at risk or experiencing homelessness in our community. Given the significant increase in rates of homelessness in the last four years, this report compares 2008 (the year the recession began in Canada) and 2012 (the most recent full year of data and a point where the effects of the recession are beginning to be quite evident in homelessness and housing trends) as a way to illustrate the realities of the current economic climate and how it has affected housing and homelessness in Waterloo Region.

The chart below assesses some of the factors that may influence the ability of people living in Waterloo Region to find or maintain housing, including vacancy rates and income levels. This assessment is underscored by the understanding that in order to maintain housing stability, three major elements must be met:

- **Housing** - Housing must provide security of tenure and be desirable, affordable, safe, adequately maintained, accessible, and a suitable size. The more “at home” someone feels both in their community and in their housing, the more likely it is the person will stay housed and avoid re-entering the cycle of homelessness.
- **Income** - People must have enough income to sustain minimum standards for rent, utilities, food, health, clothing, education, transportation, and recreation.
- **Support** - People must have the opportunity to access additional support, as needed, to help them live as independently as desired and to connect to others in meaningful ways.

This report evaluates some barriers to adequate housing, income and support in Waterloo Region, in the context of a community experiencing the negative effects of a national recession.

	2008	2012	% change
Emergency Shelter Use			
Number of emergency shelter bed nights	63,277	91,697	+45%
Number of people served by emergency shelters	2,784	3,447	+24%
Number of people utilizing shelter by group:			
• Youth (ages 12-24)	738	912	+24%
• Families	65	214	+229%
• Children in Families	105	420	+300%
• Older Adults (65+)	30	45	+50%
• Women (16+ years)	596	795	+33%
• Men (16+ years)	1423	1614	+13%
• Transgender (16+ years)	0	11	-

⁵ In previous years, the Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG) released an annual two-page report card summarizing homelessness and rental housing data for Waterloo Region. This 2012 Data Report replaces the report card but will cover similar topics such as emergency shelter use, income, rental housing affordability and availability, and supportive housing availability.

	2008	2012	% change
Percentage of emergency shelter residents returning:			
• Returning within the same year	27%	20%	-25%
• Returning in more than one calendar year over the past five years	27%	30%	+11%
Income (Affordability)			
Minimum wage	\$8.75	\$10.25	+17%
Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Works (OW)	\$349	\$376	+7%
Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)	\$445	\$479	+8%
Rental Housing Cost			
Average Market Rent			
• Bachelor	\$561	\$644	+15%
• One bedroom	\$712	\$773	+9%
• Two bedrooms	\$845	\$908	+7%
• Three or more bedrooms	\$978	\$1,053	+8%
Average Wage Needed to Afford Rental Housing			
• Bachelor	\$10.78	\$12.38	+15%
• One bedroom	\$13.69	\$14.87	+9%
• Two bedrooms	\$16.25	\$17.46	+7%
• Three or more bedrooms	\$18.81	\$20.25	+7%
Rental Housing Availability			
Number of households on Community Housing Waiting List	3,100	3,162	+2%
Average wait time for Community Housing			
• Seniors	1-2.5 yrs	1-2 yrs	-
• Non-seniors (bachelor or 1 bedroom)	4-6 yrs	4-6 yrs	-
• Small family (2 bedrooms)	2+ yrs	2+ yrs	-
• Small family (3 bedrooms)	0.5-2 yrs	2+ yrs	-
• Large family (4-5 bedrooms)	3-5 yrs	3-4 yrs	-
Number of Community Housing rental units (completed)	10,034	10,320	+3%
Vacancy rate – private market rent units	1.8%	2.6%	+44%
Number of private market rent units	31,205	31,226	0%
Supportive Housing			
Number of housing spaces with support	1,473	1,552	+5%
Number of households waiting for long-term support to maintain housing	1,176	1,361	+16%
• Non-specific (general)	518	758	+46%
• Specific	658	603	-8%

Appendix 2 2012 Emergency Shelter Data Report

Homelessness in Waterloo Region: Emergency Shelter Data 2006 – 2012

Overview and Context

The recent increase in emergency shelter usage is unparalleled in Waterloo Region. The increases in people accessing emergency shelters and increasing bed nights point to the heightened vulnerability of people living with low income or who are facing other kinds of barriers to housing stability and community inclusion in the current economic climate.

As explored through key data points below, significant upwards trends in shelter use (especially among families) become evident in 2011. This may be largely attributable to the difficult economic realities of some people given the recent recession. Research shows that communities will experience increased rates of homelessness two to three years after the beginning of a recession, due to the financial hardship caused by job loss and a lack of jobs available post-recession. Researchers speculate that this lag in increased rates of homelessness occurs because the use of an emergency shelter is often a last resort – people will attempt to exhaust all other avenues (Employment Insurance, Social Assistance, or ‘doubling-up’ - moving in with family or friends) before going to a shelter⁶. Therefore, there is often a few years lag time from the beginning of a recession, to witnessing significant increases in the number of people experiencing homelessness. This trend has been seen in local data with the marked increase in homelessness - particularly among families with children - beginning in 2011 and continuing on an upward trend in 2012.

In Waterloo Region, the emergency shelter system has served an unprecedented number of people in 2012 (3,447 unique individuals). This is a 24 per cent increase since the beginning of the recession in 2008. In addition, people accessing shelter are staying longer and accessing shelter more often with an increase of 45 per cent in bed nights since 2008 (63,277 bed nights in 2008 to 91,697 bed nights in 2012).

Data in Waterloo Region is consistent with the research indicating that families most often experience homelessness due to economic hardship as the result of income-loss or unaffordable housing options⁷. In 2012, 214 families accessed emergency shelter in Waterloo Region, representing a 229 per cent increase since 2008. There was also a distressing 300 per cent increase of children in emergency shelter since 2008 (from 105 children to 420).

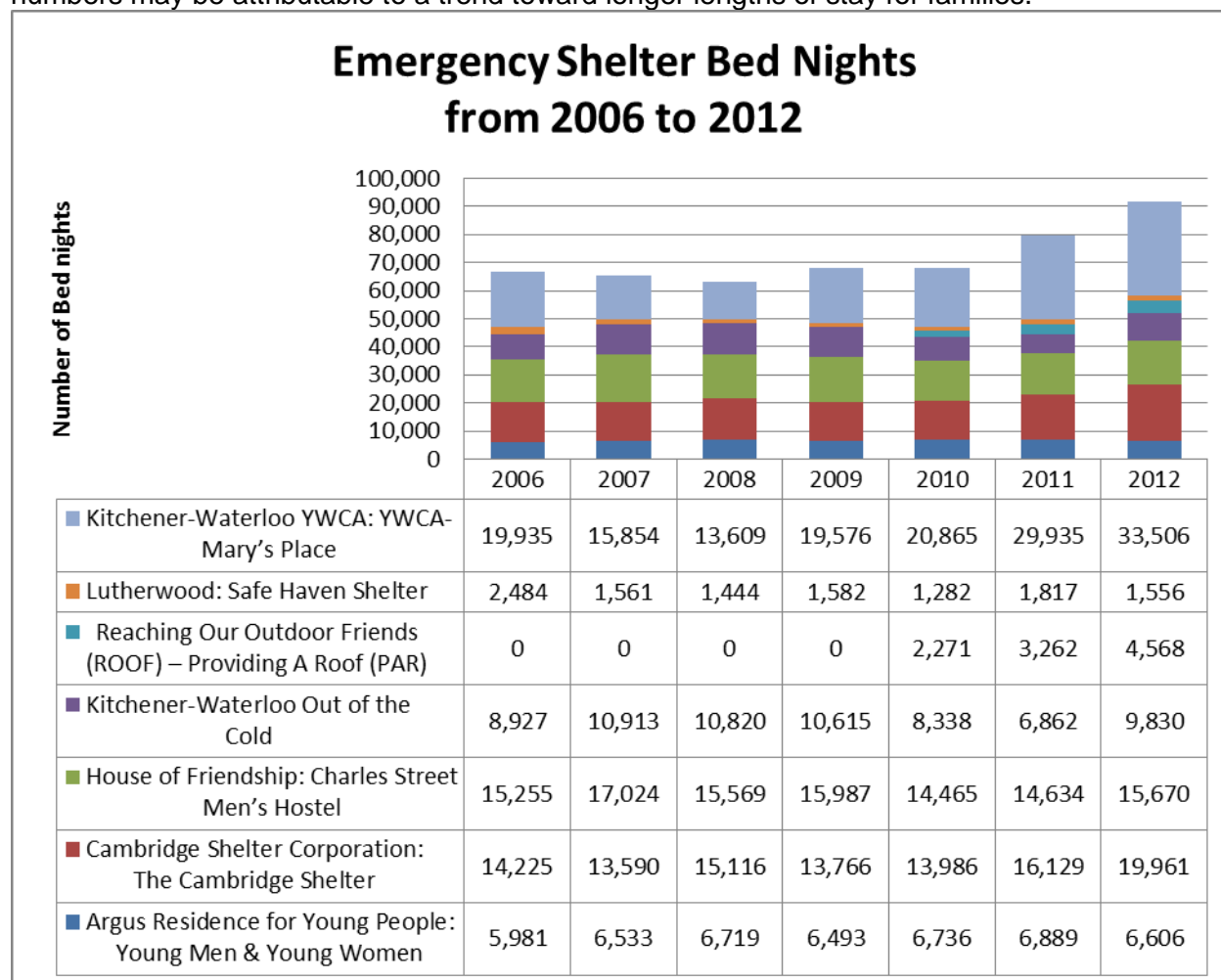
The charts below capture pertinent data points for the emergency shelter system in Waterloo Region for the years 2006 to 2012, as this timeframe reflects the most reliable and consistent data from emergency shelters, obtained through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS).

⁶ Falvo, Nick. “Calm Before the Storm: The Great Recession’s Impact on Homelessness”. School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University. 2010. Accessed online: <http://www.homelesshub.ca/Library/Calm-Before-the-Storm-The-Great-Recession%e2%80%99s-Impact-on-Homelessness-48777.aspx>

⁷ Social Planning, Policy and Program Administration (2013). Approach to End Family Homelessness in Waterloo Region Report Project: A Literature Review. Waterloo, ON: Regional Municipality of Waterloo. Available at: <http://www.homelesshub.ca/Library/Approach-to-End-Family-Homelessness-in-Waterloo-Region-Report-Project-A-Literature-Review-55949.aspx>

Emergency Shelter Bed Nights

The number of bed nights (how many nights a resident stayed at an emergency shelter⁸) has increased by 37 per cent from 2006 to 2012, totaling over 90,000 bed nights in 2012. The most bed nights are seen at YWCA-Mary's Place (33,506 bed nights in 2012), then at Cambridge Shelter (19,961 in 2012). As these shelters both serve families experiencing homelessness, these numbers may be attributable to a trend toward longer lengths of stay for families.

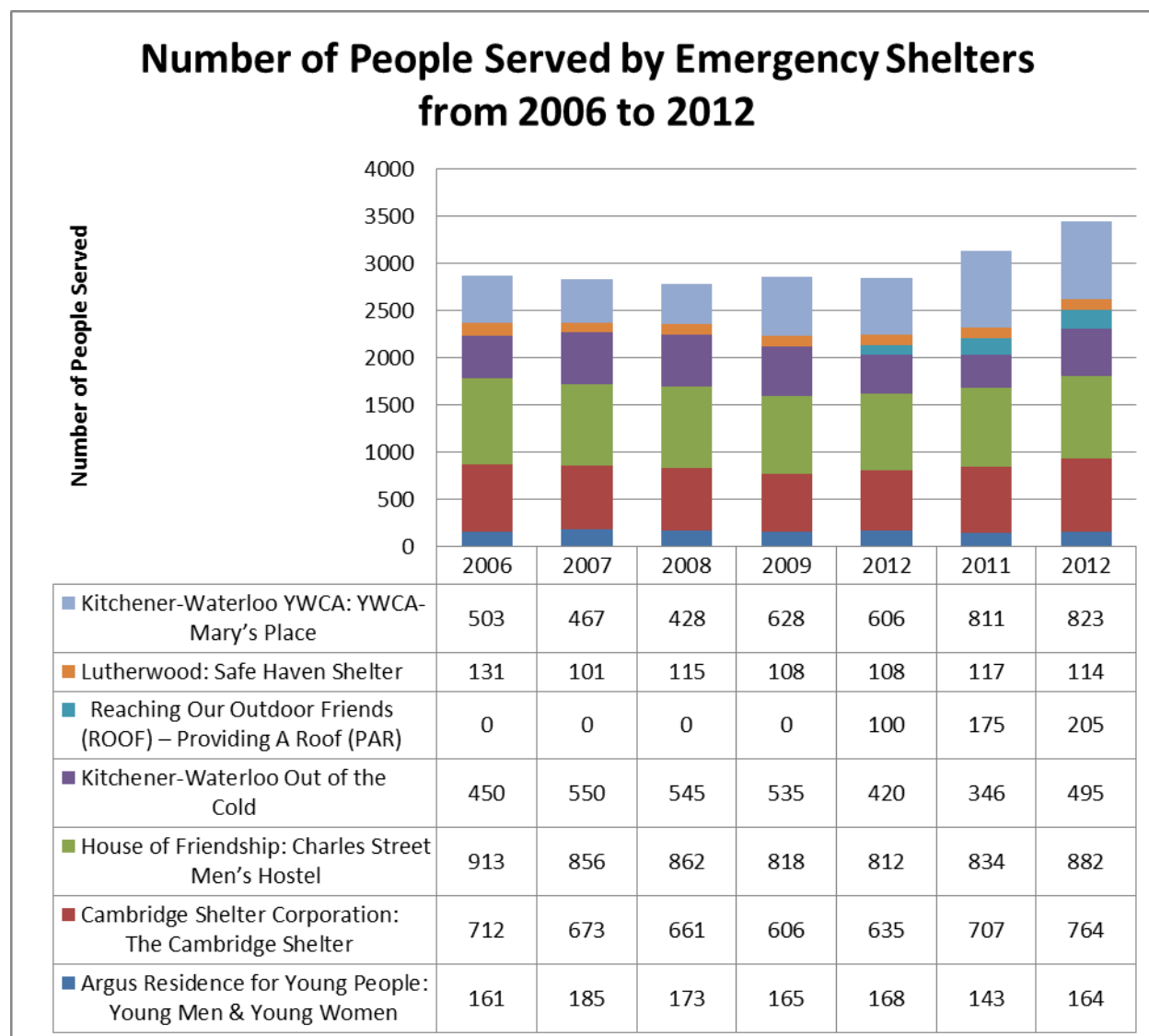


Notes: K-W Out of the Cold operates during the winter season only on an annual basis from November to April. Data is based on the 2011/2012 season estimate. Safe Haven Shelter data is collected through DANIC. All other data is collected through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and derived from the Family Roles Report. ROOF-PAR began providing emergency shelter service in mid-2010.

People Served by Emergency Shelters by Year

There has been a steady increase in the number of people accessing Emergency Shelter in Waterloo Region from 2006 to 2012. The number of unique individuals who accessed shelter between 2006 and 2012 has increased by 20 per cent. The highest increase was seen at YWCA-Mary's Place, with a 64 per cent increase since 2006. This is likely due to the high number of families accessing emergency shelters in recent years.

⁸ Emergency shelter bed nights count the number of nights a shelter bed is occupied by an individual. For example, if a family of four entered a shelter for one night, this would count as four bed nights, and eight bed nights for a two-night stay. If this family of four stayed in a shelter for seven nights, this would result in a total of 28 bed nights.



Notes: K-W Out of the Cold operates during the winter season only on an annual basis from November to April. Data is based on the 2011/2012 season estimate. Safe Haven Shelter data is collected through DANIC. All other data is collected through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and derived from the Family Roles Report. ROOF-PAR began providing emergency shelter service in mid-2010. Numbers may be duplicated across shelters (for example, if one person was served at ROOF, then went to Argus, they would be counted once at each shelter)

Percentage of People who Returned to Emergency Shelter 2006 – 2012

The data below illustrates the percentage of people who returned to emergency shelter in the seven year period 2006 - 2012 (not within each year). This information is used to understand the possible cycling of experiences of homelessness for people who may be facing multiple barriers to housing stability, or who may be approaching or who are persistently homeless.

Across all emergency shelters in Waterloo Region, 31% of residents returned to shelter in this seven year period. This percentage is equivalent to approximately 5,223 people who experienced homelessness more than once in seven years. The rate of return for Argus Residence for Young People is the highest at 49%⁹. This speaks to the multiple barriers and challenges faced by youth

⁹ While ROOF is also a youth-specific shelter, they have limited data available as they began operating in mid-2010. It is therefore, not possible to directly compare rate of return for this shelter – the information is included to give a benchmark for future data

experiencing homelessness, especially for youth who experience homelessness while under 18. Many youth who lose their homes at a young age have a higher chance of cycling back into homelessness.

Percentage of People who Returned to Emergency Shelter 2006 – 2012					
	Argus Residence for Young People	Cambridge Shelter	Charles Street Men's Hostel	YWCA-Mary's Place	Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (ROOF)
Percentage of People who Returned to Shelter between 2006 - 2012	49%	28%	37%	24%	18%

Notes: This data is calculated using the HIFIS - Family Roles Report, taking the total people served in each year at each shelter and totaled for the entire period. The HIFIS – Returning Clients Report, with the parameters of all clients including dependents from 2006-2012 is used to calculate how many unique individuals accessed shelter in seven years of service provision. The percentage of people who returned is the total people served each year, compared with the unique individuals served in the seven year period. The difference equals the number of people who returned to shelter in the seven year period. It is possible that there may be duplications between shelters as someone would be counted as a unique individual at each shelter but not necessarily within the shelter system if they accessed more than one shelter within the period. Statistics for ROOF are included for benchmarking reasons – this shelter began operating in mid-2010; the above information does not represent seven years of data.

People Accessing Emergency Shelter by Population Group

Single adult males make up the largest group of people who experience homelessness in Waterloo Region – a trend that is seen in many communities across Canada¹⁰. While single adult males make up the largest population group in the shelter system, the total number of single adult males accessing emergency shelter has remained relatively stable between 2006 and 2012; however, the number of women accessing emergency shelter has increased 21 per cent (from 656 in 2006 to 795 in 2012). The number of seniors increased 45 per cent between 2006 and 2012 (from 31 in 2006 to 45 in 2012). Most notable is the 193 per cent increase in families between 2006 and 2012. The number of families accessing emergency shelters is discussed in more detail below.

Population Group	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children (ages 12 – 15)	131	101	115	108	108	117	114
Youth (ages 16 – 24)	708	617	623	644	730	829	798
Men (ages 16+)	1,521	1,404	1,423	1,350	1,459	1,571	1,614
Women (ages 16+)	656	639	596	651	672	841	795
Transgender/Other Gender Identity (ages 16+)	0	1	0	2	3	5	11
Families	73	72	65	110	103	135	214
Children in Families	145	137	105	214	189	374	420
Seniors (ages 65+)	31	26	30	30	39	51	45
K-W Out of the Cold	450	550	545	535	420	346	495

Notes: K-W Out of the Cold (OOTC) operates during the winter season only on an annual basis from November to April. OOTC Data is based on the 2011/2012 season estimate. Safe Haven Shelter data is collected through DANIC. All other data is collected through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and derived from the Family Roles Report. As some individuals are double counted across population groups ('seniors' and 'youth' are counted in 'men' and 'women', for example) this

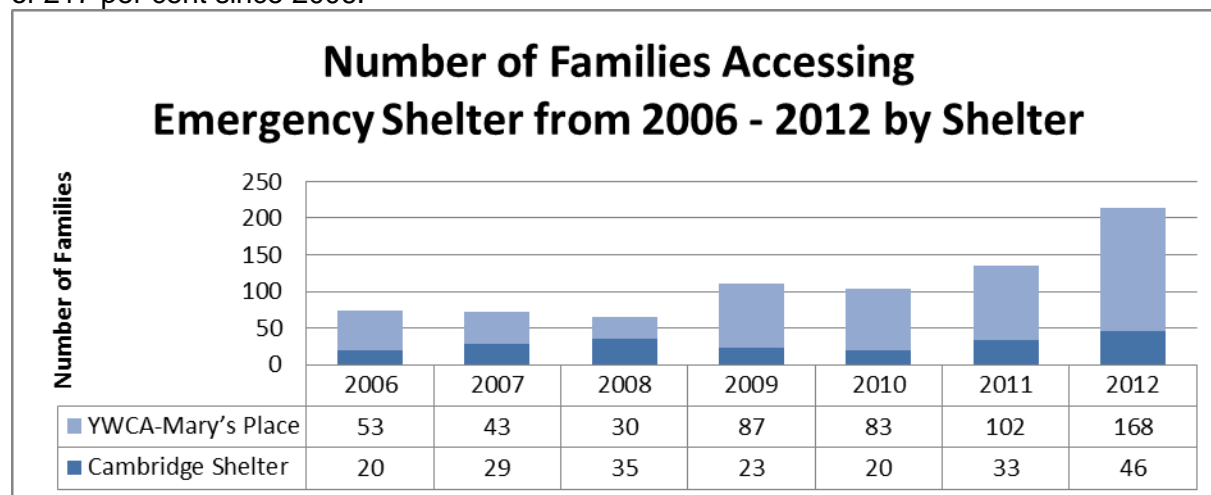
analysis.

¹⁰ Stephen Gaetz, Jesse Donaldson, Tim Richter, & Tanya Gulliver (2013): The State of Homelessness in Canada 2013. Toronto: Canadian Homelessness Research Network Press.

chart can not be totaled to find the total number of individuals served in a given year. For this information, please see the chart above under ‘number of people served by emergency shelters’.

Families with Children Accessing Emergency Shelter

Emergency shelters within the region that serve families are YWCA-Mary’s Place and the Cambridge Shelter. Possibly the most dramatic increase from 2006 is the number of families who have accessed emergency shelter at YWCA-Mary’s Place in Kitchener and the Cambridge Shelter in Cambridge¹¹. The most significant increase was seen at YWCA-Mary’s Place, with an increase of 217 per cent since 2006.

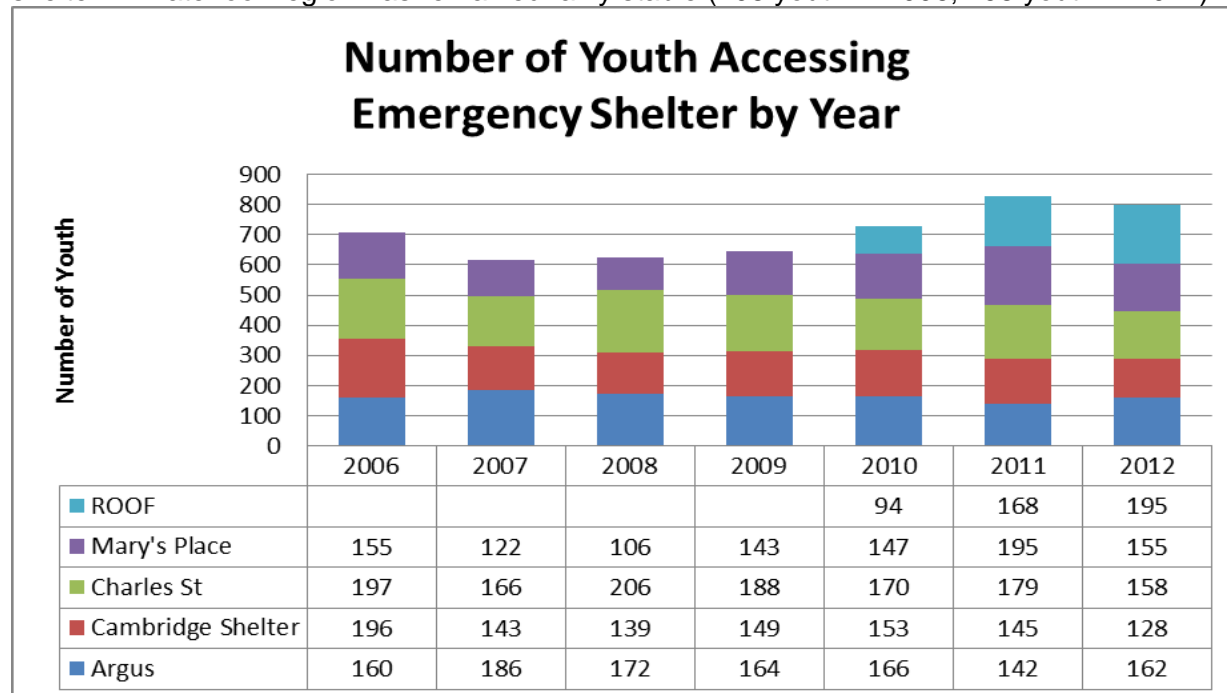


Notes: Data for both shelters is derived from the HIFIS – Family Roles Report for each year.

Youth Accessing Emergency Shelter

Youth-specific emergency shelters include Argus Residence for Young People in Cambridge, and ROOF-PAR in Kitchener. Cambridge Shelter, House of Friendship and YWCA-Mary’s Place also serve youth who access emergency shelter. The number of young people accessing emergency

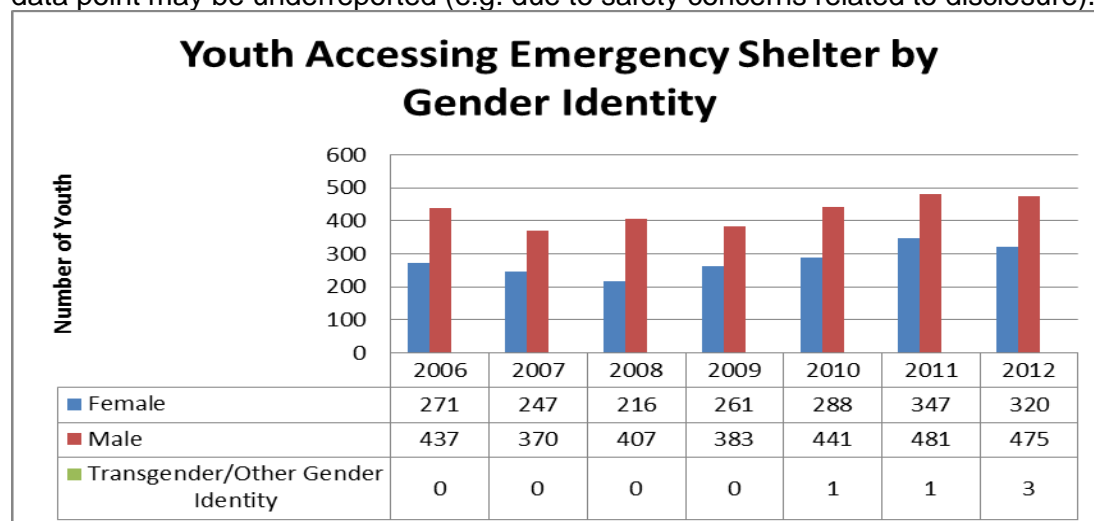
shelter in Waterloo Region has remained fairly stable (708 youth in 2006; 798 youth in 2012).



Notes: The above data is collected through the HIFIS Age Report for each shelter. ROOF began operating a ten bed emergency shelter in mid-2010. Safe Haven shelter in Kitchener serves ages 12-15 is not included as this chart captures data for ages 16-24.

Youth Accessing Emergency Shelter by Gender Identity

More young men access emergency shelter in Waterloo Region, which is consistent with trends seen among single adult males. There has been a slight increase of 9 per cent in the number of young men accessing emergency shelter from 2006 to 2012. There has been an 18 per cent increase in young women accessing emergency shelter over the same period. The numbers for young people identifying as transgender or another gender identity have increased, though this data point may be underreported (e.g. due to safety concerns related to disclosure).



Notes: This chart includes data from the HIFIS Age Report for all shelters. Safe Haven shelter in Kitchener serves ages 12-15 is not included as this chart captures data for ages 16-24.