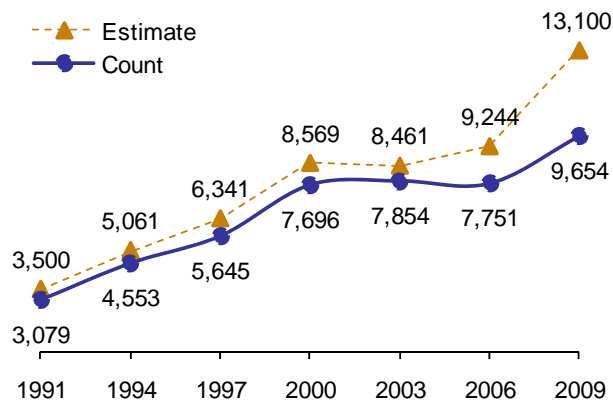


Homelessness in Minnesota

Overall numbers of homeless people

After leveling off in the mid-2000s the number of homeless people in Minnesota has risen sharply. On October 22, 2009, Wilder’s study counted 9,654 homeless adults, youth, and children in shelters, transitional housing, and on the streets. In addition, using a formula based on HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) counts, Wilder estimates the actual number of homeless people in Minnesota to be at least 13,100 on a given night.

NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE IN MINNESOTA
Of those counted on the night of the survey,



the number of homeless families with children increased 27 percent, from 1,318 in 2006 to 1,675 in 2009.

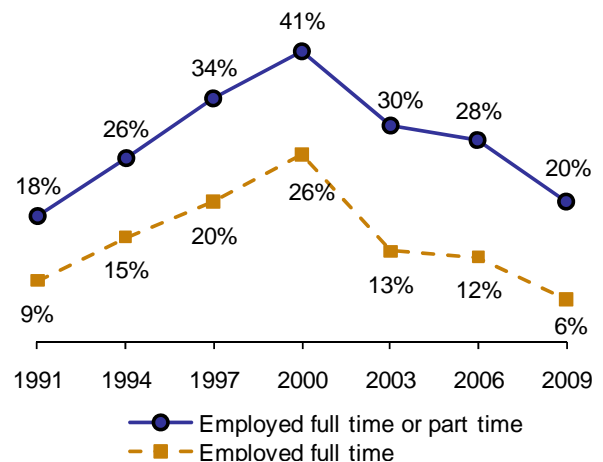
- In all, 3,251 children were counted with their parents on the night of the survey, up about 500 from 2006.
- The average age of children with their parents is 6 and a half.

The study counted 1,268 youth (age 21 and younger) on their own, up from 867 in 2006; 227 of the youth were age 17 and younger; 1041 age 18 through 21.

- 64 percent of youth have a history of being in out-of-home placements including foster care, group homes, detention, or treatment centers (down from 70% in 2006).
- 74 percent of youth have been homeless before. On average, youth first experienced homelessness at age 15.
- 24 percent of youth slept outside, in a car, or in an abandoned building at least one night in October.
- The youngest person interviewed in the study was 12.

Additional findings

NUMBER OF EMPLOYED HOMELESS PEOPLE IN MINNESOTA



Tough economic landscape has had an impact:

- 40 percent of homeless adults reported a job loss or reduction in hours was a reason for the loss of their last housing; up from 31 percent in 2006
- 20 percent of homeless adults reported current employment, full or part-time, down from about 28 percent in 2006, while average hours of employment per week also dropped to 26 from 30 in 2006.

continued

- 44 percent of homeless adults are on a waiting list for some form of public housing (up from 34% in 2006).

Race and place disparities persist:

- 68 percent of all homeless people found in the study were in metro area locations.
- Homeless adults in greater Minnesota are more than twice as likely as those in the metro area to have been found through outreach efforts (similar to previous years).
- African Americans represent about 41 percent of homeless adults statewide (52% in the metro area), but only about 4 percent of the overall Minnesota population.
- American Indians represent about 11 percent of homeless adults statewide but 19 percent of the homeless in greater Minnesota and just 1 percent of the overall adult Minnesota population (similar to previous years).
- Overall, people of color represent 62 percent of Minnesota's homeless adult population, but make up only about 13 percent of Minnesota's adult population.

Health issues play a major role:

- 46 percent of homeless adults had a chronic health condition during the preceding year (similar to 2006).
- 55 percent have a serious mental health illness (up slightly from 2006).
- 23 percent of homeless adults have been diagnosed with a drug or alcohol abuse disorder, a figure that has been very stable since 1991.

Veterans:

- Nearly 700 homeless adults (19% of men and 2% of women) have served in the armed services.
- Of this group, 44 percent report a service-related health problem and 26 percent have served in a combat zone.

About the study

The study is an independent initiative of Wilder Research in partnership with public and private funders and in-kind support from service providers throughout the state. More than 1,000 volunteers conducted interviews in almost 400 locations including emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, and transitional housing programs, as well as in non-shelter locations that include encampments, abandoned buildings, under bridges and other places not intended for habitation. Interviews were also conducted at hot meal programs and other drop-in service locations. All of the people included in the study are in circumstances that meet the federal definition of homelessness.

Special thanks to the following for providing funding:

- Amherst A. Wilder Foundation
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Greater Minnesota Housing Fund
- Greater Twin Cities United Way
- Hennepin County
- Integrated Community Solutions, Inc.
- The McKnight Foundation
- Metropolitan Council
- B.C. Gamble and P.W. Skogmo Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
- Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

We also thank the many organizations across Minnesota who provided in-kind support.

To learn more, go to www.wilderresearch.org

Updated May 2010

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451 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, MN 55104
651-280-2700

