

# **Annual Report on Homelessness Services In Maryland**



## **Fiscal Year 2007**

**Maryland Department of Human Resources  
Community Services Administration  
Office of Transitional Services**

[www.dhr.state.md.us](http://www.dhr.state.md.us)

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Governor

Anthony Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

**Department of Human Resources**

Brenda Donald  
Secretary

**Community Services Administration**

Rev. John A. Heath  
Executive Director

**The Office of Transitional Services**

Greg Shupe  
Director

This report was prepared by Richard Urps,  
Program Specialist, Office of Transitional Services

Maryland Department of Human Resources  
The Office of Transitional Services  
Room 247  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

This report is available online at  
[www.dhr.state.md.us/transit/pdf/ann2007.pdf](http://www.dhr.state.md.us/transit/pdf/ann2007.pdf)

Phone: (410) 767-7328 Fax: (410) 333-0256  
DHR Information: (800) 332-6349  
TTY for Hearing Impaired: (410) 767-7025

# Annual Report on Homelessness Services In Maryland

## Fiscal Year 2007

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# Executive Summary

The Annual Report on Homelessness Services in Maryland contains information gathered from surveying all known homeless shelter providers in Maryland. This report has been published using a consistent data collection format since fiscal year 1987. Following the end of the Maryland fiscal year (June 30), survey forms are sent providers of emergency shelter, emergency motel placements, and transitional housing programs serving people who are homeless. Completed surveys are requested from emergency shelter and transitional housing program providers without regard to the programs' funding sources. Most known shelter providers (91.8%) completed and submitted the surveys.

This report includes information only on people who have stayed in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs or who have received emergency motel placements. The data in this report reflects the extent to which shelter services were provided to people who are homeless. **This report does not include a count or estimate of the number of homeless people in Maryland.**

This report includes data from 195 surveys received from known providers of emergency shelter, transitional shelter, and motel placements in Maryland in FY 2007. Some agencies operate multiple emergency shelters or transitional housing programs and combine their data on a single survey. Other agencies submit surveys specific for each emergency shelter or transitional housing program.

In FY 2007: there were 6,730 emergency, transitional, and undesignated beds in Maryland shelters; a total of 1,821,230 bednights were reported provided; the statewide overall average number of bednights per bed was 263; the overall average number of nights a person stayed in a homeless service placement was 50.

Shelter providers are asked to provide an unduplicated count of the number of people provided shelter. However, people who stay in more than one shelter during the fiscal year are counted by each shelter. Although data collection systems are improving, there currently is no workable way to prevent this duplication. The extent of duplication is unknown. Under this assumption, the number of people who were sheltered by Maryland's homeless shelters in FY 2007 was 36,599.

Shelter providers reported that on 41,922 occasions people were refused shelter or motel placements because of lack of space or lack of funds during FY 2007.

Of the providers reporting demographic data from FY 2007, Children ages 0 – 17 represented 26.9% of homeless people served by those providers. The largest age category for homeless people served is the 31 to 50 year olds who represented 37.7% of homeless people served in FY 2007. When data from Baltimore City's shelter providers is removed from the totals, the percentages for the age groups change significantly. The percentage of children ages 0 – 17 served increases to 32.2% and the percentage of adults ages 18 – 30 increases to 22.0% from 20.3%.

For the agencies collecting and reporting family status data, 42% of homeless people sheltered

were served as families. 58% of homeless people sheltered were served as individuals. When Baltimore City's data is taken out of the statewide data, 54% of people sheltered were sheltered as families and 46% were sheltered as individuals.

Of the agencies that collect and report gender data, women represent 40% of adults served in FY 2007. When data from providers in Baltimore City is taken out of the totals adult women represent 50% of all adults sheltered.

Of the agencies that collect and report ethnicity data, people identified as: white represent 31.6%, African American represent 58.0%, Hispanic represent 4.0%, "Other" (including mixed ethnicity) represent 3.0%, and "Unknown" represent 3.4%, of individuals sheltered in FY 2007. When data from providers in Baltimore City is taken out, people identified as: white represent 38.3%, African American represent 48.1%, Hispanic represent 5.5%, "Other" (including mixed ethnicity) represent 3.7%, and "Unknown" represent 4.4%.

The Office of Transitional Services administered the following programs in FY 2007:

In FY 2007, the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) helped prevent evictions for 4,224 households statewide; 1,776 through eviction prevention grants and the remainder (2,448) through mediation, court action, or other intervention services.

The Emergency Transitional and Housing and Services Program (ETHS) provides State funding for emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. ETHS funds shelter beds and support services such as food, transportation, and case management. ETHS also provides eviction/foreclosure prevention assistance.

In FY 2007, the Housing Counselor and Aftercare Program (HCP) assisted 490 low income families who were homeless, or in imminent danger of becoming homeless to locate, secure, and maintain permanent housing. HCP operates in five jurisdictions in Maryland.

The Service-Linked Housing Program provides funds to employ local resident advocates to link low-income residents of permanent housing to community services in 13 jurisdictions. In FY 2007, the program helped 2,555 households to maintain their permanent housing.

The Homeless Women-Crisis Shelter Home Program provides shelter, room and board, counseling, and referral services to homeless women and children. This program is located in 13 jurisdictions in Maryland. In FY 2007, the Homeless Women-Crisis Shelter Home Program helped approximately 1977 women and children receive emergency shelter and related services.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), in partnership with local governments in all 24 of the State's jurisdictions, distributes federal surplus foods to Emergency Food Organizations (EFO's). More than 350,000 houses in Maryland received TEFAP commodities in Fiscal Year 2007.

The Maryland Emergency Food Program (MEFP) provides grants to emergency food providers such as food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters to assist in purchasing food for needy

individuals and families. In Fiscal Year 2007, the total State MEFP budget of \$1,001,171 was awarded to 191 emergency food providers.

The Statewide Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funds the purchase of capital equipment for emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, and food banks. In Fiscal Year 2007, the Department of Human Resources distributed \$312,812 in grants to 49 emergency food providers.

The Maryland Legislature allocated \$731,250 in FY 2007 for the home delivered food and nutrition counseling to persons with HIV/AIDS and other serious disabilities. The program recognizes that many people suffering from the effects of HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other illnesses have very specific dietary needs. The program delivered meals and groceries to 1,113 customers throughout Maryland.

# Introduction

In State Fiscal Year 1987, the Maryland Department of Human Resources' Office of Transitional Services began to collect information annually from emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and other agencies that provide services to homeless people. The results of this data collection have been published in Annual Reports on Homelessness Services as mandated by the Maryland General Assembly. Utilization of the data is widespread. Service providers, students and teachers, people doing research, government agencies, and others use the data to write reports, prepare grants, and develop new services. The Office of Transitional Services, which administers State programs serving Maryland citizens who are homeless, offers this report on homelessness services in Maryland.

Please note that other publications are available from the Office of Transitional Services including:

- o The Directory of Maryland Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs;
- o 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

Copies of this report and the others listed above can be obtained by contacting the Office of Transitional Services on (410) 767-7328. These publications are also available on-line at [www.dhr.state.md.us](http://www.dhr.state.md.us).

## The Office of Transitional Services

### MISSION

The mission of the Office of Transitional Services is to end hunger and homelessness in Maryland using the provision of food, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services administered through collaborative partnerships with Federal and State programs, local governments, Departments of Social Services, and community-based organizations. The Office administers funding for community-based services by working in partnership with local governments, shelter providers, advocates, consumers, and community agencies in all jurisdictions of the State.

The Office of Transitional Services administered the following programs in FY 2007:

### THE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM (HPP)

HPP funds provide grants to households with a pending eviction and funding for support counselors who work with tenants and landlords to prevent evictions. HPP operates in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. By providing short-term mediation or linkage to resources, the program helps families and individuals at risk of eviction to stay in their housing. In FY 2007, the program helped prevent evictions for 4,224 households statewide; 1,776 through eviction prevention grants and the remainder (2,448) through mediation, court action, or other intervention services.

## **THE EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AND SERVICES PROGRAM (ETHS)**

ETHS provides State funding for emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. ETHS funds shelter beds and support services such as food, transportation, and case management. It may also provide eviction/foreclosure prevention assistance. ETHS operates through local governments, with significant involvement of local homelessness services agencies in each jurisdiction. The interaction of local and state groups demonstrates the effective partnerships that are essential for this program.

Freezing and Inclement Weather Plans, detailing the resources available in the event of freezing or inclement weather, are submitted to the Office of Transitional Services yearly as part of the ETHS Program. Each jurisdiction designs its own plan for inclement weather. The proposals reflect the involvement of participating local agencies. This cooperation expands the types and quantity of available resources, such as shelter space, security, transportation, food, outreach, and supportive counseling.

## **THE HOUSING COUNSELOR & AFTERCARE PROGRAM (HCP)**

Operating in five jurisdictions, this program assists low income families who are homeless, or in imminent danger of becoming homeless, to locate, secure, and maintain permanent housing. Counselors help families establish adequate credit references and to apply for subsidized housing. The counselors can also help families access local public and private resources for the first and last month's rent, security deposits, utility payments, or donations of furniture.

Housing counselors help families to develop and maintain relationships with landlords, often paving the way for people with credit or reference problems to obtain permanent housing. Other assistance may include helping families locate more affordable housing after a rent increase, or helping to find another apartment located near public transportation that is more suitable for a new place of employment. In many of these instances, people are able to remain in housing or to find new housing before being evicted, and as a result, public and private agencies are saved the cost of providing shelter for these households. In FY 2007, 490 households were served by the HCP.

## **THE SERVICE-LINKED HOUSING PROGRAM (SLH)**

The Service-Linked Housing Program provides funds to employ local resident advocates to link low-income residents of permanent housing to community services in 13 jurisdictions. SLH stabilizes households that are in precarious situations, thereby avoiding episodes of homelessness. The local Resident Advocates help link the residents to health services, education, job training, employment, addiction treatment, and other counseling. In FY 2007, the program helped 2,555 households to maintain their permanent housing.

## **HOMELESS WOMEN-CRISIS SHELTER HOME PROGRAM (HW-CSP)**

The Homeless Women-Crisis Shelter Home Program provides shelter, room and board, counseling, and referral services to homeless women and children. The shelters offer a 24-hour crisis hotline in addition to safe accommodations and meals. Other services include direct resource referral for housing, physical and mental health care, education, training, employment services, and case management. This program is located in 13 jurisdictions in Maryland. In FY 2007, the Homeless Women-Crisis Shelter Home Program helped approximately 1977 women and children receive emergency shelter and related services.

## **THE FEDERAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (SHP)**

Through SHP, the Department of Housing and Urban Development provides funds to local jurisdictions to fill gaps in their continuum of care for homeless persons and families, with a long-term focus on ending homelessness. Funds may be used for permanent housing, supportive services, information systems to count and track services for homeless families and individuals. Through the Shelter Plus Care program, funds are available for rental assistance for disabled homeless people.

Since 2001 OTS has worked to support local applications to HUD for these funds, hiring a consultant to work with local organizations, providing limited funds to pay for the actual writing of the application, and coordinating training and information distribution with the local HUD office.

## **THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)**

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), in partnership with local governments in all 24 of the State's jurisdictions, distributes federal surplus foods to Emergency Food Organizations (EFO's). The EFO's then distribute the food commodities to food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in their respective jurisdictions. The emergency food providers in turn distribute the foods to needy individuals and families. These surplus commodities provide a base supply for emergency feeding locations all over the State enabling these sites to use their resources for the purchase of additional foods. More than 350,000 houses in Maryland received TEFAP commodities in Fiscal Year 2007.

## **MARYLAND EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM (MEFP)**

The Maryland Emergency Food Program (MEFP) provides grants to emergency food providers such as food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters to assist in purchasing food for needy individuals and families. It is a complement to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) because MEFP funds allow providers to purchase the foods that are not available from TEFAP or those which are in short supply. It also provides funds to providers who do not receive TEFAP commodities. The providers must be non-profit organizations who provide both the food purchased with MEFP funds and the TEFAP surplus foods at no charge to those in need. In Fiscal Year 2007, the total State MEFP budget of \$1,001,171 was awarded to 191 emergency food providers. The total request for Fiscal Year 2007 was \$2,193,899.

## **STATEWIDE NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)**

The Statewide Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funds the purchase of capital equipment for emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, and food banks. This includes such items as freezers, refrigerators, stoves, shelving, food handling equipment, etc. Applicants must be non-profit organizations who provide food to individuals and families in need. Applicants are required to pay ½ of the grant amount towards the cost of the equipment (⅓ of total cost of equipment requested). In Fiscal Year 2007, the Department of Human Resources distributed \$312,812 in grants to 49 emergency food providers. The amount of funds requested in Fiscal Year 2007 was \$576,969. The total budget for SNAP was \$312,812.

## **HOME-DELIVERED MEALS TO PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS**

The Maryland Legislature allocated \$731,250 in FY 2007 for the home delivered food and nutrition counseling to persons with HIV/AIDS and other serious disabilities. The program recognizes that many people suffering from the effects of HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other illnesses have very specific dietary needs. Nutritious meals, prepared in a safe and contamination-free manner, help maintain the immune system and reduce the side effects of some medications. Two organizations carry out this function in Maryland. Food and Friends, based in Washington, D.C. provides services to Southern Maryland (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties) as well as Frederick, Washington, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Moveable Feast, based in Baltimore City, provides services to Baltimore City and 14 counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester, and Counties. The program delivered meals and groceries to 1,113 customers.

## **MARYLAND INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH) AND THE 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS**

During 2005 the members and staff of the ICH worked with local service providers, advocacy organizations, consumers and representatives of federal, state, and local government to develop a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness (i.e., to Make Homelessness Rare and Brief. This broad-based document delineates activities at the state level which would prevent homelessness and reduce the incidence and duration of homelessness. The ICH chose to focus this report on the common denominator of all homeless and at-risk families and individuals: extreme poverty, because it is the very poor who tend to be in the most unstable housing situations, and it is also the very poor who also struggle the most with earning enough income to make ends meet and to provide for basic daily needs such as food, health care, transportation, and other critical living expenses. Many recommendations and strategies target those households with very low incomes, defined as those below 30% of Area Median Income.

The Plan focuses on four areas: Housing, Income, Health and Cross-Cutting Issues. While there is a need for more affordable housing units in the state, there is also a large gap between household income and the cost of housing. The prevention of homelessness is a critical part of addressing the needs of low-income households. In the area of income, there

are recommendations about improved adult education and training, better understanding of the barriers presented by homelessness, and the inadequacy of public benefits to meet the actual cost of living, especially housing and utilities. Health care or lack of it is a major cause and supportive factor in homelessness. The plan recommends that programs enroll all eligible residents and coordinate services better and that Maryland find ways to increase the number of people with access to regular and affordable health care. Cross-cutting issues cited include the need for better discharge planning from state institutions and care to prevent homelessness, ensuring the availability of “wraparound” supportive services for homeless and at-risk households, and improved data collection and tracking to better monitor services and outcomes.

In 2007, with the change in Administrations, the focus has been on reconvening the ICH and developing a strategy for implementation of the Plan. While the ICH did not meet, intradepartmental discussions have been initiated. The Plan may be reviewed or downloaded in PDF format from the DHR website at: [www.dhr.state.md.us/transit/pdf/ich-plan.pdf](http://www.dhr.state.md.us/transit/pdf/ich-plan.pdf).

## **THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE SHELTER, NUTRITION, AND SERVICES PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS (ALSO KNOWN AS THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY BOARD ON HOMELESSNESS)**

Since its inception in 1984, the Governor’s Advisory Board on Homelessness has had the responsibility of advising the Department of Human Resources in regard to issues affecting homelessness such as the effectiveness of programs, the adequacy and clarity of its regulations, and the needs of those who are homeless. The Board also recommends allocations for homeless programs administered by the Office of Transitional Services and works with local boards and coalitions concerned with homelessness.

The Board consists of two appointed members from each of the eight congressional districts in Maryland. Board members provide a variety of functions in their advisory capacity. Among those functions, members provide the following:

- Connection with local homeless boards in their jurisdictions to foster communication with the Maryland Department of Human Resources and to be informed on critical issues.
- Advocacy for the interests of people who are homeless while promoting public awareness of relevant issues.
- Participation in special projects such as the development of recommendations on issues pertaining to mental illness and substance abuse as well as the development of a proposal for Standards of Care for shelters and shelter staff.

None of the vacancies on the Board have yet been filled, so the Board did not meet in 2007.

# Annual Survey of Homelessness Services

## METHODOLOGY

This report is based on information gathered from surveying homeless shelters. This survey has been conducted using a consistent format since fiscal year 1987. Following the end of the Maryland fiscal year (June 30), survey forms are sent to all known providers of emergency shelter, emergency motel placements, and transitional housing programs serving people who are homeless. Completed surveys are requested from emergency shelter and transitional housing program providers without regard to the programs' funding sources.

Data was requested for State Fiscal Year 2007 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007). Services other than overnight stays, such as daytime drop-in services, referral services, food or clothing assistance, transportation assistance, and eviction prevention are not included in this report.

The surveys were mailed, e-mailed, or faxed directly by the Office of Transitional Services (OTS) staff to local shelter providers. Also, key contact people in local jurisdictions assist with the distribution and collection of the surveys. Several attempts are made to solicit the cooperation of shelter providers. In addition, telephone calls to shelter providers are made in an attempt to get surveys completed.

Most known shelter providers (91.8%) completed and submitted the surveys. However, some known and operating shelters did not complete the survey. When this happens, data from the non-responding shelters' prior year's surveys, when available, are included in this year's report. While it is understood that this is not the most accurate method of data collection and reporting, it is considered more accurate to include recent data from shelters known to be in operation than to not include data from the non-responding shelters.

It is acknowledged that there may be some shelter programs in Maryland that are not known to be in operation. In addition, this report does not include data from programs whose purpose is not specifically to serve homeless people but may be providing shelter for people who would otherwise be homeless (e.g., in-patient drug rehabilitation programs).

The information from the survey is compiled and summarized by the Office of Transitional Services. The data is given to a key contact person in each jurisdiction to review before it is published. Because the methodology of this study has not significantly changed since its inception, this report can be a useful tool in gauging the extent to which people access homeless shelter services in Maryland. It may also be useful to identify data trends across program years.

## ASSUMPTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Counting the number of people who are homeless is a difficult task. Because of the difficulties inherent in counting the entire homeless population, the Office of Transitional Services gathers and reports information only on people who have stayed in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs or who have received emergency motel placements. The data in this report reflects the extent of shelter services provided to people who are homeless as reported by emergency shelter and transitional housing providers on the Homelessness Services Survey form. **This report does not include an absolute count of the number of homeless people in Maryland.**

The methodology used to collect data for this report counts only the number of people served by shelter providers whose staff completed the FY 2007 Homelessness Services Survey and submitted it to the Office of Transitional Services. Some data in this report include estimates provided by survey respondents and, in some cases, estimates for non-responding service providers based on prior years' survey submissions are also included.

Jurisdictions with no formal shelter system, or with incomplete information about local shelter programs, may report fewer homeless people receiving services than is actually the case. This study does not attempt to count the number of people experiencing homelessness, but instead measures the use of shelter services as reported by the emergency shelter and transitional housing providers across Maryland.

An assumption inherent in this report is that some duplication exists in the reported number of people served by shelters. On the survey form, shelter providers are asked to provide an unduplicated count of the number of people provided shelter. However, people who stay in more than one shelter during the fiscal year are counted by each shelter. Although data collection systems are improving, there currently is no workable way to prevent this duplication. The extent of duplication is unknown.

For the purpose of this report, people are considered homeless if they received overnight shelter in an emergency shelter, motel, or transitional housing facility. While acknowledging the existence of people who are living in overcrowded or unsuitable housing and those who do not access needed shelter, this report includes statistics only for those who are served by overnight shelter providers. This report does not include data from "drop-in centers" if those centers do not have overnight accommodations (i.e., beds). It is important to emphasize that the **number of people served** reported in this study is not a count of all homeless people in Maryland. It is also not an absolute count of the number of different people served by shelter providers during the fiscal year.

A "**bednight**" is the most accurate and unduplicated unit of measure to study the use of homeless shelters. Each night a shelter bed is filled by a person is considered one bednight. If one bed is used for an entire week, the total number of bednights for the week is seven. If a shelter with five beds is fully occupied for a week, the total number of bednights is thirty-five (seven multiplied by five). Because the bednight count is unduplicated, it is a more accurate measure of the provision of shelter service than the number of people served, which may include duplication between shelters.

Each time an individual is refused shelter or a motel placement because of a program's lack of space or funds, it is counted as a “**turn-away occasion**”. The number of turn-aways is a measure of the unmet need for shelter services. However, not all shelter facilities keep track of turn-aways, so the number of turn-aways reported reflects only the number of turn-aways reported by agencies that collect and report turn-away data. Some shelter facilities report an estimated number of turn-aways. Also, there is no way to track the number of times a person or family is turned away from different facilities before finding a shelter that can accommodate them. Therefore, the unduplicated total number of individuals being turned away from shelter is unknown.

Shelter providers were asked whether they provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, or undesigned shelter, and whether they are open year-round or only part of the year. The Office of Transitional Services allows each facility to identify itself as it sees fit. In general terms, stays in emergency shelters are short term. Stays in transitional shelters are longer term, from three months to two years, and may include more services, housing counseling, and/or case management. Some providers pay for emergency motel placements for people, providing bednights when the facility has no beds available or not enough beds.

The **average length of stay** in shelters is calculated by dividing the number of bednights by the number of people served. Using this simple method, one can find both the average length of stay for all types of placements combined (emergency, transitional, and motel placements), and the average length of a stay for each of the three types of placements (emergency shelter, transitional housing, or motel placements). The data, however, applies only to nights spent in the fiscal year period of the survey (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007). Some transitional housing programs allow residents to stay for two or more years. If a shelter is full for all 365 days, but each bed turns over once (serves two different people that fiscal year), then each person's “average” length of stay is 182.5 days, although a person may actually stay for over a year, including the days not in that fiscal year. Therefore, this average does not necessarily reflect the actual average length of a shelter stay, but can be used to compare to prior years.

Local homeless service agencies are also asked to submit demographic information about people served. Shelter providers are asked to provide data pertaining to the **ages, household composition, gender, and ethnicity** for the population served. However, some providers do not keep demographic data on their customers, so demographic totals for each jurisdiction may not equal the reported total number of people served.

# Data Collection Results

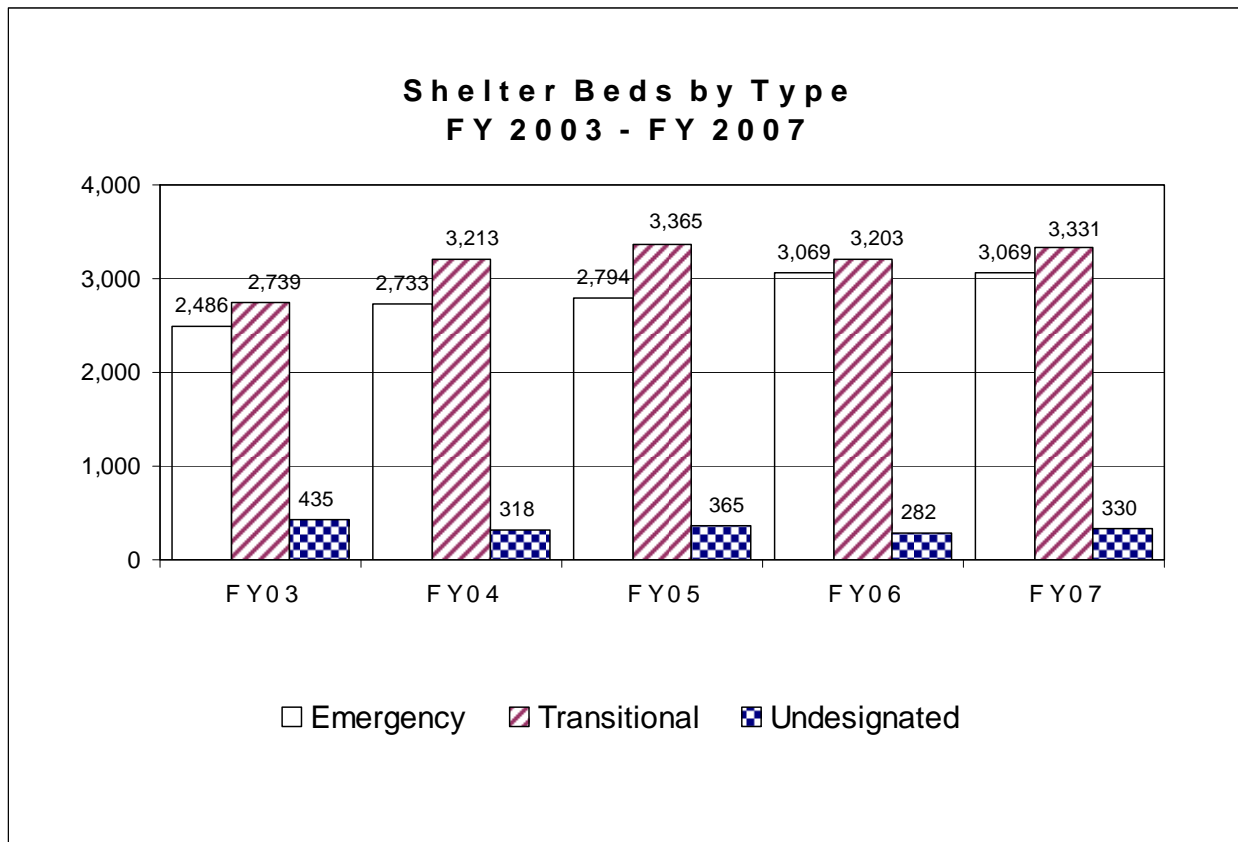
## SHELTERS

Each year new shelters open and others close. This report includes data from 195 surveys received from known providers of emergency shelter, transitional shelter, and motel placements in Maryland in FY 2007. Some agencies operate multiple emergency shelters or transitional housing programs and combine their data on a single survey. Other agencies submit surveys specific for each emergency shelter or transitional housing program.

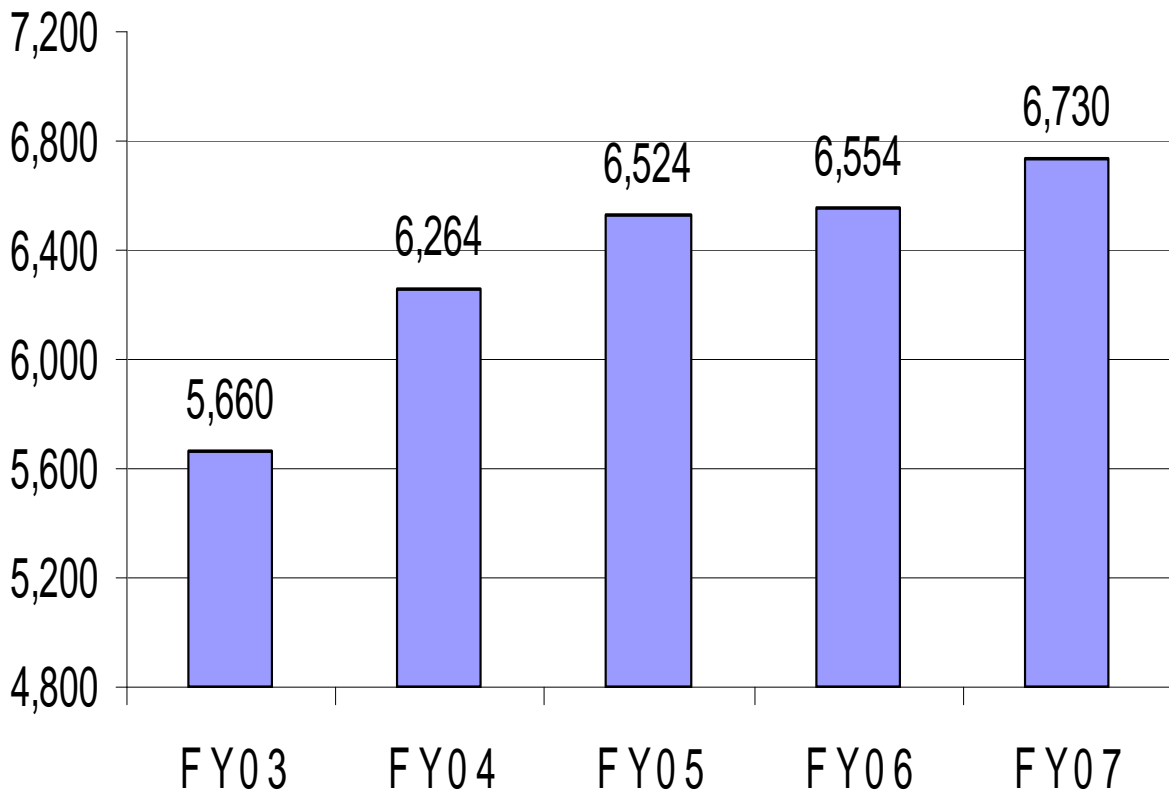
## SHELTER BEDS

There were 6,730 emergency, transitional, and undesignated beds in Maryland shelters, an increase of 176 beds from FY 2006. There were more transitional housing beds than emergency shelter beds available in Maryland. Shelter providers reported no change in the number of emergency shelter beds, an increase of 128 transitional housing beds, and an increase of 48 “undesignated” beds in FY 2007 as compared with FY 2006. Some shelters categorize their beds as “undesignated” when the beds are used as either transitional housing or emergency shelter depending on their need.

The graphs below show the number of shelter beds by type (emergency, transitional, or undesignated) and total number of shelter bed in Maryland for the past 5 years.



## Maryland Shelter Beds: FY 2003 - FY 2007



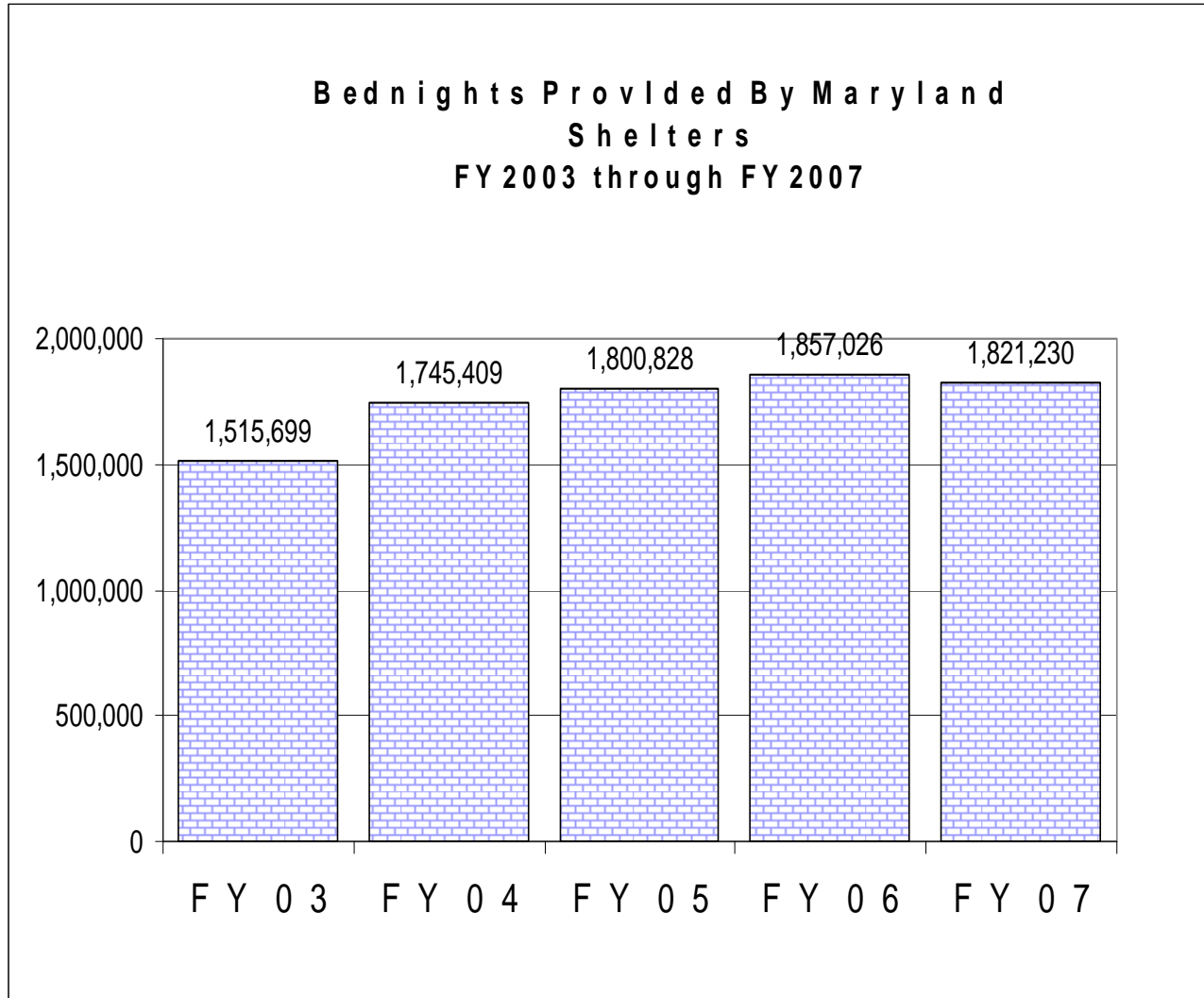
The table below shows the number and type of shelter beds reported available in each Maryland jurisdiction in FY 2007. There were 176 more shelter beds reported available in FY 2007 than FY 2006.

**SHELTER BEDS IN MARYLAND**  
**by Jurisdiction**  
**State Fiscal Year 2007**

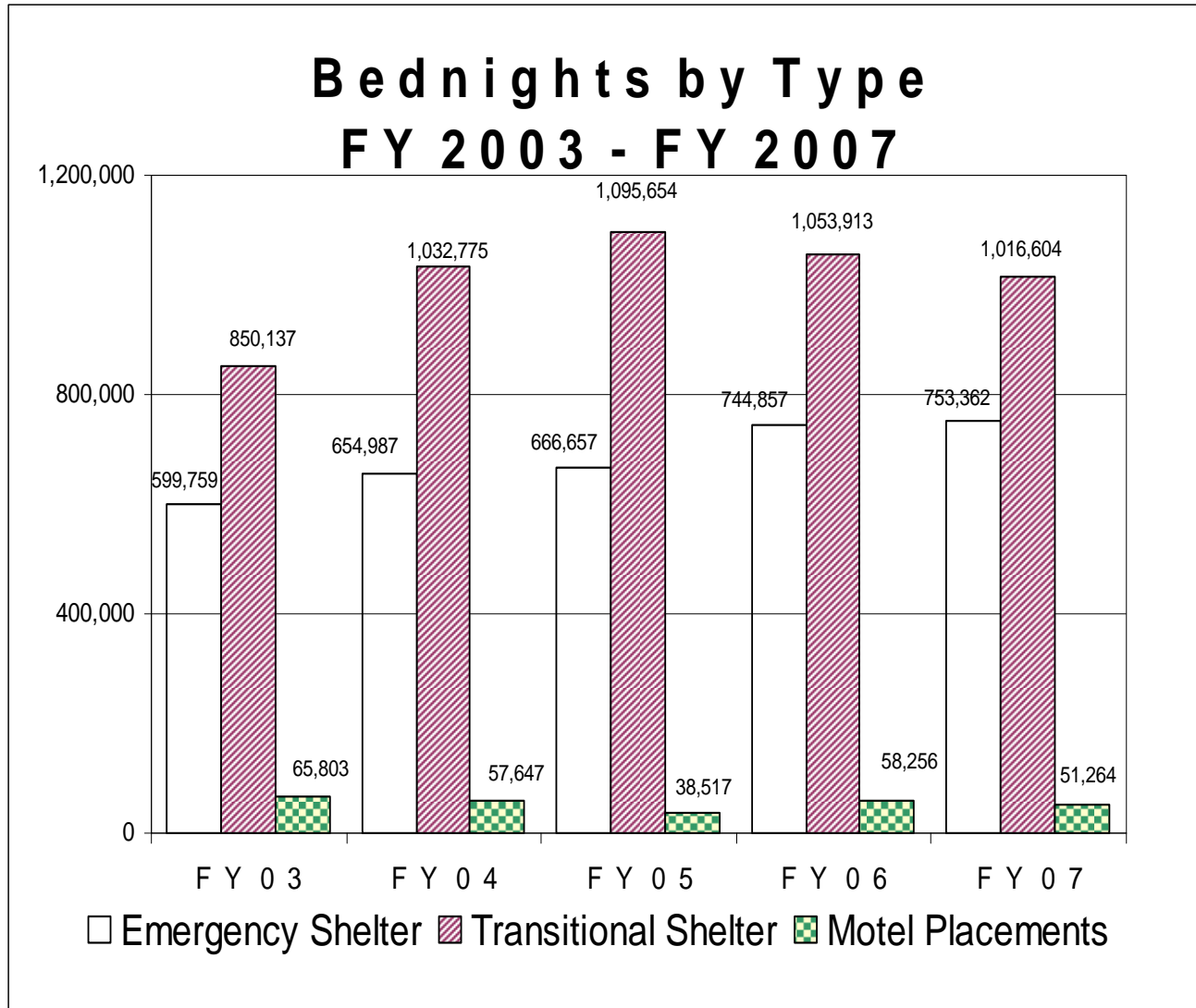
Jurisdiction	Emergency	Transitional	Undesignated	Total	Change from FY 06
Allegany	80	53	30	163	0
Anne Arundel	171	100	3	274	-9
Baltimore City	779	1,139	118	2,036	-102
Baltimore County	407	155	0	562	23
Calvert	29	7	27	63	-5
Caroline	0	42	0	42	0
Carroll	117	105	0	222	47
Cecil	55	24	49	128	57
Charles	86	32	0	118	21
Dorchester	9	9	0	18	0
Frederick	123	216	0	339	64
Garrett	15	9	0	24	9
Harford	56	96	0	152	27
Howard	29	71	30	130	-22
Kent	7	0	0	7	-8
Montgomery	458	581	4	1,043	-53
Prince George's	391	346	59	796	67
Queen Anne's	0	0	0	0	0
St. Mary's	6	115	0	121	34
Somerset	0	8	0	8	0
Talbot	0	6	0	6	0
Washington	148	137	0	285	10
Wicomico	71	66	0	137	18
Worcester	32	14	10	56	-2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,069</b>	<b>3,331</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>6,730</b>	<b>176</b>

## BEDNIGHTS

Counting bednights measures the number of nights each shelter bed was occupied. This data is reported by the type of shelter bed (emergency, transitional, or motel placement). In FY 2007, a total of 1,821,230 bednights were reported provided. This is a decrease of 35,796 bednights as compared to FY 2006.



Bednights provided by transitional shelters comprised 55.8% of all bednights reported in FY 2007. There were 1,016,604 transitional bednights, 753,362 emergency bednights, and 51,264 motel bednights. The graph below shows the number of bednights provided over the past five years by type of shelter bed provided.



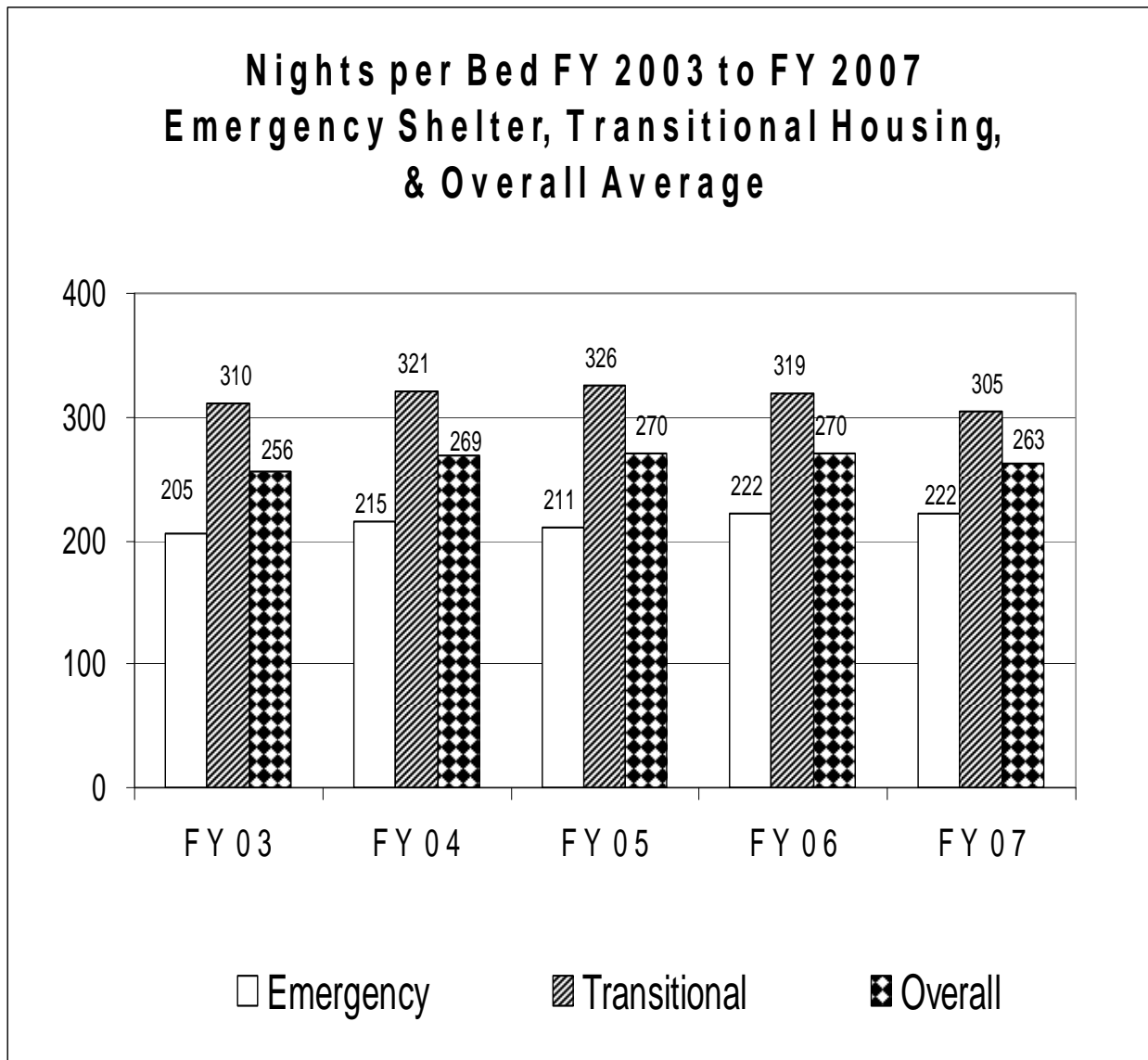
The following chart shows the number of bednights reported in FY 2007, by type of bednight, for each jurisdiction in Maryland.

### Bednights Provided by Jurisdiction FY 2007

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>Transitional Shelter</b>	<b>Motel Placements</b>	<b>Total Bednights</b>	<b>Change from FY 2006</b>
Allegany	12,538	14,338	89	26,965	1,946
Anne Arundel	40,451	22,933	467	63,851	-5,328
Baltimore City	236,776	409,034	1,375	647,185	-59,943
Baltimore County	107,743	50,857	475	159,075	9,549
Calvert	9,516	6,118	208	15,842	1,078
Caroline	0	4,747	31	4,778	735
Carroll	18,722	25,021	17	43,760	-2,885
Cecil	5,535	33,489	4,605	43,629	17,780
Charles	14,176	7,418	205	21,799	-2,323
Dorchester	1,886	2,323	0	4,209	41
Frederick	9,371	57,434	1,482	68,287	-1,162
Garrett	882	330	210	1,422	312
Harford	12,449	27,338	2,420	42,207	12,062
Howard	10,567	21,637	5,521	37,725	-10,005
Kent	261	0	178	439	-235
Montgomery	107,999	166,457	25,637	300,093	-6,590
Prince George's	106,617	93,785	1,133	201,535	1,810
Queen Anne's	0	0	32	32	-15
St. Mary's	3,232	24,860	5,156	33,248	11,656
Somerset	0	1,038	432	1,470	-195
Talbot	0	1,503	0	1,503	931
Washington	27,087	27,932	461	55,480	2,048
Wicomico	18,674	14,710	996	34,380	-7,747
Worcester	8,880	3,302	134	12,316	684
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>753,362</b>	<b>1,016,604</b>	<b>51,264</b>	<b>1,821,230</b>	<b>-35,796</b>

## OCCUPANCY

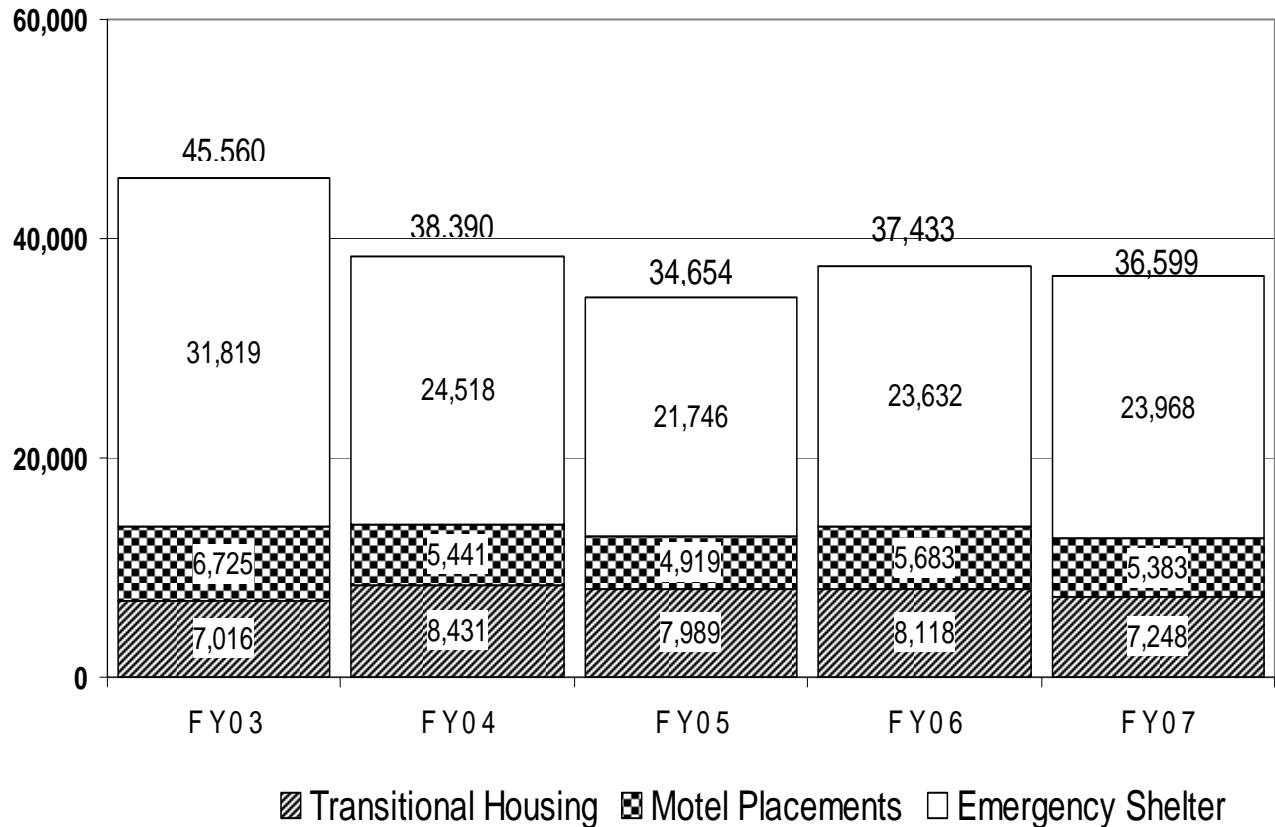
It is important to relate the number of available beds to the number of bednights. These two indicators are not affected by duplication so comparing the two can be useful. There were 2.7% more beds available and 1.9% fewer bednights provided in FY 2007 as compared to FY 2006. The overall average number of bednights per bed was lower in FY 2007 as compared to FY 2006. The statewide overall average number of bednights per bed was 263 in FY 2007. The number of nights per bed decreased for transitional housing in FY 2007 compared to FY 2006. The number of nights per bed remained the same for emergency shelter in FY 2007 compared to FY 2006. The chart below shows the average number of bednights per bed for emergency shelter, transitional housing and the overall average for the past five years.



## NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHELTERED

The total number of people who were served by Maryland’s homeless shelters in FY 2007 was 36,599. This is a 2% decrease from 37,433 people served in FY 2006. The chart below shows the number of people sheltered, by type of shelter, over the last five years.

### Number of People Served by Maryland Shelters FY 2003 - FY 2007



The number of people served, as reported by Maryland’s known homeless shelters, was less in FY 2007 than was reported for FY 2006. It is difficult to draw conclusions from this figure because the rate of duplication – the same person being reported by different shelters - is unknown. However, with the implementation of the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), shelters are becoming much more sophisticated with data collection and duplication of data is being reduced. The HMIS is designed to coordinate reporting of people between shelters, especially within jurisdictions.

The table below shows the number of people served as reported by emergency shelters, transitional housing, and by motel placements in twenty-three counties and Baltimore City.

**Number of People Sheltered by Jurisdiction FY 2007**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>Transitional Housing</b>	<b>Motel Placements</b>	<b>Total Served</b>	<b>Change from FY 06</b>	<b>Percent of State</b>
Allegany	390	113	28	531	74	1.5%
Anne Arundel	996	207	274	1,477	360	4.0%
Baltimore City	8,652	2,937	149	11,738	-106	32.1%
Baltimore County	3,407	290	118	3,815	94	10.4%
Calvert	370	27	81	478	-4	1.3%
Caroline	0	45	12	57	-2	.2%
Carroll	467	366	9	842	-665	2.3%
Cecil	263	261	967	1,491	246	4.1%
Charles	357	219	59	635	-9	1.7%
Dorchester	131	14	0	145	-38	0.4%
Frederick	372	412	656	1,440	-90	3.9%
Garrett	56	7	148	211	-15	0.6%
Harford	349	198	267	814	-340	2.2%
Howard	312	74	252	638	-81	1.7%
Kent	18	0	123	141	11	0.4%
Montgomery	2,626	897	1,202	4,725	4	12.9%
Prince George's	1,943	512	143	2,598	-129	7.1%
Queen Anne's	0	0	16	16	-9	0.1%
St. Mary's	119	132	334	585	-35	1.6%
Somerset	0	9	54	63	17	0.2%
Talbot	0	28	0	28	12	0.1%
Washington	1,304	387	265	1,956	47	5.3%
Wicomico	1,554	82	175	1,811	18	4.9%
Worcester	282	31	51	364	-224	1.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,986</b>	<b>7,248</b>	<b>5,383</b>	<b>36,599</b>	<b>-834</b>	<b>100%</b>

## TURN-AWAY OCCASIONS

Shelter providers reported that on 41,922 occasions people were refused shelter or motel placements because of lack of space or lack of funds during FY 2007. There were 7,563 more turn-away occasions reported for FY 2007 as compared to FY 2006.

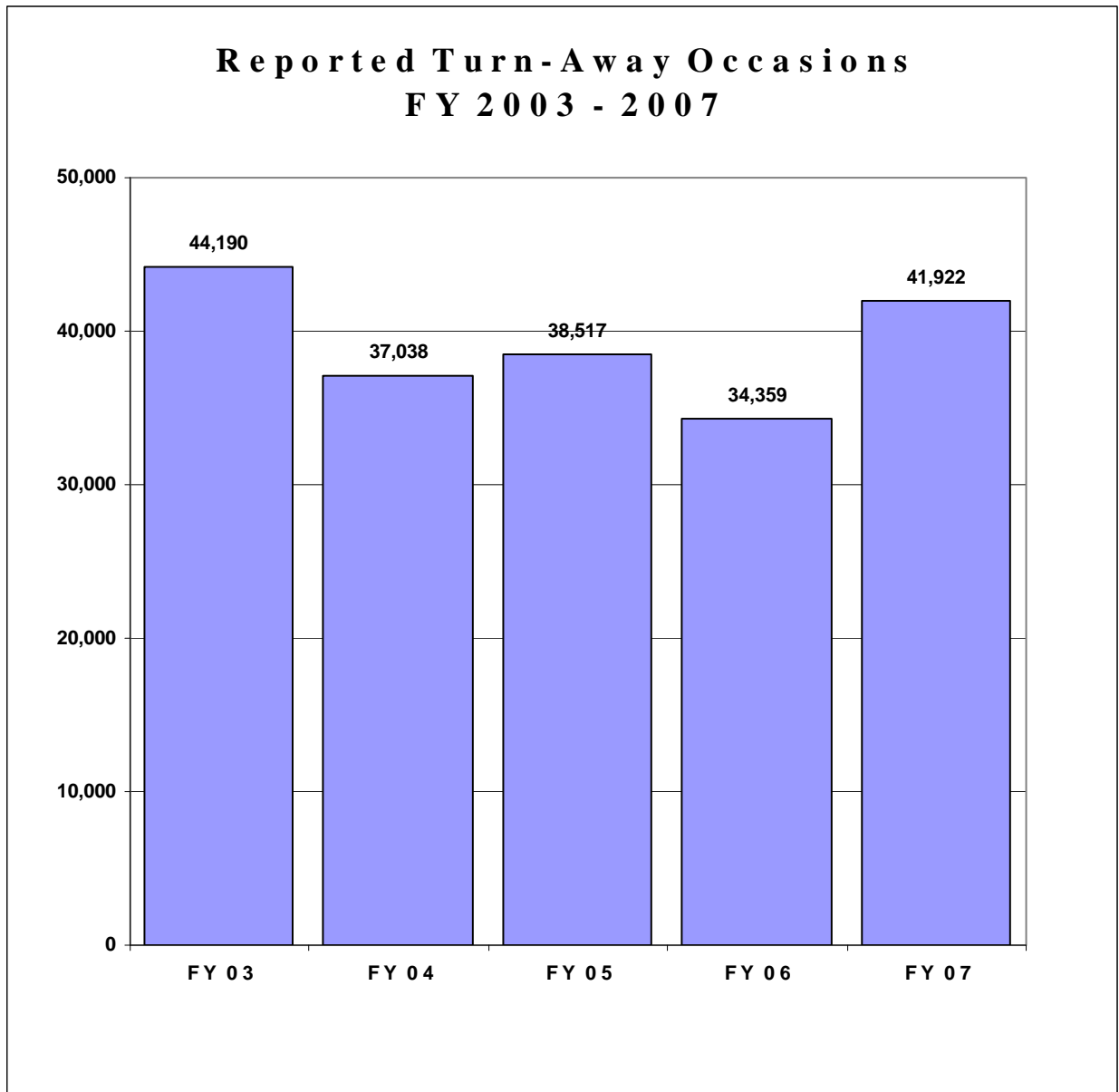
An accurate count of turn-away occasions would give information on the unmet need for homeless shelter beds. However, several providers do not collect turn-away occasion data. When shelters report that turn-away occasion data is not collected, the number of turn-away occasions is reported as zero when data is compiled for this report. Some shelter providers estimate the number of turn-away occasions. Estimates by shelter providers are included in the data compiled for this report.

The chart below shows the number of turn-away occasions reported in each jurisdiction as well as the change in the reported total number of turn-away occasions for FY 2007 when compared to FY 2006.

**Turn-away Occasions by Jurisdiction FY 2007**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Turn-away Occassions</b>	<b>Change from FY 2006</b>
Allegany	568	299
Anne Arundel	1,395	219
Baltimore City	18,047	6,735
Baltimore County	4,536	-3,100
Calvert	194	0
Caroline	0	0
Carroll	341	30
Cecil	1,378	439
Charles	3,903	185
Dorchester	155	-40
Frederick	805	102
Garrett	25	5
Harford	1,572	153
Howard	1,706	-995
Kent	13	7
Montgomery	981	23
Prince George's	1,157	345
Queen Anne's	75	25
St. Mary's	0	0
Somerset	147	104
Talbot	15	-11
Washington	135	-302
Wicomico	2,951	2,851
Worcester	1,823	489
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,922</b>	<b>7,563</b>

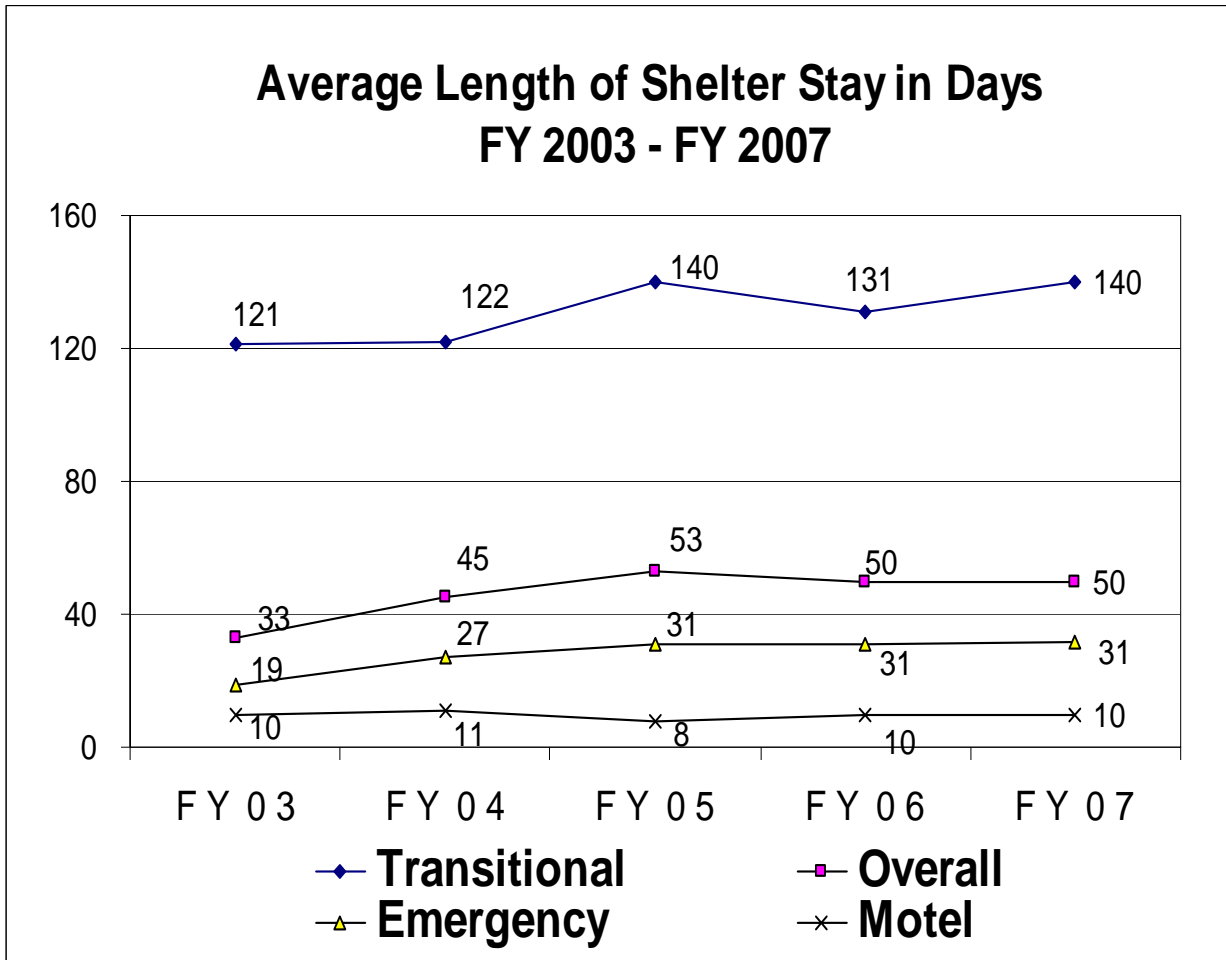
The graph below shows statewide turn-away occasions figures from FY 2003 to FY 2007.



The degree to which duplication exists in the reporting of turn-away occasions, as a person or family looks to several shelters before finding a bed, is unknown.

## AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

The overall average number of nights in FY 2007 a person stayed in a homeless service placement was 50. The overall average length of stay remained the same from FY 2006. The average stay in an emergency shelter was 31 nights, 10 nights for a motel placement, and 140 nights in a transitional shelter. The graph below illustrates the change in average length of shelter stays during the past five years, by type of shelter.



It is important to emphasize that the average length of stay is determined by dividing the number of bednights by the number of people served. The number of people served includes some duplication, whereas the number of bednights does not.

Also, bednight data collected for FY 2007 does not take into account the time spent by the same person at the same shelter before or after FY 2006. If a shelter is full for all 365 nights, but each bed turns over once, (serves two different people that fiscal year), then each person's "average" length of stay is 182.5 nights, although the person may actually stay for over a year, including the nights not in that fiscal year. This figure is therefore most useful in comparing figures from successive years, rather than as an accurate measure of shelter stays.

The average length of stay remained the same for emergency shelter for FY 2007 as compared to FY 2006. The average length of stay for transitional housing increased by 9 nights. The average length of stay remained constant for motel placements.

The average length of stay for people in a transitional housing program increased by 9 nights to 140 in FY 2007. In general, transitional housing providers offer more services that enable people to develop life skills and access resources that help move them toward obtaining and sustaining stable housing. Transitional shelter providers report that longer stays afford people the opportunity to acquire resources to move out of the shelter system permanently, particularly given the lack of affordable housing throughout Maryland.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

Age, household composition, gender, and ethnicity are the four demographic characteristics collected from shelters. Demographic numbers provided for each jurisdiction may not equal the total number served because some providers do not collect and report some or any demographic data.

### **AGE**

Up to FY 2005, providers were asked to report the number of people served in four age categories (0-17, 18-30, 31-60, and 61+). This year, providers were asked to report the number of people served in five age categories (0-17, 18-30, 31-50, 51-61, and 62+). The categories were changed to correspond to the age categories contained in the Homelessness Management Information System.

Not all providers surveyed collect or report age data for people they serve. Of the providers reporting demographic data from FY 2007, Children ages 0 – 17 represented 26.9% of homeless people served by those providers. The largest age category for homeless people served is the 31 to 50 year olds who represented 37.7% of homeless people served in FY 2007.

When data from Baltimore City's shelter providers is removed from the totals, the percentages for the age groups change significantly. The percentage of children ages 0 – 17 served increases to 32.2% and the percentage of adults ages 18 – 30 increases to 22.0% from 20.3%.

The chart below shows the age breakdown by jurisdiction.

### Age Breakdown by Jurisdiction FY 2007

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	0 – 17	18 – 30	31 – 50	51 - 61	62 +
Allegany	173	124	209	11	14
Anne Arundel	443	281	424	134	14
Baltimore City	1,648	1,764	4,590	1,803	756
Baltimore County	1,320	968	977	462	88
Calvert	115	107	205	41	8
Caroline	31	7	19	0	0
Carroll	148	177	422	76	22
Cecil	591	310	485	98	10
Charles	101	111	396	18	24
Dorchester	19	33	66	17	8
Frederick	160	221	357	144	7
Garrett	52	66	71	16	6
Harford	215	216	284	88	7
Howard	283	291	63	1	0
Kent	22	26	50	7	1
Montgomery	1,599	847	1,800	414	65
Prince George's	985	500	886	191	35
Queen Anne's	5	8	3	0	0
St. Mary's	202	102	242	35	4
Somerset	34	10	18	1	0
Talbot	0	7	14	4	3
Washington	503	413	679	257	28
Wicomico	226	67	81	14	1
Worcester	56	75	163	63	16
<b>State Total</b>	<b>8,931</b>	<b>6,731</b>	<b>12,504</b>	<b>3,895</b>	<b>1,117</b>
<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>37.7%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
% without Baltimore City	32.2%	22.0%	35.0%	9.2%	1.6%

## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Studying the household composition of homeless people served helps to gain insight into the types of programs needed to best serve them. Individuals and families may require different sets of resources. Providers are asked to identify the people they served as individuals or as members of a family.

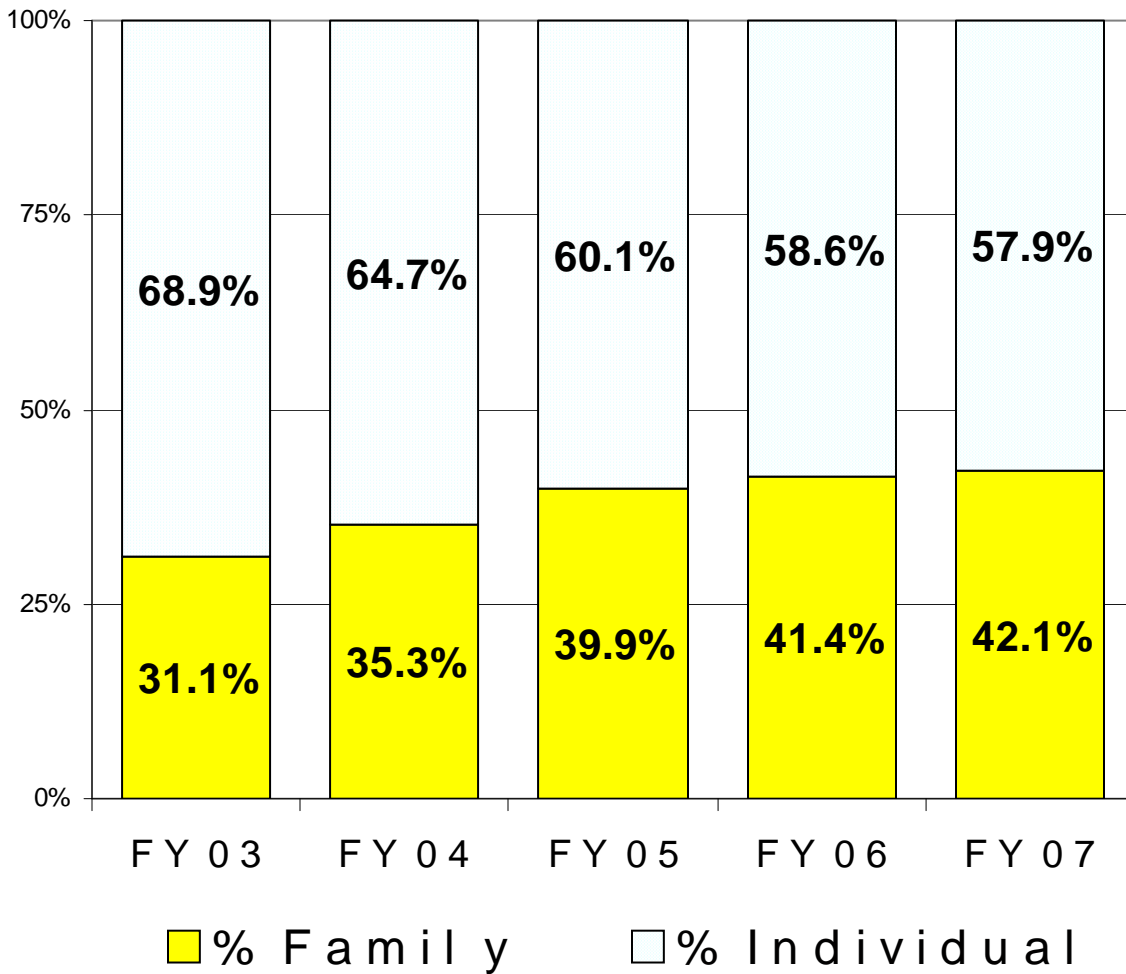
Of the agencies collecting and reporting family status data, the number of people in families receiving shelter services represents 42% of homeless people served by those agencies. If Baltimore City's data is taken out of the statewide data, the number of people in families receiving shelter services represents 54% of homeless people served in shelters and transitional housing.

The chart below shows the breakdown of family status by jurisdiction for FY 2007.

<b>Family Status by Jurisdiction FY 2007</b>				
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>Family Members</b>	<b>% Individuals</b>	<b>% Family Members</b>
Allegany	240	291	45%	55%
Anne Arundel	579	892	39%	61%
Baltimore City	9,556	2,176	81%	19%
Baltimore County	2,240	1,611	58%	42%
Calvert	246	232	51%	49%
Caroline	5	52	9%	91%
Carroll	553	289	66%	34%
Cecil	488	1,003	33%	67%
Charles	487	148	77%	23%
Dorchester	112	33	77%	23%
Frederick	607	833	42%	58%
Garrett	82	129	39%	61%
Harford	452	362	56%	44%
Howard	129	509	20%	80%
Kent	37	137	27%	73%
Montgomery	2,242	2,483	47%	53%
Prince George's	719	1,880	28%	72%
Queen Anne's	3	13	19%	81%
St. Mary's	170	415	29%	71%
Somerset	9	54	14%	86%
Talbot	28	0	100%	0%
Washington	1,034	862	55%	45%
Wicomico	88	338	21%	79%
Worcester	272	92	75%	25%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>20,342</b>	<b>14,797</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>42%</b>
Without Balto. City	10,786	12,621	46%	54%

The graph below shows the proportion of homeless people served as individuals in relation to the number of homeless people served as family members for the past five years.

**Proportion of  
Homeless People Served  
as Individuals and Family Members  
FY 2003 - FY 2007**



## GENDER OF ADULTS

Providers were asked to report the gender of adults (18 years old and older) who were served. Of the agencies that collect and report gender data, women represent 40 percent of adults served in FY 2007. When data from providers in Baltimore City is taken out of the totals, the percentage of adult women provided shelter increases to 50%.

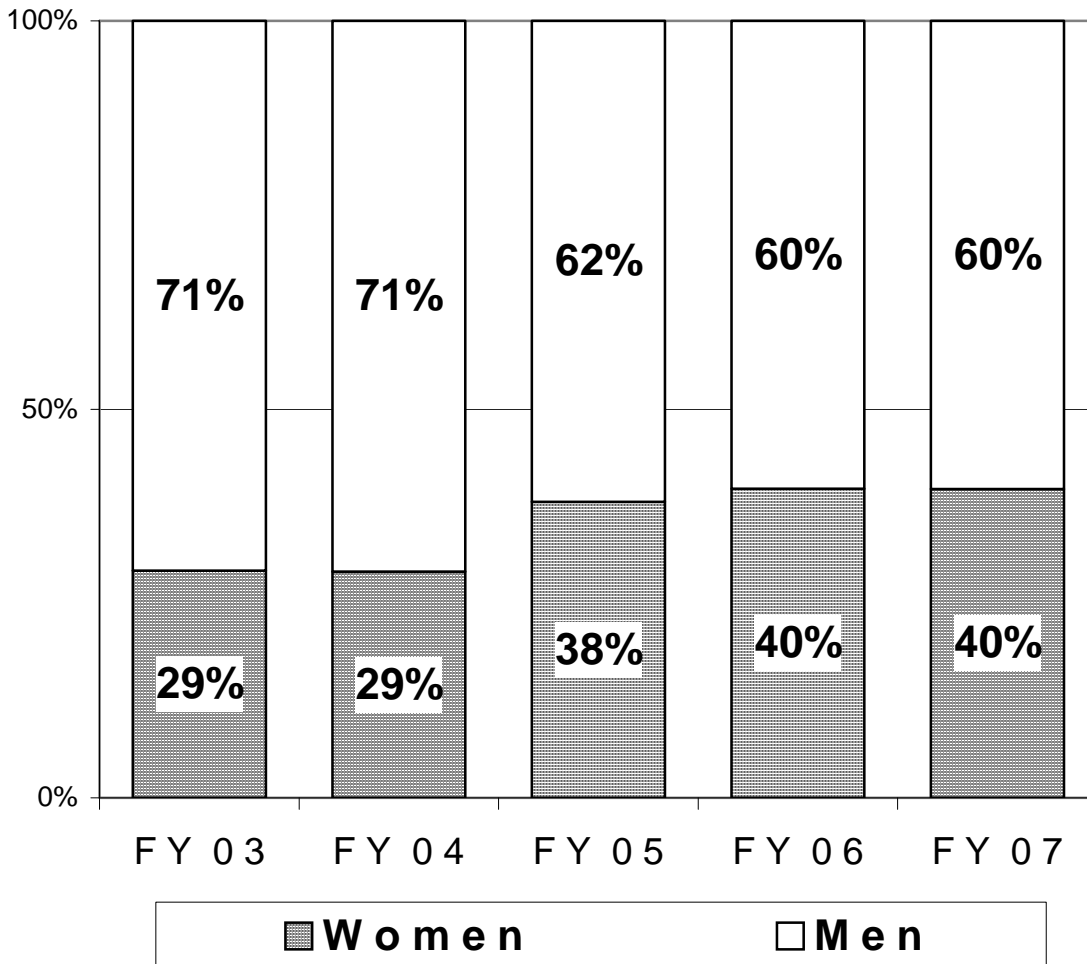
The chart below shows the gender breakdown of homeless people served.

<b>Gender of Adults by Jurisdiction FY 2007</b>				
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>% Men</b>	<b>% Women</b>
Allegany	194	175	53%	47%
Anne Arundel	455	505	47%	53%
Baltimore City	7,031	2,048	77%	23%
Baltimore County	1,169	1,326	47%	53%
Calvert	167	198	46%	54%
Caroline	4	22	15%	85%
Carroll	481	277	63%	37%
Cecil	382	586	39%	61%
Charles	371	177	68%	32%
Dorchester	91	33	73%	27%
Frederick	432	364	54%	46%
Garrett	74	85	47%	53%
Harford	274	346	44%	56%
Howard	121	234	34%	66%
Kent	36	39	48%	52%
Montgomery	1,497	1,630	48%	52%
Prince George's	906	706	56%	44%
Queen Anne's	2	9	18%	82%
St. Mary's	173	258	40%	60%
Somerset	8	21	28%	72%
Talbot	19	9	68%	32%
Washington	837	551	60%	40%
Wicomico	28	163	15%	85%
Worcester	207	102	67%	33%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>14,959</b>	<b>9,864</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>40%</b>
Without Baltimore City	7,928	7,816	50%	50%

Note: The numbers shown in the chart above for each jurisdiction may not be equal to the total number of adults served for each jurisdiction because some shelter providers do not collect and report gender data.

The graph below shows the proportion of homeless men and women adults (18 years old and older) from FY 2003 through FY 2007 for shelter providers that collect and report gender data.

### Proportion of Homeless Adult Men and Women Served FY 2003 - FY 2007



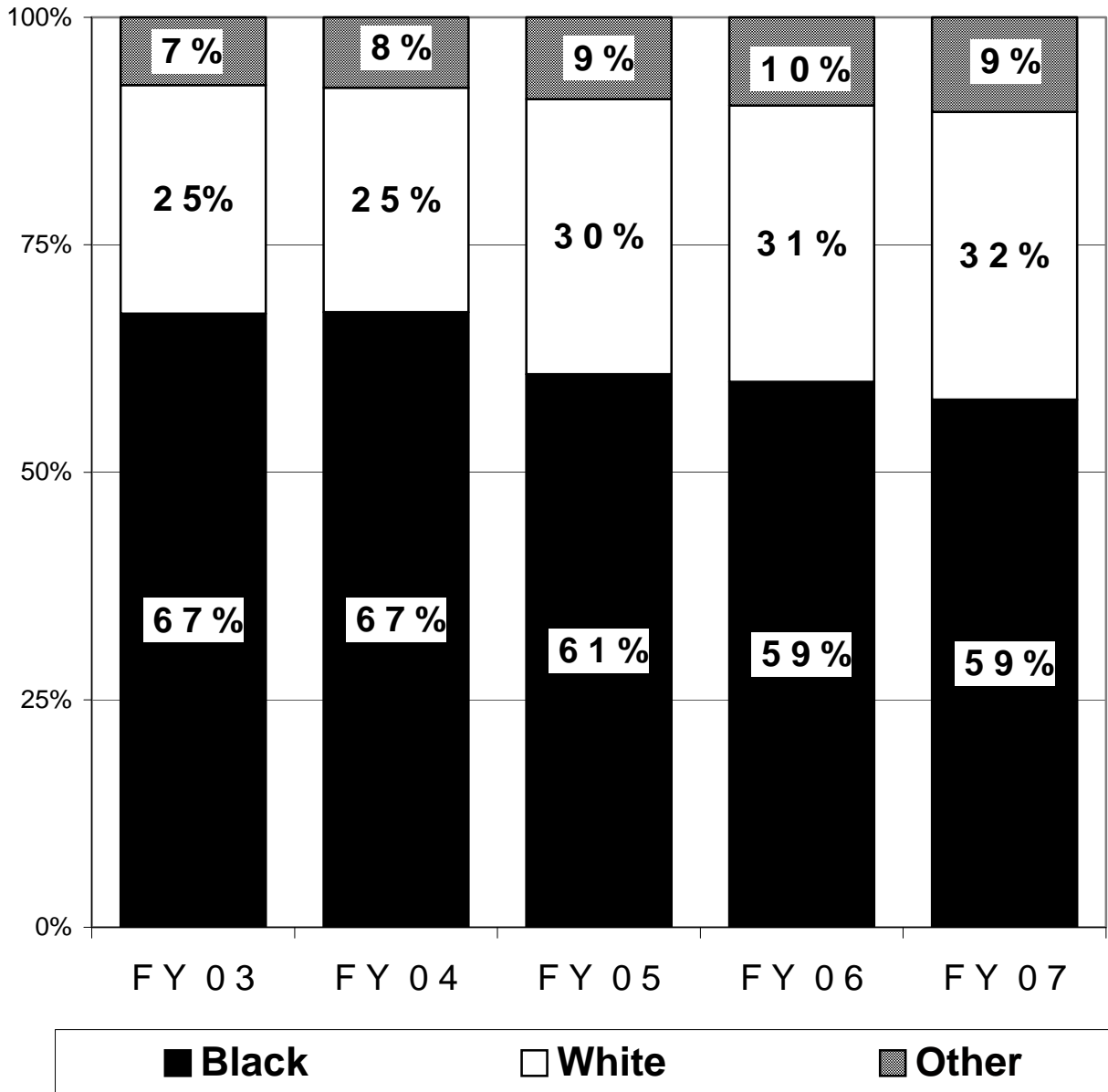
## ETHNICITY

The chart below is a breakdown of the ethnicity of people served by jurisdiction for FY 2007. Please note that not all local providers collect and report ethnicity data.

<b>Ethnicity Breakdown by Jurisdiction FY 2007</b>					
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Allegany	421	74	12	21	0
Anne Arundel	324	322	32	35	354
Baltimore City	1,801	8,239	76	157	133
Baltimore County	1,103	2,347	157	200	4
Calvert	300	141	8	14	33
Caroline	17	9	0	0	0
Carroll	608	176	33	25	0
Cecil	894	368	32	11	6
Charles	309	289	11	26	0
Dorchester	58	81	4	2	0
Frederick	664	366	33	48	329
Garrett	201	3	1	1	5
Harford	455	292	27	24	16
Howard	137	431	25	38	7
Kent	54	36	1	2	3
Montgomery	774	2,430	670	195	180
Prince George's	203	2,176	115	86	0
Queen Anne's	0	0	0	0	0
St. Mary's	287	245	3	34	16
Somerset	25	34	4	0	0
Talbot	12	16	0	0	0
Washington	1,344	453	23	43	28
Wicomico	103	253	26	7	0
Worcester	212	137	4	9	2
State Total	10,306	18,918	1,297	978	1,116
Percent	31.6%	58.0%	4.0%	3.0%	3.4%

The chart below shows the ethnicity of sheltered homeless people served in agencies that collect and report ethnicity data from FY 2003 through FY 2007.

### Proportion of Homeless People Served by Ethnicity: FY 2003 - FY 2007



African