



# What you need to know about homelessness in Michigan...

Lynn Hedges  
Executive Director

## Families comprise more than half the homeless in Michigan...

- 33% of homeless families are working poor.
- 77% of families are homeless due to a lack of affordable housing.
- One out of every 3 homeless persons is a child.

Brewster Hamm, Ada  
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William B. Milzarski, Esq.  
Grand Rapids  
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## Rural homelessness is not the same as urban homelessness...

Toni Young, Lansing  
Treasurer

- 37% of the rural homeless population is between the ages of 18 and 24, compared to 13% of the urban population.
- 57% of rural homeless are part of a family (versus 45% of urban homeless)
- Rural homeless is a new phenomena – more people in rural communities report this is their first experience ever being homeless.

Alysia Babcock,  
Benton Harbor

Jeff Muoio,  
Grand Rapids

Michelle Atwell,  
Waterford

Joseph Kopietz, Esq.  
Detroit

## The homeless are educated, skilled, and veterans...

- 22% of chronically homeless individuals have some college or technical training; 37% have at least a GED or High School diploma.
- 13% of the homeless population is comprised of veterans, although this number is under-reported.
- 26% of the homeless receive Social Security Income

Lynda Meade,  
Lansing

Georgia McPhaul,  
Detroit

## Homelessness is an economic issue...

- The major factors contributing to homelessness:
  - Lack of affordable housing
  - Debt and/or lack of income
  - Disabilities
  - Lack of employment or underemployment

*The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness develops and manages the Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System (MSHMIS). MSHMIS is an online database that provides an unduplicated, accurate look at Michigan's homeless from 455+ organizations across the state.*

*For more information, contact us at [lhedges@mihomeless.org](mailto:lhedges@mihomeless.org) and 517-485-6536.*