

Initial findings: Characteristics and trends

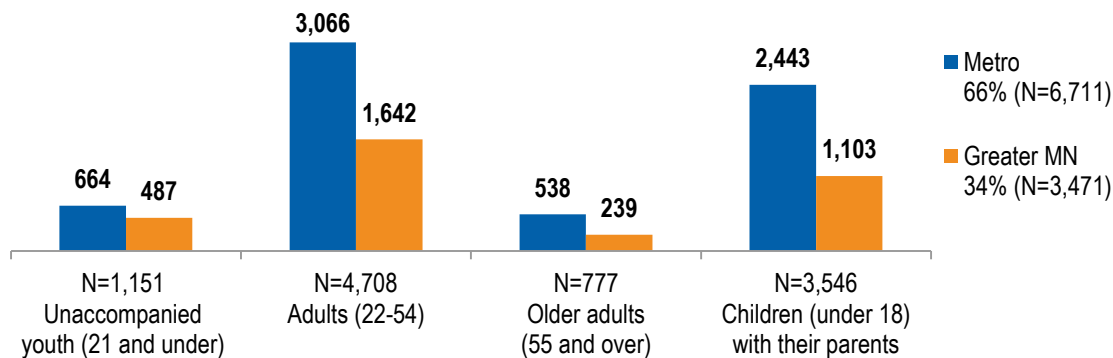
People experiencing homelessness in Minnesota

Every three years, Wilder Research conducts a statewide study to better understand the prevalence, causes, circumstances, and effects of homelessness. This fact sheet provides initial findings from interviews with homeless people conducted on October 25, 2012.

Homelessness in Minnesota is at an all-time high, although the rate of growth has slowed

- Overall, **10,214** homeless adults, youth, and children were counted, up 6 percent over 2009.
- The **6%** increase between 2009 and 2012 follows a jump of **25%** between 2006 and 2009.
- There was a slight increase (4%) in the total number of families experiencing homelessness, but a **22%** increase in the number of two-parent homeless families.

2012 ONE-NIGHT COUNTS IN METRO AREA AND GREATER MINNESOTA, BY AGE GROUP*

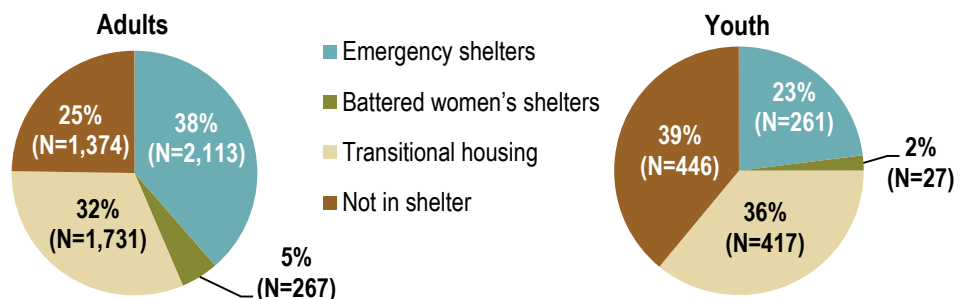


Availability of affordable housing is still a critical issue

- 41% of homeless adults are on a waiting list for subsidized housing, with an average wait time of 11 months; another 15% were unable to get on a waiting list because it was closed.
- 33% of youth on their own and 30% of adults spent at least one night sleeping outside in the 30-day period, before the study.
- Most common reasons adults left their last housing: 38% could not afford it, 32% lost their job or had their hours cut, and 29% were evicted.
- 83% of homeless adults have been in Minnesota at least 2 years or lived here previously.

SHELTER TYPE, ADULTS AND YOUTH

Interviews were conducted in all shelter types and with those who were not in shelters.



African Americans and American Indians are disproportionately affected

	Percent of HOMELESS adults	Percent of all Minnesota adults*	Percent of unaccompanied HOMELESS youth age 21 and under	Percent of all Minnesota youth 10-24*
American Indian	10%	1%	12%	2%
Asian American	1%	4%	1%	6%
Black/African American	37%	5%	37%	7%
White/Caucasian	39%	86%	30%	76%
Other/Mixed race	5%	3%	10%	6%
Hispanic (any race)	7%	4%	10%	7%

* Source of information for all Minnesotans: U.S. Census

Adults (age 18 and older)

Childhood histories of trauma and long-term health issues are common

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES	Adults	LONG-TERM HEALTH ISSUES	Adults
Physically abused as a child	37%	Chronic physical health condition	51%
Sexually abused as a child	26%	Significant mental illness	55%
Neglected as a child	21%	Substance abuse disorder	22%
Out-of-home placements* as a child	36%	Evidence of traumatic brain injury	31%
At least one of the above	58%	At least one of the above	79%

* Out-of-home placements include foster care, treatment facilities, and juvenile detention

Many have experienced violence and sexual exploitation

VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	Adults	
	Female	Male
Women homeless due to domestic violence	30%	--
Stayed in an abusive situation due to no other housing options	48%	22%
Physically or sexually attacked while homeless	26%	12%
Been sexual with someone only for the purpose of getting shelter, clothing, or food	17%	14%
At least one of the above	54%	34%

Notable trends for adults, 2000-2012

EMPLOYMENT	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Adults employed at the time of the survey	41%	30%	28%	20%	24%
Adults working full-time (35+ hours/week)	26%	13%	12%	6%	8%
SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Parents: any child has difficulty attending school due to housing situation	13%	8%	6%	11%	13%
Parents: all school-age children attended today	88%	88%	90%	84%	87%

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Adults with serious mental illness	36%	47%	52%	55%	55%
Adults with chronic physical health conditions	39%	43%	44%	46%	51%
Adults with a substance abuse disorder	22%	25%	27%	23%	22%

POPULATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TARGETED FOR PERMANENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Single chronically homeless adults - Metro area	N.A.	36%	37%	40%	38%
Single chronically homeless adults - Greater MN	N.A.	25%	25%	26%	22%
Veterans - Metro area	14%	13%	12%	12%	9%
Veterans - Greater MN	24%	18%	15%	9%	10%

LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Adults: homeless less than 1 month	10%	11%	9%	8%	6%
Adults: homeless 1 year or more	37%	44%	47%	52%	50%
Adults: homeless 3 years or more	16%	17%	20%	22%	23%

AGE FIRST EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
0 to 12 years old	N.A.	N.A.	6%	8%	8%
13 to 17 years old	N.A.	N.A.	17%	18%	18%
Total 0 to 17 years old	N.A.	N.A.	23%	26%	26%

Youth on their own (age 21 and younger)

Young people age 21 and under are the most likely to be homeless. Nearly 3 out of 10 youth on their own (29%) are parents, and 21% have children with them. Nearly 4 in 10 youth on their own were found outside of the shelter system. Fifty-eight percent of 19-21 year olds had completed high school or received their GED.

Childhood histories of trauma and long-term health issues are common

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES	Unaccompanied youth age 21 and younger	LONG-TERM HEALTH ISSUES	Unaccompanied youth age 21 and younger
Physically abused as a child	44%	Chronic physical health condition	36%
Sexually abused as a child	27%	Significant mental illness	52%
Neglected as a child	31%	Substance abuse disorder	16%
Ever in out-of-home placements	58%	Evidence of traumatic brain injury	23%
At least one of the above	77%	At least one of the above	69%
Has a parent who has been incarcerated	60%		

**Out-of-home placements include foster care, treatment facilities, and juvenile detention*

Many have experienced violence and sexual exploitation

VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	Unaccompanied youth age 21 and younger	
	Female	Male
Female youth homeless due to domestic violence	28%	--
Stayed in an abusive situation due to no other housing options	35%	24%
Physically or sexually attacked while homeless	26%	17%
Been sexual with someone only for the purpose of getting shelter, clothing, or food	15%	18%
At least one of the above	44%	39%

Notable trends for youth, 2000-2012

EMPLOYMENT	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Youth employed at the time of the survey	34%	33%	32%	27%	31%
Youth working full-time (35+ hours/week)	12%	7%	10%	6%	8%

MINOR YOUTH'S SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Unaccompanied youth (17 or under): enrolled in school	78%	84%	89%	90%	95%
Unaccompanied youth (17 or under): attended today	48%	65%	67%	60%	69%

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Youth with serious mental illness	38%	43%	49%	46%	52%
Youth with chronic physical health conditions	30%	31%	33%	32%	36%
Youth with substance abuse disorder	14%	15%	16%	12%	16%

LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Youth: homeless less than 1 month	17%	18%	18%	13%	11%
Youth: homeless 1 year or more	29%	34%	31%	38%	43%

More from the homeless study

More detailed data tables for each 2012 survey question and counts of homeless persons are available at <http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Research-Areas/Homelessness/Pages/Statewide-Homeless-Study-Detailed-Data.aspx>. Data tables include breakdowns by geographic regions of the state, and by shelter types and gender.

Reports with detailed information about background and characteristics of homeless Minnesotans, as well as specialized reports on homeless youth, veterans, older adults, families, and long-term homeless populations will be released throughout 2013 and made available on our website.

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For more information

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