Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect

Summary of guests served on June 19, 2007

JULY 2007

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Prepared by:

Craig Helmstetter

Wilder Research 1295 Bandana Boulevard North, Suite 210 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108 651-647-4600 www.wilder.org

Contents

Introduction	1
Methods	1
Demographic characteristics	3
Living situation	6
Income and sources of assistance	8
Services sought	9
De-duplication with data in Minnesota's HMIS	10
Looking forward: Project Homeless Connect and Minnesota's HMIS	12
Appendix	13
Project Homeless Connect Intake Form	14

Figures

1.	Households served, as presenting at event, by head of household	. 3
2.	Individuals served at event, by household type	. 3
3.	Self reported household types of those served at event, by head of household	. 4
4.	Age of guests served at event	. 4
5.	Race and ethnicity of guests served at event	. 5
6.	Disability and veterans status of guests served	. 5
7.	Homeless status of guests served	. 6
8.	Living situation last night of guest served	. 7
9.	City where household stayed last night	. 7
10.	Household income sources last month	. 8
11.	Other assistance currently received by household	. 8
12.	Main types of service sought by household	. 9

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Introduction

This brief report summarizes information about the guests served at the St. Paul/ Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect event on June 19th, 2007 at the St. Paul Armory. This event, based on a national model, was designed as a "one-stop shop" of services for people experiencing homelessness. The day-long event was the second such event in the county. It was organized by the St. Paul Police, The City of St. Paul, and Ramsey County. In addition, the event was shaped by a steering committee made up of community members, service providers, and persons who have experienced homelessness.¹

Overall, Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect served:

- 815 households
- 1,081 individuals
- 167 children age 17 or younger

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

Methods

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

Project Homeless Connect guests received consent forms and were recorded as "anonymous" if they preferred not to have identifiable information entered into the HMIS. As a result, 43 of the 815 singles or heads of households served (5%) were

¹ For more on the event, see <u>www.projecthomelessconnectmn.com/</u>.

² For more information, see <u>www.hmismn.org</u>.

entered without the ability to run matches in the HMIS database to see whether they have prior service records, or to see whether they will be served elsewhere in the near future. The clients who agreed to be entered with identifiable information were entered as "unnamed clients." Upon entering the client name in the initial data entry screen, the database automatically generated a unique identifier comprised of parts of the name, date of birth, and gender. The database then discarded the name. The creation of the unique identifier enabled Wilder Research to match Project Homeless Connect guests with those served by other programs participating in Minnesota's HMIS.

Demographic characteristics

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

	Number	Percentage
In households without dependent children age 17 or younger	728	89%
Single females	225	28%
Single males	425	52%
Singles with gender unknown	29	4%
Two or more adults served together (couples, adult children)	49	6%
Adults in households with dependent children age 17 or younger	87	11%
Female single parent/guardian	51	6%
Male single parent/guardian	6	1%
Single parent/guardian, gender unknown	3	0%
Two or more adults in household (couples, adult children)	27	3%
Total	815	100%

2. Individuals served at event, by household type

	Number	Percentage
In households without dependent children age 17 or younger	788	73%
Single females	225	21%
Single males	425	39%
Singles with gender unknown	29	3%
Two or more adults served together (couples, adult children)	109	10%
Adults in households with dependent children age 17 or younger	128	12%
Female single parent/guardian	51	5%
Male single parent/guardian	6	1%
Single parent/guardian, gender unknown	3	0%
Two or more adults in household (couples, adult children)	68	6%
Children served with parents or guardians	165	15%
Children, age 13-17	38	4%
Children, age 5-12	73	7%
Children, age 0-4	54	5%
Average number of children per household: 1.9		
Total	1,081	100%

3. Self reported household types of those served at event, by head of household

			Number	Percentage
In households without dep	endent children		591	73%
Single females			154	19%
Single males			371	46%
Singles with gender unkno	wn		27	3%
Couples without children			39	5%
Adults in households with	dependent child	lren age 17 or younger	224	27%
Female single parent/guar	dian		133	16%
Male single parent/guardia	in		50	6%
Couples with children			41	5%
Dependent children (Present at event or not)	Total number 475	Average per household 2.1		
Total			815	100%

	Fe	male	М	ale	Α	**
15-21	15	5%	10	2%	25	3%
22-24	16	5%	14	3%	31	4%
25-34	63	20%	48	10%	115	14%
35-44	80	25%	102	22%	187	23%
45-54	91	29%	191	41%	289	35%
55-64	35	11%	71	15%	110	13%
65-80	6	2%	8	2%	15	2%
(Missing)	12	4%	21	5%	43	5%
Total	318	100%	465	100%	815	100%
Average age (mean)	41		45		44	

4. Age of guests served at event*

* Household heads and singles.

** Total includes 32 guests whose gender is unknown.

5. Race and ethnicity of guests served at event*

	Number	Percentage
American Indian/Alaskan Native	39	5%
Asian	6	1%
Black/African American	380	47%
White	291	36%
American Indian/Alaskan Native & White	12	1%
Black/African American & White	4	>1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African American	8	1%
Other Multi-Racial	31	4%
None specified	42	5%
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	50	6%
Total	815	100%

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

6. Disability and veterans status of guests served

	Fer	nale	м	ale	A	.II *
Has a disability of long duration	157	49%	218	47%	390	48%
Served in US military	13	4%	97	21%	115	14%
Total	318	100%	465	100%	815	100%

* Household heads and singles. Includes 32 guests whose gender is unknown.

Living situation

7. Homeless status of guests served

	Female		М	Male		\ *
Not currently homeless	106	33%	102	22%	216	27%
Living with family or friends**	13	4%	21	5%	35	4%
Homeless, but status unknown***	24	8%	27	6%	52	6%
1st time homeless and less than 1 year without home	75	24%	109	23%	194	24%
Multiple times homeless, but NOT meeting LTH definition	36	11%	71	15%	109	13%
Long term: At least 1 year OR at least 4 times in past 3 years	49	15%	119	26%	173	21%
Unknown	15	5%	16	3%	36	4%
Total	318	100%	465	100%	815	100%

* Heads of households and singles. Includes 32 guests whose gender is unknown.

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

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

8.	Living situation last night of guest served
- ·	

	Female		Male		A	 *
Emergency Shelter	79	25%	150	32%	237	29%
Rental House/Apartment	66	21%	65	14%	136	17%
Living With Friends	36	11%	53	11%	92	11%
Transitional Housing for Homeless	28	9%	56	12%	85	10%
Place not meant for habitation	15	5%	45	10%	62	8%
Living With Family	20	6%	24	5%	47	6%
Owned House/Apartment	7	2%	10	2%	19	2%
Permanent Housing for Formerly Homeless	6	2%	11	2%	17	2%
Other **	22	7%	26	6%	51	6%
Missing/don't know/refused	39	12%	25	5%	69	8%
Total	318	100%	465	100%	815	100%

* Heads of households and singles. Includes 32 guests whose gender is unknown.

** Includes categories with 5 or fewer responses (hotel or motel without emergency voucher, substance abuse treatment center, foster care or group home, psychiatric hospital or facility, and hospital).

	Fei	male	М	ale	A	II *
St. Paul	193	61%	338	73%	539	66%
Minneapolis	24	8%	43	9%	71	9%
Other suburb	22	7%	14	3%	39	5%
Missing **	79	25%	70	15%	166	20%
Total	318	100%	465	100%	815	100%

9. City where household stayed last night

* Heads of households and singles. Includes 32 guests whose gender is unknown.

** Includes fewer than 5 respondents who indicated Minnesota cities outside of the Twin Cities metro area.

Income and sources of assistance

	Female		Male		All **	
General Assistance	70	22%	111	24%	188	23%
SSDI	56	18%	76	16%	136	17%
Social Security (including SSI and retirement)	73	23%	53	11%	126	15%
Employment	33	10%	64	14%	100	12%
Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)	54	17%	10	2%	64	8%
Contributions from others	18	6%	18	4%	37	5%
No income from sources listed above	78	25%	171	37%	266	33%
Income sources other than those listed	17	5%	23	5%	43	5%
Total	318	100%	465	100%	815	100%

10. Household income sources last month*

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

** Heads of households and singles. Includes 32 guests whose gender is unknown.

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

11. Other assistance currently received by household*

	Female		Male		All **	
Medical Assistance (or Medicaid or MA)	182	57%	223	48%	413	51%
Food stamps	182	57%	188	40%	377	46%
Medicare	54	17%	68	15%	123	15%
Section 8	34	11%	33	7%	69	8%
Public housing	18	6%	36	8%	55	7%
Other rent assistance	24	8%	20	4%	46	6%
Veterans medical or services	2	1%	33	7%	36	4%
Total	318	100%	465	100%	815	100%

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

** Heads of households and singles. Includes 32 guests whose gender is unknown.

Services sought

	Female		Male		All **	
Housing	196	62%	236	51%	443	54%
Employment	137	43%	189	41%	340	42%
Dental care	96	30%	146	31%	248	30%
Picture ID	85	27%	102	22%	193	24%
Eye care	66	21%	108	23%	179	22%
Haircut	54	17%	107	23%	170	21%
Education	74	23%	63	14%	140	17%
Legal assistance	57	18%	65	14%	129	16%
Medical care	37	12%	71	15%	117	14%
Public Assistance	37	12%	60	13%	100	12%
Voicemail	43	14%	56	12%	101	12%
Mental health	35	11%	46	10%	83	10%
Social Security benefits	23	7%	48	10%	76	9%
Emergency shelter	16	5%	25	5%	43	5%
Veterans benefits	5	2%	28	6%	35	4%
Chemical health	8	3%	9	2%	17	2%
Volunteered: Transportation (bus fare, etc.)	12	4%	27	6%	40	5%
Volunteered: Food (including lunch, food shelf, etc.)	7	2%	5	1%	12	1%
Volunteered: Other miscellaneous (child care, clothing, energy assistance, furniture, etc.)	31	10%	32	7%	67	8%
Total	318	100%	465	100%	815	100%

12. Main types of service sought by household*

* Guests were asked what their top three services were from the list provided above. Some indicated more than three. Guests were also asked to specify services they might need that were not included on the list; these services are noted as "volunteered".

** Heads of households and singles. Includes 32 guests whose gender is unknown.

*** In response to a separate question, 28% of guests indicated they did not have a picture ID from Minnesota.

De-duplication with data in Minnesota's HMIS

One of the reasons Project Homeless Connect organizers wanted to enter data from the event into Minnesota's HMIS was to get a sense of how many of those served at the event were already involved with social service providers, particularly providers whose mission is to serve people experiencing homelessness. Minnesota's HMIS is imperfect for the task; as of June 2007, the HMIS only included only 37 percent of the shelter beds, 83 percent of transitional housing program beds, and 41 percent of permanent supportive housing beds in Ramsey County.³ The HMIS does, however, also include the County's large homeless prevention program, as well as some other "services only" programs not associated with beds. Further, entering the data into the HMIS enabled us to run matches against people served in other parts of the state, including a previous Project Homeless Connect event held on December 4th in Minneapolis (as well as the Project Homeless Connect held in St. Paul one year ago).

As discussed in the introduction, all guests who signed a consent form at Project Homeless Connect were entered as "unnamed clients" in the HMIS database. This means that while elements of the clients name were used in creating a unique identifier, the name was not permanently stored. This procedure allows Wilder to un-duplicate clients served in Project Homeless Connect with other records in the database. The 43 guests who indicated a preference *not* to provide their name or other potentially identifying information at the event were entered anonymously, and it is not possible to match their records with others existing in the database. Setting aside the anonymous clients we found that:

271 of the 772 identifiable guests, or 35 percent, were served prior to the event by an organization participating in Minnesota's HMIS.

Another 8 guests were served by organizations participating in Minnesota's HMIS (and entered with identifiable records into the HMIS) within the two weeks following the event.

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

³ Wilder Research annually produces a report on shelter use that includes 100 percent of emergency beds in the county. That report relies on data sent to Wilder by two large shelters (Dorothy Day and Union Gospel Mission) for men that do not enter data into the statewide HMIS database.

previous contact with social service providers, even those whose specific mission is to serve those experiencing homelessness in Ramsey County, since many providers are not currently participating in Minnesota's HMIS.

As mentioned above, Minnesota's HMIS also was used to gather data on two earlier Project Homeless Connect events: St. Paul's first Project Homeless Connect in June 2006, and Minneapolis' second Project Homeless Connect in December 2006. The previous St. Paul event served 786 households and 936 people, while the Minneapolis event served 1,050 households and 1,218 people.⁴ How many of the people served at the Ramsey County event also were served at the earlier events? We identified 104 individuals who attended more than one event. Thus, setting aside the guests who were entered anonymously at each event (199 in St. Paul's June 2006 event and 50 in Minneapolis' 2006 event):

- Sixty-eight (68), or 9 percent, of those served at the June 2007 St. Paul/Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect in June also were served at the Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect in June 2006.
- Twenty-four (24), or 3 percent, of those served at the June 2007 St. Paul/Ramsey County Project Homeless Connect in June also were served at the Minneapolis/ Hennepin County Project Homeless Connect in December 2006.
- No one is known to have attended all three events.

These results may under-represent the number of people who have attended more than one Project Homeless Connect event, and certainly would under-estimate the number who may have participated in similar events such as the "stand down" held annually for homeless veterans in the Twin Cities. In fact, when asked, "Have you ever been to a Project Homeless Connect event like this one before today?" 164 guests, or 20 percent, responded "yes."

⁴ For the first Ramsey County event a unique record was entered for each person served, including children accompanying their parents and guardians. The children were entered anonymously, resulting in the higher proportion of anonymous records. Starting with the Hennepin County event in December, procedures for Project Homeless Connect were changed and only information on the head of the household was entered into the HMIS.

Looking forward: Project Homeless Connect and Minnesota's HMIS

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

Appendix

Project Homeless Connect Intake Form

Project Homeless Connect Intake Form

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

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

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

What is your Name?:	ServicePt ID#						
FIRST							
BIRTH DATE://							
GENDER: Gemale (H) Gem							
Do you consider yourself (PRIMARY RACE) (SECONDARY RACE (OPTIONAL/ IF OFFERED))							
American Indian or Alaskan Native							
□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander							
Black or African American Black or African American							
☐ White		White					
☐ Asian		☐ Asian					
Other Multi-Racial		Other Multi-Racial					
Other Unknow	vn	☐ Other	Unknown				
Are you Hispanic/Latino	t Hispanic/Latino						
Are you part of a household/family?		☐ Yes (family/household)	□ No (single adult/youth)				
IF yes, type of household: □ Grandparent(s) & Child □ Couple with No Children □ Female Single Parent □ Foster Parent □ Grandparent(s) & Child □ Two Parent Family □ Male Single Parent □ Non-Custodial Caregivers □ Other							
How many dependent children do you have total? (17 or younger, including those not here)							
Are you HERE WITH OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS – Number with guest (NOT including guest)							
Adult males: Adult females:	Teens (13 -1	7): Children, 5-12yrs:	Children, 0-4yrs:				
EVER SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES *NOTE If yes, please direct to veterans services area Yes * No Don't know Refused Refused							
Do you have any type of disability that keeps you from working, shopping or other daily activities? (Physical or Mental) (If Yes) Do you expect it to last for years to come? (A DISABILITY OF LONG DURATION?)							
□ Yes (& long duration) □ No □ Don't know □ Refuse							
During the last month did you receive any income from							
No income		□ No □ Don't know	Refused				
Employment	🗆 Yes 🛛	No Don't know	Refused				
General Assistance	🗆 Yes 🛛	No Don't know	Refused				
Social Security Disability (SSDI)	□ Yes [□ No □ Don't know	Refused				
Social Security (incl. SSI, Retirement)	□ Yes I	□ No □ Don't know	Refused				
MFIP (MN Family Investment Program)	□ Yes [□ No □ Don't know	Refused				
Contributions from other people	□ Yes I	□ No □ Don't know	Refused				
Any other source?							

Do you currently rece								
Food stamps?	erve	□ Yes	D No	🗖 Don't		Refused		
· · · · ·	g Voucher (for rent)			Don't		Refused		
Public housing?	<u> </u>			Don't		Refused		
Any other type of re	antal assistanco?					Refused		
	e (or Medicaid or MA)			Don't		Refused		
Medicare?				Don't		Refused		
Veterans Medical as	ssistance or service	s? 🛛 Yes	D No	Don't	know	Refused		
Are you currently H	lomeless?							
	🗖 NO	Not currently homeless	6					
	🗆 YES	→ First time homeless	AND less than	1 year without	home			
	🗆 YES	\rightarrow Several times hom	eless, but for le	ss than 1 year	and NOT more that	in 4 times in 3 years		
	□ YES	→ Long term: at least	t 1 year OR at le	east 4 times in t	he past 3 years			
WHERE DID YOU STA		_			_			
Emergency shelte			on, or juvenile fa	-	Hotel/motel (without voucher)			
Transitional hous	-		ouse/apartment		☐ Foster care/group home			
Permanent housing for formerly homeless I house/condo/apartment that you own I Place not meant for habitation (includes living on the street/outs)								
Psychiatric hospital or facility Living with family					Don't know			
□ Substance abuse treatment center, incl detox □ Living with friends					Refused			
Hospital Other								
HOW LONG HAVE YO	OU STAYED THERE?	•						
□ 1 week or less			ore than 3 month	hs but less thar	1 year			
□ More than 1 week but less than 1 month □ 1 year or longer								
□ 1 to 3 months								
WHAT CITY WAS THAT IN? CHECK BOX IF Outside of Minnesota								
Have you ever been t	o a Project Homeles	s Connect event like	this one before	e today?				
Have you ever been to a Project Homeless Connect event like this one before today? Yes In No Don't know In Refused								
Now I have a few questions about how we can help you. What are the top 3 things you would like help with today?								
Employment	□ Yes	Social Security Ben	efits 🛛 Yes	Dent	al Care	□ Yes		
Education	□ Yes	Veteran's Benefits	🛛 Yes	Eye	Care	□ Yes		
Legal assistance	□ Yes	Public Assistance	🛛 Yes	Medi	cal Care (other)	□ Yes		
Housing	□ Yes	Mental Health	□ Yes	Hairo	ut	□ Yes		
Emergency Shelter	□ Yes	Chemical Health	□ Yes	Voice	e Mail	□ Yes		
Other services (write in):								
Do you have a Minnesota picture ID?								
(IF NO) Would you	u like help getting a	picture ID?	□ Yes	🗆 No				

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