

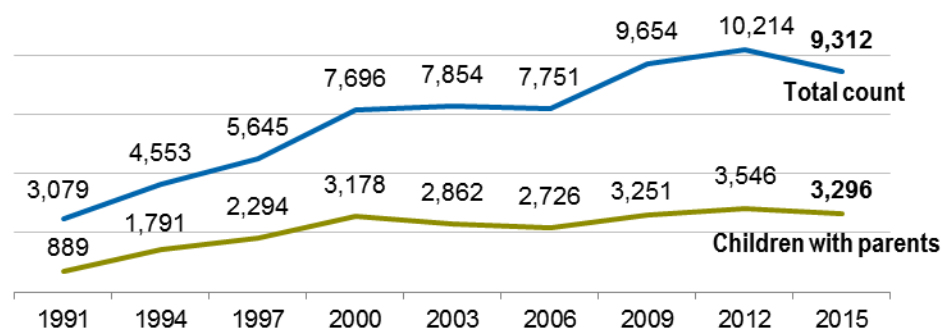
## Single night count of people experiencing homelessness 2015 Minnesota Homeless Study

Every three years, Wilder Research conducts a statewide study to better understand the prevalence, causes, circumstances, and effects of homelessness. The study includes face-to-face interviews with people throughout the state who meet the federal definition of homelessness, as well as a count of people who were homeless on a single Thursday in late October. This fact sheet provides a summary of the counts from the most recent study (October 22, 2015).

Counts include all people staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing (including a few Rapid Rehousing programs that continue to function as transitional housing sites). The study also counted non-sheltered homeless people identified through outreach in locations such as encampments, hot-meal programs, and other drop-in service sites.

*9,312 homeless adults, youth, and children were counted, down 9 percent from 2012*

**ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE MINNESOTA HOMELESS POPULATION, 1991-2015**



After a 32 percent increase between 2006 and 2012, the overall number of homeless people in Minnesota has returned to levels similar to 2009.

- The number of homeless children decreased by 7% from 2012 to 2015. However, children still represent 35% of the overall homeless population.
- The number of families experiencing homelessness decreased by 12% (down to 1,542 in 2015).
- The number of homeless adults age 55 and older is up 8% since 2012, with the largest increase in the Twin Cities metro emergency shelters, where the number of older adults increased by 21% since 2012. However, the growth in homeless older adults is similar to the growth of this age group in the overall Minnesota population.
- The greatest percent increase in the count between 2012 and 2015 was among unaccompanied minors under 18 (up 46%). However, this is also the least visible and most difficult portion of the homeless population to enumerate and fluctuations in these numbers can easily be due to better identification through school outreach and slight increases in youth shelter beds including those added with the recent passage of Safe Harbor and other homeless youth legislation.

## Changes from year to year vary depending on age group

### HOMELESS NUMBERS 2009-2015 BY AGE GROUP, AND PERCENT CHANGE BETWEEN 2012 AND 2015

	2009 study	2012 study	2015 study	% change (2012-2015)
Children (17 and under) with parents	3,251	3,546	3,296	-7%
Unaccompanied minors (17 and under)	227	146	213	+46%
Young adults (18-21)	1,041	1,005	779	-22%
Adults (22-54) **	4,585	4,708	4,108	-13%
Older adults (55 and over)	526	777	843	+8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,654*</b>	<b>10,214*</b>	<b>9,312*</b>	<b>-9%</b>

\*Totals include homeless people (of unknown age) in detox on the night of the survey (24 in 2009, 32 in 2012 and 73 in 2015).

\*\*Young adults age 22-24 are included in the "adults" category so that we can compare to data collected in previous studies.

### Young people are most at risk for homelessness

Compared to their representation in the total Minnesota population, children and youth under 24 are the most likely to be homeless.

### HOMELESS MINNESOTANS COMPARED TO ALL MINNESOTANS BY AGE GROUP

	Percent of MN homeless population*	Percent of MN total population**
Minors (17 and under)***	38%	23%
Young adults (18-21)	8%	5%
Young adults (22-24)	5%	4%
Adults (25-54)	39%	40%
Older adults (55 and over)	9%	27%

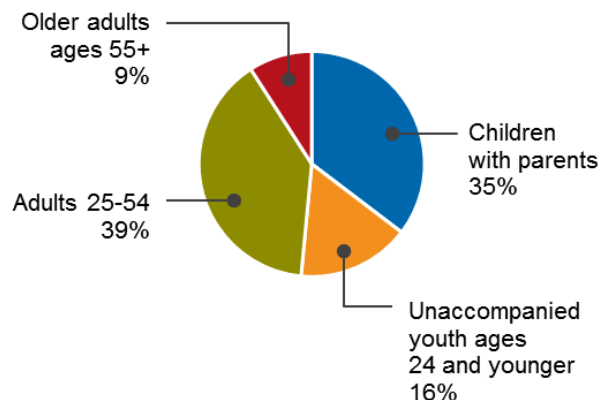
\*Percentages are based on the total number of people counted minus those in detox (73) for whom age is not known.

\*\*Source for MN total population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey.

\*\*\*Includes unaccompanied homeless minors and children with their homeless parents.

- Children and youth ages 24 and younger make up over half of all homeless persons (52%). The percentage age 21 and younger has remained consistent since 2012 (46%).
- Compared to their representation in the overall Minnesota population, older adults ages 55 and over are least likely to be homeless. However, this group makes up 9% of the homeless population and the number continues to grow from study to study.

### NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY AGE GROUP



## *Twin Cities metro vs. greater Minnesota*

### 2015 COUNTS BY METRO AND GREATER MINNESOTA, AND SHELTERED VS. NOT IN SHELTER

	Metro in shelters	Metro <u>not</u> in shelter	Total Metro	Greater MN in shelters	Greater MN <u>not</u> in shelter	Total greater MN
Unaccompanied minors (17 and under)	82	50	132	37	44	81
Young adults (18-21)	350	130	480	187	112	299
Young adults (22-24)	243	62	305	109	57	166
Adults (25-54)	2,106	344	2,450	770	417	1,187
Older adults (55 and over)	544	93	637	117	89	206
Children (<18) with parents	2,115	83	2,198	917	181	1,098
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,440</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>6,202</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>3,037</b>

*Note: This table does not include 73 homeless people in detox for whom age is not known. It also does not include homeless person counted as part of the Reservation Homeless Study. Counts of homeless and near homeless on American Indian Reservations will be released later this year.*

- Statewide, the number of people who were found outside the shelter system dropped by 25% since 2012. While the decrease was relatively modest (down 4%) in the metro area, the decrease in greater Minnesota (down 37%) was considerable. The large drop in greater Minnesota is likely inflated due to decreased outreach in some areas.
- Statewide, the number of people counted in emergency shelters dropped by 8%, and the number of people in transitional housing (including transitional housing programs reclassified as Rapid Rehousing) was down 5%. However, the number of people in domestic violence shelters was up 15%.
- The number of unaccompanied minors age 17 or younger in shelters increased by 56% since 2012; this includes a 124% increase in transitional housing programs (reflecting increased capacity) and a 23% increase in emergency shelters. The number of minors counted outside of the shelter system increased by 38% since 2012.

### *These numbers are a minimum, based on actual counts*

Because time-specific counts and surveys are not able to completely enumerate all people experiencing homelessness in any given geographical area, the numbers represented in this report should be considered a minimum. All such counts underrepresent the total homeless population, since many homeless people outside the shelter system are not found on the night of the study. This is especially true of youth on their own, who often couch hop or find other temporary places to stay, and homeless people in greater Minnesota where there are fewer shelters. The count does not include *estimates* of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population. Total single night *estimates* of Minnesota's homeless population will be reported in the fall of 2016.

## *More from the homeless study*

This fact sheet draws from the more detailed report, *Homelessness in Minnesota: Statewide and Region Counts of Homeless People*, which includes counts by geographic regions of the state, and by shelter types, age categories, gender, and families/ singles within each region (available at [www.mnhomeless.org](http://www.mnhomeless.org)).

Reports with detailed information about background and characteristics of homeless Minnesotans, as well as specialized reports on homeless youth, veterans, older adults, families, and long-term homeless populations will be released throughout 2016 and made available on our website.

In addition, a companion study of homelessness on American Indian reservations was also conducted in October 2015 in partnership with six northern Tribes. These numbers will be reported separately in the fall of 2016.

### **Additional resources on homelessness in Minnesota**

Wilder's triennial statewide study of homelessness is considered the most comprehensive source of descriptive information about homeless adults, youth, and children in Minnesota. It is not intended to be a complete count because no study strategy can locate all homeless people. Other sources of information that complement our understanding of homelessness include:

- An annual January point in time (PIT) count of persons living in shelters, outdoors, and in places not meant for habitation. This count is required by the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- The *Homeless Management Information System* (HMIS), which includes client information compiled by all providers of federal and state funded emergency shelter and supportive housing programming.

Together, these sources are used nationwide to inform federal, state, and local policies to prevent and end homelessness.



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The study is an independent initiative of Wilder Research in partnership with public and private funders and in-kind support from service providers throughout the state.

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