Homeless Needs and Gaps Analysis: Unmet Needs

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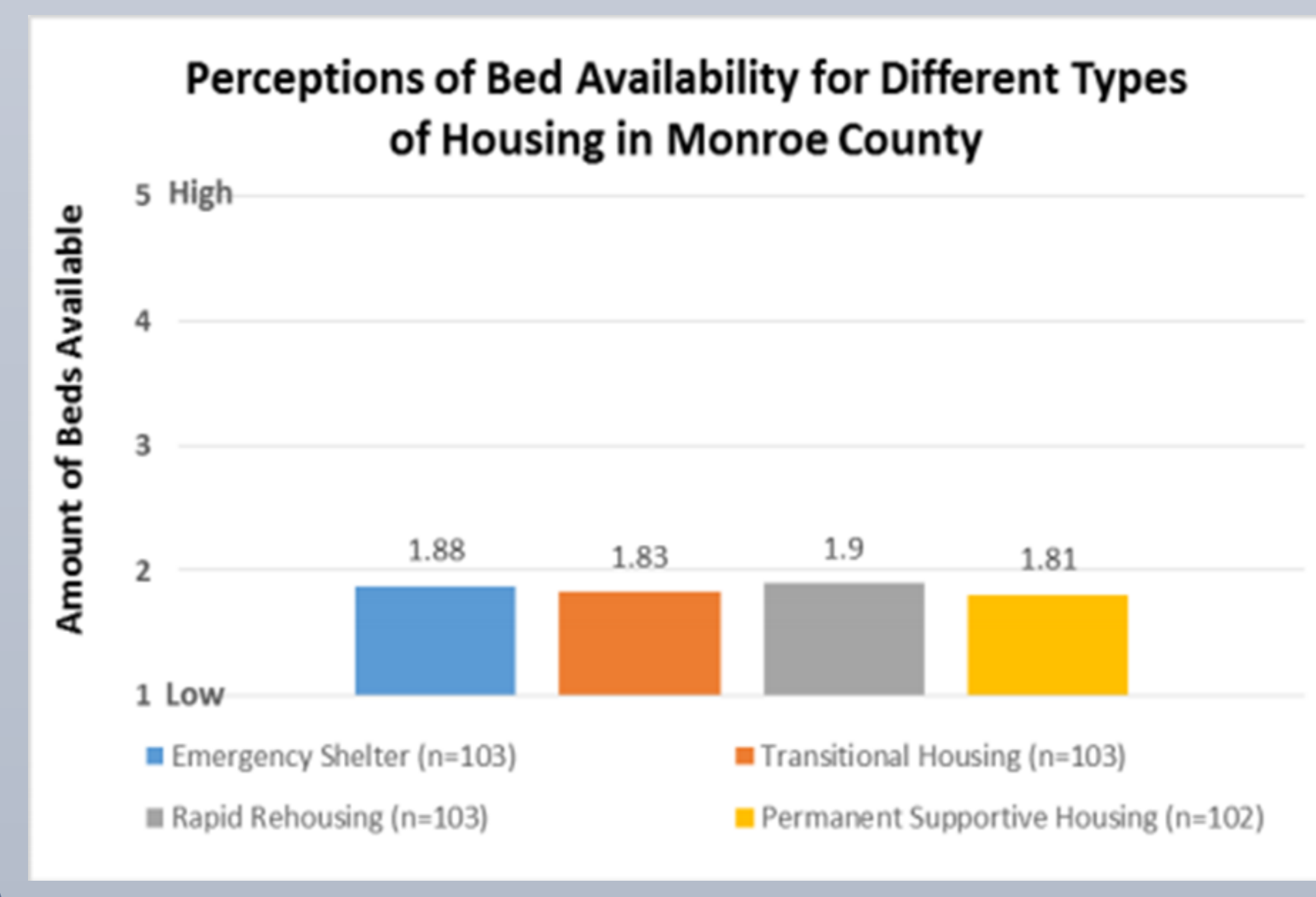
Introduction

In 2017, CPSI completed a homeless gap analysis for the homeless shelter and services system in Monroe County. An effective Gap Analysis has two components: 1) the determination of unmet needs within the community; and 2) the determination of gaps and their relative priority through engagement with community members (HUD, 1999). The first component was done using Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data, and the second was built from survey, interview, and focus group information from the community of homeless providers, and included homeless individuals as well.
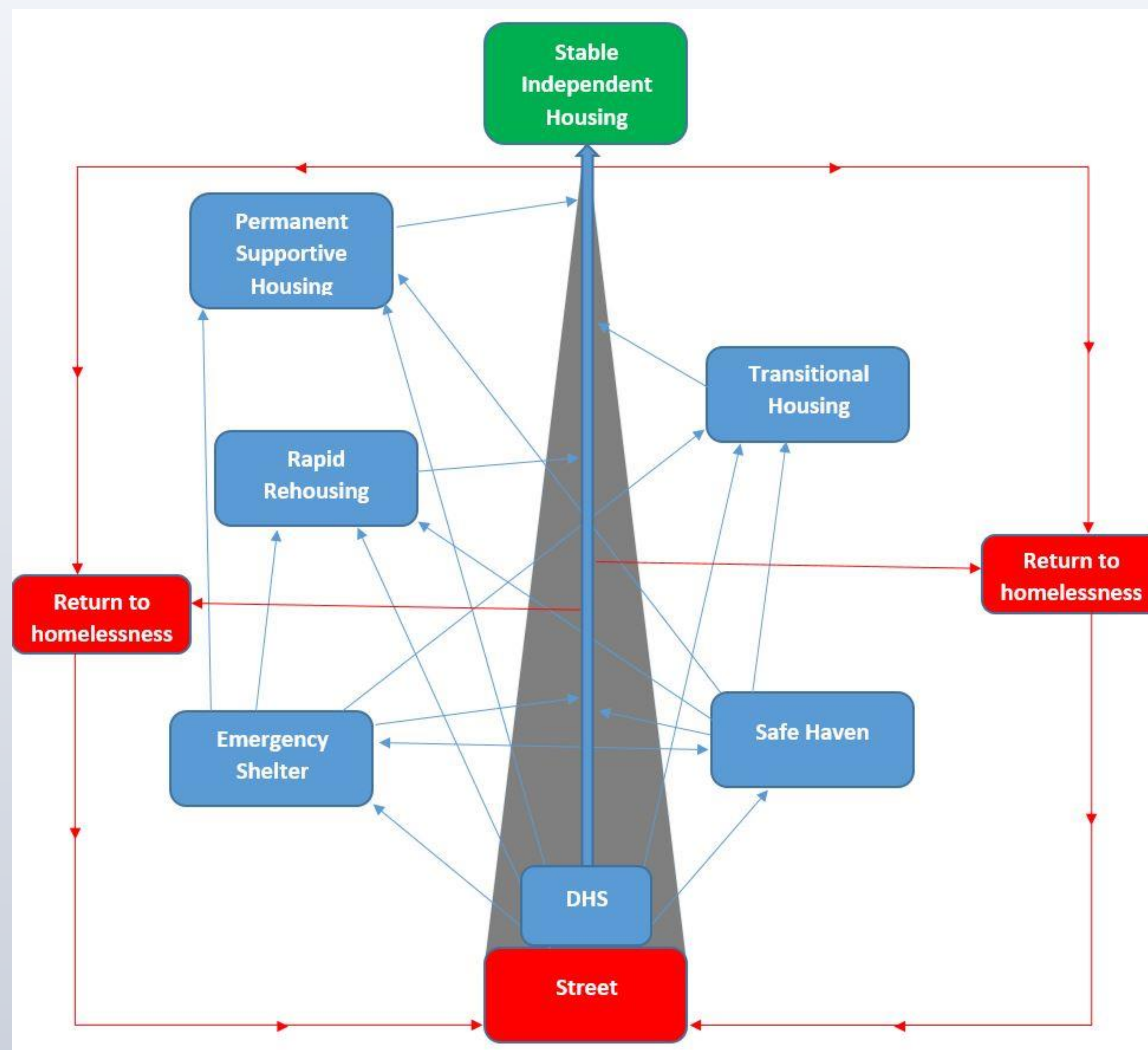
Housing Type and Availability

Assessing the needs and gaps of the local Monroe County homeless services system included an examination of the amount of specialized housing available. A variety of specialized housing is used within Monroe County in order to meet the diverse needs of the homeless population and help them to, ideally, maintain stable housing. Below are the primary types of specialized homeless housing.

- Emergency Shelter

- Safe Haven

- Rapid Rehousing

- Transitional Housing

- Permanent Supportive Housing

Homeless service providers in Monroe County were surveyed about their perceptions of bed availability for different types of housing. On average, they believed that there were not enough beds for each type of housing.

Reality of Homeless Housing Needs

Unmet Needs

Unmet Needs = (the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals in need of housing) – (the number of beds currently available or in use, and the number of beds under development)

Type of Housing	Homeless Individuals	Number of Beds Under Development	Number of Beds Available	Total Number of Beds	HUD Unmet Needs	LOCAL Unmet Need
Emergency Shelter	613	0	488	488	125	125
Transitional Housing	128	0	137	137	9	9
Permanent Supportive Housing	1840	155	1985	2140	300	145
Rapid Rehousing	398	58	398	456	58	0
Safe Haven	11	0	12	12	1	1
Total	3055*	213	3020	3233	178	35

*65 unsheltered homeless individuals counted in the PIT were included here

Conclusions

The formula used by HUD to determine housing need does not take into account the fluid nature of homeless housing needs. The formula also does not take into account various local or individual level factors that may influence housing options and needs.

- Homeless individuals may require multiple types of housing on the way to stable independent housing

- The degree of trauma experienced by homeless individuals as they cycle between types of housing and street homelessness

- The needs of individuals not defined as homeless by HUD, i.e. couch-surfers and people soon to be evicted

- The impact of organizational funding and staffing on bed availability

Acknowledgements

References

Department of Housing and Urban Development (1999). Guide to Continuum of Care Planning and Implementation. Retrieved from https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCGuide.pdf

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