

Long-term homelessness

Definition of long-term homelessness

For this fact sheet, the term “long-term homeless” includes a person of any age and any family configuration who has been homeless for a year or longer in the current episode, or homeless at least four times in the past three years, and at the time of the interview was staying:

- In an emergency shelter, battered women’s shelter, or in a place not part of any formal shelter program, *or*
- In a transitional housing program, and had a mental illness, substance abuse disorder, or chronic health condition for which they reported they had not received treatment within the past 12 months.

Total number of long-term homeless in the 2012 statewide study

On the date of the survey, 2,600 adults and unaccompanied minors were identified who were experiencing long-term homelessness. They had 914 children with them, for a total of 3,514 people. This total number includes:

- 2,102 adults who did not have children with them (81% of LTH households)
- 39 unaccompanied minors who did not have children with them (2% of LTH households)
- 459 parents (nearly all adults) who had children with them (18% of LTH households)
- 914 minor children (age 17 or younger) with their parents
- Including all unaccompanied minors and older youth ages 18 through 21, the above groups include 361 youth experiencing long-term homelessness (14% of LTH households)

The tables on the reverse side show the distribution of these individuals between emergency and transitional settings and among planning regions.

Estimated annual number

Using a simple estimation procedure based on patterns of homelessness of those surveyed, we assume that about twice as many people experience long-term homelessness over the course of a full year as the number on any given night. Thus we estimate that about 7,028 persons experience long-term homelessness in Minnesota in a year, in about 5,200 households.

The rate of increase in long-term homelessness is slowing

- After steep rises in the numbers of long-term homeless from 2003 to 2009 (over 40% increases in both study cycles), the rate of increase has slowed significantly, growing just under 11% from 2009 to 2012.
- From 2009 to 2012, long-term homelessness increased faster in greater Minnesota (28%) than in the metro region (1%).
- Children with their parents represented the fastest-growing segment of the long-term homeless population today (26% increase from 2009 to 2012).
- After an 8% increase in the number of long-term homeless veterans from 2006 to 2009, the number is back down to the same level again (7% decrease 2009-2012). Veterans are a decreasing share of all those in the long-term homeless population (down from 14% in 2006 and 12% in 2009 to 10% in 2012). However, among all homeless veterans, an increasing proportion are long-term homeless (up from 43% in 2009 to 47% in 2012).

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DISTRIBUTION OF LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS BY FAMILY TYPE AND SETTING

	Adults without children	Unaccompanied minors without children	Parents (of any age) with children	Children with their parents	Total persons	Total households
Emergency or battered women's shelters or unsheltered	1,880	37	334	636	2,887	2,251
Transitional housing and with problems not receiving care	222	2	125	278	627	349
Total	2,102	39	459	914	3,514	2,600

Characteristics of persons experiencing long-term homelessness

Including adults and unaccompanied minors (but not children who were with parents), persons experiencing long-term homelessness have the following characteristics:

- 61% have mental illness
- 26% have a chemical dependency problem (substance abuse or alcohol abuse disorder)
- 19% have dual diagnosis (MI and CD)
- 10% are veterans (16% of adult men)
- 16% are experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence (32% of females)
- 56% have a history of prior incarceration (24% within the past two years)

DISTRIBUTION OF LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS BY FAMILY TYPE AND REGION

	Adults (18+) without children		Unaccompanied minors (<18) without children		Parents (of any age) with children		Children with their parents		Total persons		Total households	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Central	114	5%	0	0%	29	6%	51	6%	194	6%	143	5%
Northeast	56	3%	3	8%	15	3%	32	4%	106	3%	74	3%
Northwest	178	8%	5	13%	37	8%	80	9%	300	9%	220	8%
St. Louis County	197	9%	3	8%	32	7%	76	8%	308	9%	232	9%
Southeast	96	5%	4	10%	27	6%	65	7%	193	5%	128	5%
Southwest	13	1%	0	0%	8	2%	18	2%	38	1%	20	1%
West Central	89	4%	4	10%	12	3%	24	3%	129	4%	105	4%
Greater MN total	742	35%	19	49%	160	35%	347	38%	1268	36%	921	35%
Anoka	35	2%	0	0%	6	1%	12	1%	54	2%	42	2%
Dakota	23	1%	0	0%	16	4%	27	3%	67	2%	39	2%
Hennepin	868	41%	14	36%	218	48%	413	45%	1514	43%	1100	42%
Ramsey	394	19%	6	15%	38	8%	79	9%	517	15%	438	17%
Scott/Carver	29	1%	0	0%	3	1%	6	1%	38	1%	32	1%
Washington	12	1%	0	0%	17	4%	28	3%	57	2%	28	1%
Metro total	1360	65%	20	51%	299	65%	567	62%	2246	64%	1679	65%
Statewide total	2102	100%	39	100%	459	100%	914	100%	3514	100%	2600	100%

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