

Initial findings: Characteristics and trends

People experiencing homelessness in Minnesota

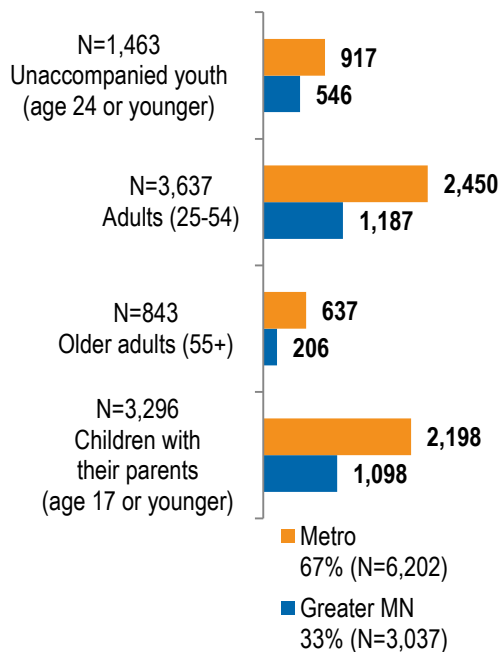
Every three years, Wilder Research conducts a statewide study to better understand the prevalence, causes, circumstances, and effects of homelessness. The study includes face-to-face interviews with people throughout the state who meet the federal definition of homelessness, as well as a count of people who were homeless on a single night in late October. The most recent study was conducted on October 22, 2015. This fact sheet highlights initial findings from interviews with homeless people; a fact sheet released earlier this spring provides counts of persons experiencing homelessness broken down by age group, gender, individuals versus families, and area of the state.

Interviews were conducted with 3,672 adults and unaccompanied youth in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, transitional housing, and in non-shelter locations such as encampments, hot-meal programs, and other drop-in service sites.

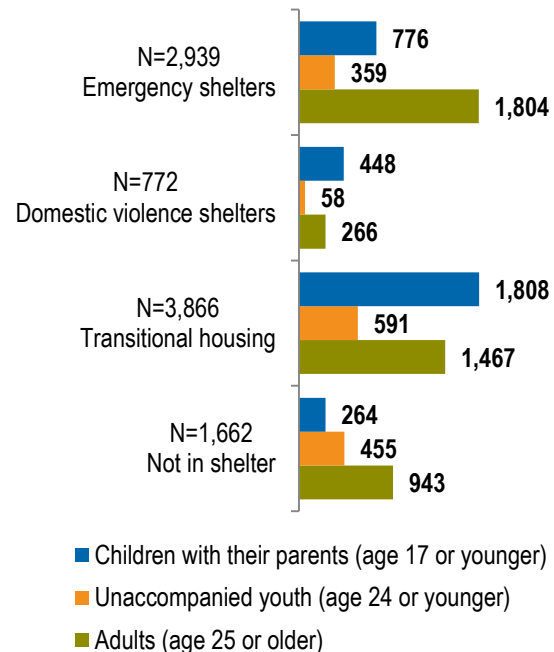
Homelessness in Minnesota is down for the first time since 2006

- Overall, 9,312 homeless adults, youth, and children were counted, down 9% from 2012.
- The 9% decrease between 2012 and 2015 follows a jump of 32% between 2006 and 2012.
- The number of homeless children decreased 7% between 2012 and 2015. However, children still represent 35% of the overall homeless population, and young people age 24 or younger are the most likely to be homeless.
- There was an 8% decrease in the Twin Cities metro, and a 13% decrease in greater Minnesota.
- 77% of homeless adults age 18 or older have been in Minnesota for longer than 2 years.

2015 ONE-NIGHT COUNTS BY AREA AND AGE GROUP



2015 ONE-NIGHT COUNTS BY AGE GROUP AND SHELTER TYPE



Note. These charts exclude 73 homeless people (of unknown age) in detox on the night of the survey.

Availability of affordable housing is still a critical issue

- 46% of homeless adults age 18 or older are on a waiting list for subsidized housing, with an average wait time of 11 months; another 14% were unable to get on a waiting list because it was closed.
- 30% of youth age 24 or younger on their own and 31% of adults age 18 or older spent at least one night sleeping outside in the 30-day period before the study.
- The most common reasons adults age 18 or older left their last housing: 36% could not afford it, 32% were evicted, and 30% lost their job or had their hours cut.
- Homeless adults age 18 or older had a median income of \$550 during the month of the study, and could afford an average of \$387 per month in rent (one in five could not pay anything for rent).
- 62% of homeless adults age 18 or older would only need an efficiency or one bedroom apartment.

Employment continues to rise after reaching its lowest point in 2009

EMPLOYMENT (adults age 18 or older)	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		
Adults employed at the time of the survey	41%	30%	28%	20%	24%	30%		
Adults working full time (35+ hours/week)	26%	13%	12%	6%	8%	14%		
			Age 21 or younger					Age 24 or younger*
EMPLOYMENT (youth)	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2015	
Youth employed at the time of the survey	34%	33%	32%	27%	31%	45%	42%	
Youth working full time (35+ hours/week)	12%	7%	10%	6%	8%	16%	16%	

African Americans and American Indians continue to be disproportionately affected

	Percent of HOMELESS adults age 18 or older	Percent of all Minnesota adults age 18 or older^a	Percent of unaccompanied HOMELESS youth age 24 or younger	Percent of all Minnesota youth age 10-24^a
American Indian	8%	1%	9%	1%
Asian American	2%	4%	2%	6%
Black/African American	39%	5%	42%	8%
White/Caucasian	38%	85%	27%	74%
Other/Mixed race	5%	1%	9%	4%
Hispanic (any race)	7%	4%	11%	7%

^a Source: U.S. Census

Adults are experiencing homelessness for longer periods of time

LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS (adults age 18 or older)	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015		
Homeless less than 1 month	10%	11%	9%	8%	6%	7%		
Homeless 1 year or more	37%	44%	47%	52%	50%	54%		
Fits MN definition of long-term homeless (singles)	NA	53%	58%	62%	61%	63%		
Fits MN definition of long-term homeless (families)	NA	33%	45%	50%	44%	53%		
			Age 21 or younger					Age 24 or younger*
LENGTH OF TIME HOMELESS (youth)	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2015	
Homeless less than 1 month	17%	18%	18%	13%	11%	13%	11%	
Homeless 1 year or more	29%	34%	31%	38%	43%	43%	47%	
Fits MN definition of long-term homeless	NA	40%	46%	52%	53%	52%	56%	

* In previous years, the “youth” analysis focused on age 21 or younger. This age grouping is included throughout this fact sheet in order to accurately compare data across years. To match recent policy changes, the 2015 study defines “youth” as age 24 or younger, so an additional column with this age grouping has been added to each youth trend table.

Homelessness is often preceded by childhood trauma and abuse

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES	Adults (age 18 or older)	Youth (age 24 or younger)
Physically abused as a child	39%	46%
Sexually abused as a child	25%	30%
Neglected as a child	19%	29%
Out-of-home placements as a child (ever for youth) ^a	33%	61%
During childhood, had a parent serve time in prison	18%	47%
Witnessed abuse as a child	47%	60%
Lived with substance abuser as a child	50%	61%
Lived with parent/guardian with mental illness	37%	48%
At least one of the above	74%	89%
LONG-TERM HEALTH ISSUES		
Serious mental illness ^b	60%	57%
Chronic physical health condition	51%	36%
Substance abuse disorder	21%	13%
Evidence of traumatic brain injury	30%	19%
At least one of the above	80%	72%
AGE AT FIRST HOMELESSNESS	Adults	Youth
0 - 12 years old	9%	23%
13 - 17 years old	18%	41%
18 - 24 years old	25%	36%

^a Out-of-home placements include foster care, group home, and treatment facilities.

^b The diagnosis of “anxiety or panic disorder” was added in 2015.

VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	Adults (age 18 or older)		Youth (age 24 or younger)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Left last housing because of abuse by someone they lived with	31%	10%	30%	14%
Stayed in an abusive situation due to no other housing options	50%	24%	38%	27%
Physically or sexually attacked while homeless	23%	16%	21%	15%
Been sexual with someone only for the purpose of getting shelter, clothing, or food	18%	13%	14%	15%
At least one of the above	61%	39%	53%	42%

Physical and mental health issues are persistent and increasing among the homeless

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS (adults age 18 or older)	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
Adults with serious mental illness ^a	36%	47%	52%	55%	55%	57%
Adults with chronic physical health conditions	39%	43%	44%	46%	51%	51%
Adults with a substance abuse disorder	22%	25%	27%	23%	22%	21%

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS (youth)	2000	2003	Age 21 or younger			2015	Age 24 or younger*
			2006	2009	2012		2015
Youth with serious mental illness ^a	38%	43%	49%	46%	52%	54%	54%
Youth with chronic physical health conditions	30%	31%	33%	32%	36%	34%	36%
Youth with substance abuse disorder	14%	15%	16%	12%	16%	11%	13%

^a For consistency over time, “anxiety or panic disorder” (first asked in 2015 survey) is omitted from these numbers. It is included in the table at top of page.

The proportion of homeless adults who have served in the military continues to drop

MILITARY SERVICE (adults age 18 or older)	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
Served in military - Metro area	14%	13%	12%	12%	9%	8%
Served in military - Greater MN	24%	18%	15%	9%	10%	8%
Men who served – Statewide	31%	26%	24%	19%	17%	14%
Women who served – Statewide	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%

A snapshot of three key supportive services

SERVICE USE (adults age 18 or older)	2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015
MFIP ^a (past 12 months) (percent of those with children)	73%	77%	68%	68%	75%	69%
SNAP / food stamps (past month)	41%	46%	51%	63%	67%	60%
Transportation assistance (past month)	21%	35%	38%	42%	44%	42%

^a The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance welfare program administered by the State of Minnesota.

More from the homeless study

Fact sheets, detailed data tables, and methodology are available at mnhomeless.org. Data tables include breakdowns by geographic regions of the state, and by shelter types and gender. Additional reports will be released throughout 2016.

Results from a companion study of homelessness on American Indian reservations conducted in October 2015 in partnership with six northern Tribes will be reported separately in the fall of 2016.

Wilder Research

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

www.wilderresearch.org



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For more information

For more information about this report, contact Wilder Research at 651-280-2700.

Authors: Brian Pittman, Michelle Gerrard, Stephanie Nelson-Dusek, and Ellen Shelton

APRIL 2016