



Homeless adults and their children in Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota

*Regional survey of persons without
permanent shelter*

AUGUST 2013

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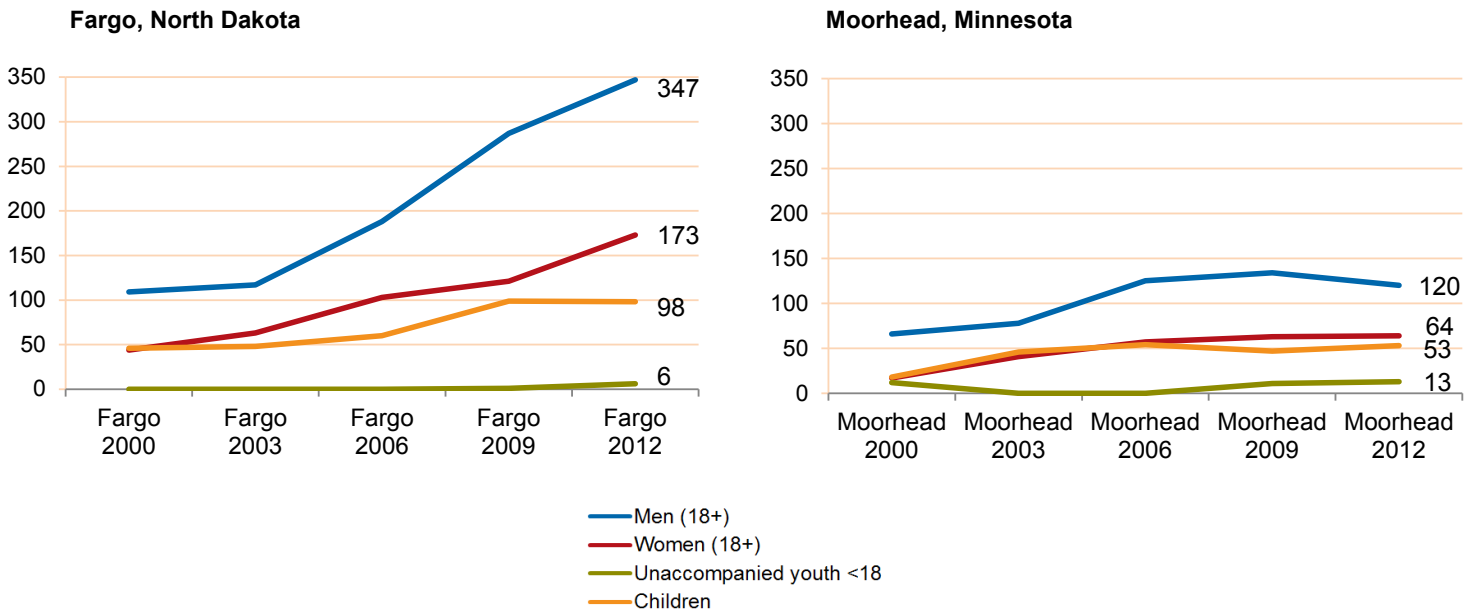
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Summary

This study gives a snapshot of the people experiencing homelessness in Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota on a single day in October 2012. The findings reported here are based on interviews with 369 men and 202 women in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, transitional housing programs, and in non-shelter locations on Thursday, October 25, 2012. This includes 102 interviews with men and 49 interviews with women in Moorhead, and 260 interviews with men and 143 interviews with women in Fargo. In addition, interviews were conducted with 17 unaccompanied minors (2 male and 3 female minors in Fargo, 5 male and 7 female minors in Moorhead). Information on these unaccompanied minors is presented in a separate section of this report.

As the graphics below indicate, homelessness has increased since 2000 in the Fargo-Moorhead area. This increase was especially dramatic in Fargo, with the number of homeless adults and children more than doubling between 2000 and 2012 (Men: 109 to 347; Women: 44 to 173; Children: 46 to 98). Moorhead also saw an increase in homelessness between 2000 and 2012 – doubling or more than doubling among most groups (Men: 66 to 120; Women: 17 to 64; Unaccompanied youth: 12 to 13; Children: 18 to 53); however, between 2009 and 2012 these numbers either slowed or decreased slightly.



Key findings

One-night count of homeless up 15% from 2009

- On October 25, 2012, there were 458 people (211 men, 129 women, and 118 children) residing in temporary housing programs, including emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, in the Fargo-Moorhead area.
- The survey also identified 416 persons in informal and unsheltered locations, including the partners (43) and children (33) of survey respondents.
- The total homeless population identified in the Fargo-Moorhead area was 874 persons (624 in Fargo and 250 in Moorhead).
- The number of homeless in 2012 is 15 percent higher than the number found in 2009 (763) and more than double the number found in 2003 (393).

The majority of homeless adults are men

- In 2012, men made up the majority of homeless adults in the Fargo-Moorhead area (68% in Fargo and 62% in Moorhead). The average age of homeless men was 44 in both cities. The average age of homeless women was 39 in Moorhead and 36 in Fargo. Just over half of those in both cities had never been married.
- About one-third of men using informal arrangements or staying outside of shelters met the federal definition for someone who is chronically homeless (homeless one year or more or four or more times in three years).

The border between the two cities is fluid

- Of homeless persons interviewed in Fargo on the night of the survey, 50 percent lived in North Dakota for two years or less. Of those recent residents, 38 percent came to North Dakota from Minnesota, and 30 percent lived in North Dakota before. Of homeless persons interviewed in Moorhead on the night of the survey, 46 percent lived in Minnesota for two years or less. Of those recent residents, 37 percent came to Minnesota from North Dakota, and 37 percent had lived in Minnesota before.

Area homeless are disproportionately people of color, especially American Indians

- The homeless population contains a disproportionate number of persons of color, particularly American Indians (18% for Fargo and 27% for Moorhead). While less than 15 percent of Minnesota's and 10 percent of North Dakota's overall population is made up of persons of color, over three in ten Fargo-Moorhead homeless adults are persons of color (35% in Fargo and 50% in Moorhead).

- American Indian women make up nearly one-third of the homeless women's population in Fargo (30%) and more than one-third in Moorhead (36%).
- Over one-quarter of those interviewed in informal or unsheltered locations were American Indian (Fargo, 28% and Moorhead, 31%).

Fargo has a larger population of homeless veterans than Moorhead and larger than most communities in Minnesota

- On the date of the survey, military veterans made up one-quarter of all homeless persons in Fargo and about one-tenth (12%) in Moorhead. Veterans were 32 percent of homeless males in Fargo and 20 percent of homeless males in Moorhead.

Children represent 17% of the homeless population in Fargo and Moorhead

- In Fargo, 46 homeless parents had children with them. Ten parents (22%) reported having a child with an emotional or behavioral problem. Of the 25 parents with school-age children, 14 (56%) reported that at least one of their school-age children has some type of learning or school-related problem, 10 parents (40%) reported that their child was a victim of bullying, and four parents (16%) reported having a child that had to repeat a grade in school.
- In Moorhead, 30 homeless parents had children with them. Twelve parents (40%) reported having a child with an emotional or behavioral problem. Of the 22 parents with school-age children, 17 (77%) reported that at least one of their school-age children has some type of learning or school-related problem, 11 parents (50%) reported that their child was a victim of bullying, and five parents (23%) reported having a child that had to repeat a grade in school.
- Of the women interviewed in Fargo, one-quarter (27%) had at least one child with them at the time of the survey. In Moorhead, one-third (33%) of women interviewed had at least one child with them on the night of the survey.
- In Fargo, 15 (33%) of the homeless parents reported they were unable to obtain needed child care. In Moorhead, three (10%) of the homeless parents reported they were unable to obtain needed child care.
- Five (11%) parents in Fargo and four (13%) in Moorhead reported their children had to skip meals in the last month because there was not enough money to buy food.
- Many parents were unable to obtain needed health care for their children. For example, eight (17%) homeless parents in Fargo and one homeless parent (3%) in Moorhead reported they were unable to obtain needed health care for their children in the last 12 months. Eight (17%) homeless parents in Fargo and six (20%) homeless parents in Moorhead reported the same about dental care, and one (2%) homeless parent in

Fargo and two (7%) homeless parents in Moorhead reported being unable to obtain needed mental health care for their children.

A majority of homeless adults have completed high school, about one-third have jobs

- Over three-quarters of homeless adults had completed at least high school or obtained a GED (81% in Fargo and 77% in Moorhead). About one-third of those interviewed had attended at least some college (33% in Fargo and 36% in Moorhead). About one-quarter of homeless persons had received special education services while in school (26% in Fargo and 23% in Moorhead).
- In Fargo, 37 percent of homeless persons interviewed reported having a job, and 14 percent reported working full time. In Moorhead, 28 percent of homeless persons interviewed reported having a job, with 10 percent working full time.
- For those in Fargo who were not working, the most common barriers were transportation (33%), physical health problems (22%), a lack of resources needed to look for work (20%), and mental health problems (18%). For those in Moorhead who were not working, the most common barriers were physical health problems (40%), transportation (28%), mental health problems (25%), and the lack of housing (14%).
- Twenty-two percent of homeless persons interviewed in Fargo and 16 percent in Moorhead reported having no income sources in October. The main source of income for homeless persons in Fargo was steady employment (24%) or day labor (24%). In Moorhead it was General Assistance (19%), steady employment (17%), or day labor (16%).

Median income higher in Fargo than in Moorhead, still a significant gap between what one can pay for rent and the cost of housing

- The average amount of income that homeless persons interviewed received in October was \$486 (\$499 in Fargo and \$446 in Moorhead) and the median income was \$300 in Fargo and \$203 in Moorhead.
- The average amount that homeless persons interviewed in Fargo could pay each month for their own place to live, including rent and utilities, was \$243, and in Moorhead the average amount was \$266. About one-third of study respondents reported they could not pay anything for their own place to live (32% in Fargo and 28% in Moorhead), and about one-third in both cities (31% in Fargo and 36% in Moorhead) said they could pay something for rent, but not more than \$300 a month.

Food stamps and medical assistance most common welfare benefits

- Two percent in Fargo and 7 percent in Moorhead of homeless adults interviewed received family welfare benefits from either TANF (North Dakota's family welfare program) or MFIP (Minnesota's family welfare assistance) in October. Two percent in Fargo and 5 percent in Moorhead of homeless adults reported that TANF or MFIP was their main source of income in October. This was especially true for homeless women in the area (7% in Fargo and 11% in Moorhead).
- Over two-fifths (44%) of homeless adults interviewed in Fargo reported having some type of medical coverage in October. In Moorhead, over two-thirds (68%) reported the same.
- Seventeen percent of homeless adults interviewed in Fargo and 20 percent in Moorhead reported the loss of one or more public assistance benefits during the previous 12 months. Of those reporting a loss of benefits, the benefits most frequently mentioned were Food Stamps (66% in Fargo and 44% in Moorhead) and public medical benefits (43% in Fargo and 51% in Moorhead).

Services most used are those required to meet basic needs

- When asked about which services they used in October, the services most frequently mentioned by homeless persons interviewed in Fargo were: clothing shelves (49%), food stamps (36%), hot meal programs (33%), transportation assistance (28%), free medical clinics (27%), food shelves (25%), and drop-in centers (25%). The services most frequently mentioned by those interviewed in Moorhead were: food stamps (56%), clothing shelves (52%), hot meal programs (41%), transportation assistance (41%), food shelves (39%), help getting financial benefits (23%), and drop-in centers (20%).
- Nearly one-third of homeless adults in Fargo and Moorhead (31% in both cities) had attended a Project Homeless Connect event in the previous 12 months.

One-quarter to one-third of homeless women are homeless because of domestic violence, childhood abuse is common

- One common reason for women to seek temporary shelter is to flee an abusive partner. About one-quarter (23%) of homeless women interviewed in Fargo (26%) and over one-third (35%) in Moorhead indicated that one of the main reasons for leaving their last housing was to flee abuse.
- Over one-third (34%) of homeless adults in Fargo (30% of men and 44% of women) and 39 percent in Moorhead (27% of men and 57% of women) reported physical mistreatment as children. One-fifth (20%) in Fargo (11% of men and 40% of women) and over one-quarter (28%) in Moorhead (15% of men and 49% of women) reported that they were sexually mistreated as children.

Nearly half of the homeless population impacted by mental illness

- Mental illness is a significant problem among those who are homeless in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Forty-six percent of homeless adults (44% in Fargo and 50% in Moorhead) were told by a doctor or nurse within the last two years that they have schizophrenia, manic-depression or bipolar disorder, some type of delusional disorder, major depression, anti-social personality disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Forty-three percent of homeless persons in Fargo and 30 percent in Moorhead reported that they consider themselves to be alcoholic or chemically dependent. Thirty-five percent of the homeless in Fargo and 22 percent of the homeless in Moorhead reported they have been told by a professional within the last two years that they have a chemical dependency problem. Twenty-seven percent of homeless persons in Fargo and 16 percent of homeless persons in Moorhead reported receiving inpatient alcohol or drug treatment within the last two years, while 23 percent of homeless persons in Fargo and 13 percent of homeless persons in Moorhead reported receiving outpatient alcohol or drug treatment in the last two years.
- Nineteen percent of homeless persons in Fargo and 16 percent of homeless persons in Moorhead reported having both a mental illness and a chemical dependency problem. This is based on the percent of persons who reported being told by a doctor or nurse within the last two years that they have a major mental illness and alcohol or drug abuse disorder.

Over 80% have a serious disability or health condition, more than one-third likely affected by traumatic brain injury

- Many homeless adults in Fargo and Moorhead reported serious or chronic disabilities, in addition to the mental illnesses, substance abuse problems, and chronic health problems already mentioned. These include physical, mental, or other health conditions that limit the kind or amount of work they can do (44% in Fargo and 54% in Moorhead) or that limit their daily activities (10% in Fargo and 16% in Moorhead), as well as conditions that interfere with memory or daily decision making (31% in Fargo and 41% in Moorhead).
- When mental illness, substance abuse disorders, chronic physical health problems, and the above disabilities are combined, over four-fifths of homeless persons (83% in Fargo and 84% in Moorhead) have at least one serious or chronic disability. In addition, 30 percent of homeless adults in Fargo, and 35 percent of homeless adults in Moorhead, have a history that suggests likely traumatic brain injury.

Unaccompanied minors difficult to find, often have history of child abuse and mental health problems

- Seventeen unaccompanied minors (7 males and 10 females) were interviewed. Two were 15 years old, four were 16 years old, and five were 17 years old. Six were white, four were Native American, five were of mixed racial backgrounds, and one was African Native.
- Nine unaccompanied minors grew up in Minnesota, two in Fargo, two in California, one in North Dakota, one in Cass or Clay counties but not Fargo or Moorhead, one in Minneapolis, one in Texas, and one grew up in Michigan.
- Over half of all unaccompanied minors (59%) had previously been in some type of out-of-home placement.
- Seven (41%) unaccompanied minors had been held in a juvenile detention center for more than a week.
- Twelve (71%) unaccompanied minors had received a diagnosis of a severe mental health problem in the previous two years. Two (12%) had received a dual diagnosis of both a mental health problem and chemical dependency problem.
- Seven (41%) unaccompanied minors had been physically mistreated as a child, five (29%) had been sexually mistreated, and eight (47%) had been either physically or sexually mistreated.
- Twelve (71%) had been either a victim of child abuse, been a parent before age 18, or lived in a foster home, detention facility, or some other institutional placement.

Unaccompanied minors and young adults make up about 8% of area's homeless population, but most likely an undercount

- Combined, there were seven male and 10 female unaccompanied minors, ages 14 through 17, and 29 male and 38 female young adults, ages 18 through 21 interviewed in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Based on past surveys, it is known that this population is most difficult to find and least likely to be accurately represented in a survey of the homeless.
- The main reasons given for leaving home were: they were asked to leave (33%); frequent fighting with parents or guardians (21%); someone in the home that they could not stand to be around (19%); parents not attending to their basic needs (12%); not willing to live by parents' rules (10%); and delinquent activities by the unaccompanied minor or young adult (10%).
- Over half (54%) of homeless unaccompanied minors or young adults felt they could return home if they wanted to do so, although only slightly more than one-quarter (26%) thought they would ever live with their family again.

- Over one-third (38%) of homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having a high school diploma or GED. Of those who do not have a high school diploma or GED, two-thirds (66%) are currently enrolled in school or an educational program.
- Over two-fifths (44%) of female homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having been pregnant, and one-sixth (17%) of male homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having fathered a child.
- Six percent of female and 8 percent of male homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having been approached to work in the sex industry.
- Nearly nine in ten (88%) homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having an adult in their life that they trusted and had regular contact with.

Changes in homelessness from 2000 to 2012

Wilder Research compared survey information collected in 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012 in order to identify trends and changes in the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in the Fargo-Moorhead area, as well as differences observed between the two cities. The trend analysis is based on changes observed from 2000-2012.

Overall changes from 2000 to 2012

- Fargo showed about the same percentage of homeless people employed in 2012 as in 2000 (35% in 2000 vs. 37% in 2012); Moorhead showed a decline in the percentage of homeless employed (35% in 2000 vs. 28% in 2012).
- Fargo showed a decline in the percentage of homeless adults who have been unemployed for 12 months or longer in 2012 compared to 2000 (51% in 2000 vs. 42% in 2012). However, in Moorhead that figure increased (24% in 2000 to 58% in 2012).
- The average income for women in both Fargo and Moorhead remained about the same as in 2000 (Fargo: \$420 in 2000 vs. \$426 in 2012; Moorhead: \$457 in 2000 vs. \$451 in 2012).
- The average income for men in both Fargo and Moorhead remained about the same as in 2000 (Fargo: \$532 in 2000 vs. \$533 in 2012; Moorhead: \$449 in 2000 vs. \$443 in 2012).
- The percent of people who have been homeless longer than a year is up in both cities from 2000 to 2012 (Fargo: 34% in 2000 to 47% in 2012; Moorhead: 31% in 2000 to 57% in 2012).
- While Fargo shows a decrease in the percentage of women who are homeless because of abuse from 2000 to 2012 (37% in 2000 vs. 22% in 2012), Moorhead shows an increase (21% in 2000 vs. 35% in 2012).

- In Fargo, there was a slight percentage increase in those who had been through a residential treatment program for substance abuse from 2000 to 2012 (45% in 2000 to 49% in 2012). The percentage in Moorhead dropped by nearly half (60% in 2000 to 33% in 2012).
- The use of hot meals programs decreased from 2000 to 2012 in both Fargo and Moorhead (Fargo: 41% in 2000 to 33% in 2012; Moorhead: 68% in 2000 to 41% in 2012).
- The percent of people who have been incarcerated within the last two years who are among the homeless population is up in both cities (Fargo: 20% in 2000 to 24% in 2012; Moorhead: 27% in 2000 to 35% in 2012).
- The percentage of homeless adults who reported serious or persistent mental health problems was up in both cities (Fargo: 38% in 2000 to 44% in 2012; Moorhead: 35% in 2000 to 50% in 2012).

Differences between Fargo and Moorhead in 2012

- Homeless women with children in Fargo were less likely to report that their main income is derived from family welfare benefits (7%) than women in Moorhead (11%).
- Homeless men in Fargo were less likely than homeless men in Moorhead to report that General Assistance was their main source of income (3% in Fargo vs. 19% in Moorhead).
- Homeless adults in Fargo were more likely to report their main source of income was from employment: a steady job (24%) or day labor (24%). In Moorhead, homeless adults reported that their main source of income was from General Assistance (19%), a steady job (17%), or day labor (16%).
- A higher percentage of homeless men in Fargo (32%) were military veterans, compared to Moorhead (20%).
- More homeless adults in Fargo (32%) than in Moorhead (28%) reported that they could not pay anything for rent.
- Homeless adults in Fargo were more likely to report that they were chemically dependent than in Moorhead (43% in Fargo vs. 30% in Moorhead).
- Slightly more homeless adults in Fargo reported that they had been hospitalized because of mental health problems (29% in Fargo and 25% in Moorhead).

Conclusions

The results of the study indicate that homelessness is still a significant problem in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Despite many efforts to strengthen housing opportunities and services, the supply of affordable housing is not adequate to meet the need among the very poorest of the area's population. An increased percentage of homeless adults have been homeless for longer than one year and four out of five homeless adults report at least one serious or chronic disability.

The factors that characterize those who have been homeless for a year or more and those with multiple episodes of homelessness over multiple years (the official federal definition of chronic homelessness) are complex. They include previous abuse, chronic health issues, criminal convictions, evictions, chronic substance use, violence, and broken relationships.

Research shows, however, that those with connections and support, previous success in keeping a job, fewer health problems, and less time in desperate poverty are the most likely to get back on their feet in short order.

There is no way to know what the area's homeless numbers would be in the absence of the programs and services currently available. We do know that prior to the recession starting in 2007 we were beginning to see a few measurable declines in the numbers of children and families experiencing homelessness. But the recession appears to have a long tail, and those who are living at the margins are always among the last to recover. The problem of homelessness will require continued attention if we are to reverse the trends recorded in this latest study.

Key findings

Numbers of homeless

- On October 25, 2012, there were 458 people (211 adult men, 129 adult women, no unaccompanied minors, and 118 children with parents) residing in temporary housing programs, including emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Temporary housing programs in Fargo housed 161 men, 85 women, no unaccompanied minors, and 74 children. Temporary housing programs in Moorhead housed 50 men, 44 women, no unaccompanied minors, and 44 children.
- Additionally, the October 2012 survey identified 416 persons in informal and unsheltered locations, including 43 partners and 33 children of those surveyed who were not interviewed (165 men, 75 women, 2 male unaccompanied minors, 3 female unaccompanied minors, 35 partners and 24 children of those surveyed in Fargo, and 66 men, 17 women, 5 male unaccompanied minors, 7 female unaccompanied minors, 8 partners and 9 children of those surveyed in Moorhead).
- The total homeless population identified in the Fargo-Moorhead area on October 25, 2012 was 874 persons (624 in Fargo and 250 in Moorhead).
- The number of homeless in 2012 is 15 percent higher than the number found in 2009 (763) and more than double the number found in 2003 (393).

Who is homeless?

- In 2012, men made up the majority of homeless adults in the Fargo-Moorhead area (68% in Fargo and 62% in Moorhead). The average age of homeless men was 44 in both Fargo and in Moorhead. The average age of homeless women was 36 in Fargo and 39 in Moorhead. Over half of those interviewed have never married (56% in Fargo and 53% in Moorhead).
- Of homeless adults interviewed in Fargo on the night of the survey, 50 percent lived in North Dakota for two years or less. Of those recent residents, 38 percent came to North Dakota from Minnesota, and 30 percent had lived in North Dakota before. Of homeless adults interviewed in Moorhead on the night of the survey, 47 percent lived in Minnesota for two years or less. Of those recent residents, 46 percent came to Minnesota from North Dakota, and 37 percent had lived in Minnesota before.

- Of the women interviewed in Fargo, over one-quarter (27%) had at least one child with them at the time of the survey. In Moorhead, one-third (33%) of women interviewed had at least one child with them on the night of the survey.
- The homeless adult population contains a disproportionate number of persons of color, particularly American Indian (18% for Fargo and 27% for Moorhead). While less than 15 percent of Minnesota's and 10 percent of North Dakota's overall population is made up of persons of color, about one-third of the Fargo and half of the Moorhead homeless adults are persons of color (35% in Fargo and 50% in Moorhead).
- American Indian women make up nearly one-third of the homeless women's population in Fargo (30%) and more than one-third in Moorhead (36%).
- More than one in four homeless adults interviewed in informal or unsheltered locations in Fargo (28%) and Moorhead (31%), were American Indian.
- About one in ten homeless adults were of Hispanic, Latino, or Chicano origin (9% in Fargo and 12% in Moorhead).
- Homeless adults interviewed in informal or unsheltered locations were predominantly male in both Fargo and Moorhead (66% and 68% respectively), and about one-third of all adults interviewed met the federal definition of chronic homeless (33% in Fargo and 37% in Moorhead).
- On the date of the survey, military veterans made up nearly one-quarter (22%) of all homeless adults in Fargo and over one-tenth (12%) in Moorhead. Veterans were 32 percent of homeless males in Fargo and 20 percent of homeless males in Moorhead.

Parents and children

- In Fargo, 46 homeless parents had children with them. Four parents reported having a child with a chronic or severe physical problem, and 10 parents reported a child with an emotional or behavioral problem. Of the 25 parents with school-age children, 14 reported that at least one of their school-age children has some type of learning or school-related problem, 10 parents reported their child was a victim of bullying, and four parents reported having a child that had to repeat a grade in school.
- In Moorhead, 30 homeless parents had children with them. Seven parents reported having a child with a chronic or severe physical problem, and 12 parents reported a child with an emotional or behavioral problem. Of the 22 parents with school-age children, 17 reported that at least one of their school-age children has some type of

learning or school-related problem, 11 parents reported their child was a victim of bullying, and five parents reported having a child that had to repeat a grade in school.

- In Fargo, 15 homeless parents reported they were unable to obtain needed child care. In Moorhead, three homeless parents reported they were unable to obtain needed child care.
- Five homeless parents in Fargo and four parents in Moorhead reported their children had to skip meals in the last month, because there was not enough money to buy food.
- Eight homeless parents in Fargo and one homeless parent in Moorhead reported they were unable to obtain needed health care for their children in the last 12 months. Eight homeless parents in Fargo and six homeless parents in Moorhead reported they have been unable to obtain needed dental care for their children in the last 12 months. One homeless parent in Fargo and two homeless parents in Moorhead reported being unable to obtain needed mental health care for their children.

Education, employment, and income

- Over three-quarters of homeless adults had completed at least high school or obtained a GED (81% in Fargo and 78% in Moorhead). About one-third of those interviewed had attended at least some college (33% in Fargo and 36% in Moorhead). About one-quarter of the homeless adults interviewed had received special education services while in school (26% in Fargo and 23% in Moorhead).
- In Fargo, 37 percent of homeless adults interviewed reported having a job, and 14 percent reported working full-time. In Moorhead, 28 percent of homeless adults interviewed reported having a job, with 10 percent working full-time.
- For those in Fargo who were not working, the most common barriers were transportation (33%), physical health problems (22%), lack of resources needed to look for work (20%), and mental health problems (18%). For those in Moorhead who were not working, the most common barriers were physical health problems (40%), transportation (28%), mental health problems (25%), and the lack of housing (14%).
- Twenty-two percent of homeless adults in Fargo, and 16 percent in Moorhead, reported having no income in October. The main source of income for homeless adults in Fargo was steady employment (24%) and day labor (24%), and in Moorhead, it was General Assistance (19%), steady employment (17%) and day labor (16%).

- The average amount of income that homeless adults interviewed received in October was \$486 (\$499 in Fargo and \$446 in Moorhead). The median income was \$300 (\$300 in Fargo and \$203 in Moorhead).
- The average amount that homeless adults interviewed in Fargo could pay each month for their own place to live, including rent and utilities, was \$243, and in Moorhead, the average amount was \$266. Nearly one-third interviewed reported they could not pay anything for their own place to live (32% in Fargo and 28% in Moorhead). About one-third (31% in Fargo and 36% in Moorhead) reported they could pay something for rent, but not more than \$300 a month.

Public assistance and service use

- Less than 10 percent (3% in Fargo and 7% in Moorhead) of the homeless adults interviewed received family welfare benefits from either TANF (North Dakota's family welfare program) or MFIP (Minnesota's family welfare assistance) in October. Of homeless adults, 2 percent in Fargo and 5 percent in Moorhead (7% of women in Fargo and 11% of women in Moorhead) reported that TANF or MFIP was their main source of income in October.
- Over two-fifths (44%) of homeless adults interviewed in Fargo reported having some type of medical coverage in October. In Moorhead, over two-thirds (68%) reported having medical coverage in October.
- Seventeen percent of homeless adults interviewed in Fargo, and 20 percent in Moorhead, reported the loss of one or more public assistance benefits during the previous 12 months. Of those reporting a loss of benefits, the benefits most frequently mentioned were food stamps (66% in Fargo and 44% in Moorhead) and public medical benefits (43% in Fargo and 51% in Moorhead).
- When asked about which services they used in October, the services most frequently mentioned by homeless adults interviewed in Fargo were: clothing shelves (49%), food stamps (36%), hot meal programs (33%), transportation assistance (28%), free medical clinics (27%), food shelves (25%), and drop-in centers (25%). The services most frequently mentioned by those interviewed in Moorhead were: food stamps (56%), clothing shelves (52%), hot meal programs (41%), transportation assistance (41%), food shelves (39%), help getting financial assistance (23%), and drop-in centers (20%).

- Nearly one-third of homeless adults interviewed in both Fargo and Moorhead (31%) have attended a Project Homeless Connect event in the previous 12 months.
- Over two-thirds of homeless adults (68% in Fargo and 71% in Moorhead) reported that they have access to a reliable computer with internet access, and two-fifths (39%) of homeless adults in Fargo, and nearly half in Moorhead (48%), reported that they have a cell phone with a data plan that can access the internet.
- Over three-quarters (76%) of homeless adults in Fargo and nearly two-fifths (39%) in Moorhead reported that they have a valid driver's license or state-issued photo ID.

Health and well-being

- One common reason for women to seek temporary shelter is to flee an abusive partner. Twenty-three percent of homeless women interviewed in Fargo, and 35 percent in Moorhead, indicated that one of the main reasons for leaving their last housing was to flee abuse.
- More than one-third (34%) of homeless adults in Fargo (30% of men and 44% of women), and 39 percent in Moorhead (27% of men and 57% of women), reported physical mistreatment as children. Likewise, in Fargo, about one-fifth (20%) reported that they were sexually mistreated as children (11% of men and 40% of women). In Moorhead, over one-quarter (28%) reported that they were sexually mistreated as children (15% of men and 49% of women).
- Mental illness is a significant problem among those who are homeless in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Forty-six percent of homeless adults (44% in Fargo and 50% in Moorhead) were told by a doctor or nurse within the last two years that they have schizophrenia, manic-depression or bipolar disorder, some type of delusional disorder, major depression, anti-social personality disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Forty-three percent of the homeless in Fargo, and 30 percent in Moorhead, reported that they consider themselves to be alcoholic or chemically dependent. Thirty-five percent of the homeless in Fargo, and 22 percent of the homeless in Moorhead, reported they have been told by a professional within the last two years that they have a chemical dependency problem. Twenty-seven percent of homeless adults in Fargo, and 16 percent of homeless adults in Moorhead, reported receiving inpatient alcohol or drug treatment within the last two years. Twenty-three percent of homeless adults in Fargo, and 13 percent of homeless adults in Moorhead, reported receiving outpatient alcohol or drug treatment in the last two years.

- Nineteen percent of homeless adults in Fargo, and 16 percent of homeless adults in Moorhead, reported having both a mental illness and a chemical dependency problem. This is based on the percent of adults who reported being told by a doctor or nurse within the last two years that they have a major mental illness (schizophrenia, paranoia, manic-depression or bipolar disorder, major depression, anti-social personality or post-traumatic stress disorder) and alcohol or drug abuse disorder.

Serious or chronic disability

- Many homeless adults in Fargo and Moorhead reported serious or chronic disabilities, in addition to the mental illnesses, substance abuse problems, and chronic health problems already mentioned. These include physical, mental, or other health conditions that limit the kind or amount of work they can do (44% in Fargo and 54% in Moorhead) or that limit their daily activities (10% in Fargo and 16% in Moorhead), as well as conditions that interfere with memory or daily decision-making (31% in Fargo and 41% in Moorhead).
- When mental illness, substance abuse disorders, chronic physical health problems, and the above disabilities are pooled, over four-fifths (83% in Fargo and 84% in Moorhead) of homeless adults have at least one serious or chronic disability. In addition, 30 percent of homeless adults in Fargo, and 35 percent of homeless adults in Moorhead, have a history that suggests likely traumatic brain injury.

Homeless unaccompanied minors

This section provides selected descriptive information from interviews conducted with the 17 unaccompanied minors interviewed as part of the October 25, 2012 study in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

- Of the 17 unaccompanied minors, seven were male and 10 were female. Three were 14 years old, one was 15 years old, four were 16 years old, and nine were 17 years old. Six were white, five were American Indian, five were of mixed racial background, and one was African Native.
- Of the 17 unaccompanied minors, nine grew up in greater Minnesota, two grew up in Fargo/West Fargo, two grew up in California, one grew up in North Dakota, one grew up in Cass or Clay counties (but not in Fargo or Moorhead), one grew up in Texas, and one grew up in Michigan.
- Only two unaccompanied minors had lived in Minnesota or North Dakota for two years or less. One had previously lived in Texas and the other one in Michigan.

- Of the 17 unaccompanied minors, 10 (59%) had lived in foster care, a group home, a drug or alcohol treatment facility, a residence for people with physical disabilities, a half-way house, a facility for persons with mental health problems, or an adoptive home.
- Of the 17 unaccompanied minors, seven (41%) had been held for more than a week in a juvenile detention center.
- Of the 17 unaccompanied minors, in the previous two years, nearly three-quarters (71%) had received a diagnosis of a severe mental health problem, and two (12%) percent received a diagnosis of a drug or alcohol dependency problem. Two unaccompanied minors (12%) had received a dual diagnosis of both a mental health and chemical dependency problem.
- Of the 17 unaccompanied minors, two-fifths (41%) had been physically mistreated, over one-quarter (29%) had been sexually mistreated, and nearly half (47%) had been either physically or sexually mistreated.
- Of the 17 unaccompanied minors, nearly three-quarters (71%) had been either a victim of child abuse, had been a parent before age 18, or had lived in a foster home, detention facility, or some other institutional placement.

Homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults

This section is based on interviews with seven male and 10 female unaccompanied minors, ages 14 through 17, and the 29 male and 38 female young adults, ages 18 through 21 interviewed in the Fargo-Moorhead area on October 25, 2012.

- Thirty-nine (59%) of the 67 unaccompanied minors and young adults grew up with their biological parents, 11 (16%) with a grandparent or other relative, seven (10%) in a blended family, seven (11%) in foster care, two (3%) in an adoptive home, and one (2%) in another arrangement.
- The average age that unaccompanied minors left home to be on their own was 14; average for young adults was 17.
- Thirty-seven (56%) of unaccompanied minors and young adults had left their home less than six months prior to the survey date; 27 (40%) left more than one year ago.
- The main reasons given for leaving home were: they were asked to leave (33%); frequent fighting with parents or guardians (21%); there was someone in the home that they couldn't stand to be around (19%); parents not attending to their basic needs

(12%); not willing to live by parents rules (10%); and delinquent activities by the unaccompanied minor or young adult (10%).

- Other main reasons given by unaccompanied minors and young adults for leaving home included: their family lost their housing (8%); leaving a foster home or other placement (7%); their parents' use of drugs or alcohol (7%); a parent or guardian had mental health problems (6%); criminal activity by someone in the household (6%); the lack of tolerance of their sexual orientation or gender identity (5%); the home was too small for everyone to live there (4%); didn't feel safe because of violence in the household (4%), became pregnant or made someone pregnant (4%); physical or sexual abuse by someone in the household (3%); and their own alcohol or drug use (3%).
- Over half (54%) of homeless unaccompanied minors or young adults felt they could return home if they wanted to do so, although only slightly more than one-quarter (26%) thought they would ever live with their family again.
- Over one-third (38%) of homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having a high school diploma or GED. Of those who do not have a high school diploma or GED, two-thirds (66%) are currently enrolled in school or an educational program.
- Over two-fifths (44%) of female homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having been pregnant, and one-sixth (17%) of male homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having fathered a child.
- Six percent of female and 8 percent of male homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having been approached to work in the sex industry.
- Nearly nine in ten (88%) homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having an adult in their life that they trusted and had regular contact with.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a current snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota. The information is intended as a resource for planners, policy-makers, service providers, and others who are interested in addressing the problems associated with homelessness.

The information presented in this report comes from three main sources:

- Population counts (census) of all persons residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities on the night of October 25, 2012.
- A survey of a sample (numbering 231) of homeless adults living in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities on October 25, 2012.
- A survey of homeless adults (numbering 323) and unaccompanied youth (numbering 17) found in informal or unsheltered locations on October 25, 2012.

Background

The Fargo-Moorhead Coalition for Homeless Persons (The Coalition) began in 1989 when a group of individuals, representing four emergency shelters and other homeless service providers, gathered to brainstorm ideas and support each other in matters affecting homeless men, women, and children in the Fargo-Moorhead community. From those initial gatherings, The Coalition has evolved into a coalition of more than sixty community partners. The membership represents both concerned citizens and a broad array of public and nonprofit agencies and organizations serving homeless and at-risk individuals and families in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The mission of The Coalition is to work in partnership to achieve permanent solutions to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness.

In the mid-1990s, The Coalition envisioned conducting a research study that would clearly describe the extent and nature of homelessness across borders in Moorhead, Minnesota and Fargo, North Dakota. Due to lack of funding, the first proposal did not materialize. A study advisory committee was revived in March 2000. Contracting with Wilder Research was determined as the most effective and efficient way to complete a local study. Every three years, since 1991, Wilder Research has conducted a statewide study of homelessness in Minnesota. However, the information gathered in the statewide survey is compiled only by regions, so Moorhead (Clay County) data was grouped in with the nine-county West Central Minnesota regional report, and Fargo data was not collected.

The study advisory committee proposed a research project that would expand the work of the Wilder homelessness study into Fargo, North Dakota and would result in detailed reports for both Moorhead and Fargo, as well as an aggregate report for the area. The project was timed to coincide with Wilder Research's 2000 statewide survey of persons without permanent shelter. On the evening of October 26, 2000, 59 trained volunteer interviewers conducted 184 surveys with adults and unaccompanied youth who were experiencing homelessness in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The data from the interviews were compiled and analyzed by Wilder Research staff members. The resulting report, *Homeless adults and their children in Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN*, helped local organizations working on homelessness move aggressively toward their ultimate goals of homes and self-sufficiency for all. The report helped document the needs of the area's homeless and secure funding to meet those needs. Regional Continuum of Care planning committees, the cities of Fargo and Moorhead, and innumerable local agencies used the information in the report for planning purposes and for successful grant applications.

Because of the success of the initial collaboration with Wilder Research, The Coalition continued to partner with Wilder in 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012 on an expanded version of the tri-annual study of persons without permanent shelter. The study is widely used and is one of a small handful of homelessness research projects that looks across geo-political boundaries to build a united response.

Methods

The project coincided with Wilder Research's 2012 statewide survey of persons without permanent shelter. Agency and community volunteers were trained in social science research interview methods through a professionally produced DVD. The DVD also provided detailed instruction in how to conduct the approximately 30-minute face-to-face interview with individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

On Thursday, October 25, 2012, trained volunteer interviewers conducted 571 surveys with adults and unaccompanied minors who were experiencing homelessness in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Surveys were conducted at 14 shelters and transitional housing programs, as well as at 12 drop-in centers, feeding sites, and other locations frequented by persons experiencing homelessness in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The Fargo-Moorhead Coalition for Homeless Persons enlisted the help of homeless individuals to assist in locating homeless individuals not in shelters. A \$5.00 honorarium was given to each survey participant.

How many homeless?

The definition of homelessness used for the study is the same one specified by the U.S. Congress in its most recent reauthorization of the Hearth Act. For the 2012 study, a homeless person is anyone who:

1. lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised, publicly- or privately-operated temporary living accommodation, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and battered women’s shelters; or
3. has a nighttime residence in any place not meant for human habitation, such as under bridges or in cars.

A parent not meeting any of these criteria may be included if they have a child with them, and have a significant history of residential instability, and have a barrier (or have a child with a barrier) that interferes with housing or employment.

The definition for homeless youth is expanded to include people through age 21 who are not with a parent or guardian and who are staying temporarily with other relatives or friends (“couch surfing”). However, those age 18 or older are legally adults and are also included in the overall adult findings. For this reason, “youth” and “adult” numbers should not be added together for totals.

The following table shows the total count of homeless persons in emergency shelters, battered women’s shelters, and transitional housing facilities in the Fargo area and Moorhead area on the night of October 25, 2012.¹ This is not the number who were interviewed, but the number who were counted by shelter providers.

1. Number of persons in temporary housing programs

	Adults age 22+		Young adults age 18-21		Unaccompanied minors age <18		Children with parent(s)	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Fargo area								
Emergency shelters	67	29	3	1	-	-	40	140
Transitional housing	84	43	7	12	-	-	34	180
Moorhead area								
Emergency shelters	38	23	1	2	-	-	24	88
Transitional housing	11	19	-	-	-	-	20	50
Total	200	114	11	15	-	-	118	458

¹ Persons interviewed in non-shelter locations are not included in this table.

The next table shows the number of homeless persons found in *informal or unsheltered locations* in the Fargo area and Moorhead area on October 25, 2012.

2. Number of persons in informal and unsheltered locations

	Adults age 22+		Young adults age 18-21		Unaccompanied youth age <18		Total interviewed	Partners ^a not interviewed	Children ^b with parent(s) not interviewed
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female			
Fargo area									
Informal shelter	89	39	10	12	2	2	154	21	17
Unsheltered	63	21	5	1	-	1	91	14	7
Moorhead area									
Informal shelter	25	12	1	-	4	7	49	5	8
Unsheltered	40	4	-	1	1	-	46	3	1
Total	217	76	16	14	7	10	340	43	33

^a This number represents the number of partners reported by those interviewed on the night of the survey. Partners were not interviewed.

^b This number represents the number of children that parents reported were with them on the night of the survey. Children were not interviewed.

The information presented in the preceding tables show that on October 25, 2012 in the Fargo-Moorhead area, 458 persons were living in temporary shelters or transitional programs, and 416 homeless persons were identified in non-shelter locations (including 43 partners and 33 children of those surveyed who were not interviewed). The total of 874 identified homeless persons represents an increase of 15 percent over the 763 homeless persons identified in October 2009, more than double the number of homeless persons identified in October 2003 (393) and approaching three times the number of homeless persons identified in October 2000 (312). However, an unknown number of homeless persons are not represented in these counts, including many persons doubled up with other individuals or families on the night of the survey.

Why these counts underestimate homelessness

Our counts reflect the number of persons using shelters and transitional programs in the Fargo-Moorhead area as reported by homeless service providers. Nonetheless, this represents an undercount of this area's total population of those who are homeless or precariously housed.

Our survey shows one-third (33%) of homeless persons interviewed stayed at least one day of the previous 30 days with friends or relatives. This population of homeless persons "doubled-up" with friends or relatives was briefly investigated by the Saint Paul Overnight Shelter

Board in 1990. By asking Saint Paul school children about persons living in their homes on a temporary basis, they found that there were as many people living in these circumstances as there were people in Saint Paul shelters.² The U.S. General Accounting Office found in 1989 that the number of children and youth who were “doubled-up” in precarious housing situations was 2.7 times the number of children and youth in emergency shelters.³

If we combine the above estimates and use the same methods, we show the following result.

3. Estimates of homeless and precariously housed persons in the Fargo-Moorhead area on an October night in 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012

Fargo Estimate

Count or estimate		2000	2003	2006	2009	2012
Count	Persons in shelters or transitional housing programs	139	167	197	319	320
Count	Persons in non-sheltered locations on night of survey	58	61	134	189	304
Estimate ^a	“Doubled-up” children and youth (2.7 times sheltered youth and children)	119	100	130	270	200
Estimate ^b	“Doubled-up” adults	95	130	149	242	246
Total		411	458	610	1,020	1,070

Moorhead Estimate

Count	Persons in shelters or transitional housing programs	61	125	145	124	138
Count	Persons in non-sheltered locations on night of survey	47	40	79	131	112
Estimate ^a	“Doubled-up” children and youth (2.7 times sheltered youth and children)	35	121	138	157	119
Estimate ^b	“Doubled-up” adults	48	77	94	90	94
Total		191	363	456	502	463

Fargo-Moorhead Area Estimate

Count	Persons in shelters or transitional housing programs	200	292	342	443	458
Count	Persons in non-sheltered locations on night of survey	105	101	213	320	416
Estimate ^a	“Doubled-up” children and youth (2.7 times sheltered youth and children)	154	221	268	427	319
Estimate ^b	“Doubled-up” adults	143	207	243	332	340
Total		602	821	1,066	1,522	1,533

² Wilder Research Center. (1990). *St. Paul overnight shelter board report*. Saint Paul, MN: Author.

³ U.S. General Accounting Office. (1989). *Children and youths: About 68,000 homeless and 186,000 in shared housing at any given time*. Washington, DC: Author.

Methods for calculating these estimates:

- a) Estimate of children and youth who are “doubled-up” = Total number of sheltered children and youth x (2.7)

(Based on the U.S. General Accounting Office 1989 study, which found there were 2.7 times as many children and youth in doubled-up situations as in emergency shelters.)

Year	Fargo	Moorhead	Fargo-Moorhead
October 2000	(44) x (2.7) = 119	(13) x (2.7) = 35	(57) x (2.7) = 154
October 2003	(37) x (2.7) = 100	(45) x (2.7) = 121	(82) x (2.7) = 221
October 2006	(48) x (2.7) = 130	(51) x (2.7) = 138	(99) x (2.7) = 268
October 2009	(100) x (2.7) = 270	(58) x (2.7) = 157	(158) x (2.7) = 427
October 2012	(74) x (2.7) = 200	(44) x (2.7) = 119	(118) x (2.7) = 319

- b) Estimate of the number of adults “doubled-up” = Total number of sheltered adults

(Based on the Saint Paul Overnight Shelter Board 1990 study, which found as many people living in “doubled-up” circumstances as those living in shelters.)

Year	Fargo	Moorhead	Fargo-Moorhead
October 2000	95	48	143
October 2003	130	77	207
October 2006	149	94	243
October 2009	242	90	332
October 2012	246	94	340

Survey interviews

The number of interviews conducted with adults and youth is shown below. In the Fargo-Moorhead area, 29 persons approached for an interview refused to participate (19 in Fargo and 10 in Moorhead). The overall response rate (including informal and unsheltered locations) was 96 percent in Fargo, North Dakota and 95 percent in Moorhead, Minnesota.

4. Number interviewed in temporary housing programs

	Males interviewed	Females interviewed	Total interviewed	Number of adults in temporary housing	Percent of total population interviewed
Fargo area					
Emergency shelters	32	29	61	100	61%
Battered women's shelters	-	-	-	-	-
Transitional housing	61	41	102	146	70%
Moorhead area					
Emergency shelters	29	19	47	64	73%
Battered women's shelters	-	-	-	-	-
Transitional housing	7	14	21	30	70%
Total	129	102	231	340	68%

Note: The figures for temporary housing include adults, young adults, and unaccompanied minors.

5. Number interviewed in non-shelter locations

	Adults age 22+		Young adults age 18-21		Unaccompanied youth age <18		Total interviewed
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Fargo area							
Informal shelter	89	39	10	12	2	2	154
Unsheltered	63	21	5	1	-	1	91
Moorhead area							
Informal shelter	25	12	1	-	4	7	49
Unsheltered	40	4	-	1	1	-	46
Total	217	76	16	14	7	10	340

Survey results

Survey results are presented in two ways:

- Descriptive overview of the characteristics of those who were homeless on Thursday, October 25, 2012.
- Detailed data tables that allow readers to examine specific survey questions broken down by locale (Fargo vs. Moorhead), gender, and shelter or non-shelter locations. The data tables are available online at www.wilderresearch.org.

General descriptive profile

On Thursday, October 25, 2012, the population count of all homeless persons residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota was 458 people (211 adult men, 129 adult women, no unaccompanied minors, and 118 children with parents). Additionally, the October 2012 survey identified 416 persons in informal and unsheltered locations (233 men, 90 women, 7 male unaccompanied minors, 10 female unaccompanied minors, 43 partners and 33 children of those surveyed who were not interviewed).

Interviews were completed with 240 homeless adults and five unaccompanied minors in Fargo and 83 homeless adults and 12 unaccompanied minors in Moorhead. This section presents a general profile of homeless adults in each city. The total homeless population identified in the Fargo-Moorhead area on October 25, 2012 was 874 persons (624 in Fargo and 250 in Moorhead).

Descriptive information on homeless unaccompanied minors (age 17 or younger) who were interviewed is presented separately in the general descriptive profile. Survey questions asked only of homeless individuals age 21 or younger are also presented in this section.

In the data table section of the report, available on line at www.wilderresearch.org, each individual question is represented by the shelter type, totals for Fargo and Moorhead individually, as well as totals for both cities combined.

Background characteristics

Fargo

In Fargo, men made up 68 percent of homeless adults interviewed. The average age for men was 44 and for women was 36.

In Fargo, survey results indicate that 64 percent of the homeless adults interviewed were Caucasian, 18 percent were American Indian, 8 percent were African American, 6 percent were of a mixed racial background, 3 percent were African Native, and 1 percent did not identify a racial background. Nine percent identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, men made up 62 percent of homeless adults interviewed. The average age for men was 44 and for women was 39.

In Moorhead, survey results indicate that 50 percent of the homeless adults interviewed were Caucasian, 27 percent were American Indian, 14 percent were African American, 8 percent were of a mixed racial background, 1 percent were African Native, and 1 percent were Asian. Twelve percent identified themselves as being of Hispanic origin.

Fargo

Of those self-identified as American Indian, 91 percent were officially enrolled with a tribe, 7 percent were a descendent of a tribal member but not enrolled, and 2 percent were not enrolled with a tribe for some other reason.

Thirty-nine percent of American Indians not currently living on their reservation said they would live there if housing were available.

In Fargo, over half of surveyed homeless adults (56%) had never married. Another 31 percent were divorced, 7 percent were separated, 4 percent were widowed, and 3 percent were currently married.

In Fargo, four-fifths of homeless adults interviewed (81%) had either graduated from high school, completed a GED, or had some type of post-secondary education. About one-quarter (26%) of homeless adults interviewed reported receiving special education services while in school.

Half of homeless adults interviewed in Fargo had lived in North Dakota for more than two years. Nearly two-fifths (38%) of those living in North Dakota for two years or less came from Minnesota, and 30 percent lived in North Dakota previously. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of those surveyed in Fargo grew up in another state or country, including 30 percent who grew up in Minnesota.

In Fargo, 22 percent of the homeless adults surveyed were military veterans (32% of men and no women). This compares with 11 percent of North Dakota's adult population (24% of males and 2% of females age 18 and older) who are military veterans.⁴

Moorhead

Of those self-identified as American Indian, 88 percent were officially enrolled with a tribe, 11 percent were a descendent of a tribal member but not enrolled, and 2 percent were not enrolled with a tribe for some other reason.

Twenty-six percent of American Indians not currently living on their reservation said they would live there if housing were available.

In Moorhead, over half of surveyed homeless adults (53%) had never married. Another 33 percent were divorced, 9 percent were currently married, 4 percent were separated, and 1 percent were widowed.

In Moorhead, over three-quarters of homeless adults interviewed (78%) had either graduated from high school, completed a GED, or had some type of post-secondary education. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of homeless adults interviewed reported receiving special education services while in school.

Over half (53%) of homeless adults interviewed in Moorhead had lived in Minnesota for more than two years. Nearly half (46%) of those living in Minnesota for two years or less came from North Dakota, and over one-third (37%) lived in Minnesota previously. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of those surveyed in Moorhead grew up in another state or country, including 37 percent who grew up in North Dakota.

In Moorhead, 12 percent of the homeless adults surveyed were military veterans (20% of men and no women). This compares with 9 percent of Minnesota's adult population (17% of males and 1% of females age 18 and older) who are military veterans.⁵

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. *2011 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates* [statistics from data file]. Retrieved May 1, 2013, from <http://www.census.gov/factfinder.census.gov>

⁵ *Ibid*

Service use

Fargo

In Fargo, the services used most often in October were clothing shelves (49%), food stamps (36%), hot meal programs (33%), transportation assistance (28%), free medical clinics (27%), food shelves (25%), drop-in centers (25%), and emergency room (21%).

In Fargo, 9 percent of homeless adults interviewed (21% of women) reported receiving TANF (North Dakota's family welfare plan) in the last 12 months.

In Fargo, over two-fifths (44%) of homeless adults interviewed had some kind of medical coverage in October. Two-fifths (41%) reported using an emergency room in the previous six months.

In Fargo, one-sixth (17%) lost or became unable to afford some form of public benefits or assistance during the 12 months preceding the study. The benefits mentioned most frequently were food stamps (66% of those who lost benefits) and public medical benefits (43%).

In Fargo, over one-quarter (29%) of adults interviewed reported needing help applying for or reapplying for services, particularly food stamps (51% of those needing help with applications), public medical benefits (45%), housing assistance (23%), and SSI (19%).

Nearly one-third (31%) attended a Project Homeless Connect event in the previous 12 months. Over three-quarters (76%) have a valid driver's license or state-issued photo ID.

In Fargo, over two-thirds of homeless adults (68%) reported having access to a reliable computer with internet access and nearly two-fifths (39%) reported having a cell phone with a data plan that can access the internet.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, the services used most often in October were food stamps (56%), clothing shelves (52%), transportation assistance (41%), hot meal programs (41%), food shelves (39%), help getting public benefits (23%), and drop-in centers (20%).

In Moorhead, 11 percent of homeless adults interviewed (16% of women) reported receiving MFIP (Minnesota's family welfare plan) in the last 12 months.

In Moorhead, over two-thirds (68%) of homeless adults interviewed had some kind of medical coverage in October. Over one-third (36%) reported using an emergency room in the previous six months.

In Moorhead, one-fifth (20%) lost or became unable to afford some form of public benefits or assistance during the 12 months preceding the study. The benefits mentioned most frequently were public medical benefits (51% of those who lost benefits) and food stamps (44%).

In Moorhead, one-quarter of the adults interviewed reported needing help applying for or reapplying for services, particularly for public medical benefits (41% of those needing help with applications), food stamps (33%), and housing assistance (23%).

Nearly one-third (31%) attended a Project Homeless Connect event in the previous 12 months. Nearly two-fifths (39%) have a valid driver's license or state-issued photo ID.

In Moorhead, over two-thirds of homeless adults (71%) reported having access to a reliable computer with internet access and two-fifths (48%) reported having a cell phone with a data plan that can access the internet.

Income

Fargo

In Fargo, homeless adults interviewed reported their main source of income in October as: steady employment (24%), day or temporary labor (24%), Supplemental Security Income (8%), parents (6%) and SSDI (6%).

In Fargo, when asked about their total income for the month of October, 12 percent reported some income but less than \$100, 19 percent reported an income between \$101 and \$300, 11 percent reported an income between \$301 and \$500, 12 percent reported an income between \$501 and \$700, 6 percent reported an income between \$701 and \$900, and 19 percent reported an income over \$900. Twenty-two percent reported no income in the month of October.

In Fargo, homeless men reported a higher average monthly income than homeless women (\$533 vs. \$426). Homeless men and women had the same median income (\$300).

Moorhead

In Moorhead, homeless adults interviewed reported their main source of income in October as: General Assistance (19%), steady employment (17%), day or temporary labor (16%), Supplemental Security Income (10%), and relatives or friends (8%).

In Moorhead, when asked about their total income for the month of October, 18 percent reported some income but less than \$100, 23 percent reported an income between \$101 and \$300, 7 percent reported an income between \$301 and \$500, 13 percent reported an income between \$501 and \$700, 6 percent reported an income between \$701 and \$900, and 17 percent reported an income of over \$900. Sixteen percent reported no income in the month of October.

In Moorhead, homeless women reported a higher average monthly income than homeless men (\$451 vs. \$443). The median income for homeless women (\$219) was more than that of homeless men (\$200).

History of homelessness and shelter use

Fargo

In Fargo, 44 percent of those surveyed had been homeless only once in the previous three years. Sixteen percent of those surveyed reported two episodes of homelessness in the past three years, 10 percent reported three episodes of being homeless, and 30 percent reported being homeless four or more times.

In Fargo, 7 percent of homeless adults surveyed reported they had been without a regular or permanent place to stay for less than one month, 46 percent for at least one month but less than one year, and 47 percent for one year or more.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, 38 percent of those surveyed had been homeless only once in the previous three years. Eighteen percent reported two episodes of homelessness in the past three years, 10 percent reported being homeless three times, and 34 percent reported being homeless four or more times.

In Moorhead, 7 percent of homeless adults surveyed reported they had been without a regular or permanent place to stay for less than one month, 37 percent for at least one month but less than one year, and 57 percent for one year or more.

Fargo

An individual meets the Minnesota definition of long-term homelessness if their current episode of homelessness has lasted 12 months or more or if they have been homeless four or more times in the last three years. Over half (57%) of the homeless adults surveyed in Fargo would meet Minnesota's definition of long-term homeless.

An individual meets the federal definition of chronic homelessness if their current episode of homelessness has lasted 12 months or more or if they have been homeless four or more times in the last three years, and they are staying alone (not accompanied by a spouse, partner, or children) and have at least one serious, chronic disability. One-third (33%) of the homeless adults surveyed in Fargo would meet the federal definition of chronic homelessness.

In Fargo, 83 percent of homeless adults reported having lived in temporary/supportive shelter facilities (emergency or battered women shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing with supportive services – 5% as a child and 79% in the previous two years).

In Fargo, 36 percent of homeless adults had spent 15 or more days staying outside, in a vehicle, in a vacant building, or doubled-up. One-quarter (24%) of homeless adults had spent all 30 days staying outside, in a vehicle, in a vacant building, or doubled-up.

In Fargo, one-quarter (27%) of homeless adults interviewed reported being unable to obtain shelter, at least once in the last three months, because of a lack of available bed space. According to those unable to obtain shelter, the last time shelter beds were unavailable, most slept outdoors (39%), with friends or family (21%), in a car or abandoned building (19%), or in another shelter (7%).

In Fargo, 36 percent of homeless adults interviewed slept outdoors or in a place not meant for housing at least one night during October.

Moorhead

An individual meets the Minnesota definition of long-term homelessness if their current episode of homelessness has lasted 12 months or more or if they have been homeless four or more times in the last three years. Nearly two-thirds (62%) of the homeless adults surveyed in Moorhead would meet Minnesota's definition of long-term homeless.

An individual meets the federal definition of chronic homelessness if their current episode of homelessness has lasted 12 months or more or if they have been homeless four or more times in the last three years; and they are staying alone (not accompanied by a spouse, partner, or children) and have at least one serious, chronic disability. More than one-third (37%) of the homeless adults surveyed in Moorhead would meet the federal definition of chronic homelessness.

In Moorhead, 85 percent of homeless reported having lived in temporary/supportive shelter facilities (emergency or battered women shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing with supportive services – 11% as a child and 80% in the previous two years).

In Fargo, 42 percent of homeless adults had spent 15 or more days staying outside, in a vehicle, in a vacant building, or doubled-up. One-quarter (24%) of homeless adults had spent all 30 days staying outside, in a vehicle, in a vacant building, or doubled-up.

In Moorhead, one-quarter (38%) of homeless adults reported being unable to obtain shelter, at least once in the last three months, because of a lack of available bed space. According to those unable to obtain shelter, the last time shelter beds were unavailable, most slept outdoors (46%), in a car or abandoned building (20%), with friends or family (11%), or in another shelter (11%).

In Moorhead, 44 percent of homeless adults interviewed slept outdoors or in a place not meant for housing at least one night during October.

Living in other residential programs

Fargo

In Fargo, with respect to prior residential placements, 72 percent of homeless adults surveyed reported having lived in at least one type of residential facility or program, not including correctional facilities. Men and women were about equally likely to have lived in some type of non-family setting (74% vs. 69%).

Overall, homeless adults in Fargo reported having lived in drug or alcohol treatment facilities (49%), halfway houses (34%), mental health facilities (29%), foster care (23%), and group homes (19%).

A smaller proportion reported having lived in a residence for persons with physical disabilities (7%) or in an adoptive home (6%).

In Fargo, with respect to prior correctional placements, 57 percent of homeless adults surveyed reported having been held in at least one type of correctional facility.

Homeless men and women differed in the type of placements. Men were more likely than women to have been in a correctional facility (63% vs. 45%), drug or alcohol treatment facility (52% vs. 40%), a halfway house (37% vs. 26%), and a mental health facility (33% vs. 23%). Women were more likely than men to have been in a foster home (36% vs. 17%), or a group home (23% vs. 17%).

Moorhead

In Moorhead, with respect to prior residential placements, 60 percent of homeless adults surveyed reported having lived in at least one type of residential facility or program, not including correctional facilities. Men and women were about equally likely to have lived in some type of non-family setting (58% vs. 64%).

Overall, homeless adults in Moorhead reported having lived in drug or alcohol treatment facilities (33%), foster care (27%), mental health facilities (25%), halfway houses (24%), and group homes (21%).

A smaller proportion reported having lived in an adoptive home (11%) or in a residence for persons with physical disabilities (5%).

In Moorhead, with respect to prior correctional placements, 62 percent of homeless adults surveyed reported having been held in at least one type of correctional facility.

Homeless men and women differed in the type of placements. Men were more likely than women to have been in a correctional facility (70% vs. 51%), a mental health facility (27% vs. 21%), or a halfway house (28% vs. 18%). Women were more likely than men to have been in foster care (37% vs. 21%), a group home (31% vs. 15%), or an adoptive home (16% vs. 9%).

The table below shows residential and correctional placements reported by homeless adults surveyed in Fargo and Moorhead.

6. Residential and correctional placements

	Fargo			Moorhead		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Foster care	17.0%	35.7%	23.1%	21.4%	37.2%	27.4%
Drug or alcohol treatment	52.4%	40.2%	48.5%	34.0%	32.4%	33.4%
Residence for persons with physical disabilities	8.2%	3.6%	6.7%	4.6%	5.6%	5.0%
Halfway house	37.0%	26.3%	33.6%	27.9%	18.4%	24.4%
Mental health hospital	32.6%	22.5%	29.3%	27.0%	20.6%	24.6%
Group home	17.2%	23.0%	19.1%	14.8%	31.2%	21.0%
Adoptive home	5.5%	8.4%	6.4%	8.5%	16.1%	11.4%
Any of above residential/ treatment placements	73.9%	69.1%	72.3%	58.1%	63.7%	60.2%
Juvenile detention center or other juvenile facility or camp	19.0%	19.3%	19.1%	15.2%	16.4%	15.7%
County jail or workhouse	58.6%	34.5%	50.8%	62.7%	39.4%	53.8%
State or federal prison	22.9%	13.0%	19.7%	34.7%	15.7%	27.4%
Any of above correctional facilities	63.3%	45.0%	57.4%	69.5%	50.8%	62.4%

Migration to Fargo-Moorhead

Fargo

About one-third (35%) of homeless adults interviewed in Fargo had lived in North Dakota for less than one year, 15 percent for one to two years, and 64 percent longer than two years. Thirty-eight percent of recent residents (two years or less) had lived in Minnesota just prior to coming to North Dakota. Nearly one-third (30%) of recent residents indicated that they had previously lived in North Dakota.

Of recent residents (the 266 living in North Dakota for two years or less), nearly half (48%) came from West North Central states. Eleven percent from Pacific states, 10 percent from East North Central states, 9 percent from Mountain states, 7 percent from South Atlantic states, 3 percent came from West South Central states, 3 percent from East South Central states, 2 percent from New England states, and 1 percent from Middle Atlantic states. Data were missing on 20 (8%) adults. No recent residents came from countries outside of the United States. (See maps on the next three pages.)

In Fargo, 5 percent of the homeless adults interviewed were born outside of the United States. Of the 27 respondents born in another county, 16 entered the United States with official refugee status. Three of the 16 respondents entered the United States prior to the year 2000.

Moorhead

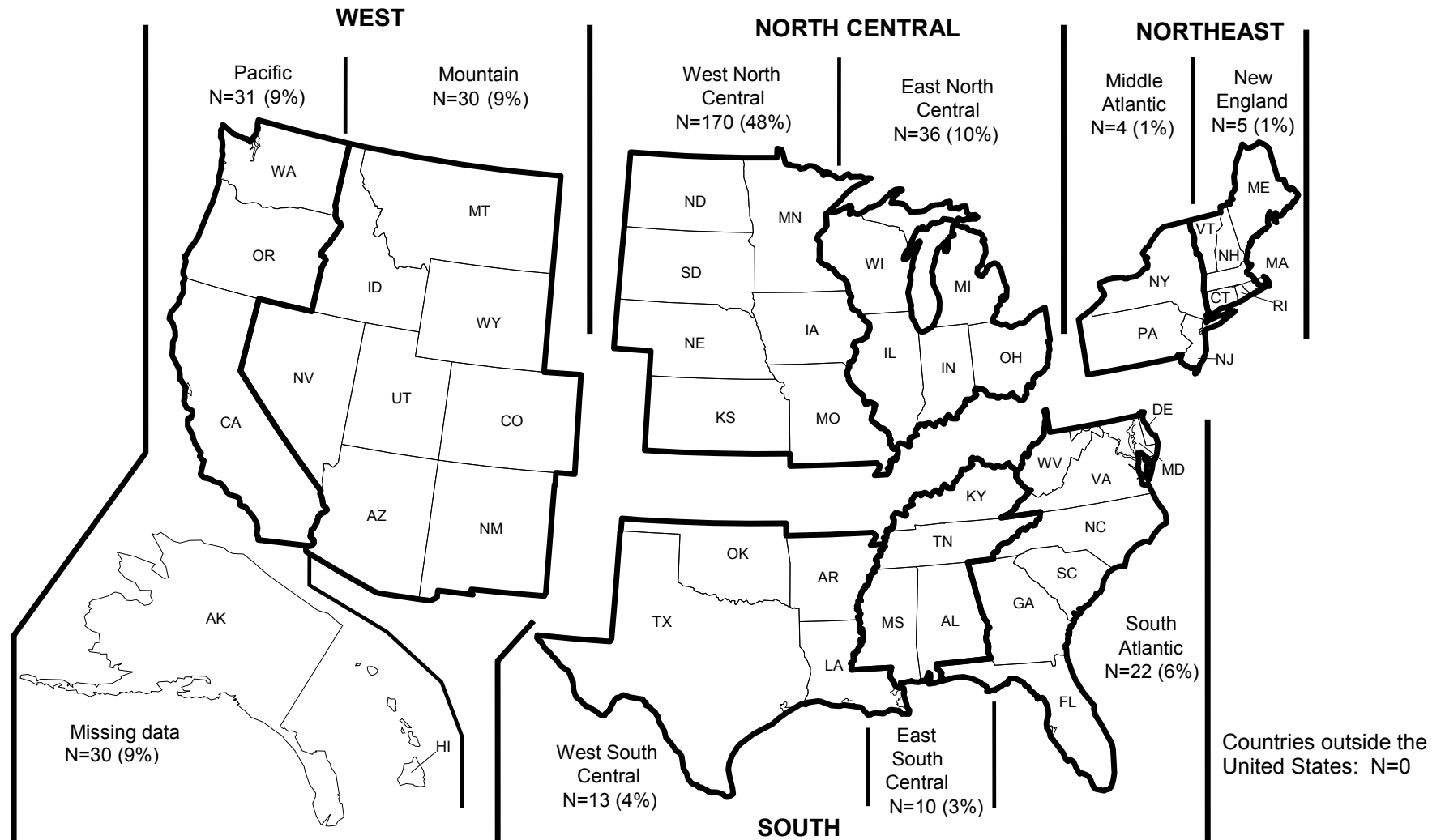
More than one-third (37%) of the homeless adults interviewed in Moorhead had lived in Minnesota for less than one year, 10 percent for one to two years, and 63 percent longer than two years. Over two-fifths (46%) of recent residents (two years or less) had lived in North Dakota just prior to coming to Minnesota. Over one-third (36%) of recent residents indicated that they had previously lived in Minnesota.

Of recent residents (the 85 living in Minnesota for two years or less), half (51%) came from West North Central states. Twelve percent from East North Central states, 8 percent came from Mountain states, 7 percent from West South Central states, 3 percent from South Atlantic states, 2 percent from East South Central states, 2 percent from Middle Atlantic states, 1 percent from New England states, and 1 percent from Pacific states. Data were missing on 10 (12%) adults. No recent residents came from countries outside of the United States. (See maps on the next three pages.)

In Moorhead, 2 percent of the homeless adults interviewed were born outside of the United States. Of the four respondents born in another county, three entered the United States with official refugee status. None of the four respondents entered the United States prior to the year 2000.

Respondents living in North Dakota* or Minnesota* two years or less
 "Where did you live before coming to Fargo, North Dakota* or Moorhead, Minnesota*?"
 N=351

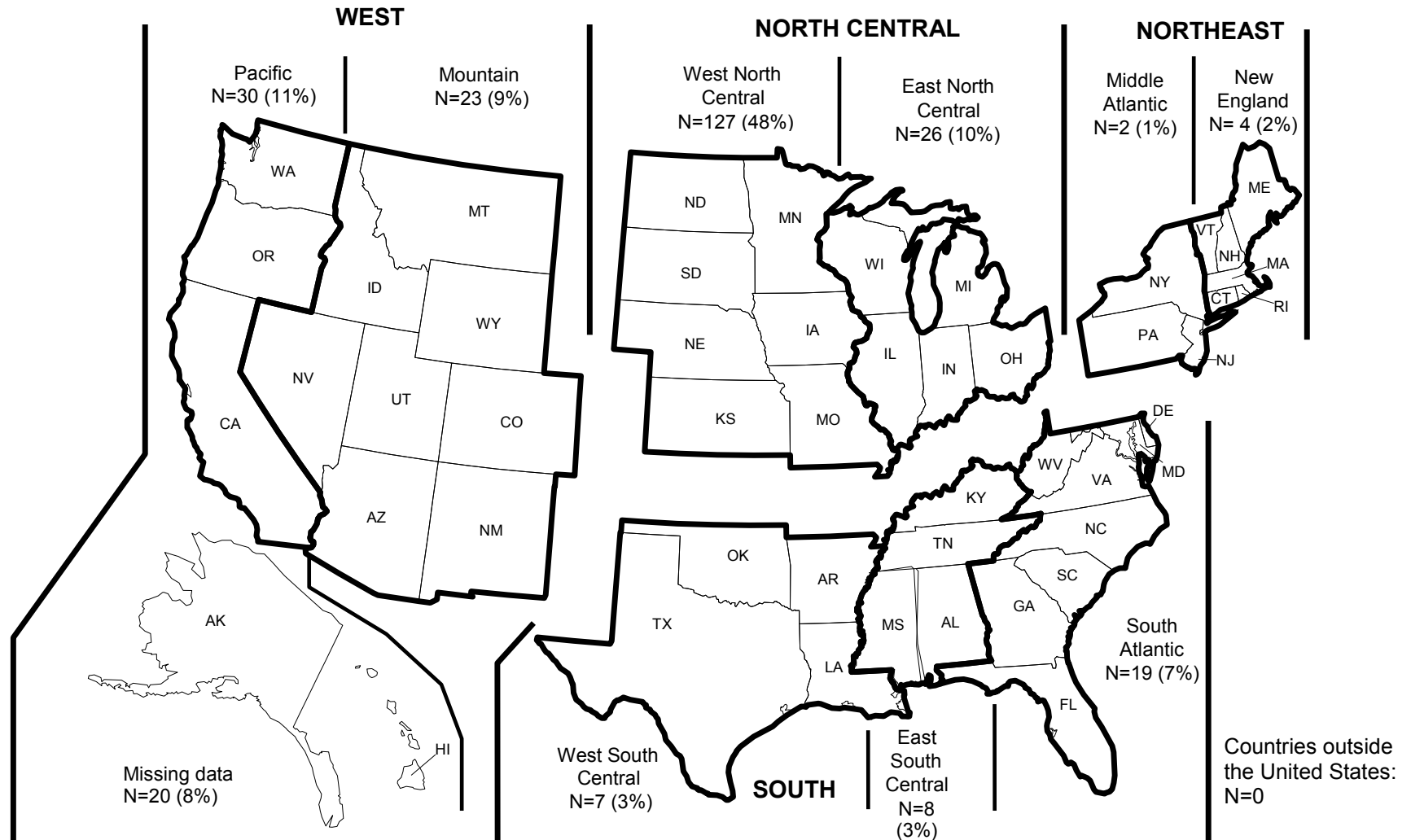
US Census Bureau geographic regions



* Respondents interviewed in Fargo were asked about the length of residency in North Dakota and those interviewed in Moorhead were asked about the length of residency in Minnesota.

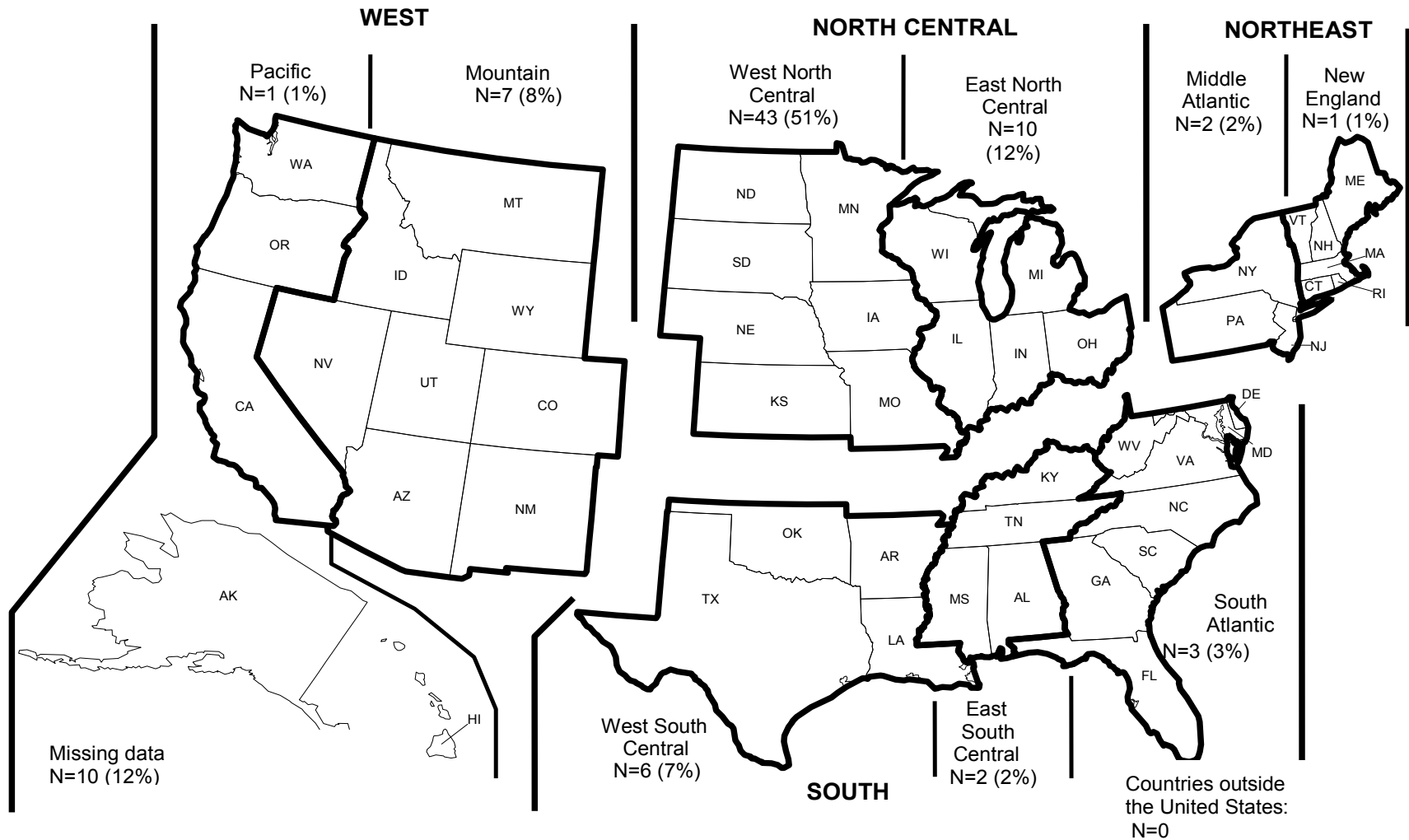
Respondents living in North Dakota two years or less
 "Where did you live before coming to North Dakota?" N=266

US Census Bureau geographic regions



Respondents living in Minnesota two years or less
 "Where did you live before coming to Minnesota?" N=85

US Census Bureau geographic regions



Housing resources

Fargo

In Fargo, 47 percent of homeless adults surveyed (50% of men and 40% of women) reported having been without housing for more than a year. Nearly one-third (32%) were on a waiting list for Section 8 or subsidized housing. The average length of time on the waiting list was 7 months.

Seven percent reported having received a Section 8 voucher that they could not use, because they could not find a place that would accept the voucher.

The majority of the homeless men (90%) stated that they needed only an efficiency or one-bedroom apartment, while nearly half (45%) of homeless women required two or more bedrooms.

In Fargo, nearly one-third (32%) of homeless adults interviewed indicated that they were not able to pay any amount for rent. Seven percent reported they could pay between \$1 and \$100 a month for rent, 9 percent said \$101 to \$200, 15 percent said \$201 to \$300, 15 percent said \$301 to \$400, 12 percent said \$401 to \$500, and 10 percent said over \$500 per month.

In Fargo, 32 percent of homeless adults interviewed reported their last regular or permanent housing was in Fargo, 8 percent in Moorhead, 13 percent in North Dakota (outside of Fargo), 13 percent in Minnesota (outside of Moorhead), and 33 percent in another state (not North Dakota or Minnesota).

Moorhead

In Moorhead, 57 percent of homeless adults surveyed (53% of men and 63% of women) reported having been without housing for more than a year. Nearly two-thirds (63%) were on a waiting list for Section 8 or subsidized housing. The average length of time on the waiting list was 7 months.

Ten percent reported having received a Section 8 voucher that they could not use, because they could not find a place that would accept the voucher.

The majority of the homeless men (86%) stated that they needed only an efficiency or one-bedroom apartment, while nearly half (47%) of homeless women required two or more bedrooms.

In Moorhead, over one-quarter (28%) of homeless adults indicated that they were not able to pay any amount for rent. Eight percent reported they could pay between \$1 and \$100 a month for rent, 13 percent said \$101 to \$200, 15 percent said \$201 to \$300, 14 percent said \$301 to \$400, 10 percent said \$401 to \$500, and 14 percent said over \$500 per month.

In Moorhead, 28 percent of homeless adults interviewed reported their last regular or permanent housing was in Clay County, Minnesota, 18 percent in Minnesota (not Clay County), 17 percent in North Dakota, and 29 percent from another state (not North Dakota or Minnesota). Minnesota respondents were not asked about previous residence in Fargo or Moorhead.

Fargo

Respondents were asked about the reasons they left their last housing. In Fargo, the main reasons **men** cited included: job lost or had hours cut (43%), they couldn't afford the rent (39%), their own drinking or drug problems (33%), eviction (28%), entered jail or treatment (24%), and break-up with spouse or partner (20%).

The main reasons **women** cited included: eviction (35%), couldn't afford rent (29%), problems getting along with people you live with (26%), break-up with spouse or partner (25%), job lost or had hours cut (24%), to flee an abusive relationship (23%), their own drinking or drug problem (22%), and another person's drinking or drug problem (21%).

In Fargo, homeless adults reported that the first place they stayed when they lost their last housing was with friends or family (47%), in an emergency shelter (24%), outside (12%), and in a car, van, lobby, or other public place (9%).

In Fargo, the main reasons homeless adults interviewed said they could not get housing now included: the lack of a job or income (33%), credit problems (24%), no housing they could afford (19%), and a criminal background (18%).

Moorhead

Respondents were asked about the reasons they left their last housing. In Moorhead, the main reasons men cited included: job lost or had hours cut (32%), couldn't afford rent (31%), eviction (25%), their own drinking or drug problems (22%), entered jail or treatment (19%), problems getting along with people you live with (17%), and another person's drinking or drug problem (12%).

The main reasons **women** cited included: a breakup with spouse or partner (37%), to flee an abusive relationship (35%), couldn't afford the rent (33%), job lost or had hours cut (33%), problems getting along with people you live with (32%), eviction (30%), a drinking problem of someone else in the household (29%), and a behavior problem of a guest or visitor (26%).

In Moorhead, homeless adults reported that the first place they stayed when they lost their last housing was with friends or family (47%), in an emergency shelter (20%), outside (12%), and in a car, van, lobby, or other public place (9%).

In Moorhead, the main reasons homeless adults said they could not get housing now included: lack of a job or income (26%), credit problems (23%), criminal background (21%), no housing they could afford (15%), and cost of application (9%).

7. Housing needs of homeless individuals, what they could pay, and what apartments cost:

Fargo

Size of apartment needed	Homeless adults needing this size apartment	Amount individual could pay per month	Fair market rent, 2012 ^a	People who report they could afford fair market rent	
	Percent of N=525	Average (median)		N	%
0 (efficiency)	65%	\$200	\$433	58	20%
1 bedroom	14%	\$200	\$514	6	9%
2 bedrooms	15%	\$250	\$654	6	9%
3 bedrooms	6%	\$323	\$944	1	4%
4 bedrooms	<1%	\$225	\$1,091	0	-

Moorhead

Size of apartment needed	Homeless adults needing this size apartment	Amount individual could pay per month	Fair market rent, 2012 ^a	People who report they could afford fair market rent	
	Percent of N=181	Average (median)		N	%
0 (efficiency)	64%	\$200	\$433	14	16%
1 bedroom	9%	\$389	\$514	1	8%
2 bedrooms	18%	\$300	\$654	2	7%
3 bedrooms	4%	\$300	\$944	0	-
4 bedrooms	4%	\$250	\$1,091	0	-

Sources: Homeless data, Wilder Research Center, 2012. Fair market rents, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, FY 2012 Fair Market rent Documentation System. Retrieved on April 30, 2013 from <http://www.huduser.org>.

^a Fair market rent is the amount determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to represent the amount at or below which 40 percent of the local units are renting (the rent that makes 40% of local units accessible). It is the amount typically covered by a Housing Choice voucher (previously known as Section 8 housing voucher).

Veteran status

Fargo

In Fargo, 32 percent of homeless men and no homeless women had served in the U.S. military. This represents 22 percent of the homeless adult population. Of veterans, 52 percent served in the Army, 22 percent in the Navy, 13 percent in the Air Force, 10 percent in the Marines, 3 percent in the National Guard, and 1 percent served in the Reserves.

In Fargo, one-quarter of homeless veterans began their military service between August 1964 and May 1975, 34 percent between June 1975 and September 1980, and 38 percent began between October 1980 and March 2003. Two-thirds (68%) of homeless veterans reported their military service was over two years. The majority (82%) received an honorable discharge.

Two-fifths (20%) of homeless veterans served in a combat zone. Eight percent of homeless military veterans served in a combat zone in the first Gulf war, 7 percent in Vietnam, and 3 percent in the current Gulf War.

Fifty homeless veterans (44%) reported service-related health problems, primarily mental health problems, exposure to chemicals, and problems affecting the ears and back. Five (5%) homeless veterans reported being diagnosed with a service-related head injury.

In Fargo, over half (55%) of homeless veterans reported they attended a Veterans Stand Down event in the previous 12 months. Over one-third (35%) of military veterans had contact with a County Veterans Service Officer during the previous 12 months.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, 20 percent of homeless men and no homeless women had served in the U.S. military. This represents 12 percent of the homeless adult population. Of veterans, 23 percent served in the Army, 23 percent in the Air Force, 20 percent in the Navy, 19 percent in the Marines, 11 percent in the Reserves, and 5 percent served in the National Guard.

In Moorhead, one-third of homeless veterans began their military service between August 1964 and May 1975, 9 percent between June 1975 and September 1980, and 53 percent began between October 1980 and March 2003. Nearly two-thirds (62%) of homeless veterans reported their military service was over two years. The majority (77%) received an honorable discharge.

One-quarter of homeless veterans served in a combat zone. Fourteen percent of the homeless military veterans served in a combat zone in Vietnam, 6 percent in Granada, and 5 percent in Beirut/Lebanon.

Eight homeless veterans (38%) reported having service-related health problems, primarily mental health problems, exposure to chemicals, and problems affecting the ears. One homeless veteran (5%) reported being diagnosed with a service-related head injury.

In Moorhead, nearly half (47%) of homeless veterans reported that they attended a Veterans Stand Down event in the previous 12 months. One-quarter of military veterans had contact with a County Veterans Service Officer during the previous 12 months.

Fargo

In Fargo, two-thirds (68%) reported currently using military benefits. Of those *currently* using military veterans' benefits, 63 percent were using Veterans Administration Medical Center services, 16 percent were receiving service connected compensation, 11 percent were receiving a non-service connected (NSC) veterans' pension, 4 percent were receiving other federal veterans' benefits, 4 percent were receiving State Veterans Home benefits, and 3 percent were receiving other state veterans' benefits.

One homeless veteran reported receiving benefits in the previous 12 months that they are not currently receiving.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, nearly three-fifths (58%), reported currently using military benefits. Of those *currently* using military veterans' benefits, 53 percent were using Veterans Administration Medical Center benefits, 15 percent were receiving a non-service connected (NSC) veterans' pension, 11 percent were receiving service connected compensation, and 5 percent were receiving other federal veterans' benefits.

One homeless veteran reported receiving benefits in the previous 12 months that they are not currently receiving.

Children of homeless parents

Fargo

In Fargo, half of homeless women and 21 percent of homeless men reported *having* children under the age of 18. Forty-six homeless adults (9%) had at least one child *with them* on the night of the survey (39 homeless women and 4 homeless men).

In Fargo, four-fifths (81%) of homeless parents (96% of male parents and 68% of female parents) reported that at least one of their children was not currently living with them.

One-quarter of homeless parents (20% of men and 32% of women) reported that their children were not living with them because of shelter or facility restrictions.

In Fargo, three-fifths (59%) of homeless parents reported having a court order to receive child support. Of those with court-ordered child support, 62 percent reported support was being provided for all children eligible.

In Fargo, 20 homeless parents (12%) reported having an open child protection order for at least one of their children.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, over half (55%) of homeless women and 24 percent of homeless men reported *having* children under the age of 18. Thirty (16%) homeless adults had at least one child *with them* on the night of the survey (16 homeless women and 5 homeless men).

In Moorhead, nearly two-thirds (63%) of homeless parents (87% of male parents and 47% of female parents) reported that at least one of their children was not currently living with them.

Three percent of homeless parents (no men and 6% of women) reported that their children were not living with them because of shelter or facility restrictions.

In Moorhead, nearly half (46%) of homeless parents reported having a court order to receive child support. Of those with court-ordered child support, 39 percent reported support was being provided for all children eligible.

In Moorhead, 5 homeless parents (7%) reported having an open child protection order for at least one of their children.

Fargo

In Fargo, 45 parents (47%) with children under the age of five reported having a child enrolled in Head Start or an early childhood program.

In Fargo, the average number of children who were currently living with their homeless parents was 2. The average age of children living with homeless parents was 7 years, and the median age was 6.

In Fargo, four parents (9%) reported that at least one child living with them had a chronic or severe physical health problem. Ten parents (21%) reported having at least one child with emotional or behavioral problems.

Eight parents (17%) reported not being able to get the needed physical health care and eight parents (17%) were not able to get needed dental health care for their children.

Five parents (11%) reported their children had to skip meals in the previous month, because there wasn't enough money to buy food. Eighteen parents (45%) reported they had not been able to get needed childcare.

In Fargo, 25 parents had school-age children with them. Fourteen parents (57%) reported having a child with learning or school problems. Four parents (17%) reported having a child that repeated a grade in school.

In Fargo, two-fifths (41%) of homeless parents reported that their school-age children had been the victims of bullying. Other school-related problems reported by parents included their child's displaying aggression (18%), a drop in grades (17%), excessive tardiness (17%), and having difficulty with peer relationships (13%).

Twenty-four parents (96%) reported their children attended school on the day of the survey, 16 parents (66%) reported that their children had to change schools, and three parents (13%) reported that their children were having trouble going to school, due to housing problems.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, 18 parents (51%) with children under the age of five reported having a child enrolled in Head Start or an early childhood program.

In Moorhead, the average number of children who were currently living with their homeless parents was 2. The average age of children living with homeless parents was 8 years, and the median age was 7.

In Moorhead, seven parents (25%) reported that at least one child living with them had a chronic or severe physical health problem. Twelve parents (42%) reported having at least one child with emotional or behavioral problems.

One parent (3%) reported not being able to get needed physical health care and six parents (20%) were not able to get needed dental health care for their children.

Four parents (14%) reported that their children had to skip meals in the previous month, because there wasn't enough money to buy food. Three parents (9%) reported they had not been able to get needed child care.

In Moorhead, 22 parents had school-age children with them. Seventeen parents (77%) reported having a child with learning or school problems. Five parents (21%) reported having a child that repeated a grade in school.

In Moorhead, half of homeless parents reported that their school-age children had been the victims of bullying. Other school-related problems reported by parents included suspensions (27%), their child's displaying aggression (20%), a drop in grades (16%), and having difficulty with peer relationships (16%).

Nineteen parents (86%) reported their children attended school on the day of the survey, eight parents (35%) reported that their children had to change schools, and four parents (19%) reported that their children were having trouble going to school, due to housing problems.

Employment

Fargo

In Fargo, over one-third of homeless adults (37%) were employed (14% full-time jobs). Of those employed, 39 percent reported their job had lasted at least three months. The majority of jobs (70%) paid less than \$10 per hour (24% paid less than \$8 per hour).

In Fargo, of those not employed, 24 percent had been laid off, terminated, or had their job eliminated in the previous six months.

Nearly two-fifths (38%) of unemployed homeless adults reported it had been less than six months since they last held a job. Of the unemployed homeless adults, 18 percent last had a job between six months and one year ago, 16 percent had a job one to two years ago, 7 percent had a job two to three years ago, 2 percent had a job three to four years ago, and 17 percent reported their last job was more than four years ago.

Seven (2%) homeless adults in Fargo had never been employed.

Three-fifths (61%) of unemployed homeless adults reported that they were currently looking for work.

In Fargo, the most frequently mentioned barriers to employment included: transportation (33%), physical health problems (22%), resources needed to look for work (20%), mental health (18%), and lack of housing (16%).

Some barriers were more significant for women than for men: child care (7% vs. 1%) and transportation (40% vs. 29%).

The only barrier that appeared more significant for men than women was physical health (24% vs. 18%).

Moorhead

In Moorhead, over one-quarter of homeless adults (28%) were employed (10% full-time jobs). Of those employed, 53 percent reported their job has lasted at least three months. The majority of jobs (70%) paid less than \$10 per hour (19% paid less than \$8 per hour).

In Moorhead, of those not employed, 10 percent had been laid off, terminated, or had their job eliminated in the previous six months.

Over one-quarter (27%) of unemployed homeless adults reported it had been less than six months since they last held a job. Of the unemployed homeless adults, 13 percent last had a job between six months and one year ago, 16 percent had a job one to two years ago, 11 percent had a job two to three years ago, 3 percent had a job three to four years ago, and 28 percent reported their last job was more than four years ago.

Two (2%) homeless adults in Moorhead had never been employed.

Two-fifths (40%) of unemployed homeless adults reported that they were currently looking for work.

In Moorhead, the most frequently mentioned barriers to employment included: physical health problems (40%), transportation (28%), mental health problems (25%), and lack of housing (14%).

Some barriers were more significant for women than for men: mental health (36% vs. 19%), transportation (35% vs. 24%), job history (14% vs. 7%), and education (13% vs. 7%).

Some barriers were more significant for men than women: criminal history (14% vs. 2%), and employment opportunities (7% vs. 0%).

Physical health

Fargo

In Fargo, nearly half (49%) of homeless adults had a chronic medical condition (high blood pressure, asthma, other lung or respiratory problems, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and/or tuberculosis). Of those, 61 percent reported receiving care for each of their reported problems in the previous 12 months.

In Fargo, over half (53%) of homeless adults said they currently needed to see a dentist about tooth or gum problems, 38 percent said they currently needed to see a doctor for a physical health problem, and 31 percent said they currently needed to see a doctor about a mental or emotional health problem.

Over two-fifths (44%) of homeless adults surveyed reported having some form of medical benefits in October.

About two-thirds (65%) of homeless adults reported that they have a regular place to go for medical care. Of those, 25 percent use the Family Health Care Center, 24 percent use the Homeless Health Services, 23 percent use the Veterans Administration Medical Center, and 19 percent use a clinic that requires fees.

In Fargo, two-fifths (41%) of homeless adults received care in an emergency room during the previous six months.

In Fargo, two-fifths (40%) of homeless adults reported being unable to get needed health care (mainly due to a lack of money or insurance), and 16 percent of homeless adults reported not taking prescribed medication.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, over half (54%) of homeless adults had a chronic medical condition (high blood pressure, asthma, other lung or respiratory problems, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and/or tuberculosis). Of those, 67 percent reported receiving care for each of their reported problems in the previous 12 months.

In Moorhead, nearly three-fifths (59%) of homeless adults said they currently needed to see a dentist about tooth or gum problems, 47 percent said they currently needed to see a doctor for a physical health problem, and 44 percent said they currently needed to see a doctor about a mental or emotional health problem.

Over two-thirds (68%) of homeless adults surveyed reported having some form of medical benefits in October.

About three-fifths (58%) of homeless adults reported that they have a regular place to go for medical care. Of those, the majority (57%) identified a clinic that requires fees. About one in five (21%) use a free clinic and 11 percent go to the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

In Moorhead, over one-third (36%) of homeless adults received care in an emergency room in the previous six months.

In Moorhead, 37 percent of homeless adults interviewed reported being unable to get needed health care (mainly due to a lack of insurance or money), and 21 percent of homeless adults reported not taking prescribed medication.

Chemical dependency

Fargo

In Fargo, over two-fifths (43%) of homeless adults considered themselves an alcoholic or chemically dependent. Thirty-five percent reported being told by a doctor or nurse, in the previous two years that they have an alcohol or drug abuse disorder.

In Fargo, over two-fifths (44%) of homeless adults (50% of men and 31% of women) had been admitted to a detox center at least once.

Fifty-two percent of men and 40 percent of women reported that they had lived in an alcohol or drug treatment facility. Twenty-eight percent of men and 27 percent of women reported living in residential alcohol or drug treatment within the previous two years.

Forty-nine percent of homeless men and 34 percent of homeless women had received outpatient drug or alcohol treatment at some time in their life. Of those, 51 percent received the drug or alcohol treatment in the previous two years.

In Fargo, two-fifths (40%) of homeless adults interviewed (46% of men and 26% of women) reported current problems with alcohol (diagnosed with alcohol abuse disorder and/or admitted to detox in the previous two years).

In Fargo, 18 percent of homeless adults reported that they currently needed to see a professional about an alcohol or drug problem.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, 30 percent of homeless adults considered themselves an alcoholic or chemically dependent. Twenty-two percent reported being told by a doctor or nurse, in the previous two years that they have an alcohol or drug abuse disorder.

In Moorhead, over one-third (35%) of homeless adults (41% of men and 25% of women) had been admitted to a detox center at least once.

Thirty-four percent of men and 32 percent of women reported they had lived in an alcohol or drug treatment facility. Fourteen percent of the men and 18 percent of the women had been in residential alcohol or drug treatment programs within the previous two years.

Thirty-two percent of homeless men and 29 percent of homeless women have received outpatient drug or alcohol treatment at some time in their life. Of those, 43 percent received the drug or alcohol treatment in the previous two years.

In Moorhead, over one-quarter (29%) of homeless adults interviewed (31% of men and 26% of women) reported current problems with alcohol (diagnosed with alcohol abuse disorder and/or admitted to detox in the previous two years).

In Moorhead, 11 percent of homeless adults reported that they currently needed to see a professional about an alcohol or drug problem.

Mental health

Fargo

In Fargo, over two-fifths (44%) of homeless adults reported being told by a doctor or nurse within the previous two years that they have schizophrenia, manic-depression or bipolar disorder, some other type of delusional disorder, major depression, anti-social personality disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Nearly two-fifths (39%) of homeless adults received outpatient mental health services in the previous two years, 16 percent had lived in a facility for persons with mental health problems within the previous two years, and 31 percent reported they currently need to see a professional about a mental health problem.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, half of homeless adults interviewed reported being told by a doctor or nurse within the previous two years that they have schizophrenia, manic-depression or bipolar disorder, some other type of delusional disorder, major depression, anti-social personality disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Nearly two-fifths (39%) of homeless adults received outpatient mental health services in the previous two years, 10 percent had lived in a facility for persons with mental health problems within the previous two years, and 44 percent reported they currently need to see a professional about a mental health problem.

Over half (57%) of adults interviewed who were homeless were also experiencing severe mental illness. That is, they had been diagnosed within the previous two years with one of six serious and persistent mental disorders, or had received inpatient or outpatient treatment for mental illness in the previous two years. By comparison, community surveys of the general population show that, at any given time, approximately 25 percent of U.S. adults are experiencing some form of mental illness.⁶ According to a recent national survey, 6 percent of the U.S. adult population is diagnosed with serious mental illness.⁷

⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1989). *Mental health: A report of the Surgeon General – Executive summary*. Rockville, MD: Author.

⁷ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2004-2005). *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse – state estimates*. Retrieved July 10, 2010, from www.oas.samhsa.gov/nhsda/2k1State/vol2/appd.htm#tabd.17

The next table shows the percentage of respondents in each type of temporary housing arrangement who reported a specific mental health diagnosis.

8. Mental health characteristics of homeless adults in Fargo and Moorhead

	FARGO			MOORHEAD		
	Emergency/ Transitional (N=289-293)	Informal/ Unsheltered (N=235-240)	Total (N=523-533)	Emergency/ Transitional (N=98-100)	Informal/ Unsheltered (N=82-83)	Total (N=181-183)
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Schizophrenia	4%	4%	4%	7%	7%	7%
Paranoid or delusional disorder, other than schizophrenia	4%	7%	6%	10%	7%	9%
Manic episodes or manic depression, also called bipolar disorder	23%	16%	20%	24%	21%	23%
Major depression	33%	31%	32%	51%	26%	39%
Anti-social personality, obsessive-compulsive personality, or any other severe emotional disorder	14%	16%	15%	19%	13%	17%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	21%	18%	20%	26%	16%	21%
Any of the above	48%	39%	44%	61%	37%	50%
Alcohol abuse disorder	33%	29%	31%	15%	23%	19%
Drug abuse disorder	22%	12%	18%	12%	15%	13%
Any chemical dependency disorder	37%	31%	35%	21%	24%	25%
Dual diagnosis (chemical dependency and mental illness)	20%	18%	19%	17%	15%	16%

Serious or chronic disability

Fargo

In Fargo, as described in Table 8, 44 percent of homeless adults interviewed had serious mental health problems (indicated by diagnosis), 35 percent had an alcohol or drug abuse disorder, and 49 percent had chronic medical illness.

According to many homeless adults interviewed in Fargo, physical, mental, or other health conditions limited the amount or kind of work that they could do (44%), limited their daily activities (10%), or interfered with memory or daily decision-making (31%).

Pooling all of the above, 83 percent of homeless adults in Fargo reported having at least one serious or chronic disability (mental illness, substance abuse disorder, chronic medical condition, cognitive impairment, or other condition that limits work or activities of daily living).

In addition, 30 percent of homeless adults in Fargo had a history that suggests likely traumatic brain injury. (They received a serious head injury followed by the development of problems with headaches, concentration or memory, understanding, excessive worrying, sleeping, or getting along with people.) Ten percent of homeless adults were diagnosed with a Traumatic Brain Injury within the last two years. The average age at which they had a serious head injury was age 25 (median age 20).

Moorhead

In Moorhead, as described in Table 8, 50 percent of homeless adults interviewed had serious mental health problems (indicated by diagnosis), 22 percent had an alcohol or drug abuse disorder, and 54 percent had chronic medical illness.

According to many homeless adults interviewed in Moorhead, physical, mental, or other health conditions limited the amount or kind of work that they could do (54%), limited their daily activities (16%), or interfered with memory or daily decision-making (41%).

Pooling all of the above, 84 percent of homeless adults in Moorhead reported having at least one serious or chronic disability (mental illness, substance abuse disorder, chronic medical condition, cognitive impairment, or other condition that limits work or activities of daily living).

In addition, 35 percent of homeless adults in Moorhead had a history that suggests likely traumatic brain injury. (They received a serious head injury followed by the development of problems with headaches, concentration or memory, understanding, excessive worrying, sleeping, or getting along with people.) Thirteen percent of homeless adults were diagnosed with a Traumatic Brain Injury within the last two years. The average age at which they had a serious head injury was age 24 (median age 21).

Abuse and victimization

Fargo

A history of physical and sexual mistreatment is not uncommon for homeless adults interviewed in Fargo. Thirty percent of men and 44 percent of women said they were physically mistreated as children, 11 percent of men and 40 percent of women were sexually mistreated as children, 19 percent of men and 27 percent of women reported their parents neglected to provide food, shelter, or medical care, or left them unsupervised for long periods of time when they were too young to be on their own.

Overall, 31 percent of homeless men and 49 percent of homeless women in Fargo were either physically or sexually mistreated as children. If individuals reporting neglect are added, 37 percent of men and 53 percent of women reported mistreatment as children.

In Fargo, 10 percent of homeless adults interviewed reported being sexual with someone only for the purpose of getting shelter, clothing, food, or other things. Thirty percent (21% of men and 50% of women) reported staying in an abusive relationship because they did not have other housing options. In the previous year, 9 percent of men and 36 percent of women reported being in a relationship with someone who hit them, slapped them, pushed them around, or threatened to do so.

In Fargo, nearly one-quarter (23%) of homeless women reported they left their last housing because of domestic abuse.

Moorhead

A history of physical and sexual mistreatment is not uncommon for homeless adults interviewed in Moorhead. Twenty-seven percent of men and 57 percent of women said they were physically mistreated as children, 15 percent of men and 49 percent of women were sexually mistreated as children, 16 percent of men and 33 percent of women reported their parents neglected to provide food, shelter, or medical care, or left them unsupervised for long periods of time when they were too young to be on their own.

Overall, 30 percent of homeless men and 68 percent of homeless women in Moorhead were either physically or sexually mistreated as children. If individuals reporting neglect are added, 32 percent of men and 69 percent of women reported mistreatment as children.

In Moorhead, 11 percent of homeless adults interviewed reported being sexual with someone only for the purpose of getting shelter, clothing, food, or other things. Twenty-six percent (15% of men and 45% of women) reported staying in an abusive relationship because they did not have other housing options. In the previous year, 8 percent of men and 26 percent of women reported being in a relationship with someone who hit them, slapped them, pushed them around, or threatened to do so.

In Moorhead, over one-third (35%) of homeless women reported they left their last housing because of domestic abuse.

Fargo

In Fargo, 8 percent of homeless adults interviewed (5% of men and 14% of women) reported being asked to make money in the sex trade. The median age they were approached was 19 for women and 23 for men.

The overall experience of homelessness can be a risky one, especially for women. Eighteen percent of homeless adults interviewed (14% of men and 28% of women) reported being physically or sexually attacked or beaten since they became homeless.

Eight percent of homeless adults (8% of men and 8% of women) reported seeking health care due to an injury or illness caused by violence.

Moorhead

In Moorhead, 8 percent of homeless adults interviewed (no men and 21% of women) reported being asked to make money in the sex trade. The median age they were approached was 21 for women.

The overall experience of being homeless can be a risky one, especially for women. Eighteen percent of homeless adults (11% of men and 30% of women) reported being physically or sexually attacked or beaten since they became homeless.

Eight percent of homeless adults (7% of men and 9% of women) reported seeking health care due to an injury or illness caused by violence.

Homeless unaccompanied minors

This section provides selected descriptive information from interviews conducted with the 17 unaccompanied minors interviewed as part of the October 25, 2012 study in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Of the 17 unaccompanied minors, seven were male and 10 were female. Three were 14 years old, one was 15 years old, four were 16 years old, and nine were 17 years old. Six were white, five were American Indian, five were of mixed racial background, and one was African Native.

Nine unaccompanied minors grew up in greater Minnesota, two grew up in Fargo/West Fargo, two grew up in California, one grew up in North Dakota, one grew up in Cass or Clay counties but not in Fargo or Moorhead, one grew up in Texas, and one grew up in Michigan.

Only two unaccompanied minors had lived in Minnesota or North Dakota for two years or less: one previously lived in Texas and the other in Michigan.

Ten unaccompanied minors (59%) had lived in foster care, a group home, a drug or alcohol treatment facility, a residence for people with physical disabilities, a half-way house, a facility for persons with mental health problems, or an adoptive home.

Seven unaccompanied minors (41%) had been held for more than a week in a juvenile detention center.

Of the 17 unaccompanied minors, in the previous two years, nearly three-quarters (71%) had received a diagnosis of a severe mental health problem and 12 percent received a diagnosis of a drug or alcohol dependency problem. Two unaccompanied minors (12%) had received a dual diagnosis of both a mental health and chemical dependency problem.

Two-fifths (41%) of the unaccompanied minors had been physically mistreated, over one-quarter (29%) had been sexually mistreated, and nearly half (47%) had been either physically or sexually mistreated.

Nearly three-quarters (71%) of the unaccompanied minors had been a victim of child abuse, had been a parent before age 18, or had lived a foster home, detention facility, or some other institutional placement.

Youth supplement summary

This section is based on the responses of the seven male and 10 female unaccompanied minors, ages 14 through 17, and the 29 male and 38 female young adults, ages 18 through 21 interviewed in the Fargo-Moorhead area on October 25, 2012.

Thirty-nine (59%) of the 67 unaccompanied minors and young adults grew up with their biological parents, 11 (16%) with a grandparent or other relative, seven (10%) in a blended family, seven (11%) in foster care, two (3%) in an adoptive home, and one (2%) in another arrangement.

The average age at which they left home for the first time to be on their own was 14 years old for homeless unaccompanied minors and 17 years old for young adults interviewed.

Over half (56%) of homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults had left their home more than six months prior to the survey date; 40 percent left more than a year ago. Eighteen percent left home within the last 30 days and 25 percent left home more than one month ago but less than six months ago.

The main reasons given for leaving home were: they were asked to leave (33%), frequent fighting with parents or guardians (21%), there was someone in the home that they couldn't stand to be around (19%), parents not attending to their basic needs (12%), not willing to live by parents rules (10%), and delinquent activities by the unaccompanied minor or young adult (10%).

Other main reasons given by unaccompanied minors and young adults for leaving home included: their family lost their housing (8%), leaving a foster home or other placement (7%), their parents' use of drugs or alcohol (7%), a parent or guardian had mental health problems (6%), criminal activity by someone in the household (6%), the lack of tolerance

of their sexual orientation or gender identity (5%), the home was too small for everyone to live there (4%), didn't feel safe because of violence in the household (4%), became pregnant or made someone pregnant (4%), physical or sexual abuse by someone in the household (3%), and their own alcohol or drug use (3%).

Over half (54%) of homeless unaccompanied minors or young adults felt they could return home if they wanted to do so, although only slightly more than one-quarter (26%) thought they would ever live with their family again.

Twelve (18%) homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported that they had run away from foster care, a group home, treatment center, or other placement. Six (9%) reported that they had to leave foster care, a group home, treatment center, or other placement because they were too old to stay there.

Over one-third (38%) of homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having a high school diploma or GED. Of those who do not have a high school diploma or GED, two-thirds (66%) are currently enrolled in school or an educational program.

Of the 42 homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults with no high school diploma/GED, 31 (74%) reported attending school in the 2011-2012 school year. They reported the following issues: problems with truancy (32%), poor or failing grades (29%), problems with transportation getting to school (23%), being suspended or expelled (16%), and not feeling safe at school (6%). In the 2011-2012 school year, over two-thirds (68%) of the students attended only one school, 19 percent attended two schools, 8 percent attended three schools, and 5 percent attend four or more schools.

Of the 42 homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults with no high school diploma/GED and enrolled in an educational program, two-thirds (66%) had attended school on the day of the survey. Reasons given by those enrolled in an educational program who did not attend school on the day of the survey included: no classes (27%), lack of motivation to go to school (24%), caring for a sick child (12%), enrolled but classes will start soon (12%), and the location of the shelter made it hard to get to school (12%).

Of the 42 homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults with no diploma/GED, 14 reported that they are **not** currently enrolled in school. Their reasons included: dealing with other issues (58%), have to work (40%), no permanent address (23%), not interested in attending school (32%), medical needs (11%), being pregnant (11%), dropped out (8%), and kicked out (8%).

Over two-fifths (44%) of female homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having been pregnant, and one-sixth (17%) of male homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having fathered a child.

Forty percent reported that they used or needed birth control. Of those, 100 percent reported that they were able to get a form of birth control that they could use.

Six percent of female and 8 percent of male homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having been approached to work in the sex industry.

Homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported receiving help to find services from a friend (68%), social worker (45%), partner or significant other (39%), parent (35%), shelter staff (34%), another relative (33%), teacher or school staff (31%), youth worker (30%), outreach worker (12%), or Guardian ad Litem or court staff (10%).

Nearly nine in ten (88%) of homeless unaccompanied minors and young adults reported having an adult in their life that they trusted and had regular contact with.

Changes in the face of homelessness from 2000 to 2012

As part of this year's analysis, Wilder Research compared survey information collected in 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012 in order to identify trends and changes in the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in the Fargo-Moorhead area, as well as differences observed between the two cities. The trend analysis is based on changes observed from 2000-2012. Single data-point comparisons between cities are for 2012 only. The analysis shows the following:

- In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults employed in 2012 is about the same as in 2000 (35% in 2000 vs. 37% in 2012); Moorhead showed a decrease in the percentage of homeless adults employed in 2012 compared to 2000, but about the same as 2009 (35% in 2000, 29% in 2009, and 28% in 2012).
- Fargo showed a decline in the percentage of homeless adults who had been unemployed for 12 months or longer in 2012 compared to 2000 (51% in 2000 vs. 42% in 2012). In Moorhead, that figure increased (24% in 2000 vs. 58% in 2012).
- Average income for homeless women in Fargo was about the same (\$420 in 2000 vs. \$426 in 2012). In Moorhead the same is true (\$457 in 2000 vs. \$451 in 2012).
- Average income for homeless men in both Fargo and Moorhead was about the same (Fargo, \$532 in 2000 vs. \$533 in 2012; Moorhead, \$449 in 2000 vs. \$443 in 2012).
- In 2012, homeless women with children in Fargo were less likely to report that their main income was derived from family welfare benefits (7%) than women in Moorhead (11%).
- In 2012, homeless men in Fargo were less likely than homeless men in Moorhead to report that General Assistance was a main source of income (3% vs. 19%).
- In 2012, 24 percent of homeless adults in Fargo reported that their main source of income was from a steady job, and 24 percent reported income from day labor. In Moorhead, 17 percent reported their main source of income was from a steady job, and 16 percent reported income from day labor.
- In 2012, a much higher percentage of homeless men in Fargo (32%) reported that they were military veterans, compared to 20 percent in Moorhead.

- In 2012, 38 percent of the homeless adults in Fargo and 46 percent in Moorhead reported that they had lived in their respective states for two years or less. While this figure was much higher than in Minnesota as a whole (7%), much of the difference is explained by the fluid border between Minnesota and North Dakota in the Fargo-Moorhead area, where many reported that they simply moved across the river.
- The percent of adults who had been homeless longer than a year was up in both cities from 2000 to 2012 (34% in 2000 vs. 47% in 2012 in Fargo, 31% in 2000 vs. 57% in 2012 in Moorhead).
- While Fargo showed a decrease in the percentage of women who were homeless because of abuse in 2012 compared to 2000 (37% in 2000 to 22% in 2012), Moorhead shows an increase (21% in 2000 to 35% in 2012).
- In 2012, one-third (32%) of homeless adults in Fargo, and more than one-quarter (28%) in Moorhead, reported that they could not pay anything for rent.
- The use of hot meals programs was down in Fargo (41% in 2000 to 33% in 2012) and in Moorhead (68% in 2000 to 41% in 2012).
- In 2012, over two-fifths (43%) of homeless adults in Fargo and nearly one-third (30%) in Moorhead reported that they are chemically dependent. A declining percentage in Moorhead reported receiving residential treatment for substance abuse (60% in 2000 to 33% in 2012), while Fargo showed a slight increase (45% in 2000 to 49% in 2012).
- The percentage of homeless adults who had been incarcerated within the previous two years increased in both cities from 2000 to 2012 (Fargo, 20% to 24%; Moorhead, 27% to 35%).
- The percentage of homeless adults reporting serious or persistent mental health problems was up in both cities from 2000 to 2012 (Fargo, 38% to 44% , Moorhead, 35% to 50%).
- In 2012, 29 percent of homeless adults in Fargo, and one-quarter in Moorhead, had been hospitalized because of mental illness.

The trends described above show a continued concentration of stress and disability in both cities, particularly in areas of incarceration, mental health, and the lack of income available for housing. In addition, about half of homeless adults had been homeless for a year or longer in both cities. These trends, combined with today's economic climate, make finding permanent housing solutions more challenging than in previous years.

Comparison of 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012 survey results

Gender: In all four study periods, men made up about two-thirds of the adult homeless population.

Age of adults: In Fargo, the average age of homeless men increased, from 42.7 in 2000 to 44.5 in 2012, and the average age of homeless women remained about the same, from 35.4 in 2000 to 36.1 in 2012. In Moorhead, the average age of homeless men increased from 39.6 in 2000 to 44.4 in 2012. The average age of homeless women increased steadily, from 29.2 in 2000 to 39.0 in 2012.

Race/ethnicity: In Fargo, the percentage of persons of color has varied across the four study periods, from 35 percent in 2000, down to 28 percent in 2003, to 39 percent in 2006, leveling off to 38 percent in 2009, and down to 35 percent in 2012. In Moorhead, the percentage of persons of color was about the same in 2000 and 2003 (44% in 2000, 43% in 2003), decreasing slightly in 2006 and 2009, then increasing in 2012 to 50 percent.

Marital status: In both Fargo and Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who never married increased over the last four study periods (in Fargo, from 42% in 2000 to 56% in 2012; in Moorhead, from 46% in 2000 to 53% in 2012).

Homeless families: The number of homeless families (defined as one or more adults with one or more children) almost tripled in both Fargo and Moorhead from 2000 to 2012. In Fargo, there were 15 families in 2000, 11 families in 2003, and 32 families in 2006, 44 in 2009, and 43 families in 2012). In Moorhead, there were 8 families in 2000, 20 families in 2003, 17 families in 2006, 27 families in 2009, and 21 families in 2012.

Adults' education: In Fargo, since 2000, there has been a steady, though slight, increase in the percent of homeless adults who have completed high school or had a GED (77% in 2000, 79% in 2003, 80% in 2006, 82% in 2009, and 81% in 2012). In 2012, 78 percent of homeless adults in Moorhead had completed high school or had received a GED, an increase over the 73 percent in 2009 and 2003 and the 67 percent in 2000 and 2006 who had completed high school or received a GED.

In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who had attended at least some college increase to 34% in 2009 and 33% in 2012, which was an increase over past studies (28% in 2000, 27% in 2003, and 30% in 2006). In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who had attended at least some college varied across the studies, from 21 percent in 2000, to 27 percent in 2003, to 18 percent in 2006, increased again to 28 percent in 2009, and then increased to 36 percent in 2012.

Employment: In Fargo in 2012, the percentage of employed homeless adults (37%) was similar to 2000 (35%). The drop to 32 percent in 2009 was the lowest point across all five studies. In both 2003 and 2006, it was 41 percent, which was an increase over 2000 (35%). At the same time, the percentage of homeless adults employed full-time has decreased steadily from 19 percent in 2000 and 18 percent in 2003, to 15 percent in 2006, 13 percent in 2009, and at 14 percent in 2012. In Moorhead, the percentage of employed homeless adults in 2012 (28%) was about the same as in 2003, 2006, and 2009 (29% in 2003, 31% in 2006, and 29% in 2009), which decreased from 2000 (35%). However, the percentage of homeless adults employed full-time decreased from 19 percent in 2000 to 5 percent in 2009, and then increased in 2012 to 10 percent.

In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults unemployed for 12 months or longer has varied across the four studies. It decreased from 51 percent in 2000 to a low of 29 percent in 2006, but increased to 42 percent in 2009 and 2012. In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults unemployed for 12 months or longer has more than doubled from 2000 to 2012 (24% vs. 58%).

In Fargo, steady employment as the main source of income decreased significantly in 2009 to 12 percent from 26 percent in 2006, but has rebounded to 24 percent in 2012. In Moorhead, steady employment as the main source of income decreased, from 26 percent in 2000 to 17 percent in 2012.

Other income and assistance: In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who reported no income more than tripled from 2000 to 2012 (6% in 2000 to 22% in 2012). In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who reported no income increased from 2000 to 2012 (12% in 2000 to 16% in 2012).

In Fargo, in 2012, the percentage of homeless adults receiving family welfare benefits (TANF) dropped to 2 percent after remaining steady at 5 percent across the other study periods. In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults receiving family welfare benefits (MFIP) has fluctuated from 1 percent in 2000, to 9 percent in 2003, to 7 percent in 2006, to 6 percent in 2009, and to 5 percent in 2012.

In Fargo, food stamp use in 2012 remained about the same as in 2009 (36% in 2012 vs. 37% in 2009). This was an increase after food stamp use had remained relatively the same across the previous three studies (27% in 2000, 24% in 2003, and 27% in 2006). In Moorhead, food stamp use has increased from 32 percent in 2000, to 39 percent in 2003, to 35 percent in 2006, to 44 percent in 2009, and to 56 percent in 2012.

In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who reported having some type of medical coverage in the previous month increased to 44 percent in 2012, from a low of 33 percent in 2006. In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who reported having some type of medical coverage in the previous month increased steadily from 51 percent in 2003 to 68 percent in 2012.

In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who received care in an emergency room in the six months prior to the survey has increased slightly across the five studies (33% in 2000, 30% in 2003, 34% in 2006, 38% in 2009, and 41% in 2012). In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who received care in an emergency room in the six months prior to the survey has shown more fluctuation across the five studies (30% in 2000, 43% in 2003, 26% in 2006, 33% in 2009, and 36% in 2012).

Veterans: In Fargo in 2012, military veterans made up one-third (32%) of the homeless adult male population. That was a significant decrease from the 2009 study (47%) but similar to previous studies (36% in 2006, 29% in 2003, and 38% in 2000). In Moorhead in 2012, military veterans made up one-fifth (20%) of the homeless adult male population, a decrease from 27 percent in 2006, 32 percent in 2003, and 33 percent in 2000.

Length of residence: The percent of newcomers to North Dakota (two years or less) has varied across the five studies. It was 50 percent in 2012, which was an increase from 2009 (44%), 2006 (38%) and 2000 (40%), but less than in 2003 (54%). In all five study years, the largest percentage of homeless newcomers previously lived in Minnesota.

The percent of newcomers to Minnesota (two years or less) increased from 36 percent in 2009 to 47 percent in 2012. The percentage of newcomers in 2012 is a decrease from the 53 percent in 2003 but more than the 41 percent in 2006. In all five study years, the largest percent of homeless newcomers to Minnesota previously lived in North Dakota.

Length of current homeless episode: In Fargo, the percentage of adults who report being homeless for less than one month dropped from 19 percent in 2003 to 7 percent in 2012. The percentage of adults who were homeless for more than one year increased steadily from 34 percent in 2000 to 47 percent in 2012.

In Moorhead, the percentage of adults who report being homeless for less than one month dropped from 16 percent in 2000 to 7 percent in 2012. The percentage of adults who were homeless for more than one year has increased steadily from 31 percent in 2000 to 57 percent in 2012.

An individual meets the **federal definition of chronic homelessness** if their current episode of homelessness has lasted 12 months or more, or if they have been homeless

four or more times in the last three years; *and* they are staying alone (not accompanied by a spouse, partner, or children) *and* they have at least one serious, chronic disability.

In 2012, one-third (33%) of the homeless adults surveyed in Fargo met the federal definition of chronic homelessness, which was a decrease over 2009 (46%).

In 2012, nearly two-fifths (37%) of the homeless adults in Moorhead met the federal definition of chronic homelessness, which was a slight decrease from 42 percent in 2009.

Fleeing abuse: In Fargo, the percentage of homeless women who left their last housing in order to flee an abusive partner decreased from 2009 (38%) to 2012 (23%). That was similar to 2003 and 2006 (21%). In Moorhead, women who left their last housing to flee an abusive partner increased in 2012 (35%) after remaining about the same from 2000 to 2009 (21% in both 2000 and 2003, 24% in 2006, and 18% in 2009).

Ability to pay rent: In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who could not pay anything for rent increased in 2012 (32%) from 2000 (21%). The percentage of homeless adults who could afford to pay something for rent, but less than \$200 a month, has decreased from 35 percent in 2000, to 27 percent in both 2003 and 2006, to 21 percent in 2009, and to 16 percent in 2012.

In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who could not pay anything for rent increased from 18 percent in 2000 to 28 percent in 2012. The percentage of homeless adults who could afford to pay something for rent, but less than \$200 a month, decreased from 42 percent in 2000, to 21 percent in 2012.

Clothing and food shelves, drop-in centers: In Fargo, the use of free clothing shelves increased from 43 percent in 2000 to 49 percent in 2012. The use of hot meal programs decreased from 57 percent in 2006 to 33 percent in 2012. The use of drop-in centers remains similar across all five study periods (22% in 2000, 19% in 2003, 25% in 2006, 23% in 2009, and 25% in 2012).

In Moorhead, the use of free clothing shelves increased from 37 percent in 2009 to 52 percent in 2012. The use of hot meal programs decreased from 68 percent in 2000 to 41 percent in 2012. The use of drop-in centers decreased from 25 percent in 2000 to 20 percent in 2012.

History of childhood abuse: In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who reported physical mistreatment as a child has varied across the four studies (45% in 2000, 30% in 2003, 40% in 2006, and 34% in 2009 and 2012). The percentage of homeless adults who reported being sexually mistreated as children decreased from 27 percent in 2000 to 20 percent in 2003 and has remained steady since.

In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who reported physical mistreatment as a child remained about the same over all five study years (36% in 2000, 38% in 2003, 36% in 2006, 37% in 2009, and 39% in 2012). The percentage of homeless adults who reported being sexually mistreated as children has fluctuated from 15 percent in 2000 to 25 percent in 2003, then down to 15 percent in 2006, back up to 22 percent in 2009, and increased to 28 percent in 2012.

History of foster care: In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who reported having lived in a foster home increased steadily from 2000 to 2009 (22% in 2000, 23% in 2003, 25% in 2006, and 29% in 2009) but decreased in 2012 (23%).

In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who reported having lived in foster care dropped from 2000, but remained steady in 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012 (32% in 2000, 22% in 2003, 25% in 2006 and 2009, and 27% in 2012).

Chemical dependency: In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who considered themselves to be chemically dependent has remained the same for the past three studies (43% in 2006, 2009, and 2012). The percentage of homeless adults who have been admitted to a detox center was about the same in 2000 and 2003 (47% and 49%, respectively), dropped to 41 percent in 2006 and 39 percent in 2009, and increased to 44 percent in 2012. In 2012, the percentage of homeless adults who reported ever living in an alcohol or drug treatment facility (49%) was similar to 2000 (45%) and 2003 (52%), which was higher than 2006 (41%) and 2009 (38%). The percentage who reported living in an alcohol or drug treatment facility within the previous two years in 2012 (27%) was similar to 2000 and 2003 (28%) but higher than 2006 and 2009 (19%).

In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who considered themselves to be chemically dependent decreased in 2012 (30%), which is lower than the other studies (52% in 2000, 41% in 2003, 50% in 2006 and 49% in 2009). The percentage of homeless adults admitted to a detox center in 2012 (35%) was about the same as 2009 (38%) and 2003 (35%). This is lower than in 2000 and 2006 (47% and 46%, respectively). The percentage of homeless adults who reported ever living in an alcohol or drug treatment facility decreased significantly to 33 percent in 2012, which is nearly half down from what it was in of 2000, 2006, and 2009 (58% in 2009, 60% in 2000, and 54% in 2006). In 2012, the percentage who reported living in an alcohol or drug treatment facility within the previous two years (16%) dropped below all previous studies (54% in 2009, 25% in 2003 and 2006, and 29% in 2000).

Recent incarceration: In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who reported being incarcerated within the previous two years varied from 2000 to 2012 (20% in 2000, 27% in 2003, 21% in 2006, 20% in 2009, and 24% in 2012).

In Moorhead in 2012 the percentage of homeless adults who reported being incarcerated within the previous two years (35%) was similar to 2006 (33%), which was an increase from 2009 (29%).

Mental health: For this study, a significant mental health problem was defined as being told by a doctor or nurse in the previous two years that they have schizophrenia, paranoia or other delusional disorders, manic-depression, major depression, anti-social personality disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder.

In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who reported significant mental health problems remained steady over the past four studies (41% in 2003, 44% in 2006, 43% in 2009, and 44% in 2012). The percentage who report having lived in a mental health facility has remained relatively the same from 2000 to 2009 (25% in 2000, 20% in 2003, 24% in 2006, 22% in 2009) increasing slightly in 2012 (29%).

In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who reported significant mental health problems fluctuated from 2000 to 2012 (35% in 2000, 54% in 2003, 43% in 2006, 47% in 2009, and 50% in 2012). The percentage who report having lived in a mental health facility decreased in 2012 (25%) from 2009 (33%) and is similar to previous studies (20% in 2000, 22% in 2003, and 23% in 2006).

Physical health: In Fargo, the percentage of homeless adults who reported having a mental, physical, or other condition that limits the amount or kind of work they can do was the same in 2003, 2006, and 2009 (38%), increasing slightly in 2012 (44%). The percentage of homeless adults who reported having a mental, physical, or other condition that limits their daily activities in 2012 (10%) remains similar to 2003 (11%) and 2009 (9%). The percentage of homeless adults who reported having a mental, physical, or other condition that interferes with memory or daily decision-making increased in 2012 (31%) which is similar to 2006 (30%), but higher than in 2003 (22%) and 2009 (21%). The percentage of adults who reported a history that suggests likely brain injury increased from 2003(23%) to 2006 (34%), and decreased slightly in 2009 (32%) and in 2012 (30%).

In Moorhead, the percentage of homeless adults who reported having a mental, physical, or other condition that limits the amount or kind of work they can do decreased from 2009 to 2012 (38% to 54%). The percentage of homeless adults who reported having a mental, physical, or other condition that limits their daily activities increased from 2009 to 2012 (9% to 16%). The percentage of homeless adults who reported having a mental, physical, or other condition that interferes with memory or daily decision-making also increased from 2009 to 2012 (27% to 41%). The percentage of homeless adults who reported a history that suggests likely brain injury has remained similar in 2012 (35%) to 2009 (37%).

Key comparisons: This table provides comparisons on key measures over the five survey periods.

9. Comparison of selected characteristics of homeless adults in Fargo, from 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012 homelessness surveys

	2000 (N=106)	2003 (N=179)	2006 (N=281)	2009 (N=408)	2012 (N=533)
Men	64%	65%	64%	70%	68%
Women	36%	35%	36%	30%	32%
Average age in years (men)	42.7	42.1	44.2	46.0	44.5
Average age in years (women)	35.4	33.6	34.6	32.2	36.1
Persons of color	35%	28%	39%	38%	35%
Never married	42%	51%	55%	55%	56%
Women who have children with them	39%	16%	32%	36%	27%
Men who have children with them	0%	1%	2%	3%	2%
Completed high school diploma or GED	77%	79%	80%	82%	81%
Attended some college	28%	27%	30%	34%	33%
Employed (full-time or part-time)	35%	41%	41%	32%	37%
Employed full-time	19%	18%	15%	13%	14%
Unemployed for more than 12 months (of those who are unemployed)	51%	32%	29%	42%	42%
No source of income	6%	16%	16%	20%	22%
Average monthly income (males)	\$532	\$324	\$490	\$410	\$533
Average monthly income (females)	\$420	\$466	\$373	\$424	\$426
Main source of income is TANF (family welfare)	5%	5%	5%	5%	2%
Main source of income is TANF (family welfare), (women only)	15%	11%	5%	11%	7%
Main source of income is General Assistance	4%	8%	0%	7%	3%
Main source of income is a steady job	27%	20%	26%	12%	24%
Main source of income is day labor	28%	37%	27%	35%	24%
Used Food Stamps in previous month	27%	24%	27%	37%	36%
Have medical coverage in previous month	Not asked	39%	33%	38%	44%
Received care in an emergency room in previous six months	33%	30%	34%	38%	41%
Military veterans	25%	19%	25%	34%	22%
Military veterans, (men only)	39%	29%	36%	47%	32%
Lived in North Dakota for two years or less	40%	54%	38%	44%	50%
Last lived in Minnesota (of those living in North Dakota two years or less)	42%	52%	39%	45%	38%

Note: Percentages are weighted to reflect shelter population on the date of the survey.

9. Comparison of selected characteristics of homeless adults in Fargo, from 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012 statewide surveys (continued)

	2000 (N=106)	2003 (N=179)	2006 (N=281)	2009 (N=408)	2012 (N=533)
Homeless for less than one month	13%	19%	12%	9%	7%
Homeless for at least one year	34%	42%	45%	45%	47%
Meets the federal definition of chronic homelessness	Not asked	34%	37%	46%	33%
Left last housing to flee abuse (women only)	37%	21%	26%	38%	23%
Could not pay anything for rent	21%	24%	22%	39%	32%
Could pay something but less than \$200 a month for rent	35%	27%	27%	21%	16%
Used free clothing shelves in previous month	43%	40%	53%	44%	49%
Used hot meal programs in previous month	41%	42%	57%	49%	33%
Used drop-in centers in previous month	22%	19%	25%	23%	25%
Physically mistreated as a child	45%	30%	40%	34%	34%
Sexually mistreated as a child	27%	20%	21%	20%	20%
Ever in foster care	22%	23%	25%	29%	23%
Chemically dependent (self-report)	46%	50%	43%	43%	43%
Ever admitted to detox center	47%	49%	41%	39%	44%
Ever lived in an alcohol or drug treatment facility	45%	52%	41%	38%	49%
Lived in an alcohol or drug treatment facility in previous two years	28%	28%	19%	19%	27%
Incarcerated within the last two years	20%	27%	34%	21%	24%
Reported significant mental illness	38%	41%	44%	43%	44%
Ever in hospital for persons with mental health problems	25%	20%	24%	22%	29%
Has serious mental, physical, or other condition that limits the amount or kind work they can do	Not asked	38%	38%	38%	44%
Has serious mental, physical, or other condition that limits their daily activities	Not asked	11%	14%	9%	10%
Has serious mental, physical, or other condition that interferes with memory or daily-decision making	Not asked	22%	30%	21%	31%
Has a history that suggests likely brain injury	Not asked	23%	34%	32%	30%
Diagnosed brain injury with last two years	Not asked	Not asked	Not asked	Not asked	10%

Note: Percentages are weighted to reflect shelter population on the date of the survey.

10. Comparison of selected characteristics of homeless adults in Moorhead, from 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012 statewide surveys

	2000 (N=78)	2003 (N=118)	2006 (N=167)	2009 (N=196)	2012 (N=183)
Men	69%	67%	71%	67%	62%
Women	31%	33%	29%	33%	38%
Average age in years (men)	39.6	45.5	40.5	40.1	44.4
Average age in years (women)	29.2	36.4	37.7	38.2	39.0
Persons of color	44%	43%	40%	39%	50%
Never married	46%	46%	55%	56%	53%
Women who have children with them	25%	26%	29%	31%	33%
Men who have children with them	4%	1%	3%	5%	5%
Completed high school diploma or GED	67%	73%	67%	72%	78%
Attended some college	21%	27%	16%	28%	36%
Employed (full-time or part-time)	35%	29%	31%	29%	28%
Employed full-time	19%	12%	13%	5%	10%
Unemployed for more than 12 months (of those who are unemployed)	24%	43%	34%	47%	58%
No source of income	12%	12%	19%	17%	16%
Average monthly income (males)	\$449	\$494	\$453	\$351	\$443
Average monthly income (females)	\$457	\$440	\$546	\$406	\$451
Main source of income is MFIP (family welfare)	1%	9%	7%	6%	5%
Main source of income is MFIP (family welfare), (women only)	0%	26%	21%	18%	11%
Main source of income is General Assistance	11%	12%	9%	17%	19%
Main source of income is a steady job	26%	16%	13%	19%	17%
Main source of income is day labor	31%	32%	26%	15%	16%
Used Food Stamps in previous month	32%	39%	35%	44%	56%
Have medical coverage in previous month	Not asked	51%	45%	71%	68%
Received care in an emergency room in previous six months	30%	43%	26%	33%	36%
Military veterans	24%	21%	19%	14%	12%
Military veterans, (men only)	33%	32%	27%	19%	20%
Lived in Minnesota for two years or less	37%	53%	41%	36%	47%
Last lived in North Dakota (of those living in Minnesota two years or less)	39%	34%	53%	43%	46%

Note: Percentages are weighted to reflect shelter population on the date of the survey.

10. Comparison of selected characteristics of homeless adults in Moorhead, from 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012 statewide surveys (continued)

	2000 (N=78)	2003 (N=118)	2006 (N=167)	2009 (N=196)	2012 (N=183)
Homeless for less than one month	16%	10%	10%	11%	7%
Homeless for at least one year	31%	37%	40%	42%	57%
Meets the federal definition of chronic homelessness	Not available	31%	32%	42%	37%
Left last housing to flee abuse (women only)	21%	21%	24%	18%	35%
Could not pay anything for rent	18%	29%	25%	35%	28%
Could pay something but less than \$200 a month for rent	42%	15%	23%	22%	21%
Used free clothing shelves in previous month	49%	39%	49%	37%	52%
Used hot meal programs in previous month	68%	38%	52%	34%	41%
Used drop-in centers in previous month	25%	26%	28%	10%	20%
Physically mistreated as a child	36%	38%	36%	37%	39%
Sexually mistreated as a child	15%	25%	15%	22%	28%
Ever in foster care	32%	22%	25%	25%	27%
Chemically dependent (self-report)	52%	41%	50%	49%	30%
Ever admitted to detox center	47%	35%	46%	38%	35%
Ever lived in an alcohol or drug treatment facility	60%	47%	54%	58%	33%
Lived in an alcohol or drug treatment facility in previous two years	29%	25%	25%	54%	16%
Incarcerated within the last two years	27%	26%	33%	29%	35%
Reported significant mental illness	35%	54%	43%	47%	50%
Ever in hospital for persons with mental health problems	20%	22%	23%	33%	25%
Has serious mental, physical, or other condition that limits the amount or kind work they can do	Not asked	61%	40%	38%	54%
Has serious mental, physical, or other condition that limits their daily activities	Not asked	19%	11%	9%	16%
Has serious mental, physical, or other condition that interferes with memory or daily-decision making	Not asked	36%	24%	27%	41%
Has a history that suggests likely brain injury	Not asked	32%	30%	37%	35%
Diagnosed brain injury with last two years	Not asked	Not asked	Not asked	Not asked	13%

Note: Percentages are weighted to reflect shelter population on the date of the survey.

Homeless adults and their children in Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota data tables

The data tables report frequency distributions for all questions included in the survey, with breakdowns by geographic area (Fargo area vs. Moorhead area), by gender (male vs. female), and by type of shelter arrangement (emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, informal shelter, and unsheltered locations).⁸

The tables are organized by question. Within each question, the data tables display the responses for the Fargo area, then the Moorhead area, and then the totals for Fargo, Moorhead, and the combined total of both Fargo and Moorhead.

Note that some tables are conditional. For example, Table 174 reports the number of respondents who have considered suicide. This question was asked of everyone. Table 175 reports information about suicide attempts, but this question was only asked of those who had considered suicide. Thus, the percentages reported in Table 175 total 100 percent of those who have considered suicide, not 100 percent of the entire sample.

Notes for interpreting the data tables

The tables contain weighted estimates. This means that the survey results have been statistically adjusted to reflect the actual populations residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs on the day of the survey. (We interviewed a sample, not every person in each shelter.)

For informal and unsheltered locations, the data are not weighted. We do not adjust the numbers to reflect the actual population, because we do not know the actual numbers of men, women, and children who were on the streets or in other non-shelter locations on the day of the survey.

You should use the percentages, not the frequencies, when interpreting these tables. Sample weighting, such as we have performed with these data, uses calculations that can result in "fractional" persons. When we use computer rounding to adjust for this, the numbers do not always add up exactly to the total for each category.

⁸ Unsheltered arrangements include outside, abandoned buildings, vehicles, temporary paid, or exchange arrangements.

The total number of responses is different for each question, based on the number of valid responses to that question. Missing data (cases when a respondent did not answer a question) are not reported or included in the percentages.

Weighting techniques

The 2012 survey data were weighted to reflect the actual number of homeless persons as indicated by specific site counts of people in shelters in Fargo and Moorhead on Thursday, October 25, 2012. Only sites from which there were completed interviews were used in the weighting. The actual number of homeless persons in non-sheltered locations cannot be accurately estimated, so these cases were given a weight of 1.0.

The weightings were calculated by a sample-balancing program available in the Princeton Statistical Program (P-Stat). This technique uses an iterative approximation to the least square adjustment of W.E. Deming (*Statistical Adjustment of Data*, New York: Wiley, 1943). This weighting procedure uses marginals (totals of control variables) to compute individual case weights. In order to obtain the highest possible accuracy, 5 sets of marginals were used.

These were:

- Individual sites
- Gender (male, female)
- Region (Fargo/Cass County, North Dakota; Moorhead/Clay County, Minnesota)
- Shelter type (emergency, transitional)
- Shelter type within region by gender (all combinations of items 2, 3, and 4 above)

Weightings were used to estimate the characteristics of homeless persons in Fargo and Moorhead temporary housing programs on the night of the survey, based on the sample of 231 interviews with adults in such programs. Statistical weightings could not be computed if interviews were not completed in a specific weighting category (e.g., region, shelter type, and gender). The actual number of adults in temporary housing programs on the night of the survey was 376. When this is combined with the results of the 340 interviews completed with adults in non-shelter locations, the total sample for which estimates are available is 716 adults. In addition, 17 unaccompanied minors were interviewed in non-shelter locations.

2012 data tables are available at www.wilderresearch.org.