

## 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 2009 statewide study

On the date of the survey, 2,449 adults and unaccompanied youth were identified who were experiencing long-term homelessness. They had 727 children with them, for a total of 3,176 people. This total number includes:

- 2,017 adults who did not have children with them (82% of LTH households)
- 42 unaccompanied youth who did not have children with them (2% of LTH households)
- 390 parents (nearly all adults) who had children with them (16% of LTH households)
- 727 children with their parents

The distribution of these individuals between emergency settings and transitional settings is shown in the table below.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS BY FAMILY TYPE AND SETTING

	Adults without children	Unaccompanied youth without children	Parents (of any age) with children	Children with their parents	Total persons	Total households
Emergency or battered women’s shelters or unsheltered	1,801	40	274	478	2,593	2,115
Transitional housing and with problems not receiving care	216	2	116	249	583	334
Total	2,017	42	390	727	3,176	2,449

### 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 6,352 persons experience long-term homelessness in Minnesota in a year, in about 4,898 households.

*continued*

## Characteristics of persons experiencing long-term homelessness

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

- 60% have mental illness
- 29% have a chemical dependency problem (substance abuse or alcohol abuse disorder)
- 21% have dual diagnosis (MI and CD)
- 12% are veterans (17% of adult men)
- 17% have a history of being victimized by domestic violence (33% of females)
- 58% have a history of prior incarceration (19% within the past two years)

### DISTRIBUTION OF LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS BY FAMILY TYPE AND REGION

Region	Adults without children		Unaccompanied youth without children		Parents (of any age) with children		Children with their parents		Total persons		Total households	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Central	77	4%	0	--	26	7%	55	8%	158	5%	103	4%
Northeast	37	2%	2	5%	17	4%	38	5%	94	3%	56	2%
St. Louis County	262	13%	9	21%	29	7%	49	7%	349	11%	300	12%
Northwest	56	3%	0	--	26	7%	37	5%	119	4%	82	3%
Southeast	46	2%	0	--	22	6%	45	6%	113	4%	68	3%
Southwest	27	1%	1	2%	9	2%	15	2%	52	2%	37	2%
West Central	83	4%	3	7%	8	2%	10	1%	104	3%	94	4%
<b>Greater MN total</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>30%</b>
Anoka	21	1%	3	7%	9	2%	23	3%	56	2%	33	1%
Scott/Carver	6	<1%	1	2%	3	<1%	8	1%	18	<1%	10	<1%
Dakota	9	<1%	0	--	10	3%	18	3%	37	1%	19	<1%
Hennepin	945	47%	17	41%	175	45%	326	45%	1,463	46%	1,137	46%
Ramsey	442	22%	6	14%	51	13%	86	12%	585	18%	499	20%
Washington	6	<1%	0	--	7	2%	15	2%	28	<1%	13	<1%
<b>Metro total</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>2,186</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Statewide total</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,449</b>	<b>100%</b>

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#### For more information

This fact sheet is one of a series using information from the 2009 Minnesota homeless study. To learn more, go to [www.wilderresearch.org](http://www.wilderresearch.org).

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