
From: Lisa Thornquist
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 3:52 PM
To: Stetzel, Amy (MHFA); Allan Henden; Mikkell Beckmen
Subject: RE: Chronic question for you

Allan and I talked today about this issue. The chronic PIT counts for Hennepin County are pretty close this year. The biggest mistake was Catholic Charities reporting that all their shelter guests were chronically homeless. Allan saw this and corrected it before the report was turned in to HUD. So I don't know if there is much to correct. There may have been a few households in transitional housing that were reported as chronically homeless, against HUD definition. I believe we had a similar number in 2014, however.

I think the dilemma is that our numbers in past years have been out of line. We can't go back and fix those now. As you can see, starting in 2012, we had a dramatic decline in the percentage of single adults reported as chronically homeless. Looking at individual shelters, however, some of the drop is likely because they reported n/a or zero, when that isn't realistic. With Allan adjusting the 2015 PIT to correct the Catholic Charities chronic numbers, we are in line with much of our history – just not the last few years. Since we can't fix previous years, I think we should just move forward next year with better instructions to shelters about how to calculate this and more scrutiny with information that comes out of HMIS.

pct of shelter population reported as chronically homeless	
2007	57%
2008	58%
2009	70%
2010	57%
2011	54%
2012	30%
2013	29%
2014	27%
2015	43%

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From: Stetzel, Amy (MHFA) [mailto: Amy.Stetzel@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:40 AM
To: Allan Henden; Mikkell Beckmen; Lisa Thornquist
Subject: RE: Chronic question for you

Hi everyone,

I had a thought about this over the weekend – any chance we can do another addendum to the PIT count numbers to reflect what we actually think Hennepin’s chronic numbers are?

We just had our staff retreat regarding the next set of actions for the state plan, and we were talking about our chronic population and getting people energized around those actions.

Let me know if that’s a possibility.

Thank you!
Amy

From: Allan Henden [mailto:Allan.Henden@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 5:04 PM
To: Mikkel Beckmen; Lisa Thornquist; Stetzel, Amy (MHFA)
Subject: RE: Chronic question for you

Thanks very much Lisa.

And, you have a great idea Mikkel! Very clear e-mail instructions from OEO staff over the years have not been enough, it seems.

Regarding the missing private shelters for 2015, their count, of course, was reported via HMIS this year. However, as you can see in the HMIS sheltered PIT count report (attached), the subpopulation numbers (including CH) were not broken out by provider, but reported as aggregate numbers (Tab D).

Again, thank you,
Allan



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From: Mikkel Beckmen
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 4:50 PM
To: Lisa Thornquist; Allan Henden; Stetzel, Amy (MHFA)
Subject: RE: Chronic question for you

we should bring this up at shelter efficiency and see about a training for next time.

From: Lisa Thornquist
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 4:41 PM
To: Allan Henden; Stetzel, Amy (MHFA)
Cc: Mikkel Beckmen
Subject: RE: Chronic question for you

Looking at Allan's info from 2014, it really shows what a mess the reporting is:

shelter	2014			2015		
	Pct chronic	Pct mi	pct cd	Pct chronic	Pct mi	pct cd
River of Life	80%	16%	56%	55%	51%	40%
Harbor Light shelter				55%	42%	54%
Safe Bay				64%	60%	65%
First Covenant	0%	0%	0%	100%	30%	36%
Higher Ground	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Simpson Women's	23%	15%	15%	45%	23%	23%
Our Saviours	38%	28%	25%			
St. Stephens	59%	41%	82%			
Simpson Men	19%	17%	17%			

don't have the private shelters

In 2014 - HL men reported n/a, Harbor Light women reported 100% for both the shelter and the Secure Waiting spaces aka Safe Bay and Sally's

So Amy I think the bottom line is we really don't know whether or how the chronic population changed between 2014 and 2015. As I recall from previous years, some of the shelters (and St. Stephens for the unsheltered in the very early years) simply took the percent chronic as reported in the triennial Wilder study and applied it to their population. That wouldn't tell you anything about a change in chronic homelessness since they used the same multiplier number year after year until a fresh Wilder number came out.

I would assume (and hope) that the private shelters are using HMIS to identify chronic homelessness and in the future, we will use that for all shelters. But as of today, there still isn't usable data in HMIS for the county funded shelters. We hope that changes this year. But that is the reason why we have to rely on the OEO surveys each year for the county funded shelters.

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From: Allan Henden
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 3:42 PM
To: Lisa Thornquist; Stetzel, Amy (MHFA)
Cc: Mikkel Beckmen
Subject: RE: Chronic question for you

Hello Lisa & Amy,

That is curious. I just thought it was because our large shelters did a better job of documenting and reporting people being CH. Of course, Higher Ground went to the other extreme as counted everyone as CH, which, as you noted, Lisa and I corrected. And, actually, by HUD's definition, no one in TH should be considered CH (even if they were before they entered TH). Missed that when I was checking over data in the survey.

I've attached the 2014 OEO survey results to see if that sheds any light on this. For instance, CC Higher Ground reported 0 CH in 2014.

Thanks,
Allan



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From: Lisa Thornquist
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 3:17 PM
To: Stetzel, Amy (MHFA)
Cc: Allan Henden; Mikkel Beckmen
Subject: RE: Chronic question for you

I am puzzled. What you sent me listed these shelters. The increase in chronic numbers is totally within the shelters. There are a relatively small number of chronic homeless in TH and the number unsheltered went down. (Not sure why the TH aren't all chronic homeless, but whatever).

What you sent are the shelters below. So I don't know where St. Stephens Shelter, Our Saviours, and Simpson men are. The ones listed below are all county contracted. At any rate, that may be where the problem is anyways.

Higher Ground reported that all of their 251 were chronically homeless, although no one was (apparently) mi or cd or hiv or anything else. So that is bad reporting. Same with Salvation Army First Covenant. If we assume that only half of Higher Ground and First Covenant are really chronically homeless, that would take 147 out of the count.

I don't have the detail from 2014 to see if they made the same mistakes in 2014. Let me know if you want me to dig deeper.

shelter	Chronic Singles	Chronic vets	Pct chronic singles	Pct mi	pct cd
River of Life	26	5	55%	51%	40%
Harbor Light shelter	94	12	55%	42%	54%
Safe Bay	201	18	64%	60%	65%

First Covenant	44	1	100%	30%	36%
Higher Ground	251	34	100%	0%	0%
Simpson Women's	10	0	45%	23%	23%

I also looked at what percent of the single adult shelter population was identified as chronically homeless over the years. The answers are really inconsistent. So this jump in 2015, I would assume, is really about inconsistent reporting rather than a wholesale change in the type of people served in shelter. 2012-2014 are the anomaly years. I would assume that the shelters would not know, for the most part, who is chronically homeless, especially in the large rather anonymous shelters.

pct of shelter population reported as chronically homeless

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From: Stetzel, Amy (MHFA) [mailto: Amy.Stetzel@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 2:12 PM
To: Lisa Thornquist
Subject: RE: Chronic question for you

Sorry – good question! Just chronic singles. I might have highlighted family shelters/transitional housing in what I sent you just as I was highlighting quickly, but we’re focusing on chronic singles.

Our chronic family numbers went down state-wide.

Thank you!
 Amy

From: Lisa Thornquist [mailto: Lisa.Thornquist@[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Stetzel, Amy (MHFA)
Subject: RE: Chronic question for you

Are you interested in chronic singles, chronic families, or both?

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From: Stetzel, Amy (MHFA) [<mailto:Amy.Stetzel@ Hennepin.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 1:45 PM
To: Lisa Thornquist
Subject: Chronic question for you

Hi Lisa,
I'm looping you into the conversation we've been having in the office on Chronic homelessness. The uptick we saw this year was made up almost entirely by an increase in Hennepin County (increased by 125).

Any thoughts you have on why the increase occurred? I know you already went back in and scrubbed some of the chronic numbers due to some over-reporting at Harbor Light and Higher Ground – do you think this over reporting occurred elsewhere as well? Or, do you think the increase Hennepin is seeing is real?

I've attached your OEO shelter survey results (which includes the old numbers for Harbor Lights and Higher Ground) and highlighted those providers in yellow who are indicating a high percentage of their capacity is chronic.

Thank you for your insight Lisa!
Amy

From: Stetzel, Amy (MHFA)
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 10:19 AM
To: Grumdahl, Eric (MDVA); tenBroeke, Cathy (MHFA); Koenig, Lisa H (MHFA); Simonett, Andrea L (DHS)
Subject: RE: CH individuals trends

Looking back at 2014 numbers by CoC, Hennepin makes up almost the entire difference (increase of 239 people) between last year and this year's statewide chronic individual numbers. Ramsey ticked up slightly and SMAC went down. I think we need to reach out to Hennepin again to ask them to dig into their numbers again – I'll send that email today.

426: Hennepin's Chronic total in 2014
601: Hennepin's Chronic total in 2015 (*NOTE: This number was originally 722 as Higher Ground and Harbor Lights originally reported that everyone/almost everyone in their shelter was chronic – Lisa and Alan went back and fixed these numbers to get to the 601 we have now.*)

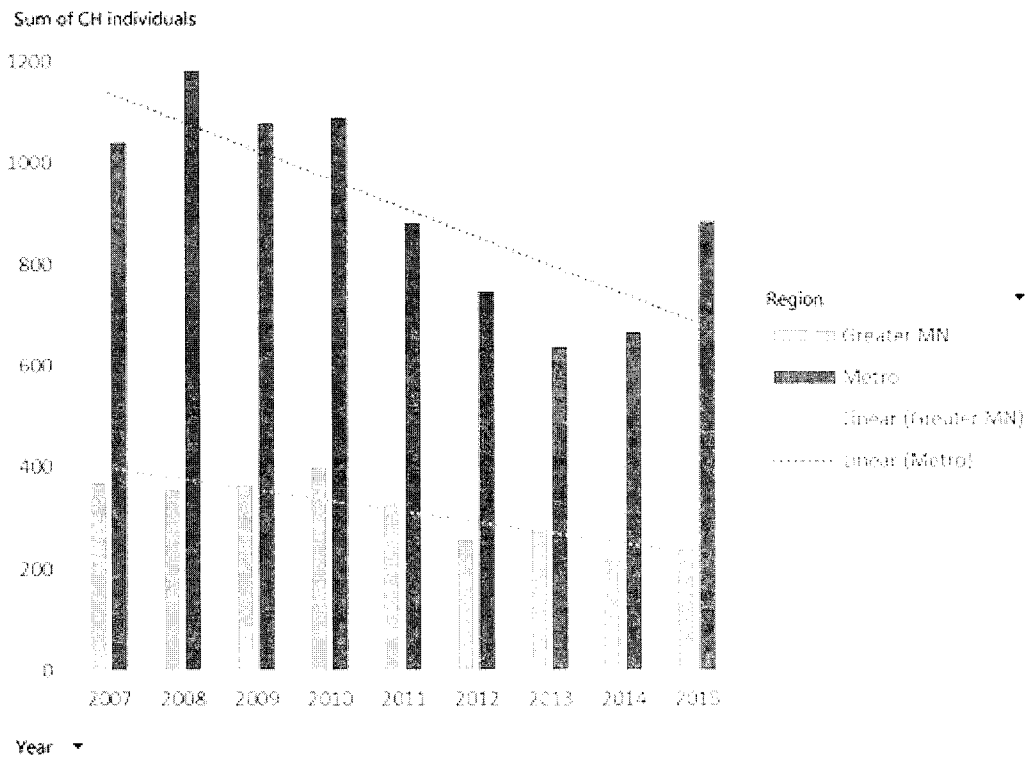
198: Ramsey's Chronic total in 2014
216: Ramsey's Chronic total in 2015

42: SMAC Chronic total in 2014
32: SMAC Chronic total in 2015

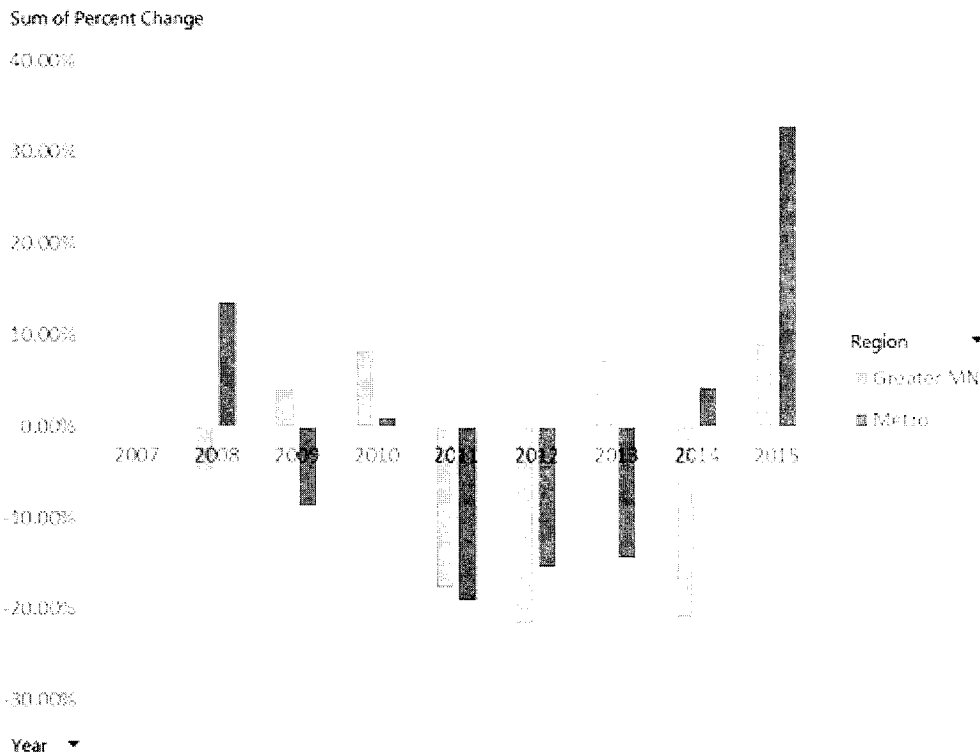
From: Grumdahl, Eric (MDVA)
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 9:25 AM
To: tenBroeke, Cathy (MHFA); Stetzel, Amy (MHFA); Koenig, Lisa H (MHFA); Simonett, Andrea L (DHS)
Subject: CH individuals trends

Attached is a quick spreadsheet that only confirms that whatever happened this year with CH individuals, it is really different than the preceding recent years.

Using *placeholder* 2015 numbers for the Metro / Greater Minnesota breakdown (885 for the Metro and the balance for Greater Minnesota), here is the picture that emerges:



When we look at this as a function of rates of change, it REALLY makes the weirdness of this year clear:



In this plot, positive numbers represent increases, negative numbers represent decreases.

I've also attached the spreadsheet with these PivotCharts. Amy, if you could populate the actual Metro / GM values in the yellow cells on the data tab, we can then Refresh the PivotCharts (on the Analyze tab of the ribbon) to see actual 2015 data plotted.

Really really curious...

Eric

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