



Homeless persons with high barriers in Duluth, Minnesota

A needs assessment report for Center City Housing Corporation

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Introduction

To provide a basis for planning for future housing and services, the Center City Housing Corporation contracted with Wilder Research to describe the conditions, history, and needs of the hardest to house members among the current homeless, transient and at-risk population in Duluth. The information in this report is taken from survey responses of people experiencing homelessness in Duluth who participated in the October 2009 statewide study of homelessness.¹ These survey respondents included individuals in shelters and transitional housing programs as well as those identified through outreach who were not staying in a formal shelter or housing program.

To identify the hardest-to-house individuals from the statewide study respondents, Wilder identified respondents with two or more of the following characteristics:

- Meets the Minnesota criteria of long-term homelessness (homeless a year or longer currently, or homeless four or more times in the past three years)
- Did not receive a high school diploma
- Has been unemployed for a year or longer
- Has untreated mental health problems (reports a recent diagnosis or confirmation of a severe or persistent mental illness, but has not received inpatient or outpatient mental health treatment in the past year)
- Left their last housing due to problems with a partner or roommate

This “high-barrier” group was subdivided into those who had children with them, adults age 22 or older without children, and youth age 21 or younger without children. This needs assessment also describes the characteristics of the other parents documented in the 2009 statewide survey who were interviewed in Duluth, referred to here as “parents with lower barriers.”

Using data from the statewide homeless survey, Wilder Research staff prepared this summary of information about the characteristics and needs of each of these four populations.

¹ Every three years since 1991, Wilder Research has partnered with public and private organizations across Minnesota to conduct a Statewide Survey of Homelessness during the third week of October. With trained volunteer interviewers, homeless adults and unaccompanied youth are interviewed in every emergency shelter, battered women’s shelter, and transitional housing program in the state, as well as in many different outreach locations including food sites and encampments. Results from the 2009 study are available in a variety of reports, summaries, and fact sheets at www.wilderresearch.org, which also includes downloadable data tables by topic and region.

Results

In the 2009 statewide survey 331 homeless people were interviewed in Duluth, including 77 unaccompanied youth ages 15 through 21, 191 adults age 22 or older, and 63 parents age 17 or older who had children with them. This report examines key characteristics of four groups:

- **Homeless youth with high barriers** (39 of the 77 youth in the overall Duluth group, or 51%)
- **Homeless single adults with high barriers** (130 of the 191 adults overall, or 68%)
- **Homeless parents with high barriers** (27 of the 63 parents overall, or 43%)
- **Homeless parents with lower barriers** (the remaining 36 parents in the overall group, or 57%)

For the purposes of this assessment a homeless individual with “high barriers” was defined as a person with two or more of the following characteristics:

- Meets the criteria of long-term homeless in Minnesota (homeless a year or longer currently, or homeless four or more times in the past three years)
- Did not receive a high school diploma
- Has been unemployed for a year or more
- Has untreated mental health problems (reports a recent diagnosis or confirmation of a severe or persistent mental illness, but has not received inpatient or outpatient mental health treatment in the past year)
- Left their last housing due to problems with a partner or roommate

The group of parents with lower barriers represent all the parents in the Duluth sample in the 2009 study who had only one or none of these five barriers.

Singles – homeless youth with high barriers

Demographics

Of the 39 homeless youth who were in the high-barrier group, 23 (59%) were male and 16 (41%) were female. Most were persons of color: 36 percent were American Indian, 18 percent were African American, and 5 percent of were of mixed race or background. Forty-one percent were white. All 39 had never married. Most (82%) had lived in Minnesota for more than two years.

Housing history

The most common reason this group of homeless youth gave for leaving their last housing was problems getting along with people that they were living with (29%). The second most common was drinking or drug problems of someone else in the household (26%). The other most frequently cited reasons were loss of a job or reduced hours (24%), inability to find housing they could afford (24%), and entry into jail or treatment (24%). The prevalence of relationship-related problems is in part due to the way in which “high barriers” were defined, but the fact that the interpersonal causes outstrip the economic causes illustrates a significant need in this group of vulnerable youth.

Problems getting or keeping housing

Youth do not commonly perceive relationship issues as current barriers to housing. The main problem youth report in their efforts to get or keep housing was the lack of a job or income (62%). The other most common reasons they mention are inability to find housing they can afford (51%), a criminal record (39%), and their own or others’ alcohol or substance use (26%). Other barriers they cited, for which supportive services could be also of substantial help, include the lack of a local rental history (23%), and their age (21%).

Homeless history

Almost half (49%) of homeless youth had slept at least one night outside or in a place not intended for habitation in October 2009. The average number of nights spent outside during the month was 2.6. At some time, 85 percent of homeless youth had lived doubled or tripled up because of economic reasons or because there was not a safe or affordable place to rent or buy. At the time of the survey, nearly one-half (47%) of homeless youth had been homeless for at least one year. Over one-third (36%) had been homeless four or more times in the previous three years, and over one-quarter (28%) had been homeless eight or more times in their lifetime. The average age of being homeless for the first time was 15.1 years.

Institutional history

Many homeless youth had experienced out-of-home placements. Over half (56%) of homeless youth had been in an inpatient drug or alcohol treatment facility or in foster care (51%). More than one-third (36%) had lived in a group home and nearly one-quarter (24%) had lived in a facility for persons with emotional, behavioral, or mental health problems. Thirteen percent had lived in a group home.

Two-thirds (67%) of homeless youth had spent time in a correctional facility, including 37 percent in a juvenile detention center, 41 percent in a county jail, and 3 percent in a state or federal prison. Forty-one percent had been in one of these kinds of correctional facilities in the previous two years.

Income and employment

The average total income received by homeless youth in October 2009 was \$208. Thirteen percent were employed. For those who were not employed, the average length of time without a job was 403 days, just over 13 months. The average amount homeless youth estimate they could pay a month for rent and utilities was \$110.

History of mistreatment

Thirty-nine percent of homeless youth reported being physically mistreated as a child, 23 percent were sexually mistreated as a child, and 39 percent were neglected as a child. Over one-quarter (28%) had been both physically and sexually mistreated as a child. Nearly one-quarter (23%) report that at some time they had stayed in an abusive situation because they did not have other housing options.

History of brain injury

Over half (53%) of homeless youth had been hit on the head so hard that they saw stars or were unconscious. Twenty-eight percent report symptoms following the injury – such as being confused, having trouble remembering things, or having problems making decisions – that are indicative of traumatic brain injury.

Singles – homeless adults with high barriers

Demographics

Of the 130 single homeless adults in the high-barriers group, 97 (75%) were male and 33 (25%) were female. Most were persons of color: 29 percent were American Indian, 25 percent were African American, and 5 percent of were of mixed race or background. Forty-two percent were white. Sixty-two percent had never married. Most (84%) had lived in Minnesota for more than two years.

Housing history

The top reasons single adults gave for leaving their last housing were primarily economic (inability to afford the rent, eviction, and loss of job), but nearly half (48%) also reported leaving at least in part because of interpersonal problems or problem behaviors of a roommate or partner. These include problems getting along with people that they were living with (31%), drinking or drug problems of someone else in the household (26%), behavior problems of a guest or visitor (24%), and abuse by someone they lived with (22%). These issues illustrate one of many barriers to re-integration faced by many people who are homeless: a history of troubled or broken relationships, which may benefit from supportive services.

Problems getting or keeping housing

The main problems homeless single adults cited for being unable to get or keep housing was the lack of a job or income (71%) and the unavailability of affordable housing (54%). Other barriers that they cite include a criminal record (43%), credit problems (43%), the lack of a local rental history (40%), cost of application fees (31%), their own or others' alcohol or substance use (31%), court eviction or bad rental history (30%), and/or mental health problems (23%).

Homeless history

Nearly two-thirds (61%) of homeless single adults had slept at least one night outside or in a place not intended for habitation in October 2009. The average number of nights spent outside was 5.3. At some point, three-quarters (75%) had lived doubled or tripled up because of economic reasons or because there was not a safe or affordable place to rent or buy. Nearly half (46%) had been homeless four or more times in the previous three years, and nearly two-thirds (61%) had been homeless for at least one year in their current episode. Forty-two percent had been homeless eight or more times in their lifetime. The average age of being homeless for the first time was 23.7 years.

Institutional history

Many homeless single adults in this high-barriers group had experienced out-of-home placements. About one-third of homeless single adults had been in a half-way house (31%), an inpatient drug or alcohol treatment facility (30%), and/or foster care (30%). About one-quarter had lived in a group home (23%) and/or in a facility for persons with emotional, behavioral, or mental health problems (23%). Thirteen percent had lived in a group home.

Three-quarters (76%) of homeless single adults had spent time in a correctional facility, and 28 percent had done so in the previous two years. Six percent had spent time in a juvenile detention center, 66 percent in a county jail, and 29 percent in a state or federal prison.

Income and employment

The average total income received by homeless single adults in October 2009 was \$284. Only 5 percent were employed. For the 95 percent who were not employed, the average length of time without a job was 1,540 days (over four years). The average amount homeless single adults estimate they could pay per month for rent and utilities was \$190.

History of mistreatment

Forty percent of homeless single adults reported being physically mistreated as a child, 25 percent reported sexually mistreatment as a child, and 23 percent reported neglect. Over one-quarter (28%) had been both physically and sexually mistreated as a child. Including their adult lives as well, nearly half (44%) had stayed in an abusive situation because they did not have other housing options.

History of brain injury

Three-quarters (75%) of homeless single adults had received a blow to the head so hard that they saw stars or were unconscious. Nearly half (45%) reported the onset of symptoms afterward that are indicative of traumatic brain injury: being confused, having trouble remembering things, or having problems making decisions.

Families – homeless parents with high barriers

Demographics

Of the 27 parents in the high- barriers group from the 2009 study, one (4%) was male and 26 (96%) were female. Most were persons of color: 33 percent were American Indian, 33 percent were African American, 15 percent of were of mixed race or background, and 4 percent African Native. Fifteen percent were white. Most (74%) had lived in Minnesota for more than two years. Eighty-five percent had never married, although some were accompanied by partners (the one father, and two of the mothers, were with partners on the date of the survey). Family size ranged from one to six children, with an average of just over two.

Housing history

Although inability to afford housing is a top reason given by high-barrier parents for leaving their last housing (cited by 44%), the other most-frequently given reasons were both related to problems in relationships: abuse by someone they lived with (44%), and a breakup with a spouse or partner. In fact, two-thirds (68%) of high-barrier parents cited some kind of problem behavior of a roommate or partner as a reasons for losing their housing. Other causes in this overall category include problems getting along with people that they were living with (30%), drinking or drug problems of someone else in the household (30%), and behavior problem of a guest or visitor (30%).

Problems getting or keeping housing

Besides the lack of housing they can afford (cited by 93% of high-barrier parents), the main problems people in this group cited for being unable to get or keep housing were the lack of a job or income (70%), credit problems (62%), cost of application fees (56%), and abuse by someone they lived with (52%). Other barriers many of them cite – and many of them cite multiple barriers – include the lack of a local rental history (41%), court eviction or bad rental history (35%), family size (33%), age of children (30%), race of the family (30%), their age (30%), and/or mental health problems (27%).

Homeless history

Over one-quarter (27%) of homeless parents with high barriers had slept at least one night outside or in a place not intended for habitation in October 2009. The average number of nights spent outside was 1.9. At some time (not necessarily during the month of the survey), 89 percent had lived doubled or tripled up because of economic reasons or because there was not a safe or affordable place to rent or buy. About half of parents

with high barriers had been homeless for at least one year (48%) and over half (52%) had been homeless four or more times in the previous three years. Fifty-eight percent had been homeless eight or more times in their lifetime. The average age of being homeless for the first time was 18.5 years.

Institutional history

Many homeless parents with high barriers had experienced out-of-home placements. Over half (52%) had lived in foster care. About one-third had been in a group home (33%), a facility for persons with emotional, behavioral, or mental health problems (33%), and/or an inpatient drug or alcohol treatment facility (31%). About one-quarter (22%) had lived in a half-way house.

Parents' rates of incarceration were much lower than among single adults. Nevertheless, over half (56%) of homeless parents with high barriers had spent time in a correctional facility, including 44 percent in a county jail and 4 percent in a prison. Nearly one-quarter (22%) had been incarcerated in the previous two years.

Income and employment

Parents in the hardest-to-house group have very low income and employment rates. The average total income received by homeless parents with high barriers in October 2009 was \$506. Fifteen percent were employed. For those who were not employed, the average length of time without a job was 740 days (about two years). The average amount homeless parents in the higher-barrier group estimate they could pay per month for rent and utilities was \$379.

History of mistreatment

Seventy percent of homeless parents with high barriers reported being physically mistreated as a child. In addition, 67 percent had been sexually mistreated, and 50 percent had been neglected. Forty-four percent had been both physically and sexually mistreated as a child. At some time in their lives, over three-quarters (77%) had stayed in an abusive situation because they did not have other housing options.

History of brain injury

Over half (52%) of homeless parents with high barriers had received a blow to the head so hard that they saw stars or were unconscious. Forty-four percent report that after the injury they began to experience symptoms (such as being confused, having trouble remembering things, or having problems making decisions) that indicate likely traumatic brain injury.

Families – homeless parents with lower barriers

The section above describes parents deemed to be hardest to house, as indicated by their having two or more of the five specific barriers listed earlier. However, the other parents surveyed in Duluth during the 2009 study also face serious barriers to housing that could benefit from the kinds of services available through a supportive housing program.

Demographics

Of the 36 homeless parents in the lower-barrier group, three (8%) were male and 33 (92%) were female. Most were persons of color: 28 percent were African American, 17 percent were American Indian, 8 percent were of mixed race or background, and 3 percent were African Native. Forty-four percent were white. Two-thirds (67%) had lived in Minnesota for more than two years. Seventy-eight percent had never married, although one of the men and two of the women were with partners at the time of the interview. Family size ranged from one to five children, with an average of two.

Housing history

Homeless parents in the lower-barrier group gave some of the same reasons for leaving their last housing as those with higher barriers, but some other reasons were more prominent for this group. Similarly with the other group, the top reason was inability to afford the rent. Abuse by someone they lived with was a reason for nearly one-third (31%), although this ranked below loss of a job (44%) and eviction (42%).

Problems getting or keeping housing

Compared to the higher-barrier group, homeless parents in the lower-barrier group cite somewhat fewer reasons for being unable to get or keep housing, but they share most of the same most common reasons including not being able to find any housing they can afford (64%). Other top reasons include the lack of a job or income (56%), court eviction or bad rental history (36%), the lack of a local rental history (31%), and the cost of application fees (25%).

Homeless history

Fourteen percent of homeless parents in the lower-barrier group had slept at least one night outside or in a place not intended for habitation in October 2009. The average number of nights spent outside was less than one (.5). Eighty-nine percent of homeless parents in this group had lived doubled or tripled up at some time because of economic reasons or because there was not a safe or affordable place to rent or buy. Nearly one-

third (31%) had been homeless for at least one year and 14 percent had been homeless four or more times in the previous three years. Twenty-two percent had been homeless eight or more times in their lifetime. The average age of being homeless for the first time was 20.9 years.

Institutional history

Many homeless parents in the lower-barrier group had experienced out-of-home placements. Just under one-third had been in foster care (30%). Over one-quarter had lived in an inpatient drug or alcohol treatment facility (28%) and/or a group home (28%). Fourteen percent had lived in halfway house and 6 percent had lived in a facility for persons with emotional, behavioral, or mental health problems.

One-third (33%) of homeless parents in the lower-barrier group had spent time in a correctional facility, including 22 percent who had spent time in a juvenile detention center, 19 percent in a county jail, and 3 percent in a prison. Eleven percent had been in a correctional facility in the previous two years.

Income and employment

The average total income received by homeless parents with lower barriers in October 2009 was \$662. One-quarter (25%) were employed, more than among any of the higher-barrier groups. For the three-quarters who were not employed, however, the average length of time without a job was 573 days, or over a year and a half. The average amount homeless parents in the lower-barrier group estimate they could pay per month for rent and utilities was \$277.

History of mistreatment

One-third (33%) of homeless parents with lower barriers reported being physically mistreated as a child, 39 percent reported sexually mistreatment, and 31 percent reported parental neglect. Over one-fifth (22%) had been both physically and sexually mistreated as a child. At some time in their lives, two-thirds (67%) had stayed in an abusive situation because they did not have other housing options.

History of brain injury

Nearly half (47%) of homeless parents in the lower-barrier group had received a blow to the head so hard that they saw stars or were unconscious. Nineteen percent reported this experience was followed by the onset of symptoms (such as confusion, memory problems, or problems making decisions) that are symptomatic of traumatic brain injury.

Recommendations

The four groups described in this report – individuals and families with higher levels of barriers to stable housing, and other families in Duluth at the time of the 2009 survey – share many common characteristics and needs. All of these groups have low employment rates and low incomes. All include a disproportionate share of racial minorities. Significant fractions (one-third or more) of each group have childhood histories of abuse, as well as histories in out-of-home social service placements and correctional facilities. All have histories of unstable housing that include being doubled or tripled up with others because they could not afford a place of their own. Thirty to 60 percent of each group had been homeless for a year or longer at the time of the survey.

It is not easy for individuals or families with such strikes against them to regain a solid footing in the world of competitive jobs and market-rate rents. A significant fraction need help to build or re-build the credit histories and rental histories that will persuade a prospective landlord to look seriously at a rental application. With an average of more than a year unemployed, most will need help building or re-building job skills and making connections with potential employers. Importantly, after a long period of homelessness, many will need help re-establishing social connections that will help them rebuild personal stability, social confidence, accountability, and trust. All of these are difficult for formerly-homeless people to do on their own while struggling to make ends meet. All are more likely to occur in the context of a supportive housing program, which thereby helps avoid the personal and social costs involved in repeat episodes of homelessness and use of emergency shelter, as well as other emergency services (including emergency medicine) that are used more highly by homeless people than by their more stably housed counterparts.

The most effective supportive housing for the people described in this report would be delivered through different kinds and levels of service, tailored to the different needs of these four groups.

Youth with high barriers are more likely than the other groups to have a history of residence in a drug or alcohol treatment facility, suggesting they may benefit from a housing program that includes a significant treatment after-care program to help them maintain sobriety. Given the high proportion of youth who are American Indian, it will be important to provide culturally-grounded programs and culturally specific staff. Given the relatively high proportion who report that their basic needs had been neglected during childhood, it will be helpful to include a parenting-preparation component of the life skills program that helps them learn strong parenting skills to supplement their own personal experiences.

Single adults with high barriers have the longest average duration of homelessness and joblessness, as well as the highest rates of prior incarceration. A significant fraction (45%, nearly half) have histories that suggest likely traumatic brain injury, which suggests many will need services to help them address issues such as anxiety, trouble remembering things, or trouble following directions that include more than one or two steps. It is likely that many in this group will need both rent subsidy and supportive services for an extended period.

Parents with high barriers have notably high frequency of problems relating to the behaviors of others with whom they have been associated: many have lost housing due not only to domestic violence but also due to others' drinking or drug use or other problem behavior, or their own trouble getting along with others. It will be helpful for them to be in a program where supportive services are available to recognize unhealthy relationships and learn to form and maintain more positive relationships. Many have also had trouble getting or keeping housing due to their family size or the age of their children, and will benefit from services to help them locate and secure the trust of the relatively smaller pool of landlords who have larger units available. Over one-quarter of this group have also had trouble with housing in the past due to mental health issues, and will benefit from supportive services that help not only them but also their children learn to cope with the consequences of mental illness. On a related note, a remarkably high proportion were abused and/or neglected as children, which also suggests the importance of a significant parenting component in their supportive services.

Parents with lower barriers share many of the same needs as those with higher barriers. They may need many of the same services, but perhaps at a lower intensity or for a shorter time. Many of them need help building or re-building a rental history. Although this group has the highest level of employment, three-quarters of the group were unemployed, and have been so for an average of a year and a half, and will benefit from employment-focused assistance. Their history of childhood abuse and neglect, though lower than those of their higher-barrier peers, are still high enough to suggest a strong parenting education and parenting support service.

One consideration in serving all of the populations described above is the extent to which opportunities for housing are associated with specific expectations regarding behavior change. In some programs, particularly those serving people with long-term alcohol abuse problems, "low-demand" housing (that is, housing in which relatively few rules are imposed as a condition for entry or continued residence) appears to be more helpful in stabilizing housing circumstances and reducing other health and human service costs than housing models that require abstinence as a condition of service.

The recent loss of one low-cost housing facility in Duluth as a result of fire may require the collection of some additional data before proceeding with the development of new housing options. People previously living in this facility would not have been considered homeless, would not have been interviewed as part of the statewide homelessness study, and are therefore not represented in these data. Knowledge of their characteristics and needs, if they are now homeless and living in shelters, would be useful in planning future housing in the downtown Duluth area.

Appendix

Comparison of key characteristics by groups

City of Duluth Statewide Homeless Survey Results– October 2009 Comparison of Key Characteristics by Groups

	High barrier youth 21 or younger N=39	High barrier adults 22 or older N=130	High barrier parent with children N=27	All other parents with children N=36
Housing History: left last housing because of ...				
A drinking or drug problem of someone else	26.3%	25.6%	29.6%	8.3%
A behavior problem of guest or visitor	10.5%	24.2%	29.6%	13.9%
Abuse by someone you lived with	5.3%	21.7%	44.4%	30.6%
Problems getting along with people you lived with	28.9%	30.8%	29.6%	16.7%
Problem behaviors of roommate or partner	38.2%	48.2%	68.2%	N/A
Ever had difficulty getting or keeping housing because of rental history issues				
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of court eviction or bad rental history	5.3%	29.5%	34.6%	36.1%
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because no local rental history	23.1%	39.5%	40.7%	30.6%
Ever had difficulty getting or keeping housing because of discrimination or personal factors				
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of age	21.1%	7.8%	29.6%	8.3%
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of race or race of family	5.1%	14.8%	29.6%	11.1%
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of family size	12.8%	7.0%	33.3%	25.0%
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of age of children	0	5.4%	29.6%	16.7%
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of health status.	2.6%	3.9%	18.5%	0
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of physical disability	0	4.7%	0	0
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of a mental health problem	10.3%	23.3%	26.9%	2.8%
Ever had difficulty getting or keeping housing because of financial problems				
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of cost of application fees.	21.1%	31.0%	55.6%	25.0%
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of lack of job or income	61.5%	70.5%	70.4%	55.6%
Difficulty getting or keeping housing because of credit problems	17.9%	43.4%	61.5%	27.8%

City of Duluth Statewide Homeless Survey Results– October 2009
Comparison of Key Characteristics by Groups (continued)

	High barrier youth 21 or younger N=39	High barrier adults 22 or older N=130	High barrier parent with children N=27	All other parents with children N=36
Homeless history				
Ever had to live doubled or tripled up because of economic reasons or because there was not a safe or affordable place to rent or buy	84.6%	74.6%	88.5%	86.1%
Average number of nights slept outside in the month of October	2.63 nights	5.26 nights	1.85 nights	.53 nights
Homeless 4 or more times in last 3 years	35.9%	46.2%	51.9%	13.9%
Homeless for at least one year currently	47.4%	60.5%	48.1%	30.6%
Homeless at least 8 times in lifetime	28.2%	41.7%	57.7%	22.2%
Average age of first homelessness	15.1%	23.7%	18.5%	20.9%
Institutional history: Ever lived in ...				
Foster Home	51.3%	29.5%	51.9%	33.3%
Group Home	35.9%	22.5%	33.3%	27.8%
Drug or alcohol treatment facility	55.6%	29.7%	30.8%	27.8%
Halfway house	12.8%	30.8%	22.2%	13.9%
Facility for persons with emotional, behavioral or mental health problems	23.7%	23.4%	33.3%	5.6%
Juvenile detention center, for more than a week	36.8%	6.0%	0	22.2%
County jail or workhouse for a month or more	41.0%	65.6%	44.4%	19.4%
State or federal prison, as an adult	2.6%	28.9%	3.7%	2.8%
In any correctional facility, in the last 2 years.	41.0%	27.7%	22.2%	11.1%
In any correctional facility, ever	66.7%	76.2%	55.6%	33.3%
Race				
African American	17.9%	25.4%	33.3%	27.8%
African Native	0	0	3.7%	2.8%
American Indian	35.9%	28.5%	33.3%	16.7%
White or Caucasian	41.0%	41.5%	14.8%	44.4
Some other group (includes mixed race)	5.1%	4.6%	14.8%	8.3%
Income and employment				
Average total income in October, not including food stamps	\$207.79	\$284.00	\$506.09	\$662.44
Employed at the time of the survey	13%	5%	15%	25%
If unemployed, average number of days/months without a job.	403 days 13 months	1,540 days 51 months	740 days 24 months	573 days 19 months
Average amount the respondent would be able to pay/month for rent and utilities	\$109.71	\$190.46	\$378.61	\$276.88

City of Duluth Statewide Homeless Survey Results– October 2009
Comparison of Key Characteristics by Groups (continued)

	High barrier youth 21 or younger N=39	High barrier adults 22 or older N=130	High barrier parent with children N=27	All other parents with children N=36
History of mistreatment				
Physically mistreated as child or youth	38.5%	40.0%	70.4%	33.3%
Sexually mistreated as a child or youth	23.1%	24.8%	66.7%	38.9%
Neglected as a child or youth	38.5%	22.5%	50.0%	30.6%
Ever stayed in abusive situation because you did not have other housing options	23.1%	43.8%	76.9%	66.7%
Been physically or sexually attacked or beaten while without a regular place to stay	28.2%	27.7%	44.4%	22.2%
History of head injury				
Hit in the head so hard that you saw stars or were unconscious	53.8%	74.6%	51.9%	47.2%
Following head injury, began to feel confused, have trouble remembering things, or have problems making decisions	28.2%	44.6%	44.4%	19.4%