

Homelessness Update

January 8, 2021



DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Agency of Human Services

Who is homeless?

Category 1: Literal Homelessness

- Unsheltered (*place not meant for human habitation*)
- Staying in an emergency shelter, including domestic violence (DV) shelters
- Staying in an emergency apartment (for families)
- Staying in a host home (for unaccompanied minors)
- Staying in transitional housing designated for the homeless (e.g., Veterans Place in Northfield)
- Staying in a motel paid for by a community partner (e.g., DV agency)
- In the General Assistance Emergency Housing program – aka receiving a “motel voucher”

Current Emergency Housing/Shelter Capacity

General Assistance Emergency Housing (“motel voucher”) program

- Expanded to provide “non-congregate shelter” to meet COVID needs
- Current Temp Housing Waiver and Variance of Rules:
<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CVD19/ESD/Temp-Housing-COVID-19-%2811.9.20%29.pdf>

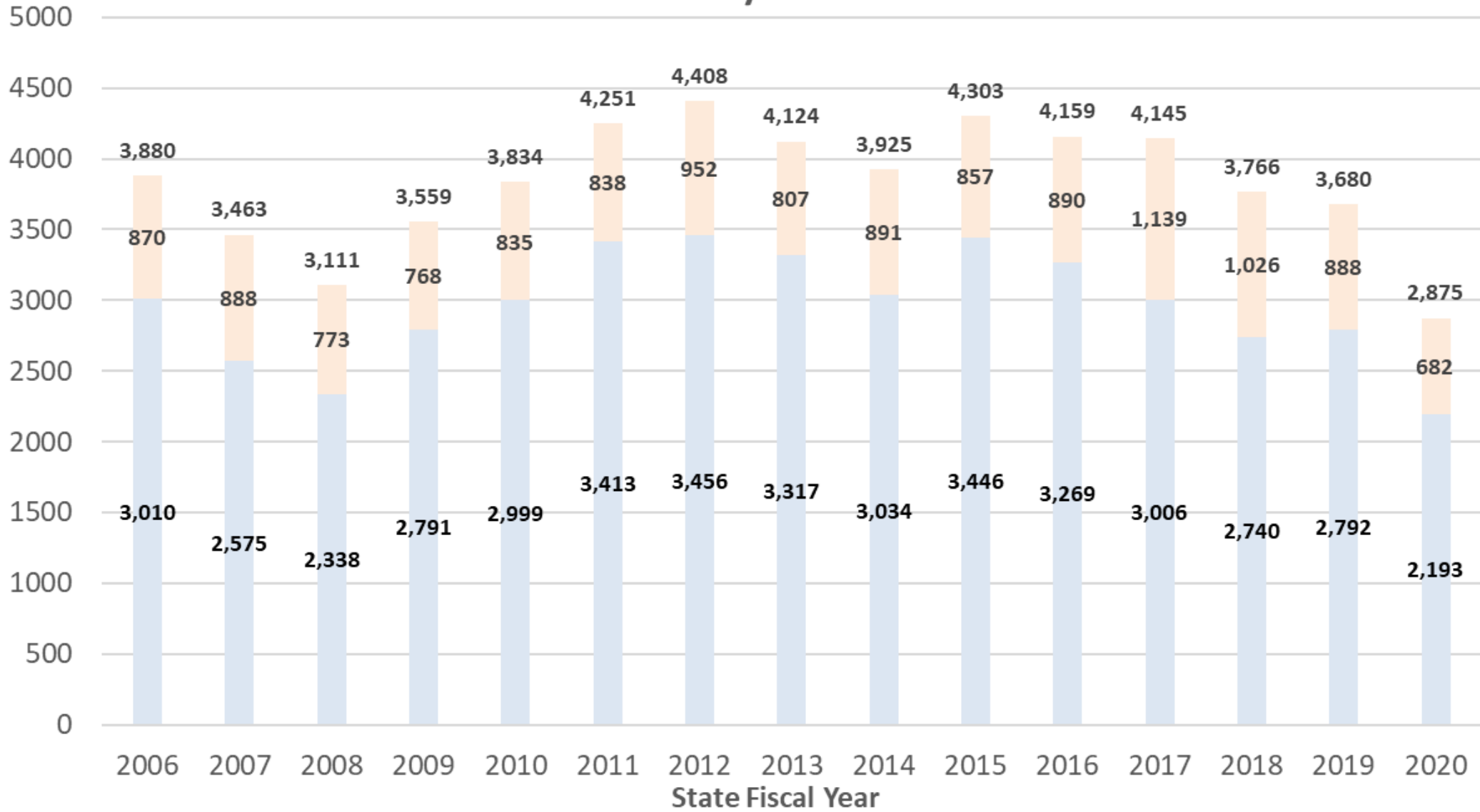
Emergency Shelter Network

- 30 emergency shelters, 24 emergency apartments, DV motel overflow
- 350 household capacity
 - Last year, same time: 562 household capacity
 - Last June: 160 household capacity

How many people are experiencing homelessness in Vermont?

- Unsheltered: anecdotally, numbers are down
- In motels through Domestic Violence Shelters: 12 households
- In motels through the General Assistance Motel Voucher Program:
 - 1827 rooms (~households), 2,126 adults and 386 children in 78 lodging establishments (1.6.21)
- In emergency shelter/apartments (estimate): 350 households

Persons in Vermont's Publicly Funded Homeless Shelters



■ - ADULTS ■ - KIDS

GA Motel Utilization



GA Non-congregate Shelter Snapshot (1.6.21)

Households With Children	# of Rooms
Barre District Office	36
Bennington District Office	37
Brattleboro District Office	13
Burlington District Office	52
Hartford District Office	13
Middlebury District Office	7
Morrisville District Office	7
Rutland District Office	39
Springfield District Office	12
St Albans District Office	18
St Johnsbury District Office	11
Grand Total	245

Households Without Children	# of Rooms
Barre District Office	157
Bennington District Office	143
Brattleboro District Office	161
Burlington District Office	499
Hartford District Office	105
Middlebury District Office	47
Morrisville District Office	56
Newport District Office	21
Rutland District Office	195
Springfield District Office	59
St Albans District Office	80
St Johnsbury District Office	59
Grand Total	1582

2020 Vermont Point-In-Time Count

A one-night, unduplicated count of people experiencing homelessness

746 Households – 1,110 People

10.3% of People were Unsheltered (114)

124 Families with Children (33.7% of total persons)

216 Children (19.5% of total persons)

127 Youth (ages 18-24) (11.4% of persons)

0 Unaccompanied Minors

16 Parenting Youth/Young Adults (13% of all families)

736 Single Adults (66.3%)

15.6% Chronically Homeless

6.4% Veterans

15.7% of HH Fleeing of Domestic/Sexual Violence

11.8% People of Color

44.9% Female

54.1% Male

1.1% Transgender or Gender non-conforming

COVID 19 Homelessness Response

- Isolation/Quarantine & Recovery Housing
 - Alternative Housing for Vermonters who need to isolate or quarantine due to COVID 19 but do not have a suitable home environment
 - Ho Hum operated by Champlain Housing Trust (34 room capacity)
 - Able to mobilize an additional 30 rooms with 72 hours notice, as needed
- Reinforcement for the Shelter network
 - Guidance, 1:1 technical assistance, training, supplies, funding
 - Working on testing access for homeless population

Housing Recovery Initiatives - DCF

Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative – Flexible funds to help households quickly exit motels into safe housing

- Ended 12/30
- > 200 households assisted
- Examples: debt relief (when a barrier to housing), transportation, move-in costs, security deposits

Rental Assistance to Re-house the Homeless (12-18 months)

- Focus on families with children
- Vermont Rental Subsidy
 - 52 families with vouchers & 40 families leased
- CARES Housing Project
 - 275 households with vouchers & 91 households leased

Related Housing Recovery Initiatives

New Units to Re-house the Homeless

- Rental Rehabilitation Program (Department of Housing and Community Development, Homeownership Centers)
- Permanent Housing Units (Vermont Housing and Conservation Board)

New/Improved Shelters

- New Shelter Capacity, Shelter Renovations (Vermont Housing & Conservation Board)

Rental Relief (eviction prevention)

- Rental Arrears and Money to Move (Vermont State Housing Authority)

Successes & Challenges

Successes

- Onsite motel-based services really matter
- Local collaboration and coordination
- Statewide collaboration and coordination
- Major increase in housing retention services and rental assistance

Challenges

- Lack of housing
- Braiding together various resources to re-house households
 - “three legs of the stool”: unit (capital), rental assistance and services

Looking Forward

- **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**
 - \$200 million for Vermont to provide emergency rental assistance – including rental arrears, utility arrears and utility assistance
 - Working closely with our colleagues at Department of Housing & Community Development and the Vermont State Housing Authority
- **Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative, part 2**
- **Statewide Summit on Lessons Learned**
- **General Assistance Emergency Housing**

Currently planning on how the program transitions from non-congregate shelter to meet the public health need to a community-based emergency housing model

 - Vaccination implementation and state of the pandemic matter
 - Increases in shelter capacity
 - Multiple phases