Rebuilding Lives Updated Strategy
Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio

Shelter Utilization Report

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Introduction

The primary purpose of this analysis of persons using single adult and family emergency shelters is to document trends in the use of emergency shelter services among these two homeless populations, and to offer explanations, based on the available data, for such trends. The bases for these analyses are two administrative datasets – one using a "legacy database system" collecting information on shelter utilization from 1996 – 2001, and the second collecting shelter utilization data, in greater detail, from 2003 to 2006 on an updated homelessness management information systems (HMIS) database. There is no data on shelter utilization available between May 2001 and January 2003.

This chapter is divided into four sections. The first section is the most extensive, and looks at aggregate trends in shelter use through various measures. The most basic measure of demand, average daily census, is examined first over time and the trends found in this measure are explored further through looking at prevalence rates and episode length. Results from using survival curves and cluster analysis are also examined for possible explanations of trends found in the average daily census.

The second section looks more specifically at shelter episodes, and the rates by which these exits end with moves to stable housing or result in subsequent returns to shelter. This section further examines whether these two dynamics are related; the effect that "churning" from one shelter to another has on exit outcomes; and, for families, the relationship of family size to exit outcomes.

The final two sections provide further detail on shelter utilization, with one section looking at characteristics of the sheltered population, and the final section looking at crossover between the shelters covered by the HMIS database and two other specialty shelters, one for homeless youth and one for domestic violence victims.

Characteristics and Trends in Shelter Utilization Patterns

This section offers several perspectives on shelter utilization patterns over time. The analyses performed here are based on information from two data sources, the "legacy" data which collected shelter use data from 1996 to 2001 and the homeless management information system (HMIS) data, which collected shelter use data from 2003 to 2006. These time periods will be referred to as the legacy era and the HMIS era, respectively.

The data on shelter use will be presented in this section using five different perspectives:

- time series of average daily censuses computed for each month covered by the available data;

- annual prevalence counts;

- measures of episode length for the legacy and HMIS eras;

- survival curves on episode lengths during the legacy and HMIS eras;

- cluster analyses grouping persons and families by stay patterns for the legacy and HMIS eras;

Each of the perspectives will examine single men, single women, and families separately. A summary section will then provide an integrated analysis of shelter utilization trends over the HMIS and legacy periods.

Average Daily Census

Figures 1 and 2 present average daily census (ADC) of single adults (male and female) and families. ADC is the basic measure of shelter services provided. It defines the size of the system, as well as the size of the sheltered homeless population over a series of specific points in time. When viewed over an extended time period, ADC is also a basic indicator of trends in the demand for shelter – whether the system is growing or declining. This section examines the ADC, using legacy data, from January 1996 through April 2001, and, using HMIS data, from January 2003 through June 2006.

There is a gap in both figures, when no data is available, for the 20-month period between May 2001 and January 2003. This is the time period after the legacy database was discontinued and before the HMIS system was capable of providing full coverage. Due to the different databases that are utilized and the

gap between the time periods covered by the two systems, it is not possible to determine one comprehensive trendline for this time period.

Unduplicated counts of family and single adult households (male and female) are generated for each day. These daily counts, summed for a whole month and then divided by the number of days in that month, then produce the ADC. The time series of monthly ADCs are then plotted on a graph. While averaging the daily counts this way removes a considerable portion of the daily variation that is characteristic of these censuses, there will still be considerable fluctuation, due to the seasonal dynamics, in shelter demand, manifested in these results. In order to better view general trends despite these fluctuations, linear trendlines are also plotted, derived from simple bivariate regression models. Along with these trendlines, p-values are also provided to indicate whether or not these trendlines signify statistically significant trends (where the p-value is less than 0.05) either upward or downward, or whether there is essentially no change in the ADC over the time periods examined.

Figure 1 - Average Daily Census (ADC) for Single Adult Households, Columbus 1996-2006
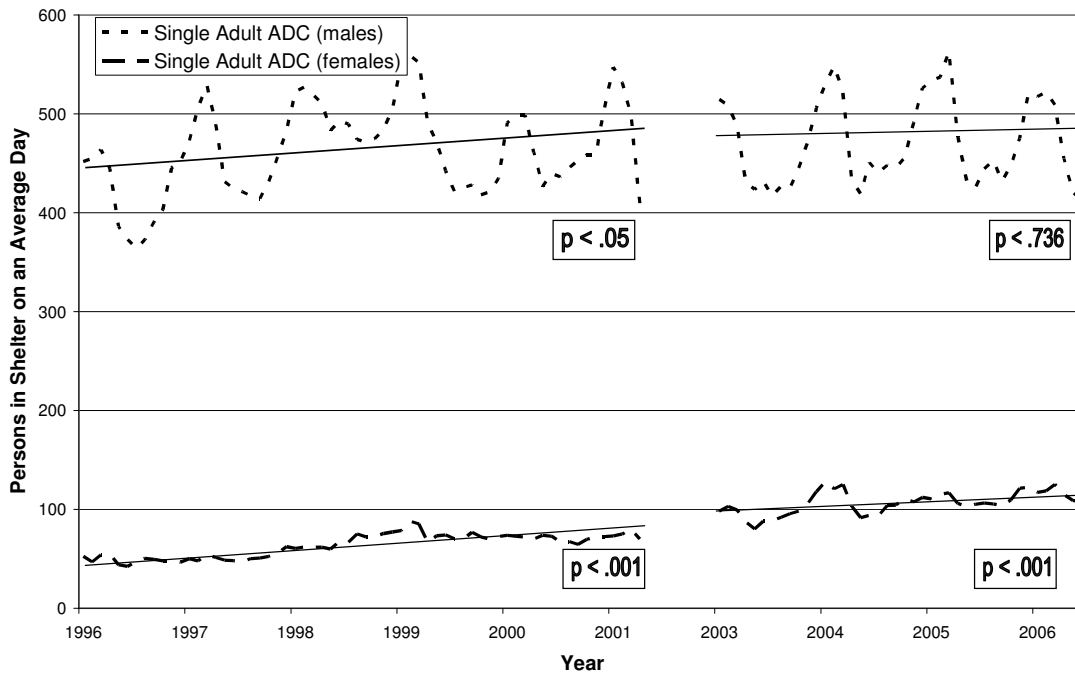

Figure 1 presents the ADC for single adults (broken down by gender). Important findings from figure 1 include:

- The broken lines in figure 1 show the average daily censuses among males and females. The lines, especially the one representing the male ADC, show substantial fluctuation over time in ADC that is due to seasonal

increases and decreases in demand for shelter. Typically, demand for shelter increases in the winter and declines in the summer.

- The solid lines indicate the deseasoned trend lines. The trend line for males, which is statistically significant, shows that, after taking into account the seasonal fluctuations, there is a continuous and statistically significant upward trend in the earlier time period covered by the legacy data (1996-2001) that indicates the ADC, over time and taking fluctuations into account, is steadily increasing. This trend flattens in the later, HMIS period (2003-2006) to where the increase is no longer significant and, over this time period, there is no significant change overall in the single male homeless population. Thus, taken together, this figure shows that demand for shelter among homeless males has essentially remained unchanged since 2003 following a period of steadily increasing demand.

- For females, the ADC is substantially smaller with much less seasonal trend. However, in both time periods covered in figure 1 the trend for ADC is steadily and significantly increasing.

Figure 2 - Average Daily Census for Family Households, Columbus 1996-2006
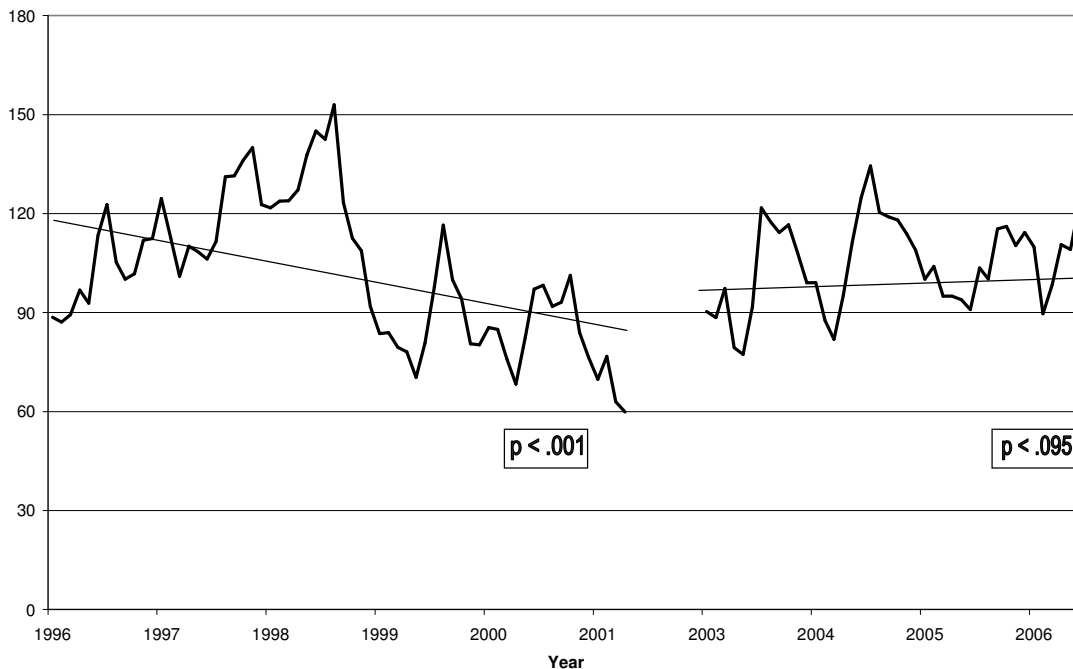
During the gap in data coverage, between 2001 and 2003, there were substantial changes in the citywide shelter network, and the first permanent supportive housing (PSH) units under Rebuilding Lives became available as well. Because these changes occurred during this gap, its immediate impact on the

shelter ADC cannot be determined. There was, however, no noticeable decrease in ADC for either males or females once the HMIS system started again providing shelter utilization data in 2003.

Data on ADC, also including deseasoned trend lines, are presented for families in figure 2 in the same fashion that they were in figure 1 for the single adults. In figure 2:

- The seasonal fluctuation in the ADC is again evident. The overall trend for the early period showed a decline and, by the time the trend resumed in 2003, the ADC appears higher but has flattened out to where there is no significant change over time.

- in 1999, Columbus developed a policy in which a single intake point of entry was adopted and more families were diverted from shelter to other housing options. A corresponding drop in ADC is indeed noticeable in 1999 for families (figure 2), and likely accounts for much of the overall decline in ADC for this period.

Prevalence

Table 1 – Annual Prevalence Populations of Sheltered Single Adult Households (by sex) and families: 1997-2000 and 2003-2005

	Single Adults - Male	Single Adults - Female	Families
1997	4159	610	1,563
1998	4297	678	1,091
1999	4063	702	533
2000	3795	767	621
2003	3754	1122	747
2004	4025	1218	717
2005	3885	1211	705

Annual prevalence refers to the unduplicated number of persons or families that spend time in the shelter system over the course of a given year. Table 1 presents the annual prevalence numbers.

- For men, the size of the annual prevalence population declined steadily during the legacy era and stabilized in the time period covered by HMIS.

- For women the size of the annual prevalence population increased steadily in the legacy era, increased substantially during the "gap" between available data, and continued to increase from 2003 to 2004.

- The family prevalence declined in 1999, after an increase in diversion efforts, and increased steadily again to the start of the HMIS era, when the prevalence stabilized.

In summary, prevalence trends parallel the ADC trends found in the previous subsection. Particularly among the single females, the increase in ADC can be at least partly explained by an increase in demand for shelter.

Episode Length

Episode lengths have an impact on the ADC, as the longer persons (or families) stay in shelter the more this will drive up the ADC as the shelter system in effect backs up. Figures 3 and 4 are bar charts showing, respectively, the median episode lengths and the episode length for the stay at the 95th percentile for single adult (male and female) and family households across the legacy and HMIS time periods.

Figure 3 - Median Episode Lengths: Columbus 1997-2005, Single Adult & Family Households
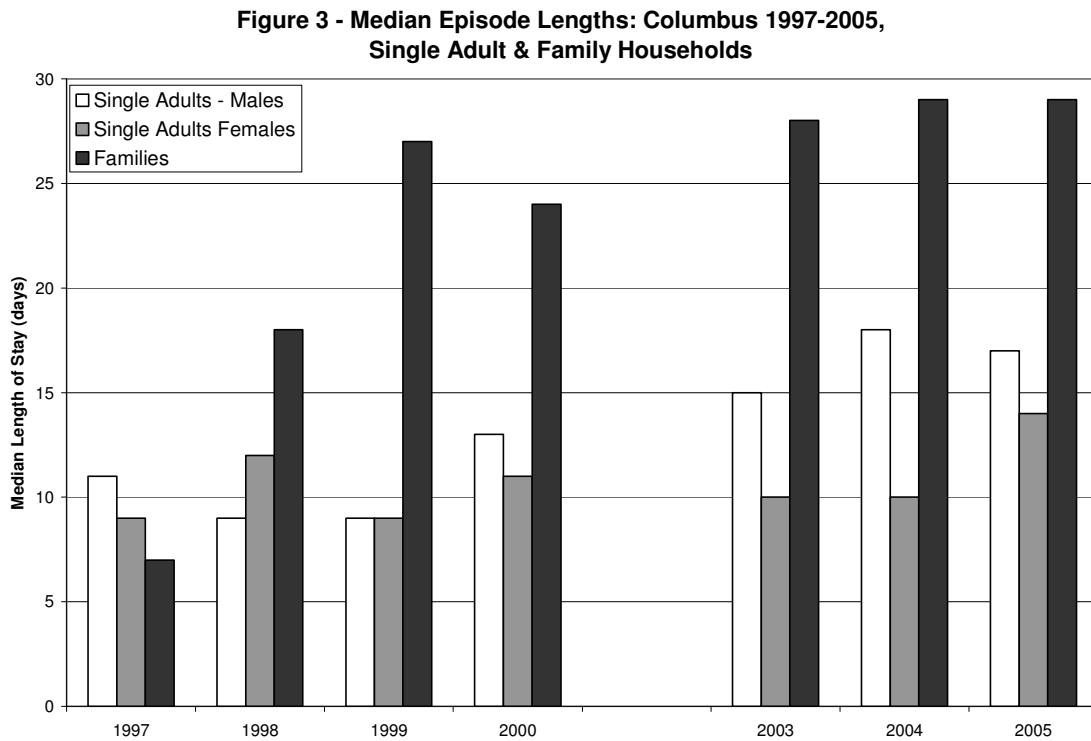
The primary findings in Figure 3 include:

- For the single adult male households, the median episode lengths in the legacy period declined from 11 days in 1997 to 9 days in 1998 and 1999 before increasing again to 13 days in 2000. In the HMIS period, median

episode length increased to levels higher than were recorded during the legacy period.

- Median stays for single adult female households showed no clear trend during the two time periods, as median episode length hovered around 10 days.

- Family households had considerably longer median stays over time. This increase started at about the same time when the new family shelter intake and diversion policies (mentioned earlier) took effect. This suggests that this system reconfiguration was successful in keeping families who would stay for short time periods from entering the shelter system. Median length of stay then stayed at around four weeks through the HMIS period.

Focusing on the median episode length can be misleading, for if episode lengths among the longest stayers decline (due to, for example, a systematic attempt to place them into permanent housing) and the other episode dynamics remain unchanged, the quicker exits of long-term staying households will reduce the shelter census but the median statistic will remain unchanged. To better examine this possibility, the length of the episode at the 95th percentile of the total number of episodes for each year is charted on Figure 4.

Figure 4 - Length of Episode at the 95th Percentile: Columbus 1997-2005, Single Adult & Family Households
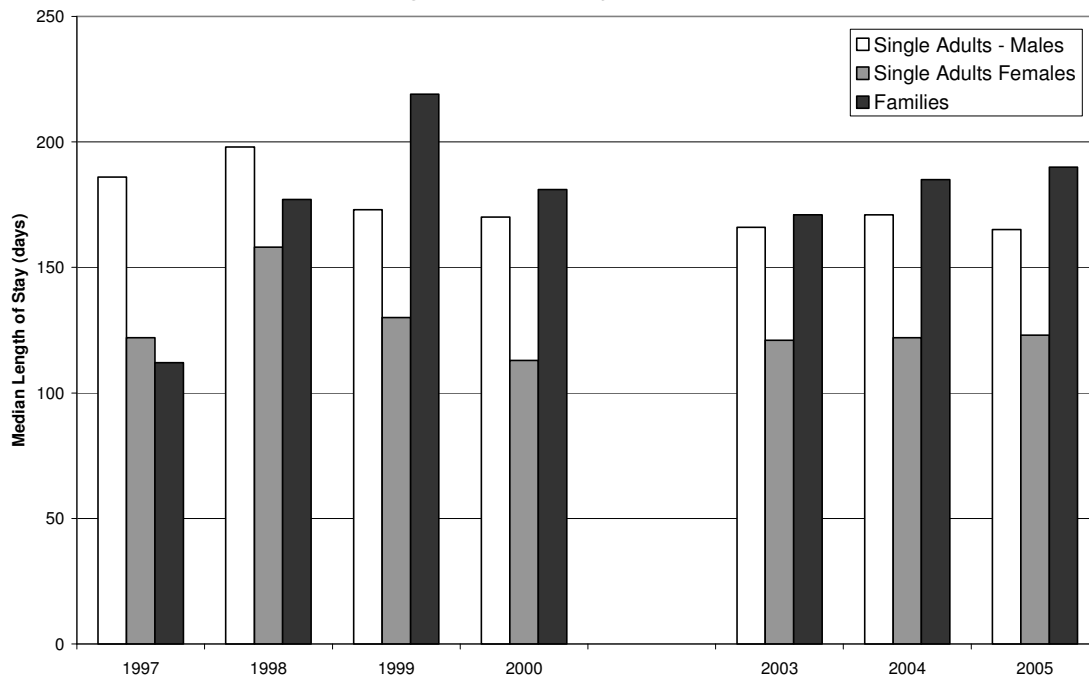
In figure 4:

- For single males, the increases in median episode length during the latter
  years (see Figure 3) are not reflected. There is a distinct decline in 1999
  that is sustained in subsequent years, which would occur at the same time
  that initiatives were implemented that were designed to increase the
  availability of permanent housing for this subgroup.

- Single females have a stay pattern similar to that of men, where declines
  in 1999 for the longest stays hold steady over the rest of the time period
  covered here.

- For families there is more fluctuation in the length of the longest 5% of
  episode lengths, with somewhat increasing trends in stay length over
  time.

Taken together, there is evidence that the longest stays for both males and
females declined over time. The availability of increasing supplies of PSH, which
were designed to specifically target these long stayers, may have contributed to
that decline. The longest stays for families, who did not have PSH units available
to them, did not show these declines in long stay. Caution must be exercised
here, however, as these stay dynamics cannot be conclusively linked to the PSH
availability based on the data analyzed here.

Survival Curves

**Figure 5 - Survival Curve of Shelter Episodes -
Single Adult Male Households
Columbus, 1998-2000 & 2003-2005**

| Test	Chi-Square	DF	Chi-Square
Log-Rank	20.7927	1	<.0001
Wilcoxon	102.1818	1	<.0001
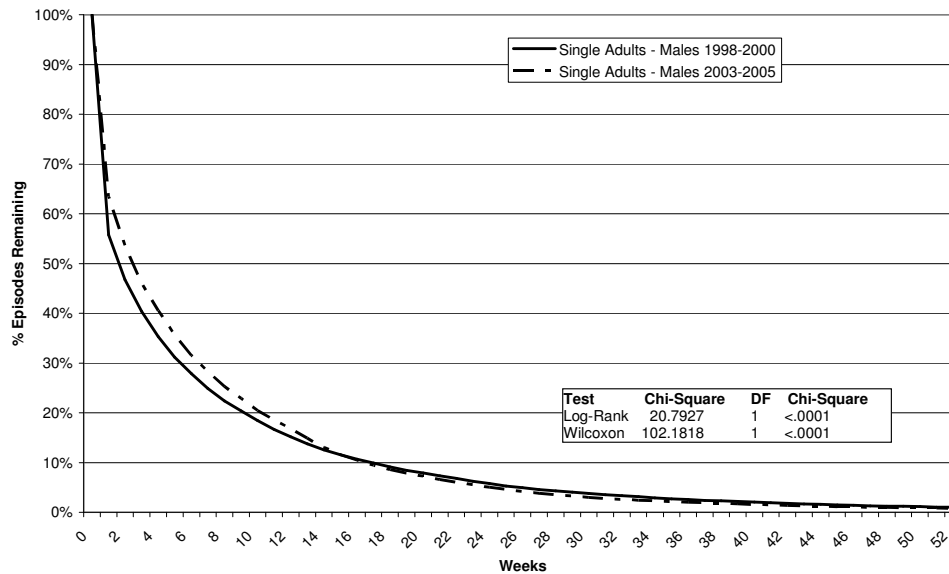
Survival curves are a descriptive technique which charts the proportions of (in this case) shelter stays that last beyond a given time period on a time range. Thus 100% of the stays will be included in time 0, and the proportion will progressively drop off as the time period progresses and fails to include the durations of increasing proportions of shelter stays. The survival curves shown here give further detail on the distributions of the stay lengths, and allow for more nuanced comparisons between stays that occurred during the legacy and the HMIS periods.

Figures 5 – 7 show that:

- Taken together, the three survival curves presented in the three figures prove to be steep initially, indicating that many of the shelter episodes, for both the single adult and family households, are over relatively quickly.

- 99% of these shelter episodes are over within one year of their start.

- For both family and single adult male households, differences in the distributions of shelter episodes between the legacy and the HMIS periods are statistically significant, however for single females the differences are statistically non-significant.

Figure 6 - Survival Curve of Shelter Episodes -
Single Adult Female Households
Columbus, 1998-2000 & 2003-2005

| Test	Chi-Square	DF	Chi-Square
Log-Rank	1.0150	1	0.3137
Wilcoxon	1.8422	1	0.1747
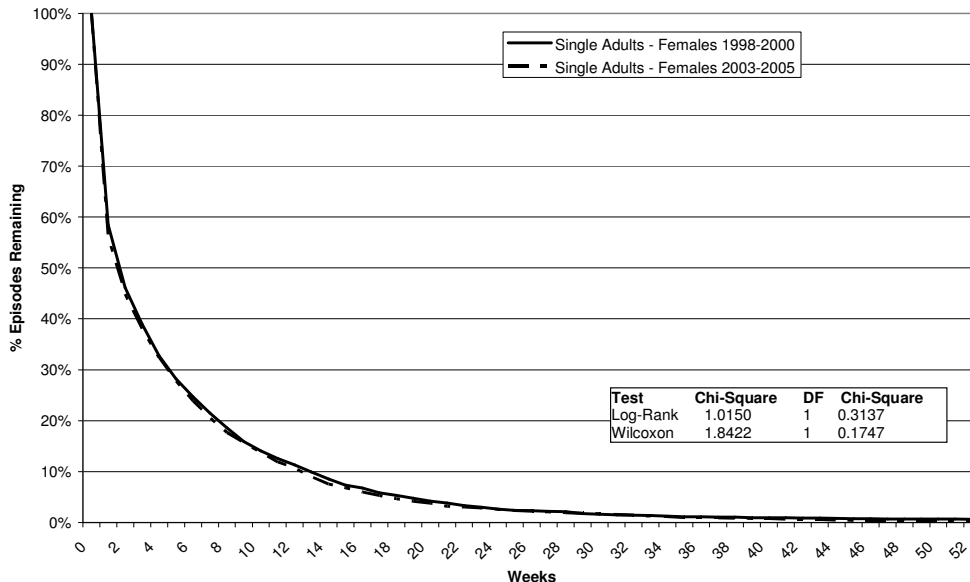
There is a similar pattern in both the single adult male and family household figures (5 and 7). In the HMIS period there are greater proportions of shelter episodes that are over before the survival lines cross, at 15 weeks for single

adult households and 25 weeks for family households, and proportionally less episodes in the subsequent period. This pattern is more pronounced with the family households. Thus, in the HMIS period and for both types of households, short episodes are lasting longer, but there are less extremely long episodes. If the magnitude of these differences are judged to be substantively (as well as statistically) significant, this would indicate different patterns of episode distribution between the two periods for both subgroups.

To summarize the episode length findings, median episode stays have stayed steady or increased for all three sheltered subgroups examined here, but these increases mask indications of long-term declines in the tenure of the longest episodes lengths. This dynamic among family and single adult male households is offset by longer episode lengths among the shorter episodes.

This all points to evidence that short-term stayers appear to be staying somewhat longer while long-term stayers appear to be leaving somewhat more quickly. In other words, different dynamics may be occurring in the different strata of stayers.

Figure 7 - Survival Curve of Shelter Episodes - Family Households
Columbus, 1998-2000 & 2003-2005
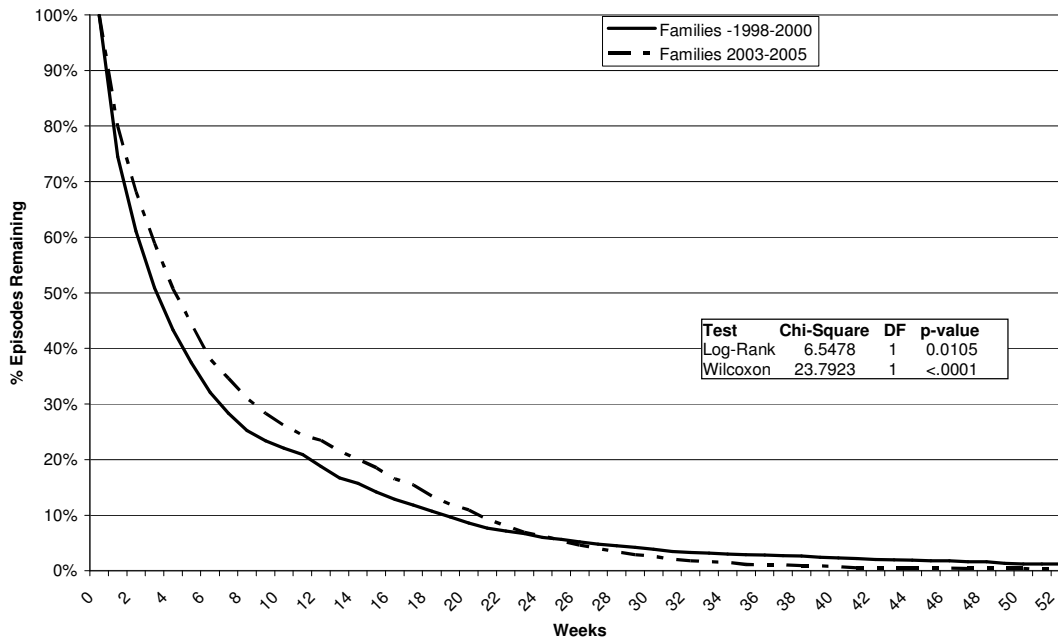
Cluster Analysis

Cluster analysis is a means by which to group sheltered households by their shelter use patterns over a given time period. Specifically, homeless households – either single adults or families – are sorted by two criteria: the number of

shelter stays they have had over a given time period; and the number of shelter days they have accumulated during those stays. While cluster analysis uses systematic procedures to group observations (single adults or families) together into groups based on like numbers of days and discrete stays consumed, the end result is analogous to looking at a graph where total days and total episodes are graphed for each observation and circles are drawn around the main groupings on the graph.

The clusters that form typically involve three distinct stay patterns:

– Transitional stayers have one or two relatively short shelter stays, mostly lasting less than a month, and are then not again seen in the shelter system. This group will contain the majority of shelter users.

– Episodic users will have multiple, relatively short stays (again usually lasting less than one month). This group "bounces" in and out of shelters, and the combined number of days a household typically spends in shelters during the multiple stays is substantially higher than what the transitional household logs.

– Long-term stayers have one or two very long shelter episodes. These often last for over six months. This group is usually of small proportion and consumes a vastly disproportionate amount of shelter days.

Separate cluster analyses are performed here on single men, single women, and families. Each grouping features two cohorts – one from the legacy era and the other from the HMIS era. These cohorts enter the shelter system for the first time during the indicated time periods are followed for two years. Cluster analysis then generated to establish distinct subsets (transitional, episodic and long-term stayers) for each cohort. For each grouping (single male, single female, and families), the clusters from the legacy era and the HMIS era are compared by virtue of their composition and their shelter use patterns.

1. Single Adults - Males

The first grouping where clusters are examined are for the single males. In comparing the two time periods, there is little substantial change in either the cluster distributions or the shelter utilization patterns. Specifically, Table 2 shows that:

- the proportion of males in the transitional cluster decreases somewhat, from 82.2% to 76.8% from the legacy era to the HMIS era. Over these eras the average number of days per episode increases from 20.2 days to 28.5 days.

- for the episodic cluster, the proportion increases from the legacy era to the HMIS era, 12.2% to 16.4%, and while the average number of stays stay the same at 3.8, those in the episodic cluster accrue more days, on average, in the HMIS era (80.9) than in the legacy era (70.3).

- for the long-term cluster, very little changes in terms of the size of the proportion of this group and the shelter utilization measures (average days and stays). For both eras, this cluster is the smallest group in terms of persons and uses a high proportion of all the shelter days.

Table 2 – Cluster Statistics for Single Adult Males in the Columbus Shelter System Based on Shelter Stay Patterns over a Two-Year Period Following Initial Shelter Entry

Single Males Entering Shelter for the First Time – July 2003 through June 2004 (HMIS)				
	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Single Males	2,418	516	214	3,148
Average Number of Episodes	1.2	3.8	2.5	1.8
Average Number of Days	28.5	80.9	307.5	56.0
Percentage of Single Males	76.8	16.4	6.8	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	39.1	23.7	37.3	100
Single Males Entering Shelter for the First Time – January 1996 through December 1998 (Legacy)				
	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Single Males	4,940	734	336	6,010
Average Number of Episodes	1.2	3.8	2.4	1.6
Average Number of Days	20.2	70.3	311.9	42.6
Percentage of Single Males	82.2	12.2	5.6	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	39.0	20.0	41.0	100

Days and Episodes based on shelter usage in the two-year period following initial shelter stay

In summary, the average number of days spent in shelters for the entire cohort increases from the legacy to the HMIS eras, from 42.6 to 56.0 days, a change that is accounted for by the transitional cluster staying longer and the increase in the number of persons in the episodic cluster. This increase in the length of the shorter stays is consistent with what was found in the survival curve in Figure 5. The stability of the long-stay cohort runs counter to the assumption that PSH placements should have functioned, in the HMIS era, to truncate the stays among this cluster.

2. Single Adults - Females

For single females, the changes across the legacy and HMIS eras are much more substantial. Specifically:

- overall, the dynamics of shelter utilization, the average number of days and stays, stayed about the same for each cluster group over the two eras.

- the size of the cluster groups changed across the two eras, however, with the transitional group becoming proportionally smaller (89.1% to 77.8%) and the episodic group growing (6.5% to 15.7%). The propotion in the long-term stay group increased somewhat, from 4.5% to 6.5%.

The primary difference, when comparing these two eras, is in the proportional size difference between transitional and episodic groups. This change can be interpreted as representing a shift where persons who were transitional users in the legacy era as returning to shelters for multiple episodes during the HMIS era. This shift led to a substantially higher overall average number of days consumed, 40.8 to 54.7, across the two eras.

Table 3 – Cluster Statistics for Single Adult Females in the Columbus Shelter System Based on Shelter Stay Patterns over a Two-Year Period Following Initial Shelter Entry

Single Females Entering Shelter for the First Time – July 2003 through June 2004 (HMIS)				
	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Single Females	361	73	30	464
Average Number of Episodes	1.2	3.7	2.9	1.7
Average Number of Days	30.5	71.2	305.6	54.7
Percentage of Single Females	77.8	15.7	6.5	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	43.5	20.5	36.2	100
Single Females Entering Shelter for the First Time – January 1996 through December 1998 (Legacy)				
	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Single Females	1,377	100	69	1,546
Average Number of Episodes	1.1	3.8	2.0	1.4
Average Number of Days	25.6	77.4	299.4	40.8
Percentage of Single Females	89.1	6.5	4.5	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	54.8	12.3	32.8	100

Days and Episodes based on shelter usage in the two-year period following initial shelter stay

3. Families

Finally, cluster analysis was also applied to families served during the same time periods as the single adults. The clusters are distributed very differently in the

legacy and in the HMIS eras. Where in the legacy era virtually all the families fell into the transitional cluster, subsequent diversion policies have kept many of the short-staying families out of shelters altogether, and with that a higher proportion of the families that did stay in the shelter system stayed for much longer periods of time. Table 4 presents the results from this analysis. Among the results:

-   whereas virtually all of the families, 94.9%, in the legacy era fell into the transitional cluster, that proportion dropped to 77.3% in the HMIS era. Otherwise, the utilization statistics (average number of days and stays) stayed very similar.

-   The proportions of families in the episodic cluster for each era were about the same, 2.1% and 2.6%.

-   Many more families in the HMIS cluster were classified as "long stay" – 20.6% compared to 3.5% in the legacy era. Some of this increase can be explained by the much shorter number of average days spent in shelter, which makes this cluster grouping more inclusive. This long-stay group consumed over half of all of the total shelter days used.

Table 4 – Cluster Statistics of Shelter Stay Patterns for Families in Columbus Shelter System over Two Time Periods

Families Entering Shelter for the First Time – July 2003 through June 2004 (HMIS)				
	Transitional	**Episodic**	**Long-stay**	**Total**
Number of Families	521	14	139	674
Average Number of Episodes	1.1	3.1	1.3	1.2
Average Number of Days	30.3	148.4	178.0	63.2
Percentage of Total Families	77.3	2.1	20.6	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	37.1	4.9	58.0	100
Families Entering Shelter for the First Time – 1996 through 1998 (Legacy)				
	Transitional	**Episodic**	**Long-stay**	**Total**
Number of Families	2,545	71	95	2,711
Average Number of Episodes	1.1	3.4	1.3	1.2
Average Number of Days	26.3	86.3	342.7	39.0
Percentage of Total Families	93.9	2.6	3.5	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	64.4	5.7	30.8	100

Days and Episodes based on shelter usage in the two-year period following initial shelter stay

For the families, it appears that not only was there a substantial reduction in the number of transitional families across the two eras, but that the number as well as the percentage of families that made heavy use of shelters (episodic and long-term clusters) increased.

Summary of Shelter Utilization Patterns

Putting together the different aspects of shelter utilization looked at here, a different story emerges for each of the three subpopulations.

For single adult male households, alternative placements for long stayers have coincided with reductions in long stays. Yet these reductions in long-term shelter episodes has not corresponded with much overall change in ADC, and appears to be offset by increased durations of short stays. The finding of increased durations of short stays is supported by the cluster analysis. However the cluster analysis also shows no evidence supporting any conclusion that the long-stay group, those primarily targeted for placements outside of the shelter system, changed notably in their proportional size or their patterns of shelter utilization from the legacy era to the HMIS era.

For single adult female households, there has been a steady increase in ADC and prevalence as well as increases in stay length. Thus the increase in the ADC shown in Figure 1 comes from both increased demand – more women are seeking shelter – as well as increased time spent in shelters – women are staying longer in the shelters.

For family households, the pattern has been a drastic decline in numbers served with longer time periods in which the family households that were sheltered stayed in the system. The overall picture was one of declining census, but as the lengths of stay have started to increase the declines in ADC have eroded a bit. The cluster analysis best shows this increase in the proportions and numbers of heavy users in the HMIS era. This supports the conclusion that the relatively stable ADC is the result of a decline in short-staying families offset by increasing numbers of families who use shelters on a long-term basis.

Shelter exits, outcomes and returns

This section examines individual characteristics of shelter episodes, looking specifically at four features:

-        the extent to which the episodes ended with an exit to a living situation that was considered successful or stable – meaning that the individual or family moved to their own place – where they were able to afford rent or, in rare cases, house payments. Often this consisted of housing with subsidized rent, and also includes instances where placement was made to permanent supportive and transitional housing programs;

-        the extent to which the episode ended and the individual or family returned to shelter within a year. Return to shelter is one of the most salient measures of an undesirable outcome to a shelter stay;

-        the extent to which "churning," where individuals or families stay at multiple shelters during a single episode, occurs and whether this impacts either successful housing placements or shelter returns;

-        length of shelter episode.

Episodes here all commence at the point where persons or families first enter the shelter system during the time period covered by the HMIS dataset (January 2003 through June 2006) and end with a sustained exit from the shelter system. A "sustained exit" here is when a family or individual has been out of the shelter for at least thirty days. So, for example, if a person stays in a shelter for 7 days, exits and returns 5 days later, and stays for another 7 days before exiting for a year, then these two stays would constitute one shelter episode lasting 19 days. This is done to take into account that brief times away from shelters do not constitute lasting exits from homelessness.

Descriptive Findings

Table 5 shows descriptive statistics for the episodes and the households experiencing these episodes. These results show that:

-        a majority of family households (54.4%), and much smaller proportions of single male and female households (13.9% and 19.7%, respectively) exited their shelter episodes to stable housing;

- conversely, males showed the highest rate of shelter return (36.4%), in contrast to single females (25.9%) and families (10%);

- the median shelter episode lasted about two weeks for both single males and females (15 days and 10 days, respectively), and lasted just over a month, 32 days, for families;

- rates of "churning" indicate that the large majority of all types of households only stay in one shelter per episode. Churning is most frequent among single males, with 26.8% of them staying in at least two shelters during their episode, and is substantially lower among single females (18.4%), perhaps because there are much fewer shelters for single females in Columbus. Among families, 29.2% of the families stayed in more than one shelter during their stay, but much of that reflects a process whereby one shelter acts as a central intake point, and then some families will get reassigned from this shelter to the other family shelters.

A more detailed version of Table 5, broken down by year, is available in the appendix. In this table, for each of the three types of sheltered households the number of episodes has declined in each successive year between 2003 and 2005 (the last year for which complete data was available). The proportions of episodes among both single males and females that ended with a move to stable housing also increased for each of the years. This coincided with drops in the rates of returns to shelter for single males and females. For families, both rates of exits to stable housing and returns to shelter hold constant for this time period.

Table 5 – Episodes (1) Leading to Placements into Housing and Shelter Returns Broken Down by Household Type: 2003 through June, 2006

	Single Males	Single Females	Families
Number of Exits	9,064	3,219	2,069
Exit to stable housing (2)	13.9%	19.7%	54.4%
Return shelter stay (within one year) (3)	36.4%	25.9%	10.0%
Length of Shelter Episode (median)	15 days	10 days	32 days
"Churning"			
In 2 Shelters During Episode	18.0%	14.7%	28.6%
In 3 Shelters During Episode	5.9%	3.7%	0.6%
In 4 or More Shelters During Episode	2.9%	0.5%	0.0%

1 – All episodes here start with the first time the person/family entered a shelter during this time period, and end upon a sustained exit from shelter, meaning the individual/family does not return for at least 30 days.
2 – Stable housing refers to exits to housing arrangements where the person or family has a long-term, formal living arrangement, usually involving a lease and often a housing subsidy.
3 – Only includes stays ending before June 30, 2005, so as to have a year of opportunity to return to shelter.

Multiple Regression Findings

Multiple regression models were also fitted for each of the three household types to assess factors that were associated with the likelihood of exiting an episode to stable housing, and to the likelihood of returning to shelter within a year of exiting the shelter episode. Detailed results are displayed in the appendix to this chapter.

Looking at the results from the logistic regression analysis for exits to stable housing shows that:

- for all three household types, income at shelter exit, in the form of benefits or especially in the form of wages, substantially increased the odds of exit to stable housing. Particularly among family households, the presence of wages increased the likelihood of successful program completion more than sevenfold;

- for all three household types, churning decreased the likelihood of receiving a stable housing placement. This was so even among families, where switching shelters can be part of the normal intake and assessment process;

- for all three household types, longer shelter episodes increased the likelihood of exit to stable housing.

- for single adults of both sexes, being of Black race reduced the likelihood of exiting to stable housing. In contrast, families whose race is listed as black had an increased likelihood of such an exit.

- for single adult males only, veteran status was associated with increased likelihood of exit to stable housing.

- among the families, there was a small increase in the likelihood of an exit to stable housing associated with larger numbers of children in the family.

Another regression model, using an event history method known as Cox regression, estimated the associations of various factors with the likelihood of experiencing a repeat shelter episode within a year after exiting the initial shelter episode. The same independent variables were included in this model as were used in the just described logistic regression model, with the addition of "exit to stable housing" as an independent variable. A table with the full results are shown in the appendix. Briefly summarized, the results show that:

- exits to stable housing, in all three household types, decreased the likelihood of returning to shelter;

- churning, in all three household types, increased the likelihood of returning to shelter. Among single adults, this likelihood increased as the number of shelters utilized in the episode increased;

- income upon exit, either from benefits or from wages, had no significant association with return to shelter;

- among single adults, longer stays in shelter were associated with higher likelihoods of repeat shelter stay (in contrast with the association found in the logistic regression model, where longer stays were associated with a greater likelihood of stable housing placement);

- for single adult males, being of Black race increased the likelihood for a repeat shelter stay;

- for families, multiple adults in the family is associated with an increased likelihood for a shelter return. No significant association was found between number of children and this outcome.

In summary, the most noteworthy finding was the association between exit to stable housing and return shelter stays, which suggests that housing placement is a key factor in lasting exits to homelessness. Also noteworthy, churning was associated with negative outcomes in both models, indicating that this is an undesirable dynamic.

Family composition

Based on findings reported in this section and other findings laid out in considerably greater detail in an appendix table, there is little apparent association between family size and a family's prospects of churning while in shelter, exiting shelter to a stable housing placement, or returning to shelter. The only finding in support of such an association would be that having multiple adults in the household is linked to increased likelihood of shelter return. Regression findings, however, actually link more children with a higher likelihood of exiting shelter to stable housing. Beyond that, differences in family size yield non-significant differences in these outcomes.

Summary

This section examined exits from shelter episodes and specifically focused on the extent to which exits were followed by stable housing (successful exits); exits were followed by returns to shelter; and "churning" during the shelter episode. The findings provided not only rates by which these dynamics occurred, but also the relationships between these occurrences.

Among single adults, exits to stable housing among males (13.9%) and females (19.7%) were relatively low, and were coupled with relatively high rates of returns to shelter – 36.4% and 25.9% for males and females, respectively. A substantial minority of these adults also "churned" through multiple shelters during the episode studied. Churning was related to both a lower likelihood of exiting to a successful housing placement and a higher likelihood for returning to shelter for both males and females.

For families, repeat shelter episodes are a considerably rarer event, occurring at a 10% rate, while a majority of the families are considered to have successfully completed the shelter program and received a housing placement. A similar proportion of families, 29.2%, stayed in multiple shelters during their episode, but much of this can be explained by shelter procedures. Nonetheless, this churning was associated with a higher likelihood of return to shelter, and a decreased likelihood of exiting with stable housing. Again in a similar manner to the single adults, exiting to stable housing reduced the likelihood of returning to shelter.

Individual Household Characteristics

The first section of this chapter looks at measures of overall shelter population, the second section looks at exits, and in this section the household characteristics of those staying in the shelters are examined. Brief summaries are presented here of various characteristics of interest, mainly focused on demographics, family composition (for families), and household circumstances upon entering shelter. Readers wishing more in depth information are invited to look at the tables in the appendix, many of which provide more detailed results upon which these summaries are based on.

Demographics

1. Sex

Adults in sheltered families are overwhelmingly female, and about 87% of the heads of household are female. Children are about evenly split between male and female.

In contrast, among sheltered single adults, about three quarters of the population are male during the HMIS era. This is in contrast to the legacy era, when this population was about 85% male. This change reflects a growing single adult female population, while the male population has stayed steady.

2. Family Composition

Seventy-five percent of the families contain one adult, with virtually all of these households being headed by a female. In households with multiple adults, males comprise the majority of the household heads. With children, 40% of families have one child, one quarter have 2 children, about 15% have 3 children, and another 15% have more than 3 children. About one third of the children were preschool age.

3. Age

The median age of both male and female single adult populations progressively aged over the 9-year period over which data were collected. For men the median age increased from 38.0 to 42.6 between 1997 and 2005 (an increase of 4.6 years). For women, the corresponding median age increased from 36.0 to 39.2 (a 3.2-year increase).

Among families, the median age for heads of household, in contrast to the singles, gets younger over the 9 years, from 31.6 years to 29.9 years. For

children, the median age is steady at about six and a half years for the HMIS period.

4. Race

Among families, there was a steady increase in the proportion of household heads who were African American, from 56.9% to 70.9% over the 1997 to 2005 time period, with the proportion of white household heads declining somewhat, from 28.5% to 25.8%, over the three-year HMIS period. It is hard to discern, however, if this represents a trend or just a more thorough recording of race, as the gains in proportions of African American families come at the same time that the number in the "unknown" and "other" categories declined. Nonetheless, the family population was clearly disproportionately African American. About 2.5% of the families identified as being of Hispanic ethnicity.

Among singles, the sheltered population is also disproportionately African American: about 60% for men and 38% for women. Virtually the entire remaining population is White, and 4% of the men and 1.5% of the women identify as being of Hispanic ethnicity.

5. Veteran Status

About 20% of the single males were veterans, and 3.5% of both single women and adults in families were veterans.

Homelessness Precipitators

Upon entering a shelter, individuals and families were asked what factors (up to two) contributed to their homelessness. While this is an unreliable and subjective measure of what actually "caused" homelessness, the results are nonetheless provided.

Among singles, the most commonly cited factors were loss of income (30% for males and 25% for females) and substance abuse, with about one-third of all respondents listing this. Family and relationship problems, substandard housing, and relocation all got mentioned by over 10% of respondents from each sex. About 7% of women reported fleeing abuse, while virtually none of the men reported this. Non-response was also about 10% for each sex.

Among families, over half cited loss of income as a precipitator of homelessness, and one-third cited family and relationship problems. Other responses that were indicated by over 10% of all the families were substandard housing, and relocation. About 8% reported fleeing abuse.

Income Amounts and Sources

For individuals, both men and women, the average income reported in the month prior to shelter admission was around $200. This included about two-thirds of each population who reported receiving no income. In 2005, this proportion jumped to 75% who reported no income, but it is unclear if this represents a trend. Concerning income sources, about 15% of men reported employment income, while 10% of women reported such. Five to seven percent of men reported receiving either SSI or SSDI disability benefits, and this number was considerably higher, at about 15%, for women. This may indicate higher rates of disability among women. Less than 10% of both sexes reported receiving food stamps (generally not counted as income), if this is accurate this represents a very underutilized benefit.

For families, reported average income dropped from $429 in 2003 to $351 in 2004 to $301 in 2005. While the inherent inaccuracy of amounts of income reported like this puts limits on interpreting these averages, this drop can be at least partly explained by higher proportions of families coming into shelter reporting no income received. Percentages here are 41.8%, 48.1%, and 55.6% in 2003, 2004 and 2005, respectively. For 15% of families, income was received from wages. The rate of TANF receipt was around 20% and the rate of SSI or SSDI benefits ranged from 12% to 15%, suggesting high levels of disability in these families. Receipt of child support, with rates between 6% and 9%, was also an income source for a significant proportion of the families. About a third to half of the families received food stamps, a rate much higher than sheltered individuals, but if this is accurate it, like TANF, would represent an underutilized benefit.

Differences in Household Characteristics by Cluster

The first part of this chapter described how individuals and families were grouped into three clusters based on shelter utilization patterns. Not only do these clusters show differences in how shelters are used, but these groups also show some differences in individual and family characteristics that may be related to how they use shelter.

For individuals, both men and women, the only demographic difference is in age, with the long-term stayers being significantly older. This suggests that as persons age, they are at higher risk of staying in shelters for extended periods, and supports the idea that those exhibiting episodic patterns of homelessness may stay in shelters for longer periods of time as they age.

For families, long staying families had considerably higher levels of successful housing placements than the other groups, which is consistent with findings

reported earlier that staying in shelters longer increases the likelihood of exiting to stable housing. Long-staying families were also less likely to be single-parent households, and had more children (including preschool children) than their short-staying counterparts. There were not enough families designated as episodic (n=14) to draw conclusions on characteristics of this group.

Summary

This section offers a thumbnail sketch of the families and individuals using Columbus shelters. More details concerning these findings are available in the tables in the appendix to this chapter. The most noteworthy findings in this section are that the median age of single adults is increasing; and the income of families appears to be falling. Beyond that many of these findings, such as the racial and gender composition of these families and individuals, are consistent with findings from other homeless populations. Other data, such as that on income and reasons for homelessness, needs further exploration before conclusions can be drawn.

Data matches between HMIS shelter records and records from two non-HMIS shelters

The data used for this chapter comes from HMIS data that covers the emergency shelters in Columbus and Franklin County. In this section, these data are matched with data from two shelters that are not in this HMIS network and serve specific subpopulations of homeless. The first is Huckleberry House, a shelter for homeless and runaway youth. The second is CHOICES, a shelter for women who have experienced domestic violence.

The object of both of these data matches is to ascertain the extent to which persons from CHOICES and Huckleberry House also use shelters in the HMIS network, and to get an outline of the nature of this cross-over. Specifically, this would mean looking at things such as the sequencing of shelter stays; the time gap between one shelter stay and the other; and other findings that could provide insights about the overlap between these shelters.

To match these datasets, observations from the HMIS dataset were matched with observations from each of the two other shelters based on common identifiers – first and last names, social security number, sex, and date of birth, which are run through a probabilistic matching algorithm using SAS statistical software (see www.the-link-king.com). Datasets from HMIS and from the two shelters included records from 2005 through mid-2006.

This section provides an overview of the match results. The findings are presented in much greater detail in tables 19 – 26 in the appendix.

Huckleberry House

Of 1,281 records for youth who stayed at Huckleberry House, only 76 (5.9%) have a record of staying at a shelter in the HMIS database. Over half of these 76 people had gaps of a year or more between their stays in HMIS and Huckleberry House. Given these findings, there appears to be minimal overlap here and little basis for identifying or targeting at-risk persons. One noteworthy finding is that youth participating in Huckleberry House's more long-term transitional program had somewhat higher rates of subsequently entering shelters than did those in their crisis program.

CHOICES

The cross-over between CHOICES and shelters in the HMIS network was substantially higher, with 228 of 663 women (34.4%) who stayed at CHOICES also having a record of an HMIS stay. About equal numbers stayed in HMIS shelters prior to and subsequent to their CHOICES stay, with 9% staying in HMIS

shelters both before and after their CHOICES stay. Among those who left CHOICES and subsequently entered an HMIS shelter, 46.2% entered the HMIS shelter within 30 days of leaving CHOICES, and 73.1% within 6 months. Among women experiencing such a cross-over, they were more likely to be of African American race and more likely not to have any children.

In contrast to Huckleberry House, there seems to be substantial cross-over between CHOICES and HMIS shelters, most pointedly in the time period immediately following an exit from CHOICES. This data match does not go into sufficient detail to look at many more specific dynamics, but such an examination would be noteworthy, both to identify characteristics (beyond race and being unaccompanied by children) that put women at higher risk and to look at interventions, including housing, that may mitigate this high level of crossover.

Conclusion

This chapter has presented shelter utilization from a variety of perspectives. These results are highlights of the findings that are presented in greater detail in the appendix tables and figures. Nonetheless, even these highlights constitute a considerable amount of information.

The primary finding from the data on shelter utilization is that there is little to indicate that demand for shelter has been declining since 2003. For single women, the sheltered population has actually been increasing. For families, while the number of shelter users has been stable more families are staying for longer periods of time.

Looking at exits to stable housing, the percentage among single adults is relatively low, indicating that the supply of housing, including subsidized and supportive housing, still isn't sufficient to make a large impact on this population. The need for more such housing is underscored by the findings that those leaving shelter to stable housing have a significantly lower likelihood of returning to shelter.

Families are making exits to stable housing at much higher rates, and their rate of shelter return is much lower. However, such housing placements often necessitate extended stays in shelters, and greater numbers of families with longer stays has contributed to a persistent demand for family shelter.

The effectiveness of supportive housing for facilitating lasting exits from the shelter system for disabled individual adults who experience long-term homelessness will be explored further in subsequent chapters. Assuming that such housing is effective, this chapter would indicate that such housing has not been available to the extent necessary for making a significant impact on the overall shelter population.

The last two sections, covering characteristics of the sheltered population and extent of crossover with other shelters, offers a fuller portrait of the homeless population and also offers some avenues for further exploration. In particular, the aging of the single adult homeless, the decreasing income among families, and the crossover between CHOICES (the domestic violence shelter) and other shelters warrant further attention.

Appendix – Tables and Figures

**Figure 1a - Average Daily Census for Single Adult Households,
Columbus 1996-2001**

Single Adults (men)

Families (households)

Single Adults (women)

$p < 0.05$

$p < 0.001$

Year
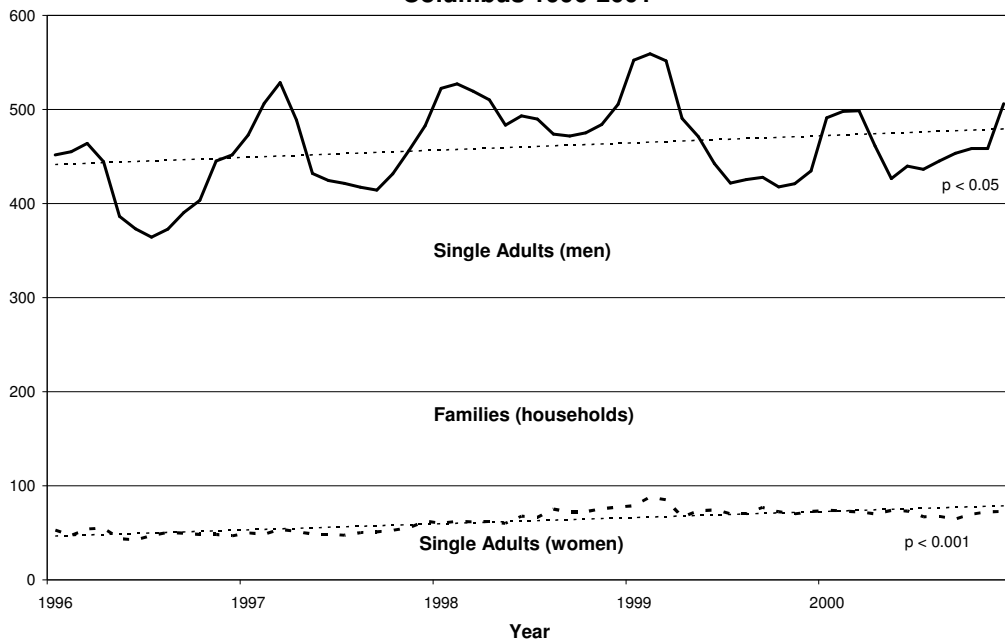
**Figure 1b - Average Daily Census for Family Households,
Columbus 1996-2001**

$p < 0.001$

Year
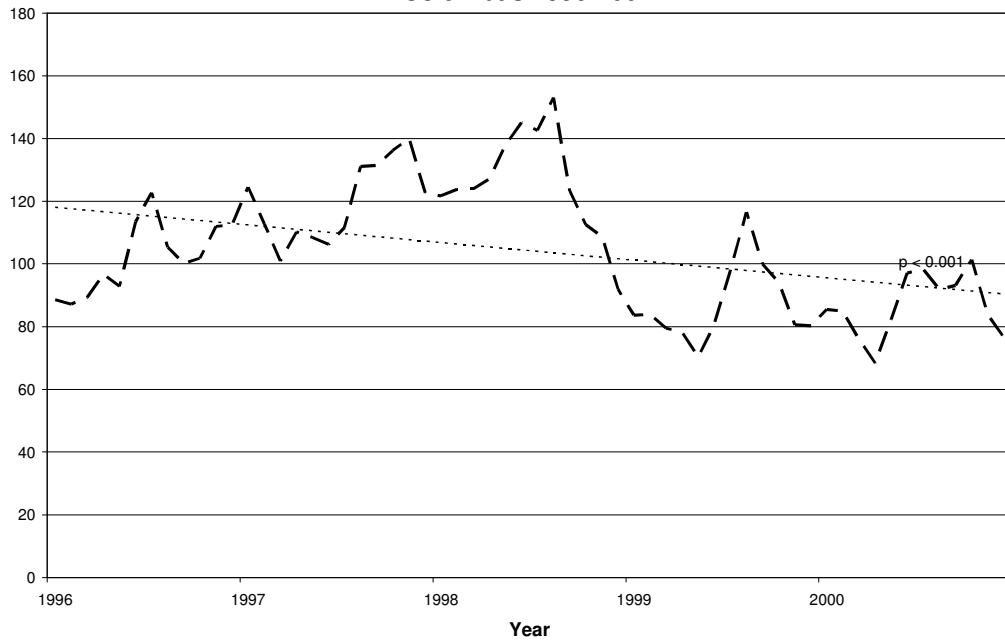
Figure 2a - Average Daily Census for Single Adult Households, Columbus Jan 2003 - June 2006

600

500

400

300

200

100

0

2003   2004   2005   2006

Single Adults (males)   p=0.736

Single Adults (females)   p = 0.001

Year
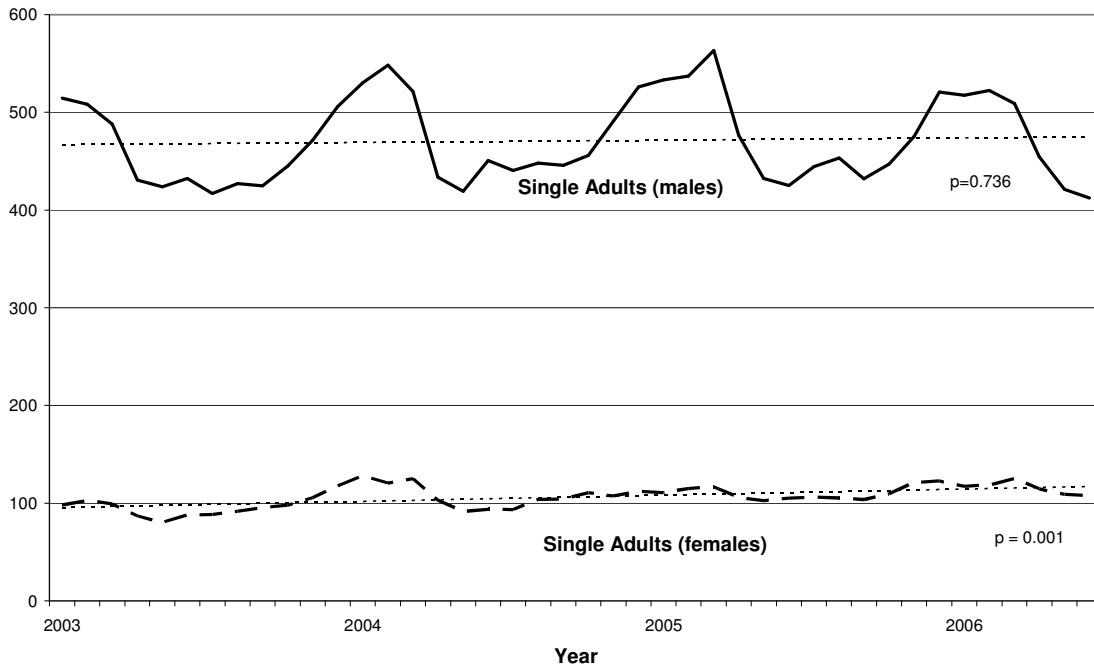
Figure 2b - Average Daily Census for Family Households, Columbus Jan 2003 - June 2006

600

500

400

300

200

100

0

2003   2004   2005   2006

Families (persons)   p<0.001

Families (households)   p=0.095

Year

\
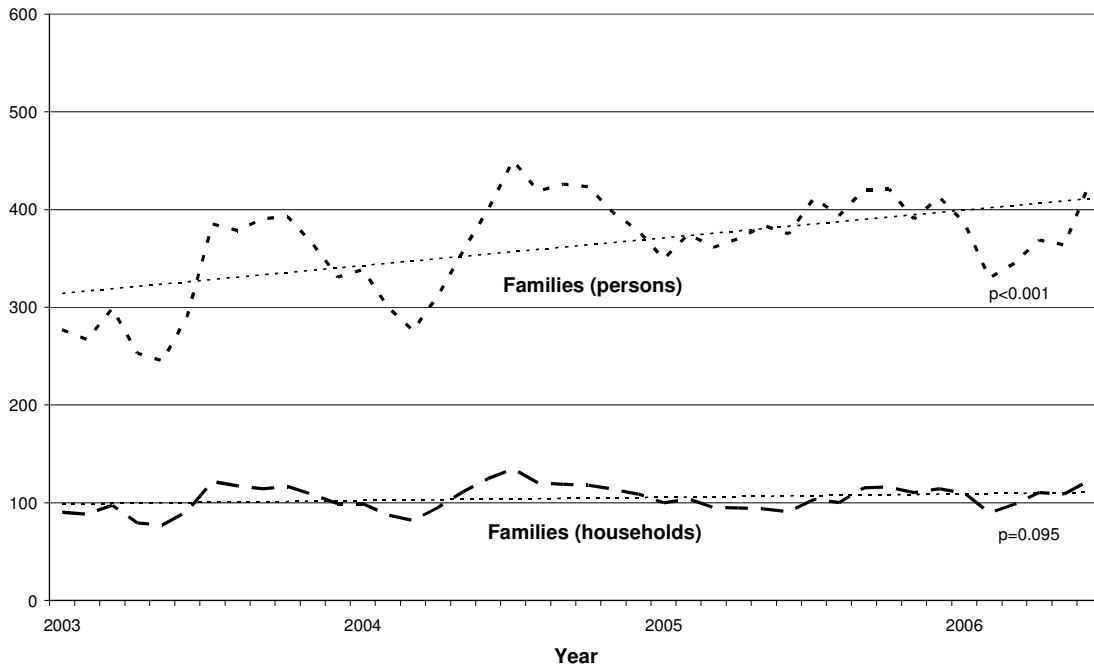
**Figure 3a - Average Daily Census for Single Adult Households,
Columbus 1996-2006**
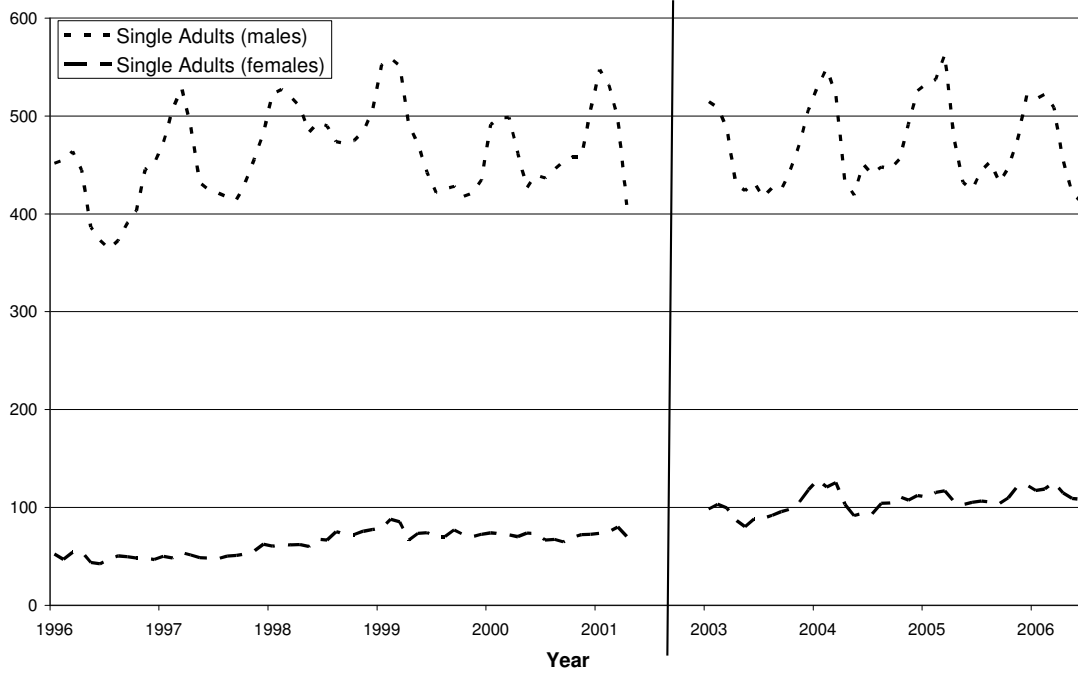
**Figure 3b - Average Daily Census for Family Households,
Columbus 1996-2006**
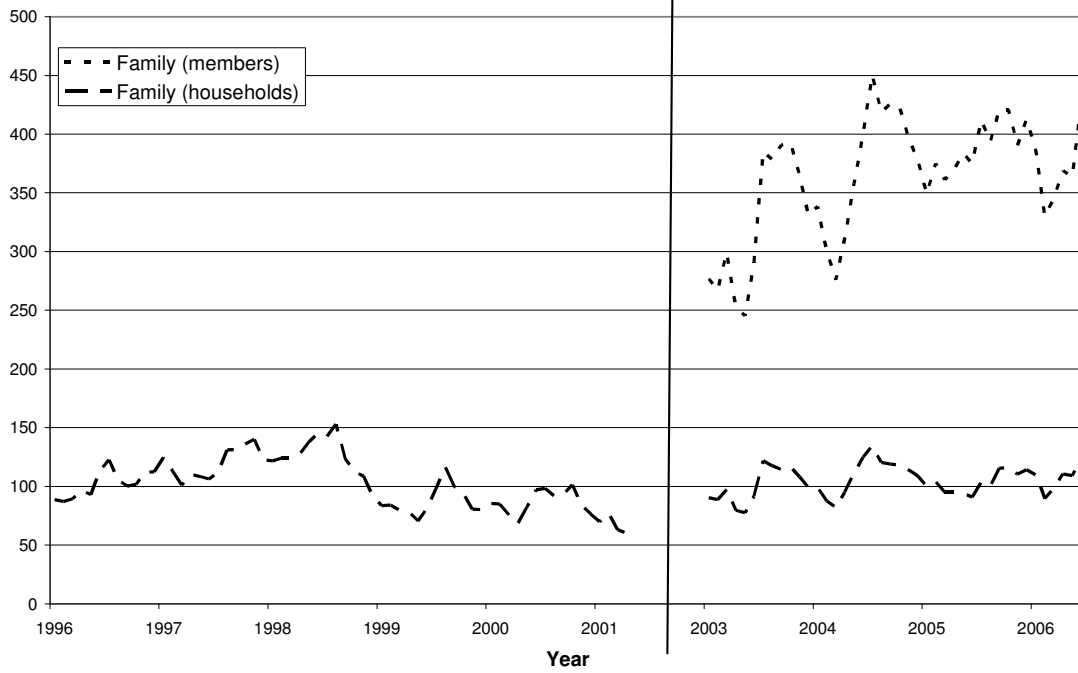
Figure 4a - Monthly Prevalence for Single Adult Households, Columbus 1995-2001

Single Adults (males)

p = 0.929

Single Adults (females)

p < 0.001

Year
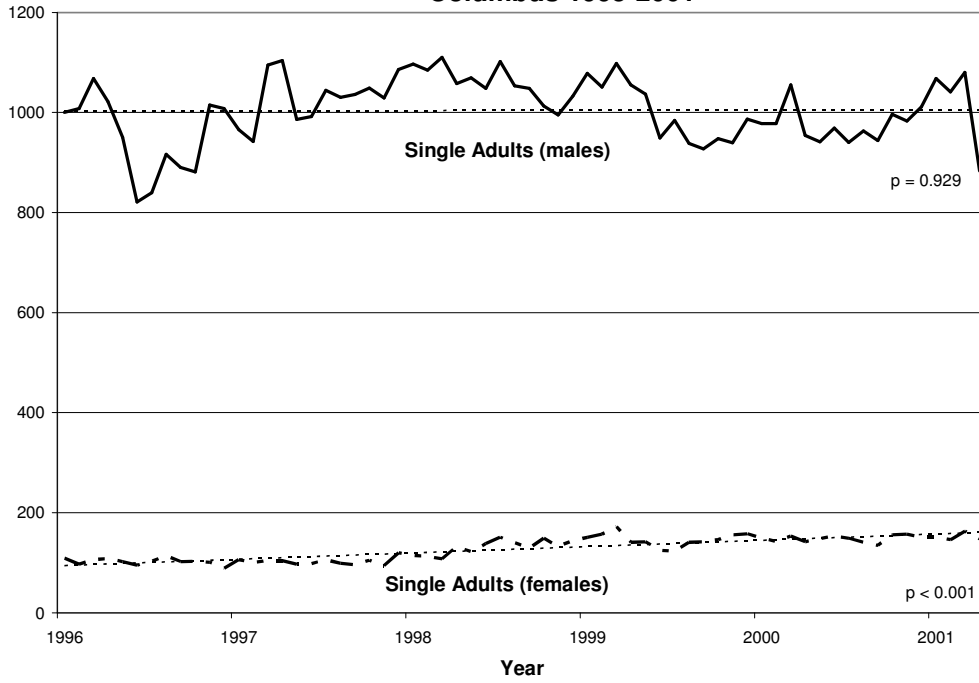
Figure 4b - Monthly Prevalence for Family Households, Columbus 1995-2001

p < 0.001

Year

\
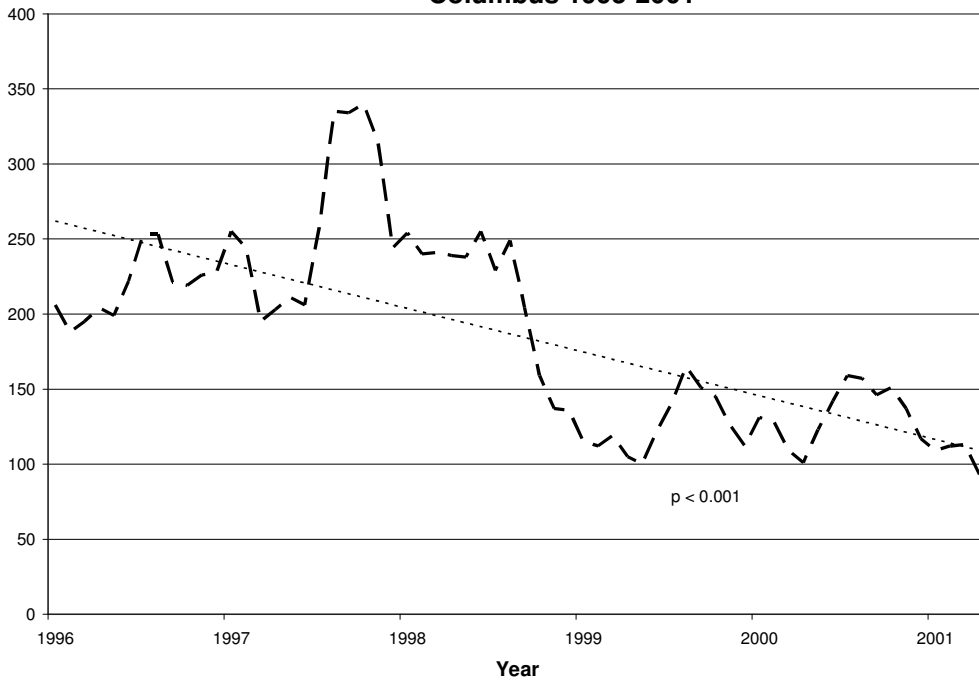
**Figure 5a - Monthly Prevalence for Single Adult Households,
Columbus Jan 2003 - June 2006**

Single Adults (male)

p = 0.982

Single Adults (female)

p = 0.001

Year
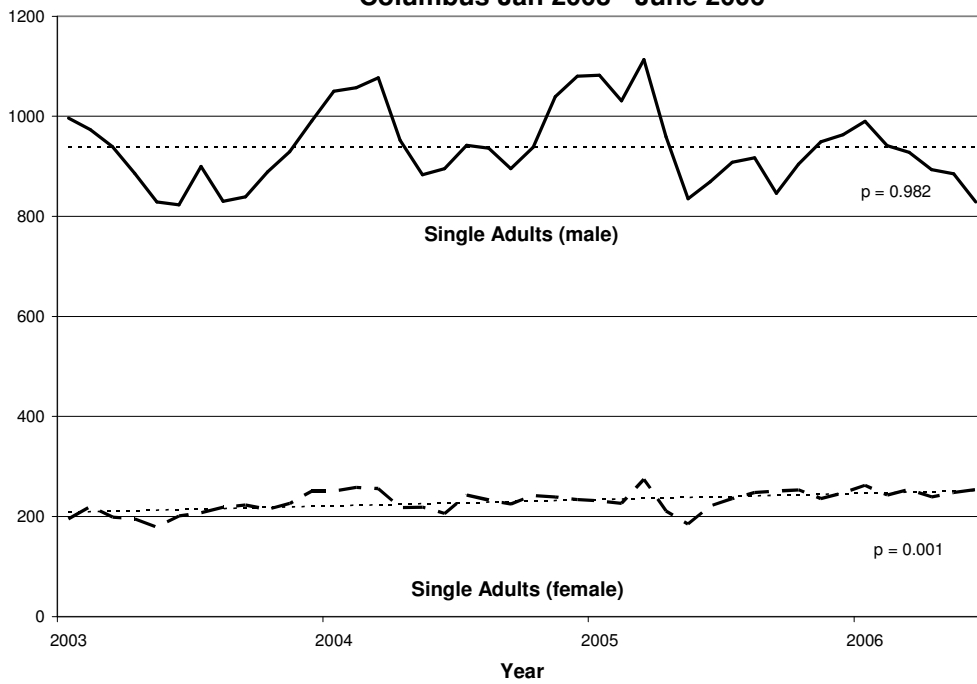
**Figure 5b - Monthly Prevalence for Family Households,
Columbus Jan 2003 - June 2006**

Families (persons)

p <0.001

Families (households)

p = 0.580

Year
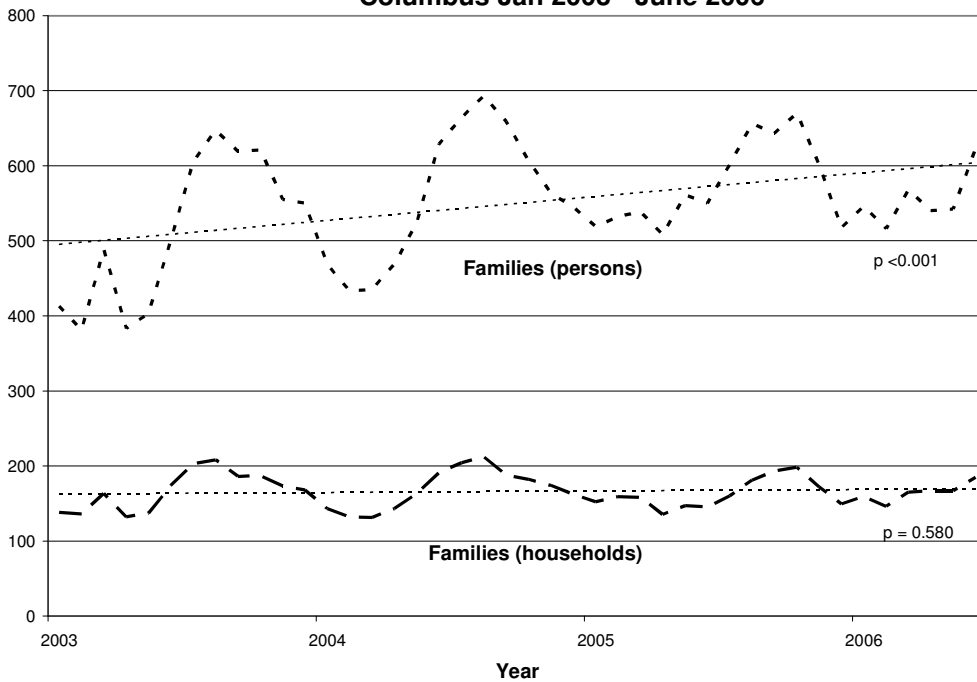
**Figure 6a - Monthly Prevalence for Single Adult Households,
Columbus 1996-2006**

Single Adults (males)
Single Adults (females)
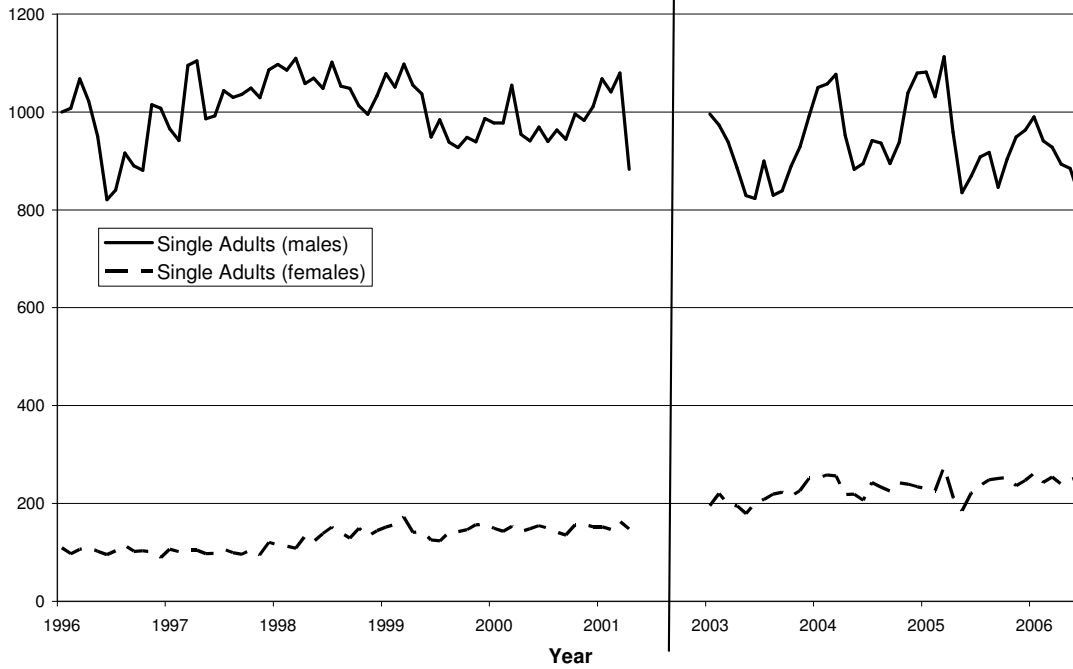
**Figure 6b - Monthly Prevalence for Family Households,
Columbus 1996-2006**

Family (households)
Family (members)
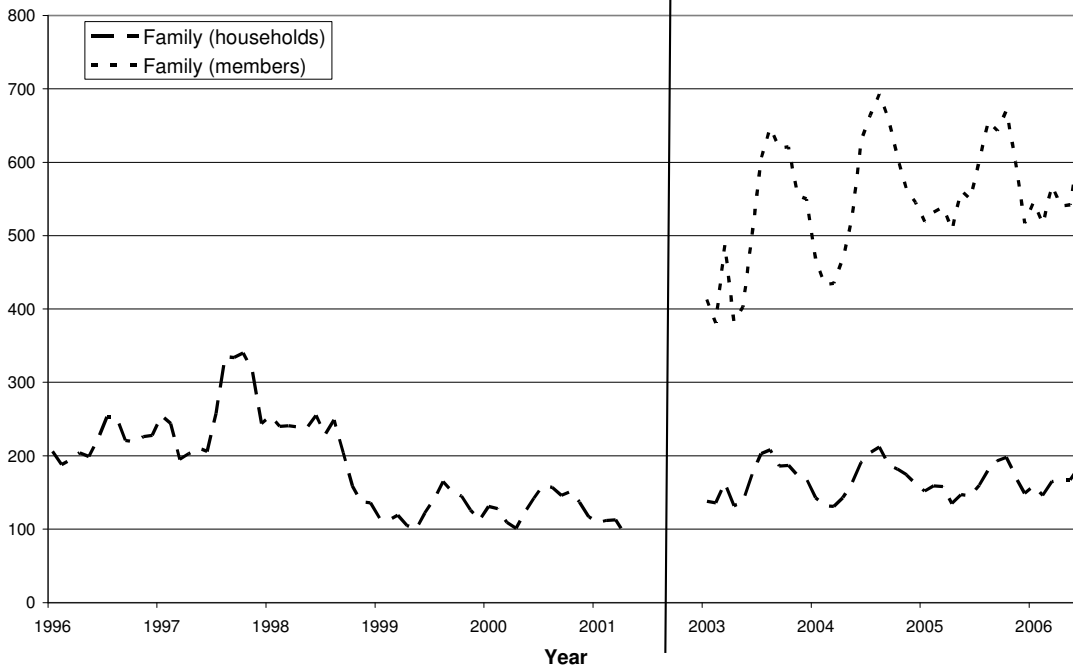
Figure 7 - Number of Shelter Episodes: Columbus 1997-2005, Single Adult & Family Households
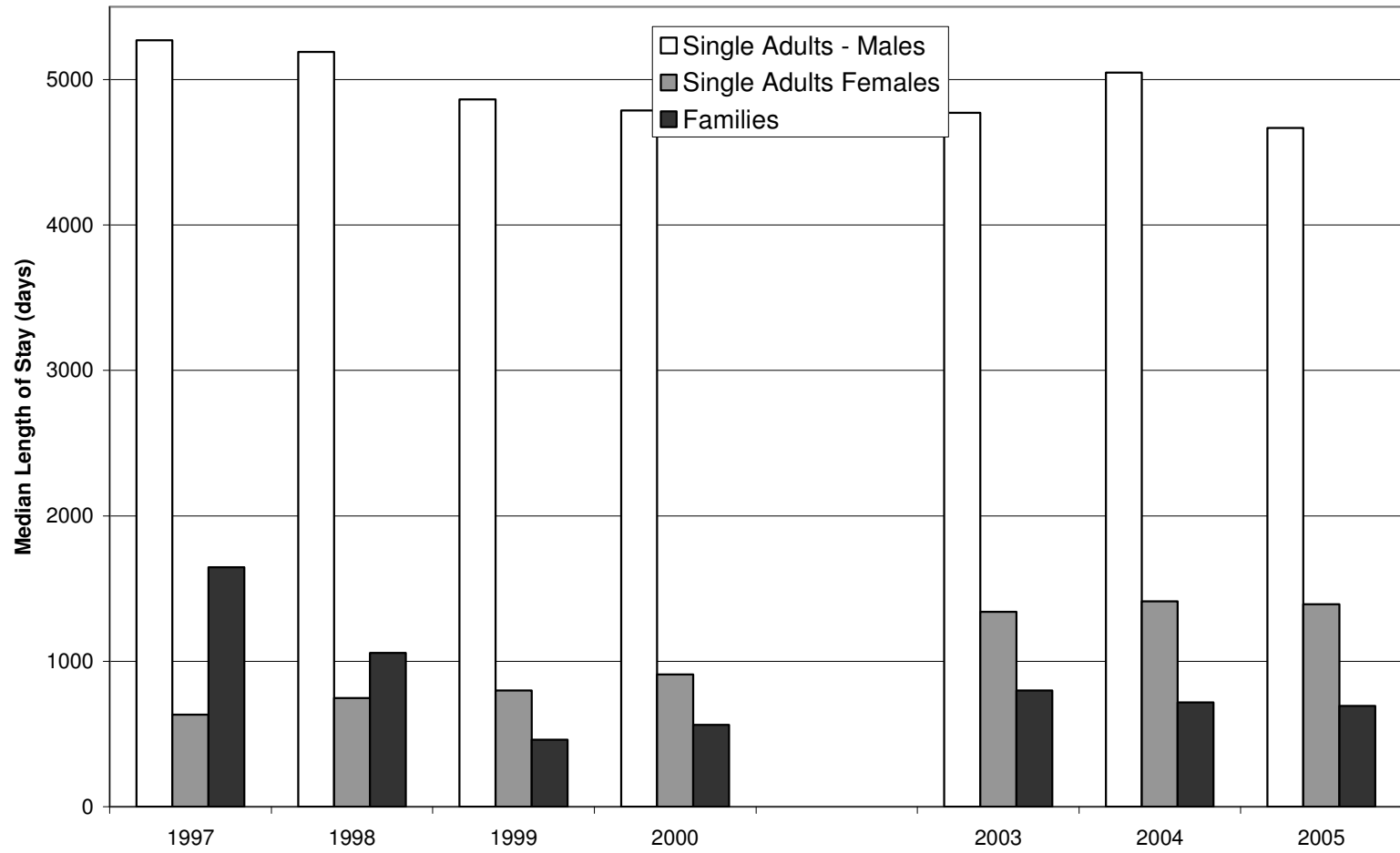
Figure 8a - Median Episode Lengths: Columbus 1997-2005, Single Adult & Family Households

Median Length of Stay (days)

Legend: ☐ Single Adults - Males, ▨ Single Adults Females, ■ Families

X-axis: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005
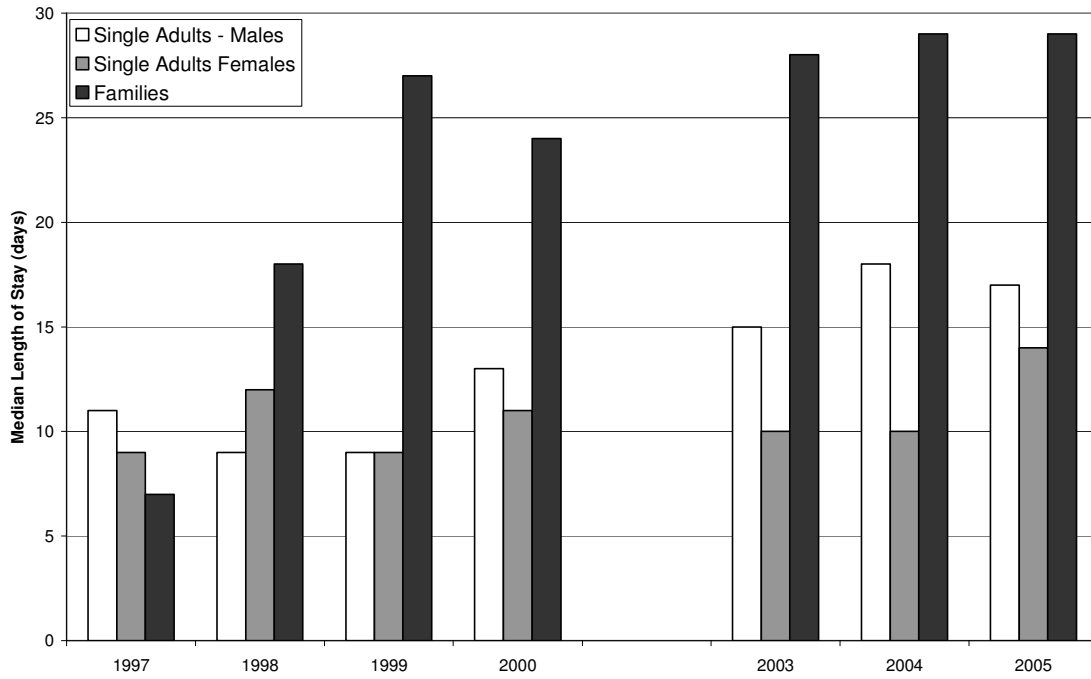
Figure 8b - 95th Percentile Episode Lengths: Columbus 1997-2005, Single Adult & Family Households

Median Length of Stay (days)

Legend: ☐ Single Adults - Males, ▨ Single Adults Females, ■ Families

X-axis: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005

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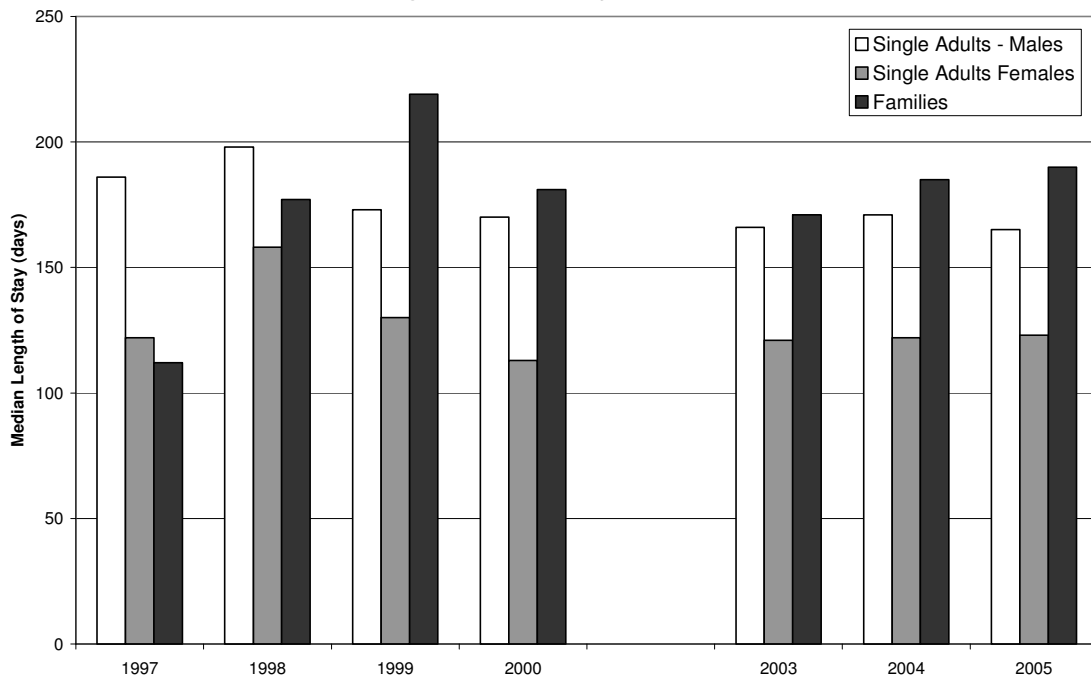
**Figure 9a - Survival Curve of Shelter Episodes -
Single Adult Male Households
Columbus, 1998-2000 & 2003-2005**

Test	Chi-Square	DF	Chi-Square
Log-Rank	20.7927	1	<.0001
Wilcoxon	102.1818	1	<.0001
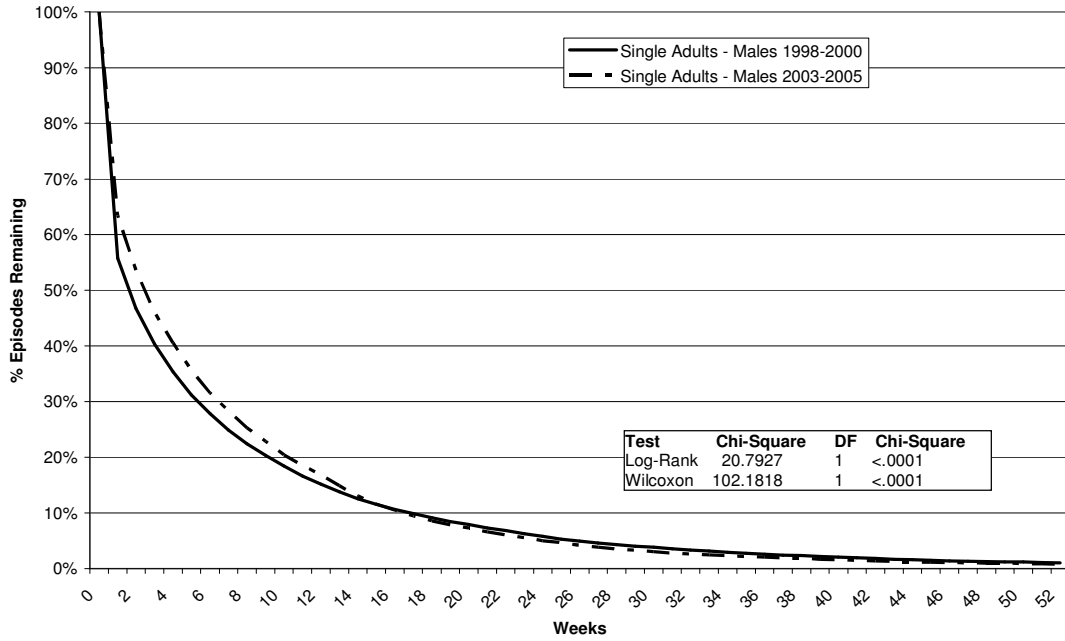
**Figure 9b - Survival Curve of Shelter Episodes -
Single Adult Female Households
Columbus, 1998-2000 & 2003-2005**

Test	Chi-Square	DF	Chi-Square
Log-Rank	1.0150	1	0.3137
Wilcoxon	1.8422	1	0.1747
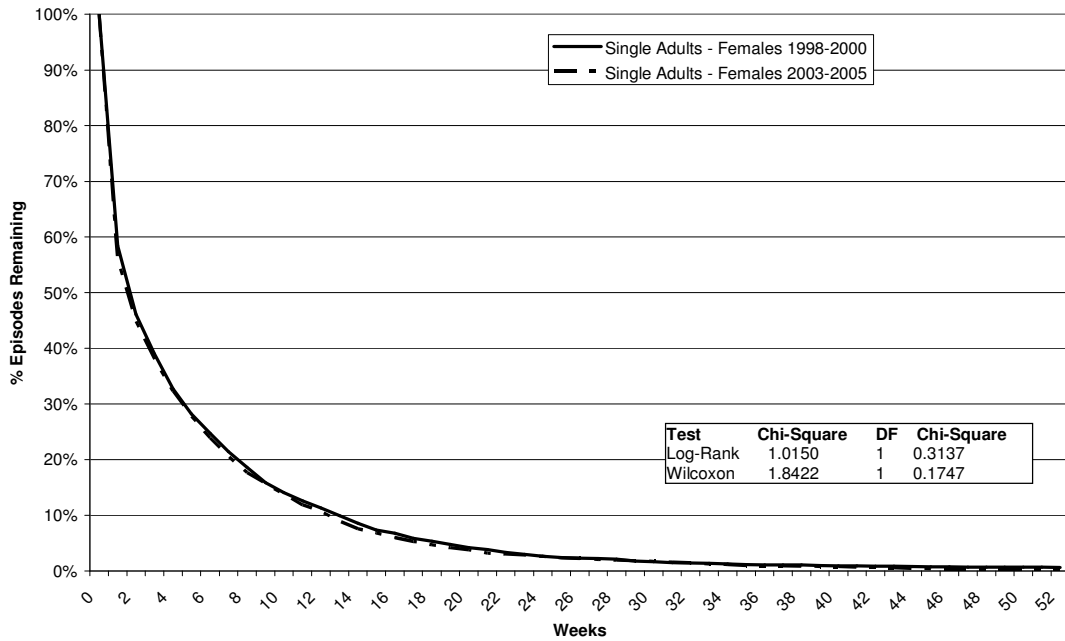
Figure 10 - Survival Curve of Shelter Episodes - Family Households
Columbus, 1998-2000 & 2003-2005

Test	Chi-Square	DF	p-value
Log-Rank	6.5478	1	0.0105
Wilcoxon	23.7923	1	<.0001

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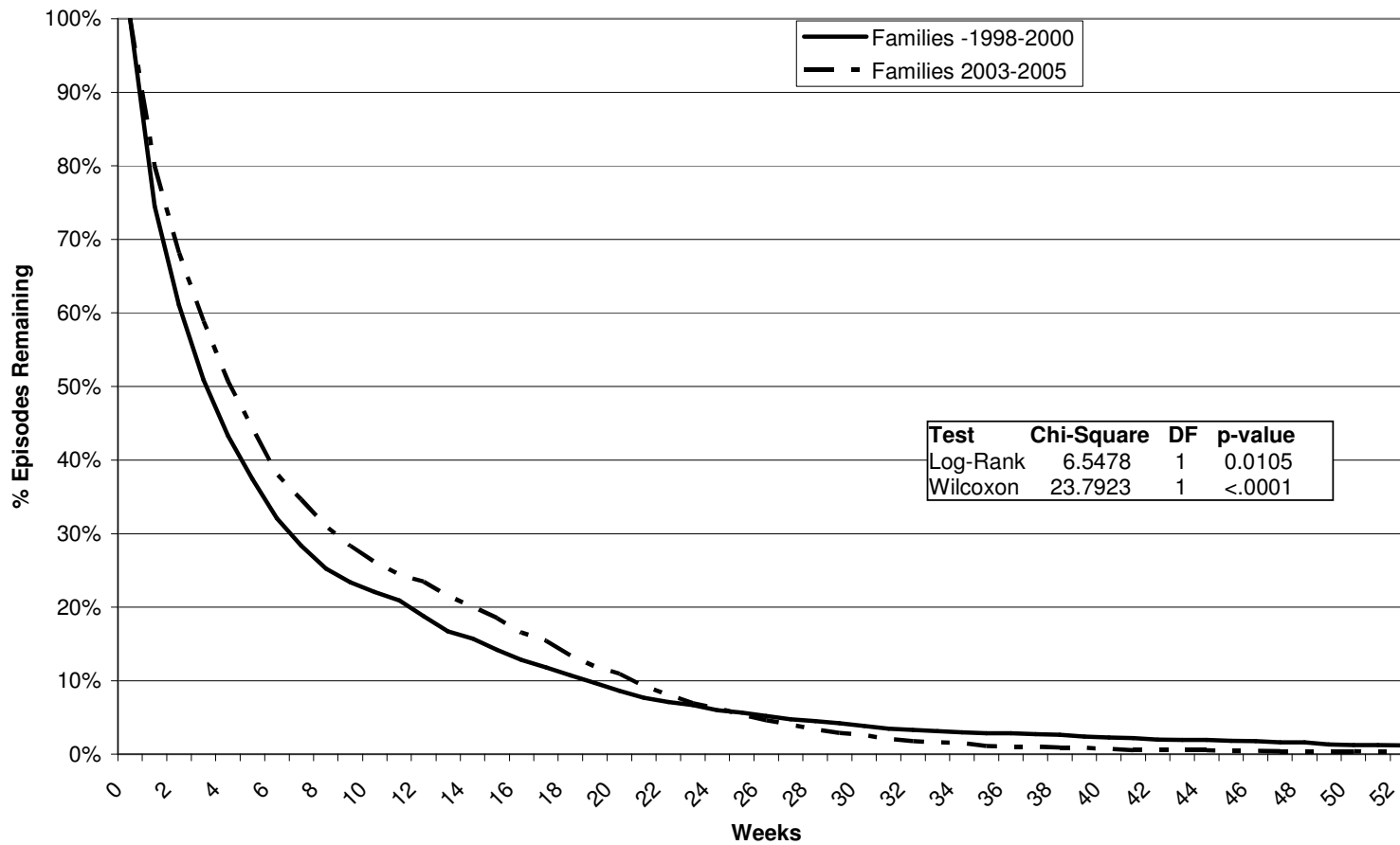
Table 1 – Shelter use dynamics between single adults who only use Maryhaven Engagement Center (MHEC) and single adults who use MHEC as well as other shelters; Columbus Ohio: 2004-2005

	Male (N=2,939)			Female (N=784)		
	MEH Only	MEH & Other Shelters	Statistic	MEH Only	MEH & Other Shelters	Statistic
Number of Persons	1,208	1,731		344	440	
Average Number of Episodes	1.39	2.26	18.1***	1.15	2.04	12.6***
Average Number of Days	15.85	104.18	25.2***	6.13	73.52	15.8***
Average Days Per Episode	9.39	53.69	20.43***	5.14	43.79	14.3***
Total Episodes Consumed	1,679	3,912		396	898	
Total Days Used	19,147	180,336		2,109	32,349	

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Table 2 – Individual Characteristics between single adults who only use Maryhaven Engagement Center (MHEC) and single adults who use MHEC as well as other shelters; Columbus Ohio: 2004-2005

	Male (N=2,939)			Female (N=784)		
	MEH Only	MEH & Other Shelters	Statistic	MEH Only	MEH & Other Shelters	Statistic
N	1,208	1,731		344	440	
	43.7	44.3	1.56	39.2	41.7	3.57***
Age (median)	(44)	(45)		(40)	(42)	
Race/Ethnicity						
Black	34.8	63.4		36.0	62.3	
Other	8.1	2.7	234.6***	2.6	2.0	53.5***
White	57.1	34.0		61.3	35.7	
Hispanic	6.9	3.2	50.9***	1.7	.7	7.11*
(not exclusive of race)						
Veteran	21.3	19.6	1.26	5.2	4.8	.11
Disabled	99.5	54.5	735.2***	99.1	57.7	192.8***
Reported wages at shelter entry	188	272	3.86***	56	62	.25
Reported benefits at shelter entry	81	68	1.46	96	200	1.14
Reported wages at shelter exit	190	282	4.48***	53	90	1.39
Reported benefits at shelter exit	76	51	3.17**	66	185	1.58
Graduated program and placed in housing	45.4	82.8	453.3***	68.3	87.3	41.76***
Exit to own housing arrangements	.6	43.9	692.2***	0.0	25.7	103.2***

Table 3 – Stay Outcomes, Returns to Shelter, "Churning"/Movement" (see RL definition) and Household Characteristics for Initial Shelter Episodes (single adult male and female and family households): 2003-2006

	Single Adults		Family Households
	Male	Female	
N	9064	3219	2069
Household Composition			
Single Adult Household			75.1%
Male Head of Household			13.2%
Children in Household			
0			3.4%
1			39.5%
2			27.9%
3+			29.2%
Age (median)	41.6 years	39.1 years	30.7 years
Race/Ethnicity			
Black	57.3%	54.6%	68.6%
Other	4.9%	3.5%	3.3%
White	37.7%	42.0%	28.0%
Hispanic (not exclusive of race)	4.6%	1.9%	2.5%
Veteran	19.1%	3.6%	3.8%
Reported wages at shelter exit	15.7%	9.0%	26.9%
Reported benefits at shelter exit	14.0%	24.7%	53.0%
Factors Precipitating Homelessness (1)			
Loss of or Inadequate Income	30.7%	24.3%	53.4%
Financial Problems	8.4%	8.2%	19.0%
Physical Health Problems	3.2%	3.8%	4.5%
Family Relationship Problems	17.3%	24.1%	34.0%
Drinking/Drugs	36.2%	30.6%	1.6%
Sub-standard Housing	17.8%	12.5%	12.9%
Mental Illness Problems	3.4%	6.7%	1.5%
Incarceration/Arrest	7.1%	2.9%	1.6%
Fleeing Abuse	0.5%	7.1%	8.3%
Relocation	11.9%	10.3%	18.8%
No information available	10.6%	12.6%	1.3%
"Churning"			
In 2 Shelters During Episode	18.0%	14.7%	28.6%
In 3 Shelters During Episode	5.9%	3.7%	0.6%
In 4 or More Shelters During Episode	2.9%	0.5%	0.0%

1 – Each individual/family was able to list up to two precipitating factors, thus percents will add up to over 100%.

Table 4 – Episodes Leading to Placements into Housing and Shelter Returns Broken Down by Year and Household Type (single adult male and female and family households): 2003-2006

	Year Left Shelter				
	2003	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**Total**
Single Male					
Exits in Year	3,484	2,512	2,035	1,033	9,064
Percent of Total Exits	38.5%	27.7%	22.4%	11.4%	100%
Exit to stable housing (1)	9.6%	13.9%	18.8%	18.9%	13.9%
Return shelter stay (within one year)	40.9%	34.1%	27.8%(2)	n/a	36.2%(2)
Length of Shelter Episode (median in days)	15	14	14	23	15
Single Female					
Exits in Year	1,041	912	820	446	3,219
Percent of Total Exits	32.3%	28.3%	25.5%	13.8%	100%
Exit to stable housing (1)	15.9%	19.1%	23.7%	22.6%	19.7%
Return shelter stay (within one year)	29.7%	22.4%	22.8%(2)	n/a	25.6%(2)
Length of Shelter Episode (median in days)	9	9	12	15	10
Family					
Exits in Year	659	568	505	337	2,069
Percent of Total Exits	31.8%	27.5%	24.4%	16.3%	100%
Exit to stable housing (1)	50.2%	57.4%	55.3%	56.1%	54.4%
Return shelter stay (within one year)	10.5%	9.5%	9.2%	n/a	9.8%
Length of Shelter Episode (median in days)	28	30	29	45	32

1 – Stable housing refers to exits to housing arrangements where the person or family has a long-term, formal living arrangement, usually involving a lease and often a housing subsidy.
2 – Only includes stays ending before June 30, 1996, so as to have a year of opportunity to return to shelter.

Table 5 – Multivariate Logistic Regression Model Estimating the Likelihood of "Graduating" from a Shelter and Being Placed into Subsidized Housing, by Household Type (single adult male and female and family households): 2003-2006

| | Single Adults | | | | Families | |
| | Males | | Females | | | |
Variable	Odds Ratio		Odds Ratio		Odds Ratio	
Shelter Episode Length(logged days) (2)	1.9	***	2.1	***	2.6	***
Year Shelter Episode Ends						
2003	ref. cat.		Ref. cat.		ref. cat.	
2004	1.7	***	1.1		1.6	**
2005	2.6	***	1.1		1.5	**
2006	1.4	**	0.7	*	0.9	
Household Composition						
Number of Adults in Household					1.2	
Number of Children in Household					1.1	**
Male Head of Household					0.7	
Age	1.0		1.01	*	1.02	*
Race/Ethnicity						
Black	0.8	**	0.8	*	1.7	***
Other	0.7		0.7		1.2	
White	ref. cat.		Ref. cat.		ref. cat.	
Hispanic (not exclusive of race)	0.8		1.0		0.7	
Veteran	1.5	***	1.2		1.2	
Income						
Reported wages at shelter exit	4.0	***	3.5	***	7.1	***
Reported benefits at shelter exit	3.7	***	2.1	***	3.0	***
Factors Precipitating Homelessness						
Inadequate Income	1.2	*	0.8	*	0.8	
Drinking/Drugs	2.1	***	0.9		0.6	
Incarceration/Arrest	1.4	*	1.4		0.6	
Churning						
In 2 Shelters During Episode	0.7	***	0.5	***	0.6	**
In 3 Shelters During Episode	0.4	***	0.6	*	0.2	**
In 4+ Shelters During Episode	0.3	***	1.1			

Exits from Maryhaven Engagement Shelter were omitted in this analysis due to coding problems in relation to data on exit dispositions.

*** - p<.001; ** - p<.01; * - p<.05

"ref. cat." refers to reference category.

1 – Stable housing refers to exits to housing arrangements where the person or family has a long-term, formal living arrangement, usually involving a lease and often a housing subsidy.

2 – Length of shelter episodes are measured in logged days. Logged values are taken in order to take into account the skewed nature of the distribution of this covariate.

Table 6 – Multivariate Cox Regression Model Estimating the Likelihood of Returning to Shelter (within one year) after leaving a Shelter Episode, by Household Type (single adult male and female and family households): 2003-2006

| Variable | Single Adults | | Families |
| | Males | Females | |
	Hazard Ratio	Hazard Ratio	Hazard Ratio
Shelter Episode Length(logged days) (1)	1.1 ***	1.1 **	1.0
Year Shelter Episode Ends			
2003	ref. cat.	ref. cat.	ref. cat.
2004	0.9	0.7 ***	0.9
2005	0.7 ***	0.7 ***	0.8
2006	0.3 ***	0.5 ***	0.5
Household Composition			
Number of Adults in Household			1.6 *
Number of Children in Household			1.1
Male Head of Household			0.9
Age	1.0	1.0	1.0
Race/Ethnicity			
Black	1.4 ***	1.2	1.0
Other	0.9	0.8	0.1 *
White	ref. cat.	ref. cat.	ref. cat.
Hispanic (not exclusive of race)	0.6 *	0.4	2.9
Veteran	1.0	0.8	0.7
Income			
Reported wages at shelter exit	1.1	0.8	1.2
Reported benefits at shelter exit	1.0	1.1	0.8
Factors Precipitating Homelessness			
Financial Crisis	1.0	1.4 *	1.2
Mental Illness	0.7 *	0.8	1.0
Incarceration/Arrest	0.9	1.7 *	1.4
Relocation	0.7 ***	0.8	0.4 **
Churning			
In 2 Shelters During Episode	1.3 ***	1.7 ***	1.7 *
In 3 Shelters During Episode	1.5 ***	2.0 ***	2.3
In 4+ Shelters During Episode	2.0 ***	2.5 *	
Exit to Stable Housing(2)	0.7 ***	0.4 ***	0.7 *

Exits from Maryhaven Engagement Shelter were omitted in this analysis due to coding problems in relation to data on exit dispositions.

*** - p<.001; ** - p<.01; * - p<.05

"ref. cat." refers to reference category.

Length of shelter episodes are measured in logged days. Logged values are taken in order to take into account the skewed nature of the distribution of this covariate.

1 – Length of shelter episodes are measured in logged days. Logged values are taken in order to take into account the skewed nature of the distribution of this covariate.

2 – Stable housing refers to exits to housing arrangements where the person or family has a long-term, formal living arrangement, usually involving a lease and often a housing subsidy.

Table 7 – Comparison of Episode Length and Other Shelter Dynamics by Family Size

Adults in Household

	One Adult	Two Adults	More Than Two Adults	Total
Number of Exits	1553	498	18	2069
Percent of Total	75.1%	24.1%	0.8%	100%
Exit to stable housing (1)	52.7%	58.8%	72.2%	58.8%
Return shelter stay (within one year) (2)	8.8%	12.7%	41.6%	10.0%
Length of Shelter Episode (median in days)	31	34	39	32
"Churning"				
In 2 Shelters During Episode	23.7%	24.7%	33.3%	28.6%
In 3 Shelters During Episode	0.8%	1.0%	0%	0.6%

Children in Household

	No Children	One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children	Five or More Children	Total
Number of Exits	70	818	578	319	175	109	2069
Percent of Total	3.4%	39.5%	27.9%	15.4%	8.5%	5.3%	100%
Exit to stable housing (1)	24.3%	51.1%	58.1%	56.4%	57.1%	67.9%	58.8%
Return shelter stay (within one year) (2)	1.6%	10.0%	10.3%	9.2%	12.9%	12.0%	10.0%
Length of Shelter Episode (median in days)	16	30	35	33	30	40	32
"Churning"							
In 2 Shelters During Episode	11.4%	29.2%	33.4%	26.3%	21.1%	27.5%	28.6%
In 3 Shelters During Episode	0.0%	0.6%	0.2%	1.3%	1.1%	0.0%	0.6%

1 – Stable housing refers to exits to housing arrangements where the person or family has a long-term, formal living arrangement, usually involving a lease and often a housing subsidy.
2 – Only includes stays ending before June 30, 1996, so as to have a year of opportunity to return to shelter.

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Section III – Individual household characteristics
Summary: this section provides data on basic characteristics, and how they change over time, for sheltered households. This gives a sketch of the composition of the sheltered population, broken down by single adult (male and female) and family households.

Table 8 – Demographic Characteristics (Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Age) for Annual Prevalence Populations of Sheltered Single Adult Households (by sex): 1997-2005

	Single Adults - Male	Single Adults - Female
N (percent of combined male & female populations)		
1997	4159 (87.2%)	610
1998	4297 (86.4%)	678
1999	4063 (85.3%)	702
2000	3795 (83.2%)	767
2003	3754 (77.0%)	1122
2004	4025 (76.8%)	1218
2005	3885 (76.2%)	1211
Median Age (years)		
1997	38.0	36.0
1998	38.4	36.9
1999	39.3	37.3
2000	40.2	36.6
2003	41.3	38.0
2004	41.8	38.9
2005	42.6	39.2
Race - % African/American		
1997	59.0%	57.3%
1998	60.6%	57.3%
1999	60.5%	58.4%
2000	58.5%	59.4%
2003	60.0%	56.7%
2004	59.3%	57.1%
2005	60.3%	56.8%
Race - % White		
1997	36.8%	40.6%
1998	35.5%	38.8%
1999	34.7%	38.3%
2000	36.5%	36.6%
2003	35.2%	40.0%
2004	36.5%	39.5%
2005	36.0%	40.5%
Ethnicity - % Hispanic		
2003	3.9%	2.1%
2004	4.1%	1.4%
2005	3.8%	1.7%

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Section III – Individual household characteristics

Table 9 - Demographic Characteristics (Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Age) for Annual Prevalence Populations of Sheltered Family Households: 1997-2005

	Head of Household	Adult Family Members	Child Family Members
N (percent of population that is male)			
1997	1,563 (13.4%)		
1998	1,091 (14.4%)		
1999	533 (18.0%)		
2000	621 (17.1%)		
2003	747 (12.5%)	935 (23.2%)	1,577 (49.8%)
2004	717 (12.8%)	922 (25.2%)	1,558 (51.4%)
2005	705 (14.5%)	914 (25.1%)	1,582 (50.3%)
Median Age (years)			
1997	31.6		
1998	31.7		
1999	30.8		
2000	31.3		
2003	30.3	30.4	6.6
2004	30.7	31.0	6.5
2005	29.9	30.3	6.4
Race - % African/American			
1997	56.9%		
1998	65.9%		
1999	65.7%		
2000	64.4%		
2003	67.9%	66.6%	75.0%
2004	69.2%	67.1%	73.1%
2005	70.9%	69.2%	75.5%
Race - % White			
1997	26.6%		
1998	28.9%		
1999	29.8%		
2000	27.4%		
2003	28.5%	29.6%	21.1%
2004	26.4%	28.5%	21.2%
2005	25.8%	27.2%	20.2%
Ethnicity - % Hispanic			
2003	1.9%	2.3%	2.4%
2004	2.8%	2.9%	4.6%
2005	2.7%	2.7%	3.5%

Table 10a – Key Household Characteristics (income amount, income source, employment, precipitating crisis) for Annual Prevalence Populations of Single Males in Columbus Shelters: 2003-2005

	2003	2004	2005
Monthly Household Income at Intake (average)	$173	$237	$197
Income Source at Intake			
Employment Income	17.8%	17.7%%	14.2%
Social Security	2.1%	2.7%%	2.7%
Food Stamps	0.8%	2.5%%	2.2%
SSI	4.2%	5.9%%	5.4%
SSDI	1.3%	2.2%%	2.2%
Veterans Administration Benefits	1.1%	1.7%%	1.7%
Unemployment Benefits	0.8%	0.6%%	0.4%
Other Income Source	13.5%	3.9%%	2.3%
No Income (excluding food stamps)	65.2%	68.5%	74.4%
Factors Precipitating Homelessness (1)			
Loss of or Inadequate Income	25.7%	36.8%	28.5%
Financial Problems	4.1%	10.3%	9.6%
Physical Health Problems	2.1%	3.3%	3.0%
Family Relationship Problems	13.0%	20.1%	17.8%
Drinking/Drugs	33.6%	36.8%	44.0%
Sub-standard Housing	16.5%	17.9%	30.1%
Mental Illness Problems	2.6%	4.2%	3.6%
Incarceration/Arrest	5.8%	8.9%	7.4%
Fleeing Abuse	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Relocation	8.2%	12.6%	9.1%
No information available	26.9%	0.6%	0.5%

1 – Each individual/family was able to list up to six income sources, thus percents will add up to over 100%.
2 – Each individual/family was able to list up to two precipitating factors, thus percents will add up to over 100%.

Table 10b – Key Household Characteristics (income amount, income source, employment, precipitating crisis) for Annual Prevalence Populations of Single Females in Columbus Shelters: 2003-2005

	2003	2004	2005
Monthly Household Income at Intake (average)	$156	$186	$201
Income Source at Intake			
Employment Income	11.6%	9.9%	7.8%
Social Security	2.7%	3.8%	3.8%
Food Stamps	4.2%	7.6%	10.2%
SSI	11.6%	12.6%	13.8%
SSDI	3.0%	4.2%	3.4%
Veterans Administration Benefits	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%
Unemployment Benefits	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%
Other Income Source	8.7%	5.4%	5.0%
No Income (excluding food stamps)	67.2%	69.3%	69.1%
Factors Precipitating Homelessness (1)			
Loss of or Inadequate Income	18.0%	31.0%	24.3%
Financial Problems	5.4%	9.4%	9.3%
Physical Health Problems	2.4%	5.7%	5.2%
Family Relationship Problems	17.8%	26.3%	24.7%
Drinking/Drugs	24.2%	30.4%	36.5%
Sub-standard Housing	5.2%	11.3%	19.6%
Mental Illness Problems	5.7%	8.6%	8.3%
Incarceration/Arrest	1.6%	4.7%	3.5%
Fleeing Abuse	5.1%	8.9%	7.4%
Relocation	7.0%	11.7%	11.0%
No information available	36.8%	1.0%	0.1%

1 – Each individual/family was able to list up to six income sources, thus percents will add up to over 100%.
2 – Each individual/family was able to list up to two precipitating factors, thus percents will add up to over 100%.

Table 10c – Other Key Household Characteristics (income amount, income source, employment, precipitating crisis, family size & number of children) for Annual Prevalence Populations of Family Households: 2003-2005

	2003	2004	2005
Monthly Household Income at Intake (average)	$429	$351	$301
Income Source at Intake			
Employment Income	19.0%	13.0%	15.5%
Social Security	2.5%	2.3%	2.0%
Food Stamps	36.7%	49.4%	47.5%
Child Support	9.4%	7.8%	6.2%
TANF	22.0%	23.6%	16.5%
SSI	12.5%	10.2%	8.7%
SSDI	3.0%	1.3%	1.7%
Unemployment Benefits	1.9%	1.3%	1.4%
No Income (excluding food stamps)	41.8%	48.1%	55.6%
Factors Precipitating Homelessness (1)			
Loss of or Inadequate Income	42.8	54.8	57.5
Financial Problems	24.0	19.3	16.7
Physical Health Problems	4.3	2.8	5.3
Family Relationship Problems	31.5	32.4	35.6
Drinking/Drugs	1.2	1.1	1.6
Sub-standard Housing	16.2	13.4	14.8
Mental Illness Problems	0.9	1.1	1.6
Incarceration/Arrest	2.3	1.0	1.1
Fleeing Abuse	10.8	8.0	6.0
Relocation	18.1	17.6	18.6
No information available	2.9	0.7	0.1
Family Size (average)	3.4	3.4	3.5
Number of Children in Family (average)	2.1	2.1	2.2

1 – Each individual/family was able to list up to six income sources, thus percents will add up to over 100%.
2 – Each individual/family was able to list up to two precipitating factors, thus percents will add up to over 100%.

Table 11 – Cluster Statistics of Shelter Stay Patterns for Families Entering the Shelter System in 1996 through 1998.

	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Families	2,545	71	95	2,711
Average Number of Episodes	1.1	3.4	1.3	1.2
Average Number of Days	26.3	86.3	342.7	39.0
Average Days Per Episode	24.0	25.1	263.6	325.0
Total Episodes Consumed	2,800	241	124	3,253
Total Days Used	66,934	6,056	32,557	105,729
Percentage of Total Families	93.9	2.6	3.5	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	64.4	5.7	30.8	100

Table 12 – Cluster Statistics of Shelter Stay Patterns for Single Adults (by sex) Entering the Shelter System in 1996 through 1998.

Males

	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Persons	4,940	734	336	6,010
Average Number of Episodes	1.2	3.8	2.4	1.6
Average Number of Days	20.2	70.3	311.9	42.6
Average Days Per Episode	16.8	18.5	129.9	26.6
Total Episodes Consumed	5,928	2,789	806	9,616
Total Days Used	99,788	51,600	164,798	256,026
Percentage of Total Persons	82.2	12.2	5.6	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	39.0	20.0	41.0	100

Females

	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Persons	1,377	100	69	1,546
Average Number of Episodes	1.1	3.8	2.0	1.4
Average Number of Days	25.6	77.4	299.4	40.8
Average Days Per Episode	22.8	20.4	149.7	29.1
Total Episodes Consumed	1,515	380	138	2,164
Total Days Used	34,562	7,740	20,659	63,077
Percentage of Total Persons	89.1	6.5	4.5	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	54.8	12.3	32.8	100

Table 13 – Cluster Statistics of Shelter Stay Patterns for Families Entering the Shelter System in 7/03 to 6/04.

	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Families	521	14	139	674
Average Number of Episodes	1.08	3.14	1.27	1.2
Average Number of Days	30.32	148.43	178.00	63.2
Average Days Per Episode	28.07	47.27	140.15	52.7
Total Episodes Consumed	563	44	176	783
Total Days Used	15,797	2,078	24,742	42,617
Percentage of Total Families	77.3	2.1	20.6	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	37.1	4.9	58.0	100

Table 14 – Cluster Statistics of Shelter Stay Patterns for Single Adults (by sex) Entering the Shelter System in 7/03 to 6/04.

Males

	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Persons	2,418	516	214	3,148
Average Number of Episodes	1.24	3.84	2.53	1.76
Average Number of Days	28.5	80.9	307.5	56.0
Average Days Per Episode	15.8	10.2	40.5	17.5
Total Episodes Consumed	4,352	4,076	1,626	10,073
Total Days Used	68,913	41,744	65,805	176,288
Percentage of Total Families	76.8	16.4	6.8	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	39.1	23.7	37.3	100

Females

	Transitional	Episodic	Long-stay	Total
Number of Persons	361	73	30	464
Average Number of Episodes	1.23	3.66	2.93	1.72
Average Number of Days	30.5	71.2	305.6	54.7
Average Days Per Episode	16.0	10.6	41.3	18.2
Total Episodes Consumed	686	489	222	1389
Total Days Used	11,010	5,198	9,168	25,326
Percentage of Total Families	77.8	15.7	6.5	100
Percentage of Total Days Used	43.5	20.5	36.2	100

Table 15 –Characteristics, by Cluster, for Families Entering the Shelter System in 1996 through 1998: Families

	Transitional n=2,545	Episodic n=71	Long-stay n=95	Test Statistics	Total n=2,711
Race (%)					
Black	63.2	70.4	57.3	5.9*	57.9
Hispanic	2.1	1.4	1.6	.18	1.6
White/Other	34.7	28.2	41.1	6.1*	40.5
Sex (%)					
Female	87.4	93.0	84.6	4.2	85.0
Age (mean years)	29.2	31.0	29.8	.7	29.8

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Table 16 – Characteristics, by Cluster, for Single Adults (by sex) Entering the Shelter System in 1996 through 1998

Males

	Transitional n=4,904	Episodic n=734	Long-stay n=336	Test Statistics	Total n=6,010
Race (%)					
Black	36.4	51.2	69.3	185***	48.1
Hispanic	3.6	1.4	.9	16.2***	3.2
White/Other	60.0	47.4	29.8	146***	56.8
Age (mean years)	36.5	35.7	38.6	4.3*	36.5

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Females

	Transitional n=1,377	Episodic n=100	Long-stay n=69	Test Statistics	Total n=1,546
Race (%)					
Black	54.8	64.0	71.0	9.7***	56.1
Hispanic	1.0	3.0	0.0	4.1	1.1
White/Other	42.2	33.0	29.0	10.4***	42.8
Age (mean years)	33.8	32.8	34.6	.32	33.8

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Table 17 – Characteristics and Outcomes, by Cluster, for Families Entering the Shelter System in 7/03 through 6/04.

	Transitional N=521	Episodic N=14	Long-stay N=139	Test Statistics	Total N=674
Success outcome	48.3	71.4	87.0	67.10***	57.0
Employed Member (%)	18.4	14.3	12.9	2.39	17.2
Average Monthly Household Income at Intake	406.8	402.1	316.8	1.75	388.1
Average Monthly Household Income at Exit	480.2	621.2	616.7	2.65	511.3
Veteran	5.6	14.3	2.9	4.01	5.2
Family Composition					
Adults					
1 adult	72.4	57.1	65.9		70.7
2 adults	22.7	28.6	32.6	11.54*	24.9
3+ adults	4.9	14.3	1.4		4.4
Children					
0 children	9.8	0.0	2.2		8.0
1 child	37.4	28.6	36.0	13.20*	36.9
2 children	25.1	35.7	33.8		27.2
3+ children	27.6	35.7	28.1		27.9
Preschool Children (<5)	34.7	35.7	46.8	6.80*	37.2
Head of Household					
Race (%)					
Black	68.6	78.6	71.0	.86	69.3
Hispanic	2.2	0.0	1.4	.92	2.0
Other	31.3	21.4	29.0	.86	30.7
Sex (%)					
Female	86.9	57.1	88.4	10.89**	86.6
Age (mean yrs)	35.7	37.4	33.8	3.02*	35.3

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Table 18 – Characteristics and Outcomes, by Cluster, for Single Adults Entering the Shelter System in 7/03 through 6/04

Male

	Transitional n=2,418	Episodic n=516	Long-stay n=214	Test Statistics	Total n=3,148
Success outcome	12.9%	12.9%	11.9%	ns	12.9%
Employed Heads of Household (%)	12.2%	12.0%	10.3%	ns	12.0%
Monthly Income at Intake	118.1	120.4	110.1	ns	117.9
Veteran	22.2%	20.0%	23.3%	ns	21.9%
Race (%)					
Black	53.2%	56.4%	52.8%	ns	53.7%
Hispanic	2.4%	2.1%	3.7%	ns	2.4%
Other	44.5%	41.5%	43.5%	ns	43.9%
Age (mean years)	41.8	36.8	42.8	*	41.1

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Female

	Transitional n=361	Episodic n=73	Long-stay n=30	Test Statistics	Total n=464
Success outcome	11.1%	9.6%	10.0%	ns	10.8%
Employed Heads of Household (%)	5.8%	8.2%	13.3%	ns	6.7%
Monthly Income at Intake	160.2	211.2	147.8	ns	167.4
Veteran	5.0%	2.8%	0.0%	ns	4.3%
Race (%)					
Black	52.6%	64.4%	53.3%	ns	54.5%
Hispanic	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	ns	2.4%
Other	44.3%	35.6%	46.7%	ns	43.1%
Age (mean years)	36.9	36.5	43.9	*	37.2

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Table 19 – Persons with Shelter stays (covered by HMIS) who also have Huckleberry House (HH) stays - Persons

	All Shelter Stays	Shelter Stays That Preceded HH Stay	Shelter Stays That Followed HH Stay
Number of Persons	76	52	36
Age (at first shelter entry)			
Under 13	18.4%	26.9%	2.8%
13	11.8%	15.4%	5.6%
14	13.2%	19.2%	5.6%
15	22.4%	28.9%	16.7%
16	4.0%	3.9%	8.3%
17	2.6%	1.9%	2.8%
18 or older	27.6%	3.9%	58.2%
Race/Ethnicity			
Black	80.3%	80.8%	77.8%
White	18.4%	15.4%	19.4%
Hispanic	2.6%	3.9%	8.3%
Other/Unknown	1.3%	1.9%	2.8%
Sex			
Female	57.9%	59.6%	50.0%
Male	42.1%	40.4%	50.0%

HMIS and Huckleberry House data covers calendar years 2003 to 2006.

Table 20 – Shelter stays (covered by HMIS) involving persons who have a record of a Huckleberry House (HH) stay

	Shelter Stays That Preceded HH Stay	Shelter Stays That Followed HH Stay
Numbers of Stays	94	80
Programs		
Single Adult Shelters	9.6%	51.3%
Faith Mission Men's Shelter	1.1%	12.5%
Faith Mission - Nancy's Place	2.1%	12.5%
Maryhaven - Engagement Center	1.1%	5.0%
Maryhaven – Overflow	0.0%	5.0%
Rebecca's Place	0.0%	12.5%
VOA - Men's Shelter	0.0%	3.8%
Winter Overflow	5.3%	0.0%
Family Shelters	90.4%	48.8%
YIHN (YWCA Family Center)	70.2%	32.5%
Homeless Families Foundation	10.6%	11.3%
Barbara Bonner Family Shelter	6.4%	2.5%
VOA - Family Services	3.2%	2.5%
Adult or Head of Household	9.6%	68.8%
Timing		
Median between shelter & HH	283 days	367 days
1 month or less between shelter & HH	11.7%	7.5%
1 to 6 months between shelter & HH	15.5%	13.8%
6 mos to 1 year between shelter & HH	19.2%	27.5%
Over 1 year between shelter & HH	43.6%	51.3%
Length of Shelter stay		
Median length of Shelter stay	18 days	13 days
1 week or less	24.5%	41.3%
8 days to 1 month	37.2%	40.0%
Precipitating Crisis (for shelter)		
Family relationship problems	13.9%	50.0%
Substance Abuse	1.1%	12.5%
Destination		
Housing (1,2,6,12,13,14,15)	42.6%	18.8%
Transitional Housing or Shelter (9,17)	25.6%	27.5%
Unknown (10)	16.0%	31.3%

HMIS and Huckleberry House data covers calendar years 2003 to 2006.

Table 21 – Persons who stayed at Huckleberry House (calendar years 2003-2006)

	Total	All With HMIS Shelter Records	HH Stay Preceded HMIS Shelter Stay	HH Stay Followed HMIS Shelter Stay
Number of Persons	1,281	76	36	52
Percent of Total	100.0%	5.9%	2.8%	4.1%
Age (at first HH entry)				
under 13	5.2%	4.0%	8.3%	3.9%
13	13.1%	10.5%	2.8%	13.5%
14	20.4%	22.4%	16.7%	26.9%
15	20.7%	15.8%	13.9%	15.4%
16	21.0%	17.1%	16.7%	23.1%
17	17.0%	22.4%	30.6%	11.5%
18 or older	1.9%	7.9%	11.1%	5.8%
missing	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Race/Ethnicity				
Black	65.0%	79.0%	77.8%	80.8%
White	30.6%	17.1%	16.7%	15.4%
Hispanic	3.4%	4.0%	5.6%	3.9%
Other/Unknown	3.0%	1.3%	0.0%	1.9%
Sex				
Female	58.5%	57.9%	50.0%	59.6%
Male	41.5%	42.1%	50.0%	40.4%

Table 22 – Huckleberry House stays – Total and for persons who had a record of an HMIS shelter stay (calendar years 2003-2006)

	Total HH Stays	HH Stay Preceded HMIS Shelter Stay	HH Stay Followed HMIS Shelter Stay
Total Stays	1,717	44	66
Percent of Total	100.0%	2.6%	3.8%
Timing			
Median between shelter & HH	n/a	396 days	286 days
< 1 month between shelter & HH	n/a	11.4%	10.6%
1-6 months between shelter & HH	n/a	15.9%	22.7%
6-12 mos between shelter & HH	n/a	18.2%	22.8%
> 1 year between shelter & HH	n/a	54.5%	43.9%
Length of HH stay			
Median length of HH stay	3 days	6 days	4 days
1 week or less	82.6%	68.2%	83.3%
8 days to 1 month	12.0%	20.4%	16.7%
Program			
Crisis	94.5%	86.4%	97.0%
Transitional Living Program	5.5%	13.6%	3.0%
Living Situation Upon Entry			
Parent/Guardian	75.6%	56.8%	71.2%
Relative's Home	7.7%	6.8%	10.6%
Friend's Home	5.0%	6.8%	0.0%
Foster Care/Group Home	2.0%	0.0%	3.0%
Temporary Shelter	0.5%	6.9%	7.6%
"On the Run"/street	2.3%	9.1%	1.5%
Other or Unknown	6.9%	13.6%	6.1%
Living Situation Upon Exit			
Parent/Guardian	53.5%	40.9%	42.4%
Relative's Home	9.1%	6.8%	10.6%
Friend's Home	3.1%	11.4%	1.5%
Other or Unknown	14.8%	24.9%	27.3%
Foster Care/Group Home/FCCS	14.0%	9.1%	10.6%
"On the Run"/street	3.6%	2.3%	4.6%
Temporary Shelter	0.2%	2.3%	0.0%
Independent Living	1.7%	2.3%	3.0%

Table 23 – Information from HMIS shelter data for persons who have CHOICES records: calendar years 2003 - 2006

	All With HMIS Records	HMIS Shelter Before CHOICES	HMIS Shelter After CHOICES
Number of Persons	228	142	149
Age of Household Head (at first HH entry)			
18-29	39.0%	35.9%	37.6%
30-39	33.8%	36.6%	32.9%
40+	27.2%	27.5%	29.5%
Race/Ethnicity			
Black	61.8%	65.5%	63.1%
White	33.8%	31.0%	32.2%
Hispanic	3.1%	2.8%	3.4%
Other/Unknown	4.4%	3.5%	4.7%
Sex			
Female	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 24 – Information from HMIS shelter data for stays associated with persons who have CHOICES records: calendar years 2003 - 2006

	HMIS Shelter Before CHOICES	HMIS Shelter After CHOICES
Numbers of Stays	176	179
Programs		
Single Adult Shelters	62.5%	62.6%
Faith Mission - Nancy's Place	35.2%	28.5%
Maryhaven - Engagement Center	14.8%	17.9%
Rebecca's Place	11.4%	14.5%
Winter Overflow	1.1%	1.1%
MH System Overflow	0.0%	0.6%
Family Shelters	37.5%	37.4%
YIHN (YWCA Family Center)	28.4%	35.8%
Homeless Families Foundation	4.0%	60.0%
Barbara Bonner Family Shelter	1.1%	0.6%
VOA - Family Services	4.0%	1.1%
Timing		
Median between shelter & CHOICES	134 days	51 days
1 month or less between shelter & CHOICES	27.3%	45.3%
1 to 6 months between shelter & CHOICES	33.0%	27.9%
6 mos to 1 year between shelter & CHOICES	14.8%	11.2%
Over 1 year between shelter & CHOICES	25.0%	15.6%
Length of Shelter stay		
Median length of shelter stay	8 days	10 days
7 days or less	48.9%	45.3%
8 to 30 days	28.4%	31.2%
31 to 180 days	22.2%	23.5%
180+ days	0.6%	0.0%
Precipitating Crisis (for shelter)		
Family relationship problems	31.3%	36.8%
Substance Abuse	18.8%	23.5%
Fleeing Abuse	16.5%	21.2%
Destination		
Housing (1,2,6,12,13,14,15)	20.5%	16.2%
Transitional Housing or Shelter (9,17)	10.2%	27.4%
Unknown (10)	46.0%	31.2%

Table 25 – Data on persons with a record of a CHOICES stays: associated with persons who have shelter stays (covered by HMIS) includes June 2003 - 2006

	Total	Shelter & CHOICES	Shelter Before CHOICES	Shelter After CHOICES
Number of Households	663	228	144	146
Percent of Total	100.0%	34.4%	21.7%	22.0%
Age of Household Head (at first HH entry)				
18-29	40.9%	38.6%	34.7%	37.7%
30-39	31.8%	33.8%	35.4%	34.9%
40+	26.2%	27.6%	29.9%	27.4%
Missing	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Race/Ethnicity of Household Head				
Black	49.0%	60.1%	63.2%	60.3%
White	39.5%	33.3%	30.6%	31.5%
Hispanic	5.9%	1.8%	2.1%	1.4%
Other/Unknown	5.6%	4.8%	4.2%	6.8%
Sex of Household Head				
Female	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Children in Household				
0	53.5%	59.2%	62.5%	60.3%
1	19.5%	18.4%	21.5%	15.8%
2	14.8%	17.5%	11.1%	19.9%
3+	12.2%	4.9%	4.9%	4.0%
Preschool Aged	31.1%	27.2%	24.3%	30.1%

Table 26 – CHOICES stays: Total and for persons who had a record of an HMIS shelter stay (includes June 2003-2006)

	Total	Shelter Before CHOICES	Shelter After CHOICES
Total Stays	795	183	171
Percent of Total	100.0%	23.0%	21.5%
Timing			
Median between shelter & CHOICES	n/a	134 days	47 days
1 month or less between shelter & CHOICES	n/a	27.3%	46.2%
1 to 6 months between shelter & CHOICES	n/a	32.2%	26.9%
6 mos to 1 year between shelter & CHOICES	n/a	15.3%	11.7%
Over 1 year between shelter & CHOICES	n/a	25.1%	15.2%
Length of CHOICES stay			
Median length of CHOICES stay	9 days	10 days	9 days
7 days or less	43.9%	41.5%	40.9%
8 to 30 days	38.9%	38.8%	45.6%
31 to 180 days	16.4%	19.1%	13.5%
180+ days	0.8%	0.6%	0.0%
Destination			
Permanent Housing	18.2%	10.4%	8.8%
Returned Home	7.2%	3.8%	0.6%
Shelter	9.7%	10.9%	20.5%
Temporary Housing	5.5%	2.7%	2.3%
Other	2.5%	2.7%	1.8%
Unknown	56.9%	69.4%	66.7%
Exit Reason			
Completed Program	18.0%	14.8%	19.3%
Left Program	33.8%	29.5%	23.4%
Unofficial Termination	25.2%	23.0%	31.6%
Other	3.7%	4.9%	1.8%
Unknown	19.4%	27.9%	24.6%
Employed	22.5%	14.8%	12.3%