

People who become homeless do not fit one general description. However, people experiencing homelessness do have certain shared basic needs, including affordable housing, adequate incomes, and health care. Some homeless people may need additional services such as mental health or drug treatment in order to remain securely housed. *-National Coalition for the Homeless*

Who are the Homeless?

Most studies show that single homeless adults are more likely to be male than female. In 2007, a survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 35% of the homeless people who are members of households with children were male and 65% were female. However, 67.5% of the single homeless population is male, and it is this single population that makes up 76% of the homeless populations surveyed.

About 40% of homeless men are veterans, although veterans comprise only 34% of the general adult male population. Families account for 40% of the population who become homeless each year. 43% of children living with homeless parents are under the age of six. Domestic violence is the immediate cause of homelessness for 50% of homeless women and children.

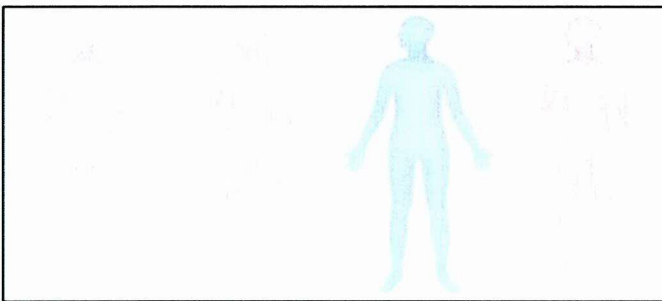


Figure 1: Scientists estimate that one of every four people is affected by mental illness either directly or indirectly.

"Mental illness is an equal opportunity illness – it strikes across all barriers of race and class. Yet the public perception is still the disheveled person on the street."

-Michael Allen, senior staff attorney at the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Washington, DC

Of the single adult homeless population, 20-25% have some form of mental illness. About 60 million Americans experience mental health problems in any given year. Between 28 and 30% of the U.S. population has a mental health disorder, substance abuse disorder, or both. Homeless people typically do not have health insurance, including Medicaid.

Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. Poor people are frequently unable to pay for housing, food, child care, health care, and education. Difficult choices must be made when limited resources cover only some of these necessities. Often it is housing, which absorbs a high proportion of income that must be dropped. Being poor means being an illness, an accident, or a paycheck away from living on the streets.

INTER-FAITH COUNCIL

For more information please contact:
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Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

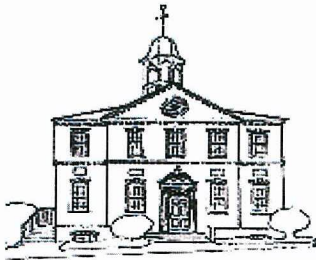
110 West Main Street
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*Help and Hope for Those
in Need Since 1963*

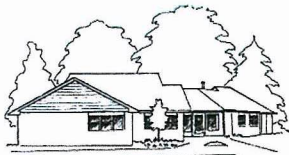
The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) meets basic needs and helps individuals and families achieve their goals. We provide shelter, food, direct services, advocacy and information to people in need. We accomplish this through strong partnerships with volunteers, staff and those we serve. We rely on the active involvement of caring individuals, congregations and other community organizations.



Community House

*100 West Rosemary St - Chapel Hill, NC
Tel. (919) 967-0643*

IFC's residential facility for homeless men has 30 beds and 20 floor spaces used during inclement weather. Community House sheltered 507 homeless men during 2008-09 fiscal year (between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009). A Job Mentoring Program is available for residents through volunteer social workers. The **Community Kitchen** served 85,136 meals, thanks to over 500 hundred volunteers and more than \$567,015 in food contributed by businesses and individuals. At the **Robert Nixon Free Medical Clinic** medical volunteers provided free health and mental health care, consultation, medicine and information to 648 homeless persons during FY 2008-09.



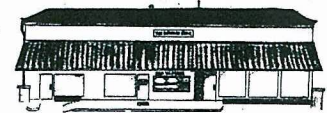
HomeStart

*2505 Homestead Rd - Chapel Hill, NC
Tel. (919) 932-6025*

HomeStart provides emergency and longer-term housing and services to 50 homeless women and children at a time, on land provided by Orange County. 141 women and 33 children stayed at HomeStart during the 2008-09 fiscal year, and 6,763 meals were served. HomeStart has a SmartStart Case Manager to help families prepare their children for kindergarten, and a Social Worker who provided case management for 21 families including 40 children to prevent homelessness in the past year.

Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

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Community Services and Food Pantry

*110 West Main St
Carrboro, NC
Tel. (919) 929-6380*

In fiscal year 2008-09, staff and volunteers conducted 6,658 interviews requesting food, financial assistance and other services. 14,201 bags of groceries and 761 holiday meals were distributed. 897 households received monetary support for rent, utilities, and other services. An Americorps Hispanic Coordinator helped 1,789 Spanish-speaking clients to access community services.

