

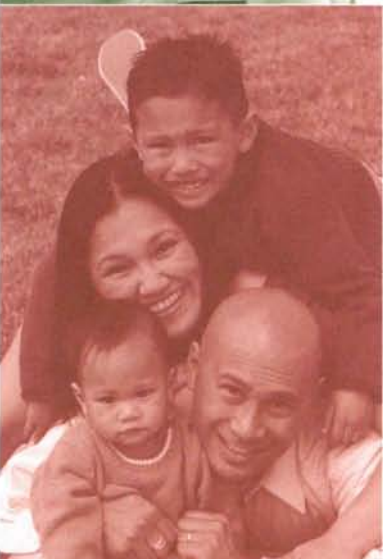


Wilder  
Research

# Homeless service use in Minnesota

*Emergency shelter and transitional  
housing, federal fiscal year 2009*

AUGUST 2010



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federal fiscal year 2009*

**August 2010**

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# Acknowledgments

Project staff, Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System: Sharon Arch, Audrey Vesota Flack, Melissa Hansen, Craig Helmstetter, Laura McLain, Lisa Sell, Matthew Thiede, and Emily Warren.

Other Wilder Research staff who contributed to this report: Marilyn Conrad, Paul Devereaux, and Louann Graham.

Although Wilder Research wrote and produced this report, the report is very much a collaborative effort. The HMIS Governing Group and its ad-hoc reporting sub-committee served as an advisory group for the report. Current membership of the Governing Group includes:

Kathleen Vitalis (Chair), Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans; Judy Johnson, Anoka County; Hanna Klimmek, Central Minnesota Housing Partnership; Marsha Milgrom, Dakota County; Marge Wherley, Hennepin County; Patty Beech, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission; Virjean Olmstead, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council; Laura DeRosier, St. Louis County; Suzie Misel, Safe Haven for Youth; Cindy Norgard, Salvation Army; Michelle Kompelien, Western Community Action; Kelly Lehr, Ramsey County; Tina Bayonet, Washington County; Gina Kautz, Clay County Housing and Redevelopment Authority; Vicki Farden, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency; Isaac Wengerd, Department of Human Services; Colleen Schmitt, Cornerstone Advocacy Service; Ben Van Hunnik, Hearth Connection; James McCree; George Terrell, Catholic Charities; Doug Jensen, Minnesota Community Action Association; Susan Phillips, Lutheran Social Services; Kathy Berg-Hanson, Salvation Army; Liz Kuoppala, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless; and Mike Manhard, Metro-wide Engagement on Shelter and Housing.

Thanks also to Matthew Ayres, Hennepin County, and Elliot Ricciardelli, Catholic Charities for supplementary shelter data.

A special thanks to the caseworkers who diligently collected the information that goes into Minnesota's HMIS. Thanks also to the roughly 600 HMIS system end-users throughout the state, for their hard work, patience, and cooperation.

Finally, we thank the thousands of shelter guests and transitional housing program clients whose personal information has been aggregated for purposes of this report.

# Summary

Over 12,800 people stayed in the emergency shelter and transitional housing programs that participate in Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System during the 12 months from October 2008 to September 2009. Collectively these organizations provide about 3,500 beds per night designated for people experiencing homelessness, which is about 59 percent of the state's total capacity of approximately 6,000 emergency and transitional beds.<sup>1</sup>

## *Background*

This is the second in a series of reports on the use of homeless services in Minnesota, focusing on usage of two housing types: time-limited emergency shelter and more service-rich transitional housing, which typically allows stays of up to two years. It is important to note that this report is *not* a comprehensive report about all homelessness in Minnesota.

Additionally, much of the report is restricted to shelter stay patterns and demographic characteristics of those served by programs participating in Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a federally-mandated but locally controlled system that collects client-level information primarily from organizations receiving certain federal and state funds.<sup>2</sup>

This report builds directly on the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's major yearly report to Congress on homelessness, the *Annual Homeless Assessment Report* (AHAR). A handful of areas in Minnesota have contributed aggregate data to the national AHAR since it began in 2005. In the federal fiscal year 2009, which ran from October 2008 through September 2009, every jurisdiction in Minnesota contributed at least some data for the second year in a row.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that these numbers do not include over 600 emergency shelter and transitional housing beds across the state located in programs that exclusively cater to victims of domestic violence.

<sup>2</sup> For more on Minnesota's HMIS, see [www.hmismn.org](http://www.hmismn.org)



## *Quarterly point-in-time counts*

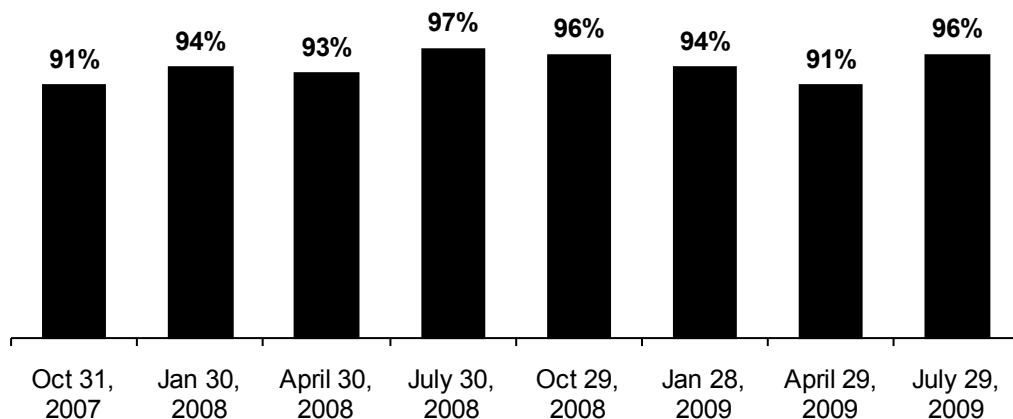
Throughout the report we show the number of people staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing on one night in each quarter: October 29th, 2008, and January 28th, April 29th, and July 29th, 2009. This parallels the quarterly reporting in the national AHAR.

These quarterly counts are based primarily on data collected in Minnesota's HMIS, supplemented by data readily available from shelters in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Between the HMIS and supplemental data these quarterly counts include persons served in about 79 percent of the state's emergency shelter and transitional housing beds, including 73 percent of the state's emergency shelter beds, and 83 percent of the state's transitional housing beds.

The number of persons served in these programs was fairly stable at each of the point in time dates, ranging between 4,240 and 4,460 throughout federal fiscal year 2009. Although bed capacities are difficult to precisely measure, these programs collectively provide about 4,600 beds per night. Thus, among the most notable findings from this study is that, overall, emergency shelters and transitional housing programs were operating near full capacity throughout the year. Further, these programs were just as full in federal fiscal year 2009 as they were in the previous year.

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### **1. Occupancy rates for emergency shelter and transitional housing: Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts, federal fiscal years 2008 and 2009**

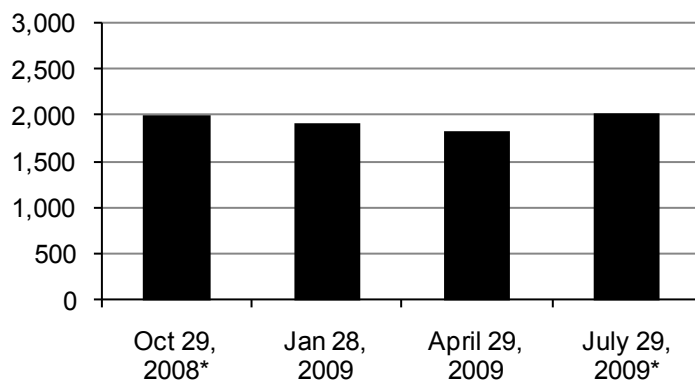


**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, supplemented by Hennepin County shelter billing system, St. Paul's Union Gospel Mission (in 2007 and 2008), and the Catholic Charities' Dorothy Day shelter (collectively 78% of the state's combined transitional and emergency shelter capacity in 2008 and 79% in 2009).

The quarterly counts for emergency shelter show somewhat higher occupancy rates and greater seasonal variation than the transitional housing counts. The number of persons served in emergency shelter ranged from a low of just over 1,800 in April to a high of just over 2,000 in July. Since the quarterly counts come from shelters that provide a collective fixed capacity of about 1,945 beds, it appears that shelters were at or near capacity in each quarter. In fact, emergency shelter use exceeded fixed bed capacity in both October and July when several families were provided shelter at an overflow facility that is not counted in the state's official bed capacity numbers.

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## 2. Persons served in emergency shelter: Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts



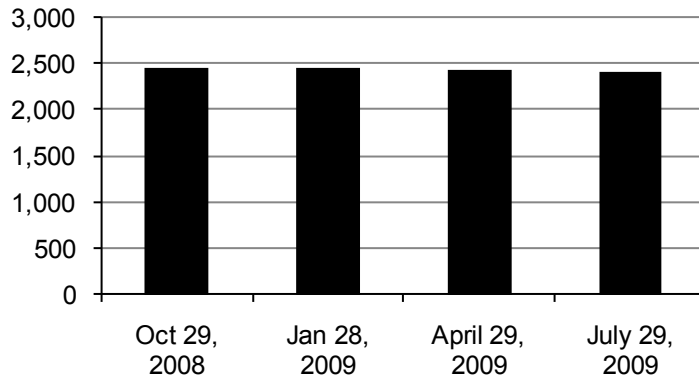
**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009, supplemented by Hennepin County emergency shelter billing system and the Catholic Charities Dorothy Day shelter.

\* Number served exceeds fixed capacity.

Transitional housing providers participating in HMIS were fullest in October, when they collectively provided housing to approximately 2,500 people. About 90 percent of transitional housing beds were full on a given night. Since transitional units can be full even when beds are not, and since units become vacant as people move in and out of programs, these data suggest that transitional programs were operating near capacity throughout the year.

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### 3. Persons served in transitional housing: Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

#### *Data collected over the course of the year*

From October 2008 to September 2009 over 12,800 people stayed in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs that participated in Minnesota's HMIS. About 8,600 of these were served in emergency shelters throughout the state, and 4,700 stayed in transitional housing. Nearly 500 stayed in both emergency shelter and transitional housing.

The 8,600 staying in emergency shelters that participate in HMIS included:

- About 3,600 people served in families, defined as households including at least one adult and at least one minor child. This includes 1,100 families with 2,100 minor children.
- About 5,200 people served as individuals, including 350 unaccompanied youth, age 17 or younger.

Nearly 30 percent of emergency shelter beds in Minnesota were in programs participating in HMIS during federal fiscal year 2009. That level of participation does not allow us to make estimates of *all* shelter use throughout the state.

HMIS participation is higher among transitional housing providers. About 83 percent of all transitional housing beds were in programs that participated in HMIS during federal fiscal year 2009. Therefore, the number of people who stayed in HMIS-participating transitional housing programs – 4,700 – can be used to estimate the total number of people who resided in all transitional housing programs for the homeless throughout the state.

An estimated 5,700 people resided in transitional housing for the homeless in Minnesota sometime in federal fiscal year 2009. This includes:

- An estimated 4,020 people in families, defined as households including at least one adult and at least one minor child. This includes 1,300 families and 2,450 minor children.
- An estimated 1,780 people served as individuals, mainly single adults, but also including 125 youth age 17 or younger, 16 of whom were teen parents who received housing along with their children.

### **Lengths of stay**

Families in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs that participated in HMIS tended to spend more days in these programs over the course of the year than did individuals. Lengths of stay can be influenced by everything from availability of alternative housing to both formal and informal policies enforced by local programs.

The median length of stay for families was 24 days in shelter and 181 days in transitional housing, compared to 13 and 123 days for individuals. This was the same sort of pattern reported for federal fiscal year 2008. Overall, however, lengths of stay were slightly shorter in 2009 than in 2008 (with the exception of individuals in transitional housing).

### **Demographics**

The following descriptive information – gender, age, race, disability, and veteran status – are based on data recorded by emergency shelter and transitional housing providers participating in Minnesota’s HMIS. The characteristics of those served in federal fiscal year 2009 are very similar to those served in federal fiscal year 2008.

#### **Gender**

Three-quarters of adults served as individuals in emergency shelter were men. Most adults served with minor children, in either emergency shelter or transitional housing, were women (75% and 81%, respectively). A little over half of adults served as individuals in HMIS-participating transitional housing programs were women.

#### **Age**

In general, adults served as individuals tend to be older than those served in families. Only 28 percent of individuals served in emergency shelter were age 30 or younger, compared to 60 percent of adults served in families in emergency shelter. Adults served as individuals in transitional housing tended to be older than those served in families, but

slightly younger than individuals served in emergency shelter. Families in both emergency and transitional housing are most likely headed by single young women.

In terms of children served in emergency and transitional housing, most are quite young. Approximately 58 percent of children served in families in either emergency shelter or transitional housing were 5 or younger, with the remainder primarily in their elementary school years. Less than 15 percent of children served in families were adolescents, ages 13 to 17. However, approximately 400 teenagers were served on their own in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs participating in HMIS during federal fiscal year 2009.<sup>3</sup>

### **Race and ethnicity**

Persons of color are highly over-represented among those experiencing homelessness, both nationally and in Minnesota. Data from the emergency shelters and transitional housing programs participating in Minnesota's HMIS reflect that as well. These data also show that the race and ethnicity, like gender and age, vary by service type and household status.

While 85 percent of Minnesota's population is white, only one-quarter of persons in families served in emergency shelter were white, as were just over one-third of persons in families served in transitional housing. African Americans comprise only 5 percent of the state's overall population, but were the most common racial group among persons served in families, especially in emergency shelter, where African Americans represented 43 percent of persons served. Similarly, American Indians, accounting for about 1 percent of the state's population, made up 13 percent of families in emergency shelter and 10 percent of families in transitional housing.

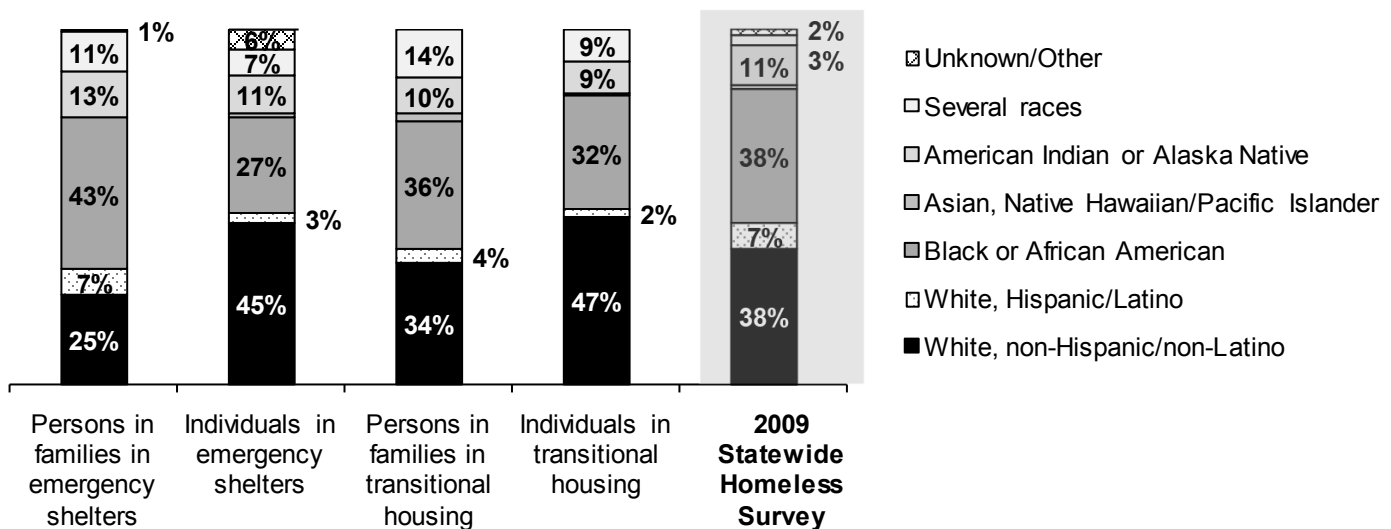
Almost half of those served as individuals in emergency shelter and transitional housing were white, nearly 30 percent were African American, and approximately 10 percent were American Indian.

Latinos comprise about 4 percent of Minnesota's population and continue to make up a small proportion of people served, with the largest proportion (7%) found among families in emergency shelters. A significant portion of those staying in emergency and transitional housing identified as multi-racial, ranging from 7 percent of individuals in emergency shelter to 14 percent of persons served in family transitional housing.

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<sup>3</sup> Most programs serving "unaccompanied youth" in Minnesota are not limited to adolescents; typically they can also serve young adults up to age 21.

#### 4. Race and ethnicity of persons served in federal fiscal year 2009 compared with 2009 statewide survey, by housing type and family status



**Sources:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2008, and Wilder Research Statewide Homeless Survey.

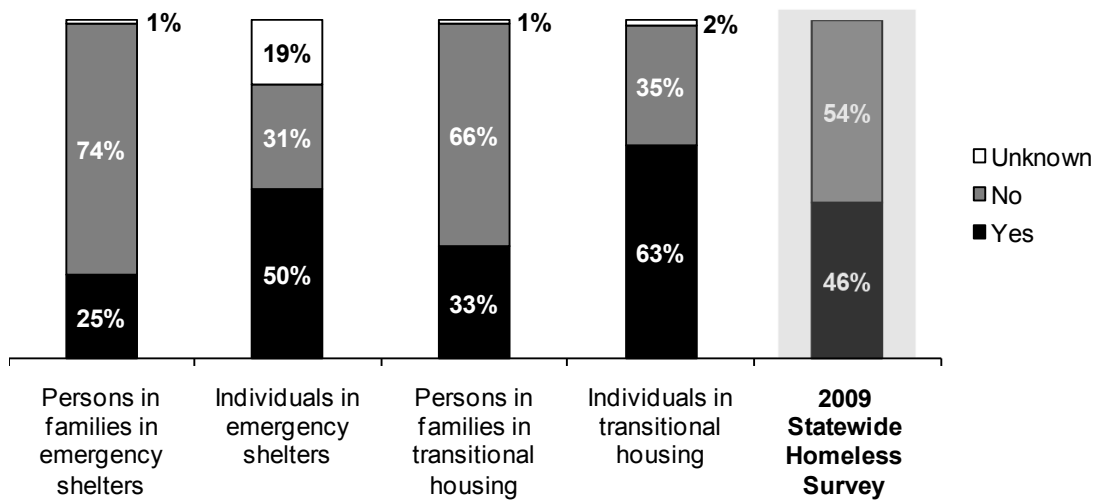
**Note:** The 2009 Statewide Survey is included as a point of interest but differs from the HMIS data in several important ways, including that it is collected at a single point in time rather than over the course of the year, and it includes persons surveyed in non-shelter locations as well as shelter and transitional housing programs that do not participate in Minnesota's HMIS.

### Disability Status

Providers participating in HMIS routinely report whether the adults served in their programs have a broadly-defined "disabling condition." This includes long-term physical, mental, and emotional impairments, as well as AIDS or a diagnosable substance abuse disorder that is of long duration and impairs the ability to live independently.

Adults served as individuals are more likely to report a disability than are adults served in families, and those served in transitional housing are more likely to have a disability than those served in emergency shelter. Over 60 percent of adult individuals served in transitional housing in federal fiscal year 2009 had a disability, followed by 50 percent of adults served as singles in shelter, both of which increased compared to 2008. Among adults served in families, one-third of those in transitional housing, and one-quarter of those in emergency shelter were disabled. As a point of comparison, 46 percent of all adults experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered, reported a disability in Wilder's 2009 Statewide Homeless Survey.

**5. Disability status of adults served in federal fiscal year 2009 compared with 2009 statewide survey, by housing type and family status**



**Sources:** Organizations participating in Minnesota’s HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2008, and Wilder Research Statewide Homeless Survey.

**Note:** In this graph “Yes” indicates “disabling condition” for those reported in HMIS. For the statewide survey “Yes” indicates that the respondent reported one or more physical and mental health-related conditions, including chronic health conditions. Also note that The 2009 Statewide Survey is included as a point of interest but differs from the HMIS data in several important ways, including that it is collected at a single point in time rather than over the course of the year, and it includes persons surveyed in non-shelter locations as well as shelter and transitional housing programs that do not participate in Minnesota’s HMIS.

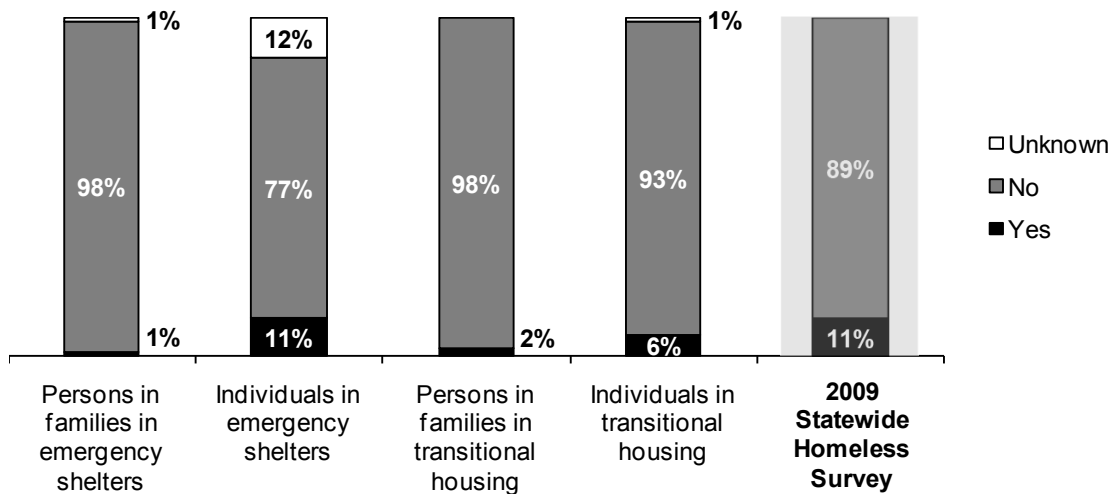
## Veterans

Over the course of the federal fiscal year 612 veterans of the armed forces were served in the emergency shelters and transitional housing programs participating in Minnesota’s HMIS. Most of them (520) stayed in emergency shelters as individuals. In fact, 11 percent of all individuals in emergency shelter are known to be veterans. This happens to be the same percentage of adults with veteran status found in Wilder’s 2009 Statewide Homeless Survey.

Veterans are a special focus of this year’s Homeless Service Use report. Comparisons between veterans served in emergency sand transitional housing and all adults served in these programs found that veterans are more likely to be disabled, more likely enter shelter from the streets (“places not meant for human habitation”), tend to be older, and are more likely to be white males.

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**6. Veteran status of adults served in federal fiscal year 2009 compared with 2009 statewide survey, by housing type and family status**



**Sources:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2008, and Wilder Research Statewide point-in-time homeless survey.

**Note:** The 2009 Statewide Survey is included as a point of interest but differs from the HMIS data in several important ways, including that it is collected at a single point in time rather than over the course of the year, and it includes persons surveyed in non-shelter locations as well as shelter and transitional housing programs that do not participate in Minnesota's HMIS.

### ***Next steps with the Homeless Service Use Report***

Organizations throughout the state are currently collecting data that will be aggregated into tables and reported for use in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's next Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR). Wilder Research and Minnesota's statewide HMIS Governing Group plan to make use of that same data for a third Homeless Service Use report. The next report will be a major step forward in more fully representing homeless and sheltered populations by including those served in permanent supportive housing designated for people experiencing homelessness. The next report will include data from October 2009 to September 2010 and will likely show the effects of the continuing recession on homelessness in Minnesota.



# Background

This is the second annual report on the use of specific services by people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. This report builds directly on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) *Annual Homeless Assessment Report* (AHAR).<sup>4</sup> The AHAR is a congressionally-mandated report that seeks to better inform the nation's understanding of homelessness and improve policymaking related to homelessness. As stated in HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan's foreword to the 2008 AHAR:

...In these times, it is especially important to have comprehensive information about people who have become homeless. This latest report will be important in informing policy decisions and developing new strategies to prevent homelessness and assure decent affordable housing for our citizens.

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) are a primary data source for the AHAR as well as this report. HMIS is a federally mandated, but locally controlled database that collects information on clients of organizations serving those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. As such, HMIS is a continuous database; it collects service start- and end- dates (or program entry- and exit-dates) as well as various demographic characteristics, for individuals served throughout the year. Minnesota's HMIS, administered by Wilder Research, includes approximately 200 nonprofit and governmental organizations throughout the state.<sup>5</sup>

Minnesota has participated in the AHAR since its inception in 2005. For the first three data collection periods, however, Minnesota's participation was limited to several "sample sites" chosen by HUD to represent similar jurisdictions nationally.<sup>6</sup> Starting in federal fiscal year 2008 (October 2007 to September 2008), HUD made a concerted effort to expand participation beyond the sample sites. In addition, after four years of implementation, participation in Minnesota's HMIS grew to a level meeting HUD's thresholds for at least partial AHAR participation in each of Minnesota's 13 HUD-related "Continuum of Care" regions. Thus, federal fiscal year 2008 was the first year in which the aggregate AHAR data sent to HUD was also useful for local purposes here in Minnesota.

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<sup>4</sup> US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development (July 2009), *The 2008 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress* (currently available at [www.hudhre.info/documents/4thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf](http://www.hudhre.info/documents/4thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf) ).

<sup>5</sup> For more information about Minnesota's HMIS, please see [www.hmismn.org](http://www.hmismn.org)

<sup>6</sup> Minnesota's AHAR sample sites are: Northwest Hennepin County (not including Minneapolis, Bloomington, or Plymouth), Moorhead, Norman County, Rochester, City of St. Paul, and Washington County.

The main body of this year's report is limited to emergency shelter and transitional housing services. While several other programs participate in Minnesota's HMIS, ranging from homeless prevention programs to permanent supportive housing, we currently do not have the resources to analyze these data in a manner consistent with the analysis presented here.

We hope to expand the report to present a more comprehensive and detailed analysis in the future, and certainly will do so as federal AHAR requirements expand to include other types of housing and services. This year's report takes a step in that direction by providing a "special focus" chapter on veterans served in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs, mirroring data requested by HUD for a special project on veterans in conjunction with the broader AHAR effort. The national AHAR for federal fiscal year 2010 is to include an entire new section on permanent supportive housing designated for those who have experienced homelessness, parallel to the information on shelter and transitional housing. The information assembled in Minnesota for that report also will be incorporated into upcoming Minnesota's Homeless Service Use reports.

## ***Limitations***

This report is *not* a comprehensive report on all homelessness in Minnesota. It is limited to use of emergency shelter and transitional housing services, and most sections of the report are further limited to organizations that participate in Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System. The proportions of such programs that participate in HMIS are noted throughout the report, and are summarized in the report's appendix. Importantly, battered women's shelters are not represented in these data due to current restrictions on participating in HMIS.

## ***Definitions***

**AHAR:** Annual Homeless Assessment Report, HUD's annual report to Congress. The AHAR is based largely on aggregate data submitted in pre-defined table shells from HMIS across the nation. These tables are a primary source for Minnesota's Homeless Service Use Report.

**Continuum of Care:** HUD defines a CoC as a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness, and serves as the body through which governmental and non-profit organizations annually submit a joint application for HUD's competitive

“McKinney-Vento” homeless assistance funding. Minnesota currently has 13 Continuum of Care regions, as shown in the appendix to this report.

**Families:** Because this report relies on the aggregate data provided for HUD’s AHAR, it also relies on the way that HUD organizes households in that report, which includes defining people as served either as part of a “family,” or as an “individual.” For purposes of the AHAR, HUD defines a family as a household composed of two or more related persons, at least one of whom is a child accompanied by an adult. As a result of this definition, adolescent parents and their children are considered to be individuals in this report, as are married couples with no children and other households with no minor children.

**Homeless:** Based on statutory language, HUD currently defines as homeless: “1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and 2) an individual who 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 3) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping, accommodation for human beings.”<sup>7</sup> This definition, sometimes referred to as defining “literal homelessness,” specifically excludes those who are doubled up with friends or family.

**HMIS:** A Homeless Management Information System is a database that allows organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness to collect client information electronically and to produce required reports. An important characteristic of HMIS is that it centralizes data in one place so that persons served by multiple organizations can be “unduplicated,” or counted only once, in aggregate reporting. Minnesota’s HMIS is a statewide system administered by Wilder Research and overseen by a statewide Governing Group, involving approximately 200 nonprofit and governmental organizations throughout the state, most of which receive federal or state funds that require use of the system.

**HUD:** United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Individuals:** Because this report relies on the aggregate data provided for HUD’s AHAR, it also relies on the way that HUD organizes households in that report, which defines people as served either as part of a “family,” or as an “individual.” For purposes of the AHAR, HUD defines an individual as a single person served by themselves, with the exception of adolescent parents and their children, married couples with no children, and other households comprised only of adults, each of whom are counted as individuals.

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<sup>7</sup> USC 42, Chapter 119.1 ([www.hud.gov/homeless/definition.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/homeless/definition.cfm)). The federal definition of homelessness has been modified the recent HEARTH Act, but reporting procedures have to do with this new definition will not be implemented until HUD promulgates rules to implement this legislation.

**Emergency shelter:** HUD defines emergency shelter as any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness. The length of stay can range from one night up to as much as three or more months.

**Transitional housing:** HUD defines transitional housing as a project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate support services to people experiencing homelessness to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months. Transitional housing typically includes a higher level of supportive services than emergency shelter. Transitional housing is a type of “supportive housing” and is included in the definition of homelessness due to the time limits typically imposed on its participants. The time-limited nature of transitional housing is the primary distinguishing feature between it and permanent supportive housing.

## ***Methods***

In most ways the methods used for this report mirror those used in the national Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR): when people receive shelter and transitional housing services, their demographic information is recorded in HMIS and these data are then aggregated according to the definitions noted above.

Readers familiar with the AHAR will find that the methods used in this report differ from the AHAR in a few ways. First, in reporting on characteristics of persons served, the national AHAR generally reports percentages that exclude missing values from the denominator. While that is an acceptable practice, we have chosen to report percentages that include missing values, and make the percentage reported as “unknown” somewhat more explicit throughout this report.

Another distinction between this report and the AHAR is that while the HMIS data in the national AHAR is extrapolated to represent *all* users of emergency shelter and transitional housing, most of the HMIS data presented here represents only those receiving services from emergency shelter and transitional housing providers that participate in Minnesota’s HMIS. The research design of the national AHAR allows generalizations to be made since the research team started by establishing a nationally representative sample of jurisdictions, much like a sample of eligible voters is surveyed to make generalizations about all voters in election- year polling. Forming a similar representative sample of Minnesota for the purposes of this report is not possible, since there are far fewer jurisdictions within one state from which a representative sample can be drawn.

This report does make some estimates, however. In the chapter on transitional housing and in several of the Continuum of Care tables we have estimated the number of people

using all shelters or all transitional housing programs in a given region.<sup>8</sup> These estimations (or, more properly, extrapolations) use the same methodology used for the national AHAR. HUD's methodology assumes that bed use patterns are the same in all programs, regardless of whether the program participates in HMIS. So if a given region has 100 beds, with 70 of those beds covered in HMIS and 30 not covered, the estimation would go as follows:

	In HMIS	Not in HMIS	Total
Beds	70	30	100
Average number of people served per night	65	?	?
Average bed utilization rate	65/70=93%	?	?
Estimated bed utilization rate	-	93%	93%
Estimated average number of people served per night	-	30 * 0.93 = 28	65+28=93

The AHAR makes extrapolations when bed coverage exceeds 50 percent in a given region. For this report we have done the same: when bed coverage exceeds 50 percent we present estimates, but when bed coverage in a given region is 50 percent or less, we simply report the numbers as entered into HMIS by participating programs. Bed coverage has continually improved in Minnesota's HMIS and in ensuing years we are likely to exceed the 50 percent threshold in even more regions than is the case in the current report. The maps in the appendix provide a summary of HMIS bed coverage during federal fiscal year 2008.

### ***Other sources of information about homelessness in Minnesota***

It is important to distinguish HMIS from several other sources of information concerning homelessness in Minnesota, most importantly the Statewide Homeless Survey. The statewide survey, which has been conducted by Wilder Research every three years starting in 1991, remains the gold-standard for comprehensive information on homelessness at a single point in time in Minnesota.<sup>9</sup> The statewide survey differs from the Homeless Service Use Report in several important ways:

<sup>8</sup> See companion report, Homeless Service Use in Minnesota: Continuum of Care regional tables, federal fiscal year 2008 (available at [www.wilderresearch.org](http://www.wilderresearch.org)).

<sup>9</sup> See [www.wilder.org/homelessness.0.html](http://www.wilder.org/homelessness.0.html)

	<b>Statewide Homeless Survey</b>	<b>Homeless Service Use Report</b>
Data collection period	Single point in time (late October), once every 3 years.	Continuously over the course of a year.
Primary data collection method	Survey (face to face interviews by volunteers).	HMIS database (typically information is collected on paper forms by caseworkers and later entered into on-line database).
Locations included	All known Emergency Shelters (including domestic violence shelters), and transitional housing programs.  As many “street” locations as possible (encampments, cars, vacant buildings, etc.).	Emergency shelters and transitional housing providers participating in HMIS,* including nearly 30% of all emergency shelter beds and 80% of all transitional housing beds during federal fiscal year 2009.
Primary purpose	In-depth look at characteristics of people experiencing homelessness.  (Also commonly cited for number of people experiencing homelessness.)	Volume and patterns of service usage, including demographic and household characteristics.

\* In some cases we have supplemented data from HMIS with additional information, as noted throughout the report.

The Statewide Homeless Survey has been expanded in recent years to include companion studies, most notably including a survey of homelessness on several reservations in Minnesota. Several other sources provide information relevant to homelessness in our state, including:

**HUD point-in-time “January counts.”** Since 2005 HUD has required Continuum of Care regions that apply for funding under its McKinney Vento homeless assistance program – the major source of on-going federal funding for transitional and supportive housing for people who have experienced homelessness – to count the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in late January. This count includes people housed in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, as well as a “street count” of those found homeless in non-shelter locations. HUD requires regions to report certain demographic information for those counted in shelter programs, and encourages regions to do the same for unsheltered homeless.

The national AHAR uses the January counts to estimate homelessness at a given point in time, and make state-by-state comparisons of rates of homelessness.<sup>10</sup> Generally, however, we feel that it is premature to place too much weight on such comparisons since

<sup>10</sup> Also see M. William Sermons and Meghan Henry (January 2009), *Homelessness Counts: Changes in Homelessness from 2005 to 2007*, National Alliance to End Homelessness ([www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2158](http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2158), accessed March 22, 2009).

the January counts in many regions have fluctuated too widely year-to-year to be explained by actual changes in homelessness.

**The Quarterly Shelter Survey**, produced by the Minnesota Department of Human Services' Office of Economic Opportunity. This survey, which the OEO administers to coincide with Wilder's Statewide Homeless Survey and the January point-in-time counts, asks shelters to report how many people they serve in a given night each quarter, including limited demographic information.

In addition, individual counties, programs, intermediaries, and advocacy groups commonly produce reports on homelessness, ranging from fact sheets that incorporate information from local and national sources to full-scale evaluations to test the efficacy or cost-benefit of various interventions. A noteworthy source of information about homelessness in Minnesota, including activities aimed at ending homelessness, are the several regional plans to end homelessness, which collaborate under the collective umbrella of "Heading Home Minnesota."<sup>11</sup>

### ***Number of people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota***

The primary function of this report is to show patterns in usage of services provided for people experiencing homelessness. A point of context for this report, however, concerns the broader magnitude of homelessness. While the HMIS data that are at the center of this report provide a sense of demand for available services, HMIS provides only part of the broader picture of homelessness.

A complete measure of the magnitude of homelessness requires comprehensive survey efforts that include "street counts" of people not accessing homeless services, as well as service locations that do not participate in HMIS, such as domestic violence shelters, detox centers, food shelves, and hospital emergency rooms. To systematically and comprehensively conduct such surveys requires considerable expertise and resources.

As mentioned above, Wilder Research has been conducting a statewide survey of homelessness every three years since 1991. Additionally, for the past few years Continuum of Care regions throughout the state have been conducting January counts in conjunction with their annual applications for funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

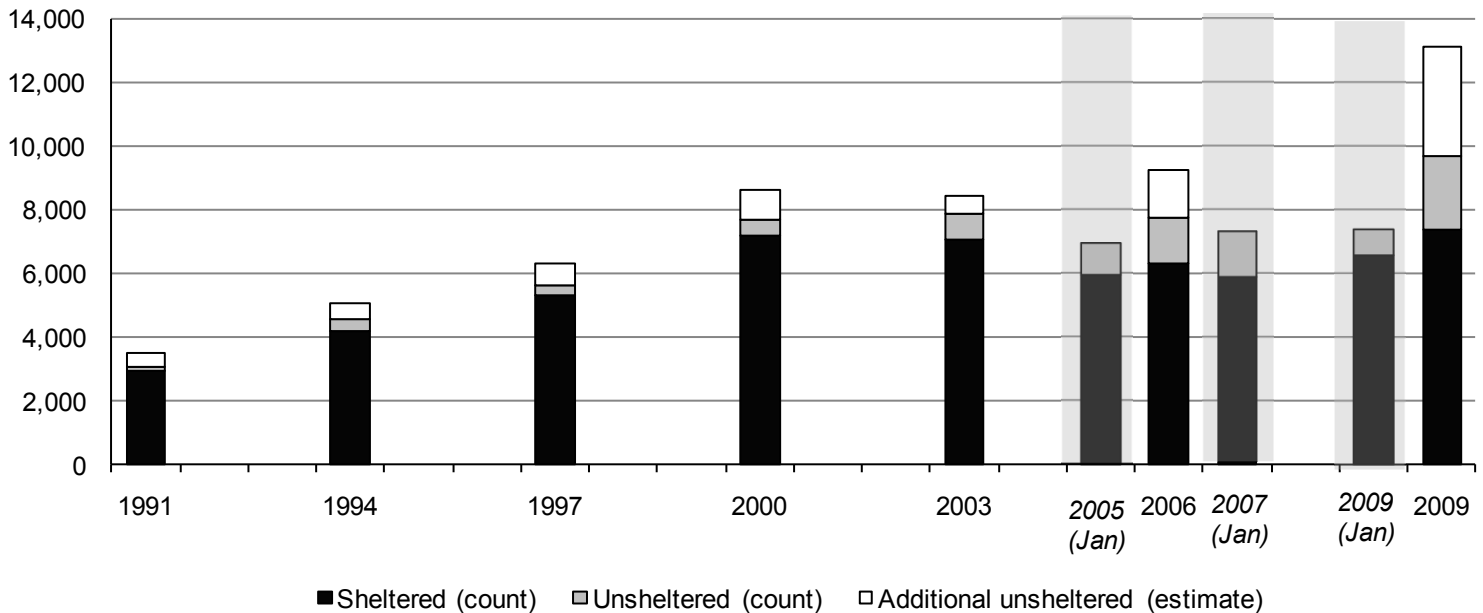
It is important to note that the January counts in particular have been improving over time, and are not yet conducted in the same way throughout the state. The January "street counts" are particularly difficult. These counts of people experiencing homelessness in

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<sup>11</sup> For more information, see: [www.headinghomeminnesota.org/](http://www.headinghomeminnesota.org/).

places “not meant for human habitation” rely largely on volunteer surveyors. This can be difficult at any time of the year, whether in urban locations with several abandoned buildings, or in the vast stretches of rural Minnesota. The HUD-mandated timing of the survey, during the last week in January, also likely under-represents the number of people who would be found living in non-shelter locations in Minnesota during the spring, summer, or fall.

## 7. Point-in-time counts of people experiencing homelessness, 1991-2009



**Source:** Wilder Research Statewide Homeless Survey (conducted every three years in late October), except 2005, 2007, and 2009 (Jan) which are the aggregated January counts conducted by HUD-related “Continuum of Care” regions throughout the state.

According to the 2009 statewide survey 13,100 people were homeless on the night of October 22, 2009. This is an increase of about 4,000, or roughly 40 percent, over the previous survey. Much of the increase is attributable to an increased effort to count people experiencing homelessness in non-shelter locations: the “street count” increased by 60 percent over 2006. However, the counts of people in sheltered locations were also up by more than 15 percent, suggesting that the recession, which has been accompanied by a foreclosure crisis, high unemployment rates, and cuts to various safety net programs, has resulted in higher levels of homelessness.



# Transitional housing

This chapter summarizes what is known about persons receiving transitional housing services in Minnesota during federal fiscal year 2009. For purposes of this report transitional housing is defined as housing that is designated for people who are homeless, with supportive services attached, and time-limited to 24 months. Transitional housing providers are self-identified by continuum of care regions throughout the state. Many are funded through the state's Transitional Housing Program, administered by the Department of Human Services' Office of Economic Opportunity, or by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Both of those funding streams require HMIS participation.

According to Continuum of Care regions throughout the state, there were nearly 3,300 beds available in the state's transitional housing programs during federal fiscal year 2009. Nearly three-quarters of these beds – about 2,400 – were designated for people in families, with the remaining 900 designated for individuals. Although there was almost no change in the total number of transitional housing beds from 2008 to 2009, there was an increase in family beds of nearly 100, while individual beds decreased by a similar number.

All of the data in this chapter rely on information collected by providers participating in Minnesota's HMIS. About 83 percent of all transitional beds were “covered” in HMIS throughout federal fiscal year 2009, meaning that information on individuals residing in these beds is recorded in HMIS. Participation rates are higher for family beds (87%, or nearly 2,100 of approximately 2,400 beds), than for individuals (71% or 630 of approximately 900 beds). Overall, HMIS participation was high throughout the state for transitional housing programs; with the exception of programs serving individuals in the Central Continuum of Care region.<sup>12</sup>

It is important to note that bed capacity is difficult to define with precision since many programs are flexible and a unit that is used for a single individual one week may be used by a mother and her two children the next. For that reason bed utilization rates are also difficult to precisely measure and are presented as approximations.

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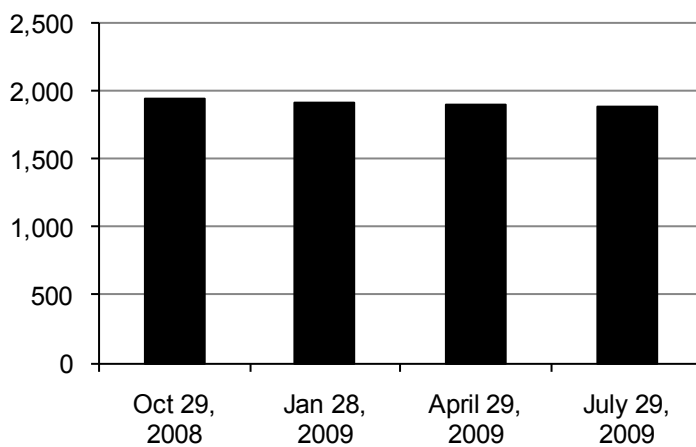
<sup>12</sup> Emergency shelters and transitional housing programs that exclusively cater to victims of domestic violence collectively provide over 750 beds statewide and are not included in this report, due to their restrictions on HMIS participation. See the supplemental information about shelters for victims of domestic violence. Also see the appendix tables for additional details on the information provided throughout this chapter, including bed coverage by Continuum of Care region.

## Quarterly point-in-time counts

The data in this section come from transitional providers throughout the state that participate in HMIS and do not include estimates to account for non-participating providers. According to the quarterly counts, the number of people served in transitional housing was fairly stable during the year. For families, the high point came on October 29, 2008, when transitional housing providers were serving nearly 1,940 persons in 619 families. At that point about 94 percent of the transitional beds represented in HMIS were occupied. Nine months later, HMIS-participating providers were housing just under 1,900 people in 600 families (Figure 8).

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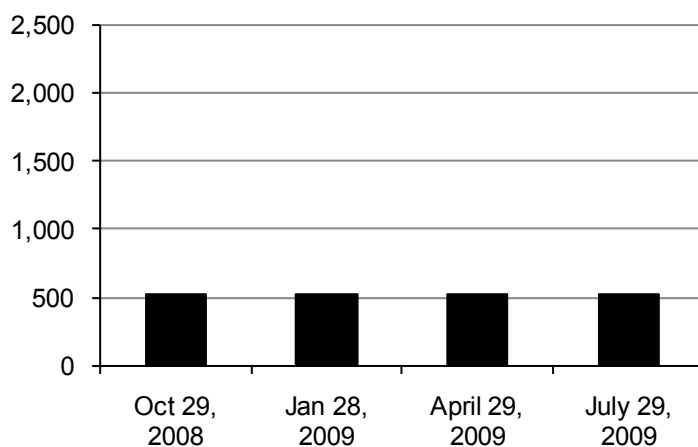
### 8. Persons in families in transitional housing: Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

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### 9. Individuals in transitional housing: Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

Likewise, the number of those served in transitional housing as individuals was very stable throughout the year. At the end of July the quarterly counts reached a high of 529 (only 9 more clients than the low point), and at that time about 84 percent of the 630 transitional beds for individuals represented in HMIS were filled.

Overall the quarterly counts for both families and individuals in federal fiscal year 2009 are very similar to those reported for federal fiscal year 2008, although a small shift in bed capacity reported by providers, away from families to individuals, makes it appear as though occupancy rates were somewhat lower among transitional beds for individuals in federal fiscal year 2009.

### ***Data collected over the course of the year***

This section also relies on data collected by transitional housing providers participating in HMIS during federal fiscal year 2009. Over 80 percent of the transitional beds in the state participated in HMIS throughout that time, including 87 percent of family beds and 71 percent of beds for individuals. Since the coverage levels were relatively high, we have used the count of people served in HMIS-participating transitional housing programs to estimate the number served in all programs throughout the state, using the simple extrapolation method employed in the national AHAR, and described in the first chapter of this report.

Based on the 3,500 people in families and the nearly 1,300 individuals recorded as served during the data collection period by transitional housing providers participating in HMIS, we estimate that 5,800 people were served in all homeless-designated transitional housing throughout the state during federal fiscal year 2009. This includes:

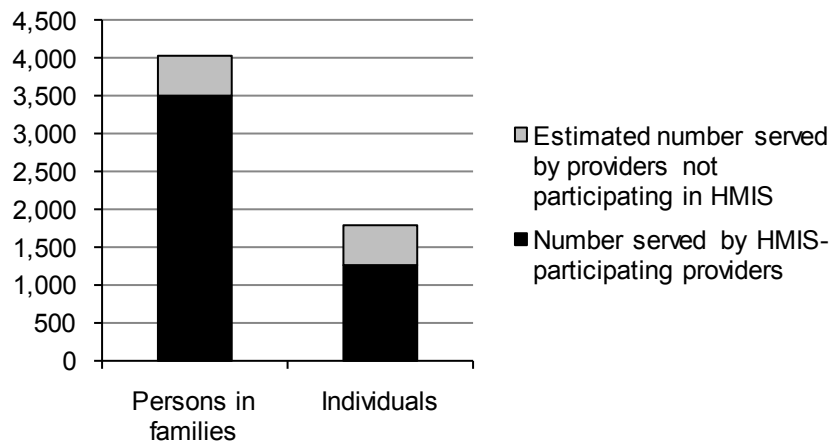
- An estimated 4,020 people in families headed by adults, including 1,300 families and 2,450 minor children.
- An estimated 1,780 people served as individuals, mainly single adults, but also including 125 youth age 17 or younger, 16 of whom were teen parents and received housing along with their children.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> We are not able to report on all “unaccompanied youth” by Minnesota’s predominant definition, which allows programs to serve those up to age 21, since the federal AHAR tables that underlie much of this report provide only the broad age categories 13-17 and 18-30.

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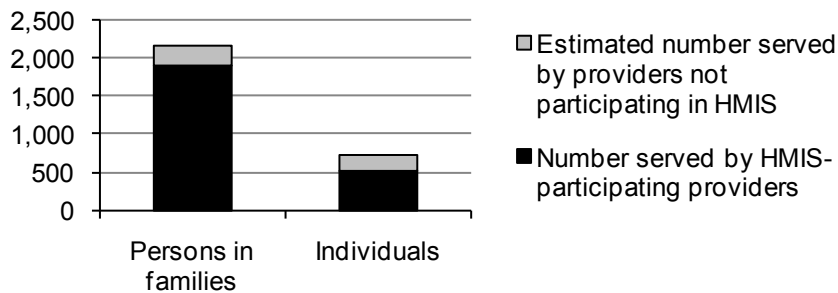
**10. Total number served in transitional housing over the course of federal fiscal year 2009**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

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**11. Average number served per night in transitional housing over the course of federal fiscal year 2009**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

On an average night in federal fiscal year 2009, transitional housing programs throughout the state served an estimated 2,900 people, including an estimated 730 individuals and another 2,200 persons served in 700 families.<sup>14</sup> These estimates are based on the averages observed in transitional housing programs participating in HMIS throughout the year.

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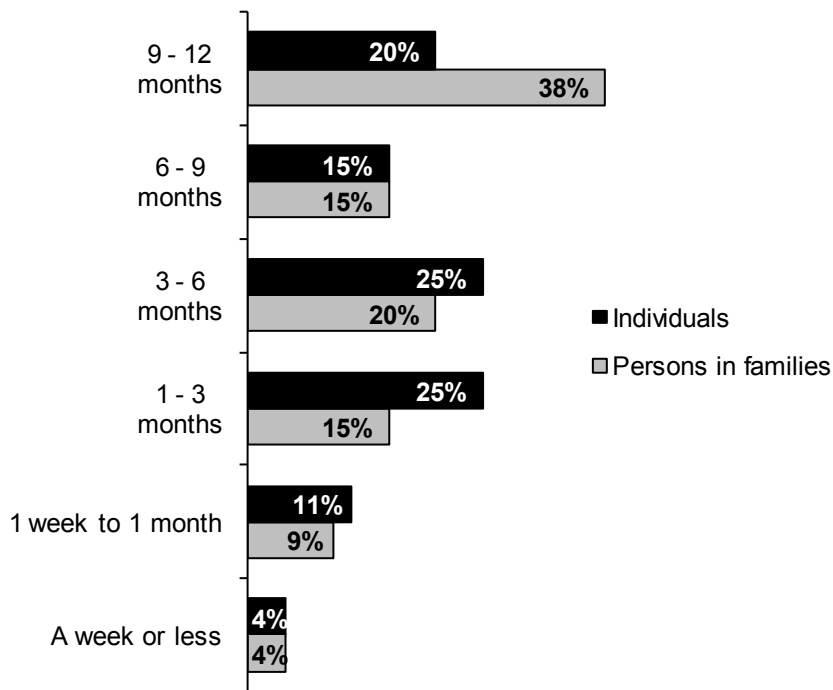
<sup>14</sup> This is significantly lower than the 4,263 transitional housing residents counted on October 22, 2009, the night of Wilder's most recent Statewide Homeless Survey ([http://www.wilder.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/research/HomelessCounts2009\\_5-10.pdf](http://www.wilder.org/fileadmin/user_upload/research/HomelessCounts2009_5-10.pdf), page 2). The difference could be due to a number of reasons, including differences in the way certain programs were categorized in that study as opposed to this one.

Transitional housing programs that participate in HMIS throughout the state served an average of 2,400 people per night in federal fiscal year 2009, including 1,900 people in over 600 families, and more than 500 individuals (Figure 11). Given that HMIS participating transitional housing providers have a collective capacity of approximately 2,700 beds the average utilization rate for transitional housing providers in federal fiscal year 2009 was 90 percent. Utilization rates were the higher for family beds (92%) than for individual beds (83%) in Minnesota. According to HUD’s Annual Homeless Assessment Report, both were higher than in other parts of the nation, where utilization rates for both individual and family transitional housing beds were 82 percent (2009 AHAR, page 68).

### Lengths of stay and turnover rates

As defined by this report, “length of stay” includes all days in transitional housing during the data collection period, regardless of whether they were spent continuously in the same program or broken up into several stays at different providers. The lengths of stay reported here include only those stays recorded in HMIS. Note that this number is restricted to actual days in transitional housing during the data collection period and many of those served during that period have longer stays since they entered prior to October 2008 or exited after September 2009.

#### 12. Number of days in transitional housing over the course of federal fiscal year 2009, by family status



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota’s HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

Families tend to stay longer in transitional housing than do individuals. Lengths of stay can be influenced by everything from availability of alternative housing to both formal and informal policies enforced by local programs. According to entry and exit dates recorded in HMIS, the median length of stay for persons in families was 181 days (about 6 months) in federal fiscal year 2009, compared to 123 days (4 months) for individuals. This is very similar to last year's pattern of 183 days for persons in families and 119 days for individuals, but higher than the nationally reported lengths of stay in transitional housing of 174 days for persons in families and 107 nights for individuals (2009 AHAR, page 36).

The longer stays for families translate to lower turnover rates than for individuals. Turnover rates are the number of times a particular bed "turns over" to a new person. If one person exits a bed during the year and another moves in that equals a turnover rate of 2 (2 people ÷ 1 bed = a turnover rate of 2). In federal fiscal year 2009 an average family transitional bed was occupied by 1.65 people, whereas an average transitional bed for individuals was occupied by 2.42 people. The turnover rates for individual and family transitional beds continue to be very similar to the national turnover rate of 1.7 people and 2.1 people respectively, with the rates for individual beds in 2009 slightly higher than in 2008 and nationally (2009 AHAR, page 68).

### **Prior living situations**

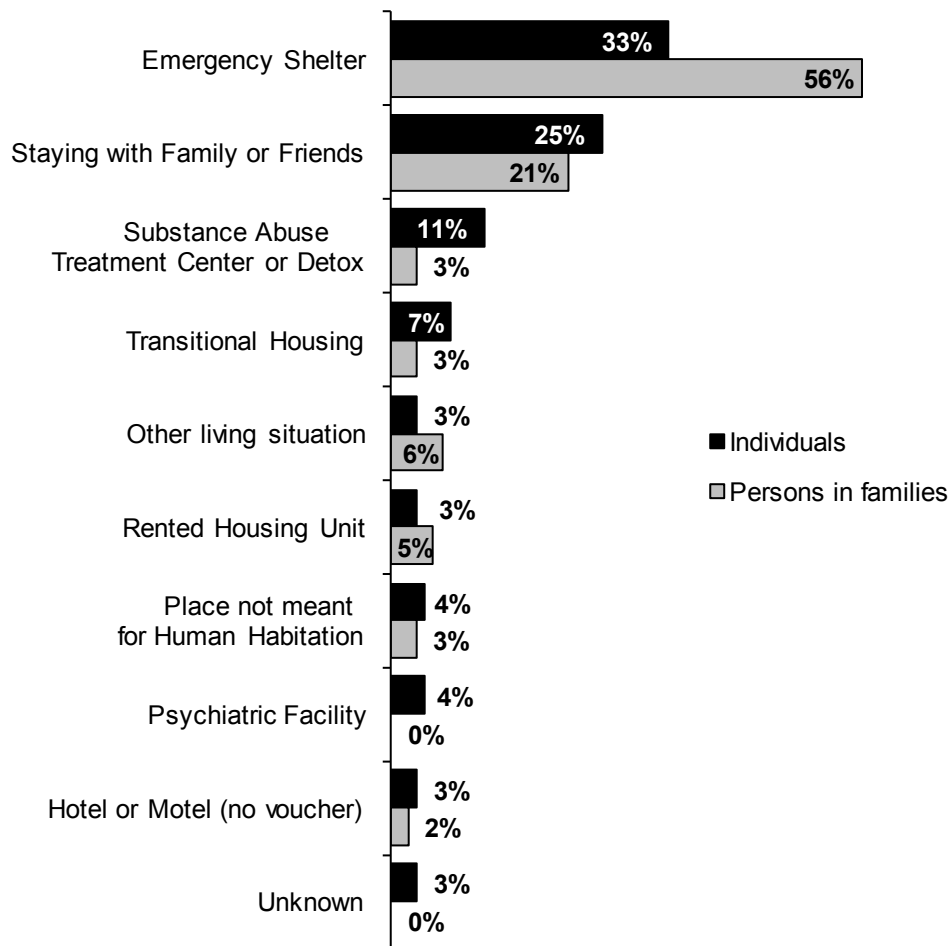
The "prior living situation" is the place where the person seeking services stayed on the night before entering transitional housing. The majority of people entering transitional housing came from emergency shelters or from the home of friends or family. This is generally the same pattern observed in last year's report, however, persons in families were more likely to have come from an emergency shelters in 2009 (56%) than in 2008 (47%).

With the exception of the 11 percent of individuals entering transitional housing from substance abuse or detox facilities, fewer than 10 percent of those entering transitional housing reported other prior living situations on the list, including other transitional housing programs, places not meant for human habitation, psychiatric facilities, and motels (Figure 13).

When asked how long they had stayed in the prior living situation, most indicated that the prior situation was unstable. Nearly three-quarters of persons in families and those served as singles had stayed at the previous night's living arrangement for three months or less.

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**13. Prior living situation of persons residing in transitional housing during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status**



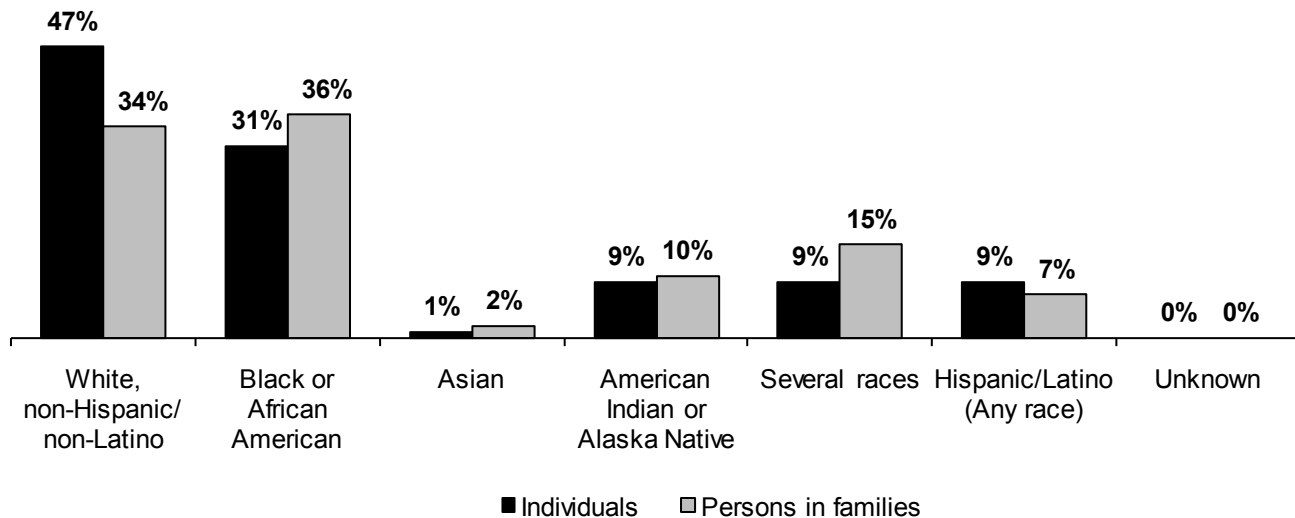
**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009. See the appendix for additional detail concerning prior living situations.

## **Demographics**

The majority of families with children served in transitional housing are headed by females. In addition, more than half of those served as individuals in transitional housing were female. Adults served in families tended to be younger than those served as individuals. Sixty percent of adults in families were in the 18-30 age category, compared to 45 percent of adult individuals. Additionally, only 1 percent of the adults served in families (i.e., with minor children present) were older than 50, compared with 13 percent of adults served as individuals.

Individuals in transitional housing were more likely to be white, while families in transitional housing were slightly more likely to be African American. Fifteen percent of persons in families and 9 percent of those served as individuals identified as multi-racial. Just under 10 percent of individuals and persons in families identified as American Indian and slightly fewer identified as Latino.

**14. Race and ethnicity of persons residing in transitional housing during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

**Disability status**

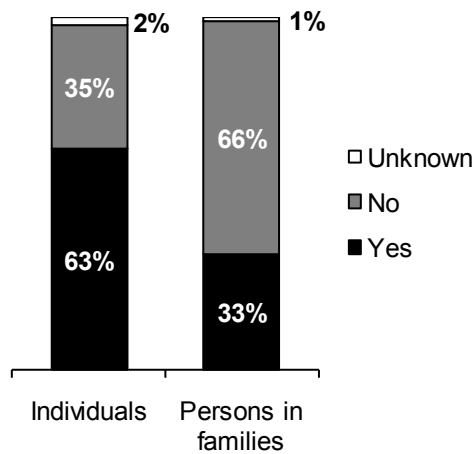
Providers participating in HMIS routinely report whether the adults served in their programs have a broadly defined “disabling condition.” This includes long-term physical, mental, and emotional impairments, as well as AIDS or a diagnosable substance abuse disorder that is of long duration and impairs the ability to live independently.

One-third of adults in families in transitional housing reported having a disability compared to nearly two-thirds of individuals in transitional housing. These rates are nearly identical to the rates reported in Minnesota in 2008, but higher than the national rates reported in the 2009 AHAR, which indicated that 16 percent of adults in families and 26 percent of adults served as individuals were disabled (2009 AHAR, page 23).



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**15. Disability status of persons residing in transitional housing during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

**Veteran status**

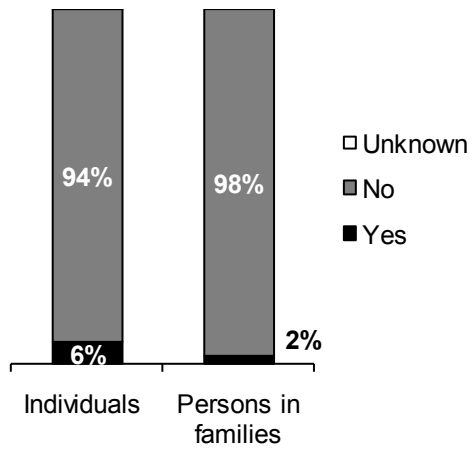
Any adult who has either served in the US armed forces for at least 180 days or in the reserves or National Guard who was called up to active duty should be recorded as a military veteran in HMIS. Only a small proportion (6%) of individuals in transitional housing and adults in families in transitional housing (2%) were reported as veterans. Nationally, a higher proportion of adults served in transitional housing as individuals were veterans, but the proportion of adults served in families with veterans status was similar to Minnesota (14% and 2%, respectively; 2009 AHAR, page D-8).<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> For more on veterans, see the concluding chapter of this report.

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**16. Veteran status of persons residing in transitional housing during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

# Emergency shelter

Emergency shelter is housing that is designated for people who have no other place to stay. Emergency shelter is intended to be short-term, and some county-funded shelters have a policy restricting stays to 30 days or less. As opposed to transitional housing, emergency shelter programs typically have fewer services and only limited case-management.

In addition to fixed, year-round beds, this report includes non-permanent emergency shelter capacity, including overflow beds and emergency hotel vouchers. The report does *not* include data from emergency shelters that exclusively serve victims of domestic violence since this type of shelter is restricted from fully participating in HMIS.<sup>16</sup>

According to Continuum of Care regions throughout the state, there was a fixed, year-round capacity of about 2,650 beds available in the state's emergency shelters during federal fiscal year 2009. This does not include domestic violence shelters or temporary capacity provided through overflow or emergency hotel vouchers. About half of these beds were used to serve persons in families, while the other half were used for individuals, including fewer than 100 beds designated for unaccompanied youth, typically age 21 or younger. It is important to note that bed capacity is difficult to define with precision since many programs are flexible and a unit that is used for a single individual one week may be used by a mother and her two children the next. For that reason utilization rates are also difficult to precisely measure and are presented as approximations.

During the data collection period about 29 percent of all emergency shelter beds were "covered" in HMIS, meaning that the programs that provide the beds are participating in HMIS. Bed coverage rates are virtually identical for family and individual beds. HMIS participation rates are much lower for emergency shelter than other types of homeless services in Minnesota since fewer shelters are mandated by their funders to participate in HMIS. Some large non-mandated shelters have recently begun to participate in HMIS, and future iterations of this report will likely benefit from this increased participation.

For the quarterly point-in-time counts we were able to supplement the HMIS data with data from larger providers that currently do not participate in HMIS. These supplemental sources bring bed coverage levels to 59 percent for persons in families and about 88 percent for individuals. Unfortunately we cannot use this supplemental data in other parts of this chapter since at present we only receive aggregate numbers from these sources and are unable to un-duplicate that data with the individually-identifiable data in HMIS.

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<sup>16</sup> See the supplemental information about shelters for victims of domestic violence. Also see the appendix tables for additional details on the information provided throughout this chapter.

## *Quarterly point-in-time counts*

The quarterly point-in-time counts presented here are a combination of HMIS data submitted to HUD as a part of the AHAR reporting process, and supplemental data provided by the Hennepin County shelter billing system and Catholic Charities' Dorothy Day shelter in St. Paul.<sup>17</sup> These supplemental sources bring bed coverage levels to 59 percent (762 of about 1,302 beds statewide) for persons in families and 88 percent (1,183 of about 1,352 beds) for individuals.

The quarterly point-in-time data for persons served in families shows a different pattern than does the data for persons served as individuals. The number of persons in families served in the represented shelters varied from a low of just over 600 on April 29, 2009 to a high of 810 on July 29, 2009. This follows a similar pattern shown in last year's report, with more families seeking shelter in the summer, when school is out of session.

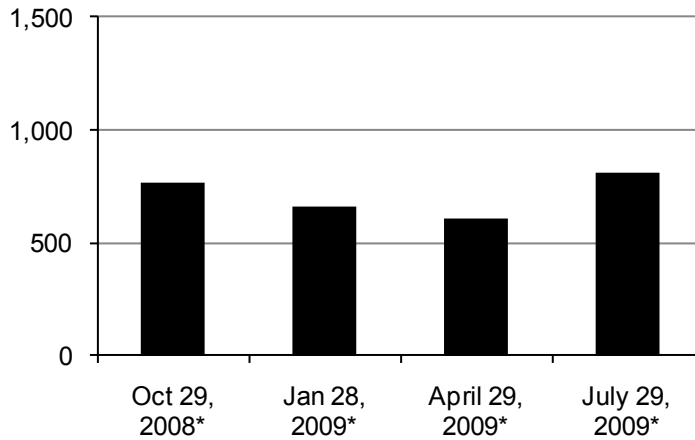
Much less seasonal variation is reflected in the quarterly point-in-time counts for persons served as individuals. The counts peaked on January 28, 2009 with 1,246 people served, and decreased by fewer than 50 people in the spring and summer months. Given the approximate bed capacity of 1,200 included in the counts, shelters serving individuals were consistently over capacity throughout the year.

The number of persons served in families also exceeded the reported fixed shelter bed capacity. This is largely due to Hennepin County's "right to shelter" policy. Hennepin County grants vouchers to families seeking emergency shelter when its fixed capacity shelters are full. This happened on two of the four point-in-time periods, October 29, 2008 (34 families sheltered through vouchers) and July 29, 2009 (26 families).

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<sup>17</sup> Data from Hennepin County's shelter billing system include the following shelters: Salvation Army Harbor Light, including Sally's Place and Safe Bay; People Serving People; Catholic Charities secure waiting and pay-for-stay shelters, and Simpson's women's shelter, as well as emergency vouchers into motels including the Francis Drake Hotel.

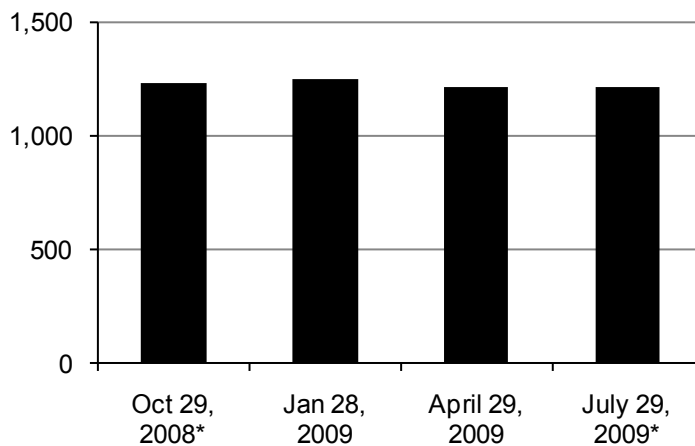
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**17. Persons in families in emergency shelter: Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts**

**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009, supplemented by Hennepin County emergency shelter billing system.

\* Number served exceeds fixed capacity.

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**18. Individuals in emergency shelter: Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts**

**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009, supplemented by Hennepin County emergency shelter billing system and the Catholic Charities Dorothy Day shelter.

\* Number served exceeds fixed capacity.

## ***Data collected over the course of the year***

The remainder of this chapter includes data about people served by emergency shelter providers participating in Minnesota's HMIS throughout federal fiscal year 2009, which included about 29 percent of all emergency beds for persons served in families (382 of about 1,302 beds statewide), and 28 percent of all emergency beds for persons served as individuals (384 of about 1,352 beds statewide). During the data collection period bed coverage was high in most Continuum of Care regions, with the notable exceptions of Hennepin County family shelter and shelter for individuals in Hennepin and Ramsey counties.<sup>18</sup>

HMIS participation rates for emergency shelters during federal fiscal year 2009 were not high enough to allow us to estimate total numbers served in shelter throughout the state from those observed in HMIS, but they do provide insights into the characteristics and stay patterns of those served in participating shelters.

Over the course of the 12 months that ran from October 2008 to September 2009, about 8,600 people were served in emergency shelters throughout the state that participate in Minnesota's HMIS. This includes:

- 3,600 people served in families headed by adults, including 1,100 families and 2,100 minor children.
- 5,200 people served as individuals, including 350 unaccompanied youth, age 17 or younger.<sup>19</sup>

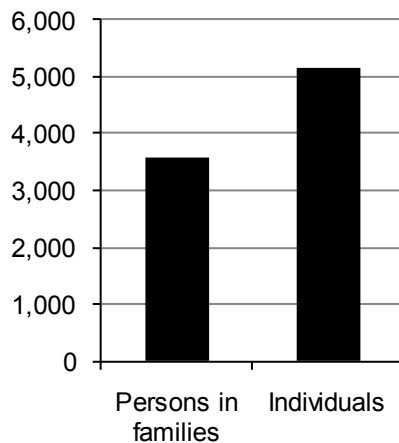
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<sup>18</sup> See the appendix for detailed information on each Continuum. Beds capacities are approximations since many shelters will accommodate either individuals or families and families can range from 2 persons to several. Additionally, these numbers do not include beds designated exclusively for victims of domestic violence.

<sup>19</sup> We are not able to report on all "unaccompanied youth" by Minnesota's predominant definition, which allows programs to serve those up to age 21, since the federal AHAR tables that underlie much of this report only provide only the broad age categories 13-17 and 18-30.

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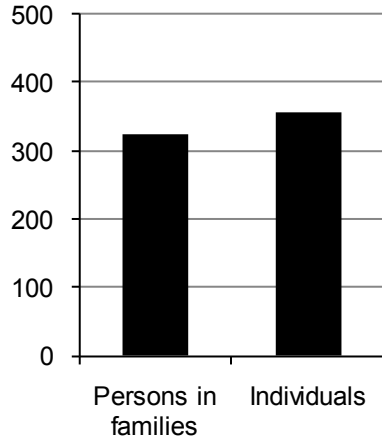
**19. Total number served in emergency shelter over the course of federal fiscal year 2009**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

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**20. Average number served per night in emergency shelter over the course of federal fiscal year 2009**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal Year 2009.

During an average night in federal fiscal year 2009 about 325 persons in families and nearly 360 individuals stayed in the emergency shelters that participate in HMIS. Since the approximate bed capacity of HMIS participating providers was 382 for families and 384 for individuals, this means that the average bed utilization rates for HMIS participating family shelters was 85 percent, and the average utilization rate for individuals was 93 percent. As a point of comparison, the national emergency shelter

utilization rates reported in HUD's 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report were 87 percent for family beds and 94 percent for individual beds (2009 AHAR, page 68).

The 15 percent of emergency shelter beds for families that were vacant on the average night during federal fiscal year 2009 should not be taken to mean there is too much shelter capacity for families in Minnesota for several reasons. For one, bed capacities can be challenging to determine for family units: some units may include five or more beds, but may be considered full when occupied by a family of two or three. Additionally, beds that may be reported as designated for families may sometimes be occupied by individuals (and vice-versa), especially in greater Minnesota, where the few shelters often operated in a flexible fashion to meet current needs. Finally, as shown in the quarterly point-in-time counts, demand for family beds exceeded available capacity on particular nights throughout the year.

The fact that *fewer* individuals than persons in families were served on average night (Figure 20), even though *more* individuals than families were served over the course of year (Figure 19), is explained by the patterns in lengths of stay, which differ greatly between the two groups.

### **Lengths of stay and turnover rates**

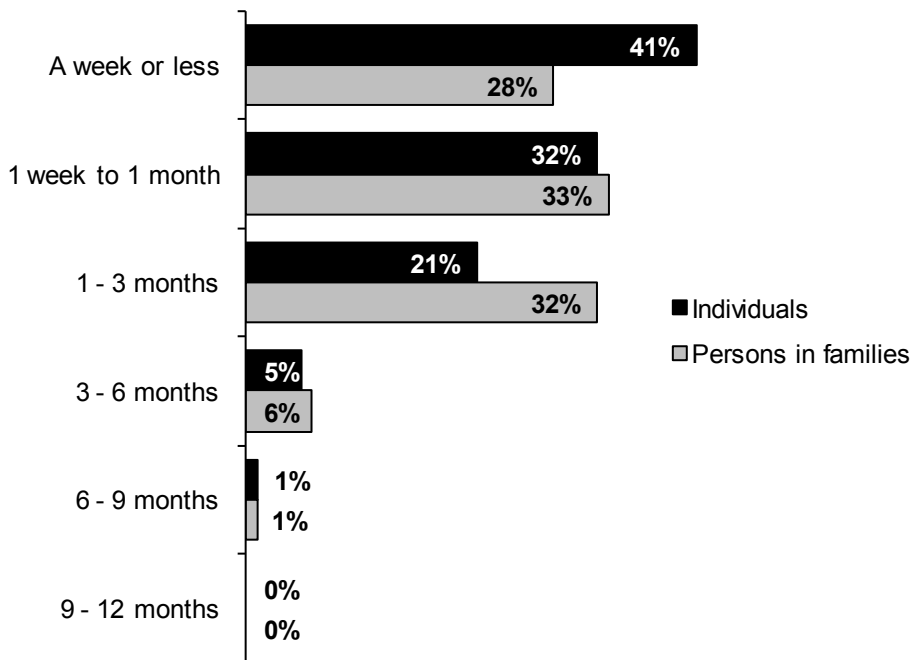
Families tend to stay longer in emergency housing than do individuals. Lengths of stay can be influenced by everything from availability of alternative housing to both formal and informal policies enforced by local programs. The median length of stay for persons in families was 24 days compared to 13 days for individuals. Note that this number is restricted to actual days in shelter during the data collection period; many of those served during the period entered prior to October 2008 or exited after September 2009. Also while "length of stay" conceptually includes all stays in any shelter during the data collection period, practically it only includes shelters participating in Minnesota's HMIS. Nationally the median length of stay in 2009 was somewhat longer than observed in Minnesota: 36 days for persons in families and 17 days for individuals in emergency shelter (2009 AHAR, page 36).

The longer stays for families translate to lower turnover rates. In federal fiscal year 2009, an average family emergency shelter bed was occupied by 9.3 people, whereas an average emergency bed for individuals was occupied by 13.4 people. These turnover rates are higher than the nationally-reported rates of 4.7 and 8.1, reflecting the shorter average stays in the shelters participating in Minnesota's HMIS (2009 AHAR, page 68).



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**21. Number of days in emergency shelter over the course of federal fiscal year 2009, by family status**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

**Prior living situations**

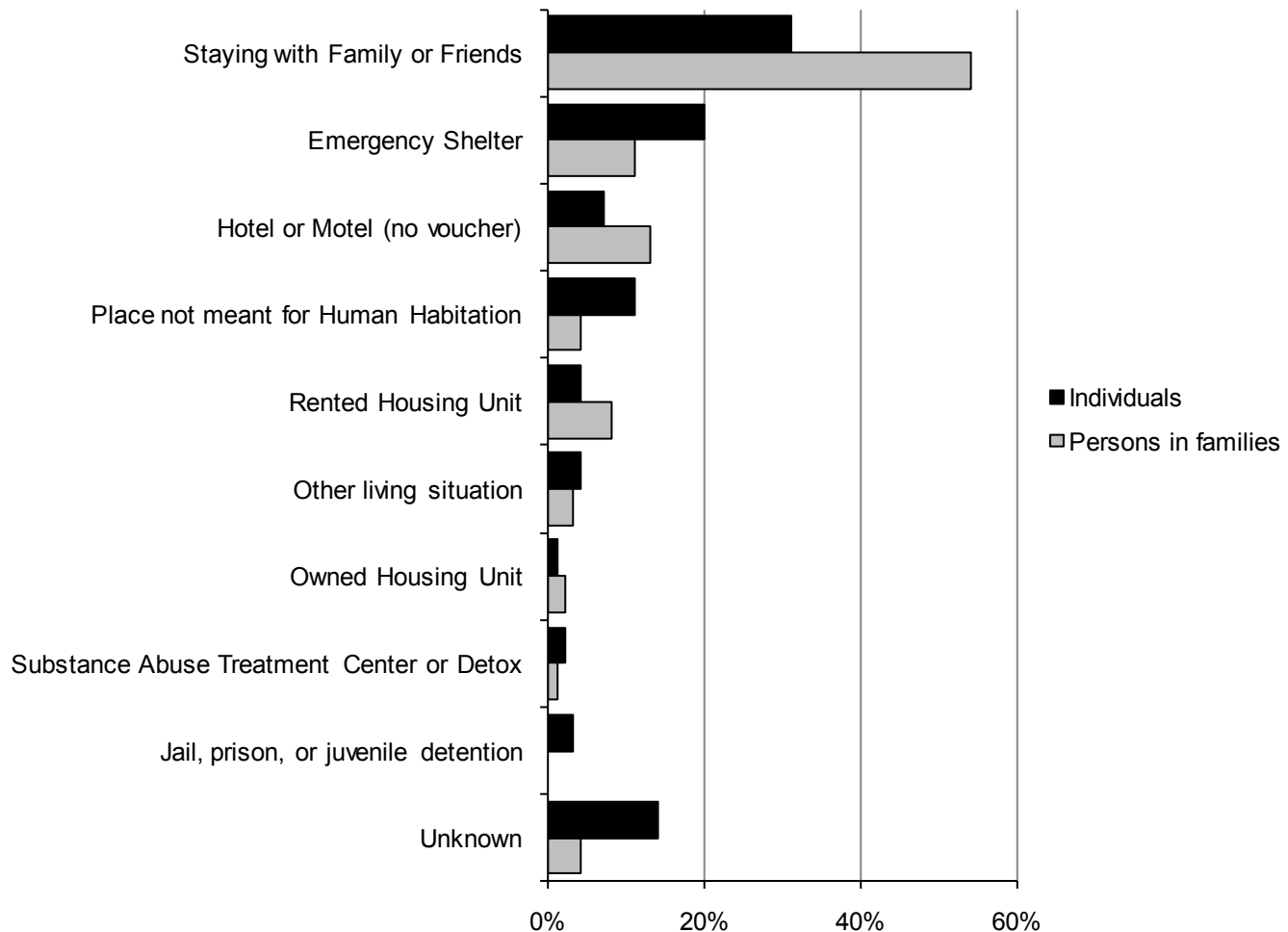
The “prior living situation” is the place where the person seeking services stayed on the night before entering shelter. For persons in families staying in HMIS-participating shelters, by far the most common prior living situation, reported by nearly 50 percent, was staying with friends or family. The second most common prior living situation for families was a motel with no voucher (13%). For individuals the most common prior living situations were staying with friends and family (31%) and another emergency shelter (20%). Eleven percent of individuals reported spending the previous night in a place not meant for human habitation.

Perhaps relevant to the foreclosure crisis, two percent of families reported coming directly to shelter from a housing unit that they owned and another 8 percent indicated that they had come directly from a unit they had rented (the corresponding percentages for individuals were 1% and 4%). Only a few individuals reported entering shelter from an institutional settings including jails or prisons, substance abuse treatment facilities, or psychiatric facilities.

Not surprisingly, both families and individuals in emergency shelter tended to report little stability in the prior living situation. Forty percent of both families and individuals

stayed in their prior living situation for one week or less, and another 30 percent had stayed three months or less.

**22. Prior living situation of persons served in emergency shelter during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status**



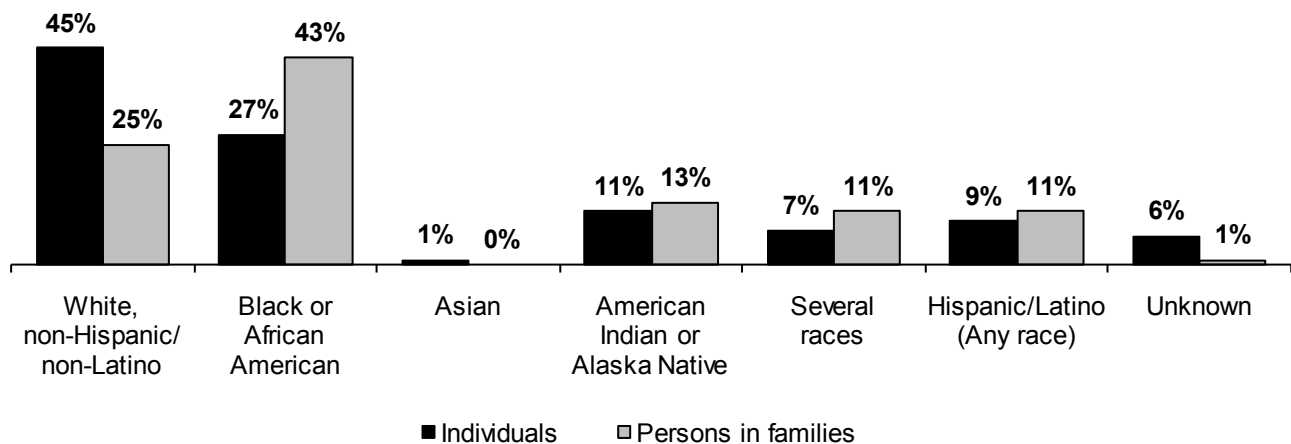
**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009. See the appendix for additional detail concerning prior living situations.

## Demographics

Adults served in families differed from those served as individuals in terms of both gender and age. Over three-quarters of adults in families in emergency shelter were female while the same proportion of individuals in shelter were male. Adults in families tended to be younger than adults served as individuals, with more than half of adults in families in the 18-30 year old range, compared with approximately one-quarter of adults served as individuals.

The two groups also varied in terms of race and ethnicity. Nearly half of persons served in families were African American and one quarter of persons in families were white. This was reversed among persons served as individuals. American Indians made up 13 percent of persons served as families and 11 percent of individuals, and Latinos made up 11 and 9 percent, respectively.

### 23. Race and ethnicity of persons served in emergency shelter during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

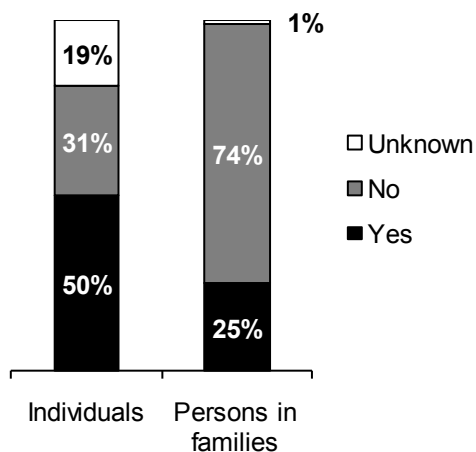
## Disability status

Providers participating in HMIS routinely report whether the adults served in their programs have a broadly defined “disabling condition.” This includes long-term physical, mental, and emotional impairments, as well as AIDS or a diagnosable substance abuse disorder that is of long duration and impairs the ability to live independently.

A greater proportion of adults served as individuals (50%) than adults served in families (25%) in emergency shelter reported having a disability. An increased proportion of individuals reported having a disability compared to the previous fiscal year (44%). Disabilities were more prevalent among those served in HMIS-participating shelters in Minnesota than is the case nationally. The 2008 national AHAR indicates that about 13 percent of adults in families and one-third of all adults served in shelter were reported as having a disabling condition.<sup>20</sup>

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### 24. Disability status of adults served in emergency shelter during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota’s HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

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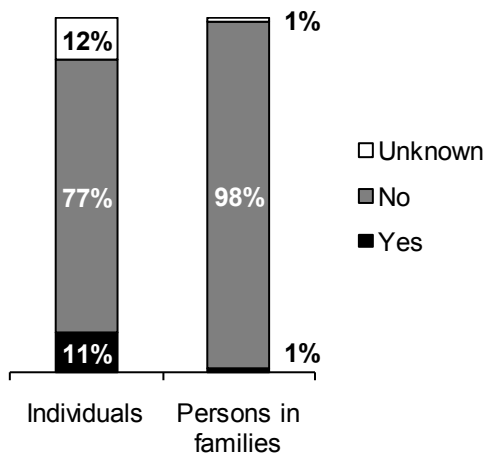
<sup>20</sup> The 2008 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (accessed July 29, 2009 at [www.hudhre.info/documents/4thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf](http://www.hudhre.info/documents/4thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf)), page D-7. Note that the percentages presented here differ from those presented in the AHAR since we have re-calculated the national rates to include missing values. Disability status is reported in the AHAR as unknown for about one-quarter of all adult shelter users, which is similar to the proportion missing among individual adults, as noted in the graph above.

## Veteran status

Any adult who has either served in the US armed forces for at least 180 days or in the reserves or National Guard who was called up to active duty should be recorded as a military veteran in HMIS. As with disability status, a greater proportion of adult individuals in emergency shelter (11%) were reported as veterans, compared to adults in families (1%). The proportion of adults in Minnesota's HMIS-participating shelters who are veterans is virtually identical to the proportions reported in the national 2008 AHAR (page D-7).<sup>21</sup>

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### 25. Veteran status of persons served in emergency shelter during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

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<sup>21</sup> For more on veterans, see the concluding chapter of this report.

# Emergency shelter and transitional housing use, combined

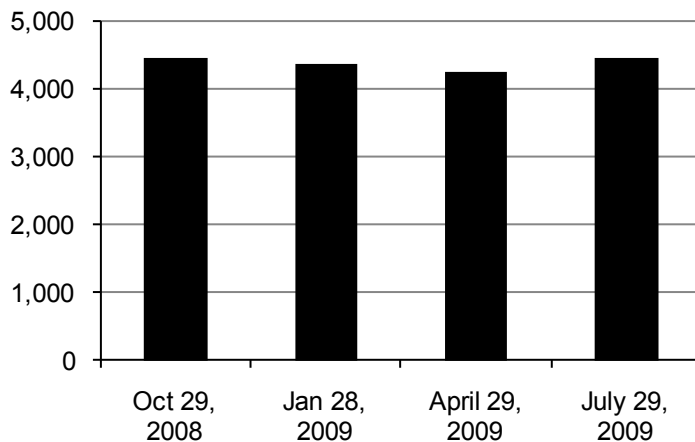
This chapter combines the data from both emergency shelter and transitional housing to give an overall picture of the use of the two types of housing included in HUD's definition of homelessness. The section on quarterly counts includes data from both HMIS and supplemental data provided by emergency shelters in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. The section on "data collected over the course of the year" relies only on information collected through the state's HMIS and does *not* include estimates for providers that did not participate in HMIS during federal fiscal year 2009. Programs that cater exclusively to the needs of domestic violence victims are not included in this report.<sup>22</sup>

## *Quarterly point-in-time counts*

Combined together, the number of persons served in transitional housing and emergency shelter, both HMIS participating shelters and those providing supplemental data, was fairly stable, but ranged from a low of around 4,200 in April 2009 to a high of nearly 4,500 in October 2008 and July 2009.

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### **26. Persons served in either emergency shelter or transitional housing: Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009, supplemented by Hennepin County emergency shelter billing system and the Catholic Charities Dorothy Day shelter.

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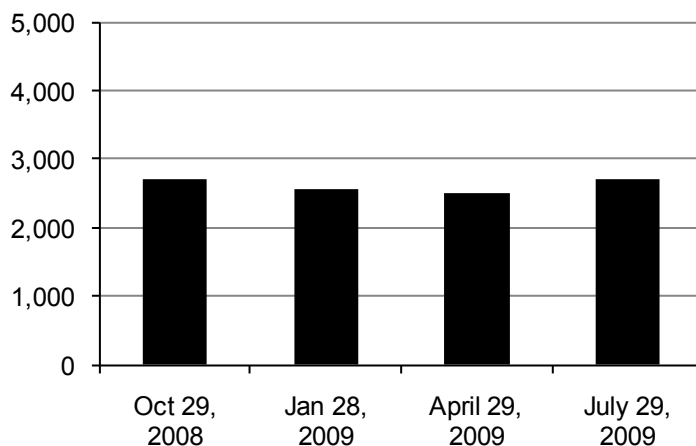
<sup>22</sup> Emergency shelters and transitional housing programs that exclusively cater to victims of domestic violence collectively provide over 750 beds statewide. See the supplemental information about shelters for victims of domestic violence. Also see the appendix tables for additional details on the information provided throughout this chapter.

The separated quarterly counts for those served in families with minor children (Figure 27) and those served as individuals (Figure 28) shows that the total number in each group was fairly stable throughout the year. But whereas the data for federal fiscal year 2008 showed that the high point for both groups came in July, the October point in time barely edged out July for families in federal fiscal year 2009, and January was the high point for individuals by a narrow margin.

Although bed capacities are difficult to precisely measure, these programs collectively provide about 4,600 beds per night. Similar to the federal fiscal year 2008, nearly all of those beds for emergency shelter and transitional housing were full throughout the year. Bed utilization rates were at or above 90 percent for each of the four dates, and were the highest in October 2008 and July 2009. As noted in earlier in the report, the quarterly point in time data suggest that beds for individuals had even higher rates than beds for families, and emergency shelter beds were often over capacity in federal fiscal year 2009.

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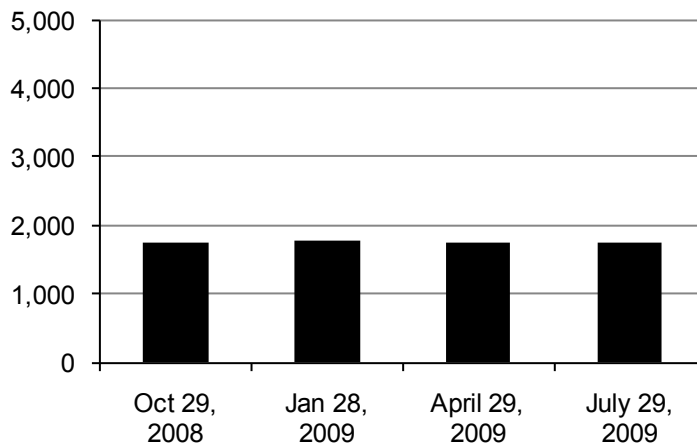
**27. Persons in families in either emergency shelter or transitional housing:  
Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009, supplemented by Hennepin County emergency shelter billing system.

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**28. Individuals in either emergency shelter or transitional housing: Quarterly point-in-time HMIS counts**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009, supplemented by Hennepin County emergency shelter billing system and the Catholic Charities Dorothy Day shelter.

***Data collected over the course of the year***

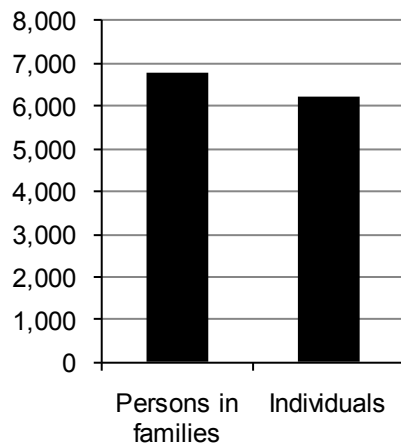
This section relies only on information recorded in HMIS by participating emergency shelter and transitional housing providers. Although HMIS participating providers include a total of about 3,450 of the state's combined total of over 5,900 beds, for a total bed coverage rate of 59 percent, we do *not* provide estimates of all persons served in the combined total of all the state's emergency shelter and transitional providers. This is because the bed coverage rates are lowest among the emergency shelters, and emergency shelters serve a higher volume of people than do transitional housing programs.

Altogether over 12,800 people stayed in emergency shelter and transitional programs that participate in HMIS during federal fiscal year 2009 (October 2008-September 2009). This included nearly 6,800 served in families with minor children and about 6,200 served as individuals. Nearly 200 of these people were served as both a single and in a family during the reporting period.



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**29. Total number served in either emergency shelter or transitional housing over the course of federal fiscal year 2009**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal Year 2009.

### **Demographic comparisons**

This section compares the characteristics of those served in shelters and transitional housing programs participating in Minnesota's HMIS during federal fiscal year 2009 with other relevant data sources. None of the comparisons is a strictly "apples to apples" comparison: the national AHAR data represents all persons served by emergency shelter and transitional housing providers nationally; the 2009 Statewide Homeless Survey is a point-in-time survey that includes persons served in domestic violence programs, as well as people found living in areas not meant for human habitation, and the general population numbers are also intended to represent a single point in time.

Comparing racial characteristics from Minnesota's HMIS data to the state's general population, it is notable that persons of color continue to be highly over-represented among the homeless. This is especially true for African Americans, but also holds for American Indians and Latinos. Asians, on the other hand, are under-represented among those experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. Comparing data from Minnesota's HMIS to the national AHAR, Minnesota appears to have much higher proportions of people identifying as American Indian and lower proportions of people identifying as Latino among those experiencing homelessness.

Data from Minnesota's HMIS shows a higher prevalence of disabilities than does the national AHAR. The rate of disabilities among those experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, whether measured in HMIS or in the Statewide Homeless Survey appears to be far higher than in the general population.

**30. Characteristics of those served in Minnesota's emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in federal fiscal year 2009, as compared with other selected data sources**

	As represented in Minnesota's HMIS <sup>a</sup>						
	Persons in families in Emergency Shelter	Individuals in Emergency Shelter	Persons in families in Transitional Housing	Individuals in Transitional Housing	2009 National AHAR <sup>b</sup>	2009 Statewide Homeless Survey <sup>c</sup>	Minnesota, general population <sup>d</sup>
<b>All persons</b>	3,565	5,156	3,504	1,268	1.56 million	9,654	5.2 million
<b>Race and ethnicity</b>							
White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino	25%	45%	34%	47%	36%	39%	89%
Black or African American	43%	27%	36%	31%	36%	41%	5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	13%	11%	10%	9%	3%	11%	1%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	4%
Several races	11%	7%	15%	9%	7%	8%	1.5%
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	11%	9%	7%	9%	19%	7%	4%
<b>Adults</b>	1,424	4,800	1,350	1,154	1.21 million	6,176	3.9 million
Disabled	25%	50%	33%	63%	34%	46%	14%
Veteran	1%	11%	2%	6%	11%	11%	11%

**Sources:** (a) Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2008; (b) US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2008 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress; (c) Wilder Research, 2009 Statewide Homeless Survey (point-in-time); (d) US Census Bureau.

**Note:** National AHAR data has been re-calculated to include unknowns. Statewide Homeless Survey includes the weighted characteristics of those in emergency and transitional housing as well as the number of those interviewed in non-shelter locations (the total does not include the total 13,100 estimated to be literally homeless on the night of the survey); Census data on disabilities includes estimates for persons age 16 and older.

# Special focus: Veterans

Homeless veterans are a special focus of both this report and the 2009 national AHAR. For purposes of this report, a veteran is defined as someone who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for 180 or more days and does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

This chapter does not provide a comprehensive assessment of all services for veterans or a definitive count of the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. Like other parts of this report, the information provided here is limited only to emergency shelters and transitional housing programs participating in Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). It does not include permanent supportive housing beds reserved for homeless veterans, or the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs' veterans homes, which provide over 850 units of supportive housing for veterans regardless of whether they have experienced homelessness.

During the data collection period, there were 82 transitional housing beds and zero emergency shelter beds designated specifically for homeless veterans and their families in Minnesota. About half of these beds were "covered" in HMIS, meaning the provider of those beds recorded client data into HMIS. The majority of veterans included in this report (85%) did not stay in a bed designated for veterans.<sup>23</sup>

## *Quarterly point-in-time counts*

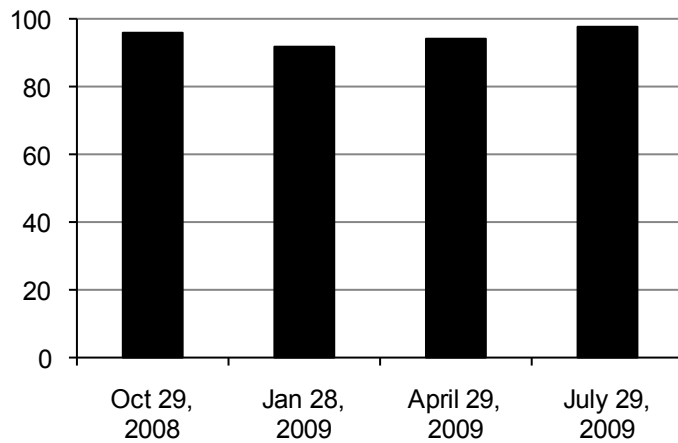
The number of veterans served in transitional housing and emergency shelters programs that participate in HMIS was stable throughout the year, ranging between 92 and 98. About half of those served on each point-in-time were served as individuals in emergency shelter. Another third were served as individuals in transitional housing. The remainder were served with their families, most likely in transitional housing.

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<sup>23</sup> See the appendix tables on veterans for additional details on the information provided throughout this chapter.

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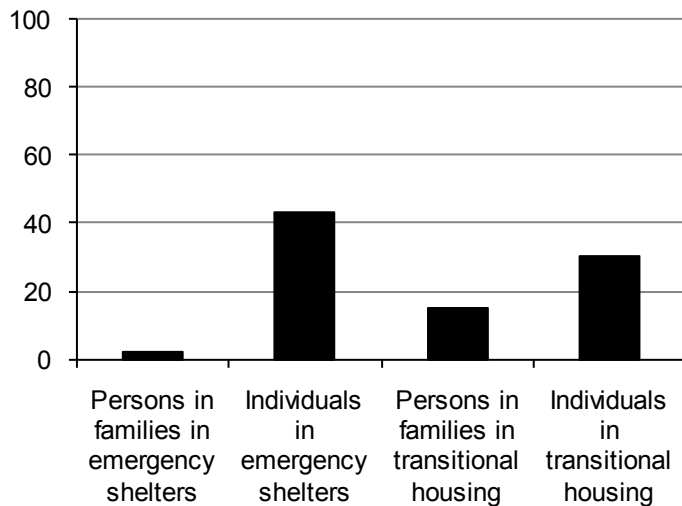
**31. Veterans served in either emergency shelter or transitional housing:  
Quarterly HMIS point-in-time counts**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

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**32. Veterans served in federal fiscal year 2008, by housing type and family status**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

## ***Data collected over the course of the year***

The remainder of this chapter refers to all 612 people served by emergency shelters and transitional housing programs participating in HMIS over the course of federal fiscal year 2009 who were identified as veterans. This includes 520 served as individuals in emergency shelter, 65 served as individuals in transitional housing, 28 served with their families in transitional housing, and 17 served with their families in emergency shelter. Fifteen veterans were served in more than one of these four arrangements.

### **Lengths of stay**

As defined by this report, “length of stay” includes all days in transitional housing and emergency shelter during the data collection period, regardless of whether they were all spent continuously in the same program or broken up into several stays at different programs. The lengths of stay reported here include only those stays recorded in HMIS. Note that this number is restricted to actual days in transitional housing during the data collection period and many of those served during that period have longer stays since they entered prior to October 2008 or exited after September 2009.

As is the case with the general homeless population, veterans served in families tend to stay longer in both transitional housing and in emergency shelter than do veterans served as individuals. The median length of stay for individuals in emergency shelter was 8 days compared to 54 days for families, and 170 days for individuals in transitional housing compared to 241 days for families. With the exception of veterans served in emergency shelter as individuals, the median length of stay among homeless veterans tended to be longer than for the general homeless population.

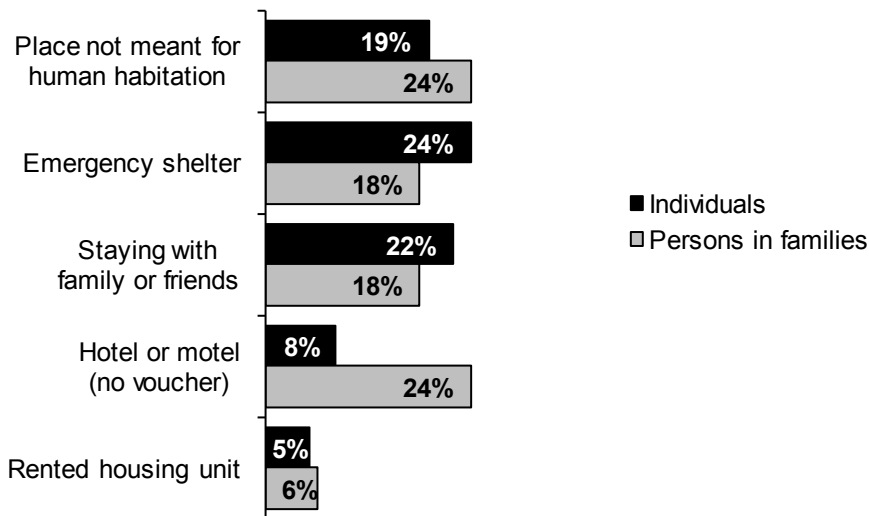
### **Prior living situation**

The “prior living situation” is the place where the person seeking services stayed on the night before entering either the emergency shelter or transitional housing program. Veterans staying in emergency shelters were much more likely to report having stayed in a place not meant for human habitation (19% for individuals and 24% for families), than was the case for the broader population served in HMIS-participating shelters (11% for individuals and 4% for families).

Veterans staying in transitional housing reported similar prior living situations to those reported by the homeless population in general, with the exception of rental housing. Thirty-three percent of veterans served as part of a family stayed in rental housing the previous night whereas only 5 percent of non-veterans in transitional housing for families came from rental housing.

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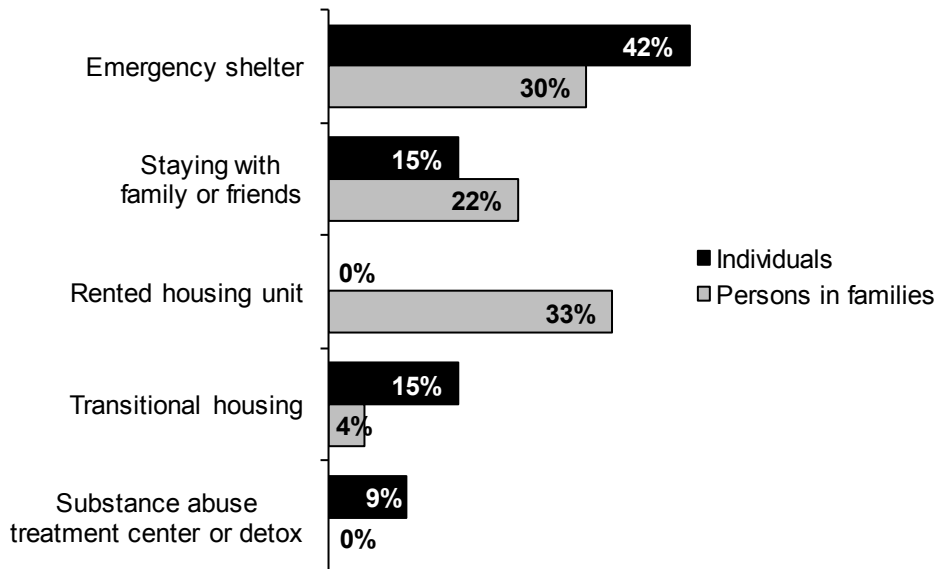
**33. Prior living situation of veterans residing in transitional housing during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009. See the appendix for additional detail concerning prior living situations.

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**34. Prior living situation of veterans residing in emergency shelter during federal fiscal year 2009, by family status**



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009. See the appendix for additional detail concerning prior living situations.

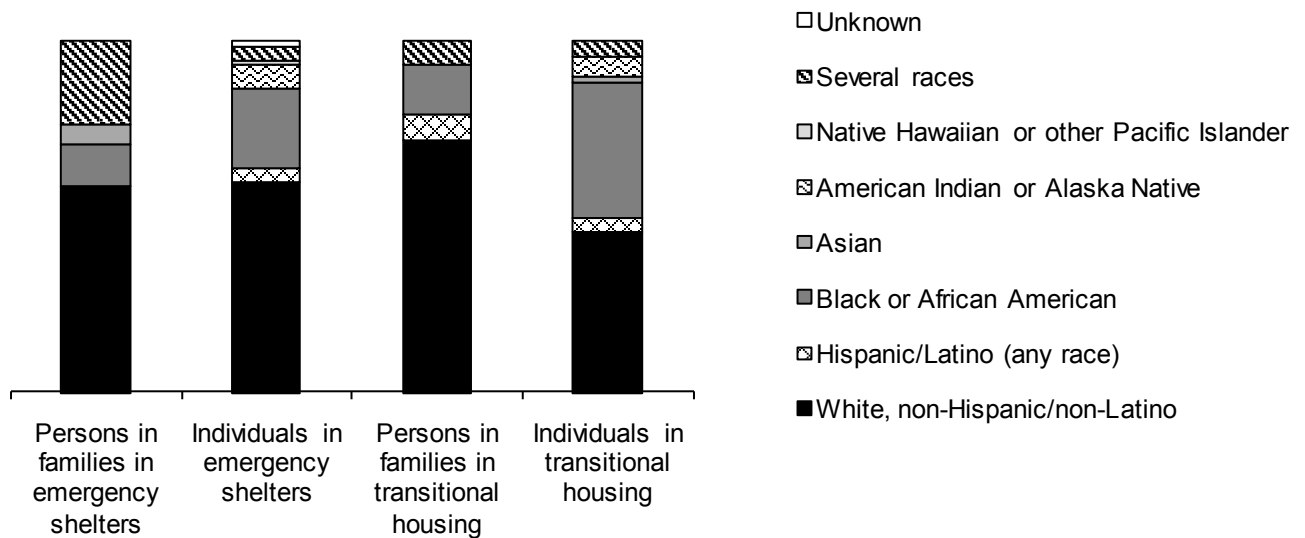
## Demographics

More than 90 percent of veterans served during federal fiscal year 2009 were male. Female veterans made up less than one-third of the veterans in families, and only 5 percent of the veterans served as individuals.

Overall, veterans tended to be older than non-veterans, especially when served as individuals. When comparing persons served as individuals, only 5 percent of veterans in emergency shelter and just over 10 percent of veterans in transitional housing were in the younger 18-30 year old range, compared to nearly 30 percent of all people served as individuals in emergency shelter and almost half of all persons served as individuals in transitional housing.

Race and ethnicity also varied between veterans and non-veterans. Veterans, especially those served in families, were more likely to be white than the homeless population in general. Nearly three-quarters of veterans served with their families in transitional housing, and nearly two-thirds of veterans served with their families in emergency shelter were white. Other differences from the broader population receiving shelter and transitional housing services include that 24 percent of veterans served as part of a family in emergency shelter were multi-racial, 7 percent of veterans served as individuals in emergency shelter were Asian, and 40 percent of individual veterans in transitional housing were African American.

### 35. Race and ethnicity of veterans served in federal fiscal year 2009, by housing type and family status



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.

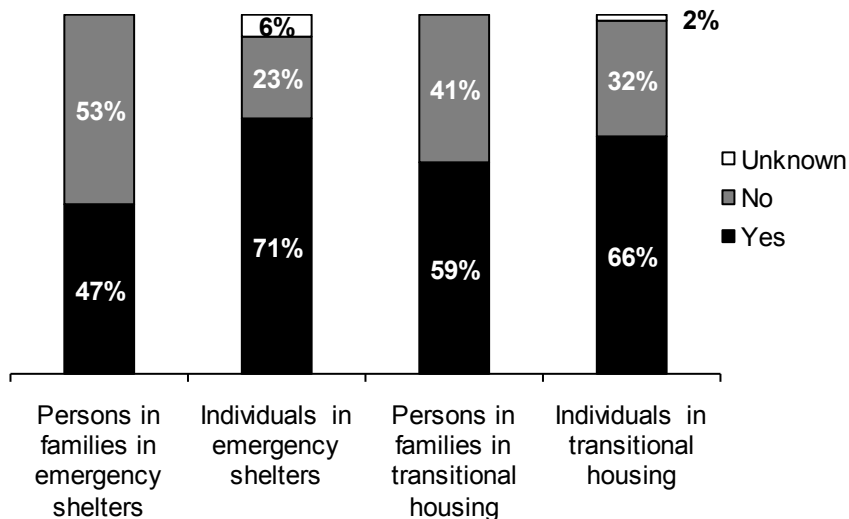
## Disability status

Providers participating in HMIS routinely report whether the adults served in their programs have a broadly defined “disabling condition.” This includes long-term physical, mental, and emotional impairments, as well as AIDS or a diagnosable substance abuse disorder that is of long duration and impairs the ability to live independently.

Veterans served in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs appear much more likely to have disabling conditions than is the case for the broader population served in these programs: nearly half of veterans served with their families in emergency shelter report a disabling condition, compared with one-quarter of all adults served in HMIS-participating emergency shelter with their families; over 70 percent of veterans served as individuals in shelter have a disability, compared to 50 percent of all adult individuals; and nearly 60 percent of veterans served with their families in transitional housing have a disability, compared with one-third of the all adults served with their families in transitional housing. Disability rates for individuals in transitional housing were similar for veterans and all adults.

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### 36. Disability status of veterans served in federal fiscal year 2009, by housing type and family status



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009.





# Appendix

*Supplemental information about use of services provided by shelters exclusively serving victims of domestic violence*

*Maps: Number served and bed coverage by Continuum of Care region, federal fiscal year 2009*

*AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2009, statewide<sup>24</sup>*

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<sup>24</sup> For details by region, see companion report, Homeless Service Use in Minnesota: Continuum of Care regional tables, federal fiscal year 2008 (available at [www.wilder.org/report.html?id=2191](http://www.wilder.org/report.html?id=2191)).



## ***Domestic violence shelter stay data***<sup>25</sup>

- According to Wilder’s 2009 Statewide Homeless Survey 29 percent of adult homeless women in Minnesota are fleeing domestic violence. In addition, 48 percent of homeless women reported having stayed in an abusive relationship because they had nowhere else to live.

### **Fiscal year 2008 overview:**

- The Minnesota Office of Justice currently provides funding for 27 shelters and 32 hotel/motel/safe home programs. Of the 27 shelters, 662 emergency shelter beds are available nightly. The number of beds at hotel/motel/safe home programs varies daily according to availability in the geographic area.
- In state fiscal year 2008 (July 2007 to June 2008), state funded emergency domestic violence shelters and hotel/motel/safe home programs sheltered 5,031 women, 4,830 children and 23 men. These domestic violence victims stayed in emergency shelters and hotel/motel/safe home programs for a total of 218,951 bed days during this period.
- The Day One® database system reports “real time” bed availability and services information of 49 Minnesota area domestic violence emergency shelters and safe housing programs. Of the 27 Minnesota Day One® participating emergency shelters in fiscal year 2008, they each reported an average of 2 open beds per day.

### **Trends fiscal year 2003 to fiscal year 2008:**

- The average length of stay at emergency shelters has increased 33.9 percent (18.3 to 24.5 days) from fiscal year 2003 to fiscal year 2008. In a FY08 survey of Day One® participating programs, 84 percent of the respondents indicated that this increase could be strongly attributed to families being unable to transition from emergency shelter due to a lack of affordable housing.
- From fiscal year 2003 to fiscal year 2008 the number of Day One® transportation vouchers provided to families relocating to shelters outside their geographic area (due to lack of available beds or for safety reasons) increased over 40 percent.
- Calls to the statewide Day One® Minnesota Domestic Violence Crisis Line increased 60 percent from fiscal year 2003 to fiscal year 2008. The line received an average of 880 calls a month in fiscal year 2008.

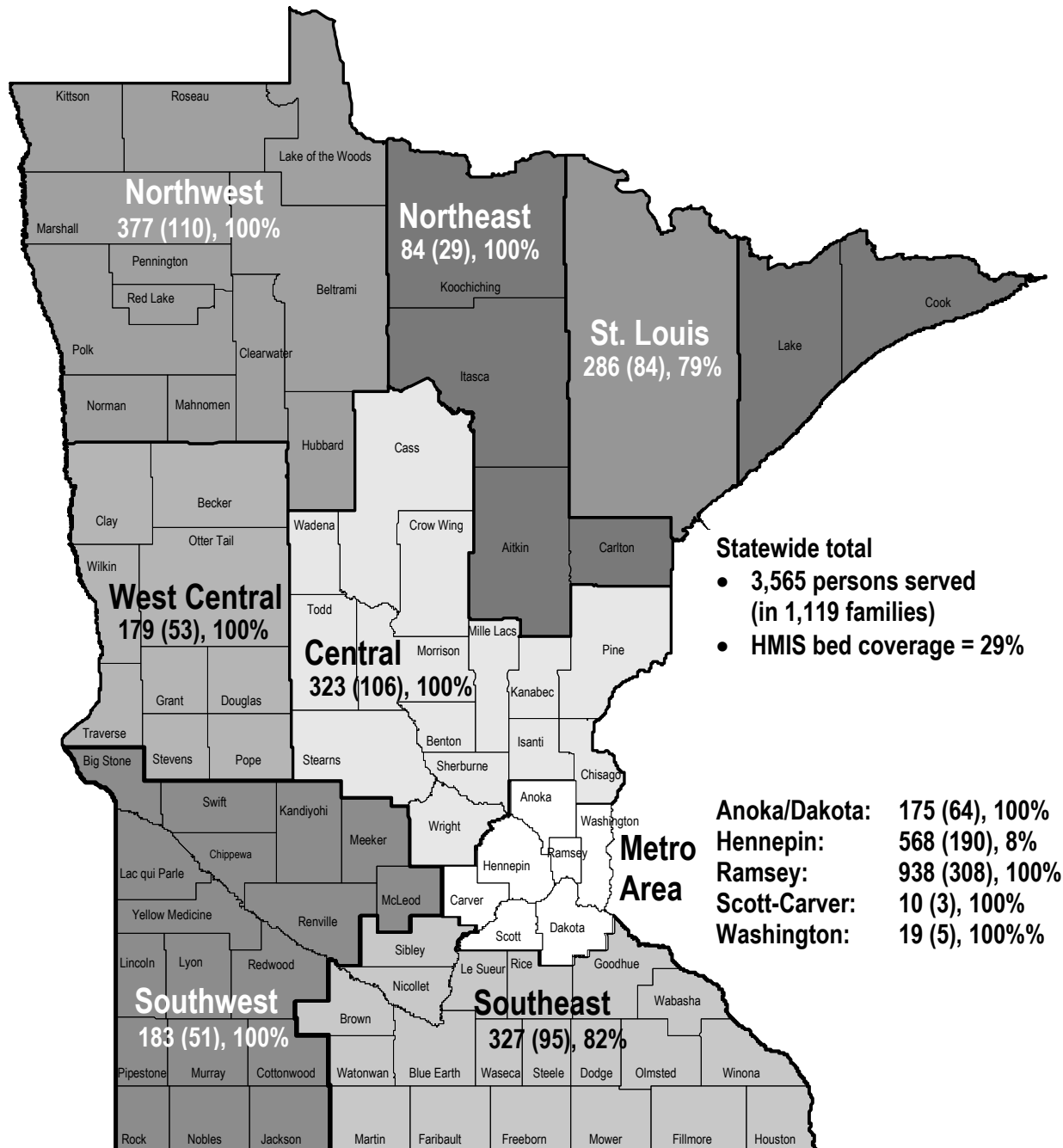
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<sup>25</sup> This summary was provided by Colleen Schmitt with Minnesota’s Day One® Domestic Violence Crisis Line.

## Number served and bed coverage by Continuum of Care region

### Emergency shelter for families with minor children, federal fiscal year 2009

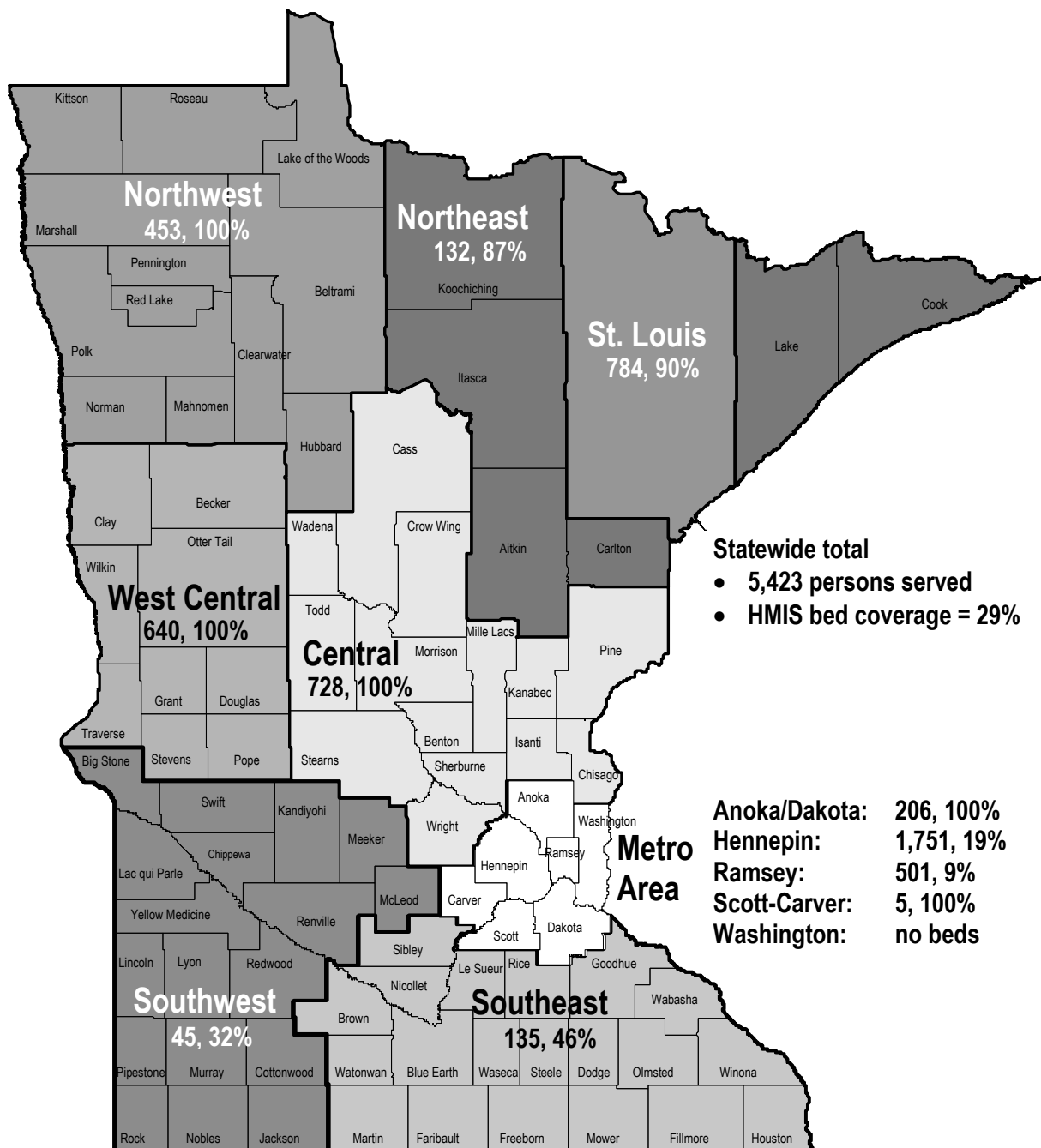
Number of persons (and families) served, and HMIS bed coverage rate (%)



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2008.

**Note:** For additional details see companion report: *Homeless Service Use in Minnesota; Continuum of Care regional tables, federal fiscal year 2009* (available at [www.wilderresearch.org](http://www.wilderresearch.org)).

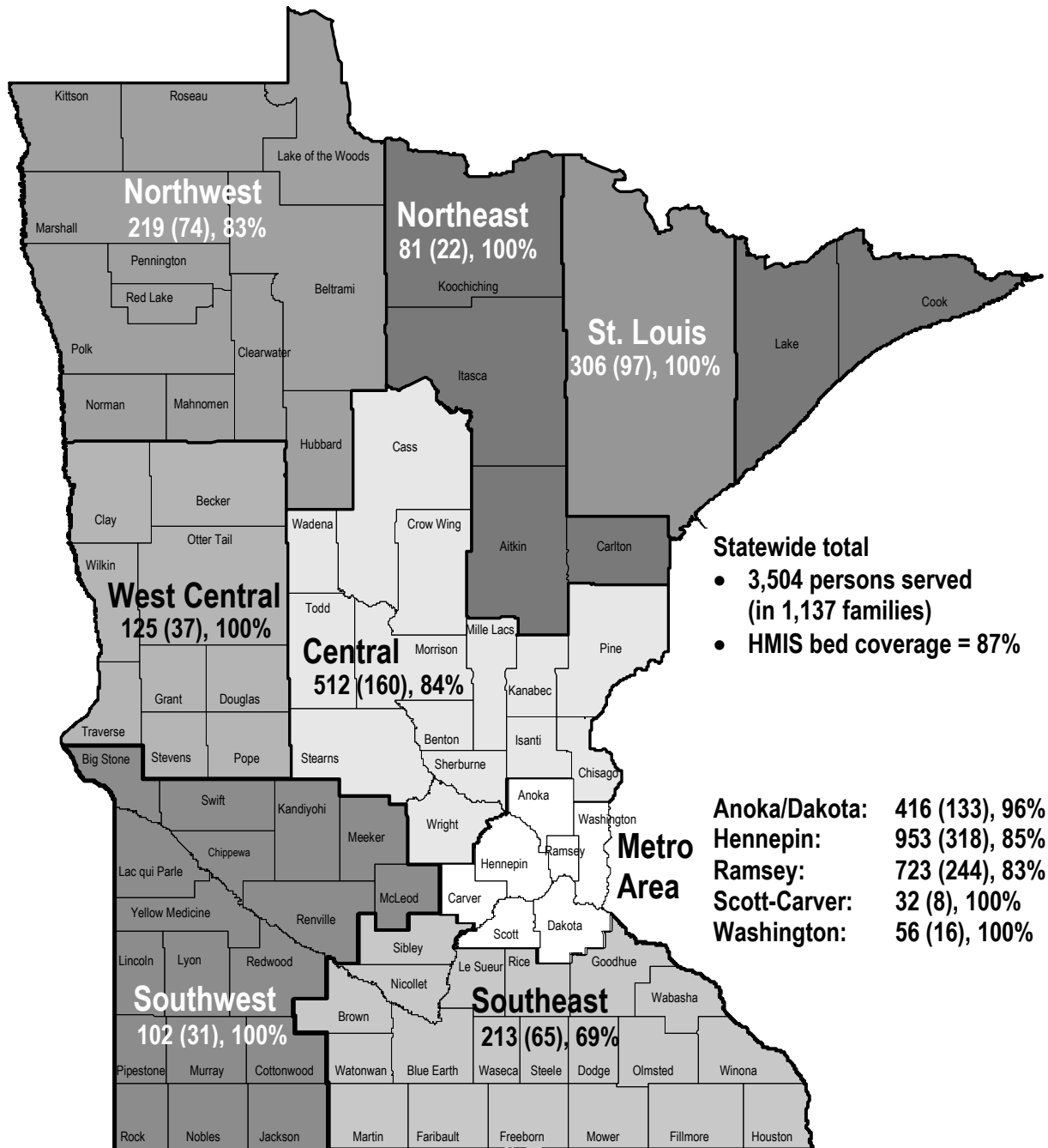
**Emergency shelter for persons served as individuals, federal fiscal year 2009**  
Number of persons served, and HMIS bed coverage rate (%)



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2008.

**Note:** For additional details see companion report: *Homeless Service Use in Minnesota; Continuum of Care regional tables, federal fiscal year 2009* (available at [www.wilderresearch.org](http://www.wilderresearch.org)).

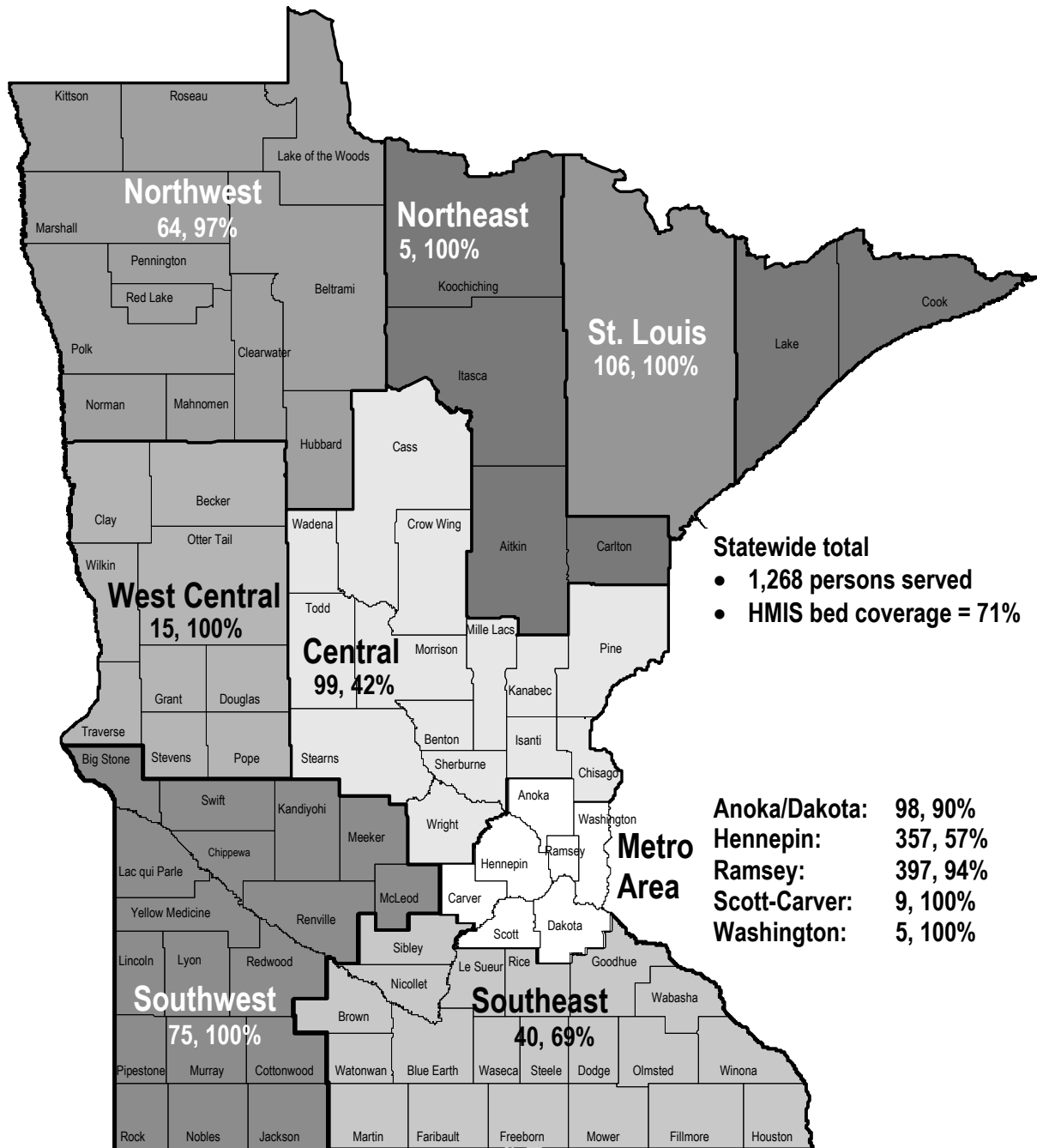
**Transitional housing for families with minor children, federal fiscal year 2009**  
 Number of persons (and families) served, and HMIS bed coverage rate (%)



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2008.

**Note:** For additional details see companion report: *Homeless Service Use in Minnesota; Continuum of Care regional tables, federal fiscal year 2009* (available at [www.wilderresearch.org](http://www.wilderresearch.org)).

**Transitional housing for persons served as individuals, federal fiscal year 2009**  
 Number of persons served, and HMIS bed coverage rate (%)



**Source:** Organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS, AHAR tables for federal fiscal year 2008.

**Note:** For additional details see companion report: *Homeless Service Use in Minnesota; Continuum of Care regional tables, federal fiscal year 2009* (available at [www.wilderresearch.org](http://www.wilderresearch.org)).



## AHAR tables, federal fiscal year 2009

### A1. Statewide

Reporting Period: 10/1/08 - 9/30/09	Emergency Shelter – Families	Emergency Shelter – Individuals	Transitional Housing – Families	Transitional Housing – Individuals
Number of beds in HMIS (% of total beds)	382 (29%)	384 (28%)	2,062 (87%)	630 (71%)
Number of beds not in HMIS	920	968	304	256
Number of people (families) served on an average night	325 (121)	359	1,895 (616)	520
<b>Number of people (families) served on the night of:</b>				
Wednesday, October 29, 2008	346 (106)	341	1,937 (619)	520
Wednesday, January 28, 2009	330 (106)	371	1,916 (609)	526
Wednesday, April 29, 2009	313 (102)	361	1,899 (603)	527
Wednesday, July 29, 2009	369 (114)	386	1,886 (600)	529
Average utilization rate	85%	93%	92%	83%
Turnover rate (the average number of people to use each bed)	9.33	13.43	1.65	2.42
Median number of nights in shelter	24	13	181	123
Unduplicated number of people (families) served	3,565 (1,119)	5,156	3,504 (1,137)	1,268

**Source:** Minnesota's HMIS (aggregate data submitted to HUD as part of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) project). "Number of beds" is taken from each continuum's annual Exhibit 1 application to HUD, supplemented by information received from programs during the process of assembling data for submission to HUD for the national AHAR. Bed capacities should be considered approximations, since many programs can flex actual capacity between individuals and families, and to accommodate various family sizes.

**Note:** Quarterly counts may not precisely sum from Continuum of Care data in companion reports since statewide numbers were run from live database approximately two months after reporting at the Continuum of Care level.

### A1. Statewide (continued)

Quarterly counts, including supplemental shelter data	Emergency Shelter – Families	Emergency Shelter – Individuals
<b>Number of people (families) served on the night of:</b>		
Wednesday, October 29, 2008	768 (242)	1,228
Wednesday, January 28, 2009	658 (210)	1,246
Wednesday, April 29, 2009	608 (204)	1,208
Wednesday, July 29, 2009	810 (254)	1,211

**Source:** Minnesota's HMIS (aggregate data submitted to HUD as part of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) project), supplemented by Hennepin County emergency shelter billing system (Salvation Army Harbor Light, including Sally's Place and Safe Bay; People Serving People; Catholic Charities secure waiting and pay-for-stay shelters, and Simpson's women's shelter, as well as emergency vouchers into motels including the Francis Drake Hotel) and the Catholic Charities Dorothy Day shelter.

## A2. Statewide – Demographics

Characteristics	Persons in families in Emergency Shelter	Individuals in Emergency Shelter	Persons in families in Transitional Housing	Individuals in Transitional Housing
Number of Sheltered Homeless Persons	3,565	5,156	3,504	1,268
<b>Gender of Adults</b>				
Female	75%	25%	81%	56%
Male	25%	75%	19%	43%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Gender of Children</b>				
Female	49%	58%	49%	64%
Male	51%	42%	51%	36%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
Non-Hispanic/non-Latino	89%	91%	93%	94%
Hispanic/Latino	11%	9%	7%	9%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Race</b>				
White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino	25%	45%	34%	47%
White, Hispanic/Latino	7%	3%	4%	2%
Black or African American	43%	27%	36%	31%
Asian	0%	1%	2%	1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	13%	11%	10%	9%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%	0%
Several races	11%	7%	15%	9%
Unknown	1%	6%	0%	0%
<b>Age</b>				
Under 1	8%	0%	7%	1%
1 to 5	26%	0%	28%	0%
6 to 12	18%	1%	18%	1%
13 to 17	7%	6%	8%	7%
18 to 30	24%	25%	23%	42%
31 to 50	15%	46%	14%	37%
51 to 61	1%	15%	1%	12%
62 and older	0%	2%	0%	1%
Unknown	0%	4%	0%	0%

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**A2. Statewide – Demographics (not extrapolated) (continued)**

Characteristics	Persons in families in Emergency Shelter	Individuals in Emergency Shelter	Persons in families in Transitional Housing	Individuals in Transitional Housing
<b>Persons by Household Size</b>				
1 person	0%	96%	0%	93%
2 people	23%	3%	26%	5%
3 people	29%	0%	32%	1%
4 people	26%	0%	21%	0%
5 or more people	22%	0%	21%	0%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
Number of Sheltered Adults	1,424	4,800	1,350	1,154
<b>Veteran (adults only)</b>				
Yes	1%	11%	2%	6%
No	98%	77%	98%	94%
Unknown	1%	12%	0%	1%
<b>Disabled (adults only)</b>				
Yes	25%	50%	33%	63%
No	74%	31%	66%	35%
Unknown	1%	19%	1%	2%

### A3. Statewide- Prior Living Situation

	Persons in families in Emergency Shelter	Individuals in Emergency Shelter	Persons in families in Transitional Housing	Individuals in Transitional Housing
Number of Sheltered Homeless Persons	3,565	5,156	3,504	1,268
<b>Living Arrangement the Night before Program Entry</b>				
<b>Total from Homeless Situation</b>				
Place not meant for Human Habitation	4%	11%	3%	4%
Emergency Shelter	11%	20%	56%	33%
Transitional Housing	0%	3%	1%	7%
<b>Total from Housing Situation</b>				
Permanent Supportive Housing	0%	0%	0%	0%
Rented Housing Unit	8%	4%	5%	3%
Owned Housing Unit	2%	1%	1%	1%
Staying with Family or Friends	54%	31%	21%	25%
<b>Total from Institutional Settings</b>				
Psychiatric Facility	0%	1%	0%	4%
Substance Abuse Treatment Center or Detox	1%	2%	3%	11%
Hospital (nonpsychiatric)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention	0%	3%	0%	1%
<b>Total from Other Situations</b>				
Hotel or Motel (no voucher)	13%	7%	2%	3%
Foster care home	0%	1%	0%	2%
Other living situation	3%	4%	6%	3%
Unknown	3%	12%	0%	3%
<b>Stability of Previous Night's Living Arrangements</b>				
Stayed 1 week or less	40%	43%	15%	16%
Stayed more than 1 week, but less than a month	19%	15%	15%	23%
Stayed 1 to 3 months	12%	11%	42%	31%
Stayed more than 3 months, but less than a year	14%	9%	22%	19%
Stayed 1 year or longer	12%	8%	5%	6%
Unknown	3%	15%	1%	4%
<b>Zip Code of Last Permanent Address (90+ days)</b>				
Within Minnesota	68%	51%	69%	74%
Outside of Minnesota	26%	19%	20%	14%
Unknown	6%	30%	11%	12%

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**A4. Statewide – Length of Stay**

	<b>Persons in families in Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>Individuals in Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>Persons in families in Transitional Housing</b>	<b>Individuals in Transitional Housing</b>
<b>Length of Stay</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A week or less	28%	41%	4%	4%
1 week to 1 month	32%	32%	9%	11%
1 - 3 months	32%	21%	15%	25%
3 - 6 months	6%	5%	20%	25%
6 - 9 months	1%	1%	15%	15%
9 - 12 months	0%	0%	38%	20%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%

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**A5. Statewide – Long-term Stays (More than 180 days)**

	<b>Persons in families in Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>Individuals in Emergency Shelter</b>
<b>Length of Stay</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Number of Sheltered Homeless Persons	3,565	5,156
Number of persons staying more than 180 days	36	40

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**A6. Veterans-Statewide**

<b>Reporting Period: 10/1/08 - 9/30/09</b>	<b>Emergency Shelter – Families</b>	<b>Emergency Shelter – Individuals</b>	<b>Transitional Housing – Families</b>	<b>Transitional Housing – Individuals</b>
<b>Number of people (families) served on the night of:</b>				
Wednesday, October 29, 2008	1 (1)	49	16 (16)	30
Wednesday, January 28, 2009	2 (2)	45	15 (15)	30
Wednesday, April 29, 2009	3 (3)	42	15 (15)	34
Wednesday, July 29, 2009	3 (3)	50	13 (13)	32
Median number of nights in shelter	54	8	241	170
Unduplicated number of people (families) served	17	520	28	65

**Source:** Minnesota's HMIS (aggregate data submitted to HUD as part of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) project).

**Note:** Quarterly counts may not precisely sum from Continuum of Care data since statewide numbers were run from live database approximately two months after reporting at the Continuum of Care level.

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**A7. Veterans Statewide – Demographics**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Persons in families in Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>Individuals in Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>Persons in families in Transitional Housing</b>	<b>Individuals in Transitional Housing</b>
Number of Sheltered Homeless Persons	17	520	28	65
<b>Gender of Adults</b>				
Female	29%	4%	33%	17%
Male	71%	96%	67%	83%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
Non-Hispanic/non-Latino	100%	96%	93%	98%
Hispanic/Latino	0%	4%	7%	4%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Race</b>				
White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino	59%	61%	71%	48%
White, Hispanic/Latino	0%	4%	7%	4%
Black or African American	12%	23%	14%	40%
Asian	6%	0%	0%	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	7%	0%	6%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%	1%	0%	0%
Several races	24%	4%	7%	5%
Unknown	0%	2%	0%	0%
<b>Age</b>				
18 to 30	24%	5%	36%	11%
31 to 50	65%	47%	54%	52%
51 to 61	12%	41%	7%	34%
62 and older	0%	7%	0%	0%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Persons by Household Size</b>				
1 veteran	100%	100%	100%	100%
2 veterans	0%	0%	0%	0%
3 veterans	0%	0%	0%	0%
4 veterans	0%	0%	0%	0%
5 or more veterans	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Disabled (adults only)</b>				
Yes	47%	71%	59%	66%
No	53%	23%	41%	32%
Unknown	0%	6%	0%	2%

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**A8. Veterans Statewide- Prior Living Situation**

	Persons in families in Emergency Shelter	Individuals in Emergency Shelter	Persons in families in Transitional Housing	Individuals in Transitional Housing
Number of Sheltered Homeless Persons	17	520	28	65
<b>Living Arrangement the Night before Program Entry</b>				
<b>Total from Homeless Situation</b>				
Place not meant for Human Habitation	24%	19%	7%	2%
Emergency Shelter	18%	24%	30%	42%
Transitional Housing	0%	1%	4%	15%
<b>Total from Housing Situation</b>				
Permanent Supportive Housing	0%	0%	0%	0%
Rented Housing Unit	6%	5%	33%	0%
Owned Housing Unit	6%	2%	0%	0%
Staying with Family or Friends	18%	22%	22%	15%
<b>Total from Institutional Settings</b>				
Psychiatric Facility	0%	1%	0%	3%
Substance Abuse Treatment Center or Detox	6%	5%	0%	9%
Hospital (nonpsychiatric)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention	0%	2%	0%	2%
<b>Total from Other Situations</b>				
Hotel or Motel (no voucher)	24%	8%	0%	3%
Foster care home	0%	1%	0%	0%
Other living situation	0%	6%	4%	5%
Unknown	0%	2%	0%	5%
<b>Stability of Previous Night's Living Arrangements</b>				
Stayed 1 week or less	47%	50%	7%	17%
Stayed more than 1 week, but less than a month	12%	13%	15%	17%
Stayed 1 to 3 months	24%	15%	33%	23%
Stayed more than 3 months, but less than a year	12%	10%	33%	28%
Stayed 1 year or longer	6%	8%	11%	5%
Unknown	0%	5%	0%	11%
<b>Zip Code of Last Permanent Address (90+ days)</b>				
Within Minnesota	53%	49%	74%	71%
Outside of Minnesota	41%	29%	7%	14%
Unknown	6%	21%	19%	15%



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**A9. Veterans Statewide – Length of Stay**

<b>Length of Stay</b>	<b>Persons in families in Emergency Shelter Percentage</b>	<b>Individuals in Emergency Shelter Percentage</b>	<b>Persons in families in Transitional Housing Percentage</b>	<b>Individuals in Transitional Housing Percentage</b>
A week or less	29%	33%	4%	5%
1 week to 1 month	29%	36%	18%	6%
1 - 3 months	24%	24%	11%	26%
3 - 6 months	6%	7%	14%	18%
6 - 9 months	12%	1%	14%	17%
9 - 12 months	0%	0%	39%	28%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%