



Illinois Valley PADS – Homeless Report – January-March/2024
Both Facilities Near Capacity – 121 People / 66 beds – Peru; 55 beds - Ottawa

	2022 Previous Year 9 month season	2023 Last Year 9 month season	Season to date (8/8-12/31/23 – 4 mo) (5 months left to the season)
Total	371	492	314
Children	56	81	57
Families	25	41	30
Meals provided	41,072	51,699	33,826

Providing SERVICES – How IV PADS has served

We are more than just a bed. We serve with generosity and empower people to become self-sufficient and to personally acquire the tools needed to break the cycle of homelessness.

Services we provide:

- **Assessment:** Case management with individual service plans
- **Educational classes** such as seeking employment, preparing and maintaining a budget and parenting
- **Support groups** for help with managing mental health conditions
- **Rooms for family** units to stay together
- **Resources with other agencies** to secure housing
- **Life skills training** to teach clients self-sufficiency
- **Bible centered groups** to those interested

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Obtained employment	45	93	84	177	60	114	145	194
Obtained housing	71	87	82	99	104	38	65	55
								Includes families
Class attendance	-	-	2,799	6,498	9,347	7,129	6,313	7,710
Time management, chores assignment, case management cooperation, completing personal goals, improving social skills, medical care accountability								
Additional client assistance provided:								
Provided clothing	1,108	1,954	2,104	2,461	2,121	1,683	1,069	1,420
Eyecare/glasses	1	16	26	13	4	7	1	0
Prescriptions	116	138	76	92	83	336	72	286
Dental care	6	28	34	7	19	26	13	26
State ID, birth certificate, driver's license	30	96	39	59	56	79	73	223
Transporting clients	511	724	471	668	470	797	403	1,241
Medical treatment	122	24	134	125	81	339	417	785
Train, bus transportation	14	15	7	8	11	11	15	26
SSI/SSDI obtained	7	12	-	5	17	33	24	48
Phones	4	56	48	25	15	26	24	107
Rehab	-	11	11	1	8	1	2	3
Mental health	-	-	-	31	27	183	15	439

Homelessness Awareness – Understanding the NEED: The faces of homelessness are increasing in the Illinois Valley community, and so is the need for immediate, compassionate action. By taking a comprehensive and collaborative approach, IV PADS and the community can work together to address the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness while also tackling the underlying causes. This multifaceted strategy can create a more compassionate, supportive, and understanding environment for individuals and families in the Illinois Valley region.

Reasons for Homelessness

Loss of job or insufficient income
Lack of affordable housing

Family disputes
Eviction / overcrowding

Illinois Valley Specific Barriers

Few mental health and rehab inpatient services
High poverty levels

Lack of income for housing and medical care
Transportation limitations

Understanding these factors is crucial for developing effective solutions and support systems that address the root causes of homelessness in the Illinois Valley region. Advocacy, community outreach, and targeted interventions can contribute to breaking down these barriers and fostering a more supportive environment for those experiencing homelessness.

Challenging stereotype and promote understanding of the homeless

"Homelessness is not a label; it's a circumstance. Let's replace stereotypes with understanding and compassion."

Dispelling stereotypes about homelessness requires recognizing the individuality and varied circumstances of those experiencing it. Here are some key points to consider:

- **Diverse Causes:** Homelessness can result from a myriad of factors, including economic challenges, job loss, mental health issues, family breakdown, domestic violence, and more. Each person's journey into homelessness is unique.
- **Not a Choice:** Contrary to the stereotype that suggests homelessness is a lifestyle choice, many individuals find themselves in this situation due to a series of unfortunate events or systemic issues. It is rarely a matter of personal preference.
- **Invisible Homelessness:** Not all homelessness is visible on the streets. Many individuals experiencing homelessness may find temporary shelter in cars, couch surf, or stay in overcrowded and inadequate housing. This "invisible" homelessness is a significant and often overlooked aspect.
- **Diverse Demographics:** Homelessness affects people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. It is not limited to a specific demographic, and anyone can be vulnerable to homelessness given certain circumstances.
- **Working Homeless:** A significant portion of those experiencing homelessness may have jobs but still struggle to afford stable housing due to factors such as low wages, high living costs, or part-time employment.
- **Children and Families:** Homelessness affects families, including children. It disrupts not only individual lives but the family unit, contributing to a cycle that can be challenging to break.
- **Temporary Circumstances:** For some, homelessness is a temporary state brought on by a crisis, and individuals may successfully transition out of it with the right support and resources.
- **Stigmatization and Mental Health:** Homelessness itself can lead to mental health challenges, and the stigma associated with being homeless can further exacerbate these issues, creating a cycle that is difficult to escape.

Dispelling stereotypes requires a shift in perspective, increased awareness, and a commitment to understanding the complex factors that contribute to homelessness. It's essential to approach the issue with empathy and recognition of the humanity of those experiencing homelessness. Addressing the root causes and providing support and resources can help break the cycle and create lasting solutions.