

Anne Arundel County Fact Sheet on Homelessness

Homelessness is not solely an economic issue.

Reasons for Homelessness:

Individuals and families become homeless because of:

- chronic poverty
- family discord
- lack of affordable housing
- strong history of residential instability
- limited autonomy
- little or no self-sufficiency

Causes of homelessness other than housing:

- substance abuse and/or mental health issues
- history of childhood abuse or neglect
- lack of involvement with father as children
- homeless women often have had less meaningful relationships with men and choose men with poor work history/substance abuse/physical abuse
- prior relationship with foster care system

Anne Arundel County Shelter Beds/Housing:

Shelters

- Anne Arundel County has 2 main shelters: Sarah's House (the County shelter by Ft. Meade) and Light House (Annapolis shelter run by Annapolis Area Ministries).
- Arundel House of Hope operates the Winter Relief Shelter from October – April and a Day and Resource Center open six days a week year round.
- Arundel House of Hope operates 5 Permanent Supportive Housing programs and 2 Transitional housing programs, one serving single males and one serving veterans only.
- People Encouraging People operate a Permanent Supportive Housing program for homeless individuals diagnosed with severe mental health issues.
- Housing Commission (HCAAC) operates a Permanent Supportive Housing program for chronically homeless and a HOPWA program for homeless diagnosed with AIDS.
- Anne Arundel County Department of Mental Health operates four Permanent Supportive Housing programs for homeless individuals diagnosed with mental health issues targeting the chronically homeless and dual diagnosis.
- We Care & Friends (Stanton Center in Annapolis) offer limited emergency shelter and access to drug treatment programs.
- There are 87 emergency and transitional shelter beds for individuals (including winter relief) and 156 emergency & transitional beds for families and children.
- There are 157 permanent supportive housing beds for individuals, families and children.

Public Housing

- There are 1,720 Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) for the County as of July 2011. The Housing Commission does not cover security deposits.
- There are 1,026 County Public Housing Units
- Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis has 345 housing choice vouchers and 790 public housing units.
- The lack of affordable housing has increased the problem of homelessness in the County.

Poverty

- 5.3% of Anne Arundel County lives in poverty [2006-2010]
- The 2011 federal threshold for a four-person household was 23,201
- 5% (24,335) of population fell below federal poverty threshold
- 7,943 children comprise 33% of the county's poor or 25% of the total population

Homeless:

Every year the federal government conducts a point in time (PIT) survey which is a snapshot on homelessness. Service providers and outreach teams count the homeless on this particular day who are living in emergency and transitional shelters, on the streets, or in cars. This is not an accurate count of the homeless – more a general idea. A more accurate count comes from the homeless management information system (HMIS). This documents when a homeless person or family comes into an agency, services needed and services provided.

2012 PIT

- January 25, 2012
- 311 Sheltered homeless
- 62 Unsheltered homeless
- 373 Total County homeless

2011 HMIS Data

- July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011
- 1,027 Sheltered homeless
- 246 Permanent Supportive Housing
- 586 Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)
- 2,436 Services Only

There are over 1,050 students enrolled in the County's public school as homeless. Over 150 of them are unaccompanied youth. Anne Arundel County has no shelter for unaccompanied youth.

Income and Housing:

- HUD classifies a household as “extremely low income” with an annual income of less than \$22,850 in Anne Arundel County.
- These same households making less than 30% of the area median incomes are most vulnerable and at risk of homelessness.
- 36.2% of Anne Arundel County spends 35% or more of their income on rent and utilities.
- An appropriate unit for a one-person household is either an efficiency or a one-bedroom apartment.
- The fair market monthly rent for 2012 is \$907 for an efficiency unit and \$1,025 for a one-bedroom; both out of range for an extremely low-income household.
- A one-person household at 50% of the area mean income earns \$29,600 annually. This household could afford an average efficiency unit; however, less than 1% of the rental stock in the county is efficiency units.
- The vacancy rate for rentals in 2011 was 12.6%, while the rate considered normal for the industry is 9.4%. The above average vacancy rate indicates that the property is not renting well.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) maximum qualifying payment is \$698/month which is significantly lower than fair market monthly rent for efficiency unit.