Economic Recession: Impact on Halton Serving Agencies

Presentation to Health & Social Services Committee October 20, 2009

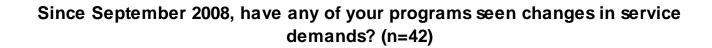


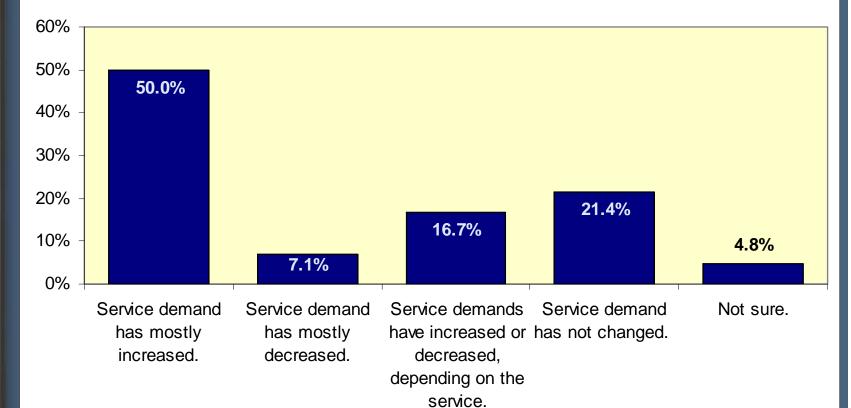


Introduction

- The purpose of this study is to identify the impact of the current global recession on social service agencies serving Halton.
- To document their capacity to provide their services throughout the community
- Survey sent in April 2009 to Halton agencies as part of a provincial SPNO survey
- Case study, in collaboration with UWO, to assess specific impacts on Oakville agencies

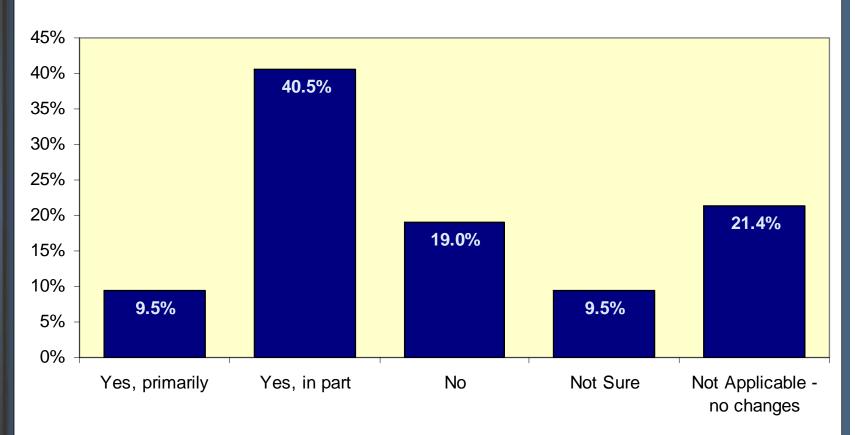




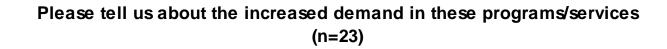


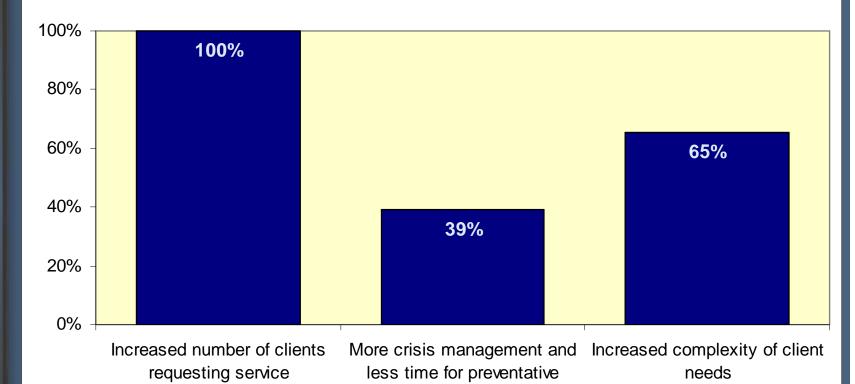


Do you attribute changes in service demands to the worsening economic situation? (n=42)











programming

How you are responding to these increased demands? (n=24)

Not able to respond to increased demand (e.g. increased w aiting lists, w ait times). Supporting more people with same staff (e.g. increased caseloads or use of group sessions. Expanded program staff time and service hours. 38% Increased volunteer hours. 21% Increased overtime hours to provide service. Reallocated agency admin dollars to expand programming. 21% Fundraised more private dollars to expand programming. 17% Received increased government funding to expand 17% programming. Used agency reserves to expand program hours. 13% Reduced supervision time to expanding program hours. 13% Reallocated program \$ from programs with less demand. 13% 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70%



The Story of the Impact

- Recession & Demand
- Waiting for Help
- Resources to Respond
- Survival Skills
- Clients: Multiple Vulnerabilities
- Staff
- Volunteers: Making a Difference



Funding Changes – Immediate & Projected

- Most organizations predict that their funding from government sources will primarily remain the same or increase.
- However, agencies anticipate more volatility from local funding sources, such as United Way/foundations, private donors or self generated income.



Observation

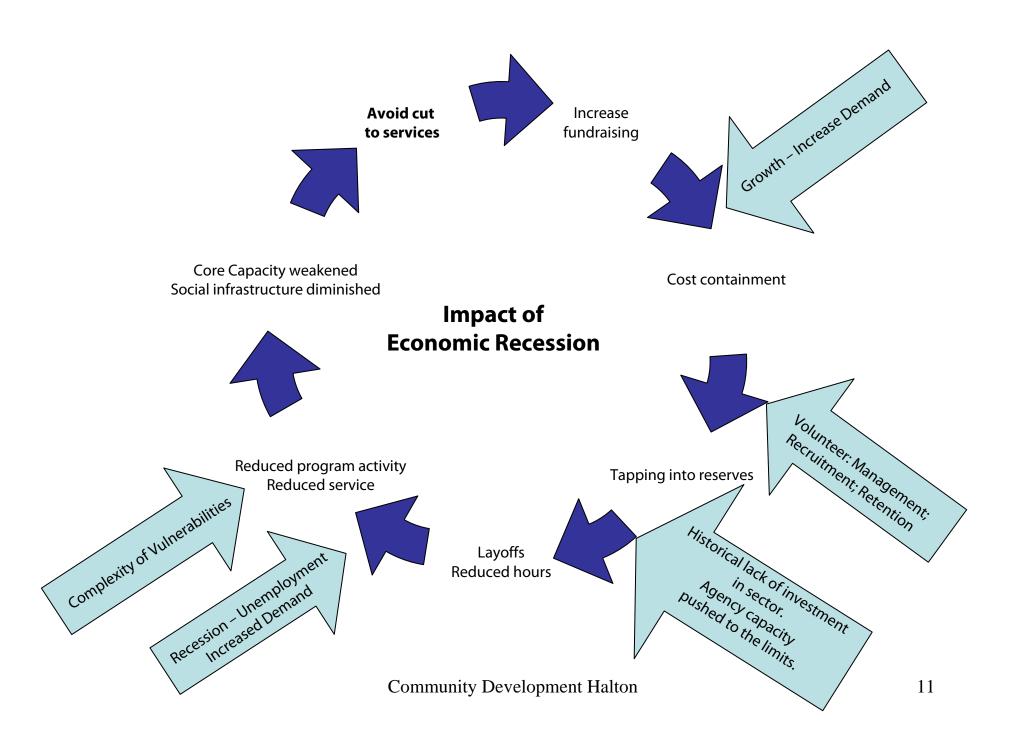
• The combined impact of population growth, the growing need for services resulting from the recession and the long-term lack of investment in human services planning and the social agencies providing care are the antecedents of a 'perfect storm.'



Observations: Building Community Resilience

- Mission Impossible: Funding
- Organizational Capacity & Innovation
- Networks of Solidarity: Communities of Practice
- Communication for Transparency
- Meaningful Policy & Proactive
 - Human Services Plan





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