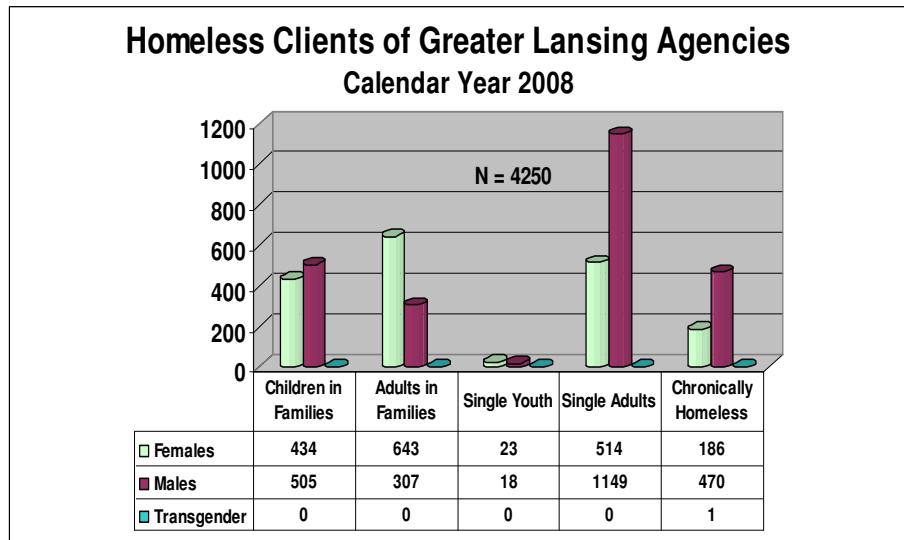


## Profile of Homeless Persons Served in Greater Lansing/Ingham County January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

This report presents information based on data entered into the Lansing regional Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) by participating human services organizations that provide various forms of assistance to the homeless in Ingham County. The Lansing regional HMIS implementation is administered by the City of Lansing Human Relations and Community Services Department and is part of the Michigan statewide HMIS project sponsored by the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness.

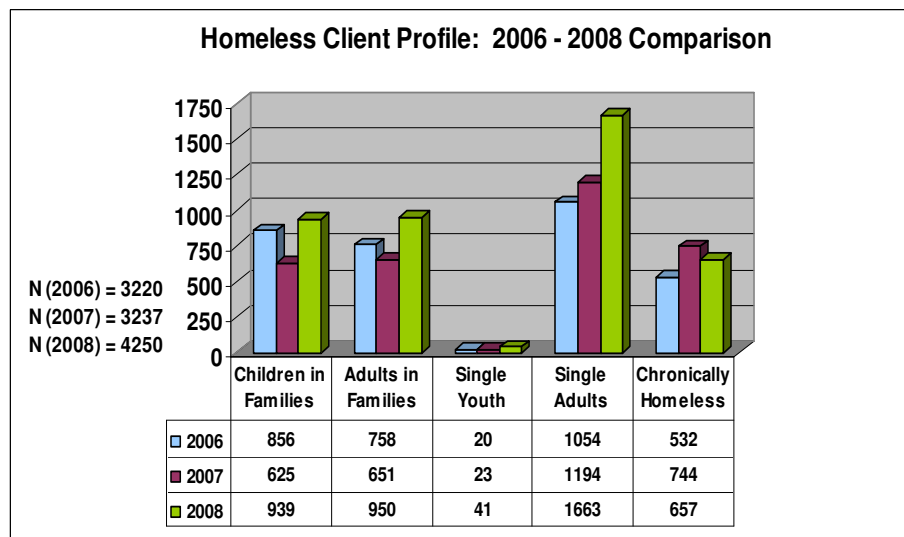
During calendar year 2008 human services providers, organized through the Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network, assisted 4,250 homeless persons (unduplicated count), which is 1,013 (31.3%) more than the number of homeless persons that received assistance during 2007. The increase in the number of homeless



persons receiving assistance in 2008 can be attributed to a combination of factors, which include the following: deterioration in economic conditions in Michigan during 2008, data updates, and the addition of agency data missing previously that provides information on single homeless men who were not included in the previous years' profile data. Human service organizations in

Lansing report an increase in the demand for food assistance in Greater Lansing is accompanied by an increase in the number of persons seeking shelter assistance as a result of job loss.

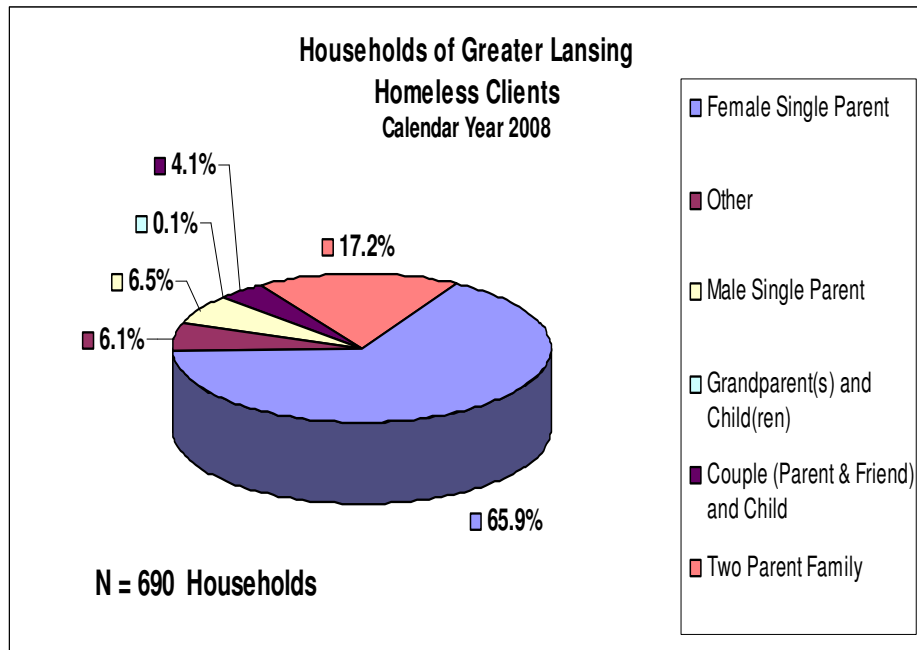
There was an increase in the number of homeless women and children in 2008 which reflects the increase in homelessness among families. As a group, 2,323 women and



children received assistance in 2008, which is 36.3% more than in 2007. Within this group, 980 children and youth were homeless which represents 23.1% of all homeless persons served in 2008. This population increase is a 51.9% increase from calendar year 2007. The data on homelessness in families reaffirms the importance of addressing the homelessness problem as an issue that affects a wide spectrum of household types rather than one that primarily affects single men.

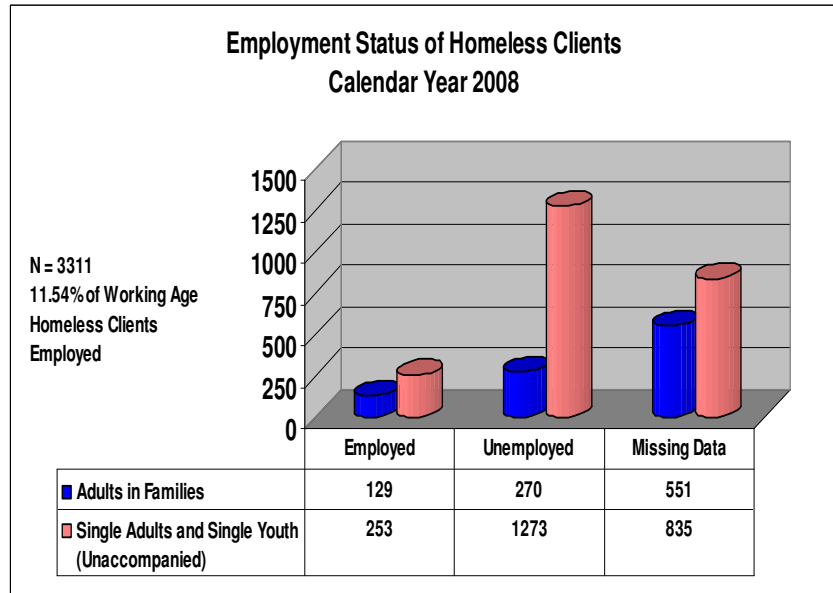
A close look at the client profile data reveals that homelessness increased for families and singles. The reported number of children and adults in families who received assistance in 2008 increased to 1889 from 1276 in the previous year which is a 48% increase over 2007. The large increase in homelessness among families reflects the compounding effect that job losses can have on homelessness. When one or both parents lose their job, the economic stability of the whole family is jeopardized, often leading to eviction or foreclosure and subsequently homelessness for parents and children. It should be noted that the substantial increase in the number of homeless single adults reported here as compared to the previous year is primarily due to data updates and the fore-mentioned inclusion of data from an agency that assists single men.

Greater Lansing continues to have a large number of chronically homeless persons, defined as unaccompanied individuals with a disabling condition who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or have had a minimum of four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. However, there was a small decrease in the number of chronically homeless persons in 2008. The number of chronically homeless persons constitutes 15.5% of the total homeless population in the area. The 87 case decrease in the number of chronically homeless persons served in 2008, as compared to 2007, can be primarily attributed to data updates rather than to other factors.



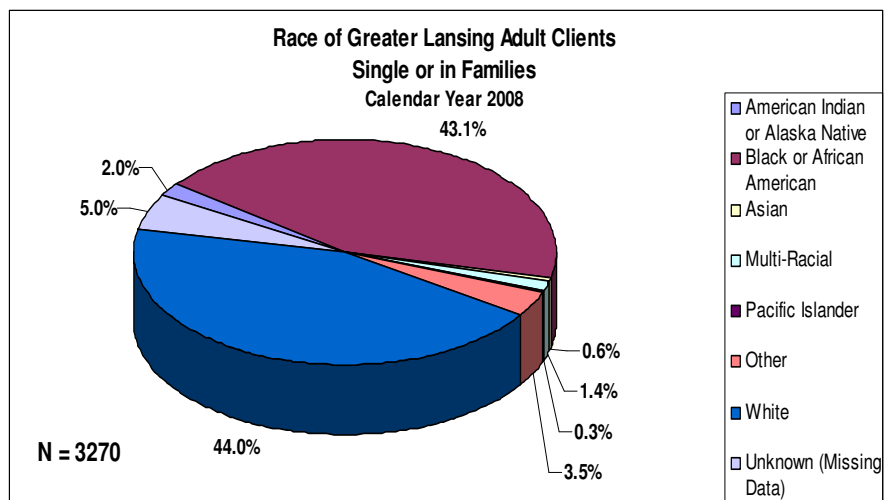
Consistent with the overall increase in the number of homeless persons, the number of homeless households increased to 690, which is 36.9% more than in 2007. This reverses the decrease in the number of homeless households seen between 2006 and 2007 and demonstrates the high need for supportive services for the homeless in Greater Lansing. The vast majority (65.9%) of households seeking services were female single parents, while two-parent households comprised 17.2% of the total. Both of these figures had little percentage changes from the previous year. Other household types were also relatively unchanged from 2007.

Unemployment is a major contributing factor to homelessness. Overall, only 11.5% of working age homeless persons were employed, which is a drop of 4% points from last year. Excluding missing data, the rate of unemployment among homeless adults remains extremely high at about 80%. When comparing the employment situation for single adults and adults in families we can see that only one in six single adults was employed versus one in three adults in families employed. Although the employment situation for adults in families was somewhat better than that of single adults, unemployment for this group was still significantly high.



A tight job market combined with a lower educational attainment level for homeless persons in this data set may account for some of the observed increase in unemployment rate. A comparison of the educational attainment level for homeless adults, who received services, to those reported in the year 2000 Census for Ingham County residents reveals that a third of the adult residents of Ingham County have a college degree, as compared to only 5.5% of these homeless adults (Data not shown).

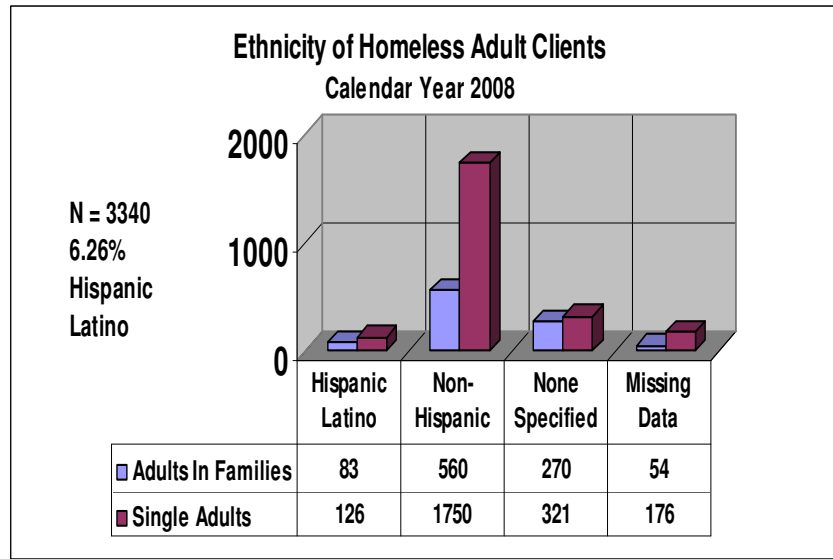
African Americans continue to represent a disproportionately large percentage (43.1%) of homeless adults in Greater Lansing and Ingham County and this situation appears to have worsened during 2008. Additional data (not shown here) indicate that in 2008 the disparity in homelessness between Black or African Americans and Whites increased. 48.7% of homeless adults in families and 40.9% of homeless single adults were Black or African Americans, both of which *increased* by about 4% points over 2007. In comparison, 40.2% of homeless adults in



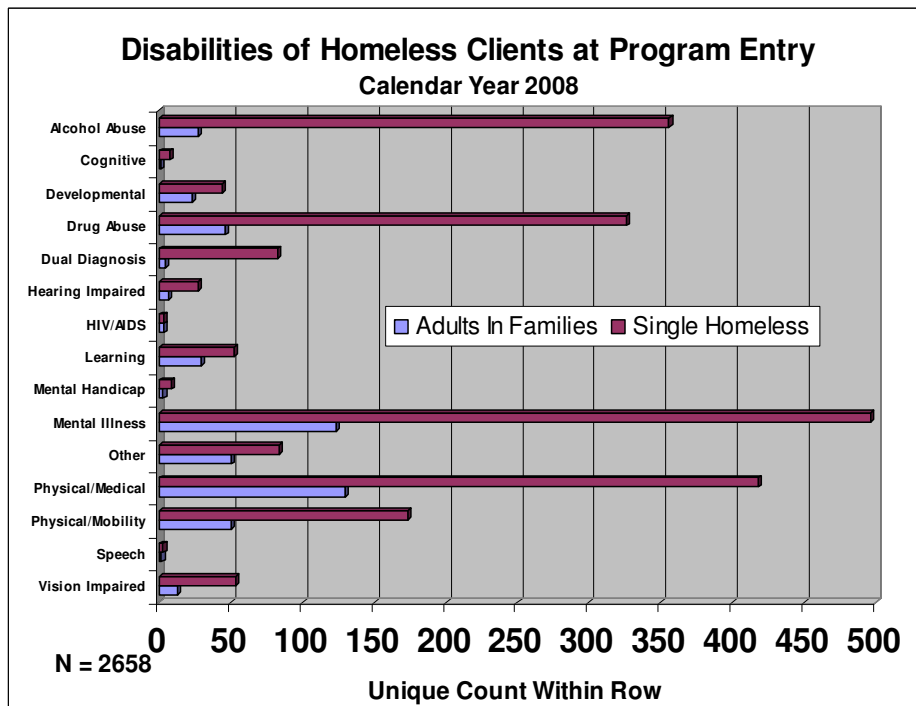
families and 45.5% of single adults receiving assistance were White and both of these percentages *decreased* in 2008 as compared to 2007 despite a small overall increase in the actual number of white homeless persons seeking services. These numbers are sobering in view of the fact that, according to the Census Bureau, African Americans represent only 19.2% of the population of the city of Lansing and 10.7% of Ingham County residents.

Hispanics/Latinos represent approximately 6% of the population of Ingham County and the number of homeless Hispanic/Latino persons who sought services in 2008 mirrors that

percentage. The number of clients in this ethnic group rose slightly to 209 in 2008 as compared to the 200 clients served in 2007. The missing data regarding ethnicity make it a little difficult to ascertain the precise ethnic makeup of the homeless clientele group, but one could assume that, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the ethnic distribution of clients with missing data resembles that seen in the group of clients with known ethnicity.



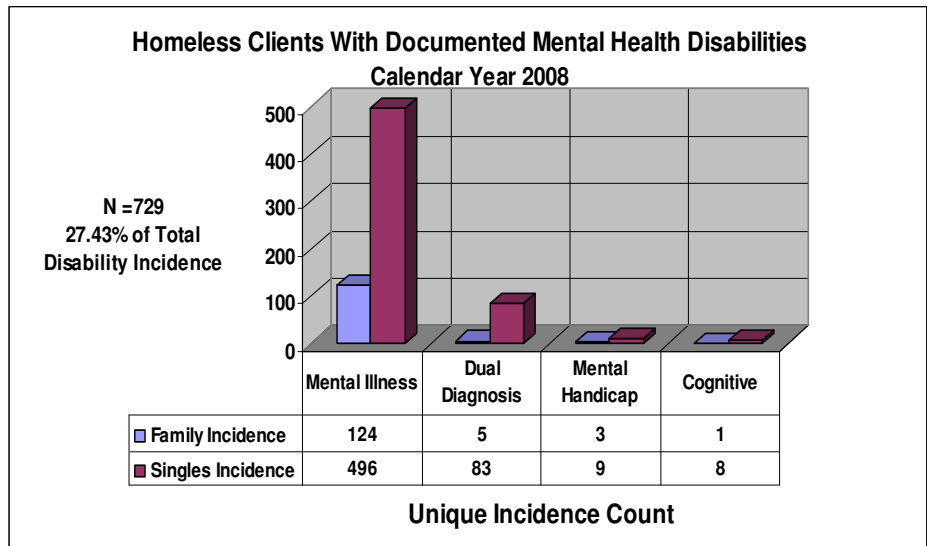
A significant percentage of homeless persons suffer from at least one disabling condition that frequently limits their ability to obtain employment. Approximately 52.7% of single homeless



and 35% of adults in families report having at least one disability. Mental illness, substance abuse and physical/medical disability are the most commonly reported disabilities. However, it is evident that the incidence rate of these disabilities is much higher among single adults than it is among adults in families. For example, alcohol abuse affected 15.3% of single adults and just 2.9% of adults in

families. Similarly, 14.1% of single homeless abuse drugs while that rate was only 4.8% among adults in families.

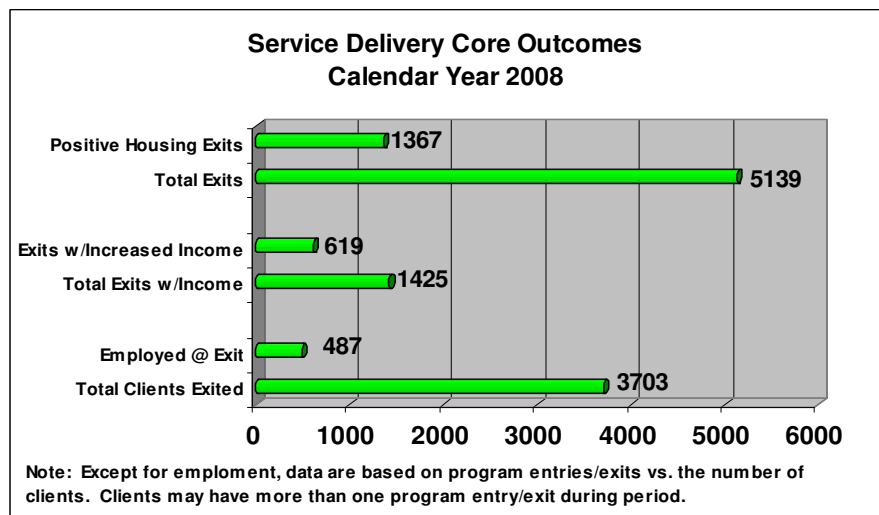
Mental disabilities are the most common disabilities among homeless clients who received assistance, accounting for 27.4% of all disability incidences. The vast majority of mental health incidences (81%) are among single homeless. As is the case with alcohol and drug abuse, we observe a higher rate of mental illness among single homeless persons (496/2320 or 21.4%) than in adults in families (124/956 or 12.9%). Information on disability among homeless children and unaccompanied single youth is limited and is not included in this report.



**Service Delivery Outcomes**

Human services organizations in Greater Lansing provided supportive services to 3,703 people who qualify as homeless under HUD definition. In addition, these agencies assisted their clients with obtaining employment, medical care, mental health services, counseling and case management.

Approximately 27% of program exits had a positive housing outcome, with clients being placed into permanent housing. A similar percentage of clients exited with income and half of these clients (619) had an increased income at exit. However, just 13.2% of clients that received services were employed when they exited programs. The



difficult economic conditions that have prevailed in Michigan during 2008 have made it difficult for the homeless to improve their financial situation and have in fact caused deterioration in their condition, as evidenced by the higher unemployment rate. Further work is obviously needed to assist this vulnerable segment of the population, particularly in obtaining adequate employment.