



COVID-19 HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE

This report is designed to provide information and updates on Detroit's system-level response to COVID-19. The report contains data and resources, provides a summary of actions taken, as well as highlights important systems changes.

In the past, these reports have been distributed weekly. However, due to a decline in the prevalence of the pandemic in our system, we have shifted to reporting out on a monthly-basis. In addition to the standard elements of past reports, we will now also be reflecting on lessons we have learned as a system throughout the pandemic.

Please note: due to increased prevalence of COVID-19 in the homeless response system and the massive undertaking of rolling-out the COVID-19 vaccinations to the homeless population, there was a delay in the expediency of reporting November & December's data. Please forgive this delay in distribution. We hope to get back on track soon.

While this information is being shared with the public monthly, please know that our inter-agency response team continues to meet regularly to address and respond to our system's needs.

System Data

Testing & Alternative Shelter Data

The images below show data related to **COVID-19 testing** and the **occupancy of our Alternative Shelter Sites** (defined in the second image).

We hope to show trends and more in-depth data on a quarterly basis.

Please remember that while we are sharing this data monthly, the homeless response team is regularly reviewing and responding to the information as it becomes available.

(click images to access pdf of report)

DETROIT HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE COVID-19 TESTING DATA

Data and trends are for **November 1 – December 31, 2020**.
Cumulative data is for **March 23 – December 31, 2020**.

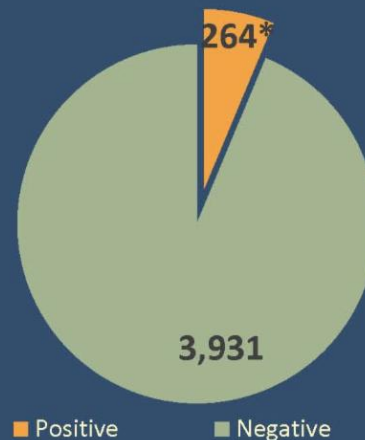


4,590 tests have been conducted since the start of COVID-19 (March 23)*

805 tests were conducted in **November**
1,135 tests were conducted in **December**

Only 7% of all tests to-date have been positive for COVID-19

***18** of the total positives were veterans
5 were unsheltered persons

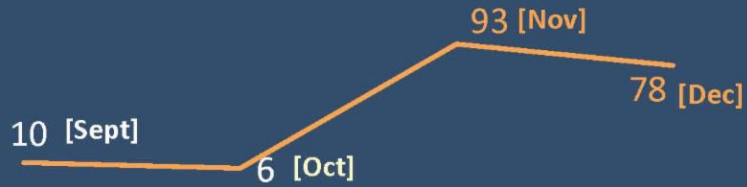


42 total clients tested positive for COVID-19 in the month of **November** and **95** clients tested positive in **December**.

COVID-19 ALTERNATIVE SHELTER DATA

93 total persons served in Detroit's Alternative Shelters* in **Nov.**
78 total persons served in Detroit's Alternative Shelters* in **Dec.**

We saw a **significant increase** in the prevalence of COVID-19 in **Nov.** and **Dec.**



November

Average Length of Stay = 1-3 days



Average Length of Stay = 10-22 days



December

Average Length of Stay = 1 day



Average Length of Stay = 17 days

These shelters had **0 occupancy** for a total of **5 days** in November and **0 days** in December.

*Two alternative shelter sites (also referred to as isolation or interim shelters) were opened in March for COVID mitigation. **Shelter Type 1:** Serves people with COVID symptoms awaiting test results. **Shelter Type 2:** Serves COVID positive people while they are quarantined. Detroit also briefly operated a pilot of Shelter Type 3 that served high-risk populations. Shelter Type 3 data will be shared in a future report.



Type 1



Type 2

Persons left Alternative Shelters for the following destinations in **November AND December:**

- Emergency Shelter (148)
- Return to Streets (0)
 - Hospital (2)
 - Family (19)
 - Housing (2)

System Flow & Referral Data

The images below show capacity and referral data for our system.

Please remember that while we are sharing this data monthly, the homeless response team is regularly reviewing and responding to the information as it becomes available.

(click images to access pdf of report)

DETROIT HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE EMERGENCY SHELTER FLOW & REFERRAL DATA

Data and trends are from **November 1 – December 31, 2020.**

Aside from our Veteran Beds, we are unable to report shelter occupancy data for November and December due to a number of issues that impacted data quality. Some factors that impacted the data in November & December is the increased prevalence of COVID-19 and the ramping up of seasonal warming centers.



Veteran Beds

51% utilized in Nov.

114 of 208 available beds occupied on average per day



Veteran Beds

51% utilized in Dec.

105 of 208 available beds occupied on average per day

*Notes: 1) Veteran Beds include both Grant Per Diem (GPD) & Contract Residential (CR); 2) HoH stands for Head of Household (below)

256 total shelter referrals in November:

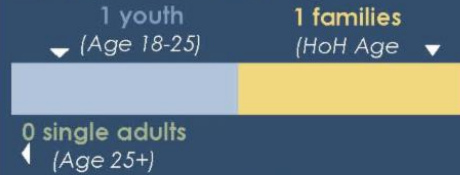


288 total shelter referrals in December:



NOVEMBER HOUSING PROGRAM REFERRAL DATA

Transitional Housing (TH): Provides housing and support services up to 24 months while clients secure permanent housing.



Grant Per Diem (GPD): TH program serving Veterans.



Rapid Re-Housing (RRH): Designed to help quickly end homelessness and return to permanent housing by providing rental assistance and wrap-around support services for up to 24 months.



Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF): Provides homeless prevention and RRH assistance/wrap-around support to Veterans at imminent risk or currently experiencing homelessness.



Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): Non-time-limited rental assistance & voluntary support services provided to those experiencing chronic homelessness who have a documented disability.



Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH): A PSH program serving Veterans.



DECEMBER HOUSING PROGRAM REFERRAL DATA

Transitional Housing (TH): Provides housing and support services up to 24 months while clients secure permanent housing.



Grant Per Diem (GPD): TH program serving Veterans.



Rapid Re-Housing (RRH): Designed to help quickly end homelessness and return to permanent housing by providing rental assistance and wrap-around support services for up to 24 months.



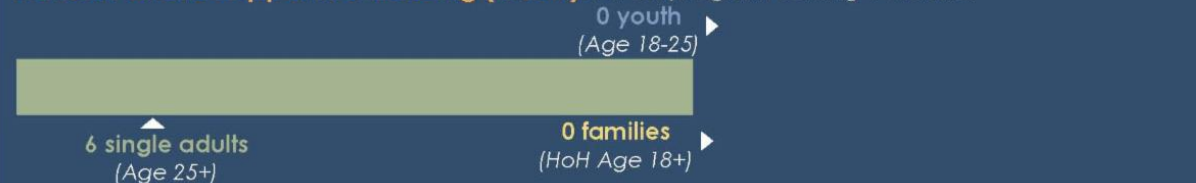
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Homelessness Response Actions Taken

PPE Distribution

Supplies were distributed to 66 homeless service

Item	November			
	Amount Received	Need	Met	Gap
Hand sanitizer (gallons)	266	266	100%	
Gloves	24000	23800	101%	
Disposable Masks	10000	10000	100%	
Spray Sanitizer (375 mL bottles)	168	N/A	N/A	
Disposable Gowns	1400	2912	48%	52%
Hand Soap (gallons)	0	104	0%	100%
Disinfectant Wipe Containers	0	464	0%	100%



providers during the months of November and December. Coordination between the

Neighborhood Service Organization, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Ward Church of Northville, Rock Ventures, Detroit Wick, as well as the City of Detroit Departments of Innovation and Technology, Development and Grants, Fire, Health, General Services, Housing and Revitalization made these supply distributions possible.

Item	December			
	Amount Received	4 Week Need	Met	Gap
KN95 Masks	50000	47124	106%	-
Gloves	27000	26800	101%	-
Hand sanitizer (gallons)	300	300	100%	-
Disposable Gowns	700	1456	48%	52%
Spray Sanitizer (mL)	63000	149524	42%	58%
Disinfectant Cleaning Solution & Bleach (gallons)	94	360	26%	74%
Shower Sheets	500	0	-	-

(click images to enlarge)

A special thank you to the *Alternative Shelter* site staff who help to receive, prepare, and distribute these supplies to our CoC's frontline and congregate homeless service providers.

Development of COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy

The Detroit Department of Health developed closed point of dispensing (POD) partnerships with emergency shelters in preparation for the release of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccine distribution began on January 13th for all of our congregate living emergency shelters, transitional housing, and PSH programs in addition to our unsheltered clients at the NOAH project and the Pope Francis Center.

For more information please reach out to Sheila Finch from the Detroit Health Department at finchsh@detroitmi.gov

Increase in COVID-19 Positives & System Response

In November and December, there was a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in emergency shelters. To combat this we offered 1-1 technical assistance with TAC to each of our shelters, increased testing to bi-weekly, and added additional alternative shelter capacity.

Testing Strategy Progress

In January, DHD started COVID-19 testing to ensure fast and accurate test results to our congregate living facilities.

Testing Expanded to Project-Based PSH Sites

Last year, MDHHS expanded COVID-19 testing to project-based PSH sites

If you are interested in getting your project based PSH site signed up for testing, please reach out to Lauren

Additional Alternative Shelter Capacity

Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in November and December, the City of Detroit in partnership with The Detroit Health Department (DHD), secured additional alternative shelter space for COVID-19 positive clients.

Important System Updates

Unsheltered and Shelter PIT Count

The PIT Planning Team, with the CoC Board's approval, cancelled the unsheltered count for 2021 due to challenges presented by COVID-19. The team submitted a waiver request to HUD and the request was granted due to the extraordinary circumstances. The sheltered PIT count took place January 27th, 2021.

Street Outreach continues regular engagement of unsheltered homeless populations.

Family Housing Accelerator

The Family Housing Accelerator aims to house 66 families experiencing homelessness as quickly as possible by Spring. The 66 families are households experiencing homelessness in Detroit as of 12/1. This short term project is an opportunity to address barriers to housing and apply lessons learned to long term efforts in the future.

The project draws from new and existing resources, such as CARES-funded Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), Detroit Housing Commission (DHC) vouchers, and Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV).

We have created working groups to support our overall implementation as follows:

- The **Resource Mapping group meets weekly** for executive decision-making for the initiative, system-level problem solving, and mapping housing resources to households based on need. The group consists of the following system partners: City of Detroit, HAND, CAM, and DHC. Participants also coordinate with HUD and MSHDA as needed.
- The **Family Housing Accelerator work group meets bi-weekly** to brainstorm and problem solve as a way to guide the planning and implementation process. Participation includes people with lived expertise, system partners, and representatives from the following programs: shelters, navigation, RRH, PSH, DHC.
- The **Family Homelessness By-Name List (FamBNL) Group meets weekly** for client level case conferencing and problem solving. Participation includes providers with clients on the FamBNL from the following programs: shelters, navigation, RRH, PSH, DHC.

Currently, over half of the 66 families on the FamBNL have been referred to RRH or are working through the HCV process. We are working to track progress of each household that has been referred, as well as refer the remaining households to a permanent housing resource.

Cold Blue Reminder

The cold weather season is here! In preparation for the winter season, the City of Detroit would like to remind providers about Code Blue situations. A Code Blue

can happen when temperatures reach below 20 degrees including wind chill between hours of 4pm-8am or freezing rain/ice storms or more than 6 inches of snow. All emergency shelters are to take walk-ins during Code Blue situations.

Lessons Learned

This Month's Highlight - Client Incentives

Thanks to a generous grant from United Way to Southwest Solutions, we've been able to provide clients that receive their COVID-19 test results and clients staying at the alternative shelter site with gift cards. We started off by giving out gift cards to fast food restaurants, but thanks to feedback from clients we learned that wasn't working. Most fast food restaurants are drive through only, and many clients don't have cars to access drive through services. Thanks to the feedback gift cards are now offered at drugstores such as CVS. We've received positive feedback about the incentives initiative, especially from those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Gift cards will continue to be distributed until the grant runs out.

CAM Updates



Integrating Prevention into CAM

With the influx of funding from the CARES Act, significant funding is being dedicated to homelessness prevention services. The Detroit CoC is using this as an opportunity to integrate prevention services into CAM, creating a streamlined prioritization and referral process. This new process began on February 1, 2021, at which point all households served in homelessness prevention programs funded through City ESG will be assessed, prioritized, and referred by the Coordinated Entry System.

Integrating Veteran and non-Veteran Coordinated Entry Systems

Historically, the Detroit CoC has operated two separate coordinated entry processes for veterans and non-veterans in Detroit. Beginning February 1, 2021, those systems have been merged and all households (veteran or non-veteran) will now go through the same coordinated entry system, CAM. This merge will reduce confusion for households seeking emergency shelter and housing resources, and will allow the Detroit CoC to maintain a better record and provide more streamlined housing and services to all people experiencing homelessness in Detroit.

Success Spotlight!

Central City Integrated Health's COVID-19 Response



In April 2020, as part of its response to the pandemic, Central City Integrated Health (CCIH) facilitated the development of the Alliance for COVID-19 Testing, referred to as ACTdetroit.

The collaborative community initiative, which was in partnership with CCIH's fellow Detroit and Wayne County Federally Qualified Health Centers and Authority Health, worked to 1) ensure that local low-income, unhoused, and other marginalized community members were not left behind in the health crisis, and 2) extend access to COVID-19 testing in the metro Detroit community. Through ACTdetroit, CCIH also provided its partners with personal protective equipment (PPE), COVID-19 test supplies and access to test developers, researchers, medical suppliers and clinical laboratories.

Notably, at the onset of the pandemic, there was a stark disparity in how many African Americans in Michigan were impacted by COVID-19. As a result, CCIH established relationships with a network of faith-based organizations to offer on-site mobile testing, providing COVID-19 diagnostic testing and antibody testing for more than 2,000 thousand metro Detroit residents from within minority communities.

By providing PPE, COVID-19 test supplies, access to Helix Laboratories to deliver test results rapidly, and mobile COVID-19 testing, CCIH and its partners at ACTdetroit streamlined a grassroots, community-driven response to ensure low-income, homeless and other marginalized community members were prioritized for care during this public health crisis.



Since May 2020, CCIH has:

- Hosted 13 collaborative community COVID-19 testing events throughout the City of Detroit and Southfield
- Established partnerships with a number of large, African-American churches as well as organizations within the Archdiocese of Detroit
- Conducted a total of 2,391 tests, including 1,649 COVID-19 diagnostic tests and 742 antibody tests
- Of these 2,391 tests analyzed, 65.5% were female; M age = 52.2
- A majority of these tests were from the City of Detroit (71.34% COVID-19 diagnostic tests; 35.66% antibody tests)
- Of the 1,649 COVID-19 diagnostic tests, 20 were positive, demonstrating that 1.21% of diagnostic tests conducted were positive
- Of the 742 antibody tests, 182 were positive, resulting in 24.53% positive antibody tests.



The CDC has many great resources on talking to staff and clients about vaccines. Click on the links to the right to learn more.

CDC Resources

Educational Flyers

Helpful Resources

Unlimited Data Hotspots

- Only available to low-income individuals, not organizations.
- Hotspots are in the Sprint network, soon to be T-Mobile, as well
- Pricing: \$99 for the hotspot and \$15 a month for the service
- To request internet please visit <https://www.human-init.org/request-internet> (Log-in begins at 9:15 a.m.)

MI Bridges Online Community Partner Trainings

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services is providing MI Bridges training for Access, Navigation and Referral partners. [Link](#)

Pet Pantry

The Michigan Humane Society's Pet Pantry program assists hundreds of qualifying low-income families in the metro Detroit area. MHS provides dog food, cat food and pet supplies at no charge to owned pets in an effort to keep animals in their current homes. Visit this [link](#) for details.

Free Online Tutoring for Students Experiencing Homelessness

March 15 from 1:00 - 2:00pm

Rija Awan from End the Cycle will present on the program and how to connect with the services. End the Cycle is a student organization at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor which strives to "end the cycle" of poverty and homelessness by providing homeless students with academic help and mentorship. They provide services including after school tutoring, ACT/SAT preparation, College Preparation and Admission mentorship, and strive to create long lasting relationships with students. [Link](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Ending Homelessness: A Virtual Conference
Thursday, March 8 -10, 2021

The Conference will cover successful strategies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, address emerging challenges, and explore innovative new ways to solve problems. Workshops and plenaries have been developed in concert with people who have experienced homelessness, and with a focus

on race and equity.

[Register here](#)



Ongoing CoC-Wide Webinars

The City of Detroit, CAM, CSH and HAND are jointly hosting weekly webinars **every other Friday at 9am** for homeless service providers. The goal of these webinars remains to bring stakeholders together to provide up-to-date information regarding COVID-19, respond to questions, and allow for targeted learning opportunities. *Note: the next webinar is Friday, March 5th.*

You can access shared resources for providers as well as past webinar recording and materials [by clicking here](#).

You can register for the ongoing webinars [by clicking here](#).

If you would like to be added to the webinar invitations please email kaitie@handetroit.org

[Detroit's COVID-19 Webpage](#)