

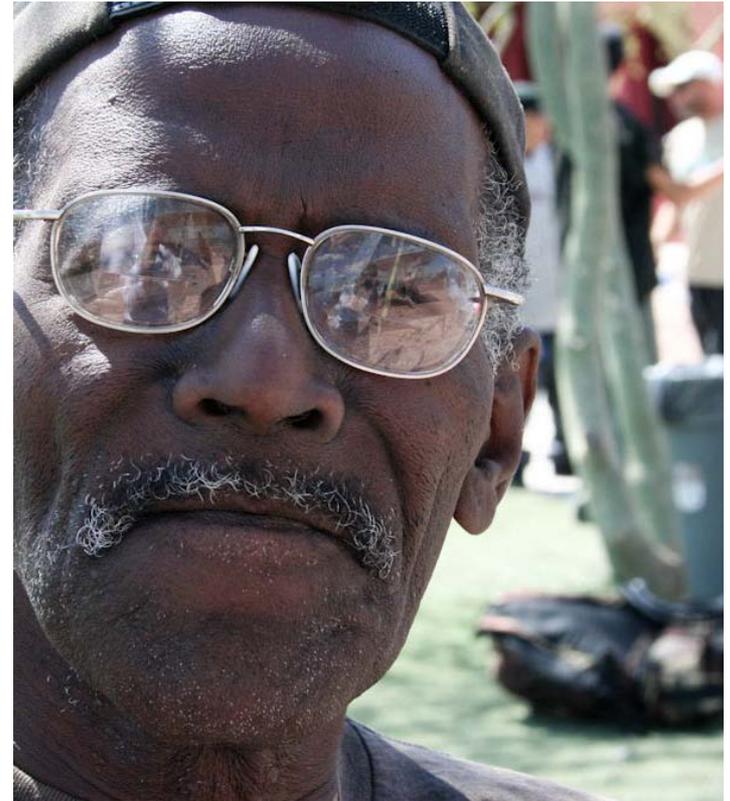
Regional Sheltered Overview MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness

This Overview contains information on our regions homeless populations based on data gathered through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This report provides a framework that can help us better understand the complexity of homelessness in our community and allow us to hone in on identifiable areas of focus within our homeless population.

Homelessness is defined as “lacking a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence or having a primary night-time residency that is supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations” by the [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD). It is estimated that there are more than 14,000 individuals experiencing homelessness in the region and by better understanding the causes of homelessness in our community we will be able to provide appropriate services to this vulnerable population and commit to our goal of ending homelessness in our community.

The graphs and spreadsheets that follow provide information on targeted subpopulations within our homeless community and can help us better understand the population as a whole, inform practice and help shape the delivery of homeless services in our community.

Utilizing this information along with other valuable data like Point-In-Time counts, shelter counts, and surveys gathered by programs like *Project H3*, and the *100,000 Homes Campaign*; we can develop alternatives for housing and services to ensure that no Arizonan is without adequate shelter.



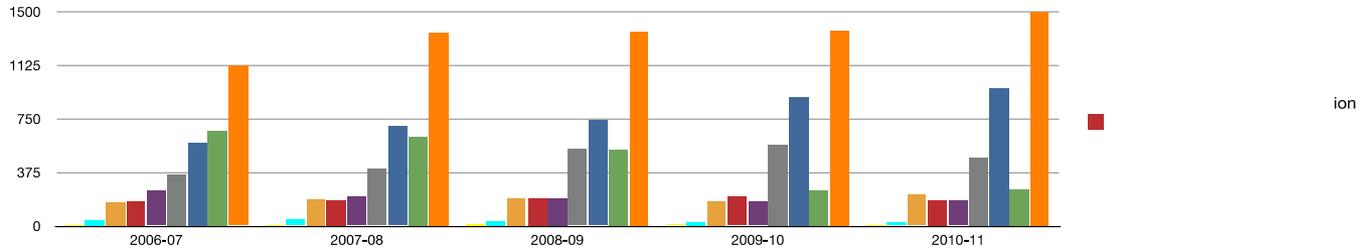


Myth: Homelessness is too big of a problem and cannot be solved.

Fact: Homelessness IS solvable! Our community of providers working together alongside a community that is educated about the facts of homelessness CAN solve homelessness in our region.

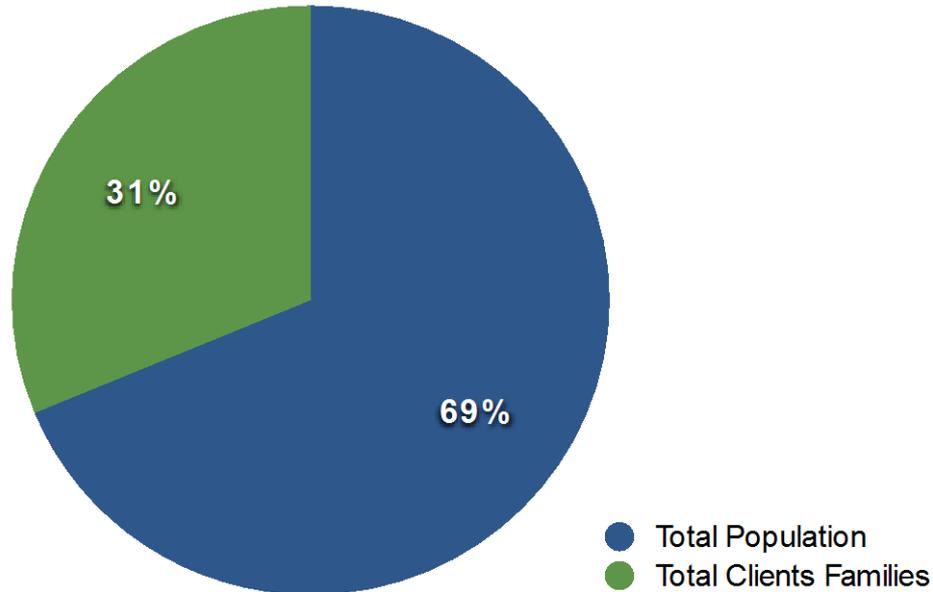


Children Prior Living Situation 2006-2011



Prior to becoming homeless, children in families that are doubled up have increased 26% since 2006. Homeless prevention for these at-risk families with children is an important component of our region's plan to prevent and end homelessness for families and children.

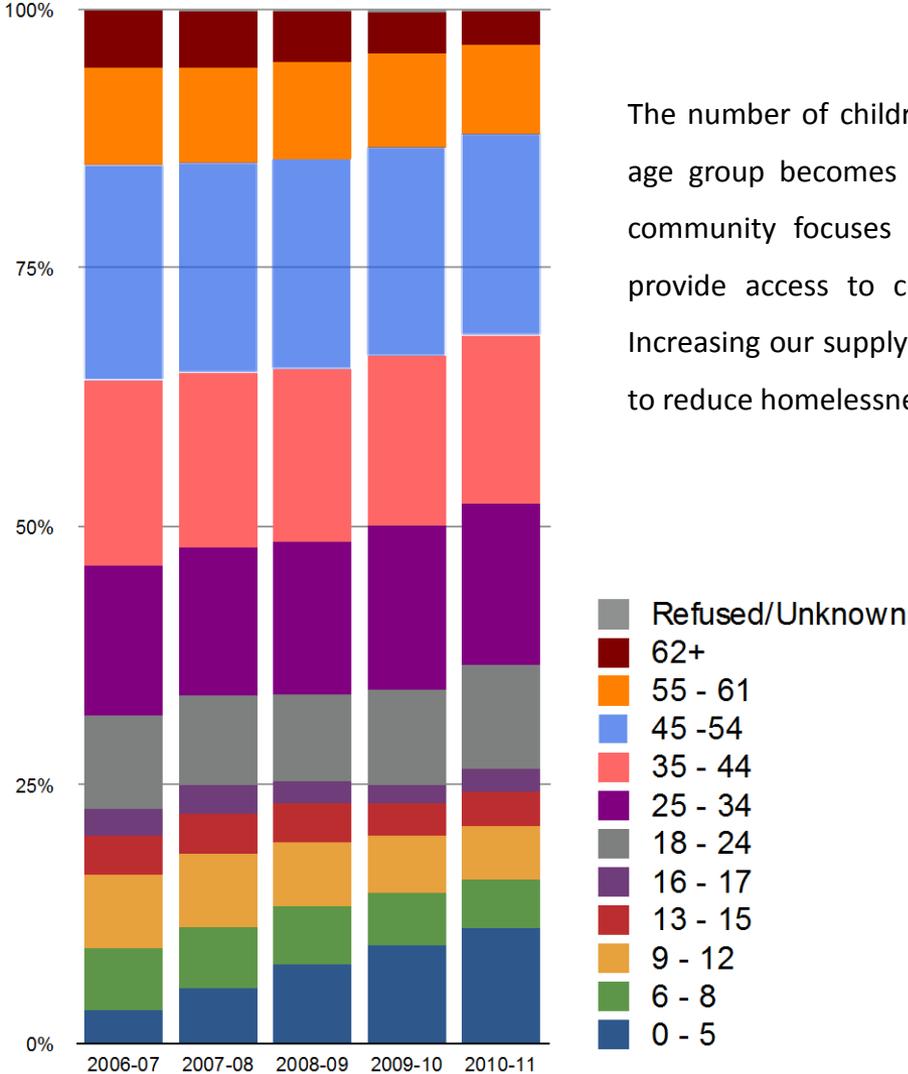
% of Clients in Families to Total Population 2011



31% of our region's homeless population are in families. Homeless prevention for families at risk of becoming homeless can provide much needed stability for children.

Single adults represent the other 69% of the population and a majority of this group are single men. Within the single adult population, just over 9% (745 individuals) are chronically homeless.

Age Total Population 2006-11



The number of children aged 0 – 5 has more than tripled since 2006. This age group becomes homeless with parents and family members. As our community focuses on providing services to this population, efforts to provide access to child care and services to parents is fundamental. Increasing our supply of affordable housing is a key component of initiatives to reduce homelessness experienced by families with children.

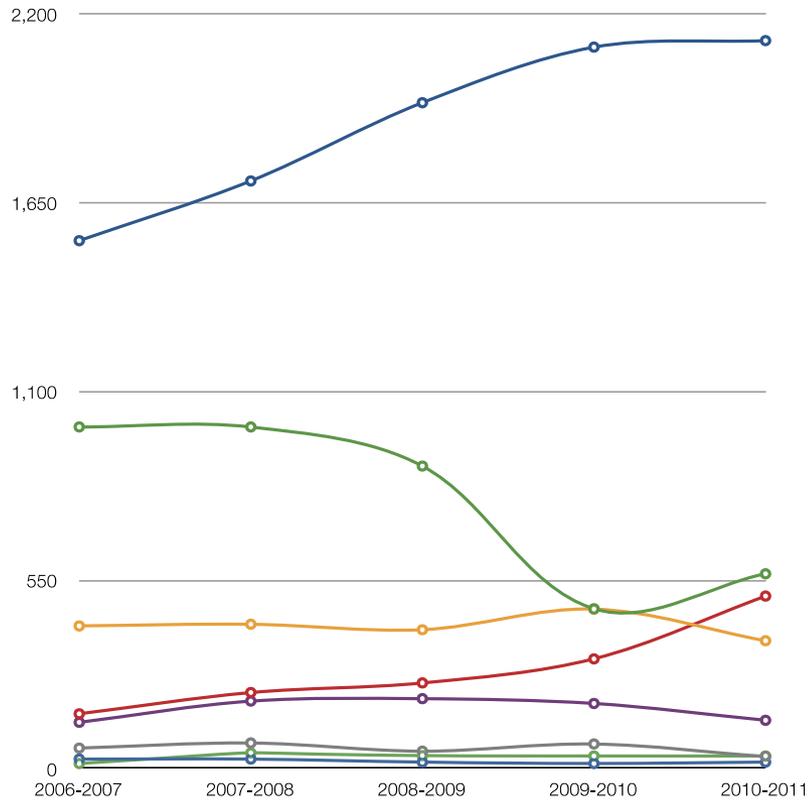
	2006-07				
				37	19

These data also reflect a significant decrease in the 62+ age group. Concerted efforts to house our region’s most medically vulnerable individuals are reflected through campaigns like Project H3 and Arizona StandDown have had great success taking chronically homeless individuals and placing them in Permanent Supportive Housing.

Reasons for Homelessness 2006-2011

Economic reasons like evictions and job loss of parents are the most prevalent cause of child homelessness in the region. Homeless prevention programs and access to affordable housing are a few of the targeted measures aimed at reducing homelessness among children.

Aiding parents of homeless children by providing childcare and rental assistance are a few ways in which we can reduce the number of homeless children.

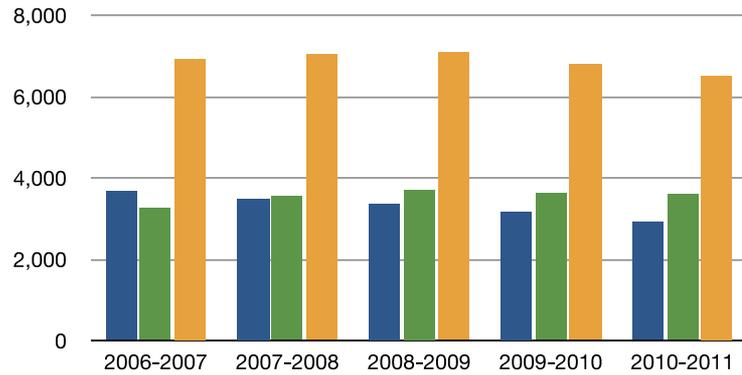


*Other includes other, unknown, don't know and refused.

	2006-2007				
	0	75			

There are high costs related to families experiencing homelessness. “The first is the high cost of the homeless system itself. The cost is significant for a family to live in emergency or transitional housing. But there are other costs as well, including transporting children to and from schools and other strains on the education system caused by high mobility” (USICH, p. 14).

As our region addresses these issues, our aim to focus on collaboration and cooperation among service providers to ensure we are effectively allocating resources and ensuring that we are delivering meaningful services to families experiencing homelessness.



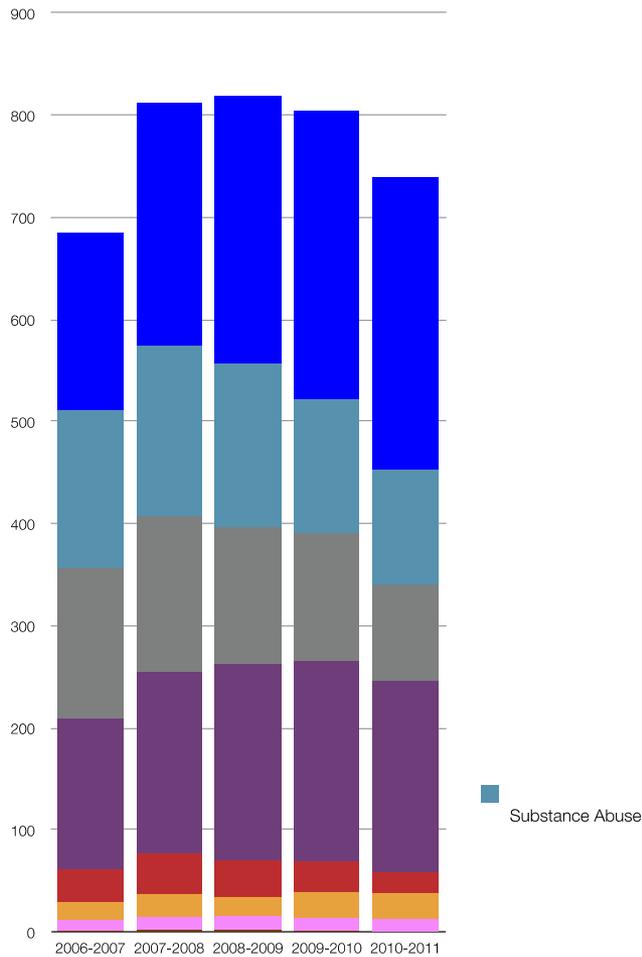
*Total clients represents the number of children and adults experiencing homelessness

There has been a marginal decline in the overall population of homeless families since 2006 but the number of children in homeless families has increased.

Families					
	76	3,495			

Families experiencing homelessness move frequently and many are doubled-up in overcrowded apartments with relatives or friends. Many sleep in places not meant for human habitation to stay out of homeless shelters. Once in shelter, families must quickly adjust to overcrowded, difficult, and uncomfortable circumstances. Though our region has many dedicated staff working in family shelters, many are crowded, noisy and lack privacy. Homelessness increases the likelihood that families will separate or dissolve, which may compound the stress the family feels.

Considering the stress families experiencing homelessness are dealing with a focus on preventing family homelessness and Rapid Re-housing for families who have become homeless are ways in which our community can help alleviate the stress these families face. Providing child care, stable schooling and housing are important for child well-being.



Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness are an extremely vulnerable part of our community. Chronic homelessness means that an individual or family has experienced homelessness continually for one year or more, or has experienced homelessness more than four times in the past year.

The chronically homeless are a small percentage of the homeless population but consume more than 50% of the resources. Targeted programs like the *100,000 Homes Campaign* aim to assess the vulnerability of the chronically homeless population and can help reduce taxpayer costs of emergency medical treatment and long term shelter services through Permanent Supportive Housing programs.

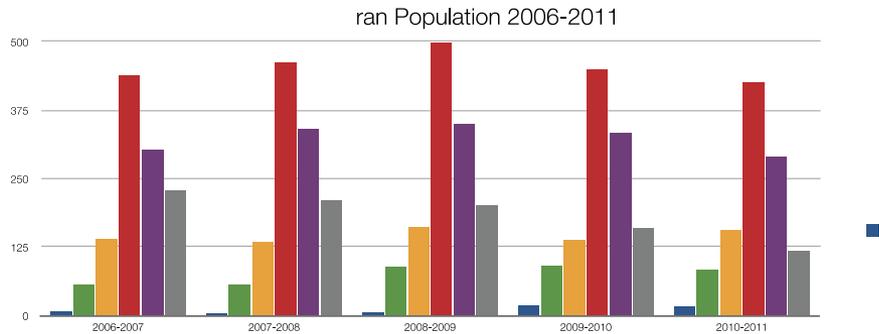
*Other includes other, don't know, unknown and refused



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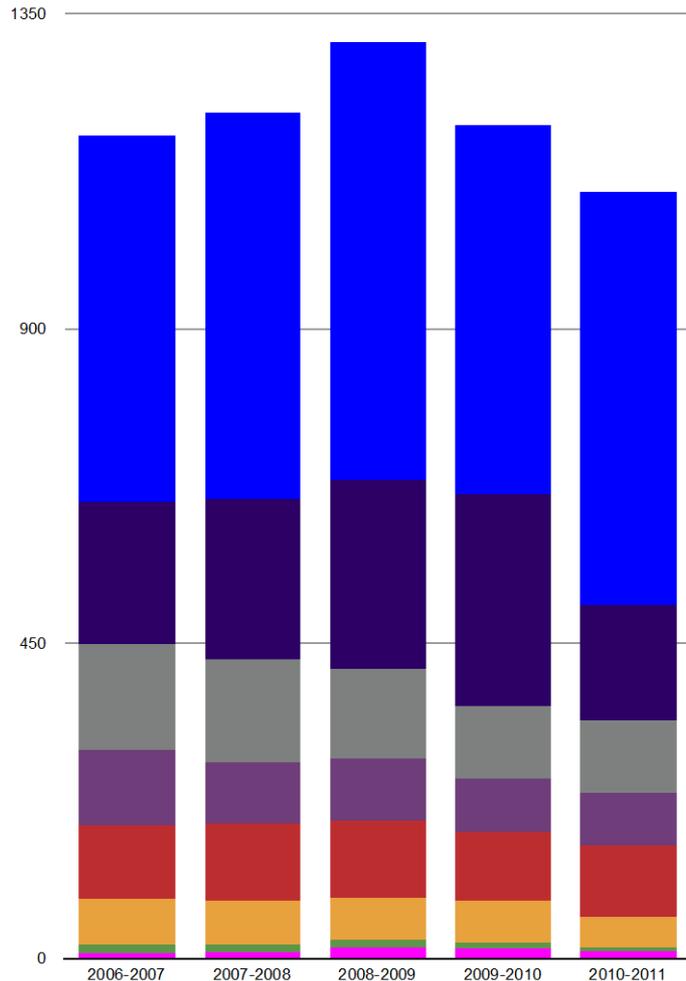
Solving homelessness in our community will require cooperative and coordinated efforts of a variety of human services. Emergency shelter is required to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness in our community are not sleeping in places not meant for human habitation. Rapidly moving individuals from Emergency Shelter to Permanent Housing can provide better outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness.

The increase in available Permanent Housing is important and we should continue to focus our efforts on increasing access to affordable housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.



There has been a gradual decline in veterans 55+ due to targeted programs (HUD-VASH) focused on our chronically homeless Vietnam Era veterans. An area of concern is the increase in the number of 18 to 34 (OIF/OEF) veterans returning from the current wars.

Veteran Primary Reason for Homelessness 2006-2011



Economic factors continue to be the primary reason for homelessness among veterans. Unemployment numbers for returning Afghanistan and Iraqi Veterans is 13.1% for men and 21.6% for woman (BLS/DOL).

Employment and benefits are the two factors to ending homelessness among veterans.

- Economic
- Other
- Substance Abuse
- Criminal Activity
- Medical Reasons
- Family Dispute/Overcrowding
- Natural Disaster/Fire
- Domestic Violence

*Other includes other, don't know, unknown and refused

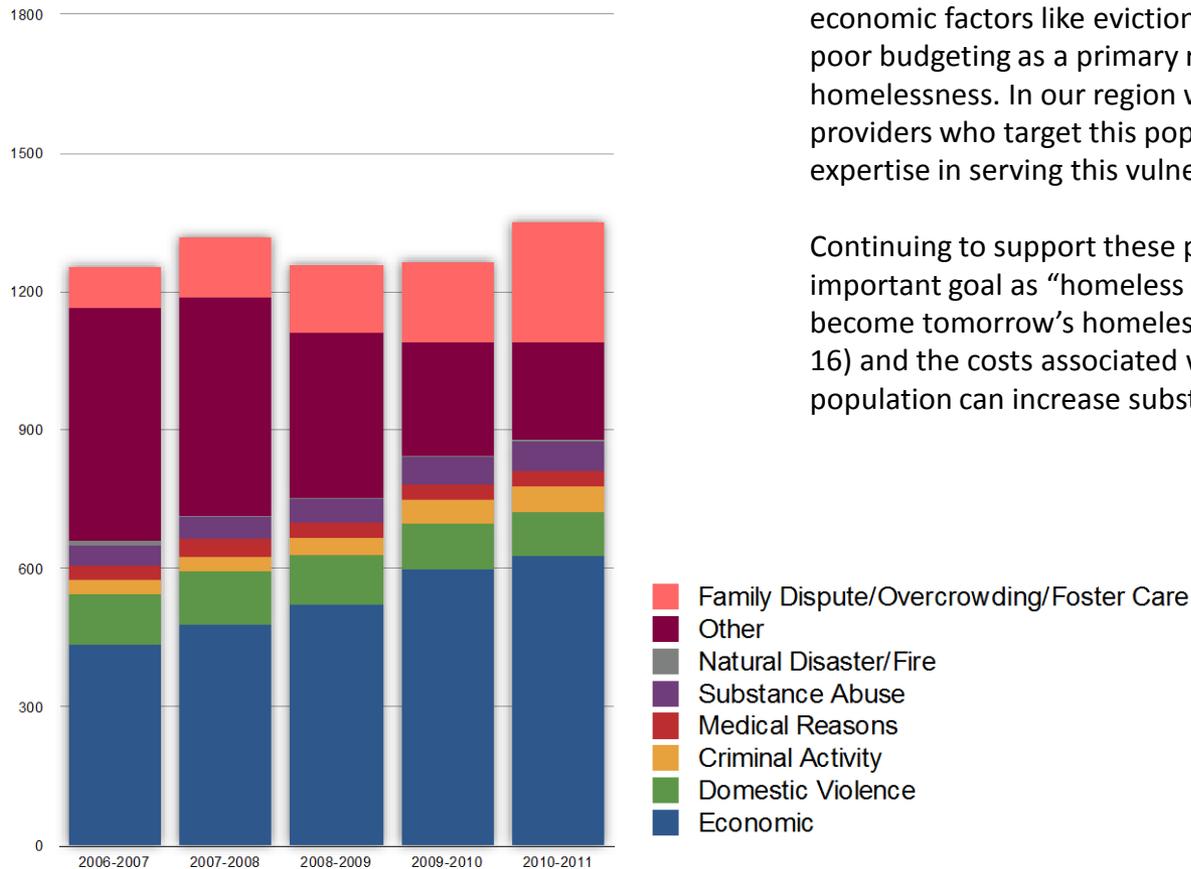
	2006-2007				
	125				288

The Phoenix VA Compensated Work Therapy Program targets veterans vocational rehabilitation program that endeavors to match and support work ready veterans in competitive jobs.

The Phoenix VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) VetSuccess Program targets veterans with disabilities to help them with employment services such as job-training, job-seeking skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance.

Department of Labor (DOL) VETS Program focuses on working with employers to hire veterans. DOL administers three grants; workforce training program, homeless veteran reintegration program, and incarceration veterans transition program to help veterans return to employment from jail or prison and homelessness.

18-24 Primary Reason for Homelessness 2006-2011

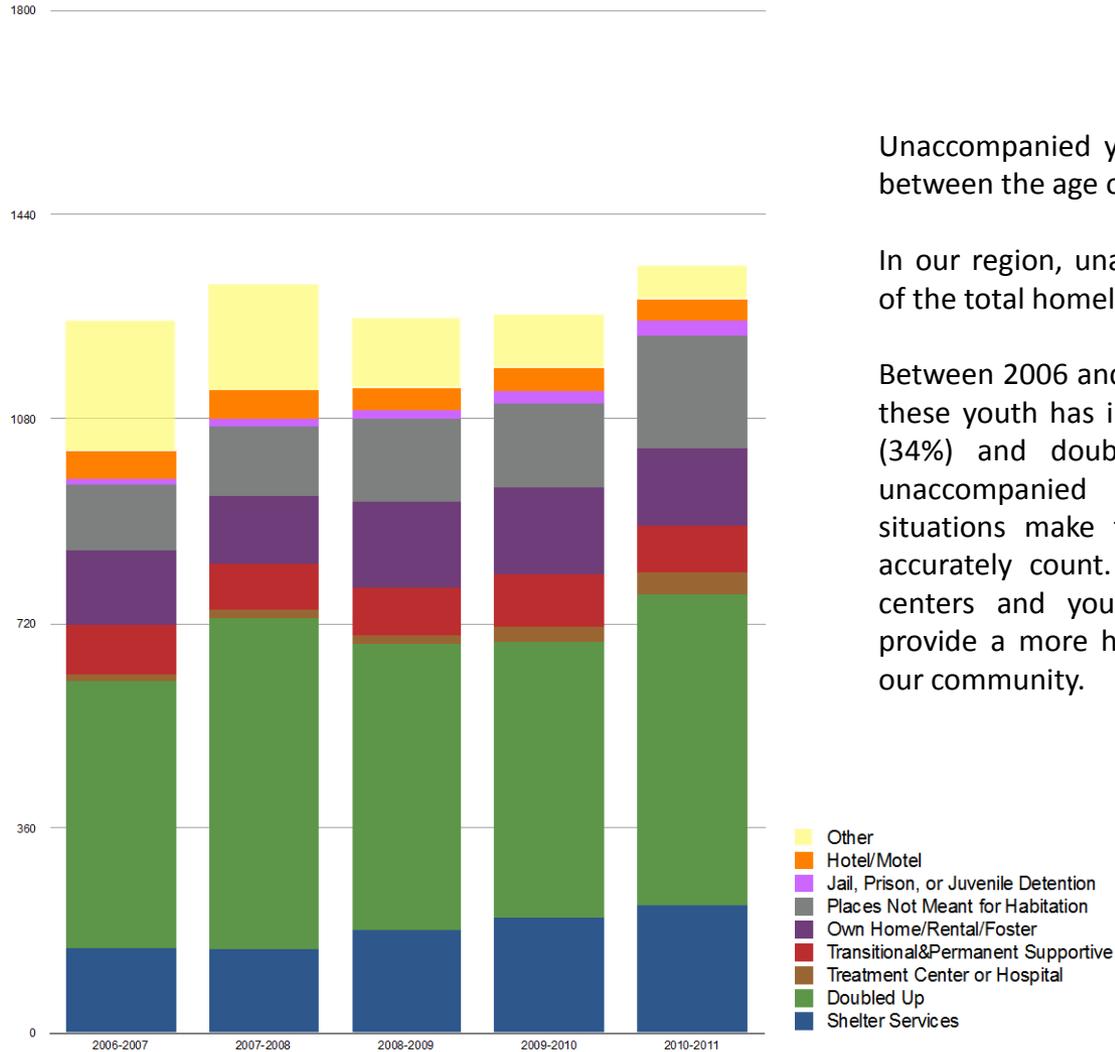


Unaccompanied youth are similarly impacted by economic factors like evictions, loss of job and poor budgeting as a primary reason for homelessness. In our region we have service providers who target this population and have expertise in serving this vulnerable population.

Continuing to support these providers is an important goal as “homeless youth can easily become tomorrow’s homeless adults” (USICH, p. 16) and the costs associated with caring for this population can increase substantially over time.

*Other includes other, don't know, unknown and refused

18-24 Prior Living Situation 2006-2011



Unaccompanied youth are homeless young adults between the age of 18-24.

In our region, unaccompanied youth represent 9% of the total homeless population.

Between 2006 and 2011 the prior living situation of these youth has increased in both shelter services (34%) and doubled-up (15%). The number of unaccompanied youth in doubled-up housing situations make this population very difficult to accurately count. Efforts to partner with drop-in centers and youth homelessness providers can provide a more holistic view of this population in our community.

*Other includes other, don't know, unknown and refused

	2006-2007				
					3
	131				

Factors that can lead to youth homelessness include aging out of foster care, family disputes that can include physical, mental or sexual abuse.

31% of the 18-25 population are living in places not meant for habitation or in emergency shelters. Nearly 41% are doubled-up. In many situations these highly unstable housing situations can lead to additional abuse and place these youth in risky situations.

Focusing on programs that help provide stable and secure housing along with supportive services and job training and education can work to provide successful outcomes for youth facing homelessness in our region.