

# Homelessness in Minnesota

## Highlights from the 2003 statewide study

### Not a homogeneous population

**NOTE: Figures shown are statewide averages. Metro and greater Minnesota patterns often differ.**

- Age range: 8-81 for those on their own; 0-17 for children with parents.  
46% of those in shelters are age 20 or younger. Average age (adults): men 41, women 34
- Education (adults): 24% less than high school; 45% only high school; 30% some college
- Problems include a mix of temporary economic crises and longer-term disabilities
- How long homeless (adults): 11% less than 1 month; 45% 1-11 months; 44% 1 year or longer

Adults		Type of shelter	Unaccompanied youth	
280	6%	Battered women's shelters	9	5%
1,601	34%	Emergency shelters	73	41%
2,269	48%	Transitional housing	59	33%
624	13%	Unknown shelter or street	36	20%

### African Americans and American Indians are disproportionately affected

Percent of homeless adults	Percent of all Minnesota adults		Percent of homeless youth 8-17	Percent of all Minnesota youth 10-17
9%	1%	American Indian	22%	2%
1%	2%	Asian American	1%	4%
40%	3%	Black/African American	31%	5%
43%	91%	White/Caucasian	35%	85%
6%	2%	Other/Mixed race	11%	4%
7%	2%	Hispanic (any race)	10%	3%

### A large proportion have serious disabilities and long-term histories of trauma

Adults		Unaccompanied youth
76%	Serious or chronic disability	62%
43%	Chronic medical condition	36%
30%	Condition that affects their mental functioning	22%
29%	History that suggests traumatic brain injury	14%
43%	Physically or sexually abused as a child	46%
31%	Women homeless due to domestic abuse	--
34%	In institutional placements as a child	71%
7%	Homeless as a child	100%

### Affordability of housing is also a major factor

#### Among homeless adults:

- 40 % are on a waiting list for housing assistance (average wait so far: 10 months)
- Most common reason for leaving last housing: inability to afford payments (33%)  
– Next most common: lost job or had hours cut (31%), eviction or foreclosure (28%)
- The most common source of income is steady employment (23%)
- Homeless parents most often need a 2-bedroom unit, for which fair market rent in the Twin Cities area was \$912 in 2003, compared to the \$384 these parents could afford. In greater Minnesota, fair market rent was \$498, while average ability to pay was \$316.

### Budget cuts were just beginning to be felt at the time of the 2003 survey

- In a survey of shelter providers at the same time as the homeless survey, 59% of providers reported that their services were affected by recent federal, state, and local budget cuts, and another 13% expected to be affected in the near future. Effects included fewer or lower-quality services and higher needs to be addressed.

## Trends over the last 12 years

### A growing proportion are working (as the economy permits)

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003
Adults employed at the time of the survey	19%	26%	34%	41%	30%
Adults working full-time (35+ hours/week)	7%	13%	17%	26%	13%
Youth employed at the time of the survey	28%	22%	32%	27%	19%
Youth working full-time (35+ hours/week)	3%	8%	12%	5%	3%

### Increasing proportions have serious mental illness

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003
Adults with serious mental illness*	25%	24%	32%	36%	47%
Adults alcoholic or chemically dependent	34%	30%	33%	32%	34%
Adults with dual diagnosis	14%	not avail.	15%	14%	17%
Youth with serious mental illness	not asked	not asked	23%	31%	42%

\* Definitions vary slightly from year to year

### Number of women and children levels off in metro, still growing in greater MN

Count of people in shelters	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003
Men	1,160	1,092	1,212	1,820	2,118
Women	780	1,237	1,566	2,000	2,032
Children with parents	875	1,761	2,260	3,122	2,724
Unaccompanied youth	42	52	199	179	141
<b>Total sheltered individuals</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>4,142</b>	<b>5,237</b>	<b>7,121</b>	<b>7,015</b>
People identified in unsheltered locations	118	330	352	524	796

### A growing proportion of homeless adults have been in jail or prison

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003
Adults ever in a correctional facility	28%	27%	27%	36%	42%
Adults released in the past two years	11%	10%	10%	10%	13%
Youth ever in a correctional facility	31%	34%	37%	45%	34%
Youth released in the past two years	not asked	22%	28%	31%	25%

### A growing proportion of homeless adults were maltreated as children

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003
Physically maltreated as a child	28%	33%	34%	33%	38%
Sexually maltreated as a child	17%	22%	25%	24%	27%
Youth ever physically maltreated	47%	54%	42%	47%	38%
Youth ever sexually maltreated	31%	33%	24%	28%	28%

### Fewer children have difficulty attending school because of housing situation

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003
Parents: any child has difficulty attending	16%	14%	13%	15%	8%
Parents: all children attended today	89%	89%	87%	88%	88%
Youth who are enrolled in school	79%	52%	72%	73%	84%
Youth who attended today	47%	32%	48%	45%	64%

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