

Homeless adults and children in Minnesota

*Statewide survey of people without
permanent shelter*

A U G U S T 2 0 0 1

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*Statewide survey of people without permanent
shelter*

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Preface to the 2001 report

With the help of many friends, funders and volunteers, Wilder Research Center has completed the fourth statewide study of people without permanent shelter. The four surveys, completed during October of 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000, built upon previous research efforts beginning with Wilder's first Twin Cities metro area study of homelessness in 1984. While attempts have been made to improve each subsequent survey, care has been taken to assure a reasonable measure of comparability over time. Because of this, we are able to examine important shifts in the nature of homelessness in Minnesota.

The 2000 survey shows that 36 percent more people in Minnesota today fit the federal definition of homelessness than in 1997. In fact, on October 26, 2000, 7,589 people were identified on the streets, in shelters, and in transitional housing programs throughout Minnesota. Homeless children represented 43 percent of this total.

Striking to many who are unfamiliar with the issue is the fact that homeless people are increasingly working people. The present study shows that 41 percent of all adults are employed, and 26 percent are employed full-time. The first statewide survey (1991) showed only 7.5 percent were full-time workers.

Minnesota has made a significant investment in transitional housing programs. In fact, in the past five years most of the growth in the state's capacity to shelter homeless people has occurred in these longer-stay (although still time-limited) programs that are designed to help people escape homelessness permanently. But, transitional housing can accomplish this only if there is a commensurate growth in the availability of lower-cost housing. And some people need support beyond the temporary period provided by transitional housing.

Unfortunately, the housing stock required to provide stable living arrangements for individuals and families with very low incomes does not exist in adequate numbers in Minnesota. When housing can be found, it often consumes more than half of the household's income. HUD's 1998 report to Congress on affordable housing¹ indicates a deficit of more than 38,000 units of affordable housing in the Twin Cities metro area alone. Across the United States, nearly 1 million subsidized housing units were lost in just three years. Combined with very modest amounts of new construction of affordable housing, the situation has taken on crisis proportions.

¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Office of Policy Development and Research. (1998, April). *Rental housing assistance – The crisis continues*. Washington, DC: Author.

The latest study of homelessness in Minnesota suggests that our system of temporary housing programs may have become a substitute for long-term, stable housing for the very poor. Today, more homeless people are employed, over half have received some type of job training, more have money to pay for rent, more are in transitional housing rather than emergency shelter, and fewer have been unemployed for long periods of time. Yet, the goal of having an adequate supply of affordable housing seems no closer now than it did 10 years ago. In fact, in many ways, the goal seems more distant today.

While we contemplate how to create more housing, however, the circumstances of those who are without housing grows more difficult. More than one-third of those who are homeless today in Minnesota have significant health problems. One-quarter of the children have already repeated one or more grades in school. And despite available services, without a better supply of low-cost housing, their prospects do not really improve.

If this report tells us anything new, it is not that the face of homelessness has changed dramatically since the last statewide survey. It is that homelessness, like the poverty that accompanies it, remains an almost intractable problem in Minnesota. Despite what we have learned, there is still no end in sight.

Summary

This study gives a snapshot of the people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota on a single day in 2000. The findings reported here are based on interviews with 1,009 men and 1,262 women in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, transitional housing programs, and in non-shelter locations on October 26, 2000 (see Appendix for survey locations). Since not every homeless adult is interviewed, the analysis uses weightings of the sample (see page 90 for details on the weighting method) in order to describe the characteristics of the majority of adults and children identified on this date.

Key findings

Numbers of homeless

- The estimate for the total number of homeless and precariously housed persons (persons at imminent risk of losing housing) in Minnesota on October 26, 2000 is 21,329. This includes estimates of those who were “doubled-up” in temporary living situations with others; living on the streets; or residing in shelter or non-shelter locations. This is almost triple the estimate of 7,980 made on October 24, 1991.
- On October 26, 2000, there were 7,121 people residing in temporary housing programs in Minnesota, including 1,820 men, 2,000 women, 3,122 children and 179 unaccompanied youth. Temporary housing programs include emergency and battered women’s shelters as well as transitional housing programs. Additionally, the October survey identified 468 persons in non-shelter locations. The total of 7,589 represents a 36 percent increase over the number of homeless persons identified three years earlier (October 23, 1997). The number of available beds in temporary housing programs in October 2000 was 7,368,² an increase of 26 percent (1,985 beds) from October 1997.
- The number of emergency shelters and battered women's shelters remained relatively stable since the last statewide survey (October 1997), but the number of transitional housing programs increased by 26 percent, from 78 to 98.

² Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning. (2000, November). *Quarterly shelter survey-Revised*. Roseville, MN: Author. This includes beds in motels used by voucher clients.

Who is homeless?

- In 1991 and 1994, men made up the majority of homeless adults in Minnesota (60% and 51% respectively). Women constituted the majority of homeless adults in 1997 (53%) and 2000 (51%). The average age of homeless men increased from 34.9 in 1991 to 39.7 in 2000, and the average age of homeless women increased from 31.7 in 1991 to 32.3 in 2000. Over the decade, the percent of persons who have never married has remained about the same at 57 to 58 percent.
- Approximately 28 percent of those who were homeless on the night of the survey had lived in Minnesota for two years or less. This is the same percentage as in 1997, when we reported the first significant decline in this percentage. In 1991 and 1994, 39 percent reported migrating from another state within the past two years.
- Women and children represent the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. Sixty percent of women in temporary housing programs on October 26, 2000, had at least one child with them at the time of the survey. This is virtually the same as in 1997 (61%). Two-thirds of all homeless children (68%) were staying in transitional housing programs.
- The number of homeless families has increased consistently and significantly over the period of the four statewide surveys (434 in 1991, 807 in 1994, 1,103 in 1997, and 1,413 in 2000). Comparing 1991 to 2000, the total number of homeless families has increased by 325 percent.
- Based on quarterly shelter census reports beginning in 1985, the total number of children experiencing homelessness in Minnesota has increased dramatically from 325 children (including 35 unaccompanied youth) in November 1985 to 990 children (including 124 unaccompanied youth) in November 1991, to 1,893 children (including 132 unaccompanied youth) in November 1994, to 2,700 children (including 377 unaccompanied youth) in November 1997, to 3,067 children (373 unaccompanied youth) in November 2000. This represents an 844 percent increase from 1985 to 2000.³
- Consistent with previous studies, the homeless population contains a disproportionate number of persons of color, particularly African Americans in the Twin Cities metro area (57%) and American Indians (20%) in greater Minnesota.⁴ While less than 10 percent of the state's overall population is made up of persons of color, more than 65 percent of Minnesota's homeless adults are persons of color.

³ Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning. (2000, November). *Quarterly shelter survey-Revised*. Roseville, MN: Author. This includes beds in motels available for voucher clients.

⁴ Throughout this report, the "Twin Cities metro area" refers to the seven counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Carver, Scott, Dakota, and Washington.

- In 2000, as well as in 1997, more African American women than Caucasian women lived in Twin Cities metro area transitional housing programs (52% vs. 29% in 2000 and 40% vs. 32% in 1997). In 1991 and 1994, Caucasian women made up the majority of women using Twin Cities metro area transitional housing programs.
- Persons interviewed in non-shelter locations were predominantly male (69%) and more than one-third had been homeless for over a year (38%). American Indians made up 30 percent of those interviewed in non-shelter locations.
- On the day of the survey, military veterans made up approximately 16 percent of the total homeless population (31% of the men and 2% of the women). The total number of homeless veterans interviewed in the Twin Cities metro area was 448 and the total number in greater Minnesota was 238.

Parents and children

- In both the 1997 and the 2000 studies, 60 percent of parents accompanied by children report that they have never been married.
- Two-fifths of homeless parents (41%) report that at least one of their school-age children has some type of learning or school-related problem. One-fifth of homeless parents (21%) report they have a child with an emotional or behavioral problem and one-quarter (26%) report having a child that has had to repeat a grade in school.
- Nearly one-third of homeless parents (32%) report they have been unable to obtain needed child care. One out of 10 homeless parents (10%) report that they were unable to obtain needed health care for at least one of their children and 11 percent of homeless parents report that their children have had to skip meals in the last month.

Education, employment, and income

- The percent of homeless persons who have completed high school remained about the same in 2000 (76%) as in 1991 (78%). The percentage of persons who have attended at least some college changed only slightly (31% in 1991 to 28% in 2000). About half of the respondents in all four studies since 1991 have attended classes to learn a specific job.
- The percentage of employed homeless persons rose from 19 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 2000. In addition, the percentage who work full-time rose steadily from 8 percent in 1991, to 13 percent in 1994, to 17 percent in 1997, to 26 percent in 2000.

- For those who are not working, an examination of barriers to employment shows that 80 percent of homeless adults interviewed in 2000 have two or more of the eight potential employment barriers addressed in the survey. This compares to 62 percent of the homeless adults in 1997 and 50 percent in 1994. The most common barriers for women were lack of high school education (44%), chemical dependency problems within the last two years (36%), persistent mental health problems within the last two years (36%), no job for more than one year (29%), and the inability to afford child care (23%). For men, the most common barriers were chemical dependency problems within the last two years (64%), persistent mental health problems within the last two years (39%), no job for more than one year (37%), and lack of a high school education (35%).
- A decreasing proportion of homeless persons report that they are not able to pay anything for rent (from 24% in 1991 to 14% in 2000). The percent of homeless persons who report they could pay less than \$200 a month for rent also decreased, from 63 percent in 1991 to 29 percent in 2000.

Public assistance and service use

- Twenty-nine percent of homeless adults received MFIP (welfare assistance) in the last 12 months. Of those receiving MFIP benefits, 31 percent had been sanctioned. Five percent of homeless adults report having received family welfare benefits in another state during the past 12 months. One-fifth of homeless adults (20%) report the loss of one or more public assistance benefits during the previous 12 months.
- The reported use of Food Stamps dropped from 57 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 2000. Homeless persons receiving either Medical Assistance or General Assistance Medical Care dropped from 63 percent in 1991 to 56 percent in 2000.
- The reported use of free clothing shelves has dropped slightly from 44 percent in 1991 to 40 percent in 2000. The reported use of hot meal programs remained at about one-third in both 1991 and 2000. The reported use of drop-in centers remained stable (approximately 25%) over all four studies.

Health and well-being

- The single most common reason for women to seek temporary shelter in Minnesota is to flee an abusive partner. Approximately one in six homeless women (17%) indicated that one of the main reasons for leaving their last housing was to flee abuse. This compares to 26 percent of women in the 1991 study, 18 percent of women in the 1994 study, and 24 percent of women in the 1997 study. Thirty percent of all women surveyed in 2000 were homeless at least in part because of abuse in the last 12 months.

- People who are homeless in Minnesota often had a difficult start in life. In fact, 43 percent of all adults in the present study, compared to 49 percent in 1997, were either abused as children, had a child before age 18, or lived in a foster home or treatment facility as a child or youth.
- The percentage of homeless adults reporting physical mistreatment as a child increased from 28 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2000. Likewise, the percentage reporting that they were sexually mistreated as children increased from 17 percent in 1991 to 24 percent in 2000.
- Mental illness is a significant problem among those who are homeless in Minnesota. Nearly one-third of all homeless adults (32%) were told by a doctor or nurse within the last two years that they have schizophrenia, manic-depression, some type of delusional disorder, major depression, anti-social personality disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder. If we include persons with either a recent mental health diagnosis or recent treatment for a mental health problem (inpatient or outpatient), the percentage of persons with mental health problems increases to 36 percent. This is an increase from 1994, when 20 percent of adult respondents reported such disorders. (Results cannot be precisely compared with 1991 because questions were asked differently in that interview.)
- Forty-one percent of homeless men and 22 percent of homeless women report chemical dependency problems. Twenty-four percent of homeless men and 14 percent of homeless women report receiving inpatient alcohol or drug treatment within the last two years. Nineteen percent of homeless men and 14 percent of homeless women report receiving outpatient alcohol or drug treatment in the last two years.
- Fourteen percent of homeless adults report 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 (schizophrenia, paranoia, manic-depression, major depression, anti-social personality or post-traumatic stress disorder) and alcohol or drug abuse disorder.
- The vast majority of homeless respondents (93% in the Twin Cities metro area and 95 percent in greater Minnesota) reported that their most recent temporary housing arrangements were “reasonably safe.”

Comparing crisis, episodic, and chronic homelessness

In order to better understand the characteristics of homeless adults whose patterns of homelessness vary by duration or recurrence, Wilder Research Center conducted a comparative analysis using the following criteria:

Crisis homelessness: Currently in first episode of homelessness; current episode has lasted 12 months or less.

Episodic homelessness: Currently in the second (or higher) episode of homelessness; current episode has lasted 12 months or less.

Chronic homelessness: Current episode of homelessness has lasted more than 12 months.

Homeless adults experiencing crisis homelessness (for a short period and for the first time) are about evenly divided between men and women, and have the highest proportion of non-Caucasians among the three groups. They have the lowest rates of mental illness, alcohol abuse, institutionalization or physical abuse as children, or recent use of an emergency room. They are most likely to be new to Minnesota, and to have had recent contact with their families.

Homeless adults experiencing episodic homelessness – those who have had multiple experiences, typically lasting less than a year – are slightly more likely to be men than women. Of the three groups, they are the most likely to be Caucasian. They have the highest rate of severe mental illness and are most likely to have suffered physical abuse as a child or a violent injury in the past year, and to have used an emergency room within the past six months.

Homeless adults experiencing chronic homelessness, living for more than a year without regular and permanent housing, include more than 2.5 times as many men as women. Of the three groups, they are the most likely to be long-term Minnesota residents. They have the highest rates of in-patient chemical dependency treatment, hepatitis, and chronic alcohol use, and are the most likely to use drop-in centers, to ask for money on the streets, and to have gone over a year with no contact with their families.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a current snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in 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:

1. A statewide population count, or census, of all persons residing in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, and transitional housing facilities on the night of October 26, 2000.
2. A statewide survey of a sample (numbering 3,271) of adults living in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, and transitional housing facilities on October 26, 2000.
3. A survey of 381 homeless adults found in non-shelter locations around the state on October 26, 2000.

In addition, this report also provides comparisons to U.S. Census information and other data about the general adult population, statewide shelter counts conducted by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning, and the results of previous statewide survey results.⁵

A second report, based on a survey of homeless youth in shelters and other locations conducted on the same date as the adult survey, is also available from Wilder Research Center.⁶

Background

The study was commissioned by the Minnesota Interagency Task Force on Homelessness in order to provide information for statewide planning efforts to reduce homelessness. State funding was provided by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency; Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning; Minnesota Department of Economic

⁵ In addition to the survey results reported here, a companion study of persons seeking housing assistance from Community Action Programs and Councils (CAPs and CACs) was conducted during October 2000. Results of this study are presented in the Appendix.

⁶ Wilder Research Center. (2001, August). *Homeless youth in Minnesota: Statewide survey of people without permanent shelter*. Saint Paul, MN: Author.

Security; Minnesota Department of Health; Minnesota Department of Human Services; Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs; and Minnesota Veterans Home Board.

Additional financial support came from the Family Housing Fund; the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund; and the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation. This private agency funding enabled researchers to conduct volunteer training, reimburse study respondents for their participation, and publish this report. Agency representatives from state and local government, Wilder Research Center, the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, and other nonprofit groups met during the spring and summer of 2000 to finalize survey instruments and research methods. Statewide training was conducted in conjunction with the Minnesota Satellite Technology Center and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Survey dates were set by the planning group and temporary housing program sites were identified by staff of Wilder Research Center and the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning.

Methods

On October 24, 2000, more than 500 volunteers assembled in classrooms at 16 technical colleges around the state to learn how to conduct face-to-face interviews with homeless people. Training was conducted via an interactive satellite television broadcast originating in Saint Paul. Site leaders, identified by Wilder Research Center, provided direction for volunteer interviewers at each of the training sites.

On October 26, 2000, volunteer interviewers and site leaders went to 186 different provider agencies in 49 cities and to street locations in 18 cities to interview homeless people throughout Minnesota. Most interviews were conducted during the early evening hours. A complete listing of all sites included in the survey is presented in the Appendix.

While the survey was nearly comprehensive in sampling from emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, youth shelters, and transitional housing facilities throughout Minnesota, it was not feasible to cover the entire state for homeless persons in non-shelter locations. Therefore, a purposive sample of persons in street locations in 18 cities around Minnesota was surveyed with the assistance of persons experienced in outreach to the homeless. This was not an exhaustive effort and cannot be considered a comprehensive count or a representative sample of non-sheltered homeless persons. It does, however, provide the basis for preliminary descriptive information on this population.

Finally, a purposive sample of unaccompanied homeless youth was obtained through the efforts of youth advocates throughout Minnesota. Youth were interviewed in street locations and drop-in centers in eight cities. Results of the youth survey are presented in a separate youth report published by Wilder Research Center.

In greater Minnesota, site leaders were instructed to interview every adult available at each site at the time of the survey team's visit. In large shelters in the Twin Cities metro area (those serving more than 50 adults), we randomly sampled one-third of the adult residents; at sites with between 25 and 50 adults, we used a random selection method to sample one-half of the adult residents.⁷ At Twin Cities metro area sites with fewer than 25 adults, interviewers attempted to interview all adult residents. At youth shelters, youth transitional housing programs, and youth drop-in centers, we attempted to interview everyone available at the time of the survey team's visit. Overall, 95 percent of those approached for interviews agreed to participate. As a result, approximately half of all adults staying in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, and transitional housing facilities were interviewed. Respondents received cash compensation (\$5.00) for the half-hour interview.

Supporting information for this study was obtained from two additional sources. First, shelter providers at all emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, youth shelters, and transitional housing facilities provided a complete count of all men, women, and children as well as unaccompanied youth in residence on the night of October 26, 2000. No comparable counts were available for unsheltered youth or adults. Second, information obtained from those seeking housing assistance from Community Action Agencies throughout Minnesota was collected during the month of October and is reported in the Appendix.

Finally, in order to avoid bias associated with over- or under-representing individuals in any of the shelters, a weighting technique was applied to the sample. Weightings were possible only in locations where complete population counts were available (adult emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, and transitional housing facilities). The weighting techniques (described in the Appendix) allow us to estimate the characteristics of nearly the entire population counted in each type of facility on October 26, 2000.⁸

⁷ Where samples were drawn, respondents were randomly selected by the use of a deck of ordinary playing cards. Everyone available at the site at the time the survey team arrived was given a card, and the color of the card determined study inclusion or exclusion. Cards were drawn until the sampling quota was met at each site.

⁸ Weightings were calculated using a sample-balancing program available in the Princeton Statistical Program. This technique uses an iterative approximation to the least squares adjustment. Additional detail on this procedure can be found on page 89. Deming, W. E. (1943). *Statistical adjustment of data*. New York: Wiley.

How many homeless?

This study defines homelessness with the same criteria used by the United States Congress in allocating resources through the McKinney Act (P.L. 100-77, sec 103(2)(1), 101 stat. 485 [1987]).

The term “homeless” or “homeless individual” includes an individual who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and (2) has a primary nighttime residence that is (a) a supervised, publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), (b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or (c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Homeless youth were defined as follows:

Youth who currently have no parental, substitute, foster or institutional home to which they can safely go. They are unaccompanied by an adult and have spent at least one night either in a formal emergency shelter, improvised shelter, doubled-up, or on the street.⁹

⁹ Components of this definition are described in Kryder-Coe, J. (Ed.). (1991). *Homeless children and youth* (pp. 34-35). New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

The following table shows the total count of homeless persons in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, and transitional housing facilities in the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota on the night of October 26, 2000.¹⁰ This is not the number that were interviewed, but the number that were counted by shelter providers.

Number of persons in temporary housing programs

	Men age 18+	Women age 18+	Children with parent(s)	Unaccompanied youth: Males < 18	Unaccompanied youth: Females < 18	Total
Twin Cities metro area						
Emergency shelters	896	430	621	12	14	1,973
Battered women's shelters	-	157	206	-	2	365
Transitional housing	547	973	1,591	20	45	3,176
Greater Minnesota						
Emergency shelters	163	59	66	37	23	348
Battered women's shelters	-	78	113	-	-	191
Transitional housing	214	303	525	8	18	1,068
Total	1,820	2,000	3,122	77	102	7,121

Source: Data provided to Wilder Research Center by shelter service providers across the state.

¹⁰ Persons receiving vouchers for temporary shelters in a motel or other location are counted with the emergency shelter totals. Persons interviewed in non-shelter locations are not included in this table.

The next table shows the number of homeless persons surveyed in *non-shelter locations* in the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota on October 26, 2000. Youth data also include respondents interviewed at drop-in centers.

Number of persons interviewed in non-shelter locations

	Males	Females	Children with parent(s)	Total
Adult (18+)				
Twin Cities metro area	139	69	25	208
Greater Minnesota	124	49	31	173
Total (adult)	263	118	56	381
Youth (<18)				
Twin Cities metro area	20	24	-	44
Greater Minnesota	16	27	-	43
Total (youth)	36	51	-	87
Total youth and adults in non-shelter locations	299	169	56	468

Note: Children were not interviewed. Figures show number of children accompanying adults who were interviewed.

The information presented in the preceding tables shows that 7,121 persons were in Minnesota shelters or transitional programs on October 26, 2000 and 468 persons were interviewed in non-shelter locations on that date (including 56 children, who were not interviewed). This represents a total of 7,589 persons identified as homeless in Minnesota on the night of October 26, 2000. This is 1,999 more persons than were identified in the October 1997 statewide survey, or an increase of 36 percent. The number of available beds in temporary housing programs increased by approximately 26 percent during this time period. The total number of beds available in October 2000 was 7,368,¹¹ indicating that utilization is near program capacity. However, an unknown number of homeless persons are not represented in these counts, including persons doubled up with other individuals or families on the night of the survey and homeless persons in detoxification centers on that night.

¹¹ Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning (2000, November). *Quarterly shelter survey-Revised*. Roseville, MN: Author. This includes beds in motels used by voucher clients.

Families without permanent shelter on October 26, 2000

	Number	Percent of homeless families
Single men with children	41	2.9%
Single women with children	1,152	81.5%
Couples with children	187	13.2%
Unaccompanied male youth with children	1	<0.1%
Unaccompanied female youth with children	32	2.3%
Unaccompanied youth couples with children	-	-
Total families identified	1,413	100.0%

Why these counts underestimate homelessness in Minnesota

Our counts of persons using shelters and transitional programs are comparable to figures cited in the Quarterly Shelter Survey conducted by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning in November 2000. Both are, nonetheless, undercounts of Minnesota's total population of those who are homeless or precariously housed.

As already noted, our sample of homeless persons on the street is a sample of convenience. The actual number of non-sheltered homeless persons on October 26, 2000 is not known. We do know, however, that an August 1991 survey of homeless American Indian people in Minneapolis, conducted by the American Indian Task Force on Housing and Homelessness, showed that more than one-quarter (28%) of the 247 American Indian people interviewed did not use public shelters of any type and relied only on friends and outdoor sleeping locations.¹² Furthermore, research conducted by The Urban Institute in other states has found that estimates of the “non-shelter-using” homeless population range between 20 and 40 percent of the shelter-using population, depending on the availability of shelter beds, the season and weather conditions.¹³ Applying the most conservative estimate (20% of the homeless who are sheltered) would add approximately 800 more persons to the number of adults and youth in non-shelter locations who were interviewed in 2000.

¹² Wilder Research Center. (1991, September). *A report to the American Indian Task Force on Housing and Homelessness*. Saint Paul, MN: Author.

¹³ Burt, M., & Cohen, B. (1989). *America's homeless: Numbers, characteristics, and the programs that serve them*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

Moreover, our figures do not include homeless persons in detoxification centers throughout the state. Figures supplied by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Chemical Dependency Division, show an additional 51 homeless people in detoxification centers throughout the state on October 26, 2000.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, our counts do not include people in temporary arrangements with friends on that date. Our survey shows that approximately two-thirds of all homeless persons in shelters occasionally stay with friends. 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.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

If we combine the above estimates and use the same methods for our 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000 data, we show the following result.

¹⁴ Wilder Research Center. (1990). *St. Paul overnight shelter board report*. Saint Paul, MN: Author.

¹⁵ 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.

Estimates of homeless and precariously housed persons in Minnesota on an October night in 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000

1991 ESTIMATE

Count or estimate		Number
Count	Persons in shelters or transitional housing programs	2,875
Count	Homeless persons in detoxification centers	65
Estimate ^a	Persons on the street (20% of total sheltered population)	575
Estimate ^b	“Doubled-up” children and youth (2.7 times sheltered youth and children)	2,525
Estimate ^c	“Doubled-up” adults	1,940
Total		7,980

1994 ESTIMATE

Count	Persons in shelters or transitional housing programs	4,190
Count	Homeless persons in detoxification centers	33
Estimate ^a	Persons on the street (20% of total sheltered population)	838
Estimate ^b	“Doubled-up” children and youth (2.7 times sheltered youth and children)	5,025
Estimate ^c	“Doubled-up” adults	2,329
Total		12,415

1997 ESTIMATE

Count	Persons in shelters or transitional housing programs	5,238
Count	Homeless persons in detoxification centers	55
Estimate ^a	Persons on the street (20% of total sheltered population)	1,048
Estimate ^b	“Doubled-up” children and youth (2.7 times sheltered youth and children)	6,639
Estimate ^c	“Doubled-up” adults	2,779
Total		15,759

2000 ESTIMATE

Count	Persons in shelters or transitional housing programs	7,121
Count	Homeless persons in detoxification centers	51
Estimate ^a	Persons on the street (20% of total sheltered population)	1,424
Estimate ^b	“Doubled-up” children and youth (2.7 times sheltered youth and children)	8,913
Estimate ^c	“Doubled-up” adults	3,820
Total		21,329

Methods for calculating these estimates:

- a) Estimate of persons on the street = Total sheltered population x (.20)

Based on the Urban Institute's 1989 study "America's Homeless," which found that the non-shelter-using population is between 20 and 40 percent of the sheltered population.

$$(2,875) \times (.20) = 575 \text{ for 1991}$$

$$(4,190) \times (.20) = 838 \text{ for 1994}$$

$$(5,238) \times (.20) = 1,048 \text{ for 1997}$$

$$(7,121) \times (.20) = 1,424 \text{ for 2000}$$

- b) 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 that found 2.7 times as many children and youth in doubled-up situations as in emergency shelters.

$$(935) \times (2.7) = 2,525 \text{ for 1991}$$

$$(1,869) \times (2.7) = 5,025 \text{ for 1994}$$

$$(2,459) \times (2.7) = 6,639 \text{ for 1997}$$

$$(3,301) \times (2.7) = 8,913 \text{ for 2000}$$

- c) Estimate of the number of adults "doubled-up" = Total number of sheltered adults

Based on Saint Paul Overnight Shelter Board 1990 study, which found as many people living in "doubled-up" circumstances as living in shelters.

$$(1,940) \text{ for 1991}$$

$$(2,329) \text{ for 1994}$$

$$(2,779) \text{ for 1997}$$

$$(3,820) \text{ for 2000}$$

Interviews conducted

The number of interviews conducted with adults and youth in temporary housing programs is shown below. In the Twin Cities metro area, 66 persons approached for an interview refused to participate, and in greater Minnesota, 56 persons refused. The overall response rate (including street locations) was 95 percent (96.1% in the Twin Cities metro area and 93.0% in greater Minnesota).

Number of adults (18 and older) interviewed in temporary housing programs

	Men interviewed	Women interviewed	Total interviewed	Total number of adults in temporary housing	Percent of total adult population interviewed
Twin Cities metro area					
Emergency shelters	320	188	508	1,326	38.3%
Battered women's shelters	-	118	118	157	75.2%
Transitional housing	225	525	750	1,520	49.3%
Greater Minnesota					
Emergency shelters	109	42	151	222	68.0%
Battered women's shelters	-	57	57	78	73.1%
Transitional housing	92	214	306	517	59.2%
Total	746	1,144	1,890	3,820	49.6%

Number of youth (17 and younger) interviewed in temporary housing programs¹⁶

	Males interviewed	Females interviewed	Total interviewed	Total number of youth in temporary housing	Percent of total youth population interviewed
Twin Cities metro area					
Emergency shelters	12	9	21	16	80.8%
Battered women's shelters	-	2	2	2	100.0%
Transitional housing	9	17	26	65	40.0%
Greater Minnesota					
Emergency shelters	35	20	55	60	91.7%
Battered women's shelters	-	-	-	-	-
Transitional housing	6	12	18	26	69.2%
Total	62	60	122	179	68.2%

¹⁶ Results of the youth survey are in a separate report, available from Wilder Research Center.

Introduction to survey results

This report presents study results in five ways:

- Responses to key questions frequently posed by funders and policy-makers.
- Comparisons of key indicators from the 1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000 statewide surveys.
- Descriptive overview of the characteristics of those who were homeless on October 26, 2000.
- Highlights of specific aspects of the homeless population, through comparison to U.S. Census data, personal accounts, and specialized analyses of homeless children and families, women fleeing abuse, barriers to employment, short vs. long-term homelessness, and homeless people in non-shelter locations.
- Detailed data tables that allow readers to examine specific survey questions broken down by locale (Twin Cities metro area vs. greater Minnesota), gender, and shelter type.

In addition, project staff are prepared to conduct specific analyses on an “at cost” basis.

Key questions

Does the study show an increase in the number of homeless people in Minnesota?

When we examine counts of the number of people using various types of temporary housing programs in Minnesota since 1991, we see a substantial increase in the total number.

The first statewide study of people without permanent shelter was conducted by Wilder Research Center in 1991. That study found 1,557 adults in the Twin Cities metro area and 383 adults in greater Minnesota shelters during the single night survey. This compares to 2,607 adults found in Twin Cities metro area temporary housing programs and 774 adults found in greater Minnesota temporary housing programs at the time of the 2000 survey. This represents a 67 percent increase in adults using temporary housing in the Twin Cities metro area and a 102 percent increase in greater Minnesota from 1991 to 2000.¹⁷

The first shelter counts to provide data for both the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota were conducted by the Minnesota Department of Economic Security in 1985. These counts, conducted quarterly (now by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning), show a substantial increase in the number of persons served in *all* temporary housing programs, including emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, and transitional programs. The following table compares the November 1985 counts to those conducted in conjunction with the most recent statewide survey (November 2000).

Men, women and children in Minnesota's temporary housing programs: 1985 and 2000

	November 1985		November 2000		Percent increase: 1985-2000	
	Twin Cities metro	Greater MN	Twin Cities metro	Greater MN	Twin Cities metro	Greater MN
Men	542	79	1,242	392	129%	396%
Women	275	53	1,365	382	396%	621%
Children	240	85	2,314	773	864%	809%
Total	1,057	217	4,921	1,547	366%	613%

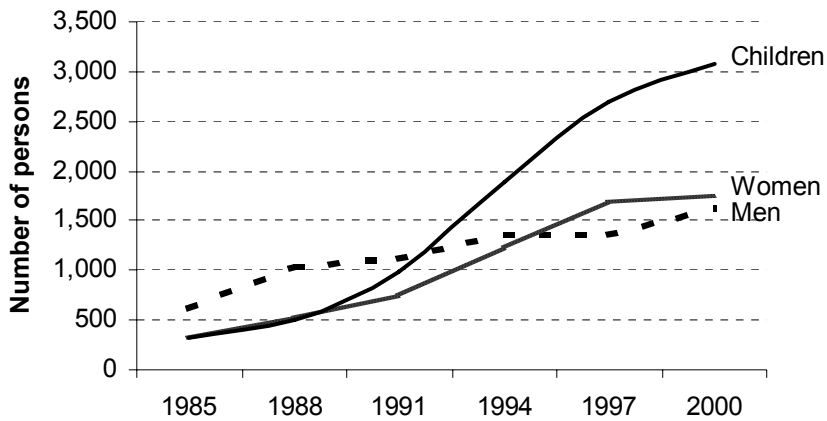
Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning, *Quarterly Shelter Surveys*; calculations by Wilder Research Center.

Note: "Children" in this table includes unaccompanied youth.

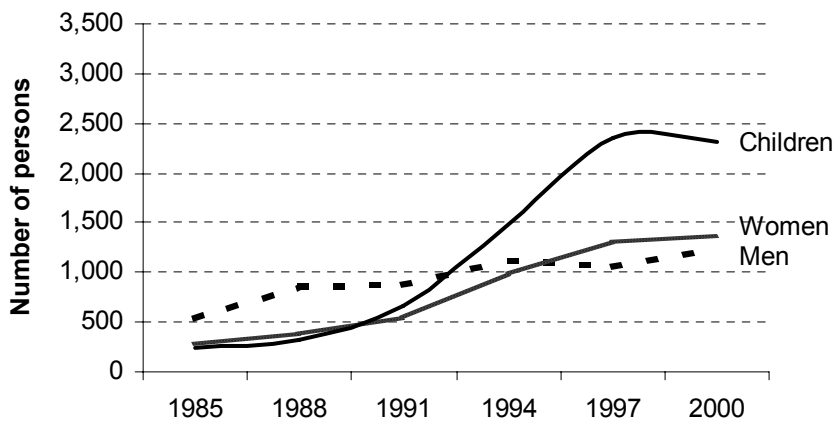
¹⁷ Wilder Research Center. (1992, June). *Homelessness in Minnesota: Homeless adults and their children*. Saint Paul, MN: Author.

The above table shows that the largest percentage increases in temporary housing program utilization have occurred among children in the Twin Cities metro area (864%) and in greater Minnesota (809%), and among women in greater Minnesota (621%). Overall, program use for men, women and children has increased by more than 366 percent across the state. The following graphs show changes in the shelter population over time for men, women and children.¹⁸

Total persons sheltered: Minnesota state total



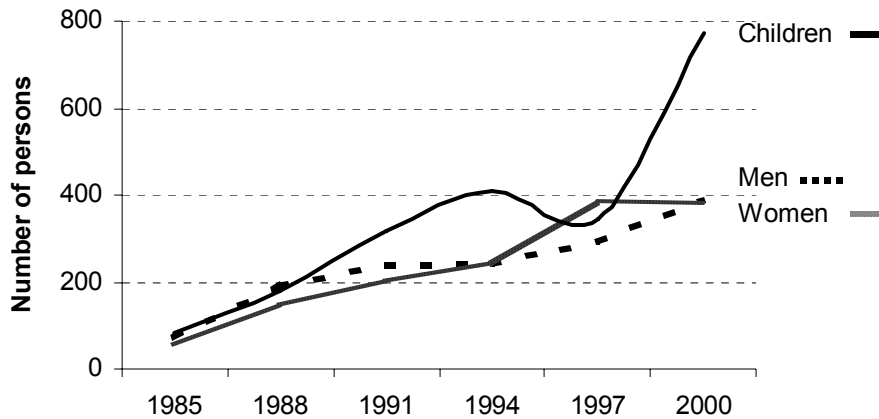
Total persons sheltered: Twin Cities metro area



Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning, Quarterly Shelter Surveys.

¹⁸ Ibid.

Total persons sheltered: Greater Minnesota



Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning, Quarterly Shelter Surveys.

It may fairly be asked whether the growth in the number of sheltered homeless people simply reflects a growth in the capacity of the system to serve them. Perhaps the actual number of homeless people stayed the same over the 1990s, while more shelter providers reached a higher and higher proportion of them. However, shelter census reports collected quarterly by the state show that the total number of homeless in the state has increased at least as fast as estimated in this study and that the number of turnaways has more than doubled since the last statewide survey. This suggests that growth in the number of homeless people in Minnesota is real and not simply an artifact of increasing transitional housing services.

Shelter capacity: Minnesota state total

	Nov. 1991	Nov. 1994	Nov. 1997	Nov. 2000
Shelter on-site capacity per night	3,168	5,017	5,367	6,695
Battered women's shelters	311	421	521	736
Overnight (emergency)	1,479	2,133	2,055	1,958
Youth (emergency)	196	186	222	302
Transitional	1,182	2,277	2,474	3,411
Youth transitional	-	-	95	288
Off-site (motel/hotel vouchers)	89	85	135	673
<i>Total shelter capacity per night</i>	<i>3,257</i>	<i>5,102</i>	<i>5,502</i>	<i>7,368</i>
Turnaways per night	201	676	467	1,025
Turnaways as % of capacity	6.3%	13.5%	8.4%	13.9%

Source: Wilder Research Center calculations, based on data from Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning.

Notes: On-site capacity includes safe waiting but not motel/hotel vouchers. The November 2000 capacity figure has been updated from that reported in Wilder's February 2000 preliminary findings.

How does the shortage of affordable housing affect homelessness in Minnesota?

As this survey illustrates, homelessness involves many factors beyond the purely financial. However, the gap between wages and housing costs plays an increasing role in Minnesota homelessness.

This gap was highlighted in a January 2001 report by the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor.¹⁹ The report stated that average rents in the Twin Cities metro area increased 34 percent between 1990 and 1999, while the median household income of renters grew by only 9 percent. Rents rose most sharply in the last few years, and the rental market is projected to become even tighter during the decade to come.

The Legislative Auditor's report estimated that the average rent in the Twin Cities metro area was \$664 for a one-bedroom apartment and \$815 for a two-bedroom apartment in 2000.

The commonly accepted definition of housing affordability is no more than 30 percent of income for low-income households because, above this amount, not enough money remains to weather financial setbacks.

More than 10 percent of working homeless adults earn less than \$6.00 per hour. At this pay rate, even two full-time workers in the same household would pay 32 percent of their income for a typical one-bedroom apartment, or 39 percent for a two-bedroom apartment. A single adult would spend 48 percent of income for a typical efficiency apartment, at \$504 monthly rent.

Over one-third of Minnesota's working homeless adults earn \$6.00 to \$7.70 per hour. A full-time worker in this pay range could afford a monthly rent of \$312 to \$400. A typical one-bedroom apartment in the Twin Cities metro area would take 50 to 64 percent of their income.

About one-third of working homeless adults earn \$7.70 to \$9.60 per hour, making rents of \$400 to \$500 affordable. The average one-bedroom apartment would cost 40 to 50 percent of the monthly income of a full-time worker in this range.

More than 20 percent of working homeless are earning \$9.60 to \$12.00 per hour. In this range, they could afford \$500 to \$625 per month for housing, which is still less than the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment.

¹⁹ Office of the Legislative Auditor. (2001). *Affordable Housing*. Saint Paul, MN: Author.

The figure below shows the sizes of apartments that homeless adults report they would need, and the amounts they would be able to pay. Twin Cities metro area fair market rents are also shown for comparison. 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 Section 8 housing voucher.²⁰

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

Size of apartment needed (number of bedrooms)	Percent of homeless adults needing this size apartment	Average amount individual would be able to pay per month	Fair market rent, Twin Cities metropolitan area, 2001
0 (efficiency)	13.2%	\$243	\$451
1 bedroom	43.1%	\$315	\$580
2 bedrooms	23.6%	\$407	\$742
3 bedrooms	15.4%	\$546	\$1004
4 bedrooms	3.7%	\$614	\$1137
5 bedrooms	0.9%	\$566	\$1308

Source: Homeless data, Wilder Research Center. Fair market rents, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

A significant proportion of homeless adults report problems with credit, evictions, or rental history, and over half say the lack of affordable housing is a barrier to getting housing. If a person is evicted, the resulting unlawful detainer remains in their record for years, and makes it almost impossible to compete with other renters in a tight housing market. In this way, high rents and low vacancy rates often combine with low wages to create a cycle that is difficult to break.

Public housing and other housing subsidy programs such as Section 8 are intended to help low-income people afford housing. However, over half of homeless adults in the 2000 sample (55%) reported that they were currently on a waiting list for public housing (with a median waiting time of five months), and another 30 percent said they had tried to get on a waiting list but couldn't because it was too long. Additionally, 10 percent reported that in the past two years they had received a housing voucher that they were unable to use, either because they couldn't find any place that would accept it, or because it had expired or been revoked.

²⁰ However, HUD policy has recently recognized that this amount may not be enough in some especially tight housing markets, including the Twin Cities metro area, and now allows Section 8 vouchers in these markets to be used for apartments renting at up to 50 percent of local average.

How many homeless people just need affordable housing, with no need for additional services?

Wilder Research Center attempted to estimate the number of homeless individuals whose main need is for affordable housing, and who seem likely to be able to retain that housing without additional social services. To do this, researchers excluded the following categories of individuals:

- Recent diagnosis with any serious mental illness
- Recent diagnosis with alcohol or chemical abuse disorder
- Less than a high school education
- Diagnosis of AIDS or HIV
- Unemployed for over a month
- Left last housing because of drinking or drug use
- Ever had difficulty getting or keeping housing because of health, physical disabilities, criminal background, mental health, or abuse of others

This categorization yields a conservative estimate of those whose needs are for affordable housing and not services. Some of those assumed to need only housing might also need services; however, it is likely that a higher proportion of those assumed to need services would actually be able to maintain stable housing with only the services already available to the general population.

The result of this analysis suggests that 21 percent, or about one in five of currently homeless individuals, would be able to sustain stable housing if they could just find housing they could afford. The figure below shows how this proportion varies among different groups within the homeless population.

Proportion of homeless adults who could potentially maintain stable housing with affordable housing only, no additional services

	Percent
Among overall homeless adult population	21%
Among those homeless less than one month	29%
Among those homeless 1 month to 1 year	23%
Among those homeless more than 1 year	14%
Among adults who have children with them	26%
Among adults who have no children with them	18%
Among Caucasian individuals	16%
Among members of other racial and ethnic groups	23%
Among men	19%
Among women	22%
Among those age 18-34	24%
Among those age 35 or older	19%
Among those abused, pregnant, or institutionalized before age 18	15%
Among those not abused, pregnant, or institutionalized before age 18	26%
Among those in the 7-county Twin Cities metro area	22%
Among those in greater Minnesota	15%
Among those living in Minnesota two years or less	26%
Among those living in Minnesota three years or more	19%
Among those interviewed in an emergency shelter	21%
Among those interviewed in transitional housing	22%
Among those interviewed in a battered women's shelter	23%
Among those interviewed in a non-shelter location	10%

A survey conducted at a single point in time, such as the one reported here, has a greater chance of finding and counting individuals who have been homeless for a long time, and is less likely to include individuals whose homeless experience is short. The above analysis of subgroups shows that people with shorter experiences of homelessness are more likely to need only housing and not also services. Therefore, while affordable housing might solve the problems for about 21 percent of adults who are homeless on a given day in Minnesota, it would probably solve the problems for a substantially larger proportion of all those who are homeless (or at risk of becoming so) over the course of any given year.

Are the people who experience homelessness different from those who have regular housing?

In some ways, the homeless and non-homeless are very much alike. Both populations have approximately equal numbers of males and females. Families in both groups, on average, have about the same number of children. However, slightly more homeless men are military veterans (31%) than in the general U.S. population (24%).²¹ A closer look shows some other important differences.

First, those who are homeless in Minnesota are much more likely to be persons of color, particularly African Americans in the Twin Cities metro area and American Indians in greater Minnesota. The following table shows the racial and ethnic background of adults who are homeless in comparison to the general adult population of Minnesota according to the 2000 Census.

Racial and ethnic backgrounds of all Minnesota residents compared to people without permanent shelter

	White or Caucasian	African American	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	“Other” and Mixed Racial Background	Hispanic Origin^a
All adults in the Twin Cities metro area (2000 Census)	87.5%	5.0%	0.7%	3.9%	2.9%	3.1%
Homeless adults in the Twin Cities metro area (2000 survey)	26.3%	56.7% ^b	7.6%	1.2%	8.2%	6.6%
All adults in greater Minnesota (2000 Census)	95.9%	0.6%	1.2%	0.9%	1.4%	1.6%
Homeless adults in greater Minnesota (2000 survey)	60.0%	14.4% ^c	19.9%	0.2%	5.5%	6.3%

Notes: (a) Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

(b) Includes 2.6% who identified themselves as African natives.

(c) Includes 0.6% who identified themselves as African natives.

²¹ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Analysis, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program and Data Analysis. (2000, March). *The changing veteran population: 1990-2000*. Washington, DC: Author.

Second, those who are homeless have often had a difficult start in life. In fact, about half of all adults (48%) in the present study were either abused as children, had a child before the age of 18, or lived in an out-of-home placement as a youth.

Third, violence is often a factor in the lives of homeless people. An abusive partner is one of the most frequently cited reasons for homelessness mentioned by women (27%). This was also true in 1991, 1994, and 1997. Violent neighborhoods and unsafe schools in their former place of residence, or better or safer conditions here, are frequently cited by homeless families as reasons they left another state to come to Minnesota. Eleven percent of homeless men, and 16 percent of women, report having had to seek health care within the past 12 months as a result of violence, and slightly more (13% of men, 18% of women) report having been physically or sexually attacked or beaten while they were without a home. Not surprisingly, the numbers are higher among residents of battered women's shelters and among the homeless individuals in unsheltered locations.

Fourth, alcoholism continues to be a major factor in homelessness. One-fourth of all homeless women (25%) and nearly half of all homeless men (48%) report current problems with alcohol. Forty percent of all men have been admitted to a detox center. For comparison, a 1997 national study found that 15.3 percent of Americans age 12 and older were binge drinkers in any given month (had 5 or more drinks on the same occasion), and 5.4 percent were heavy drinkers (engaged in binge drinking five or more different days of the month).²² The Surgeon General estimates that approximately 5 percent of adult Americans have an alcohol abuse disorder in a year, and 15 percent are likely to have an alcohol abuse disorder at some time in their life.²³

Fifth, whether as a result or cause of homelessness, 36 percent of adults who are homeless are also experiencing severe mental illness. That is, they have been diagnosed within the past two years with one of six serious and persistent mental disorders, or have received inpatient or outpatient treatment for mental illness in the past two years. By comparison, community surveys of the general population show that at any given time, approximately 20 percent of U.S. adults are experiencing some form of mental illness, including 5.4 percent experiencing a severe mental illness.²⁴

²² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (1998). *Preliminary results from the 1997 national household survey on drug abuse*. Rockville, MD: Author.

²³ 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.

²⁴ Ibid.

These differences do not mean that those experiencing homelessness cannot be successful in finding permanent housing, or that efforts to prevent homelessness cannot succeed. On the contrary, public and private agencies now invest substantial resources in programs that have been shown to be effective in reducing child abuse, teenage pregnancy, out-of-home placements, substance abuse, and domestic violence – factors known to be associated with homelessness. In addition, transitional and supportive housing programs have successfully placed and maintained troubled individuals in stable housing. Nonetheless, Minnesota’s efforts to provide services and opportunities to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming so must take into account the significant barriers to be overcome in many cases.

Has the homeless population in Minnesota changed during the 1990s?

Wilder Research Center has conducted statewide homeless surveys in October 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000. At least four important differences can be observed.

First, it is increasingly common to be both working and homeless. Those who were homeless in 2000 were twice as likely to be employed as those interviewed in 1991. The percentages of homeless persons who are employed increased from 19 percent to 41 percent over this time period, and the percentage with full-time jobs more than tripled from 8 to 26 percent. Over one-quarter of all homeless adults now report their main source of income is from steady employment.

Second, the proportion of homeless who are families with children has increased. In 1991, half of women (52%) and only 4 percent of men had children with them. In 2000, two-thirds of women (66%) and one-tenth of men (10%) had children with them.

Third, the proportion with serious and persistent mental illness has increased. Twenty percent of homeless adults surveyed in 1994 reported a serious mental illness, whereas 36 percent reported such problems in 2000.²⁵

Fourth, the configuration of temporary housing programs has changed. While the number of emergency shelters and battered women's shelters has remained fairly steady, the number of transitional housing programs has more than doubled (from 41 to 98) during the 1990s. Caucasian women constituted the majority of transitional housing residents in both 1991 and 1994, but this began to change by 1997. African American women now outnumber Caucasian women in transitional housing programs (42% vs. 37% in 2000).

²⁵ Because questions about mental health were asked differently in 1991, it is not possible to compare 2000 results with those from 1991.

The focus on transitional housing means that Minnesota is investing more time and effort in programs designed to help people make “transitions” to stable housing rather than on programs focused only on temporary relief. Nonetheless, the diminishing stock of affordable housing makes it increasingly difficult for persons leaving transitional programs to find housing that they can afford. It also causes people to stay longer in transitional housing while they search for alternatives, reducing the openings in transitional programs available for people in emergency shelters, thereby causing longer stays in emergency shelters as well. In addition, transitional programs continue to serve mostly women and families, with relatively few openings for single men.

Are those who are homeless in Minnesota different from those who are homeless in other states?

Not all states conduct comparable studies of homelessness. In fact, Minnesota is unique in both its training methods and use of volunteer interviewers. Nonetheless, a recent nationally representative study of homeless individuals from across the United States provides some useful comparisons.

Comparison of recent national and Minnesota homelessness surveys

	National survey of homeless assistance providers and clients (N=2,272)^a	Wilder’s 2000 Minnesota study (N=4,201)^b
Women	84% of parents 23% of single adults	89% of parents 31% of single adults
Homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old (17 and 24, national sample)	26% of parents 10% of single adults	26% of parents 16% of single adults
Average number of children who accompany homeless parents	2.2	2.4
Persons of color	62% of parents 59% of single adults	73% of parents 60% of single adults
Less than high school education	53% of parents 37% of single adults	28% of parents 22% of single adults
Attended some college	27% of parents 28% of single adults	27% of parents 29% of single adults
Lived in foster care or other group/institutional setting as a child	27%	32%
Physically or sexually abused as a child	25%	37%
Multiple episodes of homelessness	51%	40%
3 months or less without permanent shelter (current episode)	49% of parents 23% of single adults	30% of parents 38% of single adults
One year or less without permanent shelter (current episode)	54%	63%
5 years or more without permanent shelter	20%	6%

Comparison of recent national and Minnesota homelessness surveys (continued)

	National survey of homeless assistance providers and clients (N=2,272)^a	Wilder's 2000 Minnesota study (N=4,201)^b
Indicators of mental health problems	39% past month 45% past year	34% currently 55% past 2 years
Indicators of alcohol abuse, drug abuse, OR mental health problem	66% past month 74% past year	56% currently 60% past 2 years
Current HIV/AIDS	3%	1.5%
Current tuberculosis	3%	1%
Chronic health conditions such as arthritis, high blood pressure, diabetes	46%	45%
Have been physically or sexually assaulted while homeless	Physically: 22% Sexually: 7%	15%
Mean income, previous month ^c	\$382 single adults \$521 parents	\$542 single adults \$778 parents
Received income in previous month from regular employment	20%	35%
Received income in previous month from child support	1%	4%
Received food stamps in previous month	37%	41%
Of families with children, received AFDC (national sample) or MFIP (Minnesota)	52%	63%
Received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in previous month	11%	11%
Came to current location because of presence of relatives or friends	25%	29%
Came to current location because of possibility of work	16%	48%
Came to current location because of availability of shelters, missions, and other services ^d	Shelters or missions 21% Services/programs 19%	Shelters 2% Social services 2% Treatment 9%
Military veteran	33% of men	31% of men

Notes: (a) Burt, M.R., Aron, L.Y., Douglas, T., Valente, J., Lee, E., and Iwen, B. (1999.) *The Forgotten Americans—Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, December, 1999. 4,207 individuals were interviewed, of whom 2,272 were homeless at the time of the interview. Figures reported here are only for those 2,272. Since the youngest was 17, their responses are compared with Minnesota's adult sample (age 18 and older).

(b) Weighted sample based on 2,271 interviews with adult respondents.

(c) Original 1996 figures from the national survey converted to 2000 dollars using Consumer Price Index for inflation rate.

(d) Question asked as a series of closed-ended questions in national survey (respondent could answer yes or no to the response categories given), as an open-ended question in the Wilder survey (respondent provided own answers, which were coded into categories).

Although remarkably similar, the two samples show some interesting differences. For example, a higher percentage of homeless adults in Minnesota are people of color compared with the national sample, and a higher percentage are women. Homeless adults in Minnesota are much more likely to have a high school diploma than their counterparts nationally, though no more likely to have attended college. Minnesotans report a higher incidence of foster care and other institutional placements than do respondents nationally, and a higher incidence of childhood physical or sexual abuse. However, Minnesota's homeless are less likely than those nationally to have experienced multiple episodes of homelessness, and their current episode is more likely to have lasted one year or less. Minnesota's homeless adults report a higher monthly income than do the national sample, even after adjusting for inflation. They are less likely than the national sample to report coming to their current location in order to access shelters or other social services or programs, although because of the different ways in which the question was asked in the two surveys, the difference may be less than it appears.

Does Minnesota attract people who have experienced homelessness in other states?

There are two important issues to keep in mind when asking this question. First, we do not know how many people leave Minnesota to utilize programs for the homeless in other states, although the response to the national survey of homeless adults cited above suggests this occurs throughout the country. Second, those who are homeless move to Minnesota for many of the same reasons as those who have regular housing. Welfare benefits alone cannot account for the migration patterns of homeless people to Minnesota. Reasonably safe schools and high quality human services as well as the presence of friends or family and the possibility of employment are also part of the mix. No single factor explains why a homeless family in Milwaukee, Chicago, Fargo, San Diego, or Gary decides to move to Minnesota.

When survey respondents who have lived in Minnesota for two years or less are asked why they came to Minnesota, the answers parallel those given by recent arrivals who have their own housing: to find work, better schools, be closer to relatives or friends, escape an unsafe neighborhood or an abusive partner (see Detail Tables in the Appendix). As reported above, they are less likely than a national sample of homeless adults to report having come here in order to access shelters or other social services or programs.

Approximately 28 percent of those who are homeless in the Twin Cities metro area and 26 percent of those who are homeless in greater Minnesota have lived in the state for two years or less. Of this group, about one-fourth of Twin Cities metro area respondents (28%) and nearly half of the greater Minnesota respondents (47%) had previously lived in the state. Compared to the results of the 1997 statewide survey, this represents the same percentage of homeless men and women who have lived in Minnesota for two years or less. This percentage

is a decline from earlier years (39% were recent migrants according to both the 1991 and 1994 surveys).

What barriers prevent homeless people from finding and maintaining housing?

Results of the survey allow us to identify certain potential barriers to housing among individuals who are homeless. To some extent it is also possible to identify different types of barriers among different groups. In the 2000 survey, 94 percent of homeless adults had at least one of the barriers listed below, and 79 percent had two or more.

- Not currently employed.
- Current homeless episode is not the first.
- Diagnosed with serious or persistent mental illness within the last two years.
- Homeless for over one year (current episode).
- Could pay less than \$200 per month for rent.
- Diagnosed with alcohol or drug abuse disorder within the last two years.
- Credit problems (self-reports credit problems as a current barrier to housing).
- Would need more than a two-bedroom apartment.
- Criminal background (in a correctional facility within the last two years, or self-reports criminal history as a current barrier to housing).
- Unlawful detainers (self-reports court eviction or bad rental history as a current barrier to housing).
- Lack of local rental history (self-reports no local rental history as a current barrier to housing).
- Serious health problem or physical disability (diagnosed with tuberculosis, hepatitis, or HIV/AIDS, or self-reports health problem or physical disability as a current barrier to housing).

The following tables show, for persons living in Minnesota's temporary housing programs and those on the street on October 26, 2000, the percent that face each of the potential housing barriers described above.

Proportion of homeless adults with each of the potential barriers to housing, by gender, region, and shelter type

	ALL ADULTS (N=4,201)	Men (N=2,080)	Women (N=2,121)	Twin Cities metro (N=3,210)	Greater MN (N=991)	Emergency Shelter (N=1,548)	Battered Women's Shelter (N=235)	Transitional Housing (N=2,037)	Street (N=381)
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Not currently employed	59.0	57.4	60.4	55.5	70.0	61.8	73.2	51.7	77.7
Been homeless before	39.5	41.2	37.8	37.4	46.2	37.7	31.1	40.0	49.3
Mental health diagnosis	36.4	34.4	38.4	34.3	43.4	32.6	38.7	38.6	39.1
Homeless > 1 year	35.4	40.0	30.9	37.5	28.5	35.0	10.2	38.2	37.8
Could pay <\$200 per month	22.3	26.8	17.8	19.0	32.8	22.6	16.6	19.8	37.5
Substance abuse diagnosis	22.1	29.9	14.4	20.3	27.7	21.1	8.9	23.1	28.9
Credit problems	20.4	14.7	25.9	20.6	19.5	16.2	24.7	23.1	19.9
Need >2 bedrooms	19.9	6.0	33.6	19.3	22.1	13.9	32.8	25.8	5.5
Criminal background	17.6	22.5	12.9	16.7	20.6	18.2	11.1	15.6	29.9
Eviction/bad rental history	15.1	10.4	19.6	17.0	8.8	15.1	17.4	15.2	13.1
No local rental history	11.9	14.2	9.6	12.8	8.9	15.2	7.7	9.2	15.5
Serious health problem/ physical disability	8.8	10.8	6.8	9.3	7.3	9.9	4.3	8.9	6.8
None of these barriers	6.4	8.5	4.3	7.1	4.1	7.4	3.8	6.7	2.1
Just one barrier	14.6	14.3	14.8	15.8	10.5	16.1	21.2	13.9	7.9
Average number of housing barriers	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.00	3.36	2.99	2.77	3.09	3.61

Proportion of homeless adults with each of the potential barriers to housing, by other key characteristics

	ALL ADULTS (N=4,201) Percent	Homeless 1 yr (N=2,566) Percent	Single (N=2,767) Percent	Parent (N=1,434) Percent	Caucasian (N=1,351) Percent	Non- Caucasian (N=2,783) Percent	Age 18-34 (N=1,825) Percent	35 or older (N=2,376) Percent	In MN 0-2 yrs (N=1,165) Percent	In MN 3+ yrs (N=3,029) Percent	Crisis^a (N=917) Percent	Episodic^a (N=510) Percent	Chronic^a (N=709) Percent
Not currently employed	59.0	59.8	60.3	56.3	61.5	57.8	58.8	59.1	58.5	59.1	61.0	65.9	71.7
Been homeless before	39.5	36.6	41.7	35.1	44.9	36.9	38.1	40.5	30.5	43.0	0.0	100.0	45.8
Mental health diagnosis	36.4	32.7	41.1	27.5	50.2	29.9	31.9	39.9	25.2	40.7	25.3	44.7	38.5
Homeless > 1 year	35.4	0.0	38.9	28.6	37.9	34.2	27.1	41.8	23.9	39.8	0.0	0.0	100.0
Could pay <\$200 per month	22.3	21.2	28.2	10.9	28.6	19.0	20.5	23.6	23.8	21.6	19.8	25.5	30.3
Substance abuse diagnosis	22.1	18.3	30.0	6.9	30.7	17.9	13.2	28.9	13.4	25.4	11.5	24.5	31.6
Credit problems	20.4	21.5	15.9	28.9	22.7	19.4	24.7	17.0	14.4	22.6	17.2	23.5	14.6
Need >2 bedrooms	19.9	22.5	3.8	51.1	14.1	22.9	24.4	16.5	19.8	20.0	19.3	15.7	7.5
Criminal background	17.6	13.7	22.1	9.1	16.7	18.0	16.5	18.4	11.6	19.9	11.7	22.5	27.6
Eviction/bad rental history	15.1	14.2	12.5	20.0	14.1	15.7	14.4	15.6	5.2	18.9	11.7	18.4	17.2
No local rental history	11.9	11.1	13.8	8.2	9.1	13.2	14.1	10.2	15.5	10.5	12.5	14.9	17.1
Serious health problem/physical disability	8.8	7.4	11.2	4.1	10.8	7.9	4.4	12.2	5.7	10.0	5.2	8.6	13.4
None of these barriers	6.4	9.3	7.5	4.2	3.3	7.6	5.3	7.2	12.1	4.2	14.3	0.0	0.0
Just one barrier	14.6	19.3	14.1	15.4	11.4	16.1	17.5	12.3	17.4	13.5	27.0	8.4	4.9
Average number of housing barriers	3.08	2.59	3.19	2.87	3.41	2.93	2.88	3.24	2.47	3.32	1.95 ^b	3.64 ^b	4.15 ^b

Notes: (a) The categories “crisis,” “episodic,” and “chronic” refer to frequency and duration of homeless episodes. These terms are defined on page 8.

(b) Excluding number and duration of homeless episodes (used in defining membership in crisis, episodic, or chronic homeless groupings), the average number of barriers for crisis homeless individuals was 1.95; episodic, 2.64; chronic, 2.36.

The tables above show that unemployment (59%) is the most common barrier to housing, followed by serious mental illness (36%), and multiple and/or lengthy episodes of homelessness (40% homeless more than once, 35% homeless more than a year during current episode). Inability to pay \$200 or more per month for rent (22%), substance abuse disorders (22%), credit problems (20%), and the need for more than a two-bedroom unit (20%) were also mentioned by at least one-fifth of the respondents. Approximately 6 percent of homeless adults had none of these barriers, and another 15 percent had only one. On average, homeless adults in the 2000 survey had just about three barriers.

However, for certain sub-groups, the picture is quite different. Among homeless adults who have children with them, the need for an apartment with more than two bedrooms is the second most commonly reported barrier (51%), and credit problems are just as likely as mental health problems or a lengthy experience with homelessness (28-29%). At the same time, homeless parents are more likely than single adults to report being able to afford more than \$200 per month for rent. Caucasian people who are homeless are significantly more likely than members of other racial or ethnic groups to report having multiple or long experiences with homelessness, having mental health or substance abuse problems, and being able to afford \$200 or less for rent. Those who are under age 35 are more likely to report having credit problems or needing a large apartment, and less likely to report having substance abuse, health, or mental health problems. Those who are newer to Minnesota (two years or less) are less likely than longer-term residents to report substance abuse, health, or mental health problems, multiple or extended histories of homelessness, or credit or eviction problems.

As one might suspect from the fact that so many people have more than one of these barriers, these barriers are often related to each other. For example, mental illness, especially if untreated, makes it more difficult to maintain steady employment and stable housing, and the lack of stable housing makes it more difficult to participate successfully in a regular course of mental health treatment. However, 21 percent of homeless individuals, and 41 percent of those who are in their first episode of homelessness and have been without permanent shelter for less than one year (those in the “crisis” category) have no barriers or only one barrier. Among individuals with only one barrier, nearly one-third (32%) reported lack of current employment as their only barrier.

The tables above show that lengthy or multiple episodes of homelessness are problems for many, and also that those who have been homeless for less than one year have fewer barriers to housing. This suggests that when people become homeless, especially for the first time, helping them regain stable housing quickly may help to avoid the trauma and costs associated with lengthy or repeated homelessness. Unfortunately, Minnesota does not currently have enough affordable housing to make this possible, resulting in people

staying in shelters for many months while they look for housing. During this time, people who have problems that might have been manageable in secure circumstances (such as mental or physical health problems) are likely to experience the problem at an increased level because of the stressful and unstable living conditions. In addition, they will find it harder to get or to retain jobs.

The following table shows the number of barriers faced by men and women in different types of shelter situations.

Number of housing barriers, by gender and shelter type

	Shelter Type							
	Emergency shelter		Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing		Street	
	N	P	N	P	N	P	N	P
None of the listed barriers								
Men	88	8.4%	-	-	85	11.1%	3	1.1%
Women	27	5.4%	9	3.8%	51	4.0%	5	4.2%
1 barrier								
Men	167	15.9%	-	-	115	15.0%	16	6.1%
Women	82	16.5%	50	2.1%	168	13.2%	14	11.9%
2 barriers								
Men	213	20.3%	-	-	168	21.9%	46	17.5%
Women	83	16.7%	49	20.8%	277	21.8%	18	15.3%
3 barriers								
Men	188	17.9%	-	-	108	14.1%	62	23.6%
Women	115	23.1%	52	22.0%	288	22.7%	25	21.2%
4 barriers								
Men	175	16.7%	-	-	105	13.7%	61	23.2%
Women	98	19.7%	43	18.2%	216	17.0%	27	22.9%
5 barriers								
Men	110	10.5%	-	-	78	10.2%	36	13.7%
Women	59	11.9%	20	8.5%	163	12.9%	17	14.4%
6 barriers								
Men	58	5.5%	-	-	55	7.2%	22	8.4%
Women	17	3.4%	11	4.7%	48	3.8%	5	4.2%
7 barriers								
Men	31	3.0%	-	-	39	5.1%	10	3.8%
Women	14	2.8%	2	0.8%	38	3.0%	5	4.2%
8 barriers								
Men	20	1.9%	-	-	15	2.0%	6	2.3%
Women	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	14	1.1%	2	1.7%
9 barriers								
Men	0	0.0%	-	-	0	0.0%	1	0.4%
Women	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.4%	0	0.0%
Total – Men	1,050	-	0	-	768	-	263	-
Total – Women	497	-	236	-	1,268	-	118	-

What works in helping homeless people find and maintain housing? What does it cost?

A review of published literature on programs and services for the homeless suggests some approaches worth considering in Minnesota to help move homeless individuals into stable housing. Many different kinds of programs are in operation across the United States, reflecting the fact that people without permanent shelter experience many different kinds of barriers to housing, and no one type of program is likely to be appropriate for most. Furthermore, since the vast majority have more than one kind of problem, the more successful approaches are flexible enough to address a variety of issues simultaneously. Wilder Research Center staff consulted sources that have reviewed the published literature about programs to help house homeless individuals, and what follows summarizes the most pertinent findings.

Strategies to address the cost of housing

- A study of New York City families who left emergency shelters for subsidized housing compared them with a matched sample of families who left shelters for whatever housing they could find on their own. The two groups were similar with respect to age, race, education, work history, teen motherhood, mental illness, substance abuse, and health problems, but the non-subsidized housing group included more women who had experienced domestic violence. After a three-year follow-up period, 84 percent of families who had received subsidized housing were still in stable housing, compared with only 9 percent of families who did not receive subsidized housing on exit. Only 15 percent of families in the subsidized housing group had returned to the shelter system at any time during the three years, compared with 43 percent of the families who had found their own housing.²⁶
- A longitudinal study in Alameda County, California, followed a random sample of 397 emergency shelter residents for 15 months to determine what personal characteristics and/or economic resources were most likely to be associated with their success in achieving housing stability (leaving the shelter system for residence in a house, apartment, or room, and remaining there for the rest of the study follow-up period). The study found the most important factors – those most strongly related to success – were subsidized housing and the consistent receipt of entitlement income from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Supplemental Security

²⁶ Stojanovic, D., Weitzman, B. C., Shinn, M., Labay, L.E., & Williams, N. P. (1999). Tracing the path out of homelessness: The housing patterns of families after exiting shelter. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 27(2), 199-208.

Income (SSI), General Assistance (GA), or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Overall, during the 15 months of the study, only 15 percent of individuals studied exited the shelter system for stable housing. Twenty-one percent did not exit homelessness (for at least 30 consecutive days) during the period, and 64 percent exited into unstable housing (obtained a residence for at least 30 consecutive days but did not remain in it for the balance of the study). Individuals with substance abuse disorders were less likely to achieve stable housing, but those with severe mental illness or dual diagnoses were no more or less likely to achieve stable housing.²⁷

Strategies to address needs of homeless people with substance abuse disorders, mental illness, or dual diagnoses

- The Health, Housing, and Integrated Services Network program of the California Corporation for Supportive Housing addresses the needs of homeless individuals who are resistant to treatment and cannot be served by shelter programs that make services conditional on sobriety. “Meeting clients where they are,” they provide housing in which the emphasis is on harm reduction – lowering the chances of illness, death, violence, and disease transmission – until the individual reaches the point at which they will accept treatment. Continued substance use is assumed, although not condoned, and policies are in place to assure that it does not threaten the safety or well-being of others, while simultaneously encouraging reduction or cessation of use. The program also provides vocational and employment services. Early evaluation results show a 57 percent reduction in hospital inpatient days, a 58 percent reduction in emergency room use, and a 100 percent reduction in residential mental health care.²⁸
- The General Accounting Office cites the multiple problems typical of many homeless individuals, and finds that the coordination of services is important. They cite a study finding that homeless people with serious mental illness who participated in programs using an integrated treatment approach (multiple services from a single provider) spent more days in stable housing than did those receiving services from multiple providers, and also reduced their alcohol use more.²⁹ Supporting this finding, an evaluation of the supportive housing programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development found that success was commonly linked to case management that ensured effective links between shelter and multiple supportive

²⁷ Zlotnick, C., Robertson, M. J., & Lahiff, M. (1999). Getting off the streets: Economic resources and residential exits from homelessness. *Journal of Community Psychology, 27*(2), 209-224.

²⁸ U.S. General Accounting Office. (2000, December). *Mental health: Community-based care increases for people with serious mental illness* (GAO-01-224). Washington, DC: Author.

²⁹ Ibid.

services.³⁰ Homeless individuals served in such programs tended to have multiple problems, including alcohol and substance abuse, HIV/AIDS diagnosis, developmental disabilities, and/or experience of domestic violence. The evaluation found that 69 percent of individuals served remained in stable housing for at least one year, including 68 percent of those with severe mental illness and 78 percent of those with developmental disabilities.

Strategies to reduce homelessness following discharge from correctional facilities, hospitals, and treatment facilities

- A three-county demonstration program in California targets those who are released from emergency rooms, jails, and other facilities who are at risk of homelessness due to mental health problems. The program also works with mentally ill individuals living in non-sheltered locations to develop their trust and eventually induce them to accept treatment and shelter. According to a recent state legislative report, early data on more than 1,100 individuals served since the program started in November 1999 showed a 78 percent reduction in the number of days spent in the hospital, 85 percent reduction in the number of days spent in jail, and a 69 percent reduction in the number of days spent homeless. In Los Angeles County, full-time employment among the program's clients increased 155 percent. The savings resulting from decreased hospitalization and incarceration exceeded \$7.3 million, or more than half of the state's initial investment of \$14 million in the program.³¹
- The General Accounting Office reports that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in studies of programs to divert adults with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders from the criminal justice system into community-based treatment, has found that "diversion programs are often the most effective way to integrate an array of mental health, substance abuse, and other support services to help people break the cycle of repeated incarceration."³²

Studies that compare the cost of providing services with the cost of not providing services

- A forthcoming study of New York City's supportive housing program analyzed administrative data from multiple service sectors to assess the cost of providing services and cost increases or savings as a result of the services. The supportive housing

³⁰ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (1995, January). Stewart B. McKinney homeless programs PD&R report to Congress. Washington, DC: Author.

³¹ Rivera, C. (2001, May 12). Mentally ill find dramatic success in state program. *Los Angeles Times*.

³² U.S. General Accounting Office. (2000, December). *Mental health: Community-based care increases for people with serious mental illness* (GAO-01-224). Washington, DC: Author.

program, targeted at homeless individuals with severe mental illness, provided subsidized permanent housing together with social service support. In addition to records for 4,679 program clients, records were examined for a control sample who were similar with respect to demographic factors (gender, race, and age), indicators of mental illness and substance use, and service use in the two years prior to the program. The average two-year cost per supportive housing placement was \$25,778. In the first two years after placement, the program saved an average of \$24,290 per participant, from reduced homeless shelter services (83 days, \$2,819), reduced mental health services (28 days, \$6,162), reduced public hospital costs (3.5 days, \$1,321), reduced Medicaid-reimbursed inpatient health care (9 days, \$2,825), increased Medicaid-reimbursed outpatient health care (47 days, \$1,982), reduced Veterans' Administration health care (2 days, \$444), reduced state prison incarceration (8 days, \$312), and reduced local city incarceration (4 days, \$245). In two years, the program recouped \$117.8 million in public costs for 3,615 individuals served whose records were complete enough to be examined. This amount is approximately 90 percent of the \$131.6 million total cost of providing supportive housing to those individuals for the same two years (operating, service, and debt service costs). This analysis does not include considerations of increased employment or neighborhood quality.³³

- A study done in Minnesota by the Family Housing Fund³⁴ constructed typical patterns of service use for a chronically homeless mother with three children, with and without supportive housing. The study examined public costs over the period 1991-1999 for out-of-home placements, chemical dependency treatment and support services, criminal justice, hospital and medical, housing, AFDC/MFIP, case management services, child care, employment services, academic development (adult education, parenting classes, tenant education, early childhood special education, academic enrichment and tutoring, and Title I services), mental health, and transportation. The study found total public costs incurred in a supportive housing context were \$337,100 (annual average \$37,500), compared with \$695,200 without supportive housing (annual average \$77,200).

³³ Culhane, D. P., Metraux, S., & Hadley, T. (2001). *The impact of supportive housing for homeless people with severe mental illness on the utilization of the Public Health, Corrections, and Emergency Shelter Systems: The New York-New York Initiative*. Working paper (pre-publication draft), forthcoming in Housing Policy Debate.

³⁴ Hart-Shegos, E., Majestic, S., & Jacox, C. (2000). *Financial implications of public interventions on behalf of a chronically homeless family*. Minneapolis, MN: Family Housing Fund.

One common barrier to the development of new housing programs, even those models shown to be effective, comes from local opposition to having them in the neighborhood. One recent comprehensive review of the literature on homelessness³⁵ summarized findings on what was reported by subsidized-housing developers to be effective in avoiding or reducing local opposition to the siting of programs and facilities. These include:

- Choosing sites in lower- or mixed-income areas, business/commercial districts, or vacated federal lands such as closed military bases.
- Educating community members about the need for the proposed facility and its purpose, and involving community members (to the degree possible) in planning decisions.
- Developing “good neighbor policies” with assurances about building design, operations and maintenance, and handling of grievances.
- Changing state or local policies to revise overly restrictive zoning laws or to limit their use in preventing siting of needed programs and services.

Other difficulties are involved in implementing programs such as those described in this section. Even when a program is recognized as effective for its clients and cost-effective for the public, the distribution of policy and funding responsibilities often makes it hard for policy-makers to change the ways things are done. Different levels of government pay for different services, and cost savings may be realized at some levels, or in some agencies or legislative committees, only as a result of increased costs incurred at different levels or in different agencies or committees. Implementing effective, comprehensive strategies for reducing homelessness in Minnesota will require not only an understanding of the current situation and needs, and information about potentially successful strategies, but also vision, leadership, coordination, and patience.

³⁵ Sommer, H. (2000). *Homelessness in urban America: A review of the literature*. Berkeley, CA: Institute of Governmental Studies Press.

Comparison of 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000 survey results

Gender: In 1991 and 1994, men made up the majority of the adult homeless population in Minnesota (60% and 51% respectively); in 1997 and 2000, women constituted the majority (53% and 51%).

Age of adults: The average age of homeless men increased from 34.9 in 1991 to 39.7 in 2000 and the average age of homeless women increased from 31.7 in 1991 to 32.3 in 2000.

Race/ethnicity: Persons of color continue to make up the majority (about 65%) of the homeless population.

Marital status: About three in five persons (57% to 58% in all four years) have never married.

Homeless families: The number of homeless families (defined as one or more adults with one or more children) has increased consistently and significantly (434 in 1991, 807 in 1994, 1,103 in 1997, and 1,413 in 2000). This is an increase of 325 percent since 1991.

Adults with children: In 1991, 52 percent of homeless women had children with them. This rose to 65 percent in 1994, then declined to 60 percent in 1997 and 2000. The percentage of homeless men who had children with them fluctuated between 4 percent and 9 percent throughout the decade, ending at 8 percent in 2000.

Adults' education and training: The percentage of homeless adults who completed high school dropped from 78 percent in 1991 to 70 percent in 1997. In 2000, 76 percent of homeless adults had completed high school. There also was a decline in the percentage of persons who had attended at least some college (31% in 1991 to 26% in 1997). In 2000, about 28 percent of homeless person had attended at least some college. About half of the respondents in all four studies (1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000) had attended classes to learn a specific job.

Employment: The percentage of employed homeless adults increased steadily (19% in 1991, 26% in 1994, 34% in 1997, 41% in 2000). Adults who reported having full-time jobs also increased (8% in 1991, 13% in 1994, 17% in 1997, 26% in 2000). At the same time, the percent of adults unemployed for 12 months or longer dropped from over one-half in 1991 (55%) to about one-third in 1994, 1997, and 2000 (35%, 33%, and 35%, respectively). Furthermore, the percent of persons who reported a steady job as their main income source rose from 9 percent in 1991 to 20 percent in 1994 and 1997 to 29 percent in 2000.

Other income and assistance: The percentage of adults who reported no income dropped slightly from 9 percent in 1991 to 7 percent in 2000. The percentage receiving family welfare benefits (formerly AFDC and now MFIP) fluctuated from 16 percent in 1991 to 26 percent in 1994, 23 percent in 1997, and 24 percent in 2000. The reported use of food stamps dropped from 57 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 2000. Homeless persons receiving either Medical Assistance or General Assistance Medical Care dropped from 63 percent in 1991 to 56 percent in 2000. The percentage of persons who received care in an emergency room in the six months prior to the survey was the same in 1991 and 2000 (37%). The only year showing a slight decrease was 1997 (34%).

Veterans: Military veterans now make up approximately 31 percent of the adult male homeless population compared to 26 percent in 1997. Based on the 2000 survey results, the total number of homeless veterans on any given day is 448 in the Twin Cities metro area and 238 in greater Minnesota. This represents an increase over the 1997 totals (295 for the Twin Cities metro area, and 79 for greater Minnesota). In 1991, 33 percent of the adult homeless male population were military veterans (300 in the Twin Cities metro area and 76 in greater Minnesota). In 1994, 25 percent of the homeless adult male population were military veterans (250 in the Twin Cities metro area and 72 in greater Minnesota).

Length of residence in Minnesota: The percent of newcomers to Minnesota (two years or less) has decreased from 39 percent in 1991 and 1994 to 28 percent in 1997 and 2000.

Length of current homeless episode: The percentage of persons who reported having been homeless for less than one month dropped from 20 percent in 1991 and 1994 to 14 percent in 1997 and to 11 percent in 2000. Persons who were homeless for more than one year remained steady at about 30 percent in 1991, 1994, and 1997, then increased to 36 percent in 2000.

Ability to pay rent: There was a decrease in the proportion of homeless persons who reported that they could pay nothing for rent (from 24% in 1991 to 14% in 2000). The percentage who reported they could pay less than \$200 a month also decreased, from 63 percent in 1991 to 29 percent in 2000.

Clothing and food shelves, drop-in centers: The reported use of free clothing shelves dropped slightly from 44 percent in 1991 to 40 percent in 2000. The reported use of hot meal programs in 2000 was about the same as 1991 and 1994 (31% vs. 34% and 33%). In 1997 the reported use of hot meal programs had dropped to just over one-fourth (27%). The reported use of drop-in centers remained stable (approximately 25%) over all four time periods.

History of childhood abuse: The percentage of homeless adults reporting physical mistreatment as a child increased from 28 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2000. Likewise, the percentage of homeless adults reporting that they were sexually mistreated as children increased from 17 percent in 1991 to 24 percent in 2000.

History of foster care: The percentage of homeless adults who report having lived in a foster home is about the same as in previous surveys (17% in 1991, 15% in 1994, 19% in 1997, 18% in 2000).

Chemical dependency: In each survey, about one-third of homeless persons considered themselves to be chemically dependent (31% in 1991, 30% in 1994, 33% in 1997 and 32% in 2000). The percent who report having been admitted to a detox center dropped from 34 percent in 1991 to about 25 percent in 1994 and 1997, then increased slightly to 28 percent in 2000. Slightly over one-third of homeless adults report having lived in an alcohol or drug treatment facility, and about one in five report having done so within the previous two years.

Mental health: A somewhat higher percentage of homeless adults reported a significant mental health problem, from 25 percent in 1991 to 32 percent in 1997 and 2000. (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 disorder, manic-depression, major depression, anti-social personality disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder.) If we include persons with either a recent mental health diagnosis or recent treatment for a mental health problem (inpatient or outpatient), the percentage of persons with mental health problems increases to 36 percent. The percentage of persons with a dual diagnosis (both chemically dependent and mentally ill) has remained stable at about 14 percent during the last three study periods. The percentage of homeless adults who report having lived in a mental health facility increased from 13 percent in 1991 and 1994 to 18 percent in 1997 and 2000.

The following tables provide comparisons on key measures over the four survey periods.

Number of families without permanent shelter on a single night in October 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000

	1991	1994	1997	2000
Single men with children	13	16	57	41
Single women with children	379	711	902	1,152
Couples with children	36	65	110	187
Unaccompanied youth with children	6	15	34	33
Total number of families	434	807	1,103	1,413

Comparison of selected characteristics of homeless adults, from 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000 statewide surveys

	1991 (N=1,954)	1994 (N=2,470)	1997 (N=2,884)	2000 (N=4,201)
Men	59.8%	51.2%	46.6%	49.5%
Women	40.2%	48.8%	53.4%	50.5%
Persons of color	59.6%	61.2%	61.1%	65.7%
Average age in years (men)	34.9	35.8	37.0	39.7
Average age in years (women)	31.7	31.0	30.8	32.3
Never married	56.5%	56.6%	58.3%	56.8%
Completed high school diploma or GED	78.3%	72.9%	70.2%	75.5%
Attended some college	30.6%	26.0%	25.7%	27.9%
Attended training to learn a specific job	44.3%	51.7%	50.1%	54.8%
Military veterans	23.3%	14.3%	13.2%	16.4%
Military veterans, (men only)	32.9%	25.4%	25.9%	31.6%
Lived in Minnesota for two years or less	39.1%	39.2%	27.8%	27.8%
Ever in foster care	17.2%	14.9%	18.9%	18.4%
Ever in hospital for persons with mental health problems (percent of all homeless adults)	13.4%	13.1%	17.9%	17.9%
Have Medical Assistance or GAMC	62.8%	58.9%	48.6%	56.2%
Main source of income is MFIP (family welfare, formerly AFDC)	16.4%	26.0%	22.8%	16.7%
Main source of income is MFIP (family welfare, formerly AFDC), (women only)	37.9%	48.8%	43.1%	27.7%
Main source of income is General Assistance	31.8%	21.0%	14.7%	9.4%
Main source of income is a steady job	9.2%	19.7%	21.2%	28.8%
No source of income	9.4%	8.9%	6.3%	6.7%
Median monthly income (emergency shelter residents)	\$237	Men \$300 Women \$446	Men \$400 Women \$465	Men \$543 Women \$495
Median monthly income (battered women's shelter residents)	\$437	\$532	\$532	\$560
Median monthly income (transitional housing residents)	\$437	Men \$438 Women \$532	Men \$300 Women \$532	Men \$685 Women \$751

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

Comparison of selected characteristics of homeless adults, from 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000 statewide surveys (continued)

	1991 (N=1,954)	1994 (N=2,470)	1997 (N=2,884)	2000 (N=4,201)
Used food stamps in previous month	56.9%	51.7%	38.1%	41.4%
Used free clothing shelves in previous month	43.8%	36.7%	38.2%	39.6%
Used hot meal programs in previous month	33.9%	33.0%	27.4%	31.2%
Used drop-in centers in previous month	25.8%	23.2%	22.5%	25.2%
Homeless for less than a month	20.5%	20.3%	13.8%	10.4%
Homeless for more than one year	29.7%	30.8%	31.1%	35.6%
Could not pay anything for rent	23.9%	13.4%	14.3%	13.6%
Could pay less than \$200 a month for rent	62.8%	44.2%	38.4%	28.7%
Women who have children with them	52.0%	64.6%	59.8%	59.9%
Men who have children with them	4.0%	8.9%	4.6%	7.9%
Employed (full-time or part-time)	18.5%	25.5%	34.2%	40.8%
Employed full-time	7.5%	13.4%	16.8%	26.1%
Unemployed for 12 months or more	54.5%	34.5%	32.8%	32.0%
Chemically dependent (self-report)	31.1%	30.2%	32.6%	32.1%
Ever admitted to detox center	34.1%	25.4%	25.6%	27.9%
Ever lived in an alcohol or drug treatment facility	36.4%	32.4%	37.7%	37.9%
In alcohol or drug treatment facility in previous two years	19.3%	16.8%	20.2%	19.7%
Received care in an emergency room in previous six months	37.2%	32.1%	34.3%	37.2%
Reported significant mental illness	25.0%	23.7%	32.0%	32.0%
Physically mistreated as a child	27.5%	33.4%	34.3%	32.5%
Sexually mistreated as a child	16.9%	21.5%	25.0%	24.4%

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

General descriptive profile

Background characteristics

On October 26, 2000, the statewide population count of all persons residing in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters and transitional housing facilities found 3,820 adults (1,820 men and 2,000 women) and 3,122 children accompanied by adults in Minnesota's temporary housing programs. An additional 381 adults (263 men and 118 women) were interviewed in non-shelter locations.

A separate report, *Homeless youth in Minnesota*, describes the results of interviews with 209 unaccompanied youth (not with a parent) statewide. That report is available from Wilder Research Center.

This section reports many statewide totals. To derive these totals from the data tables beginning on page 92, add the Twin Cities metro area figures and the greater Minnesota figures. Descriptive data in this section includes the non-sheltered homeless, except where otherwise noted.

Men made up about 49 percent of the adult homeless population. The average age for men was 39.7 years and for women, 32.3 years.

The majority of adults using temporary housing arrangements in Minnesota are people of color. Survey results indicate that 45 percent of the adults were African American, 34 percent were Caucasian, 11 percent were American Indian, 1 percent were Asian, and 4 percent were of mixed racial background. Three percent of the adults were Native African. Seven percent of the adults said they were of Hispanic origin. Outside the Twin Cities metro area, the majority of temporary housing users were Caucasian.

About 61 percent of the adults in temporary housing arrangements had lived in Minnesota for more than five years. This compares to about 92 percent of the general population who have lived in Minnesota for five years or more. The majority of homeless adults (61%) grew up in another state or country, compared to about 25 percent of the general Minnesota population.³⁶

³⁶ 1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing (Summary Tape File 3A-Minnesota). (2000 Census data on length of residence was not available at this writing.)

The majority of surveyed homeless adults (57%) have never married. Of those who had married at least once, 11 percent were separated, 22 percent were divorced, 8 percent were currently married and about 3 percent were widowed.

Three-fourths of all homeless adults (76%) graduated from high school or completed a GED, and 28 percent have had some type of post-secondary education. For comparison, approximately 89 percent of adults in the general population have completed high school.³⁷ In 2000, 13 percent of all adults in temporary housing programs were enrolled in school.

Sixteen percent of the adults surveyed were military veterans (31% of the men and 2% of the women). Slightly less than 18 percent of the adults in the general population are military veterans.³⁸

Service use

The services most commonly used in the month preceding the survey were Food Stamps (41%), free clothing (40%), hot meal programs (31%), drop-in centers (25%), food shelves (24%), and transportation assistance (21%). One-fifth of the homeless adults (20%) had lost public assistance benefits during the 12 months preceding the study. The benefits most frequently lost were the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Food Stamps, General Assistance, and Medical Assistance.

Twenty-nine percent of homeless adults received MFIP in the last 12 months. About one-third of those receiving MFIP (31%) report that they had been sanctioned. For comparison, figures from the Minnesota Department of Human Services show that 25 percent of the general MFIP population were sanctioned over the course of a comparable 12-month period. Homeless adults who had been sanctioned reported about the same rates of mental illness and substance abuse as non-sanctioned recipients, but were more likely to have been fleeing abuse or to have ever been institutionalized.

Five percent of homeless adults report having received family welfare benefits in another state within the past 12 months. Twenty-eight percent of homeless MFIP recipients were exempt from work requirements at the time of the interview, compared with 12 percent of the general MFIP population at any given time.

Close to two-thirds of the homeless adults (63%) have medical coverage of some kind. Fifty-six percent have Medical Assistance or General Assistance Medical Care, and

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

another 7 percent have Minnesota Care. Over one-third of adults (37%) report that they used an emergency room in the previous six months.

Thirty-two percent of adults report needing help applying or reapplying for services, particularly for housing assistance (54% of those who said they need help with applications), medical assistance (14%), and assistance in finding a job (14%).

Income

When asked about their main source of income, respondents identified the following sources: steady employment (29%), MFIP (17% overall, 3% of the men and 28 % of the women); day labor (11% overall, 16% of the men and 4% of the women) and General Assistance (9%). Five percent reported no income in the month preceding the survey.

When asked about their total income for the month of October, 18 percent reported an income of less than \$100, 16 percent reported incomes between \$101 and \$300, 14 percent reported incomes between \$301 and \$500, 28 percent reported incomes between \$501 and \$800, and 25 percent reported an income of over \$800. Seven percent of respondents reported no income in the month of October.

In emergency shelters, women have a lower median income than men, but in transitional housing and in non-shelter locations, women's median income is higher than men's. The median income for men in emergency shelters was \$543; in transitional housing, \$685; and in non-sheltered locations, \$377. The median income for women in emergency shelters was \$495; in battered women's shelters, \$560; in transitional housing, \$751; and in non-shelter locations, \$443.

Shelter use

For 60 percent of the adults, this is their first time being homeless. Twenty-seven percent of adult respondents report one previous episode of homelessness, 38 percent of adults report being homeless 2-3 times, 25 percent of adults report 4-9 previous episodes of homelessness, and 9 percent report more than 10 previous episodes of homelessness. Information was missing on 9 percent of adults who said they were previously homeless.

Two-thirds of homeless adults (67%) report having lived in an emergency shelter (8% as a child and 53% in the previous two years). Twenty-one percent of homeless adults report having lived in a battered women's shelter (2% as a child and 12% in the previous two years). Forty-eight percent of adults report having lived in a transitional housing program (3% as a child and 37% in the previous two years). Overall, 88 percent of all homeless adults surveyed have lived in a temporary shelter facility (emergency shelter,

battered women’s shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing with supportive services).

Forty-five percent of the adults had been in their current temporary housing arrangements for less than one month. Fifty-five percent had been in their current temporary arrangements for more than one month. Eight percent of homeless adults had been in their current temporary arrangement for more than one year.

Living in other residential programs

With respect to prior residential placements, 60 percent of the homeless adults surveyed have lived in at least one type of residential facility or program. Men are more likely than women to have lived in some type of non-family setting (70% vs. 50%). Homeless adults have most often lived in: drug or alcohol treatment facilities (38%); correctional facilities or detention centers (30%); halfway houses (25%); foster care (18%); mental health facilities (18%); and group homes (14%). Homeless men and women differed in the type of placements. Men were more likely than women to have been in a correctional facility (41% vs. 18%), in a drug or alcohol treatment facility (49% vs. 26%), and in a halfway house (34% vs. 15%.) Women were more likely than men to have been in foster care (20% vs. 16%).

A very small proportion of the homeless adults surveyed had lived in a residence for persons with physical disabilities (4%), an orphanage (3%), an Indian School (3%), or a nursing home (2%).

The following table shows the residential service history of adult study participants.

Have you ever lived in any of the following types of facilities or programs?			
	Men	Women	Total
Foster care	15.5%	20.7%	18.4%
Drug or alcohol treatment	47.8%	26.9%	37.9%
Correction facility or detention center	40.6%	17.9%	29.8%
Residence for persons with physical disabilities	5.5%	1.9%	3.8%
Halfway house	33.3%	15.3%	24.9%
Mental health hospital	18.6%	16.5%	17.9%
Orphanage	3.3%	2.2%	2.8%
Group home	13.7%	13.0%	13.6%
Indian school	3.1%	2.3%	2.7%
Nursing home	2.3%	.9%	1.6%
Any of the above placements	68.9%	50.1%	60.1%

Migration to Minnesota

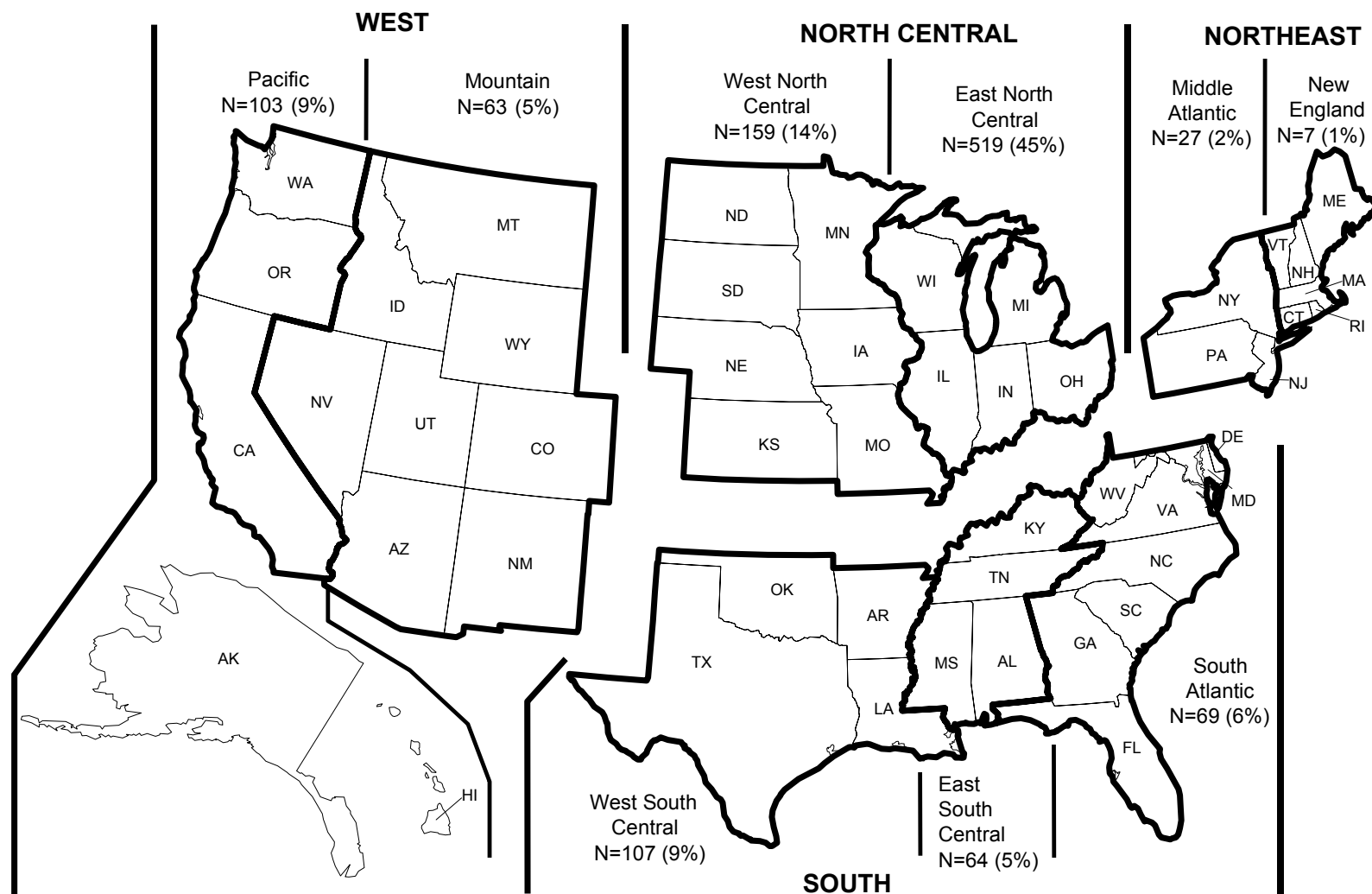
Men and women are similar in the length of time they have lived in Minnesota. Eighteen percent of homeless adults have been in Minnesota for less than one year, 9 percent for one to two years, and 73 percent longer than two years. About one-third (32%) of recent residents (two years or less) indicate that they have previously lived in Minnesota.

Of those who have lived in Minnesota two years or less (N=1,164), the majority came from either East North Central states (45%) or West North Central States (14%). Nine percent came from Pacific states, 9 percent from West South Central states, 6 percent from South Atlantic states, 5 percent from Mountain states, 5 percent from East South Central States, 2 percent from Mid-Atlantic states, and 1 percent from New England. Two percent of recent residents came from countries outside of the United States (see maps on the next three pages). Data was missing for 2 percent of the respondents.

The main reasons for moving to Minnesota cited by recent residents included: looking for work (48%); to be with family or friends (29%); for personal reasons (e.g., needed a new start) (22%); to improve opportunities for themselves or their children (15%); and to move to a better/safer environment (10%). Only 9 percent of those in Minnesota two years or less were able to obtain regular housing when they first came to the state. For those who were *not* able to obtain regular housing when they first arrived, 40 percent stayed with family and friends, 30 percent stayed in shelters, and 21 percent made other arrangements including staying outdoors, in half-way houses, or in a vehicle.

All respondents living in Minnesota two years or less
 "Where did you live before coming to Minnesota?" N=1,164

US Census Bureau geographic regions

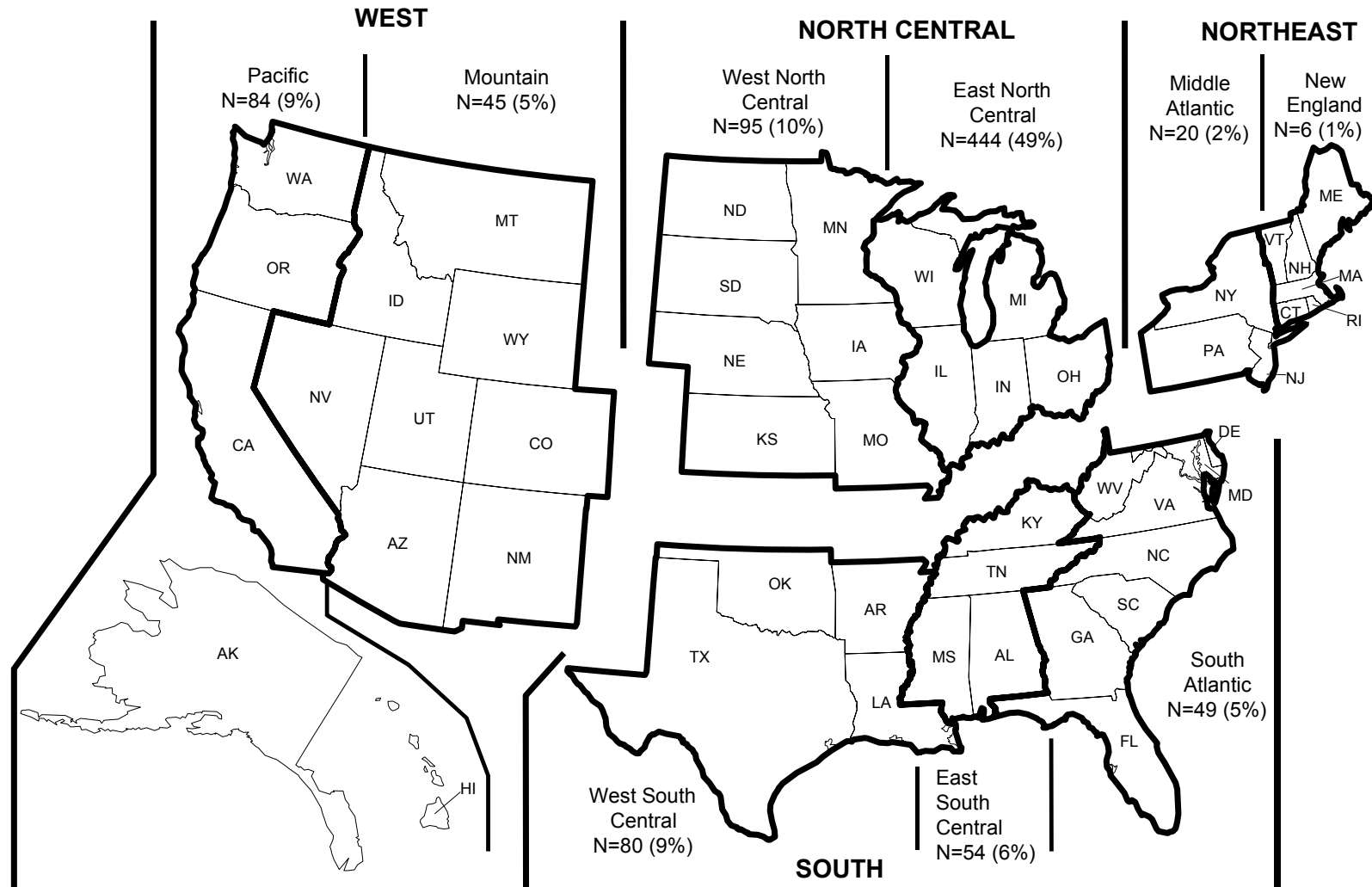


* Missing data: N=18 (2%)

* Countries outside the United States: N=28 (2%)

Twin Cities area respondents living in Minnesota two years or less
 "Where did you live before coming to Minnesota?" N=905

US Census Bureau geographic regions

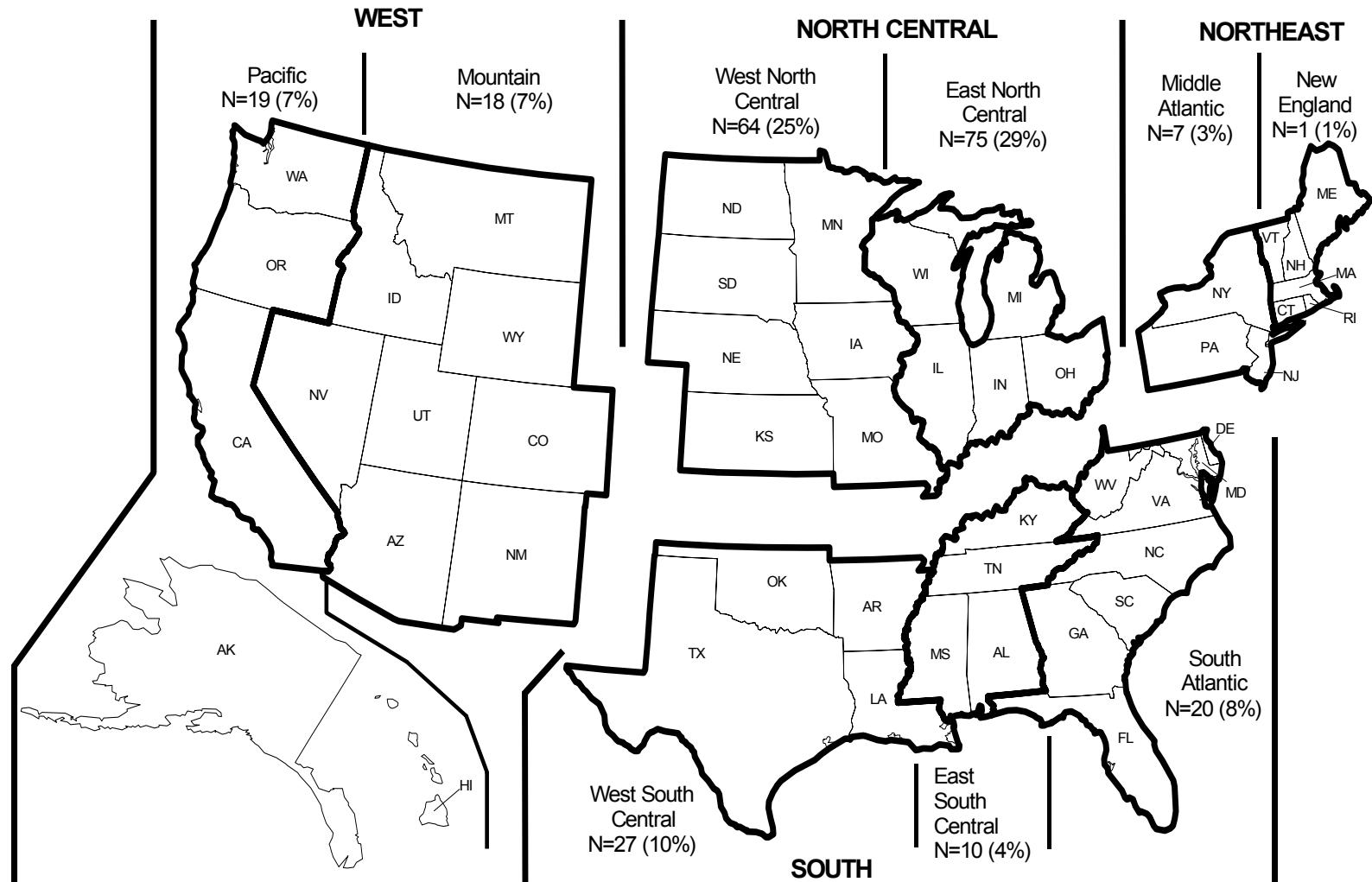


* Missing data: N=10 (1%)

* Countries outside the United States: N=18 (2%)

Greater Minnesota respondents living in the state two years or less
 "Where did you live before coming to Minnesota?" N=258

US Census Bureau geographic regions



* Missing data: N=8 (3%)

* Countries outside the United States: N=10 (4%)

Housing resources

Thirty-seven percent of homeless adults surveyed (40% of men and 31% of women) report being without housing for more than a year. Thirty-six percent of respondents are on a waiting list for Section 8 housing, and 14 percent of this group have been waiting for over a year. Eight percent of adults say that they received a Section 8 voucher in the previous two years that they could not use because they could not find a place that would accept the voucher. The majority of the homeless men (81%) stated that they needed only an efficiency or one-bedroom apartment, while 67 percent of the women required two, three, or more bedrooms.

Fourteen percent of respondents (18% of men and 9% of women) indicate that they are not able to pay any amount for rent. Five percent indicate that they could pay between \$1 and \$100 a month for rent, 10 percent say \$101 to \$200, 15 percent say \$201 to \$300, 17 percent say \$301 to \$400, 15 percent say \$401 to \$500, and 24 percent say over \$500 per month. One-third of the men (33%), compared to about one-fourth of the women (24%), report that the maximum rent they could afford is \$200 or less per month.

Sixty-eight percent of homeless adults (64% of the men and 73% of the women) indicate that their last regular or permanent housing was in Minnesota and 32 percent (37% of the men and 27% of the women) report that their last regular housing was in another state or country.

Respondents were asked about the reasons that they left their last housing. The main reasons men cite include: eviction (27%), drinking or drugs (24%), a relationship ended (24%), and couldn't afford the rent (21%). The main reasons women left their last housing were eviction (36%), to flee an abusive relationship (28%), a relationship ended (26%), and couldn't afford the rent (23%).

The main reasons homeless adults say they cannot get housing include: no housing they could afford (54%), credit problems (33%), and court eviction or bad rental history (25%). The reasons are slightly different for men and women. For homeless men, the main reasons given were no housing they could afford (54%), credit problems (25%), no local rental history (24%), and criminal background (21%). For homeless women the reasons were no housing they could afford (53%), credit problems (40%), court evictions or bad rental history (30%), and the cost of application fees (22%).

Veteran status

Four hundred and forty-eight homeless adults in the Twin Cities metro area (including 38 women) and 238 homeless adults in greater Minnesota (including 12 women) served in the U.S. military. This represents approximately 16 percent of the total homeless population, or 31 percent of homeless men. The majority served between August 1964 and September 1980. Over two-thirds of the homeless veterans (69%) report that the length of their military service was over two years. A little over one-third of all homeless veterans (38%) reported serving in a combat zone and the vast majority (77%) received an honorable discharge. Twenty-two percent of the homeless military veterans served in a combat zone in Vietnam. Thirty-six percent of homeless veterans report service-related health problems, primarily mental health problems or leg injuries.

Two-fifths of military veterans and those who are a spouse, widow, or widower of a military veteran (41%) had contact with a County Veterans Service Officer during the last 12 months. About one-third (32%) of the military veterans or spouses, widows or widowers of military veterans used veterans' benefits in the last 12 months. Most frequently they used the services of the Veterans' Administration Medical services (86%), service-related compensation (20%), and State Veterans' Home benefits (16%).

Children of shelter residents

Although about three-fourths of the women (75%) and about two-fifths of the men (41%) reported that they *have* children under the age of 18, the proportion of men caring for their children in shelters is very low. Sixty percent of the women and 8 percent of the men in temporary housing programs were accompanied by children on the night of the survey.

Of those who have school-age children with them, approximately 41 percent have children with learning or school problems, 26 percent report that at least one of their children repeated a grade in school, and 13 percent have children who had trouble going to school due to housing problems. (Details about children who are with their parents in shelters can be found beginning on page 67.)

Employment

Approximately two-fifths of adults in temporary housing (41%) were employed and 26 percent had full-time jobs. Over half of homeless adults (57%) report that their job has lasted at least three months. The majority of the jobs (68%) pay less than \$10 per hour.

About half of unemployed homeless adults (49%) reported that it had been less than six months since they last held a steady job. Seventeen percent of adults last had a job between six months and one year ago, 11 percent had a job one to two years ago, 6 percent were last employed three to four years ago, and 14 percent report that their last job was more than four years ago. Only 3 percent say they have never held a steady job.

The 10 most frequently mentioned barriers to employment include: transportation (25%), no address (19%), physical health problems (15%), cost of child care (14%), disabilities (10%), mental health problems (10%), lack of education (8%), chemical dependency (8%), lack of experience (7%), and lack of job skills (7%). The cost of child care, transportation, and education appear to be more significant barriers for women than for men.

Chemical dependency

More than two-fifths (42%) of homeless men and about one-fourth (23%) of homeless women report chemical dependency problems. Forty percent of the men and 16 percent of the women have been admitted to a detox center at least once. Forty-nine percent of the men and 26 percent of the women report that at some time in their life they have lived in an alcohol or drug treatment facility. Twenty-four percent of the men and 14 percent of the women have been in residential drug treatment programs within the past two years. Thirty-eight percent of the men and 24 percent of the women have received outpatient drug or alcohol treatment at some time in their life. Nineteen percent of the men and 14 percent of the women received outpatient drug or alcohol treatment in the last two years.

Physical health

One-third (35%) of the respondents say that they currently need to see a doctor for a physical health problem, and 30 percent say they currently need to see a doctor about a mental or emotional health problem. Slightly over one-third of homeless adults (37%) have used emergency room services during the previous six months. Fifty-six percent of those surveyed (42% of the men and 69% of the women) are covered by Medical Assistance or General Assistance Medical Care, and 7 percent of the respondents are covered by Minnesota Care.

Mental health

Whether as a result or cause of homelessness, mental illness is a significant problem for approximately one-third of the homeless respondents in the survey. Thirty-two percent of homeless adults have been told by a doctor or nurse (within the previous two years)

that they have schizophrenia, manic-depression, some other type of delusional disorder, major depression, anti-social personality disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Twenty-nine percent of homeless adults in this survey have received outpatient mental health services and 8 percent have lived in a hospital for persons with mental health problems within the preceding two years. If we include persons with either a recent mental health diagnosis or recent treatment for a mental health problem (inpatient or outpatient), the percentage of persons with mental health problems increases to 36 percent. By comparison, community surveys of the general population show that at any given time, approximately 20 percent of U.S. adults are experiencing some form of mental illness, including 5.4 percent experiencing a severe mental illness.³⁹

A history of physical and sexual mistreatment is not uncommon for respondents in the survey. Twenty-five percent of the men and 40 percent of the women say that they were physically mistreated as children, and 11 percent of the men and 37 percent of the women indicated that they were sexually mistreated as children.

The next table shows the percentage of respondents in each type of shelter who report a specific mental health diagnosis.

³⁹ 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.

Mental health characteristics of homeless adults

	Emergency shelters (N=1,548)	Battered women's shelters (N=235)	Transitional housing (N=2,037)	Street (N=381)
Schizophrenia	3.8%	1.4%	4.2%	4.8%
Paranoid or delusional disorder, other than schizophrenia	4.1%	4.7%	4.2%	3.8%
Manic episodes or manic depression, also called bipolar disorder	11.1%	14.1%	11.1%	15.2%
Major depression	22.6%	25.5%	24.8%	24.0%
Anti-social personality, obsessive-compulsive personality, or any other SEVERE emotional disorder	7.3%	5.2%	10.1%	13.2%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	9.3%	14.1%	14.2%	13.4%
Any of the above	28.6%	32.4%	33.5%	37.5%
Alcohol abuse disorder	18.6%	8.0%	18.8%	24.5%
Drug abuse disorder	11.4%	5.1%	15.5%	14.4%
Dual diagnosis (chemical dependency and mental illness)	12.8%	4.9%	14.5%	16.0%

Comparison to 1990 Census information

U.S. Census information gathered during 1990 makes it possible to compare the characteristics of persons in temporary housing programs and the unsheltered people who were interviewed to the characteristics of those in the general population. (When 2000 Census data on these characteristics becomes available, Wilder Research Center will issue an updated comparison sheet.) The next table provides comparisons for the following variables: gender, ethnicity, age, educational level, marital status, veteran status, place of birth, rents of \$300 or more per month, receipt of public assistance and Social Security benefits.

Characteristics of Minnesota homeless adults surveyed in October 2000, compared with the general Minnesota population in 1990

	Minnesota 2000 adult homeless sample (N=4,201) ^a		Minnesota 1990 Census (N=4,375,099)
	Number	Percent	Percent
Gender			
Male	2,080	49.5%	49.0%
Female	2,121	50.5%	51.0%
Ethnicity			
Caucasian	1,423	34.2%	93.7%
African American	1,850	44.5%	2.1%
American Indian	434	10.5%	1.1%
Asian	39	0.9%	1.7%
Multiracial/other	405	9.8%	0.1%
Hispanic origin – Hispanic, Latino, or Chicano	264	6.5%	1.2%
Age			
18-29 years	1,294	30.8%	25.7%
30-39 years	1,300	30.9%	23.7%
40-49 years	1,138	27.1%	16.9%
50-59 years	389	9.3%	11.4%
60+ years	82	1.9%	22.4%
Educational level (age 25+)			
Less than high school	1,026	24.6%	17.6%
High school graduate or GED	3,011	47.6%	33.0%
At least some college	1,164	27.9%	49.4%
Marital status (age 15+)			
Married	335	8.0%	57.2%
Separated, widowed, divorced	1,467	35.2%	15.4%
Never married	2,365	56.8%	15.4%

Background characteristics of homeless adult sample compared to Minnesota population (continued)

	Minnesota 2000 Adult Homeless Sample (N=4,201) ^a		Minnesota 1990 Census (N=4,375,099)
	Number	Percent	Percent
U.S. military veteran (age 16+)	686	16.4%	18.6%
Native to Minnesota	1,613	38.8%	75.6%
Lived in Minnesota 5 years ago	2,642	63.0%	84.2%
Can pay rent of \$300 or more per month ^b	2,272	56.5%	74.7%
Household receives public assistance income ^c	1,598	38.0%	6.0%
Household receives Social Security income	256	6.2%	25.2%

Notes: (a) The Minnesota homeless adult sample in this table is weighted to better reflect the actual population of homeless adults in shelters on the night of the survey. The homeless adult sample in this table also includes interviews with non-sheltered adults interviewed in the survey, which are not weighted because the actual population of non-sheltered adults is not known. See page 89 for details on the weighting method.

(b) Census data include of all renters who pay rents of more than \$300 per month. Homeless data include all respondents who say they could afford to pay more than \$300 per month for rent.

(c) Includes SSI, MFIP, MN Supplemental Assistance.

Personal accounts

The general statewide profile of people who were homeless on October 26, 2000 shows a widely varied population tied together by three common elements: poverty, inadequate employment, and no place to call home. Many of those who are homeless in Minnesota also share backgrounds of abuse, institutionalization, and alcoholism. Each of the following accounts is drawn from an actual survey interview; the names have been changed to protect the identity of the respondents.

- George is a 61-year-old American Indian man who has lived in Minnesota for over 20 years. Until age 16, he lived in Wisconsin. As a youth he was in a foster care home and an Indian school. George has been homeless for more than a year. His last regular housing was with a relative who asked him to leave because of his drinking problem. He considers himself to be chemically dependent and reports being in detox at least 100 times. He has received outpatient treatment for his chemical dependency problem, but the last time was more than two years ago. He does not report any mental health problems or disorders. His only income is \$203 a month from General Assistance. He sees his age and physical limitations as his main barriers to finding employment. George is hoping that the transitional housing program where he is staying will help him find a job and a place to live that he can afford.
- Marie is a 53-year-old Caucasian woman who has lived in Minneapolis her whole life. Although she has a four-year college degree, she has not held a job in over 10 years. As an adult she has lived in a facility for persons with mental health problems. She has lived on the streets for over 10 years and was placed in a transitional housing program after being physically attacked a few months ago. She was beaten so severely that she had to have a kidney removed. She feels that her future is very uncertain because her time is almost up in the transitional program and she cannot find any housing that she can afford. Her monthly income is \$550 from SSDI. She has tried to get into subsidized housing, but the waiting list is very long. She is currently not able to work because she is receiving treatment for cancer. She also reports being diagnosed with bipolar disorder. She sees her main needs right now as recovering from her illness and finding an affordable place to live.
- Latasha is a 24-year-old African American who has lived in Minnesota for less than two years. She left Illinois to get away from an abusive partner and came to Minnesota to join family members. She has completed her GED and works full time. Her hourly wage is between \$8 and \$10. She has three children living with her in a transitional housing program. Latasha has a long history of institutionalization. As a youth she lived in a foster home, a residential treatment facility and a hospital for persons with

mental health problems. She was both physically and sexually abused as a child. She considers herself to be chemically dependent and has received outpatient treatment in the last two years. Latasha has been told that she has bipolar disorder and drug abuse disorder. She sees her mental illness and chemical dependency as barriers to getting a place to live as well as getting a better job. Her main needs right now are getting her life together and finding affordable housing for herself and her children.

- Dave is a 54-year-old divorced Caucasian man living in an emergency shelter in Duluth. He is a military veteran who served in Vietnam. He has lived in Minnesota for more than 20 years. He has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. He is working part time. He says he has been homeless at least 25 times in his life. He also reports several physical and mental health problems related to his military service. He is currently working with the County Veterans Service Officer and hopes to be able to get his life back on track. He feels that his biggest barriers to employment are his age, poor health (diabetes and arthritis), and mental health problems. The main barrier he sees to getting permanent housing is his low income. He does not consider himself chemically dependent but reports that his use of drugs and alcohol has caused problems in the past. He says his main need is to find a dependable source of income – if not from work, then maybe through a disability program like Social Security or SSI.
- Juan is a 28-year-old, married Hispanic man who grew up in Texas. He has lived in greater Minnesota for more than five years. His wife and four children are with him in a transitional housing program. He graduated from high school and completed an auto mechanics course. Juan does not report any chemical dependency problems or mental health issues. He is currently working 40 hours a week as an auto mechanic. This job has lasted for more than three months. The family lost their housing when the landlord sold the house. Because of the limited housing in the area, they have been unable to find a place to live. He is working with advocates at the transitional housing program to look at housing options for his family. He sees the primary need of his family as restoring the stable family life that they had before losing their housing.
- Roxanne is a 19-year-old African American who grew up in Saint Paul. She left home when she was 15 because of her parents' drinking problems and does not think that she would ever return home. She is a high school graduate and works full time. She reports having been both physically and sexually abused. Since being homeless, she has been approached to work in the saunas and/or dating adults. She does not report any chemical abuse, mental health problems, or institutionalization. She says her main needs right now are finding a way to attend college and finding stable housing.

Homeless children and families

This section of the report examines information from the 1,434 parents who provided complete information on their children. (In this discussion, we use the term “parent” to include guardians and other caretakers who gave information about children who were with them in temporary shelters.)

The parents interviewed represent 1,750 children⁴⁰ in temporary housing programs or non-shelter locations on the day of the survey. Most children are with their mother (84%), some are with both parents or two adult caretakers (13%), and a few are with their father or a male caretaker (3%). Twelve percent of the parents are currently married, 28 percent had been previously married and 60 percent have never married.

The average number of children with a parent is 2.4. Sixty-four percent of the children are in transitional housing, 25 percent are in emergency shelters, 9 percent are in battered women's shelters, and 2 percent are at non-shelter locations. Children in transitional housing programs are the most likely to be with two parents.

Slightly under half of the children are under age 6 (49%), 46 percent are between 6 and 12, and 5 percent are 13 to 17 years old. One in four school-age children (26%) has repeated a grade in school, probably in part because of unstable housing situations.

MFIP is the main source of income for two-fifths of homeless families (45%). Over half (55%) are on waiting lists for public housing or subsidized housing. Over half (52%) of the parents say they need three bedrooms, and 60 percent report that they can afford to pay more than \$400 for housing.

The primary non-housing needs of children listed by their parents/guardians are for clothing, stability, school arrangements, child care, positive social interaction with other children, child support, and for “mom to get her life together.”

⁴⁰ Information reported here is based on the 1,750 children reported with parents who were interviewed on the survey date. This data is not weighted. The total number of children staying with homeless adults on October 26, 2000 was 3,122.

The following table provides additional detail on child demographics, based on interview data obtained from adult caretakers.

Demographics of children with homeless adults

	Total	Area		Program Type			
		Twin Cities metro	Greater Minnesota	Emergency shelter	Battered women's shelter	Transitional housing	Street
With mother	79.1%	79.8%	77.7%	62.2%	99.6%	79.2%	92.5%
Number	(1,385)	(977)	(408)	(201)	(227)	(908)	(49)
With father	2.3%	2.7%	1.3%	4.3%	-	2.0%	5.7%
Number	(40)	(33)	(7)	(14)	-	(23)	(3)
With couple	18.6%	17.6%	21.0%	33.4%	0.4%	18.8%	1.9%
Number	(325)	(215)	(110)	(108)	(1)	(215)	(1)
Total number	1,750	1,225	525	323	228	1,146	53
Age of child							
0 – 5	41.5%	40.6%	43.6%	33.4%	40.4%	44.2%	35.8%
Number	(726)	(497)	(229)	(108)	(92)	(507)	(19)
6 – 12	42.3%	43.0%	40.8%	44.9%	45.2%	41.2%	39.6%
Number	(741)	(527)	(214)	(145)	(103)	(472)	(21)
13+	16.2%	16.4%	15.6%	21.7%	14.5%	14.6%	24.5%
Number	(283)	(201)	(82)	(70)	(33)	(167)	(13)
Total number	1,750	1,225	525	323	228	1,146	53
Mean (years)	6.6	6.6	6.6	7.6	6.8	6.2	8.0

Health and school problems

Parents answered several questions about the health and emotional well-being of their children. About one-fifth of parents (21%) report that at least one of their children has an emotional or behavioral problem. Sixteen percent report that at least one of their children has a chronic or severe physical health problem. Approximately two-fifths of parents (41%) who have school-age children report that at least one of their children has a learning or school-related problem. One-fourth of homeless parents (26%) report that at least one of their children has repeated a grade in school. Thirteen percent of homeless parents report that their children have trouble going to school because of their housing situation. Additional detail is provided in the following table.

Children's health, emotional well-being, and school-related issues

	Total	Area		Program Type			
		Twin Cities metro	Greater Minnesota	Emergency shelters	Battered women's shelters	Transitional housing	Street
Child has chronic or severe physical health problem that interferes with daily activities							
Number of children for whom information is available	1,340	1,043	297	349	120	843	28
Percent whose parents report this problem	16.2%	16.3%	16.0%	19.7%	10.6%	15.7%	10.7%
(Number whose parents report this problem)	(217)	(170)	(47)	(69)	(13)	(133)	(3)
Child has emotional or behavioral problem that interferes with daily activities							
Number of children for whom information is available	1,333	1,037	296	349	117	839	28
Percent whose parents report this problem	20.7%	20.4%	21.9%	22.6%	20.1%	20.2%	14.3%
(Number whose parents report this problem)	(276)	(211)	(65)	(79)	(23)	(170)	(4)
Child has learning or school problem (age 6+ only)							
Number of children for whom information is available	892	698	193	257	79	539	17
Percent whose parents report this problem	40.8%	41.8%	37.0%	39.5%	35.1%	41.8%	52.9%
(Number whose parents report this problem)	(364)	(292)	(72)	(101)	(28)	(225)	(9)
Child repeated a grade (age 6+ only)							
Number of children for whom information is available	895	698	196	254	82	542	17
Percent whose parents say this occurred	25.5%	26.1%	23.1%	34.8%	21.9%	20.9%	47.1%
(Number whose parents say this occurred)	(228)	(183)	(45)	(88)	(18)	(113)	(8)
Child not attending school right now (age 6+)							
Number of children for whom this information is available	892	696	196	252	82	542	17
Percent whose parents report this is true	11.7%	10.9%	14.4%	8.9%	23.0%	11.4%	5.9%
(Number whose parents report this is true)	(104)	(76)	(28)	(22)	(19)	(62)	(1)

Children’s health, emotional well-being, and school-related issues (continued)

	Area		Program Type				
	Total	Twin Cities metro	Greater Minnesota	Emergency shelters	Battered women’s shelters	Transitional housing	Street
Child has trouble going to school due to housing situation							
Number of children for whom this information is available	895	698	196	254	82	542	17
Percent whose parents report this problem	13.0%	14.1%	9.1%	25.9%	20.0%	5.4%	29.4%
(Number whose parents report this problem)	(116)	(98)	(18)	(66)	(16)	(29)	(5)

Housing and economic circumstances

About 10 percent of homeless adults who are accompanied by children (i.e., homeless families) have been homeless less than one month. Three-fifths of homeless families (60%) have been homeless one to 12 months, and 30 percent have been homeless for more than one year. Over half (55%) are on a waiting list for some type of subsidized housing. Two-fifths of homeless families (40%) could afford to pay \$400 or less per month for housing, including 17 percent who could afford \$200 or less. For over two-fifths of homeless families (45%), MFIP was the main source of income in the month prior to the survey. For one-third of homeless families (32%), steady employment was the main source of income in the previous month.

Three-fourth of homeless families (75%) used food stamps in the previous month, two-fifths (39%) used clothing shelves, over one-fourth (27%) used food shelves, and 17 percent used the WIC program. Ten percent of homeless families reported problems in obtaining needed health care and 14 percent reported problems in obtaining needed dental care for their children. Seventy-one percent of the families were currently covered by Medical Assistance and 9 percent were covered by Minnesota Care. Unmet child care needs during the preceding year were reported by 32 percent of the respondents.

The following tables show: 1) the geographic and shelter type variations related to health care, dental care, child care and food needs for children in our sample and 2) differences in the circumstances of adults accompanied by children when compared to the circumstances of homeless adults without children.

Children's needs reported by parents

	Total	Area		Program type			
		Twin Cities metro	Greater Minnesota	Emergency shelters	Battered women's shelters	Transitional housing	Street
During the past 12 months, have you ever been unable to obtain needed health care (other than dental care) for any of your children who are with you?							
Number of children for whom information is available	1,290	999	291	344	118	805	23
Percent of parents answering yes	9.6%	8.2%	14.4%	5.3%	25.5%	9.2%	8.7%
(Number of parents answering yes)	(124)	(82)	(42)	(18)	(30)	(74)	(2)
During the past 12 months, have you ever been unable to obtain needed dental care for any of your children who are with you?							
Number of children for whom information is available	1,286	996	289	341	118	804	23
Percent of parents answering yes	13.6%	10.7%	23.4%	10.3%	18.9%	14.3%	8.7%
(Number of parents answering yes)	(174)	(107)	(68)	(35)	(22)	(115)	(2)
Have any of your children here today had to skip meals in the past month because there wasn't enough money to buy food?							
Number of children for whom information is available	1,287	996	292	344	118	802	24
Percent of parents answering yes	10.7%	10.5%	11.3%	14.4%	13.3%	7.7%	45.8%
(Number of parents answering yes)	(138)	(108)	(33)	(49)	(16)	(62)	(11)
During the past 12 months, have you ever been unable to obtain regular child care when you needed it? (For those with children 12 and under)							
Number of children for whom information is available	1,283	993	290	344	118	798	24
Percent of parents answering yes	31.5%	30.2%	35.9%	26.0%	38.1%	32.7%	37.5%
(Number of parents answering yes)	(404)	(300)	(104)	(89)	(45)	(261)	(9)

Comparing homeless adults accompanied by children with those unaccompanied by children

Housing circumstance	Adults accompanied by children	Adults unaccompanied by children
Current shelter***		
Emergency	24.7%	42.5%
Battered women's shelter	9.1%	3.7%
Transitional housing	63.7%	40.6%
Street	2.4%	13.1%
Length of current homeless episode***		
Less than one month	10.8%	9.5%
1 – 12 months	59.5%	51.6%
More than one year	29.6%	38.9%
Amount could pay per month for housing***		
\$200 or less		35.1%
\$201 - \$400	23.1%	37.4%
\$401+	60.4%	27.5%
Number of bedrooms needed***		
0 – 1	6.8%	81.2%
2	42.0%	14.3%
3+	51.2%	4.5%
On waiting list for public or subsidized housing***	55.4%	44.6%
Income, employment and service use		
Total income last month (median)	\$665	\$438
Main income source last month		
MFIP***	44.6%	2.1%
General Assistance***	.6%	13.9%
Steady employment***	32.0%	26.8%
Day labor***	2.3%	16.5%
Child support***	1.6%	.3%
No income***	2.5%	8.2%
Services used last month		
Food stamps***	74.8%	23.1%
Clothing shelves	38.9%	38.7%
Food shelves***	27.2%	22.4%
WIC***	16.5%	39.7%
Hot meal program***	12.0%	35.1%
Drop-in center***	11.1%	34.4%
Free medical clinic	15.0%	16.9%
Free dental clinic	6.2%	5.9%
Free mental health clinic	3.9%	5.3%

Note: Where asterisks appear, Chi Square tests show that differences between the two groups are statistically significant ($p \leq .001$).

Women fleeing abuse

The most common single reason why women seek temporary shelter in Minnesota is to flee an abusive partner. Of the 2,121 women whose characteristics we can represent in the statewide study, 30 percent (633 women) are homeless, in part, because of an abusive situation in their previous housing. Women are included in this category if they are living in battered women's shelters, recently moved to Minnesota because of abuse, or report that they left their last housing because of an abusive relationship.

Women fleeing abuse can be found in all types of shelter programs. Thirty-seven percent of all battered women in the study are currently living in battered women's shelters, 47 percent in transitional housing, 10 percent in emergency shelters, and 6 percent in non-sheltered locations. There was an increase from 1991 to 2000 in the number of women fleeing abuse who were living in transitional housing programs, from 42 percent to 47 percent. This is due in part to an increase in the availability of transitional housing for battered women.

The proportion of homeless women in greater Minnesota fleeing abuse is higher than in the Twin Cities metro area. In greater Minnesota, 39 percent of women indicate that they were fleeing abuse, compared to 27 percent in the Twin Cities metro area.

In order to learn more about women fleeing abuse, we conducted separate analyses to compare these women with other homeless women in our study. In a number of ways, women fleeing abuse are similar to other homeless women. For example, both groups are similar in age; level of educational attainment; length of time in Minnesota; use of food stamps, clothing shelves, and emergency room services; receipt of Medical Assistance benefits; and reported needs of their children.

However, on many characteristics the two groups differ. The following tables compare the two groups of women. The first table shows the results for the statewide sample of homeless women in 2000. The subsequent two tables show separate results for the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota. When results are examined separately for the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota, we find differences between those who are fleeing abuse and those who are homeless for other reasons.

Statewide: Women fleeing abuse, compared with other homeless women

	Homeless women fleeing abuse (N=633)		Other homeless women (N=1,488)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ever married ***	293	46.5%	574	39.0%
Current episode of homelessness has lasted less than 1 month***	114	19.1%	110	7.6%
Current episode of homelessness has lasted more than 1 year***	148	24.8%	508	35.3%
Ever in alcohol/drug treatment facility	168	26.9%	392	26.6%
Ever in some type of half-way house	85	13.8%	234	16.6%
Ever in hospital for persons with mental health problems	113	18.3%	232	15.8%
Ever institutionalized (any type of institution)	321	50.7%	741	49.8%
Evicted from last housing***	160	26.3%	599	41.9%
Have child(ren) under 18	475	90.6%	1,114	88.8%
Have child(ren) with you in shelter	367	77.3%	904	81.3%
Unable to obtain child care when needed*	124	38.0%	260	31.9%
Receive MFIP	251	40.4%	619	42.5%
Receive GA	67	10.9%	171	11.9%
Use hot meal programs*	98	15.8%	298	20.5%
Consider self chemically dependent	141	23.0%	328	22.5%
Ever admitted to detox*	116	18.5%	213	14.6%
Physically mistreated as a child or youth***	305	49.4%	523	36.2%
Sexually abused as a child or youth***	265	43.4%	494	34.7%
Experienced violence in a relationship in past 12 months***	469	75.5%	278	19.1%
Sought health care due to violence in past 12 months***	203	32.6%	129	8.8%
Median income*	\$531		\$599	

Note: Where asterisks appear, Chi Square tests show that differences between the two groups are statistically significant * $p \leq .05$; ** $p \leq .01$; *** $p \leq .001$.

Twin Cities metro area: Women fleeing abuse, compared with other homeless women

	Twin Cities women fleeing abuse (N=443)		Other Twin Cities homeless women (N=1,199)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ever married***	201	45.6%	435	36.7%
Current episode of homelessness has lasted less than one month***	73	17.6%	76	6.5%
Current episode of homelessness has lasted more than one year**	121	29.1%	432	37.0%
Ever in alcohol/drug treatment facility	113	25.7%	311	26.2%
Ever in some type of half-way house	51	11.8%	171	14.5%
Ever in hospital for persons with mental health problems	79	18.3%	173	14.6%
Ever institutionalized (any type of institution)	217	49.0%	561	46.8%
Evicted from last housing***	122	28.6%	499	42.9%
Have child(ren) under 18	324	91.8%	911	88.5%
Have child(ren) with you in shelter	245	75.6%	734	80.7%
Unable to obtain child care when needed	80	36.2%	207	31.4%
Receive MFIP*	163	37.5%	504	43.0%
Receive General Assistance	55	12.8%	147	12.7%
Use hot meal programs	76	17.5%	246	20.9%
Consider self chemically dependent	96	22.2%	266	22.7%
Ever admitted to detox*	77	17.6%	158	13.3%
Physically mistreated as a child or youth***	195	45.3%	407	34.8%
Sexually abused as a child or youth**	173	40.6%	379	32.8%
Experienced violence in a relationship in past 12 months***	323	74.3%	207	17.6%
Sought health care due to violence in past 12 months***	134	30.8%	99	8.4%
Median income*	\$525		\$567	

Note: Where asterisks appear, Chi Square tests show that differences between the two groups are statistically significant * $p \leq .05$; ** $p \leq .01$; *** $p \leq .001$.

Greater Minnesota: Women fleeing abuse, compared with other homeless women

	Greater Minnesota women fleeing abuse (N=190)		Other greater Minnesota homeless women (N=289)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ever married	92	48.9%	139	48.3%
Homeless less than one month in this current time of homelessness**	41	22.7%	34	12.5%
Homeless more than one year in this current time of homelessness**	28	15.4%	76	27.9%
Ever in alcohol/drug treatment facility	55	29.9%	81	28.4%
Ever in some type of half-way house	33	17.8%	63	22.0%
Ever in hospital for persons with mental health problems	34	18.3%	59	20.9%
Ever institutionalized (any type of institution)	103	54.5%	179	62.2%
Evicted from last housing***	38	20.9%	100	37.2%
Have children under 18	151	88.3%	203	90.2%
Have child(ren) with you in shelter	122	80.8%	170	84.2%
Unable to obtain child care when needed	45	42.5%	53	34.0%
Receive MFIP	88	47.1%	115	40.5%
Receive GA	12	6.4%	24	8.5%
Use hot meal programs	22	12.0%	52	18.6%
Consider self chemically dependent	46	25.6%	61	21.4%
Ever admitted to detox	39	20.6%	55	19.9%
Physically mistreated as a child or youth***	109	58.6%	116	42.0%
Sexually abused as a child or youth	92	50.0%	115	42.4%
Experienced violence in a relationship in past 12 months***	146	78.5%	71	25.9%
Sought health care due to violence in past 12 months***	69	36.9%	30	10.8%
Median income	\$532		\$533	

Note: Where asterisks appear, Chi Square tests show that differences between the two groups are statistically significant * $p \leq .05$; ** $p \leq .01$; *** $p \leq .001$.

In the statewide sample of homeless women, there are significant differences between women fleeing abuse and other homeless women. Specifically, women fleeing abuse are *more* likely than other homeless women to have:

- Been married
- Been homeless less than a month
- Been physically abused as a child or youth
- Been sexually abused as a child or youth
- Experienced violence in a relationship in the past 12 months
- Sought health care due to violence in the past 12 months

Women fleeing abuse are less likely than other homeless women to have been:

- Homeless for more than one year
- Evicted from last housing

Potential barriers to employment

In the 2000 survey, 22 percent of homeless men and 23 percent of homeless women reported having a job that had lasted for three months or more. (For homeless men, this increased steadily over the decade, from 5 percent in 1991 to 22 percent in 2000.)

While homelessness itself is clearly a substantial barrier to employment, the survey identifies other barriers as well. The analysis presented here examines several survey items that have been identified by employment counselors as potential barriers to employment.⁴¹

- Transportation problems
- Inability to afford child care
- No high school diploma or GED
- No job for one year or more
- Physical health problems
- Diagnosed with serious or persistent mental illness within last two years
- Diagnosed with alcohol or drug abuse disorder within last two years or recent detox or chemical dependency treatment admission
- In a correctional facility within last two years

The following table provides estimates of these potential employment barriers for unemployed persons living in Minnesota's temporary housing programs and those on the street on October 26, 2000.

⁴¹ Employment counselors in the Wilder Day Reporting Program and the Employment Plus program identified all of the items used in this analysis as potential barriers to employment.

Potential barriers to employment (N=2,477 unemployed homeless adults)

Potential barrier	Geographic area			Program type				
	Statewide (N=2,477)	Twin Cities metro area (N=1,782)	Greater Minnesota (N=694)	Emergency shelter (N=956)	Battered women's shelter (N=172)	Transitional housing (N=1,053)	Street (N=296)	
Transportation problems								
Men	%	24.8%	24.0%	26.3%	26.2%	-	22.7%	24.8%
	N	(296)	(194)	(102)	(154)	-	(90)	(52)
Women	%	20.6%	18.0%	28.8%	19.1%	24.0%	19.8%	26.7%
	N	(264)	(176)	(89)	(70)	(41)	(130)	(23)
Inability to afford child care								
Men	%	0.4%	0.2%	0.8%	0.5%	-	0.4%	-
	N	(5)	(2)	(3)	(3)	-	(2)	-
Women	%	23.4%	22.1%	27.7%	19.2%	29.7%	25.6%	12.8%
	N	(300)	(215)	(85)	(70)	(51)	(168)	(11)
No high school diploma or GED								
Men	%	35.4%	35.0%	36.3%	37.1%	-	27.0%	46.2%
	N	(423)	(283)	(140)	(219)	-	(107)	(97)
Women	%	43.5%	45.8%	36.4%	45.6%	31.7%	43.3%	60.5%
	N	(558)	(446)	(112)	(167)	(55)	(284)	(52)
No job for one year or more								
Men	%	36.8%	39.7%	30.7%	37.9%	-	34.8%	37.6%
	N	(440)	(321)	(118)	(223)	-	(138)	(79)
Women	%	29.1%	29.3%	28.3%	31.6%	22.0%	30.0%	25.6%
	N	(373)	(286)	(87)	(116)	(38)	(197)	(22)
Physical health problems that interfere with employment								
Men	%	25.6%	25.5%	25.7%	23.6%	-	32.2%	18.6%
	N	(305)	(206)	(99)	(139)	-	(127)	(39)
Women	%	17.6%	17.2%	18.9%	23.2%	9.2%	15.7%	24.4%
	N	(225)	(167)	(58)	(85)	(16)	(103)	(21)

Potential barriers to employment (N=2,477 unemployed homeless adults) (continued)

Potential barrier	Geographic area			Program type				
	Statewide (N=2,477)	Twin Cities metro area (N=1,782)	Greater Minnesota (N=694)	Emergency shelter (N=956)	Battered women's shelter (N=172)	Transitional housing (N=1,053)	Street (N=296)	
Diagnosed with serious or persistent mental illness within last two years								
Men	%	39.1%	37.3%	42.7%	34.2%	-	47.3%	37.1%
	N	(467)	(302)	(165)	(202)	-	(187)	(78)
Women	%	35.8%	33.8%	42.3%	30.8%	34.4%	37.6%	45.3%
	N	(459)	(329)	(130)	(113)	(59)	(248)	(39)
Alcohol or drug problems (reports being diagnosed with alcohol or drug abuse disorder within last two years or multiple detox admissions or chemical dependency treatment admission)								
Men	%	63.8%	60.9%	70.0%	56.3%	-	72.6%	68.6%
	N	(763)	(492)	(271)	(332)	-	(287)	(144)
Women	%	36.3%	36.1%	37.0%	31.4%	34.9%	37.6%	50.0%
	N	(465)	(352)	(114)	(115)	(60)	(247)	(43)
In a correctional facility within last two years								
Men	%	17.6%	16.5%	20.0%	14.9%	-	17.5%	25.7%
	N	(211)	(133)	(77)	(88)	-	(69)	(54)
Women	%	8.0%	6.5%	12.8%	5.3%	2.7%	10.5%	11.6%
	N	(103)	(64)	(39)	(19)	(5)	(69)	(10)

The most frequently reported potential barriers to employment are chemical dependency problems (63%), the lack of a high school diploma (40%), mental health problems (37%), and previous long term unemployment (33%). Transportation problems (23%), physical health problems (21%), and recent incarceration (22%) are reported by at least one-fifth of unemployed homeless adults. Child care is a problem for about one-fourth of the women (23%).

While employment levels among homeless persons have increased, a shrinking percentage of homeless adults report *none* of the potential barriers to employment that are listed above. As the following table shows, 8 percent of the men and 11 percent of the women report none of these barriers in 2000. This has decreased steadily since 1994, when 23 percent of men and 22 percent of women reported none of these barriers to employment.

Number of potential barriers to employment

Number of potential barriers	Geographic area			Program type			
	Statewide (N=2,477)	Twin Cities metro area (N=1,782)	Greater Minnesota (N=694)	Emergency shelter (N=956)	Battered women's shelter (N=172)	Transitional housing (N=1,053)	Street (N=296)
None of the listed barriers							
Men %	8.0%	9.5%	5.0%	10.3%	-	5.8%	5.7%
N	(96)	(77)	(19)	(61)	-	(23)	(12)
Women %	11.2%	11.3%	10.8%	13.0%	17.5%	9.5%	3.5%
N	(143)	(110)	(33)	(48)	(30)	(62)	(3)
1 barrier							
Men %	17.8%	16.7%	20.3%	20.1%	-	17.0%	12.9%
N	(213)	(135)	(78)	(119)	-	(67)	(27)
Women %	22.2%	24.0%	16.4%	27.3%	18.3%	20.6%	19.8%
N	(284)	(234)	(50)	(100)	(32)	(136)	(17)
2 barriers							
Men %	28.0%	27.6%	28.7%	27.0%	-	29.0%	28.6%
N	(334)	(223)	(111)	(159)	-	(115)	(60)
Women %	28.2%	27.5%	30.7%	21.8%	32.9%	30.8%	26.7%
N	(362)	(267)	(94)	(80)	(57)	(202)	(23)
3 barriers							
Men %	23.7%	25.4%	20.2%	22.4%	-	22.5%	29.5%
N	(283)	(205)	(78)	(132)	-	(89)	(62)
Women %	23.5%	24.2%	21.1%	24.2%	23.4%	22.4%	29.1%
N	(301)	(236)	(65)	(89)	(40)	(147)	(25)
4 barriers							
Men %	14.8%	13.5%	17.5%	12.2%	-	17.1%	17.6%
N	(176)	(109)	(68)	(12)	-	(68)	(37)
Women %	10.2%	8.6%	15.1%	6.9%	4.9%	13.4%	10.5%
N	(131)	(84)	(46)	(25)	(9)	(88)	(9)

Number of potential barriers to employment (continued)

Number of potential barriers	Geographic area			Program type			
	Statewide (N=2,477)	Twin Cities metro area (N=1,782)	Greater Minnesota (N=694)	Emergency shelter (N=956)	Battered women's shelter (N=172)	Transitional housing (N=1,053)	Street (N=296)
5 barriers							
Men %	6.7%	7.0%	6.1%	6.9%	-	7.5%	4.8%
N	(80)	(57)	(23)	(40)	-	(29)	(10)
Women %	3.9%	3.6%	5.0%	5.7%	2.9%	2.6%	8.1%
N	(50)	(35)	(15)	(21)	(5)	(17)	(7)
6 barriers							
Men %	1.0%	0.4%	2.4%	1.1%	-	1.0%	1.0%
N	(12)	(3)	(9)	(6)	-	(4)	(2)
Women %	0.8%	0.8%	1.0%	1.1%	-	0.7%	2.3%
N	(11)	(8)	(3)	(4)	-	(5)	(2)

A similar analysis by Peter Rossi in his book, *Down and Out in America*, examined homeless individuals' problems related to unemployment, criminal records, mental illness and poor health.⁴² The study, conducted in 1987, found that fewer than 4 percent of Chicago's homeless had no problems at all to report and more than half had multiple problems.

Three of the four most frequently mentioned barriers – recent chemical dependency problems (50%), recent mental health problems (40%), and unemployed for more than one year (33%) – indicate that many unemployed homeless adults have significant employment barriers to overcome. Although intervention efforts designed to help homeless people obtain jobs may work best when specifically targeted to help people who are the most amenable to change, there appears to be a growing need to address the issues of the “hardest to employ” homeless population. For example, the main employment barriers for some homeless adults are a lack of a high school education (40%), transportation (23%), or child care needs (12%). Programs designed to help move homeless adults with these employment barriers into the workforce would be easier to implement than programs designed to address the issues of long-term unemployment, recent chemical dependency, or recent mental health problems.

⁴² Rossi, P. (1989). *Down and out in America. The origins of homelessness* (pp. 177-178). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Patterns of homelessness: crisis, episodic, and chronic

In order to better understand the characteristics of homeless adults whose pattern of homelessness vary by duration or recurrence, Wilder Research Center conducted a comparative analysis using the following criteria:

Crisis homelessness: Currently in first episode of homelessness; current episode has lasted 12 months or less.

Episodic homelessness: Currently in the second (or higher) episode of homelessness; current episode has lasted 12 months or less.

Chronic homelessness: Current episode of homelessness has lasted more than 12 months.

This analysis includes those staying in outdoor locations, emergency shelters and battered women's shelters but excludes transitional programs because the extended length of service they provide (up to two years) would misrepresent many transitional housing clients as “chronically homeless.”

Some of the differences between these three segments of the population are shown in the following two tables. The first table shows the duration and recurrence patterns and the second table shows how these patterns differ by gender.

Comparison of crisis, episodic, and chronic homelessness

	Crisis (N=918)	Episodic (N=511)	Chronic (N=703)
Slept outdoors on night of survey	9.5%	16.4%	15.4%
Reported that the last place they stayed was unsafe	9.7%	11.3%	12.8%
Persons of color	73.7%	58.5%	67.7%
Did not complete high school	34.9%	41.5%	43.1%
Lived in MN less than one year	34.1%	20.2%	10.9%
Lived in a foster home	12.1%	25.8%	22.4%
Lived in a chemical dependency facility	24.7%	44.7%	51.5%
Lived in a mental health facility	9.4%	20.6%	22.3%
Lived in an orphanage	1.8%	4.1%	5.0%
Lists a source of income as “asking for money on the street”	7.6%	11.7%	19.5%
Uses drop-in centers	25.9%	39.5%	47.0%
Military veteran	12.4%	18.7%	18.7%
Reports having hepatitis	1.7%	4.0%	8.0%
Reports major mental illness	22.4%	41.2%	32.9%
Reports chronic alcohol use	20.4%	41.1%	49.8%
Ever admitted to detox	17.9%	39.8%	43.3%
Reports that he/she should be taking medications but does not	16.0%	22.5%	17.5%
Received emergency room care in past 6 months	34.9%	52.3%	40.7%
Ever physically abused as child	22.8%	37.7%	33.3%
Has sought health care in past year due to violent injury	13.5%	22.9%	15.7%
More than 1 year since contact with family	9.1%	14.0%	29.1%

Gender comparison of crisis, episodic, and chronic homelessness

	Men			Women		
	Crisis (N=480)	Episodic (N=304)	Chronic (N=512)	Crisis (N=438)	Episodic (N=207)	Chronic (N=191)
Slept outdoors on night of survey	13.7%	21.6%	16.7%	5.0%	8.9%	12.1
Reported that the last place they stayed was unsafe	12.1%	16.4%	12.4%	7.0%	4.0%	13.9%
Persons of color	75.2%	54.8%	64.9%	71.9%	63.8%	74.7%
Did not complete high school	30.1%	44.1%	41.4%	40.3%	37.7%	47.6%
Lived in MN less than one year	35.0%	22.8%	11.3%	33.0%	16.3%	9.9%
Lived in a foster home	9.6%	22.7%	20.1%	14.9%	30.3%	28.6%
Lived in a chemical dependency facility	33.3%	50.0%	56.3%	15.2%	37.0%	38.5%
Lived in a mental health facility	9.7%	20.2%	22.9%	9.0%	21.4%	20.8%
Lived in an orphanage	1.3%	2.9%	4.4%	2.4%	5.8%	6.7%
Lists source of income as "asking for money on the street"	11.4%	12.6%	21.2%	3.4%	10.3%	15.0%
Uses drop-in centers	31.3%	50.1%	51.1%	19.9%	24.0%	36.0%
Military veteran	21.8%	30.3%	24.9%	2.2%	1.6%	2.0%
Reports having hepatitis	2.4%	3.6%	8.6%	0.9%	4.6%	6.7%
Reports major mental illness	22.6%	41.0%	30.6%	22.1%	41.5%	39.0%
Reports chronic alcohol use	31.2%	47.0%	56.6%	8.7%	32.5%	31.6%
Ever admitted to detox	27.1%	47.7%	50.7%	7.7%	28.3%	23.4%
Reports that he/she should be taking medications but does not	11.0%	23.0%	14.3%	21.6%	21.8%	25.9%
Received emergency room care in past 6 months	27.2%	49.8%	35.3%	43.5%	55.9%	55.1%
Ever physically abused as child	14.5%	28.4%	28.9%	31.8%	51.2%	44.9%
Has sought health care in past year due to violent injury	8.9%	14.0%	12.8%	18.6%	36.0%	23.7%
More than 1 year since contact with family	13.4%	18.7%	33.4%	4.3%	7.0%	17.9%

In general, persons of color make up about two-thirds of the homeless adult population in this special analysis. Persons of color made up 59 percent of the episodic group, 58 percent of the chronic group, and 74 percent of the crisis group. Overall, persons in all three groups were similar in reporting that the place they stayed last night was unsafe (crisis group 10%, episode group 11%, and the chronic group 13%.) However, there were several clear differences between the three groups as well.

Homeless adults fitting the **chronic** criteria were *more* likely to:

- Use drop-in centers (47% vs. 40% for the episodic group and 26% for the crisis group.)
- Have had no contact with their family for over one year (29% vs. 14% for the episodic group and 9% for the crisis group.)
- Ask for money on the streets (20% vs. 12% for the episodic group and 8% for the crisis group.)
- Report chronic alcohol use (50% vs. 41% for the episodic group and 20% for the crisis group.)

Homeless adults fitting the **episodic** criteria were *more* likely to:

- Receive care in an emergency room in the last six months (52% vs. 41% for the chronic group and 35% for the crisis group.)
- Have any persistent mental health problems (41% vs. 33% for the chronic group and 22% for the crisis group.)
- Have been physically mistreated as a youth (38% vs. 33% for the chronic group and 23% for the crisis group.)
- Seek health care due to violence in the last 12 months (23% vs. 16% for the chronic group and 14% for the crisis group.)

Homeless adults fitting the **crisis** criteria were *more* likely to:

- Have lived in Minnesota for less than one year (34% vs. 20% for the episodic group and 11% for the chronic group.)
- Have completed high school (65% vs. 58% for the episodic group and 57% for the chronic group.)

Homeless adults fitting the **crisis** criteria were *less* likely to:

- Have slept outside the night of the survey (10 % vs. 16% for the episodic group and 15% for the chronic group.)
- Have lived in a foster home (12% vs. 26% for the episodic group and 22% for the chronic group.)
- Have lived in a facility for persons with mental health problems (9% vs. 21% for the episodic group and 22% for the chronic group.)
- Have lived in an orphanage (2% vs. 4% for the episodic group and 5% for the chronic group.)
- Have served in the U.S. military (12% vs. 19% for the episodic group and 19% for the chronic group.)
- Report having hepatitis (2% vs. 4% for the episodic group and 8% for the chronic group.)
- Have been admitted to a detox center (18% vs. 40% for the episodic group and 43% for the chronic group.)

Looking at the patterns and recurrence of homeless episodes suggests that the episodic and chronic segments of the homeless population require more intensive interventions than do those in the crisis segment of the homeless population.

Key findings from the street sample

One component of the statewide homeless survey focused on adults not staying in shelters. Three hundred and eighty-one adults were identified and interviewed as part of this effort, 208 in the Twin Cities metro area and 173 in various locations in greater Minnesota. These locations are listed in the Appendix.

While efforts were made to select diverse street locations and to have formerly homeless persons or outreach workers do most of the interviewing in order to increase the number of homeless persons who would be willing to answer the survey, we do not know how representative our sample is of all non-sheltered homeless adults in Minnesota. More non-sheltered persons were interviewed in the 2000 (381) than in the 1997 sample (263), than in 1994 (236) or in 1991 (116). *This may in part be due to an increased effort to identify non-sheltered homeless adults than in the earlier survey efforts.* However, it may also reflect an overall increase in the population of homeless persons. The sheltered homeless population in Minnesota has increased from 1991 to 2000. The number of non-sheltered homeless adults may have increased as well. Regardless of whether the non-sheltered homeless population has increased, the total number of such persons is unknown, but is undoubtedly larger than this sample. The following descriptive information serves as a starting point for further study.

- The non-sheltered homeless have typically lived in Minnesota longer than those who stay in shelters. Seventy-three percent of homeless adults in our street sample reported that their last housing was in Minnesota, which is an increase from two-thirds in 1997 and three-fifths in 1994.
- American Indian people are often among the non-sheltered homeless, both in the Twin Cities metro area as well as in greater Minnesota. In the 2000 street sample, native people constituted nearly 30 percent of those surveyed in non-shelter locations. American Indian people made up 35 percent of the non-shelter population in greater Minnesota, and 27 percent in the Twin Cities metro area.
- Only 17 percent of the 2000 non-sheltered homeless adults were U.S. military veterans compared to 36 percent in the 1991 sample.
- Non-sheltered homeless persons tend to have less formal education than sheltered homeless persons. Thirty-four percent of non-sheltered homeless persons have not completed high school or a GED.

- A higher proportion of the non-sheltered homeless have some type of employment in 2000 compared to the proportion employed in 1991 (22% vs. 5%). Ten percent have full time jobs in 2000. Slightly over one-third (36%) of the 2000 sample had not held a job for a year or more compared to 34 percent in 1997, 31 percent in 1994 and 55 percent in 1991.
- Among those who do not use shelters, about two-fifths (38%) have been homeless for more than one year.
- In 1991 most non-sheltered homeless could not afford to pay more than \$100 per month for rent. In 1994 almost half (43%) could afford to pay \$200 or more per month for rent. In 1997, 41 percent of the non-sheltered homeless could afford to pay \$200 or more per month for rent. In 2000, over half (53%) could afford to pay \$200 or more per month for rent.
- The services most frequently used by the non-sheltered population included: hot meal program (60%), drop-in centers (60%), free clothing shelves (52%), Medical Assistance or GMAC (44%), food shelves (39%), Food Stamps (28%), and free medical services (24%). Slightly over two-fifths (42%) of those in Twin Cities metro area compared to one-third (33%) in the greater Minnesota said that they needed assistance to apply or reapply for services.
- Forty-nine percent of the homeless who were not in shelters reported having stayed in a correctional facility at some time in their lives. The proportion that had been in a correctional facility was about the same for non-sheltered persons in greater Minnesota as for those in the Twin Cities metro area (49% vs. 50%).

Homeless adults in Minnesota

Data tables for all survey items

Important notes for interpreting the tables

1. Tables in this report contain weighted estimates for the population of persons residing in emergency shelters, battered women shelters and transitional housing programs within each region. In a few shelter programs, interview data were not available and weights could not be computed. Therefore, the descriptive statistics that follow are based on population estimates that are slightly lower than the actual number of adults in residence on the day of the survey. Information on persons in non-shelter locations is not weighted.
2. Each table provides breakdowns on the following variables:
 - Gender of respondent.
 - Shelter (non-shelter) type.(Special analyses of these data may also be possible and can be provided on an “at cost” basis upon request.)
3. Sample weightings applied to this data set use calculations that result in fractional persons. While computer rounding of these numbers can produce “whole persons” in all tables, the rounding formula occasionally produces cell frequencies that do not exactly equal the marginal totals. The reader is urged to use percentage totals rather than the frequency totals when interpreting these tables.
4. The total number of cases for any given table will vary based on the number of valid responses to that particular question or questions. Missing data (responses to a question or part of the question that was not answered by a respondent) are not reported or included in the percentages.
5. When data in a particular table are applicable only to persons who gave a specific response to a previous question, percentages in the conditional table will equal 100 percent of all applicable respondents, not the total survey sample.

Weighting techniques

The 2000 survey data was weighted to reflect the actual number of homeless persons as indicated by specific site counts of people in shelters throughout the state on October 26, 2000. 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:

1. Individual sites.
2. Gender (male, female).
3. Region (northwest, northeast, central, west central, metro, southwest, southeast, Anoka, Dakota, Scott/Carver, Washington, Ramsey, St. Louis County).
4. Shelter type (emergency, transitional, battered women's shelter).
5. Shelter type within region by gender (all possible combinations of items 2, 3, and 4 above).

Weightings were used to estimate the characteristics of homeless persons in Minnesota's temporary housing programs on the night of the survey based on the sample of 1,803 interviews with adults. The actual number of adults in temporary housing programs on the night of the survey was 3,942. Statistical weightings could not be computed if interviews were not completed in a specific weighting category (e.g., region, shelter type, and gender), therefore the sample of persons in temporary housing programs is weighted to 3,733 of the 3,942 adults. When this is combined with the results of the 468 interviews completed in non-shelter locations, the total sample for which estimates are available is 4,201.



Appendices

Detail information tables

Interview sites

Families seeking housing assistance from Community Action Programs and Community Action Councils October, 2000

Detail information tables

1. For those living here less than 2 years, what were the main reasons you came?

Metro

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total)	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Quality of Life/ Improve Opportunities																
Looking for work/job opportunities	160	56.0	98	64.9	10	27.4	80	52.9	80	38.7	15	53.6	7	46.7	450	51.4
Improve opportunities for myself/my children	33	11.6	37	24.6	7	18.5	25	16.4	46	22.3	2	7.1	3	20.0	153	17.5
Looking for affordable housing	20	7.1	27	17.6	-	-	16	10.9	21	10.2	2	7.1	2	13.3	89	10.1
Better environment here/safer	18	6.5	23	15.4	5	14.9	3	1.7	35	16.9	2	7.1	1	6.7	88	10.0
To go to school	10	3.5	15	10.0	-	-	23	15.6	19	9.0	-	-	-	-	67	7.7
Receive medical treatment	9	3.0	6	4.3	-	-	8	5.5	8	3.7	2	7.1	-	-	33	3.8
Alcohol or drug treatment	4	1.2	-	-	-	-	21	13.8	6	2.9	2	7.1	-	-	32	3.7
Better school for kids	6	2.0	19	12.6	-	-	-	-	2	1.1	-	-	-	-	27	3.1
Flee violent neighborhood	11	3.9	-	-	2	4.2	3	2.0	5	2.3	-	-	1	6.7	22	2.5
Better Social Service system	5	1.6	2	1.1	1	3.5	-	-	3	1.4	3	10.7	1	6.7	14	1.6
Veterans home	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1.1	6	2.9	-	-	-	-	8	.9
Mental health treatment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2.9	-	-	-	-	6	.7
For shelter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2.1	1	3.6	-	-	5	.6
Racial composition of state	5	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	.5	
Lower crime rate	3	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6.7	4	.5
Treatment [not specified]	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1.3	1	.6	-	-	-	-	3	.3
Political asylum	-	-	-	-	1	3.5	-	-	1	.6	-	-	-	-	2	.3

**1. For those living here less than 2 years, what were the main reasons you came?
(continued)**

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total)	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Interpersonal Factors																
Be with friend or family	75	26.0	32	21.3	13	34.1	38	25.4	70	33.9	11	39.3	3	20.0	242	27.6
To get away from family/people	11	3.7	7	4.5	2	6.1	2	1.3	18	8.7	1	3.6	2	13.3	43	4.9
Returning home	-	-	3	2.0	2	5.4	-	-	7	3.5	-	-	-	-	12	1.4
Relationship ended/divorced	6	2.1	1	.6	-	-	3	2.0	1	.6	-	-	-	-	11	1.3
Death in family/friend	-	-	-	-	1	2.9	3	1.7	3	1.5	-	-	-	-	7	.8
Was kicked out of home	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.1
Abuse																
Flee abuse	-	-	7	4.6	11	30.6	-	-	11	5.2	1	3.6	-	-	30	3.4
Personal Factor																
Personal reasons [change of pace/atmosphere]	80	27.8	32	21.2	3	7.3	58	38.7	32	15.5	4	14.3	3	20.0	212	24.2
Relocate/want to move here	29	10.1	8	5.6	3	9.5	8	5.2	15	7.4	1	3.6	3	20.0	68	7.8
I like it here	8	2.9	8	5.3	2	6.5	5	3.1	7	3.5	2	7.1	-	-	33	3.8
Wanted own place	-	-	8	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6.7	9	1.0
Warrant for arrest/avoid prosecution	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.8	2	1.0	1	3.6	-	-	4	.5
Miscellaneous																
Climate/snow	11	3.7	5	3.5	-	-	5	3.1	1	.6	-	-	-	-	22	2.5
Just passing through	7	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1.1	-	-	-	-	9	1.1
By mistake/didn't desire to end up here	2	.6	-	-	-	-	2	1.2	-	-	-	-	1	6.7	4	.5
No particular reason	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	.4
Reason not clear	-	-	3	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	.3

**1. For those living here less than 2 years, what were the main reasons you came?
(continued)**

Greater Minnesota

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Quality of Life/ Improve Opportunities																
Looking for work/job opportunities	31	49.2	4	28.9	5	22.2	19	44.8	23	34.5	7	23.3	2	20.0	90	36.6
For shelter	2	2.7	-	-	2	8.9	6	15.3	-	-	5	16.7	-	-	15	6.1
Better Social Service system	3	5.3	2	15.4	-	-	4	10.4	1	1.8	-	-	-	-	11	4.6
Treatment [not specified]	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	13.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2.4
To go to school	3	4.2	1	7.4	2	8.4	-	-	5	8.3	2	6.7	-	-	13	5.3
Improve opportunities for myself/my children	1	2.4	3	18.7	-	-	3	7.0	9	13.9	1	3.3	-	-	17	7.1
Flee violent neighborhood	3	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7.7	1	3.3	1	10.0	10	4.1
Receive medical treatment	2	3.7	-	-	-	-	5	10.9	5	7.5	-	-	-	-	12	4.8
Better environment here/safer	6	9.5	2	15.4	-	-	6	13.5	6	9.6	3	10.0	1	10.0	24	9.9
Looking for affordable housing	4	6.9	2	11.2	-	-	-	-	1	2.2	-	-	1	10.0	9	3.4
Financial help	-	-	-	-	1	4.8	1	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	.8
Fishing/hunting/hiking	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3.1	-	-	1	3.3	-	-	2	.9
Racial composition of state	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.0	-	-	-	-	1	.5
Better school for kids	1	1.8	-	-	2	8.9	6	15.3	5	7.3	-	-	-	-	14	5.8
Lower crime rate	1	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10.0	2	1.0
Alcohol or drug treatment	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1.2

**1. For those living here less than 2 years, what were the main reasons you came?
(continued)**

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Interpersonal Factors																
Be with friend or family	15	24.5	6	42.2	4	19.2	12	28.9	32	49.0	11	36.7	6	60.0	87	35.4
Returning home	3	4.7	1	7.1	1	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10.0	6	2.4
To get away from family/people	3	4.7	3	18.4	-	-	-	-	5	7.7	-	-	1	10.0	12	4.8
Death in family/friend	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1.2
Personal Factors																
Relocate/want to move here	-	-	3	20.2	-	-	-	-	2	3.7	5	16.7	1	10.0	12	4.7
I like it here	8	12.6	1	8.3	3	13.2	1	2.4	2	3.6	-	-	1	10.0	16	6.6
Personal reasons [change of pace/atmosphere]	12	18.8	-	-	3	13.8	3	7.0	12	18.3	6	20.0	1	10.0	37	14.8
Wanted own place	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6.0	-	-	-	-	4	1.6
Relationship ended/divorced	2	2.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3.3	-	-	3	1.1
Abuse																
Flee abuse	-	-	-	-	11	54.5	-	-	1	2.0	-	-	-	-	13	5.1
Miscellaneous																
No particular reason	2	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3.3	-	-	3	1.2
Just passing through	3	4.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6.7	-	-	5	2.0
Reason not clear	3	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7.5	-	-	-	-	8	3.3
Climate/snow	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3.1	1	2.0	1	3.3	-	-	4	1.5
By mistake/didn't desire to end up here	-	-	1	7.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6.7	-	-	3	1.2

2. What do you feel are the biggest barriers or problems to getting a job now?

Metro

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Job Experience/ History																
Lack of job skills/ training	17	3.7	21	7.4	5	5.4	19	8.7	49	11.2	3	3.0	3	7.0	117	7.2
Lack of experience	17	3.8	6	2.1	4	4.0	-	-	22	5.1	2	2.0	2	4.7	53	3.3
Job seeking skills	8	1.8	-	-	8	7.8	5	2.4	28	6.5	2	2.0	2	4.7	53	3.3
Problems in keeping jobs	3	.7	3	.9	1	1.3	-	-	3	.6	-	-	1	2.3	11	.7
Making other people believe that you want to work	-	-	1	.4	-	-	-	-	7	1.6	-	-	-	-	8	.5
Employment Opportunities																
Lack of available jobs/demand in field	13	3.0	8	2.8	4	4.3	4	1.6	-	-	1	1.0	-	-	30	1.9
Low pay of benefits	9	2.0	2	.6	3	2.9	3	1.4	6	1.3	-	-	1	2.3	23	1.4
Jobs are too temporary	2	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.3	3	.2
Location/too far from town	-	-	1	.4	-	-	-	-	7	1.6	-	-	-	-	8	.5
Too qualified	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	.2
Nepotism	2	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.2	1	1.0	-	-	4	.3
Education																
Lack of education	2	.5	13	4.4	7	7.2	17	7.8	76	17.4	2	2.0	2	4.7	119	7.3
Learning disabilities/ illiterate	9	1.9	4	1.4	-	-	5	2.4	5	1.2	3	3.0	-	-	26	1.6
Need a license/ certification	3	.7	-	-	-	-	5	2.4	2	.5	-	-	-	-	10	.6
Transportation																
Transportation	127	28.3	58	20.2	24	24.6	36	16.9	83	19.1	31	31.0	11	25.6	370	22.8

**2. What do you feel are the biggest barriers or problems to getting a job now?
(continued)**

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Housing																
No housing [no address/phone]	86	19.3	104	36.2	23	23.3	31	14.3	68	15.5	32	32.0	11	25.6	354	21.8
Shelter rules [no 2nd shift work]	7	1.5	5	1.8	-	-	2	.7	16	3.6	-	-	-	-	29	1.8
Need stability first/ need to make living arrangement first	5	1.0	9	3.1	3	3.6	-	-	15	3.4	2	2.0	2	4.7	36	2.2
Children																
Cost of child care	-	-	64	22.4	34	35.2	2	.8	110	25.2	-	-	7	16.3	217	13.3
Need to be home with children	1	.3	11	3.8	3	2.7	-	-	16	3.7	-	-	1	2.3	32	1.9
Discrimination																
Discrimination/ prejudice	8	1.8	2	.8	-	-	4	1.7	5	1.1	4	4.0	-	-	23	1.4
Physical Health																
Health problems/ pregnancy	77	17.2	55	19.2	7	7.4	44	20.6	53	12.1	8	8.0	5	11.6	249	15.3
Handicap/disability/ physical limitations	45	10.1	29	10.0	4	3.7	29	13.7	16	3.7	14	14.0	8	18.6	145	8.9
Mental Health																
Mental health problems/mental stability	47	10.6	20	6.9	6	6.0	34	16.0	45	10.3	6	6.0	2	4.7	160	9.9
Alcoholism/chemical dependency	69	15.4	3	1.2	1	1.4	13	6.1	14	3.3	10	10.0	2	4.7	113	7.0
Emotional stress/ pressure	11	2.3	2	.5	1	1.1	2	.7	6	1.3	2	2.0	-	-	22	1.4
Unable to deal with others/anti-social	-	-	1	.5	-	-	2	.9	1	.3	3	3.0	-	-	8	.5

**2. What do you feel are the biggest barriers or problems to getting a job now?
(continued)**

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Resources Needed for Work																
Papers/ identification/ social security card/ pictured ID]	44	9.8	8	2.9	6	5.9	6	2.9	13	3.0	9	9.0	5	11.6	91	5.6
Clothing/clean clothes	14	3.1	13	4.7	5	5.5	3	1.5	8	1.8	6	6.0	3	7.0	53	3.2
Money to look for work	11	2.6	2	.6	3	3.1	3	1.5	7	1.6	3	3.0	-	-	30	1.8
Don't know the area	16	3.6	2	.8	8	8.7	-	-	1	.3	-	-	-	-	28	1.7
Tools	4	.9	-	-	-	-	2	.9	-	-	1	1.0	-	-	7	.4
Needs alarm clock/ need to wake up early	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.0	-	-	1	.1
Personal Reasons																
Age	13	3.0	11	3.9	-	-	15	7.1	7	1.6	2	2.0	2	4.7	51	3.1
Prison record/ criminal background	23	5.1	6	2.2	1	1.3	3	1.5	18	4.2	12	12.0	-	-	64	3.9
Motivation/attitude	22	5.0	2	.6	-	-	6	2.7	5	1.2	7	7.0	2	4.7	44	2.7
Time	4	.8	2	.5	3	2.6	3	1.4	15	3.3	-	-	1	2.3	26	1.6
Family problems	4	.8	-	-	2	2.1	-	-	8	1.8	-	-	-	-	14	.8
Involved in treatment	-	-	2	.6	-	-	7	3.2	6	1.3	1	1.0	-	-	16	1.0
Physical appearance	6	1.2	2	.8	-	-	-	-	1	.2	2	2.0	-	-	11	.7
Need paperwork to get job back	-	-	-	-	2	1.6	-	-	1	.3	-	-	-	-	3	.2
Abuse issues/safety	-	-	3	1.0	5	5.1	-	-	1	.3	-	-	1	2.3	10	.6
Miscellaneous																
Will lose benefits	3	.7	12	4.0	3	3.1	2	.8	5	1.2	-	-	-	-	24	1.5
None	10	2.2	18	6.1	1	1.3	19	9.1	13	2.9	3	3.0	1	2.3	65	4.0
Retired	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	.2
Financial encumbrances	-	-	2	.8	1	1.0	-	-	3	.6	-	-	-	-	6	.4

**2. What do you feel are the biggest barriers or problems to getting a job now?
(continued)**

Greater Minnesota

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Job Experience/ History																
Lack of job skills/ training	4	4.2	2	6.7	2	4.0	13	8.5	10	5.9	2	2.2	1	2.8	34	5.4
Lack of experience	6	6.0	1	3.4	2	3.7	14	9.4	4	2.8	2	2.2	4	11.1	34	5.4
Job seeking skills	1	1.3	-	-	-	-	10	6.4	2	1.5	2	2.2	1	2.8	16	2.6
Making other people believe that you want to work	1	1.3	-	-	1	2.0	-	-	1	.8	1	1.1	1	2.8	6	.9
Problems in keeping jobs	1	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.6	1	1.1	-	-	3	.6
Employment Opportunities																
Lack of available jobs/demand in field	6	5.6	-	-	2	4.3	8	5.1	12	7.5	3	3.2	1	2.8	32	5.1
Low pay/no benefits	4	4.3	-	-	2	3.5	-	-	3	1.7	3	3.2	-	-	12	1.9
Location/too far from town	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1.2	3	1.6	-	-	-	-	4	.7
Jobs are too temporary	1	1.5	-	-	1	2.0	-	-	1	.8	-	-	-	-	4	.6
Nepotism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.8	-	-	-	-	1	.2
Education																
Lack of education	7	7.2	-	-	2	4.0	15	9.7	26	15.7	2	2.2	4	11.1	55	8.9
Learning disabilities/ illiterate	2	2.3	-	-	2	3.5	2	1.1	-	-	-	-	1	2.8	7	1.1
Need a license/ certification	1	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.8	2	.4
Language barrier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.8	-	-	-	-	1	.2
Transportation																
Transportation	27	27.5	12	36.7	17	34.3	53	35.7	47	29.1	21	22.6	12	33.3	190	30.5

**2. What do you feel are the biggest barriers or problems to getting a job now?
(continued)**

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Housing																
No housing [no address/phone]	15	14.8	10	32.1	12	24.4	22	14.4	4	2.2	10	10.8	6	16.7	79	12.6
Shelter rules [no 2nd shift work]	1	1.4	-	-	2	3.7	-	-	4	2.2	1	1.1	-	-	8	1.3
Need stability first/ need to make living arrangement first	-	-	-	-	2	4.9	-	-	-	-	4	4.3	1	2.8	7	1.2
Children																
Cost of child care	3	3.1	6	19.3	17	33.2	-	-	58	35.8	-	-	4	11.1	88	14.2
Need to be home with children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3.6	-	-	-	-	6	.9
Discrimination																
Discrimination/prejudice	1	1.4	-	-	1	2.0	1	.7	5	3.2	-	-	2	5.6	11	1.7
Physical Health																
Health problems/pregnancy	12	12.6	4	12.7	2	4.0	33	21.9	27	16.8	8	8.6	6	16.7	93	14.9
Handicap/disability/physical limitations	13	12.9	3	8.9	3	6.1	24	16.0	13	8.2	14	15.1	4	11.1	74	11.9
Mental Health																
Mental health problems/mental stability	12	12.0	3	9.0	1	2.2	19	12.6	19	11.5	17	18.3	4	11.1	75	11.9
Alcoholism/chemical dependency	1	1.3	2	7.4	2	3.7	37	24.8	1	.7	13	14.0	2	5.6	59	9.4
Emotional stress/pressure	-	-	3	10.7	2	3.7	3	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	1.3
Unable to deal with others/anti-social	1	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.8	2	2.2	-	-	4	.7
Other addictions [sex]	-	-	1	3.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.2

**2. What do you feel are the biggest barriers or problems to getting a job now?
(continued)**

	Emergency shelter				Battered women's shelter		Transitional housing				Street				Total	
	Male		Female		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Resources Needed for Work																
Papers/ identification/ social security card/ pictured ID]	13	12.6	-	-	-	-	4	2.9	6	3.7	5	5.4	2	5.6	30	4.8
Clothing/clean clothes	2	2.3	1	3.4	-	-	-	-	1	.9	1	1.1	1	2.8	7	1.1
Money to look for work	2	2.3	-	-	1	2.0	-	-	4	2.5	1	1.1	1	2.8	9	1.5
Don't know the area	1	1.5	2	7.3	-	-	-	-	3	1.6	-	-	-	-	6	1.0
Tools	3	3.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.1	-	-	4	.7
Personal Reasons																
Age	6	5.6	2	6.7	-	-	14	9.5	-	-	3	3.2	1	2.8	26	4.2
Prison record/ criminal background	1	1.3	-	-	3	5.6	4	2.9	2	1.2	2	2.2	-	-	12	2.0
Motivation/attitude	7	7.3	2	7.4	-	-	3	2.0	4	2.4	7	7.5	4	11.1	28	4.4
Time	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3.3	-	-	1	2.8	6	1.0
Family problems	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.8	1	1.1	-	-	2	.4
Involved in treatment	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	.9
Physical appearance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5.4	-	-	5	.8
Need paperwork to get job back	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3.1	1	.8	-	-	-	-	6	.9
Abuse issues/safety	-	-	1	3.0	5	10.3	-	-	2	1.5	-	-	-	-	9	1.4
Miscellaneous																
Will lose benefits	-	-	-	-	2	4.4	1	.7	7	4.3	-	-	1	2.8	11	1.8
Weather	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.8	-	-	-	-	1	.2
None	9	8.8	-	-	4	7.8	3	2.0	1	.6	4	4.3	-	-	21	3.3
Retired	1	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.2
Financial encumbrances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2.2	-	-	2	.3
Just traveling through	-	-	1	2.6	-	-	-	-	3	1.6	1	1.1	-	-	4	.7

Interview sites

Central Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter									
Anna Maries Battered Women's Shelter	-	11	11	-	10	10	-	90.9	90.9
Mid-Minnesota Women's Center	-	7	7	-	6	6	-	85.7	85.7
Total Battered women's shelters	-	18	18	-	16	16	-	88.8	88.8
Overnight shelter									
Community Shelter	1	5	6	-	3	3	-	60.0	50.0
Salvation Army Emergency Shelter	26	8	34	20	8	28	76.9	100.0	82.4
Salvation Army (Brainerd)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Overnight shelter	27	13	40	20	11	31	74.1	84.6	75.6
Transitional housing									
Casamia	1	4	5	1	3	4	100.0	75.0	80.0
Cass County HRA	5	3	8	1	-	1	20.0	-	12.5
Central Minnesota Housing Partnership	2	4	6	2	2	4	100.0	50.0	75.0
Domus Transitional Housing	8	6	14	4	5	9	50.0	83.3	46.3
Home Again	5	-	5	5	-	5	100.0	-	100.0
Hope Housing	16	30	46	4	10	14	25.0	33.3	30.4
Jill Eckhoff Transitional House Program	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	100.0	100.0
St. Cloud Veterans Administration Medical Center	87	-	87	30	-	30	-	34.5	34.5
Volunteers of America	-	9	9	-	7	7	-	77.8	77.8
Total – Transitional housing	124	58	182	47	29	76	37.9	48.3	41.8
Totals sheltered	151	89	240	67	56	123	44.4	62.9	51.3
Non-sheltered – Place of Hope Ministries	-	-	-	15	6	21	-	-	-
Total interviews – Central Minnesota Continuum of Care Region	-	-	-	82	62	144	-	-	-

Northeast Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter									
Advocates for Family Peace	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	100.0	100.0
Transitional housing									
Esther House	6	9	15	4	8	12	66.7	88.9	80.0
Koochiching Emergency Transitional Housing Project	-	3	3	-	2	2	-	66.7	66.7
Advocates for Peace Transitional Housing	-	6	6	-	6	6	-	100.0	100.0
Kootascha	4	5	9	-	3	3	-	60.0	33.3
Total – Transitional housing	10	23	33	4	19	23	40.0	82.6	69.7
Total sheltered	10	25	33	4	21	25	40.0	84.0	75.8
Total interviews – Northeast Minnesota Continuum of Care Region				4	21	25			

St. Louis County continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter									
Women's Coalition	-	11	11	-	6	6	-	54.5	54.5
Dabinoo'Igan	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	100.0	100.0
Total-Battered women's shelter	-	14	14	-	9	9	-	64.3	64.3
Overnight shelter									
Central Hillside United Ministry	29	5	34	23	2	25	79.3	40.0	73.5
Loaves and Fishes	3	4	7	2	3	5	66.7	75.0	71.4
Range Emergency Shelter	3	2	5	3	2	5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Union Gospel Mission	19	-	19	13	-	13	68.4	-	68.4
Totals – Overnight shelter	54	11	65	41	7	48	75.9	63.6	73.8
Transitional Housing									
Women's Transitional Housing Coalition	-	20	20	-	18	18	-	90.0	90.0
Salvation Army Transitional Housing	4	12	16	2	10	12	50.0	83.3	75.0
American Indian Community Housing Organization	-	5	5	-	5	5	-	100.0	100.0
Range Transitional Housing	6	20	26	6	20	26	100.0	100.0	100.0
445 Veterans Outreach - Northern Minnesota	5	-	5	4	-	4	80.0	-	80.0
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency Transitional Housing	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Transitional housing	19	58	77	12	53	65	63.2	91.4	84.4
Youth transitional housing									
Proctor House	2	-	2	2	-	2	100.0	-	100.0
Harbor House for Youth	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	100.0	100.0
Total sheltered	75	85	160	55	71	126	73.3	83.5	78.8
Non-sheltered – Duluth				58	24	82			
Range Mental Health				4	5	9			
Veteran Outreach – Northern Minnesota				5	-	5			
Total interviews – St. Louis County Continuum of Care Region				122	100	222			

Northwest Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered Women's Shelter									
Northwoods Coalition for Battered Women	-	5	5	-	5	5	-	100.0	100.0
Overnight Shelter									
Care and Share Center	25	8	33	12	3	15	48.0	37.5	45.5
Ours to Serve House of Hospitality	6	4	10	5	3	8	83.3	75.0	45.5
Total – Overnight shelter	31	12	43	17	6	23	54.8	50.0	53.5
Transitional housing									
April's Shelter	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	100.0	100.0
Bi-CAP Transitional Housing	1	15	16	1	14	15	100.0	93.3	93.8
Care & Share Transitional Housing	3	5	8	1	2	3	33.3	40.0	37.5
Headwaters Intervention Center	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	100.0	100.0
Hubbard County HRA	2	7	9	1	6	7	50.0	85.7	77.8
Northwest Community Action Transitional Housing	7	11	18	3	9	12	42.9	81.8	66.7
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	2	4	6	1	4	5	50.0	100.0	66.7
Total Transitional housing	15	48	63	7	41	48	46.7	85.4	76.2
Youth transitional housing									
Evergreen House	2	1	3	2	1	3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total sheltered	48	66	114	26	53	79	54.2	80.3	69.3
Non-sheltered – Bemidji				-	3	3			
Non-sheltered – Crookston				2	-	2			
Total interviews– Northwest Minnesota Continuum of Care Region				28	56	84			

Twin Cities Metropolitan continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter									
Anne Pierce Rogers Home	-	12	12	-	11	11	-	91.7	91.7
Alexandra House	-	15	15	-	11	11	-	73.3	73.3
B. Robert Lewis House	-	8	8	-	4	4	-	50.0	50.0
Casa De Esperanza	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Comerstone	-	19	19	-	15	15	-	78.9	78.9
Doris and Stann Hill Home	-	6	6	-	6	6	-	100.0	100.0
Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter	-	30	30	-	24	24	-	80.0	80.0
Home Free	-	20	20	-	10	10	-	50.0	50.0
Sojourner Project	-	8	8	-	8	8	-	100.0	100.0
Women's Advocates	-	18	18	-	16	16	-	88.9	88.9
Women of Nations	-	20	20	-	13	13	-	65.0	65.0
Total –Battered women shelters	-	157	157	-	118	118	-	75.2	75.2
Overnight shelters									
Ascension Place	-	32	32	-	19	19	-	59.4	59.4
Catholic Charities Family Shelter	5	21	26	3	13	16	60.0	61.9	61.5
Catholic Charities Mary Hall	20	2	22	13	1	14	65.0	50.0	63.6
Catholic Charities Safe Waiting Space Overflow	89	-	89	23	-	23	25.8	-	25.8
Catholic Charities Safe Waiting Space	250	-	250	84	-	84	33.6	-	33.6
Greater St. Paul Council of Churches Overflow Shelter	1	7	8	1	7	8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Harbor Lights Center	150	69	219	47	34	81	31.3	49.3	37.0
Inter-Faith Outreach	16	24	40	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lazarus Hotel	47	125	172	8	33	41	17.0	26.4	23.8
LSS Emergency Housing	-	8	8	-	8	8	-	100.0	100.0
Marie Sandvik Women's House	-	10	10	-	8	8	-	80.0	80.0
Mission Inc – Emergency	70	12	82	21	4	25	30.0	33.3	30.5
North Commons Interfaith Hospitality Network	1	4	5	-	2	2	-	50.0	40.0
Our Savior's Housing	33	5	38	15	5	20	45.5	100.0	52.6
People Serving People	32	94	126	5	39	44	15.6	41.5	34.9
Simpson United Methodist Church	52	7	59	30	5	35	57.7	71.4	59.3
Shiloh House	8	4	12	7	4	11	87.5	100.0	91.7
St. Stephens Catholic Church	40	-	40	26	-	26	65.0	-	65.0

Twin Cities Metropolitan continuum of care region (continued)

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Overnight shelters (continued)									
Rest-well Motel	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	100.0	100.0
Union Gospel Mission	76	-	76	32	-	32	42.1	-	42.1
Total Overnight shelter	891	425	1316	315	183	498	35.4	43.1	39.2
Youth overnight shelters									
L.S.S. Safe House	4	5	9	4	5	9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Point Northwest	1	-	1	1	-	1	100.0	-	100.0
Total Youth overnight shelter	5	5	10	5	5	10	100.0	100.0	100.0
Transitional housing									
Alliance Transitional Housing	14	14	28	13	7	20	92.9	50.0	71.4
Anoka CAP Transitional Housing	5	9	14	1	5	6	20.0	55.69	42.9
B. Robert Lewis House- Eagan	-	12	12	-	9	9	-	75.0	75.0
Cabrini House	9	12	21	7	11	18	77.8	91.7	85.7
Catholic Charities - Exodus Hotel	76	17	93	24	8	32	31.6	47.1	34.4
Catholic Charities Structured Residential Housing	25	18	43	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catholic Charities Transitional Housing	56	24	80	17	13	30	30.4	54.2	37.5
Caroline Family Services	-	12	12	-	11	11	-	91.7	91.7
Cornerstone Advocacy Service	-	10	10	-	9	9	-	90.0	90.0
Dakota County Employment & Economic Assistance	7	37	44	4	29	33	57.1	78.4	75.0
East Metro Women's Council – Ramsey County	3	16	19	1	7	8	33.3	43.8	42.1
East Metro Women's Council – Washington County	1	3	4	1	-	1	100.0	-	25.0
Eden Programs	-	20	20	-	18	18	-	90.0	90.0
Elim Transitional Housing – Anoka	6	27	33	-	19	19	-	70.4	57.6
Elim Transitional Housing – Hennepin	16	91	107	2	16	18	12.5	17.6	16.7
Elim Transitional Housing – Ramsey	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emma Norton Residence	-	38	38	-	16	16	-	42.1	42.1
Freedom Place	8	6	14	8	6	14	100.0	100.0	100.0
Harriet Tubman Center	-	10	10	-	5	5	-	50.0	50.0
Hastings Housing Coalition	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	100.0	100.0
Hastings Veterans Home	63	-	63	40	-	40	63.5	-	63.5
Hope Community	-	3	3	-	2	2	-	66.7	66.7
House of Charity Transitional Housing	70	25	95	19	1	20	27.1	4.0	21.1

Twin Cities Metropolitan continuum of care region (continued)

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Transitional Housing (Continued)									
Juel Fairbanks Transitional Housing	4	4	8	3	3	6	75.0	75.0	75.0
Kateri Residence	-	18	18	-	10	10	-	55.6	55.6
LSS Phoenix Apartments	-	9	9	-	4	4	-	44.4	44.4
LSS City View Transitional Housing	3	3	6	-	3	3	-	100.0	100.0
LSS Abaku Transitional Housing	1	2	3	-	1	1	-	50.0	33.3
Mary's Place	13	86	99	6	29	35	46.2	33.7	35.4
Mary's Shelter	-	15	15	-	14	14	-	93.3	93.3
Minnesota Aids Project	36	13	49	10	6	16	27.8	46.2	32.7
Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans-Transitional Housing	33	4	37	19	2	21	57.6	50.0	56.8
Mission Inc. Transitional	13	6	19	10	3	13	76.9	50.0	56.8
Mother Earth Lodge	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	100.0	100.0
Naomi Family Center	-	27	27	-	27	27	-	100.0	100.0
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council	-	12	12	-	1	1	-	8.3	8.3
Our Savior's Transitional Housing	10	8	18	4	5	9	40.0	62.5	50.0
Perspectives, Inc.	-	30	30	-	10	10	-	33.3	33.3
PRIDE	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	100.0	100.0
R.I.S.E. Transitional Housing	8	7	15	4	7	11	50.0	100.0	73.3
ROOF Project	9	47	56	2	45	47	22.2	95.7	83.9
Rose Center	-	6	6	-	3	3	-	50.0	50.0
Sabathani Community Center, Inc.	2	4	6	-	4	4	-	100.0	66.7
Sacred Fire Lodge	4	-	4	3	-	3	75.0	-	75.0
Salvation Army Transitional Housing	12	-	12	5	-	5	41.7	-	41.7
Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency – Dakota	3	5	8	3	2	5	100.0	40.0	62.5
Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency – Scott-Carver	4	9	13	-	5	5	-	55.6	38.5
Simpson Housing Services	1	48	49	-	25	25	-	52.1	51.0
St. Anne's	-	15	15	-	13	13	-	86.7	86.7
St. Paul YWCA	-	26	26	-	18	18	-	69.2	69.2

Twin Cities Metropolitan continuum of care region (continued)

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Transitional Housing (Continued)									
Theresa Living Center	-	12	12	-	10	10	-	83.3	83.3
Vail Place	2	1	3	1	1	2	50.0	100.0	66.7
Wellsprings Transitional Living Center	-	18	18	-	14	14	-	77.8	77.8
Washington County HRA	1	3	4	1	2	3	100.0	66.7	75.0
Wayside House	-	17	17	-	17	17	-	100.0	100.0
Women's Community Housing	-	17	17	-	5	5	-	29.4	29.4
Zion Organized Outreach Ministry	-	10	10	-	10	10	-	100.0	100.0
Totals Transitional	519	896	1415	208	495	703	40.1	55.2	49.7
Youth Transitional									
Archdale	6	21	27	2	15	17	33.3	71.4	63.0
L.S.S. Transitional Living Program	4	6	10	4	6	10	100.0	100.0	100.0
Freeport West, Project Solo Transitional	3	21	24	-	2	2	-	9.5	8.3
Project Foundation	7	7	14	6	4	10	85.7	57.1	71.4
Project Offstreets	3	2	5	3	2	5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Safe Haven	2	-	2	2	-	2	100.0	-	100.0
Total Youth transitional housing	25	57	82	17	29	46	68.0	50.9	56.1
Total sheltered	1440	1540	2980	545	830	1375	37.8	53.9	46.1
Non-sheltered locations									
Non-sheltered – Anoka	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Non-sheltered – Minneapolis	-	-	-	81	49	130	-	-	-
Non-sheltered – St. Paul	-	-	-	53	13	66	-	-	-
Non-sheltered - Shakopee	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	-
Non-sheltered –Washington County				2	5	7			
Project Offstreets (drop in)	-	-	-	1	3	4	-	-	-
Total interviews- Metropolitan Continuum of Care Region	-	-	-	685	902	1587	-	-	-

Southeast Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter									
CADA House	-	7	7	-	7	7	-	100.0	100.0
Victim's Crisis Center	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Women's Shelter	-	21	21	-	12	12	-	57.1	57.1
Total Battered women shelters	-	30	30	-	19	19	-	63.3	63.3
Overnight shelter									
Dorothy Day Hospitality House	14	4	18	5	1	6	35.7	25.0	33.3
Theresa House	2	6	8	1	6	7	50.0	100.0	87.5
Welcome Inn	5	4	9	3	3	6	60.0	75.0	66.7
Total Overnight shelter	21	14	35	9	10	19	42.9	71.4	54.3
Transitional housing									
Bethany House	4	-	4	4	-	4	100.0	-	100.0
Dan Corcoran Catholic Work House	2	2	4	1	-	1	50.0	-	50.0
Houston County Women's Resources	1	10	11	-	9	9	-	90.0	90.0
Northfield Community Action Center	2	4	6	-	4	4	-	100.0	100.0
Red Wing Area Transitional Housing	2	14	16	2	10	12	100.0	71.4	75.0
Rochester Family Y	1	8	9	1	5	6	100.0	62.5	66.7
Steele County Transitional	2	5	7	1	5	6	50.0	100.0	85.7
Salvation Army Transitional Housing	1	9	10	1	7	8	100.0	77.8	80.0
Welcome Home	6	7	13	5	2	7	83.3	28.6	53.8
Women's Shelter Inc. Transition House	-	7	7	-	6	6	-	85.7	85.7
Total Transitional housing	21	66	87	15	48	63	71.4	72.7	72.7
Total sheltered	42	80	152	24	77	101	57.1	96.3	66.4
Non-sheltered – Mankato				10	2	12			
Total interviews – Southeast Minnesota Continuum of Care Region				34	79	113			

Southwest Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter									
Shelter House	-	5	5	-	2	2	-	40.0	40.0
Women's Rural Advocacy Program	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Total battered women's shelter	-	5	5	-	2	2	-	40.0	40.0
Transitional housing									
Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc.	-	2	2	-	1	1	-	50.0	50.0
Western Community Action Council	4	9	13	-	9	9	44.4	100.0	69.2
Total Transitional housing	4	11	15	-	10	10	-	90.9	66.7
Youth emergency									
Home of Hope	1	1	2	1	1	2	100.0	100.0	100.0
Youth transitional housing									
L. S. S. SEARCH Program	1	6	7	-	2	2	-	33.3	28.6
Total sheltered	6	23	29	1	15	18	16.7	65.2	62.1
Non-sheltered – Marshall	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
Non-sheltered – Willmar	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Total interviews – Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care Region				2	18	20			

West Central Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts			Interview percent of census		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter									
Women's Crisis Center	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	100.0	100.0
Overnight shelter									
Dorothy Day House of Hospitality	10	-	10	6	-	6	60.0	-	60.0
Churches United for the Homeless	19	6	25	15	5	20	78.9	83.3	80.0
White Earth	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	100.0	100.0
Total Overnight shelter	29	8	37	21	7	28	72.4	87.5	75.7
Transitional housing									
Churches United for the Homeless Transitional	8	2	10	1	1	2	12.5	50.0	20.0
Mahube Community Council Transitional Shelter	1	3	4	1	3	4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Listening Ear Crisis Center	-	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prairie Community Waivered Services	1	3	4	1	2	3	100.0	66.7	75.0
YWCA – Clay Transitional Housing Program	-	3	3	-	3	3	30.0	47.4	41.4
Total Transitional housing	10	19	29	3	9	12	61.5	64.5	62.9
Total sheltered	39	31	70	24	20	44			
Non-sheltered – Moorhead				29	6	35			
Total interviews – West Central Minnesota Continuum of Care Region				53	26	79			

Families seeking housing assistance from Community Action Programs and Community Action Councils October, 2000

The main section of the report focused on the characteristics of a sample of homeless persons throughout Minnesota. This section is an attempt to identify housing issues for those persons who are seeking help from other sources; specifically, Minnesota's Community Action Agencies. These agencies administer several sources of emergency housing and foreclosure prevention funds and are often in contact with people seeking housing assistance, especially in rural areas. These agencies administer several sources of emergency housing and foreclosure prevention funds and are often in contact with people seeking housing assistance, especially in rural areas. The information was collected by 24 of the 30 Minnesota Community Action Agencies. It is intended to identify the number of persons seeking housing related assistance during a one month time period and describe the range of housing needs, current housing situations and the types of services provided to those seeking help.

The following findings were generated from data collected by Community Action Programs and Community Action Councils of Minnesota during October, 2000. The tables on the following pages are divided into the seven regions within the state.

Persons served

- 898 families sought help during October, 2000 representing 1,209 adults and 1,276 children.
- The majority of persons seeking help were women (70%).
- Heads of households ranged in age from 17 to 77. The average age was 32 years.
- Seventy-one percent of those seeking assistance were Caucasian.

Current housing arrangement

- Forty-nine percent of persons seeking housing assistance were living in their own home but needed assistance to stay there. Of these, 8 percent report that they would be evicted within 30 days without housing assistance.
- Thirty-one percent of the persons seeking housing assistance were living in temporary arrangements with friends or relatives.
- Ten percent of the persons seeking housing assistance were living in emergency shelters or had received a housing voucher for temporary housing.

- Four percent of the persons seeking housing assistance were staying in their cars or outdoors.
- Other housing arrangements included motel (3%), evicted from home (living arrangement not specified) (2%), substandard housing (1%), safe home (1%), and jail, hospital, or an unspecified location (less than 1%).

Type of assistance requested

- Twenty-nine percent of the persons who contacted Community Assistance agencies were seeking financial assistance, 25 percent were seeking homelessness prevention services and 23 percent were seeking help in finding affordable housing.
- Ten percent of those seeking assistance requested emergency shelter, 2 percent needed help with the first month's rent, 2 percent needed help with the rental deposit, and 2 percent wanted to get into a transitional housing program.
- One percent or less of the persons seeking assistance were looking for help with transportation, utility bills, relocation, legal rights, employment services, food, mortgage foreclosure prevention or furniture.

Type of assistance received

- One-third of persons seeking assistance (34%) were given a referral to another community service.
- Help in finding affordable housing was given to 17 percent of the person seeking assistance.
- Fourteen percent of the persons seeking help received some form of financial assistance and another 14 percent received help from the homelessness prevention programs.
- Eight percent received a voucher or referral to an emergency shelter.
- Other types of services provided include budget counseling, rental assistance, food, referral to HRA or HUD, energy assistance, emergency assistance, transportation assistance, and foreclosure prevention. A complete list of services provided can be found in the tables that follow.

Discussion

The 898 families seeking housing assistance from the community action agencies during October 2000 represent a very small proportion of Minnesota households.⁴³ About half of the families seeking assistance (49%) were in their own homes but needed help to stay there. About one-third of the persons seeking assistance (31%) were staying with friends or family. This year's study shows the largest increase in persons in emergency shelters or outdoors who are seeking Community Action assistance.

Providing assistance in the form of referrals to other community resources, financial assistance, help in finding affordable housing, homelessness prevention services and referrals or vouchers to emergency shelters are the services most commonly provided by Minnesota's Community Action agencies.

⁴³ The 1990 census reports 1,138,581 households in Minnesota.

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES BY REGION

Northeast region

Duluth	Community Action - Duluth
Grand Rapids	Koochiching - Itasca Action Council, Inc.
Virginia	Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Northwest region

Badger	Northwest Community Action Agency
Bemidji	Bi-County Community Action Program
Crookston	Tri-valley Opportunity Council
Detroit Lakes	Mahube Community Council
Oklee	Inter-County Community Council

Central region

Little Falls	Tri-County Community Action Agency, Inc.
Maple Lake	Wright County Community Action
Mora	Lakes & Pines Community Action Council
St. Cloud	Tri-County Community Action Programs, Inc.

West Central region

Alexandria	West Central Minnesota Communities Action
Moorhead	Clay-Wilkin Opportunity Council
New York Mills	Otter Tail/Wadena Community Action Council

Metropolitan region

Hopkins	Community Action of Suburban Hennepin
Shakopee	Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Program Agency
St. Paul	Ramsey Action Program

Southwest region

Mankato	Minnesota Valley Action Council
Marshall	Western Community Action
Willmar	Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc.
Worthington	Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council

Southeast region

Albert Lea	Freeborn County Community Action
Rochester	Olmsted Community Action Program
Rushford	SEMCAC, Inc.
Zumbrota	Three Rivers Community Action Program

**DATA TABLES: CAP and CAC DATA,
October 2000**

The accompanying tables provide further breakdown by regions within the state.

Where family stayed last night

Where did family stay last night?	Northeast		Northwest		East Central		West Central		Metro		Southwest		Southeast		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Own housing	34	32.1	48	40.7	76	51.7	7	20.6	35	34.7	38	37.6	98	36.2	336	38.3
Temporary arrangement with friends or family	30	28.3	41	34.7	28	19.0	14	41.2	37	36.6	35	34.7	91	33.6	276	31.4
Emergency shelters including voucher sites	10	9.4	11	9.3	11	7.5	2	5.9	7	6.9	6	5.9	39	14.4	86	9.8
Own housing –evicted within 30 days	14	13.2	11	9.3	11	7.5	-	-	11	10.9	8	7.9	12	4.4	67	7.6
Outdoors, car	9	8.5	3	2.5	4	2.7	-	-	5	5.0	4	4.0	14	5.2	39	4.4
Hotel, Motel	1	.9	1	.8	8	5.4	-	-	3	3.0	4	4.0	11	4.1	28	3.2
Evicted	2	1.9	-	-	2	1.4	9	26.5	-	-	1	1.0	1	.4	15	1.7
Substandard housing	3	2.8	3	2.5	1	.7	1	2.9	-	-	1	1.0	4	1.5	13	1.5
Safe home/victim services	-	-	-	-	4	2.7	1	2.9	2	2.0	3	3.0	1	.4	11	1.3
Jail, Prison	2	1.9	-	-	1	.7	-	-	-	-	1	1.9	-	-	4	.5
Hospital	-	-	-	-	1	.7	-	-	1	1.0	-	-	-	-	2	.2
With parents	1	.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.1
Base Total	106	100.0	118	100.0	147	100.0	34	100.0	101	100.0	101	100.0	271	100.0	878	100.0
Missing Data	6		-		3		-		-		7		4		20	
Total	112		118		150		34		101		108		275		898	

Racial/ethnic background of head of household

Racial/ethnic background	Northeast		Northwest		East Central		West Central		Metro		Southwest		Southeast		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black/African American	1	1.0	3	2.6	10	7.4	3	8.8	31	31.6	2	2.2	29	10.8	79	9.3
American Indian	12	12.0	43	36.8	2	1.5	-	-	1	1.0	1	1.1	2	.7	61	7.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	1	.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1.5	5	.6
White or Caucasian	87	87.0	69	59.0	121	89.0	31	91.2	63	64.3	68	74.7	202	75.1	641	75.9
Hispanic	-	-	2	1.7	1	.7	-	-	3	3.1	17	18.7	30	11.2	53	6.3
Mixed race	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2.2	-	-	2	.2
Native African	-	-	-	-	1	.7	-	-	-	-	1	1.1	2	.8	4	.5
Base Total	100	100.0	117	100.0	136	100.0	34	100.0	98	100.0	91	100.0	269	100.0	845	100.0
Missing	12		1		14		-		3		17		6		53	
Total	112		118		150		34		101		108		275		898	

Gender of head of household

Gender of head of household	Northeast		Northwest		East Central		West Central		Metro		Southwest		Southeast		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	41	37.3	37	31.4	38	25.9	11	32.4	19	19.0	35	34.7	77	28.3	258	29.3
Female	69	62.7	81	68.6	109	74.1	23	67.6	81	81.0	66	65.3	195	71.7	624	70.7
Base Total	110	100.0	118	100.0	147	100.0	34	100.0	100	100.0	101	100.0	272	100.0	882	100.0
Missing	2		-		3		-		1		7		3		16	
Total	112		118		150		34		101		108		275		898	

Age of head of household

Age of head of household	Northeast		Northwest		East Central		West Central		Metro		Southwest		Southeast		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
19 or less	32	28.6	10	8.5	50	33.3	11	32.4	14	13.9	47	43.5	84	30.5	248	27.6
20 – 29	35	31.3	43	36.4	40	26.7	12	35.3	36	35.6	32	29.6	85	30.9	283	31.5
30 – 39	19	17.0	33	28.0	30	20.0	9	26.5	38	37.6	19	17.6	57	20.7	205	22.8
40 – 49	13	11.6	22	18.6	18	12.0	-	-	12	11.9	10	9.3	36	13.1	111	12.4
50 – 59	12	10.7	6	5.1	9	6.0	2	5.9	1	1.0	-	-	9	3.3	39	4.3
60 – 69	1	.9	3	2.5	2	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.4	7	.8
70 or more	-	-	1	.8	1	.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1.1	5	.6
Base Total	112	100.0	118	100.0	150	100.0	34	100.0	101	100.0	108	100.0	275	100.0	898	100.0
Average age	34		33		35		29		30		29		32		32	

Number of adults in household

Number of adults in the household	Northeast		Northwest		East Central		West Central		Metro		Southwest		Southeast		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.9	1	.4	2	.2
1	75	70.1	82	69.5	91	60.7	23	74.2	78	80.4	64	60.4	207	75.3	620	70.1
2	32	29.9	35	29.7	55	36.7	8	25.8	19	19.6	39	36.8	64	23.3	252	28.5
3	-	-	1	.8	2	1.3	-	-	-	-	1	.9	1	.4	5	.6
4	-	-	-	-	2	1.3	-	-	-	-	1	.9	2	.7	5	.6
Base Total	107	100.0	118	100.0	150	100.0	31	100.0	97	100.0	106	100.0	275	100.0	884	100.0
Missing	5		-		-		3		4		2		-		14	
Total	112		118		150		34		101		108		275		898	

Number of youth in household

Number of youth in the household	Northeast		Northwest		East Central		West Central		Metro		Southwest		Southeast		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0	61	56.5	10	33.9	42	28.0	14	42.4	16	16.5	43	40.6	85	30.9	301	33.9
1	17	15.7	31	26.3	31	20.7	8	24.2	24	24.7	24	22.6	78	28.4	213	24.0
2	14	13.0	23	19.5	38	25.3	6	18.2	31	32.0	18	17.0	61	22.2	191	21.5
3	8	7.4	14	11.9	24	16.0	3	9.1	17	17.5	15	14.2	31	11.3	112	12.6
4	5	4.6	7	5.9	9	6.0	2	6.1	6	6.2	1	1.9	9	3.3	40	4.5
5	1	.9	2	1.7	2	1.3	-	-	1	1.0	1	.9	7	2.5	14	1.6
6	2	1.9	-	-	2	1.3	-	-	2	2.1	2	1.9	3	1.1	11	1.2
7	-	-	-	-	1	.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.4	2	.2
8	-	-	1	.8	1	.7	-	-	-	-	1	.9	-	-	3	.3
Base total	108	100.0	118	100.0	150	100.0	33	100.0	97	100.0	106	100.0	275	100.0	887	100.0
Missing	4		-		-		1		4		2		-		12	
Total	112		118		150		34		101		108		275		898	

Type of service requested

Type of service requested	Northeast (N=112)		Northwest (N=118)		East Central (N=150)		West Central (N=34)		Metro (N=101)		Southwest (N=108)		Southeast (N=275)		Total (N=898)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Financial assistance	39	25.5	57	34.1	71	37.4	17	44.7	31	22.0	54	37.0	74	20.8	343	28.8
Homeless prevention services	51	33.3	30	18.0	69	36.3	2	5.3	14	9.9	23	15.8	110	31.0	299	25.1
Affordable housing assistance	32	20.9	57	34.1	19	10.0	11	28.9	49	34.8	38	26.0	72	20.3	278	23.4
Emergency shelter	17	11.1	12	7.2	15	7.9	4	10.5	21	14.9	11	7.5	41	11.5	121	10.2
Finding a place to live	-	-	-	-	3	1.6	-	-	5	3.5	1	.7	27	7.6	36	3.0
Deposit	-	-	-	-	5	2.6	-	-	-	-	2	1.4	16	4.5	23	1.9
Transitional housing	-	-	1	.6	-	-	-	-	19	13.5	1	.7	-	-	21	1.8
Rental assistance/first month's rent	1	.7	4	2.4	4	2.1	-	-	-	-	4	2.7	6	1.7	19	1.6
Utility bill assistance	1	.7	5	3.0	2	1.1	2	5.3	-	-	4	2.7	-	-	14	1.2
Renters rights	3	2.0	-	-	1	.5	1	2.6	-	-	3	2.1	-	-	8	.7
Transportation/car repair	6	3.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.3	7	.6
Relocation/moving assistance	-	-	1	.6	-	-	1	2.6	-	-	2	1.4	3	.8	7	.6
Mortgage foreclosure prevention	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2.1	2	.6	5	.4
Food	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.7	-	-	2	.6	3	.3
Furniture	1	.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.7	-	-	-	-	2	.2
Employment services	1	.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.1
Renting class	-	-	-	-	1	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.1

Type of service provided

Type of service provided	Northeast (N=112)		Northwest (N=118)		East Central (N=150)		West Central (N=34)		Metro (N=101)		Southwest (N=108)		Southeast (N=275)		Total (N=898)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Referral to other community service	60	32.4	59	28.2	76	32.8	18	42.9	46	32.2	51	34.2	149	36.7	459	33.6
Assistance to help find affordable housing	44	23.8	55	26.3	13	5.6	5	11.9	32	22.4	32	21.5	45	11.1	226	16.5
Homeless prevention program assistance	17	9.2	12	5.7	61	26.3	1	2.4	18	12.6	18	12.1	70	17.2	197	14.4
Financial assistance	30	16.2	44	21.1	20	8.6	9	21.4	30	21.0	17	11.4	46	11.3	196	14.3
Referral/voucher to emergency shelter	20	10.8	16	7.7	12	5.2	3	7.1	12	8.4	8	5.4	34	8.4	105	7.7
Service needs being evaluated	2	1.1	-	-	12	5.2	2	4.8	1	.7	5	3.4	7	1.7	29	2.1
Referral to HRA, HUD, or Section 8	1	.5	15	7.2	1	.4	-	-	1	.7	2	1.3	3	.7	23	1.7
No service available	-	-	2	1.0	7	.3	2	4.8	-	-	-	-	12	3.0	23	1.7
Housing assistance, first month's rent, deposit	1	.5	-	-	6	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	3.4	21	1.5
Emergency assistance	-	-	-	-	8	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	3.2	21	1.5
Foreclosure prevention	1	.5	-	-	3	1.3	-	-	-	-	3	2.0	1	.2	8	.6
Food, or meal voucher	-	-	-	-	2	.9	-	-	1	.7	1	.7	3	.7	7	.5
No service provided – didn't keep appointment	1	.5	-	-	3	1.3	1	2.4	-	-	1	.7	1	.2	7	.5
Renters/tenants rights	2	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3.4	-	-	7	.5
Life skills training	-	-	-	-	5	2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	.4
Energy assistance	2	1.1	1	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1.3	-	-	5	.4
Case management services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2.0	2	.5	5	.4
Budgeting counseling	-	-	-	-	2	.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	.5	4	.3

Type of service provided (continued)

Type of service provided	Northeast (N=112)		Northwest (N=118)		East Central (N=150)		West Central (N=34)		Metro (N=101)		Southwest (N=108)		Southeast (N=275)		Total (N=898)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Referral to legal aid	-	-	2	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	.5	4	.3
Transportation, gas	2	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.7	1	.2	4	.3
Transitional housing	-	-	2	1.0	-	-	-	-	1	.7	-	-	-	-	3	.2
Furniture & household items	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.7	-	-	1	.2	2	.1
Paid utilities	1	.5	-	-	1	.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	.1
Resolved problem on own- no service provided	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.1
Referral to youth program	1	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.1
Referral to church	-	-	1	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.1

Gender of head of household

Gender of head of household	Without regular or permanent housing		Own housing	
	N	%	N	%
Male	136	30.0	112	27.2
Female	317	70.0	300	72.8
Total	453	100.0	412	100.0

Racial/ethnic background of head of household

Racial/ethnic background	Without regular or permanent housing		Own housing	
	N	%	N	%
Caucasian	321	72.8	311	79.3
African American	43	9.8	36	9.2
American Indian	30	6.8	30	7.7
Latino/Hispanic	41	9.3	12	3.1
Multi-racial	1	.2	1	.3
Asian	4	.9	1	.3
Native African	1	.2	1	.3
Total	441	100.0	392	100.0

Age of head of household

Age of head of household	Without regular or permanent housing		Own housing	
	N	%	N	%
19 or less	121	26.4	114	27.2
20 – 29	157	34.2	124	29.6
30 – 39	106	23.1	97	23.2
40 – 49	52	11.3	57	13.6
50 – 59	18	3.9	20	4.8
60 – 70	2	.4	5	1.2
70 or more	3	.7	2	.5
Total	459	100.0	419	100.0
Average age	31 years		33 years	

Number of adults in household

Number of adults in household	Without regular or permanent housing		Own housing	
	N	%	N	%
0	2	.4	-	-
1	339	74.7	268	65.4
2	110	24.2	136	33.2
3	1	.2	4	1.0
4	2	.4	2	.5
Total	454	100.0	410	100.0

Number of youth in household

Number of youth in household	Without regular or permanent housing		Own housing	
	N	%	N	%
0	169	37.1	123	29.9
1	118	25.9	92	22.4
2	78	17.1	110	26.8
3	53	11.6	56	13.6
4	22	4.8	17	4.1
5	9	2.0	5	1.2
6	4	.9	6	1.5
7	-	-	2	.5
8	3	.7	-	-
Total	456	100.0	411	100.0

Type of service requested

Type of service requested	Without regular or permanent housing (N=450)		Own housing (N=414)	
	N	%	N	%
Financial assistance	168	26.7	170	31.6
Homeless prevention services	88	14.0	207	38.5
Affordable housing assistance	179	28.5	94	17.5
Emergency shelter	103	16.4	11	2.0
Finding a place to live	28	4.5	8	1.5
Deposit	16	2.5	7	1.3
Rental assistance/first month's rent	10	1.6	9	1.7
Transitional housing	20	3.2	1	.2
Utility bill assistance	4	.6	10	1.9
Renters rights	1	.2	7	1.3
Transportation/car repair	5	.8	2	.4
Relocation/moving assistance	-	-	5	.9
Mortgage foreclosure prevention	-	-	5	.9
Food	3	.5	-	-
Furniture	2	.3	-	-
Employment services	-	-	1	.2
Renting class 101	1	.2	-	-

Type of service provided

Type of service provided	Without regular or permanent housing (N=446)		Own housing (N=413)	
	N	%	N	%
Referral to other community service	229	31.5	224	36.2
Assistance to help find affordable housing	163	22.4	58	9.4
Financial assistance	101	13.9	95	15.3
Homeless prevention program assistance	66	9.1	130	21.0
Referral/voucher to emergency shelter	89	12.2	12	1.9
In process of evaluation application	14	1.9	14	2.3
Referral to HRA, HUD, or Section 8	10	1.4	12	1.9
No service available	9	1.2	13	2.1
Housing assistance, first month's rent, deposit	9	1.2	12	1.9
Emergency assistance	10	1.4	10	1.6
Foreclosure prevention	-	-	8	1.3
Food, or meal voucher	6	.8	1	.2
No service provided –didn't keep appointment	6	.8	1	.2
Renters/tenants rights	-	-	7	1.1
Energy assistance	1	.1	4	.6
Life skills training	3	.4	2	.3
Case management	-	-	5	.8
Transportation, gas	4	.6	-	-
Referral to legal aid	-	-	4	.6
Budgeting counseling	-	-	4	.6
Moved into transitional housing	3	.4	-	-
Paid utilities	-	-	2	.3
Furniture & household items	2	.3	-	-
Resolved problem on own	1	.1	-	-
Referral to church	-	-	1	.2
Referral to youth program	1	.1	-	-