

**Trends in Housing and Homelessness Indicators in Ottawa (2004-2012)**  
 The Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa (ATEH)

Prepared by Tim Aubry, Chair of the ATEH Research and Evaluation Working Group

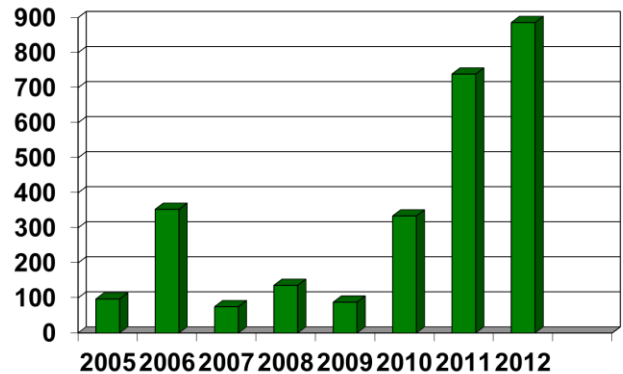
**GOOD NEWS IN 2012**

**Yearly # Affordable Housing Units :  
 New-built and Rental Assistance 2005-2012**

The 886 new units created in Ottawa over 2012 is a very positive development. It represents the second year in a row that the combination of the building of new affordable units and new rental assistance totals over 700 units.

This comes after a period of six years where the total never exceeded 360 units and was less 100 units in some years.

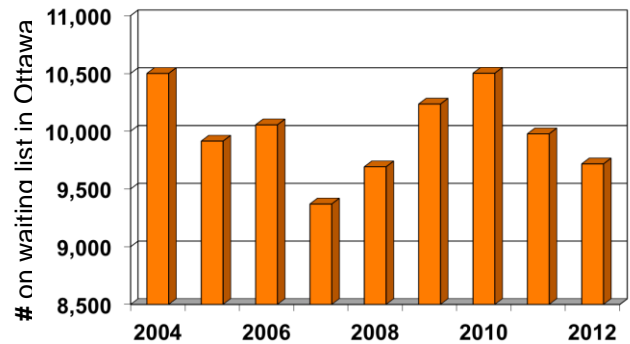
Between 2004 and 2012, a total of 1,232 new built units were constructed in Ottawa; between 2000 and 2004, 509 new units were built.



**# Individuals on the Waiting List of the  
 Social Housing Registry in Ottawa (2004-2012)**

A second piece of good news is the decrease in the number of individuals on the Social Housing Registry Waiting List for the second year in a row from a high of 10,500 people on the waiting list in 2010 to about 9,700 in 2012.

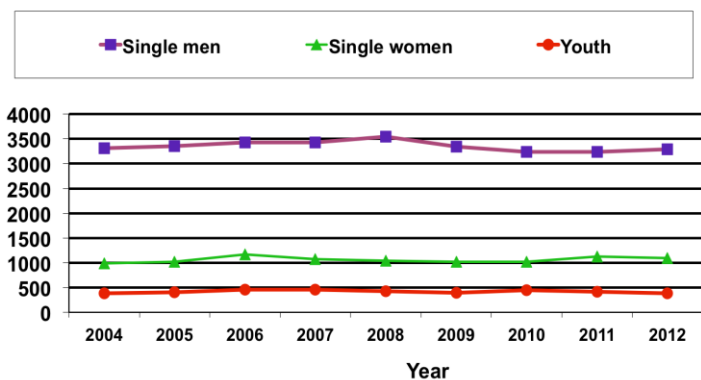
This represents a drop of 800 people on the waiting list.



**Number of Different Individuals in  
 Emergency Shelters in Ottawa (2004-2012)**

Also a positive development has been the small decreases in the number of single men using shelters since 2008 and in the number of youth and single women since 2006.

Overall, youth and single men have stayed at almost the same number since the first report card in 2004 and single women have shown a growth of about 10% since then.

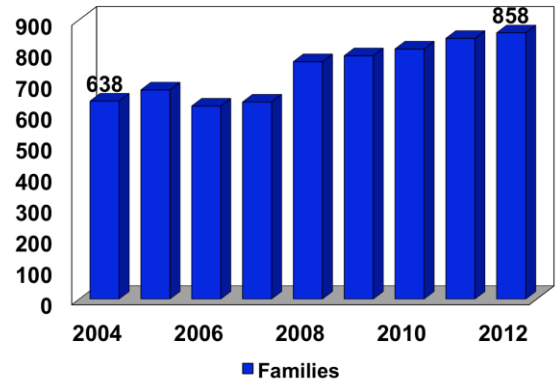


## BAD NEWS IN 2012

### # of Families in Emergency Shelters in Ottawa (2004-2012)

The most troubling news is that the number of families entering emergency shelters in Ottawa has increased every year since 2006.

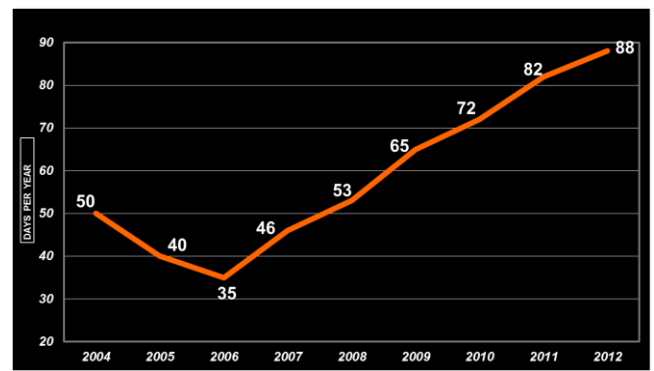
Overall, there has been a 34% growth in the number of families using shelters since 2004.



### Average Length of Stay for Families in Emergency Shelters in Ottawa (Days) 2004-2012

Not only have the number of families grown but their average length of stay in shelters has also increased since 2006 to a present high of 88 days or almost three months.

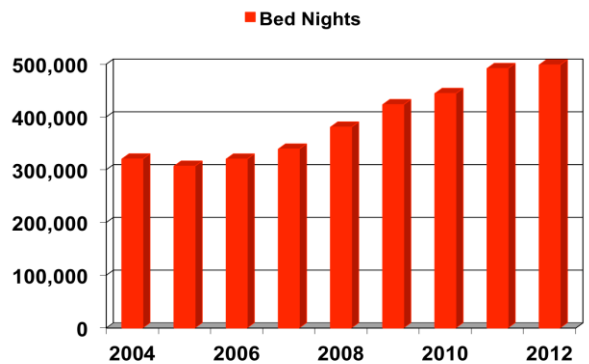
This is more than double the average length of stay for families in 2006.



### # of Shelter Beds Used in Ottawa (2004-2012)

The combination of this growth the number of families and the significant increase in their length of stay as well as the length of stay of other the other groups has resulted in an increase in the number of beds used in shelters each year starting in 2005.

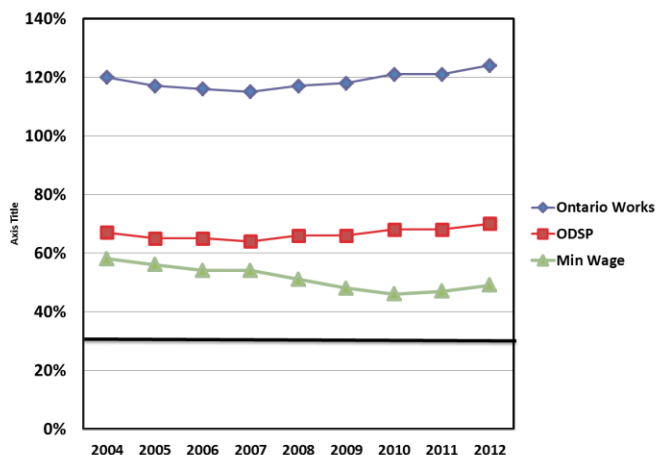
Over the course of 2012, close to 500,000 beds were used in the emergency shelters in Ottawa representing an increase of 63% since 2005.



## Percentage of Low Income for an Individual Spent on the Rental of a Bachelor Apartment in Ottawa (2004-2012)

The last piece of bad news in the trends and reflected in the grades since the ATEH started setting targets in 2010 and grading based on progress towards these targets – is the lack of progress over 9 years in the area of people on low income being able to afford housing in Ottawa.

As you can see from the graph, for individuals on OW and ODSP, the percent of their income required for them to pay the average rental cost for a bachelor apartment has increased since 2004.



Even in the case of individuals on minimum wage where there has been an improvement since 2004, it required in 2012, 46% of their income to pay the average rent for bachelor apartment and this is an increase since 2010 when it was 44%. In all cases, the percent of income is well-above 30%, the standard recommended by CMHC.

## CONCLUSION

A central message in the nine report cards put out by the ATEH is that the common and primary driver behind homelessness is poverty.

In particular, individuals and families receiving social benefits or earning low wages are unable to afford the housing market in Ottawa. This situation when combined with health problems, social isolation, financial crisis, domestic problems, and /or inadequate housing places them at risk of becoming homeless.

As a result, the policy response of all levels of government has to target increasing the income support provided to those living in poverty and growing the stock of affordable housing in cities across Canada including in Ottawa.

## CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

**ATEH Executive Director: Lynne Browne**  
 171 George Street, Ottawa ON, K1N 5W5  
 Tel: 613-241-1573, ext. 314  
 Email: [lynnebrowne@endhomelessnessottawa.ca](mailto:lynnebrowne@endhomelessnessottawa.ca)

April 29, 2013

## Report Card Data Sources / Sources des données du bulletin

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation / Société canadienne d'hypothèque et de logement  
 City of Ottawa / Ville d'Ottawa  
 Province of Ontario / Province de l'Ontario  
 Social Housing Registry of Ottawa / Centre d'enregistrement pour les logements sociaux d'Ottawa  
 Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada  
 Supportive Housing Network of Ottawa / Réseau de logements avec services de soutien d'Ottawa

English and French versions of the Report Card on End Homelessness in Ottawa, Jan-Dec 2012 are available as PDFs for downloading at [www.endhomelessnessottawa.ca](http://www.endhomelessnessottawa.ca).