Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect

Summary of guests served on October 1, 2007

OCTOBER 2007

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Introduction

This brief report summarizes information about the guests served at the Minneapolis/ Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect event on October 1, 2007 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The fourth Project Homeless Connect to be held in Minneapolis, the event was organized by the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness in partnership with the Family Housing Fund, and a steering committee made up of community members, service providers, and persons who have experienced homelessness.¹

Overall, Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect served:

- 1,476 households
- 1,780 individuals
- 203 children age 17 or younger
- 19 unaccompanied youth age 14-17

After a discussion of data collection methods this report presents a brief comparison to the population of guests served at the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect held in December 2006. This report also includes a series of tables summarizing characteristics of guests served at Project Homeless Connect, including: basic demographics, living situation, income and sources of assistance, services sought, and a de-duplication of guests served at Project Homeless Connect with records of persons known to be previously served by agencies in Minnesota who serve those experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

For more on the event, see <u>www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org</u>

Methods

The data reported below were collected on paper by volunteer intake workers on the day of the event, using the form found in Appendix A. The data were later entered into Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) by a team of trained data entry volunteers. Minnesota's HMIS is a statewide database that includes client-level data from many agencies that serve people experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness.²

Project Homeless Connect guests received consent forms and were recorded as "anonymous" if they preferred to not have personally identifiable information entered into the HMIS. As a result, 66 of the 1,476 households served (4%) were entered without the ability to run matches in the HMIS database to see whether they have prior service records, or to see whether they will be served elsewhere in the near future. The clients who agreed to be entered with identifiable information were entered as "unnamed clients." That is, their names were only held temporarily by the database. Upon entering the client name in the initial data entry screen, the database automatically generated a unique identifier comprised of parts of the name, date of birth, and gender. The database then discarded the name. The creation of the unique identifier, however, enabled Wilder Research to match Project Homeless Connect guests with those served by other programs participating in Minnesota's HMIS.

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For more information, see <u>www.hmismn.org</u>

Comparison with previous Hennepin Project Homeless Connect events

The Minneapolis/Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect in October 2007 served 1,780 individuals, compared to 1,218 individuals in December 2006.³ The average guest served at both events is an African-American male who is 40 years of age and has experienced several episodes of homelessness without meeting the definition for long-term homeless.⁴ Despite this similarity, there are some differences found between the two events. At the October 2007 event there was a greater proportion of families with dependent children in attendance, there were fewer single females, and there was an increased proportion of American Indian guests. In addition, the October 2007 event drew a smaller number of veterans and a slightly smaller number of people with a disability.

The proportion of guests who identified as not homeless increased from 18 percent to 27 percent. The location in which guests stayed the previous night was mostly constant, with emergency shelter as the most frequent location, followed by transitional housing, living with friends or family, a rental house or apartment, and a place not meant for habitation. There was a decrease in the number of guests who reported residing in Minneapolis, although the number of responses missing from this question was rather high (24%).

Relatively fewer guests from October 2007 reported receiving benefits such as General Assistance and Medical Assistance, particularly among single adult males. Single females and parents with children were more likely in October 2007 to report unemployment, and there was an 18 percent increase in the number of guests who reported that they currently have no income.

Guests from October 2007 indicated a higher interest in eye care and dental care than in December 2007, and a slightly decreased interest in employment and housing.

The remainder of this report presents information on the guests served at the October 2007 Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect, including demographic characteristics, living situation, income and sources of assistance, and services sought by

The report for the December 2006 Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect event can be found at http://www.wilder.org/download.0.html?report=1947.

The state of Minnesota defines an individual, unaccompanied youth or family as "Long-Term Homeless" if they are without a home for a year or more OR have had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. Any period of institutionalization or incarceration (including transitional housing, prison/jail, treatment, hospitals, foster care, or refugee camps) is excluded when determining the length of time the household has been homeless).



Demographic characteristics

1. Households served, as presenting at event, by head of household

	Male	Female	Transgender	Total
In households without children				
Adults	787	292	1	1,080
Unaccompanied Youth (14-17)	5	9	-	14
Sub-total	792	301	1	1,094
In families with children				
Adults	132	245	-	377
Unaccompanied Youth (14-17)	1	4	-	5
Sub-total	133	249	-	382
TOTAL				1,476

2. Individuals served at event, by household type

	Number	Percentage
In households without children		
Adult singles	1,019	93%
Adults in couples (no dependent children)	61	6%
Unaccompanied youth, age 14-17	14*	1%
Sub-total	1,094	
In families with children		
Parents or guardians*	382	56%
Other adults or adult children present in household	101	15%
Children, age 13-17	37	5%
Children, age 5-12	69	10%
Children, age 0-4	97	14%
Sub-total	686	
TOTAL	1,780	

^{*} Five additional unaccompanied youth who attended the event with dependent children are included in the category of families with children.

3. Age of household head

	Male	Female	Total*
14-17	6 (<1%)	13 (1%)	19 (1%)
18-21	49 (3%)	58 (4%)	107 (7%)
22-24	31 (2%)	46 (3%)	77 (6%)
25-34	95 (6%)	111 (8%)	207 (14%)
35-44	249 (17%)	132 (9%)	381 (26%)
45-54	322 (22%)	115 (8%)	437 (30%)
55-64	81 (5%)	27 (2%)	108 (7%)
65-79	15 (1%)	6 (<1%)	21 (1%)
(Ages Missing)	77 (5%)	42 (3%)	119 (8%)
TOTAL	925 (100%)	550 (100%)	1,476 (100%)
Average age (mean)	48	37	41

^{*} Includes one adult identifying as transgender.

4. Race & ethnicity of household head

	Number	Percentage
American Indian/Alaskan Native	218	15%
Asian	10	1%
Black/African American	728	49%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	9	1%
White	345	23%
Other	28	2%
Other Multi-Racial	52	3%
Missing	86	6%
TOTAL	1,476	100%
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	94	6%

^{*} Up to two categories, including "other multi-racial," were recorded for each guest. The answers are reported here in a manner consistent with reporting used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

5. Disability, veterans status, and previous experience with Project Homeless Connect*

		Adults			
	Single males	Single females	Families with children	Youth	ALL*
	n=787	n=292	n=377	n=19	n=1,476
Has a disability of long duration	37%	43%	34%	11%	37%
Served in US military?	15%	<1%	7%	0%	10%
Has been to a Project Homeless Connect event like this one before*	20%	16%	13%	5%	17%

^{*} Previous experience according to self-report (not through de-duplicating with prior events).

^{*} Includes one adult identifying as transgender, not shown in other columns.

Living situation

6. Homeless status of household head

	Number	Percentage
Not currently homeless	399	27%
Living with family or friends*	181	12%
Homeless, but status unknown**	49	3%
1st time homeless and less than 1 year without home	316	22%
Multiple times homeless, but NOT meeting LTH definition	142	10%
Long term: At least 1 year OR at least 4 times in past 3 years	253	17%
Unknown	136	9%
TOTAL	1,476	100%

^{*} Some guests identified as "not currently homeless" and also indicated living with family or living with friends (see table below for living situations).

7. Living situation last night, by household

Number	Percentage
391	26%
179	12%
166	11%
188	12%
101	7%
99	7%
60	4%
41	3%
25	2%
17	1%
8	1%
2	<1%
2	<1%
71	5%
125	9%
1,476	100%
	391 179 166 188 101 99 60 41 25 17 8 2 2 71

^{**} Some guests identified as "not currently homeless" but also indicated living in situations typically considered homeless (emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs for the homeless).

8. City where household stayed last night

		Adults			
	Single males	Single females	Families with children	Youth	ALL*
	n=787	n=292	n=377	n=19	n=1,476
Minneapolis	65%	60%	72%	75%	66%
St. Paul	3%	4%	4%	0%	4%
Other suburb	6%	7%	9%	7%	6%
Missing	26%	29%	15%	18%	24%

^{*} Includes one adult identifying as transgender, not shown in other columns.

Income and sources of assistance

9. Household income sources last 30 days*

		Adults			
	Single males	Single females	Families with children	Youth	ALL***
	n=787	n=292	n=377	n=19	n=1,476
General Assistance	31%	37%	23%	11%	30%
Employment**	16%	12%	15%	5%	15%
SSDI	10%	11%	9%	5%	10%
Social Security (other)	7%	11%	10%	0%	9%
MFIP	1%	4%	26%	0%	8%
Contributions from others	5%	7%	7%	0%	7%
Other income sources*	5%	4%	6%	14%	7%
No income sources	50%	47%	45%	63%	48%

^{*} Intake staff were encouraged to report all sources received by the household, from the list above. They also recorded other income sources, reported by the guest. The "other" sources reported included child support payments, donating plasma, unemployment benefits, and other miscellaneous sources.

10. Other assistance currently received by household*

		Adults			
	Single males	Single females	Parents/ Guardians	Youth	ALL
	n=787	n=292	n=377	N=19	n=1,476**
Medical assistance	41%	51%	60%	21%	48%
Food stamps	30%	42%	53%	21%	39%
Medicare	10%	10%	8%	11%	10%
Public housing	5%	9%	6%	5%	6%
Other rent assistance	5%	7%	7%	0%	6%
Section 8	3%	7%	7%	0%	5%
Veterans medical or other veterans benefits & services	5%	1%	2%	0%	3%

^{*} Intake staff were encouraged to report all sources received by the household, from the list above.

^{**} Includes temporary employment and day labor.

^{***} Includes one adult identifying as transgender, not shown in other columns.

^{**} Includes one adult identifying as transgender, not shown in other columns.

Services sought

11. Main types of service sought by household*

		Adults			
	Single males	Single females	Parents/ Guardians	Youth	ALL
	n=787	n=292	n=377	N=19	n=1,476***
Housing	47%	50%	64%	74%	52%
Employment	39%	36%	48%	74%	41%
Dental Care	32%	40%	35%	53%	34%
Eye care	28%	32%	36%	47%	31%
Lacks an ID	27%	32%	29%	68%	29%
Wants help obtaining ID (of those lacking an ID)	20%	28%	24%	53%	23%
Haircut	22%	16%	22%	16%	21%
Education	14%	19%	22%	16%	17%
Legal assistance	15%	16%	19%	16%	16%
Social Security benefits	11%	15%	12%	21%	12%
Public Assistance	13%	12%	13%	31%	13%
Medical care (other)	12%	14%	12%	16%	12%
Voicemail	12%	8%	9%	21%	10%
Mental health	6%	10%	12%	21%	9%
Emergency shelter	9%	4%	5%	5%	7%
Veterans benefits	5%	1%	3%	1%	4%
Chemical health	3%	2%	1%	5%	2%
Other: Clothes, shoes, winter coat, etc.	5%	7%	9%	1%	6%
Other: transportation (includes bus cards, driver's license)	3%	5%	5%	1%	4%
Other: miscellaneous	5%	4%	3%	0%	3%

^{*} Guests were asked what their top three services were from the list provided above. Some indicated more than three.

^{***} Includes one adult identifying as transgender, not shown in other columns.

De-duplication with data in Minnesota's HMIS

One of the reasons Project Homeless Connect organizers wanted to enter data from the event into Minnesota's HMIS was to get a sense of how many of those served at the event were already involved with social service providers, particularly providers whose mission is to serve people experiencing homelessness. While Minnesota's HMIS remains imperfect for the task, there is an increasing number of bed coverage within HMIS. As of June 2007, the HMIS included 43 percent of shelter beds, 87 percent of transitional housing program beds, and 54 percent of permanent supportive housing beds in Hennepin County. The HMIS does, however, also include the County's large homeless prevention program, as well as some other "services only" programs not associated with beds. Further, entering the data into the HMIS enabled us to run matches against people served in other parts of the state, including the Hennepin County event from December 2006 and the Ramsey County events held in June 2006 and June 2007.

As discussed in the introduction, all guests who signed a consent form at Project Homeless Connect were entered as "unnamed clients" in the HMIS database. This means that while elements of the clients name were used in creating a unique identifier, the name was not permanently stored. This procedure allows Wilder to un-duplicate clients served in Project Homeless Connect with other records in the database, without permanently storing their names. The 66 guests who indicated a preference not to provide their name or other potentially identifying information at the event were entered anonymously, and it is not possible to match their records with others existing in the database. Setting aside the anonymous clients we found that:

■ 469 of the 1,410 identifiable guests – or 33 percent – were served by an organization participating in Minnesota's HMIS prior to the event.

Another 17 guests were served by organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS (and entered with identifiable records into the HMIS) within ten days after the event. Two of those guests received emergency shelter the night of October 1st, and the other 15 guests received various other services that include rental assistance, transportation assistance, and clothing.

Note that around 11 percent of all clients entered into Minnesota's HMIS are entered as anonymous, many of whom are clients of domestic violence or legal service providers. Thus, it is likely that the de-duplication here is a conservative estimate of the number of Project Homeless Connect guests actually served by agencies participating in Minnesota's HMIS. Also, it is important to reiterate that the 469 guests who were found to have existing records in the HMIS under-represent the total number who had previous

contact with social service providers, even those whose specific mission is to serve those experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County, since many providers are not currently participating in Minnesota's HMIS. Nonetheless, the 33 percent reported here is significantly higher than the 21 percent reported following the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect held in December 2006, and it is similar to the 35 percent reported from the Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect held in June 2007.

As mentioned above, Minnesota's HMIS was also used to gather data on the Minneapolis/ Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect event held in December 2006, the St. Paul/ Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect event held in June 2006, and the same St. Paul/ Ramsey event held in June 2007. Using HMIS data collected at the previous events, we examined the number of people who had attended more than one event, setting the aside the guests who were entered anonymously at each event:

- 91 individuals 69 males and 22 females were served at the Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect events in October 2007 and December 2006.
- Ten individuals 9 males and 1 female were served at the Hennepin County event in October 2007 as well as the most recent previous Project Homeless Connect recorded in HMIS, the Ramsey County event in June 2007.
- Five individuals 4 males and 1 female were served at three out of the four events, including the October 2007 event in Hennepin County and the most Ramsey County event in June 2007.

These results may under-represent the number of people who have attended more than one Project Homeless Connect event, and certainly would under-estimate the number who may have participated in similar events such as the "stand down" held annually for homeless veterans in the Twin Cities. In fact, when asked, "Have you ever been to a Project Homeless Connect event like this one before today?" 254 guests, or 17 percent, responded "yes."

Looking forward: Project Homeless Connect and Minnesota's HMIS

Since the Project Homeless Connect data are maintained in the statewide HMIS database it may be useful to conduct further outcomes analysis at some point. For example, to help assess whether the event had an impact on housing stability it would be helpful to know how many of the guests who were living on the streets or in homeless shelters are successfully placed in transitional and permanent supportive housing programs; or conversely, how many guests return to shelter or other emergency services. Analyses like these are enabled by the Homeless Management Information System, and should help inform future Project Homeless Connect events, as well as broader state and regional plans to end homelessness.

Appendix

Project Homeless Connect Intake Form

Project Homeless Connect Intake Form

Hi, My name is ______. Thanks for taking a few minutes to help us gather information for this event. This also gives me a chance to tell you about the services available today. We hope that your answers will help us to better understand what services are needed in the community and also to help us direct you to the services that you want today. This should take about 10 minutes. Also, please take a few minutes before you leave to fill out an exit survey.

Before we start filling out this form lets look through the list of services available to you today [READ THROUGH SERVICE LIST WITH THE PERSON/FAMILY AND CHECK ANY OFF THAT THE PERSON IS INTERESTED IN].

Now, I am going to ask a few questions about you (and your family). We hope that by answering these questions we will be able to better serve you today and in the future. You do not have to answer any of these questions if you do not want to.

be ubit to beit	er serve you toutly und tr	ine juiure. Tou uc	not have to ansi	ver any of these	questions if you do not want			
What is your Name?:					ServicePt ID#			
	FIRST	MI LAST		SUFFIX				
BIRTH DATE: / / YEAR								
GENDER: ☐ Female (H) ☐ Male (H) ☐ Transgender ☐ Unknown								
Do you consider yourself (PRIMARY RACE) (SECONDARY RACE (OPTIONAL/ IF OFFERED))								
☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native			☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native					
☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander						
☐ Black or African American		☐ Black or African American						
☐ White		☐ White						
☐ Asian			☐ Asian					
			Other Multi-	Pacial				
		Other	-i (aciai	☐ Unknown				
			<u></u>		- CHKHOWH			
Are you ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Not Hispanic/Latino ☐ Unknown								
Are you part of	a household/family?		☐ Yes (famil	y/household)	☐ No (single adult/youth)			
IF yes, type o	f household:							
☐ Couple	with No Children	Female Single Parer	nt 🔲 Foster Pa	rent	☐ Grandparent(s) & Child			
☐ Two Par	rent Family	Male Single Parent	☐ Non-Custo	odial Caregivers	☐ Other			
How many dependent children do you have total? (17 or younger, including those not here)								
Are you HERE WITH OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS - Number with guest (NOT including guest)								
Adult males:	Adult females:	Teens (13 -1	7): Childre	en, 5-12yrs:	Children, 0-4yrs:			
EVER SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES Yes * Don't know Refused *NOTE If yes, please direct to veterans services area								
Do you have any type of disability that keeps you from working, shopping or other daily activities? (Physical or Mental) (If Yes) Do you expect it to last for years to come? (A DISABILITY OF LONG DURATION?)								
☐ Yes (& long duration) ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ Refuse								
During the last month did you receive any income from								
No income		☐ Yes	□ No □	Don't know	☐ Refused			
Employment				Don't know	Refused			
General Assis	stance	☐ Yes	□ No □	Don't know	☐ Refused			
Social Securi	ty Disability (SSDI)			Don't know	Refused			
Social Securi	ty (incl. SSI, Retirement)	☐ Yes	□ No □	Don't know	Refused			
MFIP (MN Far	nily Investment Program)	☐ Yes	□ No □	Don't know	☐ Refused			
Contributions	from other people	☐ Yes	□ No □	Don't know	☐ Refused			
Any other source?								

Do you currently receive							
Food stamps?	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Don't	know	Refused		
A Section 8 Housing Voucher (for rent)?	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Don't	know \Box	Refused		
Public housing?	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Don't	know \Box	Refused		
Any other type of rental assistance?	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Don't	know \Box	Refused		
Medical Assistance (or Medicaid or MA)?	Yes	□ No	☐ Don't	know \Box	Refused		
Medicare?	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Don't	know \Box	Refused		
Veterans Medical assistance or services	? 🔲 Yes	□ No	☐ Don't	know \Box	Refused		
Are you currently Homeless?							
□ NO Not currently homeless □ YES → First time homeless AND less than 1 year without home □ YES → Several times homeless, but for less than 1 year and NOT more than 4 times in 3 years □ YES → Long term: at least 1 year OR at least 4 times in the past 3 years WHERE DID YOU STAY LAST NIGHT?							
☐ Emergency shelter		on, or juvenile fac	cility	Hotel/motel (•		
☐ Transitional housing for homeless ☐ Permanent housing for formerly homeless	nt housing for formerly homeless				roup home ant for habitation n the street/outside)		
☐ Psychiatric hospital or facility ☐ Living with family				☐ Don't know			
☐ Substance abuse treatment center, incl c☐ Hospital	detox	ith friends		☐ Refused ☐ Other			
HOW LONG HAVE YOU STAYED THERE? 1 week or less More than 3 months but less than 1 year 1 year or longer 1 to 3 months WHAT CITY WAS THAT IN? CHECK BOX IF Outside of Minnesota							
Have you ever been to a Project Homeless Connect event like this one before today? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ Refused							
Did you receive services as a result of a pre							
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Refused Specify:							
Now I have a few questions about how we can help you. What are the top 3 things you would like help with today?							
Employment	Social Security Be	nefits	Dent	al Care	☐ Yes		
Education	Veteran's Benefits	☐ Yes	Eye (Care	☐ Yes		
Legal assistance	Public Assistance	☐ Yes	Medi	cal Care (other)	☐ Yes		
Housing	Mental Health	☐ Yes	Haird	cut	☐ Yes		
Emergency Shelter Yes	Chemical Health	☐ Yes	Voice	e Mail	☐ Yes		
Other services (write in):							
Do you have a Minnesota picture ID?							
(IF NO) Would you like help getting a picture ID? ☐ Yes ☐ No							

We would like you to feel free to visit as many resources and providers as you choose today. I am happy to walk around with you, show you where things are, and help you find the services and resources you want. Would that be okay? IF NOT, LET CLIENT/FAMILY WALK AROUND ON THEIR OWN. IF THEY WANT TO WALK AROUND ON THEIR OWN, REMIND THEM TO PLEASE FILL OUT AN EXIT SURVEY AND PICK UP A BAGGED LUNCH, ALONG WITH A FEW OTHER ITEMS, BEFORE THEY LEAVE]