



## **Fact Sheet**

### **A Five-Year Analysis of the Trends in Services for Homeless and At-Risk of Homelessness Individuals and Families in Windsor-Essex County 2000-2004**

#### **Did You Know...**

#### **Rental**

- The vacancy rate in the rental market has increased from 4.2% to 8.8%.
- These vacancies are occurring in rental units with higher rental rates and therefore increased vacancy does not assist individuals and families in low-income situations.

#### **Income**

- The number of low income families decreased since 2001 census, but the number of low income singles is significant; just over 1/3 of singles in Windsor, almost 1/3 in Amherstburg and Kingsville are living in low income situations.
- In Windsor-Essex, 51% of rental households are paying more than 30% of their income to rent
- In Windsor-Essex, 22% of rental households are paying more than 50% of income to rent.

**The result of the above when such a high proportion of income is spent on rent, more families and individuals rely on supports such as food banks, rent banks, energy assistance programs and clothing banks to meet their other needs.**

#### **Housing**

##### Central Housing Waiting List

- 2001 3205
- 2003 2175
- 2004 2380

##### Emergency Shelter (2004)

- Salvation Army – men's hostel 692  
individuals

	Crash beds	
143 individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Inn of Windsor (youth)</li> </ul>		47
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windsor Y Residence individuals</li> </ul>	emergency beds	79
50 individuals	absolute homeless	
	denied shelter	
102 individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMHA Rent Subsidy Program individuals</li> </ul>		116

### ***Food Banks***

- Food bank usage has remained steady over 5 years after rising in 2002

### ***Meal Programs***

- All 3 programs increased usage (Salvation Army, Downtown Mission, Amherstburg Food and Fellowship Mission)

### ***Clothing/Furniture Banks***

- Coats for Kids significantly rose in 2003/04 with approx. 4800 requests

### ***Financial Supports***

- Credit Counselling rose from 500 served in 2001 to approx. 1800 served in 2004
- Rent Bank (City of Windsor Social Services) 20 clients were served in 2001 and rose to 160 in 2004

### ***Outreach/Case Management Services (Aboriginal)***

- 37 homeless individuals and families were helped.
- 72 homeless individuals and families at risk of homelessness helped

### ***Legal Services***

- The majority of eviction cases are occurring as a result of arrears in private market units

- This trend is consistent with the combination of inadequate social assistance rates, low minimum wage and high rental rates.
- Female led lone parent families represented the highest proportion of those seeking support for eviction assistance, followed by single males and females.

**The following services have experienced an increase in use of their programs since 2001 and 2002.**

- Food Banks... 155,779 clients
- Downtown Mission(meal program) 45,332 clients
  - Salvation Army 17,585 clients
- Amherstburg Food & Fellowship 51,354 clients
  - Rent Bank 149 clients
- Credit Counseling 1757 clients

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