

# **Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect**

*Summary of guests served on  
December 4, 2006*

**J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 7**

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# Introduction

This brief report summarizes information about the guests served at the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect event on December 4th, 2006 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This event, based on a nationally implemented model, was designed as a one-stop shop of services for people experiencing homelessness. The day-long 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.<sup>1</sup>

Overall, Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect served:

- 1,050 households
- 1,218 individuals
- 113 children age 17 or younger

After a brief discussion of data collection methods this report presents 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.

## *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.<sup>2</sup>

Project Homeless Connect guests received consent forms and were recorded as "anonymous" if they preferred not to have identifiable information entered into the HMIS. As a result, 50 of the 1,050 guests served (5%) were entered without the ability to

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<sup>1</sup> For more on the event, see [www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org](http://www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org) .

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see [www.hmismn.org](http://www.hmismn.org) .

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.

# Demographic characteristics

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

	Males	Females	Total
<b>In households without children</b>			
Adults	660	286	966*
Unaccompanied Youth (15-17)	3	10	13
<i>Sub-total</i>			979
<b>In families with children</b>			
Adults	16	55	71
Unaccompanied Youth (15-17)	0	0	0
<i>Sub-total</i>			71
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,050</b>

\* *The gender of 20 adults without children is unknown.*

## 2. Individuals served at event, by household type

	Number	Percentage
<b>In households without children</b>		
Adult singles	945	74%
Adults in couples (no children)	38	3%
Unaccompanied youth, age 15-17	13	1%
<i>Sub-total</i>	996	78%
<b>In families with children</b>		
Adults*	109	9%
Children, age 13-17	10	1%
Children, age 5-12	43	3%
Children, age 0-4	60	5%
<i>Sub-total</i>	222	17%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* *Includes parents and adult children.*



### 3. Age of household head

	Male	Female	Total*
15-17	3 (<1%)	10 (3%)	13 (1%)
18-21	23 (3%)	46 (13%)	69 (7%)
22-24	20 (3%)	26 (7%)	48 (5%)
25-34	68 (10%)	81 (23%)	149 (14%)
35-44	201 (30%)	90 (26%)	297 (28%)
45-54	256 (38%)	62 (18%)	323 (31%)
55-64	69 (10%)	22 (6%)	92 (9%)
65-79	9 (1%)	2 (<1%)	11 (1%)
(Missing)	30 (4%)	12 (3%)	48 (5%)
TOTAL	679 (100%)	351 (100%)	1,050 (100%)
<i>Average age (mean)</i>	43	36	43

\* Includes 20 guests whose gender is unknown.

### 4. Race & Ethnicity of household head

	Number	Percentage
American Indian/Alaskan Native	102	10%
Asian	10	1%
Black/African American	538	51%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	4	0%
White	268	26%
American Indian/Alaskan Native & White	5	0%
Asian & White	2	0%
Black/African American & White	4	0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African American	15	1%
Other Multi-Racial	73	7%
None specified	29	3%
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	59	6%
TOTAL	1,050	

\* 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.

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

	<b>Adults</b>			<b>Youth</b>	<b>ALL</b>
	<b>Single males</b>	<b>Single females</b>	<b>Parents/ Guardians</b>		
	<b>n=660</b>	<b>n=286</b>	<b>n=71</b>	<b>N=13</b>	<b>n=1,050</b>
Has a disability of long duration	38%	45%	24%	15%	39%
Served in US military?	18%	2%	4%	0%	12%
Has been to a Project Homeless Connect event like this one before*	18%	9%	7%	0%	14%

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

# Living situation

## 6. Homeless status of household head

	Number	Percentage
Not currently homeless	187	18%
Living with family or friends*	45	4%
Homeless, but status unknown**	86	8%
1st time homeless and less than 1 year without home	291	28%
Multiple times homeless, but NOT meeting LTH definition	112	11%
Long term: At least 1 year OR at least 4 times in past 3 years	315	30%
Unknown	14	1%
TOTAL	1,050	

\* Guest indicated “not currently homeless” and also indicated living with family or living with friends (see table below for living situations).

\*\* Guest indicated “not currently homeless” but also indicated living in situations typically considered homeless (places not meant for habitation, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs for the homeless).

## 7. Living situation last night, by household

	Number	Percentage
Emergency shelter	376	36%
Transitional housing for homeless	155	15%
Living with friends	131	12%
Rental house or apartment	110	10%
Living with family	63	6%
Place not meant for habitation	54	5%
Substance abuse treatment center	47	4%
Permanent housing for formerly homeless	20	2%
Owned house or apartment	9	1%
Hotel or motel (without an emergency voucher)	7	1%
Foster care/group home	5	<1%
Hospital	2	<1%
Jail, prison, or juvenile facility	1	<1%
Psychiatric hospital or facility	1	<1%
Other (unspecified)	40	4%
Missing/don't know/refused	29	3%
TOTAL	1,050	

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**8. City where household stayed last night**

	<b>Adults</b>			<b>Youth</b>	<b>ALL</b>
	<b>Single males</b>	<b>Single females</b>	<b>Parents/ Guardians</b>		
	<b>n=660</b>	<b>n=286</b>	<b>n=71</b>	<b>N=13</b>	<b>n=1,050</b>
Minneapolis	78%	77%	80%	100%	<b>78%</b>
St. Paul	6%	5%	1%	0%	<b>5%</b>
Other suburb	4%	6%	11%	0%	<b>5%</b>
Missing	12%	12%	7%	0%	<b>12%</b>

# Income and sources of assistance

## 9. Household income sources last 30 days\*

	Adults			Youth N=13	ALL n=1,050
	Single males n=660	Single females n=286	Parents/ Guardians n=71		
General Assistance	38%	29%	10%	23%	<b>34%</b>
Employment	16%	18%	14%	23%	<b>17%</b>
SSDI	9%	8%	6%	0%	<b>9%</b>
Social Security (other)	7%	11%	10%	0%	<b>8%</b>
MFIP	1%	15%	44%	0%	<b>8%</b>
Contributions from others	7%	8%	6%	8%	<b>7%</b>
Other income sources*	2%	4%	8%	0%	<b>3%</b>
No income sources	32%	25%	20%	62%	<b>30%</b>

\* 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, and other miscellaneous sources.

Note that the employment category listed above includes temporary employment and day labor.

## 10. Other assistance currently received by household

	Adults			Youth N=13	ALL n=1,050
	Single males n=660	Single females n=286	Parents/ Guardians n=71		
Medical assistance	48%	60%	62%	38%	<b>53%</b>
Food stamps	30%	50%	61%	15%	<b>37%</b>
Medicare	11%	8%	8%	8%	<b>10%</b>
Public housing	7%	7%	3%	0%	<b>7%</b>
Other rent assistance	6%	7%	3%	0%	<b>6%</b>
Section 8	2%	9%	8%	0%	<b>5%</b>
Veterans medical or other veterans benefits & services	4%	0%	0%	0%	<b>3%</b>

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

# Services sought

## 11. Main types of service sought by household\*

	Adults			Youth N=13	ALL n=1,050
	Single males n=660	Single females n=286	Parents/ Guardians n=71		
Housing	58%	65%	66%	69%	<b>60%</b>
Employment	43%	42%	58%	85%	<b>44%</b>
Dental Care	30%	34%	27%	8%	<b>31%</b>
Eye care	23%	27%	17%	23%	<b>24%</b>
Haircut	24%	17%	23%	38%	<b>22%</b>
Education	13%	22%	18%	38%	<b>16%</b>
Legal assistance	13%	16%	10%	15%	<b>14%</b>
Social Security benefits	11%	16%	10%	15%	<b>13%</b>
Medical care (other)	11%	14%	10%	31%	<b>12%</b>
Public Assistance	9%	13%	14%	23%	<b>11%</b>
Voicemail	13%	10%	7%	15%	<b>11%</b>
Mental health	8%	8%	8%	8%	<b>8%</b>
Emergency shelter	7%	6%	8%	31%	<b>7%</b>
Veterans benefits	5%	1%	0%	8%	<b>4%</b>
Chemical health	3%	2%	0%	0%	<b>3%</b>
Other: Clothes (including boots, shoes, winter coat, etc.)	9%	7%	6%	8%	<b>8%</b>
Other: Transportation (including bus passes)	5%	5%	1%	0%	<b>4%</b>
Other, miscellaneous	7%	10%	8%	15%	<b>8%</b>
Lacks an ID**	22%	29%	21%	62%	<b>24%</b>

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

\*\* In a separate question, guests were asked whether they had a picture ID.

# 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. Minnesota's HMIS is imperfect for the task; as of June 2006, the HMIS only included only 33 percent of the shelter beds, 85 percent of transitional housing program beds, and 44 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 Project Homeless Connect event held on June 19<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul.

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 50 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:

- 210 of the 1,000 identifiable guests – or 21 percent – were served by an organization participating in Minnesota's HMIS prior to the event.

Another nine guests were served by organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS (and entered with identifiable records into the HMIS) within 3 weeks after the event.

Note that around 10 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 210 guests who matched with records existing 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.

As mentioned above, Minnesota's HMIS also was used to gather data on the St. Paul/Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect event, held in June of 2006. That event served 786 households and 936 people.<sup>3</sup> How many of the people served at the Hennepin County event also were served at the earlier Ramsey County event? We identified 12 individuals – 10 males and 2 females – who attended both events. Thus, setting aside the guests who were entered anonymously at each event (199 in Ramsey and 50 in Hennepin):

- Just over 1 percent of those served at the Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect in December were also served at the Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect in June.

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<sup>3</sup> For the Ramsey County event a unique record was entered for each person served, including children accompanying their parents and guardians. The children were entered anonymously, resulting in the higher proportion of anonymous records, as indicated above. Procedures were changed for the Hennepin County event, where only the head of the household was entered into the HMIS.



# 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.*

<b>What is your Name?:</b>	<b>ServicePt ID#</b>
FIRST _____ MI _____ LAST _____ SUFFIX _____	
<b>BIRTH DATE:</b> ____ / ____ / ____ MO DAY YEAR	
<b>GENDER:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Female (H) <input type="checkbox"/> Male (H) <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
<b>Do you consider yourself ... (PRIMARY RACE)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American
<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> White
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Multi-Racial	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Multi-Racial
<input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<b>Are you ...</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
<b>Are you here today with other family or household members?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (family/household) <input type="checkbox"/> No (single adult/youth)	
<b>IF HERE WITH OTHERS – household type served today:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple with No Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Female Single Parent
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Parent Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Male Single Parent
<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Custodial Caregivers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent(s) & Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>IF HERE WITH OTHERS – Number with guest (NOT including guest)</b>	
Adult males: ____	Adult females: ____
Teens (13 -17): ____	Children, 5-12yrs: ____
Children, 0-4yrs: ____	
<b>How many dependent children do you have total? (17 or younger, including those not here) ____</b>	
<b>EVER SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES</b> *NOTE If yes, please direct to veterans services area	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes *	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Do you have any type of disability that keeps you from working, shopping or other daily activities? (Physical or Mental)</b> (If Yes) Do you expect it to last for years to come? (A DISABILITY OF LONG DURATION?)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (& long duration)	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse
<b>During the last month did you receive any income from....</b>	
<b>No income</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Employment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>General Assistance</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Social Security Disability (SSDI)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Social Security (incl. SSI, Retirement)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>MFIP (MN Family Investment Program)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Contributions from other people</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Any other source?</b>	

<b>Do you currently receive....</b>				
<b>Food stamps?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>A Section 8 Housing Voucher (for rent)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Public housing?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Any other type of rental assistance?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Medical Assistance (or Medicaid or MA)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Medicare?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Veterans Medical assistance or services?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused
<b>Are you currently Homeless?</b>				
<b>IF YES, how long have you been homeless?</b>				
<b>(If less than 1 year) How many times have you been homeless?</b>				
<b>(If 4 or more times) Was that within the past 3 years?</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> NO Not currently homeless	<input type="checkbox"/> YES → First time homeless AND less than 1 year without home			
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES → Multiple times homeless, but NOT meeting Long Term definition			
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES → Long term: at least 1 year OR at least 4 times in the past 3 years			
<b>WHERE DID YOU STAY LAST NIGHT?</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Jail, prison, or juvenile facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/motel (without voucher)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing for homeless	<input type="checkbox"/> Rental house/apartment	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster care/group home		
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent housing for formerly homeless	<input type="checkbox"/> Owned house/condo/apartment	<input type="checkbox"/> Place not meant for habitation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric hospital or facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Living with family	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know		
<input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse treatment center, <b>incl detox</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Living with friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital		<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
<b>HOW LONG HAVE YOU STAYED THERE?</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 week or less	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 3 months but less than 1 year			
<input type="checkbox"/> More than 1 week but less than 1 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or longer			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 3 months				
<b>WHAT CITY WAS THAT IN? _____ CHECK BOX IF Outside of Minnesota <input type="checkbox"/></b>				
<b>Have you ever been to a Project Homeless Connect event like this one before today?</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Refused	
<b>Now I have a few questions about how we can help you. What are the top 3 things you would like help with today?</b>				
Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Social Security Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Dental Care <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Education <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Eye Care <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Legal assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Public Assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Medical Care (other) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Haircut <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Emergency Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Chemical Health <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Voice Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
Other services (write in):				
<b>Do you have a picture ID?</b>				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>(IF NO) Would you like help getting a picture ID?</b>				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 service 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]