

# Supporting Homeless Families and Youth

## *A Summary of Youth Served at Prior Crossing in Fiscal Year 2018*



*Wilder helps families and youth achieve their full potential with supportive housing services. Participants get help finding safe and affordable housing along with flexible and responsive services that help them address and overcome challenges.<sup>1</sup>*

Wilder Foundation Family Supportive Housing Services (FSHS) works with homeless youth, single adults, and families to assist them in finding and maintaining housing, establishing a stable source of income, and connecting to needed health services. If there are school-age children in the household, staff also work on improving students' school engagement.

Each fiscal year, Wilder Research writes a series of reports on the data collected from FSHS programs. This year, Wilder Research produced three reports that detail findings from: 1) all FSHS programs combined, 2) site-based permanent supportive housing programs in which Wilder partners with specific developers (together these are referred to as “services with others” programs), and 3) Prior Crossing (in future years, this will become a broader “youth housing” report).

The summary below highlights evaluation findings from youth served by **Prior Crossing** during fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018).

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wilder.org/what-we-offer/supportive-housing-services>

## Youth characteristics

During the reporting period, Family Supportive Housing Services collected data<sup>2</sup> on youth served at Prior Crossing – a permanent supportive housing site for homeless youth. In future years, this report will combine data across all youth housing sites that receive services from Wilder (i.e., Prior Crossing and Lincoln Place).

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, Prior Crossing served **57 unduplicated individuals**; 16 youth entered Prior Crossing and 13 exited during the reporting year (Figure 1).

### 1. Number served at Prior Crossing

	Number of individuals
First day of reporting period (July 1, 2017)	41
New intakes during reporting period	16
Exited program during reporting period	13
Cases open at the end of the year (June 30, 2018)	44
<b>Total served during reporting period</b>	<b>57</b>

The following bullets outline several demographic characteristics for youth at Prior Crossing.

- **Age and gender:** Most youth served are between age 18 and 21 (Figure 2). Slightly over half (54%) identify as female, 44 percent identify as male, and 2 percent (1 person) is transgender.

### 2. Age of youth served

N=57	N	%
13 to 17 years old	3	5%
18 to 21 years old	40	70%
22 to 25 years old	14	25%

<sup>2</sup> The data reported here (and in the client characteristics and outcomes sections) were pulled from Minnesota's Homeless Management and Information System by FSHS staff who sent the data in Excel spreadsheets to Wilder Research for review and interpretation.

- **Race and ethnicity:** The majority of youth at Prior Crossing were people of color (93%), with over 6 in 10 identifying as African American or black (65%). In addition, 12 percent identified as Hispanic.
- **Disability:** Just under half (46%) of youth had at least one disability of long duration. Of those (N=26), the most common disability reported was mental illness (88%), followed by a developmental disability (15%), a chronic health condition (8%), drug abuse (8%), a physical disability, and alcohol abuse (4%). Youth could report more than one disability.
- **Domestic violence:** At program entry, 24 percent of youth age 18 and older reported being domestic violence survivors. Of those 12 youth, 67 percent said they experienced this violence more than one year ago.
- **History of homelessness:** Prior to their involvement in Prior Crossing, 58 percent of youth were living in a friend or family member's apartment or house. The next most common living arrangement was an emergency shelter (21%) or place not meant for habitation (16%). At program entry, 95 percent of youth were considered long-term homeless.<sup>3</sup>

## Youth outcomes

Wilder staff also collect and report on youth outcomes through two primary sources: the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS; as footnoted above) and a Resource Assessment (developed by Wilder Research). FSHS and Wilder Research staff are currently discussing whether to implement a participant survey to capture other services and satisfaction with the program (as is done with non-youth programs). Any data collected from a participant survey will be reported in future reports.

## HMIS outcomes

Most of the findings reported in this summary come from HMIS. FSHS staff enter data into HMIS when an individual or family enters or exits their program. FSHS staff then send the data to Wilder Research each year for reporting.

---

<sup>3</sup> Minnesota definition of long-term homelessness: Individuals, unaccompanied youth, or families with children who lack a permanent place to live continuously for a year or more or at least four times in the past three years. Any period of institutionalization or incarceration is excluded when determining the length of time a household has been homeless.

### Stable housing

- The majority (82%) of youth served during this reporting period had stable housing for at least six months after program entry, and 60 percent had stable housing for more than one year.
- Of the 13 youth that exited Prior Crossing during the reporting period, all had stable housing for at least six months after program entry, and 46 percent had stable housing for more than 12 months after program entry.
- All youth with known data exited into permanent housing after exit, most commonly rental housing (either with or without a subsidy; Figure 3).

### 3. Destination for youth that exited Prior Crossing

<b>N=13</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Permanent housing</b>		
Rental housing with ongoing subsidy	5	39%
Rental housing with <u>no</u> ongoing subsidy	3	23%
Friends or family, permanently	4	31%
<b>Other</b>		
No exit interview completed	1	8%

## Employment and income

- Of the 13 youth that exited during the reporting period, 69 percent had a monthly income of \$600 or less when they entered their housing program (Figure 4).
- Over the course of their involvement in Prior Crossing, the median income of exited youth increased (\$500 to \$684); in addition, the proportion of those reporting “no income” decreased by program exit (38% to 23%; Figure 4).

### 4. Monthly income for youth who exited during the reporting period

N=13	Income at program entry		Income at program exit	
	N	%	N	%
No income	5	38%	3	23%
\$1 – 200	0	0%	0	0%
\$201 – 400	2	15%	1	8%
\$401 – 600	2	15%	2	15%
\$601 – 800	2	15%	0	0%
\$801- 1,000	1	8%	3	23%
\$1,001 – 1,200	1	8%	1	8%
\$1,201 – 1,400	0	0%	0	0%
\$1,401 – 1,600	0	0%	3	23%
\$1,601 or more	0	0%	0	0%
Average monthly income	\$531		\$715	
Median monthly income	\$500		\$684	

Note. Cases with “no income” reported are excluded from the calculations of average and median income.

- Monthly income increased for 54 percent of exited residents (7 youth); the median increase was +\$500 per month. Income stayed the same for 23 percent (3 youth) and decreased for 8 percent of exited residents (1 youth); information was missing for two youth.
- The proportion of youth with earned income increased between program entry and the most recent assessment, for both exited (46% to 54%) and all youth (46% to 53%; Figure 5).
- The most common type of income assistance among youth at Prior Crossing was Section 8 or other rental assistance, followed by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps) and General Assistance (Figure 5).

## 5. Income sources between program entry and most recent assessment

	Exited youth (N=13)		All youth (N=57)	
	Program entry	Program exit	Program entry	Most recent assessment
<b>Earned income</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Cash assistance</b>				
General Assistance	23%	31%	14%	16%
SSI	8%	0%	5%	2%
MFIP (a.k.a. TANF)	0%	8%	0%	2%
SSDI	0%	0%	2%	4%
<b>Non-cash assistance</b>				
Section 8 or other rental assistance	92%	92%	65%	65%
Food stamps/SNAP	54%	46%	42%	42%
Other	0%	0%	4%	4%

## Resource Assessment data

In addition to the data reported above, FSHS program staff also collect client-level data on a form developed by Wilder Research, called the Resource Assessment. This assessment examines client changes on key indicators, including financial accounts, employment, education, housing, health provider connections, and for those with school-age children, school stability (e.g., what percentage of clients “improved” by gaining employment or opening a bank account). Program staff implement the Resource Assessment on an annual basis with heads of households and adults age 18 and older.

Resource Assessment data were available at two time points for 51 youth served at Prior Crossing in fiscal year 2018. Key findings are highlighted below, and additional data tables can be found in the Appendix.

## Finances

- The proportion of youth who had a checking account or debit card increased from the initial to most recent assessment; the proportion of those who had a savings account decreased slightly (Figure 6).

### 6. Financial assessment

% of youth with a...	Initial assessment (N=51)		Most recent assessment (N=51)	
	N	%	N	%
Checking account	15	29%	18	35%
Debit card	13	25%	22	43%
Saving account	12	24%	10	20%
IDA account	0	0%	0	0%

- According to their most recent assessment, about one quarter of youth improved their financial status by getting a debit card; a smaller proportion had secured a checking account (16%) or savings account (6%) by their most recent assessment. At the same time, financial status declined or remained the same (in that they did not have an account at either time) for the majority of youth: checking account (63%), savings account (81%), and IDA (96%; Figure 7).
- Of the 36 youth who had one of these accounts at their follow-up assessment, 47 percent had the more funds than they did 12 months ago. Two in ten (19%) had the same amount of funds and 11 percent had less funds than they did 12 months ago. This information was missing for 22 percent of youth.

### 7. Accounts, change from initial to most recent assessment

N=51	Improved	No change (both yes)	No change (both no)	Declined	Missing
Debit card	24%	20%	47%	6%	4%
Checking account	16%	20%	53%	10%	2%
Savings account	6%	14%	71%	10%	0%
IDA account	0%	0%	96%	0%	4%

Note. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

- In a series of questions about finances, 45 percent of youth had improved in filing their taxes, meaning that they had not filed taxes at their initial assessment, but had filed taxes by their most recent assessment. However, the remaining youth had declined in this area (Figure 8).
- A smaller proportion of those living at Prior Crossing had improved in checking their credit report (29%) or repairing their credit (10%) in the past 12 months; however, the majority had not done these activities at either time point (Figure 8).

## 8. Additional financial indicators, change from initial to most recent assessment

In the past 12 months, have you... N=51	Improved	No change (both yes)	No change (both no)	Declined	Missing
Filed your taxes	45%	0%	0%	55%	0%
Checked your credit report or credit score	29%	0%	71%	0%	0%
Worked on repairing your credit	10%	0%	90%	0%	0%

### Employment and education

- By their most recent assessment, 16 percent of youth at Prior Crossing became employed, 39 percent remained employed, 37 percent remained unemployed, and 8 percent became unemployed.
- In the past 12 months (since their most recent assessment), youth were most likely to have attended high school (43%) or a job readiness class (20%; Figure 9).
- Of the 22 youth who had attended high school in the past 12 months, 25 percent were currently attending; 12 percent (6 youth) were not currently attending and 6 percent had completed high school within the past 12 months.

## 9. Educational assessment

In the past 12 months, have you attended... N=51	Yes	No	Already completed/ NA	Missing
High school classes	43%	24%	31%	2%
Job readiness class	20%	75%	6%	0%
Financial literacy class	8%	90%	2%	0%
A four-year college	6%	88%	0%	6%
Vocational/technical/ community college	4%	88%	0%	8%
GED classes	2%	78%	4%	16%
Other classes (ESL, Community Education, etc.)	0%	92%	0%	8%

Note. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.



## Health

- At their most recent assessment, 14 percent of youth had found a regular place to go to the doctor (that is not the emergency room) and six percent had found a place to get regular mental health services. Six in ten youth had a regular doctor at both their initial and most recent assessments (Figure 10).

### 10. Health, change from initial to most recent assessment

<b>N=51</b>	<b>Improved</b>	<b>No change (both yes)</b>	<b>No change (both no)</b>	<b>Declined</b>	<b>Missing/ NA</b>
Regular place to go to the doctor	14%	63%	22%	2%	0%
Regular place to go to get mental health services	6%	31%	22%	6%	35%*

Note. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

\* In the question, "Do you have a regular place that you go to get mental health services," 35% of respondents marked "N/A – no mental health issues."

- Three in ten (29%) youth showed improvement in reduced emergency room (ER) visits, meaning that, by their most recent assessment, youth had either no visits or fewer visits than at their initial assessment. Over two-thirds (69%) reported the same number of ER visits at both time points, and two percent had increased their number of visits. The average number of ER visits decreased slightly between clients' initial assessments (2.3 times) and follow-up assessments (2.0 times).

## Conclusions

During the reporting period, Prior Crossing served 57 single youth, the majority (70%) were between age 18 and 21. Nearly all residents at Prior Crossing are people of color (93%), with 65 percent identifying as African American or black.

At program entry, 58 percent of youth were living in a friend or family member's apartment or house. The next most common living arrangement was an emergency shelter (21%). It is notable that these proportions are reversed for the overall population of those served by FSHS (largely families); among all clients, the most common living situation at program entry was an emergency shelter (58%), followed by living with friends or family members (20%). In addition, 95 percent of youth at Prior Crossing were considered long-term homeless at program entry, compared to 69 percent of heads of households across all FSHS programs.

While youth may come to Prior Crossing having faced significant barriers, such as poverty, homelessness, or domestic violence, they improved outcomes in several key areas. The majority (82%) of youth served during this reporting period had stable housing for at least six months after program entry. Of the 13 youth that exited Prior Crossing during the reporting period, all had stable housing for at least six months after program entry, and all youth with known data exited into permanent housing situations.

With regard to finances, the proportion of all youth with earned income increased between program entry and the most recent assessment (46% to 53%), and median monthly income increased among those who had exited Prior Crossing (\$500 at entry to \$684 at exit). According to the Resource Assessment, of the 36 youth who had either a checking account, savings account, or debit card at their most recent assessment, 47 percent had more funds than they did 12 months ago. By their most recent assessment, 16 percent of youth at Prior Crossing became employed and 39 percent had remained employed.

## Appendix

### Additional Resource Assessment data tables

#### A1. Available funds

In these accounts [checking, debit, IDA, or savings], compared to 12 months ago do you have...	Initial assessment (N=22)		Most recent assessment (N=36)	
	N	%	N	%
More funds	7	32%	17	47%
The same amount of funds	5	23%	7	19%
Less funds	2	9%	4	11%
Missing	8	36%	8	22%

Note. 29 youth are reported as having “no accounts” at the initial assessment period and 15 youth are reported as having “no accounts” at the most recent assessment period. The numbers reported in this table are taken out of the total number of people *with* accounts.

#### A2. Employment assessment

% of clients saying “yes”	Initial assessment (N=51)		Most recent assessment (N=51)	
	N	%	N	%
Currently employed*	24	47%	28	55%
Employed full time	5	10%	11	22%
Employed part time	13	25%	14	27%
Have more than one job	2	4%	0	0%
Enrolled in supportive work or sheltered workshop program	3	6%	2	4%
Volunteering	2	4%	2	4%
Working and/or volunteering	27	53%	30	59%

\* Number of hours worked per week is missing for 6 youth on the initial assessment and 3 youth on the most recent assessment.

### A3. Employment, change from initial to most recent assessment

<b>N=33</b>	<b>Improved</b>	<b>No change (both yes)</b>	<b>No change (both no)</b>	<b>Declined</b>	<b>Missing</b>
Currently employed	16%	39%	37%	8%	0%

### A4. Housing-related indicators

<b>In the past 12 months, have you... N=51</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Missing</b>
Received tenant or other education about how to keep or maintain housing	8%	90%	0%	2%
Received help with expunging an unlawful detainer	0%	51%	49%	0%

### A5. Emergency Room visits, change from initial to most recent assessment

<b>N=51</b>	<b>No or fewer ER visits</b>	<b>Same number of ER visits</b>	<b>More ER visits</b>
Number of Emergency Room visit in past 12 months	29%	69%	2%

Note. Percentages do not total 100% due to rounding.

### A6. Emergency Room visits in past 12 months

	<b>Initial assessment (N=51)</b>		<b>Most recent assessment (N=51)</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
0 times	5	10%	11	22%
1 time	11	22%	13	25%
2 times	6	12%	9	18%
3 times	7	14%	5	10%
4 times	3	6%	2	4%
5 – 9 times	2	4%	1	2%
10 or more times	0	0%	0	0%
Missing	17	33%	10	20%
Average # of visits	2.3		2.0	

Note. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

**Wilder  
Research**

Information. Insight. Impact.

451 Lexington Parkway North  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104  
651-280-2700  
www.wilderresearch.org

#### For more information

For more information about this report, contact  
Stephanie Nelson-Dusek at Wilder Research, 651-280-2675.

March 2019