

Overview of youth and young adult homelessness in Minnesota

*Facts and analysis of data from the
2006 statewide study*

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This report would not have been possible without the cooperation of more than 600 youth and young adults who answered questions and described their personal experiences in shelters, in transitional programs, in drop-in centers, on the streets, and in other locations. Our report is dedicated to them.

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Preface

Seventeen-year-old “Cassandra” appears to be a typical teenager. She attends technical school, working towards a graphic arts certificate. But, in fact, Cassandra’s teen years have been anything but typical. For the past year, Cassandra has been homeless and couch-hopping from friend to friend. At age 15 she was sent to foster care after years of being physically and sexually mistreated in her home. Since then, she has lived in an emergency shelter and a battered women’s shelter. She has been approached to make money by dancing, stripping, or other work in the sex industry. But over the past year, Cassandra has become hopeful for her future. She is experiencing success in her school program, and with the help of an outreach worker, a social worker, a shelter worker and friends, will move into her own apartment soon. She reports that she currently has an adult in her life that she trusts who is helping her set goals and work towards a more stable life.

This report on homelessness describes a population of young people who are troubled by conflict with parents, abusive relationships, turbulent housing, and mental health problems. Many have shown great resiliency in the face of multiple barriers and crises. Behind the numbers presented in this report are insights into the life experiences and needs of “Cassandra” and more than 600 other young people. This report is dedicated to them.

In addition to the nearly 3,000 children who experienced homelessness in the company of their parents in Minnesota on a single night in October 2006 – and much less visible to most Minnesotans – were about 1,300 to 2,300 youth age 8 to 17 and young adults ages 18 to 21 who were homeless and on their own.

These young people have had a difficult start in life and have experienced serious upheaval before reaching adulthood. Housing alone will not solve their problems. Many need skills in independent living – such as how to keep a checking account, how to do laundry, and how to prepare low-cost meals. Others need the support of a caring adult – having someone they can call in a crisis.

There are some differences between homeless youth under age 18 and homeless young adults. For one thing, youth under 18 have legal barriers to living independently. However, data from these statewide interviews continues to support the observations of people who work with both homeless youth and homeless young adults – these two groups have many similar characteristics and needs. Throughout this report you will find comparisons between these two age groups.

The purpose of this report is to bring about effective action on the problem of youth homelessness by spelling out some of the realities facing homeless youth and young

adults. In large part, the volunteer interviewers who made this study possible represent the front line of services for these young people. Their efforts are often hampered by inadequate resources, too few housing options for minors, and limited public understanding about the origins and seriousness of youth homelessness in Minnesota. At a time of scarce resources to assist vulnerable populations, it is necessary to speak knowledgeably and frankly about what it will take to meet the needs of young people who are already homeless, as well as to prevent more youth from entering this situation in the future.

This report is meant to be a companion to the detailed data tables on youth and young adult homelessness that can be found in a pull-down menu at <http://www.wilderresearch.org>. These data tables report frequency distributions for all questions included in the survey, with breakdowns by geographic area (Twin Cities metro area vs. greater Minnesota), by gender, and by shelter type (youth shelter programs vs. friends/extended family or other arrangements).

Summary: Youth and young adults on their own

Young people age 21 and under are some of the least visible and most vulnerable segments of persons who are homeless.

How many youth and young adults are homeless?

On any given night, an estimated 550 to 650 Minnesota youth age 17 and under experience homelessness. In addition, we estimate there are 700 to 1,650 young adults age 18 to 21 who are homeless on any given night. On October 26, 2006, 151 of these youth and 455 young adults were interviewed in shelters, other temporary housing programs, and places not intended as housing.

More young people were interviewed in 2006 than in the 2003 study – especially those who were not in shelters. This is in large part due to the efforts of outreach workers. Youth who are homeless and on their own tend to be some of the most difficult to find of those experiencing homelessness. Homeless youth are less likely than adults to stay in shelters, more often staying temporarily with friends or in places not intended for habitation. Thus they are less likely to be found in a one-night survey. Compared to homeless adults and families, homeless youth have fewer shelters available and fewer legal provisions for housing and other basic needs.

Who we talked with

We talked with young people who were on their own – without their parents. For the purposes of this study and to fit with recent changes in legislation, we describe three segments of homeless persons age 21 and younger.

- **Youth** age 17 and under and not with their parents.
- **Young adults** age 18 through 21.
- **Young people** combines both groups to describe all homeless persons ages 21 and under and on their own.

Data from this study support the observations, made by people who work with homeless youth and young adults, that both groups have similar characteristics and needs. Where differences were found, we describe them in the findings. However, where there were similarities in the responses of youth and young adults, we combine the responses of all “young people” we interviewed (both youth and young adults).

Demographic characteristics

The average age for youth on their own was 16 (19 for young adults). The youngest interviewed in 2006 was 11. Six out of 10 (60%) homeless youth are girls. For the young adults, 61 percent are female, while in the overall homeless adult population 47 percent are female. National studies show that girls are more likely to seek shelter and other services and thus be included in a one-night snapshot.

The number of homeless young people of color is disproportionately high compared to their prevalence in the general population of Minnesota youth. About two-thirds of homeless young people (66%) were Black, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, or of mixed race, compared to just 18 percent of all Minnesota youth. In the metro area, 78 percent were young people of color; in greater Minnesota, young people of color comprised 47 percent of homeless youth and young adults.

For homeless youth and young adults on their own:

- The average age they first left home was 16.
- Overall, 13 percent of youth and 38 percent of young adults had children of their own; for females, 19 percent of youth and 49 percent of young adults had children. Nearly two-thirds of youth (63%) and 80 percent of young adults had children with them on the date of the survey.
- The vast majority of homeless young people grew up in Minnesota (86% of youth and 67% of young adults).
- Most homeless young people grew up living with biological parent(s) (63%), in a blended family (12%), in a foster family (6%), or in an adoptive family (5%).
- 10% of homeless young people had lived in an adoptive home at some point in their lives (14% of youth and 9% of young adults).
- Slightly over half (54%) of homeless youth and more than one-third (36%) of homeless young adults were interviewed in greater Minnesota (the 80 counties outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area).

Young people's experiences with homelessness

- Over two-thirds of youth and young adults (71%) had been homeless before.
- Almost one-third slept outside at least one night in October 2006 (29%).
- More than one-half were “doubled up” at least one night in October 2006 (51%).
- Three in 10 (30%) had stayed in an abusive situation because they did not have other housing options.

One-third of youth (33%) and 13 percent of young adults had been homeless for less than a month. Twenty-two percent of youth and 34 percent of young adults had no regular place to live for more than a year. Because the study takes place on a single day, people who are homeless for longer periods of time have a greater chance of being interviewed compared to people who are homeless for only a short time, so these figures under-represent the number of young people who are homeless for only a short period of time.

Many homeless youth and young adults come from troubled backgrounds and face multiple challenges

- 1 in 2 homeless young people (49%) report some type of significant mental health problem including receiving a diagnosis or treatment within the last two years (54% of youth and 47% of young adults).
- One-third of homeless young people have considered suicide (33%) and 21 percent have attempted suicide.
- 1 out of 2 homeless young people (51%) have been physically or sexually mistreated. Forty-eight percent have been physically abused (53% of youth and 46% of young adults). Twenty-nine percent have been sexually abused (24% of youth and 31% of young adults). About twice as many girls as boys have been sexually abused (39% of girls and 16% of boys).
- 1 in 3 homeless young people had experienced parental neglect (34%).
- 4 in 10 homeless young people had a history of delinquency that resulted in a correctional placement (42% overall, with 34% of youth and 45% of young adults).

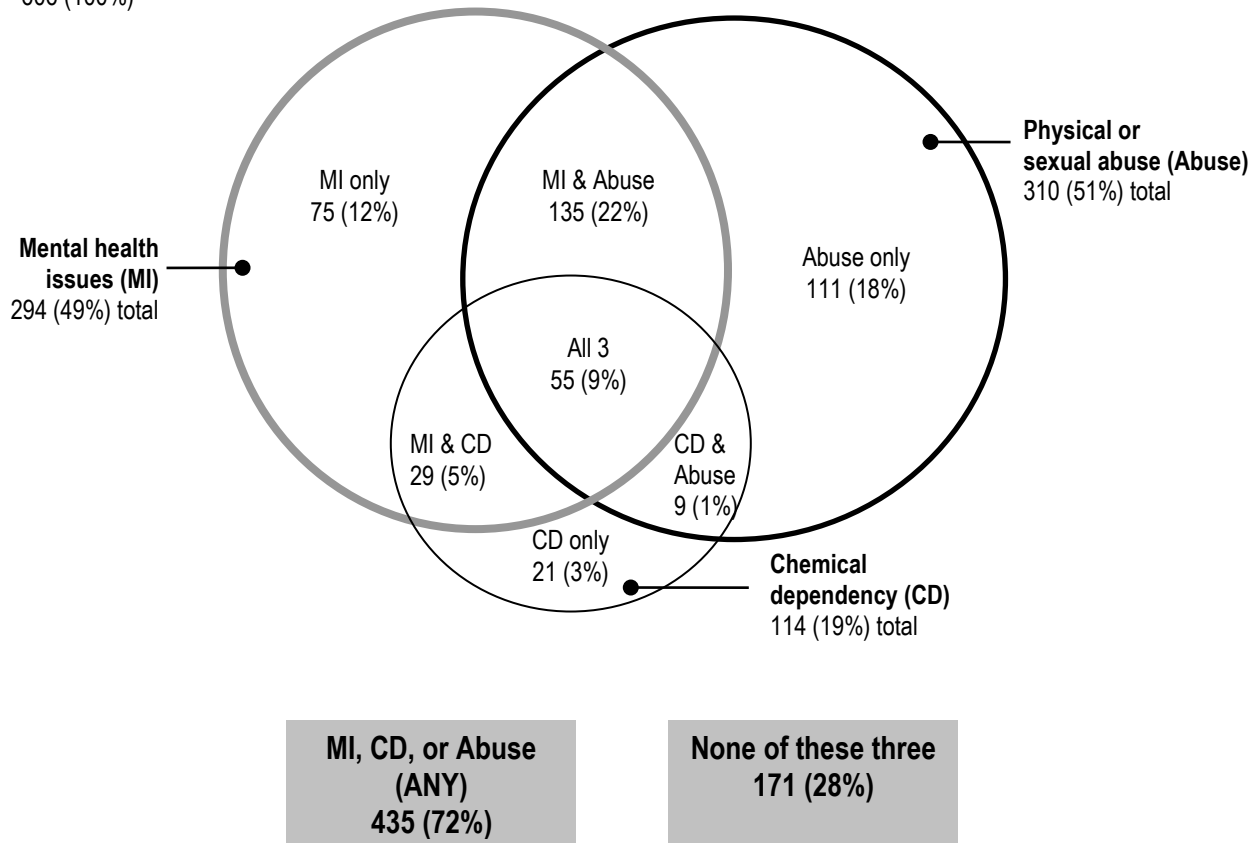
- Almost 1 in 4 homeless young people (24%) had been treated in an inpatient or outpatient alcohol or drug treatment program (19% of youth and 25% of young adults).
- 1 out of 5 young people (21%) had problems following a head injury (17% of youth and 22% of young adults).
- 1 in 8 young people (14%) had traded sex for shelter, food, clothing, or other essentials. The proportion was slightly lower for youth 17 and younger (12% overall; 16% of girls and 5% of boys), and slightly higher for young adults (15% overall; 12% of females and 21% of males).

Selected life experiences of homeless youth 17 and under, 1991-2006

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006
Physically abused	47%	54%	42%	47%	38%	53%
Consider self chemically dependent	10%	19%	15%	13%	12%	11%
Told by a medical professional in the past 2 years that they have a significant mental health problem	Not available	Not available	23%	31%	29%	36%
Have children	16%	18%	17%	8%	16%	13%
Sexual relationship that resulted in pregnancy	32%	33%	31%	21%	26%	26%

Multiple risk factors of youth and young adults

Total homeless young people surveyed:
606 (100%)



Homeless young people had high rates of out-of-home placements

- 70 percent of homeless youth and young adults had experienced a placement in a foster home, group home, treatment center, or correctional facility
- 2 out of 5 homeless young people had lived in a foster home (40% of youth and 37% of young adults)
- Nearly a quarter of homeless young people had lived in a facility for persons with emotional, behavioral, or mental health problems (22% of youth and 24% of young adults)
- 1 in 3 homeless young people had lived in a group home (33% of both youth and young adults)

- 1 in 3 homeless young people had been held more than a week in a juvenile corrections facility (34% of youth and 37% of young adults)
- 1 in 3 homeless young people had run away from a placement (32% of youth and 31% of young adults)

History of placements among homeless youth 17 and under, 1991-2006

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006
Foster care	38%	36%	38%	41%	53%	40%
Group home	22%	33%	29%	27%	29%	33%
Drug or alcohol treatment facility	15%	10%	19%	13%	13%	14%
Detention center or correctional facility	31%	34%	36%	46%	35%	34%
Any institution	Not available	61%	70%	67%	71%	70%

Young people's perceptions of factors that led to their homelessness

The data show that homeless young people have troubled backgrounds and life experiences including high rates of placement, abuse, and mental health issues. To understand more about youth perceptions of factors that led to their homelessness, homeless young people ages 20 and younger were asked about a list of 17 different items and whether each item was either not a cause, part of the cause, or a main cause that led to their homelessness. Of the items listed in the following table, 58 percent of homeless young people report at least one as a main cause that led to their homelessness.

Young peoples' views of factors that led to their homelessness

	Part of the cause or a main cause	A main cause
Fighting frequently with parents or guardians	63%	32%
Someone in home they couldn't stand to be around	62%	30%
Told to leave or locked out	55%	29%
Not willing to live by parents' rules	50%	19%
Delinquent activities by the youth	38%	14%
Neglect or parents not attending to basic needs	34%	13%
Parents' use of drugs or alcohol	33%	11%
Didn't feel safe because of violence in the house	29%	14%
Home was too small for everyone to live there	25%	11%
Youth's own drug or alcohol use	25%	10%
Physical or sexual abuse by someone in the household	24%	14%
Family lost their housing	20%	11%
A parent or guardian had mental health problems	20%	10%
Left foster care or another group placement without a permanent place to live	19%	9%
Criminal activities by someone else in the household	17%	7%
Became pregnant or made someone pregnant	15%	6%
Lack of tolerance of the youth's sexual orientation or gender identity*	7%	3%

* Of the 11% of youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, 44% identify lack of tolerance as at least part of the cause, including 25% who identify it as a main cause.

Seventy percent of youth and 50 percent of young adults believe that they would be allowed to return home, if they wanted to. Half of youth ages 17 and under (49%), but only 16 percent of young adults ages 18 to 20, felt that there was a chance they would live with their family again.

Only 28 percent of youth 17 and under would prefer to be in a foster home that they liked, if that were a choice, instead of remaining in their current situation.

A growing proportion of homeless youth 17 and younger are enrolled in school, although many did not attend the day of the survey

A growing percentage of homeless youth are enrolled in school, rising from 52 percent in 1994, to 73 percent in 1997 and 2000, to 84 percent in 2003, and to 88 percent in 2006. One-third of homeless youth report receiving special education services (35%).

Six in 10 homeless youth surveyed attended school the day of the survey (61% of those who had not yet graduated or received their GED). These rates are lower than the rates for children who are with their homeless parents (90% of parents surveyed said that all of their children attended school that day). The main reasons youth report for not being in school include lack of motivation to go, location or transportation issues, and illness.

Comparisons to the general Minnesota youth population

Compared to the general population of Minnesota youth, unaccompanied homeless youth were:¹

- Five times more likely to have been treated for drug or alcohol problems
- More than three times more likely to have been hit by a date or intimate partner
- Five times more likely to have been physically abused
- Homeless boys are twice as likely to have been sexually abused; homeless girls are four times more likely to have been sexually abused
- Five times more likely to use cigarettes or other tobacco
- More than twice as likely to have attempted suicide
- Thirty-five percent of homeless girls versus 1 percent of the general Minnesota student population had ever been pregnant

¹ These figures were updated from a previous summary to reflect the recent release of the 2007 Minnesota Student Survey results. Citation: Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team. (2007). *2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Tables*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Education.

“Most helpful” services for homeless youth and young adults

Among homeless young people who received services, the following services helped them most:

- Food Stamps (36%)
- Transportation assistance (34%)
- Drop-in centers (18%)
- Food shelves (17%)
- Outreach services (16%)
- WIC (14%)

Eight out of 10 homeless young people (ages 20 and younger) report that they have regular contact with a trusted adult.

Introduction

This report is intended as a resource for planners, policy-makers, service providers, and others who are interested in addressing the problems associated with youth homelessness. The study is a companion piece to a comprehensive statewide report on homeless adults and their children, also available from Wilder Research at www.wilderresearch.org. The information in this report comes from a survey of 151 youth, age 11 to 17, and 455 young adults, age 18 through 21, who were homeless in Minnesota on October 26, 2006. Detailed data tables can be found at our website for all questions asked of youth and young adult respondents in the survey.

This report provides detailed descriptive information about the characteristics of youth and young adults who are homeless in our state, the problems they confront in finding and maintaining safe sleeping arrangements, and the assistance that helps them survive each day. While these figures do not represent a full accounting of homeless youth and young adults in Minnesota, they do provide a detailed profile of current youth and young adult homelessness in our state.

Background

This study of homeless youth and young adults was commissioned as part of the Minnesota statewide survey of persons without permanent shelter by the Minnesota Interagency Task Force on Homelessness, in order to provide information for statewide planning efforts to reduce homelessness. State funding was provided by Minnesota Housing; the Minnesota Department of Corrections; the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development; the Minnesota Department of Human Services; the Minnesota Department of Public Safety; the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs; Hennepin County; Metropolitan Council; and the Veterans Home Board.

Additional financial support came from the Family Housing Fund, the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, and the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation. This private-agency funding enabled researchers to conduct volunteer training, reimburse study respondents for their participation, and publish this report.

Members of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness, Wilder Research, the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, and other nonprofit groups met during the spring and summer of 2006 to finalize survey instruments and research methods. Survey dates were set by the planning group, and temporary housing program sites were identified.

Methods

In October 2006, more than 950 volunteer interviewers conducted face-to-face interviews with over 3,700 people experiencing homelessness. Interviews took place throughout Minnesota in more than 80 cities, in about 250 emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and battered women's shelters, as well as among homeless people not in shelters. Homeless people were interviewed in non-sheltered locations, including at food programs and drop-in centers, as well as under bridges, in encampments, and in other places where those not using shelter programs spend time. In 2006, Wilder received unprecedented help from partners across the state to reach this population. As a result, we were able to substantially increase the number of interviews conducted among homeless people not in shelters.

Agency and community volunteers were trained in social science research interview methods through a professionally produced DVD. The DVD also provided detailed instruction in how to conduct the approximately 30-minute, face-to-face interview with individuals who were experiencing homelessness.

In both greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities metro area, site leaders were instructed to interview homeless adults and youth available at each site at the time of the survey team's visit. Visit times were planned with the help of site staff to maximize chances of finding the most homeless people at that site. Respondents received cash compensation (\$5.00) for the half-hour interview.

One of the biggest changes since 2003 has been the development of housing and services targeted to the long-term homeless, much of which has been in the form of permanent supportive housing. Because this kind of housing is not time-limited, people previously homeless, being served through permanent supportive housing, are not considered homeless and, therefore, were not included in the statewide survey.

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

Supporting information for this study was obtained from shelter providers at all emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, youth shelters, and transitional housing facilities. These sites provided a complete count of all men, women, and children, as well as unaccompanied youth, in residence on the night of October 26, 2006. No comparable counts were available for unsheltered people. This report is based on the subset of interviews conducted with unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults.

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

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

Homeless youth are defined as follows:

Youth who currently have no parental, substitute, foster or institutional home to which they can safely go. They are unaccompanied by an adult and have spent at least one night either in a formal emergency shelter, improvised shelter, doubled up, or on the street.²

The main difference between definitions of youth and adult homelessness is that persons under 18 are considered homeless if they are doubled up and living temporarily with others. Adults are not considered homeless under these circumstances. This study does not include special survey efforts to identify homeless youth in doubled up situations, and thus cannot be considered representative of such youth.

Homeless young people found on October 26, 2006

The following table shows the total count of homeless children, unaccompanied youth, and young adults in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, and transitional housing facilities in Minnesota on the night of October 26, 2006.³ This is not the number that were interviewed, but the number that were counted by shelter providers.

² Components of this definition are described in Kryder-Coe, J., et al. (Eds.). (1991). *Homeless children and youth* (pp. 34-35). New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

³ Persons interviewed in non-shelter locations are not included in this table.

Number of youth and young adults in temporary housing programs on October 26, 2006

	Unaccompanied youth < age 18		Young adults age 18-21		Children with young parent(s)	Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females		
Twin Cities metro area						
Emergency shelters	21	29	49	38	23	160
Battered women's shelters	-	-	-	25	29	54
Transitional housing	10	21	45	161	126	363
Greater Minnesota						
Emergency shelters	22	27	12	6	14	81
Battered women's shelters	-	1	-	15	1	17
Transitional housing	6	11	28	67	47	159
Total	59	89	134	312	240	834

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

The next table shows the number of young adults and youth who, according to providers, had children living with them in their temporary housing arrangement.

Youth and young adult families in shelter or temporary housing programs on October 26, 2006

	Number of homeless young families	Percent of homeless young families	Number of children with young parent(s)
Young adult men (age 18-21) with children	2	1%	2
Young adult women (age 18-21) with children	158	85%	204
Young adult couples (age 18-21) with children	10	5%	16
Unaccompanied male youth (under age 18) with children	1	1%	1
Unaccompanied female youth (under age 18) with children	13	7%	16
Unaccompanied youth couples (under age 18) with children	1	1%	1
Total families identified	185	100%	240

Interviews conducted

Overall, interviews were conducted with 63 percent of the unaccompanied youth and 54 percent of the young adults staying in shelter or temporary programs on October 26, 2006. It appears that young adults interviewed in emergency shelters in Twin Cities metro area had the least representation in the number of interviews conducted (only 40% of these young adults were interviewed). The number of interviews conducted with youth and young adults in temporary housing programs is shown below (a full list of sites is included in the Appendix).

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

	Males interviewed	Females interviewed	Total interviewed	Total number of youth in temporary housing	Percent of total youth population interviewed
Twin Cities metro area					
Emergency shelters	12	15	27	50	54%
Battered women's shelters	-	-	-	-	-
Transitional housing	5	8	13	31	42%
Greater Minnesota					
Emergency shelters	17	18	35	49	85%
Battered women's shelters	-	1	1	1	100%
Transitional housing	6	11	17	17	100%
Total	40	53	93	148	63%

Number of young adults (18 to 21) interviewed in temporary housing programs

	Males interviewed	Females interviewed	Total interviewed	Total number of young adults in temporary housing	Percent of total young adult population interviewed
Twin Cities metro area					
Emergency shelters	19	16	35	87	40%
Battered women's shelters	-	23	23	25	92%
Transitional housing	20	81	101	206	49%
Greater Minnesota					
Emergency shelters	11	5	16	18	88%
Battered women's shelters	-	10	10	15	67%
Transitional housing	13	42	55	95	58%
Total	63	177	240	446	54%

The next table shows the number of homeless young persons surveyed in *non-shelter locations* in the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota on October 26, 2006. There is no way of accurately knowing what proportion of the street or unsheltered population we were able to interview. We know that the number of youth interviewed in non-shelter locations under-represents the overall population of unsheltered young persons. Because we do not know how representative our sample of unsheltered youth are (how well their responses represent the entire population), data associated with these youth should be interpreted with caution.

Number of people age 21 or younger interviewed in non-shelter locations

	Males	Females	Children with young parent(s) in non-shelter locations	Total young persons interviewed in non-shelter locations
Youth (<18)				
Twin Cities metro area	16	14	2	30
Greater Minnesota	7	21	3	28
Total youth interviewed in non-shelter locations	23	35	5^a	58
Young adult (18 - 21)				
Twin Cities metro area	78	56	15	134
Greater Minnesota	44	37	23	81
Total young adults interviewed in non-shelter locations	122	93	38^a	215

Note. ^aChildren with parents were not interviewed. Figure shows number of children accompanying youth and young adults who were interviewed.

Of the 151 homeless youth interviewed, 93 were interviewed in shelters and 58 were interviewed in non-shelter locations including drop-in centers, health clinics, schools, and on the streets. Interviews were completed with 70 homeless youth in the Twin Cities area and 81 homeless youth in greater Minnesota. (Research sites are listed in the Appendix.)

Of the 455 young adults interviewed, 240 were interviewed in shelters and 215 were interviewed in non-shelter locations including drop-in centers and on the streets. Interviews were completed with 293 homeless young adults in the Twin Cities area and 162 young adults in greater Minnesota.

Not a survey of all homeless youth and young adults

This sample of 151 unaccompanied homeless youth and 455 homeless young adults represents only a portion of all youth and young adults who were homeless in Minnesota on October 26, 2006. About 20 more youth under 18 were interviewed in 2006 than in the 2003 study, however, shelter staff indicate that there have been losses in youth shelter capacity and an increase in turn-aways when shelters were full. Because shelter services are less available for youth than for adults, they are more likely to be sleeping in temporary arrangements with friends and less likely to be found in a one night survey.

In our study, only limited attempts were made to identify and interview those who were not known to youth-serving agencies. It was not feasible to cover the state for homeless youth and young adults in non-shelter locations. In addition, only limited attempts were made to identify youth and young adults doubled up with friends on that night. Consequently, this study describes primarily those homeless youth and young adults who are connected in some way to service providers and are not necessarily representative of all youth and young adults experiencing homelessness on the date of the survey.

Introduction to survey results

This report presents study results in three ways:

- Answers to key questions frequently posed by funders and policy-makers.
- Descriptive overview of the characteristics of youth and young adults who were homeless on October 26, 2006.
- Comparisons of key indicators from the 2007 statewide survey of unaccompanied youth to the Minnesota Student Survey general population and special populations including students in alternative schools and correctional settings.

This report is meant to be a companion to the detailed data tables on youth and young adult homelessness that can be found in a pull-down menu at <http://www.wilderresearch.org>. These data tables report frequency distributions for all questions included in the survey, with breakdowns by geographic area (Twin Cities metro area vs. greater Minnesota), by gender, and by shelter type (youth shelter programs vs. friends/extended family or other arrangements).

Key questions

What do we know about the number of homeless youth in Minnesota?

This study is designed to describe the characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults in Minnesota through a personal interview that collects information about past and current circumstances and needs. The study is not designed to provide a definitive count of unaccompanied homeless youth. Counting or estimating the number of homeless youth is complicated by several factors including the following:

- As defined in federal law in the McKinney-Vento Act, youth homelessness includes youth who are doubled up on a temporary basis with friends as well as those who are staying in shelters and places not intended for habitation. This study relies on shelters and agency staff to identify unaccompanied homeless youth and does not systematically gather information from youth who are doubled up. Other research has shown that doubled up homeless youth outnumber youth staying in shelters. Therefore, these youth are substantially under-represented in our study.
- The number of unaccompanied homeless youth found in our point-in-time study is partly dependent on shelter capacity for youth at the time of the study. Between 2000 and 2006 the total number of beds available in youth shelters in Minnesota declined.

Given these facts the present study cannot be used for the purpose of developing a *definitive* count of unaccompanied homeless youth in Minnesota.

Estimates on any given night

Due to the difficulties mentioned above in counting the number of homeless youth, estimates must be used as the basis for understanding the extent of homelessness among youth in Minnesota. Our estimate is based on a statewide count of youth unaccompanied by their parents who were staying in shelters, transitional housing, or other temporary housing programs on October 26, 2006. To estimate the number of youth who are temporarily “doubled up” on any given night, we multiply the number of sheltered youth by 2.7. This method is based on a 1989 U.S. General Accounting Office report which found that there were 2.7 times as many children and youth in doubled up situations as in emergency shelters.⁴

⁴ U.S. General Accounting Office. (1989). *Children and youths: About 68,000 homeless and 186,000 in shared housing at any given time*. Washington, DC: Author.

For the 2006 study period, we estimate there are between 550 and 650 homeless youth on any given night in this state, a number very similar to the estimate derived from the 2000 and 2003 studies of homeless youth. This should be regarded as a conservative estimate, since the number could be substantially higher if large numbers of youth avoid services and seek shelter in places not intended for habitation.

Estimates of homelessness among unaccompanied youth on any given night

On any given night – one night snapshot	Number
Number of unaccompanied “sheltered” youth (under age 18) counted in shelter sites (October 26, 2006)	158
<i>Number of youth interviewed on the street or other non-sheltered locations (October 26, 2006)</i>	<i>48</i>
Estimated number of doubled up youth – temporarily staying with friends or others. Doubled up youth are included in the federal definition of homeless, while doubled up adults are not. (conservative estimate based on G.A.O. study) = 158 X 2.7	427
Sheltered (counted) + doubled up (conservative estimate) = 158 + 427	585
Total estimated number of unaccompanied youth under age 18 who are homeless on any given night	550-650

Estimates of unaccompanied youth homelessness over the course of a year

As in a one-night snapshot, it is impossible to definitively count the number of unaccompanied youth who experience homelessness *over the course of a year*. However, it is possible to provide an estimate based on the prevalence of homelessness in the general youth population. As part of the National Health Interview Study sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1992 and 1993, researchers interviewed a nationally representative household survey of 6,496 youth ages 12 to 17. Youth were asked if they spent at least one night in the past year in a variety of places unaccompanied by a parent or guardian including shelters as well as places not intended as housing such as outside, in a public place, with a stranger, in an abandoned building, or in a subway. Using data from this study, Research Triangle Institute found that 2.8 percent of this national sample of currently housed youth (12-17) had spent at least one night in one of these settings. In a later study, by the same authors, this figure was revised to 5 percent of all 12 to 17 year olds.⁵

- Based on this research, it is estimated that between 12,371 and 22,091 Minnesota youth ages 12 to 17 have spent at least one night homeless in the past year.
- This conservative figure was obtained from multiplying the 2.8 percent and 5 percent estimates by Minnesota’s total youth population of 441,815 (based on 2006 Census data).

⁵ Ringwalt, C., Greene, J.M., Robertson, M., McPheeters, M. (1998). The prevalence of homelessness among adolescents in the United States, *Am J Public Health*, 88; 1325-1329.

What do we know about the number of homeless young adults in Minnesota?

Estimates on any given night

For purposes of this study, “homeless young adults” refers to young people from the ages of 18 through 21 – a much smaller age span than the youth who were interviewed (ages 11 through 17). Young adults are found at adult shelters as well as youth shelters. In 2006, temporary housing programs were asked to provide a count of young adults who were residing in these facilities on the survey night. There were 446 young adults staying in shelter and temporary programs and 215 young adults interviewed in non-shelter locations on October 26, 2006. The actual number of non-sheltered young adults on October 26, 2006 is not known.⁶

Using conservative techniques, we estimate that between 700 and 1,650 young adults are homeless on any given night in Minnesota.

The lower end of the estimate is based on actual counts of young adults surveyed in shelter and street locations. We rounded this actual number (661) to 700, because we know that we did not reach all young adults in non-sheltered locations on the night of the statewide survey. In the previous study (2003), the lower-end estimate was based on research conducted by the Urban Institute in other states which found that the “non-shelter-using” homeless adult population ranges between 20 and 40 percent of the shelter-using population, depending on the availability of shelter beds, the season, and weather conditions.⁷ However, this estimate is for the full range of adults of all ages. We know that applying Urban Institute’s most liberal estimate (40%) to the shelter-using population is too low of an estimate for the homeless young adult population in Minnesota, because we found more young adults in street and other non-shelter locations through our survey. We found and interviewed 215 young adults in non-shelter locations, exceeding even the Urban Institute high (40% of sheltered) estimate of 178 unsheltered young adults.

The upper-end estimate is based on the technique used for homeless youth based on the 1989 U.S. General Accounting Office report⁸ which found that there were 2.7 times as many children and youth in doubled up situations as in emergency shelters. Based on our

⁶ Wilder Research includes 21 year olds as “young adults” for the first time in this year’s report. This was done to match federal and state legislation related to homeless youth services. So, numbers of “young adults” can not be directly compared to the 2003 report.

⁷ Burt, M., & Cohen, B. (1989). *America’s homeless: Numbers, characteristics, and the programs that serve them*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

⁸ U.S. General Accounting Office. (1989). *Children and youths: About 68,000 homeless and 186,000 in shared housing at any given time*. Washington, DC: Author.

count of 446 sheltered young adults, this would indicate an additional 1,204 young adults who were homeless, but not in a shelter. Therefore, we estimate between 700 and 1,650 young adults are homeless on any given night (see Figure below).

This should be regarded as a conservative estimate since the number could be substantially higher if large numbers of young adults seek shelter in places not intended for habitation.

Estimates of homelessness among young adults on any given night

On any given night – one-night snapshot	Number
Number of young adults (18-21) in shelter sites (October 23, 2006)	446
Lower count: Number of young adults interviewed in non-sheltered locations (October 26, 2006)	215
Upper estimate: Young adults not counted. Upper estimate based on G.A.O. study used for youth = 446×2.7	1,204
Total estimated number of young adults ages 18 to 21 on any given night: low end of range = $446 + 215 = 661$ rounded to nearest 100 = 700; high end of range = $446 + 1,204 = 1,650$	700 – 1,650

Note: The 2006 report includes 21 year olds in order to match state and federal legislation and definitions. Thus, this table can not be directly compared to 2003 when “young adult” was defined as 18 to 20 year olds.

Young adults estimates over the course of the year

It is important to emphasize that our study is not designed to provide a definitive count of homelessness among young adults in Minnesota. Annual estimates for youth homelessness (see previous section) or for adult homelessness (published separately in *Homeless adults and children in Minnesota*) are based on known patterns of homelessness, determined by studies of those populations. We know of no studies that have examined patterns of annual homelessness specifically for young adults. We know that patterns for youth are different from those of adults in general. We presume that patterns for young adults are intermediate between those for youth and adults. To estimate annual figures for homelessness among young adults, we therefore compute estimates separately based on the two patterns, and assume that the best estimate for young adults is in the middle ground between them.

- **Estimate based on youth pattern:** Based on youth patterns, we estimate 2.8 to 5 percent of the total state population of young adults (94,130 in the 2006 Census), yielding a range from 8,200 to 14,700.⁹

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. *Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data*; generated by Heather Johnson; using American FactFinder; <http://factfinder.census.gov> (8 December 2004).

- **Estimate based on adult pattern:** Based on adult patterns, we estimate the annual number of homeless young adults is about 3 times the number who are homeless on a given night (700 to 1,650), yielding a range from 2,100 to 4,950.¹⁰
- Taking the middle ground between these two patterns, we arrive at a conservative estimate of 4,950 to 8,200 young adults who are homeless over the course of a year.

Estimated range in number of young adults, ages 18 to 21, who experience at least one night of homelessness over the course of the year in Minnesota

Estimate from adult model (range)		Estimate from youth model (range)	
2,100 to	4,950	8,200	to 14,700
Estimate from overlap (range)			

Have the background and life experiences of Minnesota's homeless youth population changed during the last fifteen years?

Six studies have been conducted with Minnesota's homeless youth population during the last 15 years, in 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2003, and 2006. These studies provide a number of useful comparisons. However, the reader should keep in mind that youth transitional housing did not exist prior to 1995, which may account for some of the changes over time. In addition, the number of youth who were interviewed on the street varied from year to year due to the intensity of the outreach efforts. Due to extensive outreach efforts, more youth and young adults were interviewed in 2006 than in any previous year.

Most of the demographic characteristics of the homeless youth who participated in the study have changed little over the last 15 years. The average age has remained about 16. There are somewhat more females than males (this may be due, in part, to females accessing services at higher rates than males).

The racial and ethnic backgrounds of youth surveyed has varied. Although White youth are still the largest racial/ethnic group surveyed, the proportions of White youth have decreased over the past 15 years. There has also been a notable increase in the percentage of American Indians over the last 15 years.

- There is a disproportional representation of youth who are African American and American Indian in the homeless population.
- In 2006, the percentages of homeless youth who are White, African American, or American Indian remain similar to 2003 percentages.

¹⁰ Wilder Research (2003, September). *Homeless adults and children in Minnesota*. St. Paul, MN: author.

Demographics of unaccompanied homeless youth under age 18, 1991-2006

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006
Average age	16.0	16.0	15.6	15.7	15.6	16.0
Female	49%	61%	54%	53%	64%	58%
Race						
White or Caucasian	57%	41%	41%	46%	35%	34%
African American or Native African ^a	20%	32%	29%	25%	31%	29%
American Indian	11%	10%	15%	20%	22%	20%

Note. ^(a) In 1991, 1994, and 1997, the response category was African American. Beginning in 2000, response categories included both African American and Native African.

Education

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is the main federal legislation that pertains to homelessness. Within it is a particular focus on the education of homeless children and youth. In 1990, the Act was expanded in three areas: removing barriers to attending school for homeless students; encouraging interagency collaboration to promote student success; and prohibiting the segregation of homeless students from the general population of students.¹¹ Since the introduction of McKinney-Vento there has been a steady rise in the percentage of homeless youth enrolled in school from 52 percent in 1994, to 73 percent in 2000, to 89 percent in 2006. While youth are enrolling in schools at a higher rate, they still continue to struggle with educational barriers. Thirty-five percent of young people in 2006 received special education services and 39 percent did not attend school on the day of the survey (down from 68% in 1994). Although attendance rates remain a concern, they have improved significantly since 1994.

School attendance and enrollment of unaccompanied homeless youth under age 18, 1991-2006

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006
Enrollment in school	79%	52%	72%	73%	84%	88%
Attended school on the day of the survey	47%	32%	48%	45%	64%	61%

History of placements outside of the home

- Overall, the percentage of youth who have been in some type of placement has remained at about 70 percent.

¹¹ USC Center for Higher Education Policy and Analysis (2008). *Transition to Adulthood for Homeless Children and Adolescents: Education and Public Policy*. Los Angeles, CA: author.

- 2006 data shows that the percentage of youth in foster care remained relatively consistent between 1991 and 2000 (36%-41%), with an increase in 2003 (53%), and a decrease in 2006 to previous levels (40%).
- A consistent proportion of homeless youth report having been in alcohol or drug treatment facilities (10%-19%) and group homes (22%-33%) over the past 15 years.
- Over the past 15 years, about one-third of homeless youth report having lived in a correctional facility. This percentage increased slightly in 2000 to 46 percent, but decreased to previous levels in 2003 (35%) and 2006 (37%).

History of placements among homeless youth, 1991-2006

Have you ever lived in:	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006
Foster care	38%	36%	38%	41%	53%	40%
Group home	22%	33%	29%	27%	29%	33%
Drug or alcohol treatment facility	15%	10%	19%	13%	13%	14%
Detention center or correctional facility	31%	34%	36%	46%	35%	37%
Any institution	Not available	61%	70%	67%	71%	70%

Life experiences

Over the past 15 years (six statewide studies):

- Over one-third to over one-half of homeless youth report having been physically abused.
- One-quarter to one-third of homeless youth report having been sexually abused.
- 10 to 20 percent of homeless youth consider themselves chemically dependent.
- From 1991 to 1997 approximately one-third had a sexual relationship which resulted in a pregnancy; this decreased to one-fifth in 2000 and increased slightly to one quarter in both 2003 and 2006.
- The proportion of homeless youth who have children remained relatively constant between 1991 and 2003. Although there was a slight dip in 2000 and again in 2006, research from the other years indicates that about one out every six homeless youth has children. In 2006, 12 of 19 youth parents (63%) had their children with them on the date of the survey.

Life experiences of homeless youth, 1991-2006

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006
Physical abuse	47%	54%	42%	47%	38%	53%
Sexual abuse	31%	33%	24%	28%	28%	24%
Consider self chemically dependent	10%	19%	15%	13%	12%	11%
Mental health issues	Not available	Not available	23%	31%	42%	54%
Have children	16%	18%	17%	8%	16%	13%
Sexual relationship that resulted in pregnancy	32%	33%	31%	21%	26%	26%

Income and employment

The percentage of youth reporting steady employment as their main source of income increased to one in four in 1997 and 2000, but decreased back to earlier levels with 18 percent reporting steady employment as their main source of income in 2006. In 2006, the percentage of youth who said that their parents, relatives, or other friends provide their main source of income increased to 46 percent – up from 25 to 38 percent of youth in previous years.

Main source of income for homeless youth, 1991-2006

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006
Steady employment	16%	15%	26%	25%	17%	18%
Temporary work	16%	4%	6%	7%	7%	3%
Parents	24%	13%	16%	18%	19%	25%
Other relatives or friends	14%	12%	14%	12%	17%	21%

Current employment, homeless youth, 1991-2006

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006
Youth employed at time of the survey	28%	22%	32%	27%	19%	17%
Youth working full-time (35 or more hours per week)	3%	8%	12%	5%	3%	1%

Are homeless youth different from youth who are housed?

Overall, homeless youth report more difficult life experiences than youth who are housed. Homeless youth report experiencing abuse, alcohol or drug treatment, and pregnancy more often than youth who are housed (see the section on page 52 titled “Comparison of homeless youth to general youth population”). In addition, a higher proportion of African American and American Indian youth are homeless compared to the general population.

Information from the Minnesota Student Survey (2007) show that homeless youth, in comparison to youth in the general population, are:¹²

- Five times more likely to have been treated for drug or alcohol problems. Homeless youth are half again as likely to report current use of alcohol.
- More than three times more likely to have been hit by a date or intimate partner
- Five times more likely to have been physically abused
- Homeless boys are twice as likely to have been sexually abused; homeless girls are four times more likely to have been sexually abused
- Five times more likely to use cigarettes or other tobacco
- More than twice as likely to have attempted suicide
- Thirty-five percent of homeless girls versus 1 percent of the general Minnesota student population had ever been pregnant

Do homeless youth and young adults in the Twin Cities area differ from those in greater Minnesota?

Differences in characteristics between Twin Cities versus greater Minnesota homeless youth

Most homeless youth in greater Minnesota were Caucasian (47%), American Indian (28%), or multi-racial (10%). Homeless youth in the Twin Cities area were mostly African American (48%), Caucasian (19%), and American Indian (12%).

¹² These figures were updated from a previous summary to reflect the recent release of the 2007 Minnesota Student Survey results. Citation: Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team. (2007). *2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Tables*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Education.

Twin Cities area homeless youth were more likely than those in greater Minnesota:

- To have lived in a group home (46% vs. 21%)
- To have been unable to find shelter within the previous three months (23% vs. 9%)
- To have attended a program that offered life skills training (50% vs. 35%)
- To have General Assistance as their main source of income (20% vs. 7%)
- To have asthma (33% vs. 19%)
- To have any type of chronic health condition (34% vs. 24%)
- To report a need to see a dentist about tooth or gum problems (43% vs. 26%).
- To have been pregnant or made someone pregnant (33% vs. 21%)
- To have used a free medical clinic in October (34% vs. 22%)
- To have used transportation assistance (64% vs. 24%)
- To have used help finding a job (28% vs. 11%)
- To have used drop-in centers (37% vs. 14%)
- To have used help getting public benefits (23% vs. 8%)
- To have used outreach services (30% vs. 17%)
- To have used an emergency room in October (17% vs. 6%)
- To have been in an abusive relationship in the last year (34% vs. 20%)
- To have stayed in an abusive relationship because they did not have other housing options (30% vs. 20%)
- To have been physically or sexually attacked since becoming homeless (17% vs. 7%)
- To have been approached to work in the sex industry (22% vs. 12%)

In contrast, **greater Minnesota homeless youth** are more likely:

- To have lived in public housing but been evicted (19% vs. 9%)
- To have parents as their main source of income (33% vs. 15%)
- To have been told they have an alcohol abuse problem (19% vs. 9%)
- To have been told they have a drug abuse problem (20% vs. 12%)
- To have considered suicide (36% vs. 25%)
- To have attended school on the day of the survey (84% vs. 63%)

Differences in characteristics between Twin Cities versus greater Minnesota homeless young adults

Most homeless young adults in greater Minnesota are Caucasian (60%) or American Indian (19%). Homeless young adults in the Twin Cities area are mostly African American (51%) or Caucasian (25%).

Twin Cities area homeless young adults were more likely than those in greater Minnesota:

- To have grown up (birth to age 16) in another state or country (37% vs. 28%)
- To have been told to leave or locked out (62% vs. 51%)
- To have been homeless for a year or more (39% vs. 23%)
- To meet Minnesota's definition of long-term homeless (53% vs. 42%)
- To have lived in a homeless service shelter or program in the previous two years (78% vs. 67%)
- To have been unable to find shelter within the previous three months (26% vs. 18%)
- To be currently enrolled in an educational program (48% vs. 37%)
- To have used a free medical clinic in October (23% vs. 14%)
- To have used transportation assistance in October (61% vs. 37%)
- To have used drop-in centers in October (36% vs. 14%)
- To have asthma (23% vs. 14%)
- To report a need to see a dentist (43% vs. 26%)
- To have used alcohol (36% vs. 25%) or marijuana (34% vs. 18%) in the last 30 days
- To have been physically beaten or sexually attacked while homeless (17% vs. 7%)

In contrast, **greater Minnesota** homeless young adults were more likely:

- To have left home because of their parents' use of drugs or alcohol (37% vs. 26%)
- To think that they will ever live with their parents again (21% vs. 13%)
- To have spent at least one month in a county jail or workhouse (26% vs. 17%)
- To have received special education services while in school (52% vs. 36%)
- To have received WIC in October (28% vs. 17% overall, women only 45% vs. 27%)
- To report a need to see a mental health professional (35% vs. 26%)
- To have received outpatient care for nervousness, depression, or mental health problems (52% vs. 36%)
- To have used cigarettes in the previous month (78% vs. 69%)
- To have been treated in an outpatient alcohol or drug treatment program (26% vs. 16%)
- To have an adult in their life with whom they have regular contact (87% vs. 75%)

Does Minnesota attract homeless youth and young adults?

Although some homeless people may be drawn to Minnesota, most of the homeless youth and young adults we interviewed were long-term residents of Minnesota.

- 84 percent of homeless youth and 67 percent of homeless young adults interviewed in the 2006 study had lived in Minnesota for all or most of their lives (birth to age 16).
- For 90 percent of homeless youth and 83 percent of homeless young adults, their last permanent housing was in Minnesota. Similar percentages of homeless youth and homeless young adults have lived in Minnesota for two or more years (86% and 82% respectively).

Over the last 15 years, a consistent majority of homeless youth interviewed said they grew up in Minnesota (74% in 1991, 75% in 1994, 70% in 1997, 72% in 2000, 80% in 2003, and 86% in 2006). Likewise, the same consistency can be seen in homeless young adults (63% in 2000, 66% in 2003, and 67% in 2006).

General descriptive profile

In this section of the report, unaccompanied youth ages 11 to 17 (N=151) results are presented in the left column, and young adult ages 18 to 21 (N=455) results are presented in the right column.

Demographics

Youth

Fifty-eight percent of surveyed unaccompanied homeless youth were female, and 42 percent were male. The youth ranged in age from 11 through 17. The average age was 16.0. Sixty-six percent of youth were persons of color.

Young adults

Fifty-nine percent of homeless young adults were female, and 41 percent were male. The young adults were 18 through 21 years old. The average age was 19.4. Sixty-five percent of young adults were persons of color.

The table below shows the racial/ethnic background of unaccompanied homeless youth in the Twin Cities area and greater Minnesota, compared to the 2006 Minnesota population estimates from the U.S. Census Annual Population Estimates – July 2007, racial/ethnic background of youth age 8 through 17. Homeless youth and homeless young adults are more likely than the youth population as a whole to be persons of color. Only 15 percent of the overall Minnesota youth population and 12 percent of the young adult population are persons of color, compared to 66 percent of homeless youth and 65 percent of homeless young adults.

Comparison of U.S. Census 2006 Annual Population Estimate to homeless youth population

	White or Caucasian	African American	American Indian	Asian	Multiracial or other	Hispanic origin ^a
Minnesota youth age 8 to 17 (Census 2006 ^b)	85%	6%	2%	5%	3%	5%
2006 Twin Cities homeless youth sample (age 17 or under)	19%	54%	12%	4%	11%	3%
2006 greater Minnesota homeless youth sample (age 17 and under)	47%	6%	28%	-	19%	17%

Notes. (a) Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
 (b) U.S. Census Bureau. 2006 U.S. Census Population Estimates for the state of Minnesota [statistics from data file]. Retrieved January 17, 2008, from <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Comparison of U.S. Census 2006 Annual Population Estimate to homeless young adult population

	White or Caucasian	African American	American Indian	Asian	Multiracial or other	Hispanic origin ^a
Minnesota young adults age 18 to 20 (Census 2006 ^b)	88%	5%	2%	3%	2%	4%
2006 Twin Cities homeless young adults sample (age 18 to 20)	25%	53%	7%	3%	12%	13%
2006 greater Minnesota homeless young adult sample (age 18 to 20)	57%	9%	17%	1%	16%	11%

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

(b) U.S. Census Bureau. 2006 U.S. Census Population Estimates for the state of Minnesota [statistics from data file].

Retrieved January 17, 2008, from <http://factfinder.census.gov>

Youth

Sexual orientation

Ninety-one percent of homeless youth in our sample identified themselves as heterosexual. Six percent identified themselves as bisexual, 2 percent as gay or lesbian, and 1 percent reported being unsure of their sexual orientation.

Family of origin

Two-thirds (66%) of unaccompanied youth grew up with their biological parent(s), and 10 percent grew up in a blended family. The remainder (24%) grew up in adoptive families, foster families, with grandparents or other relatives, or with someone else.

Marital status

Only one of the unaccompanied youth (1%) was married. Ninety-nine percent had never been married.

Young adults

Eighty-six percent of homeless young adults in our sample identified themselves as heterosexual. Seven percent identified themselves as bisexual, 5 percent as gay or lesbian, and 2 percent reported being unsure of their sexual orientation.

Two-thirds (64%) of homeless young adults grew up with their biological parent(s), and 7 percent grew up in a blended family. The remainder (29%) grew up in adoptive families, foster families, with grandparents or other relatives or with someone else.

Six young adults (1%) were married. Twelve were separated (3%), three were divorced (1%), and one was widowed (<1%). Ninety-five percent had never been married.

Place of origin

Youth

Young adults

Area where respondent grew up (through age 16)

Eighty-six percent of unaccompanied homeless youth had lived in Minnesota most of their lives (birth to age 16). Unaccompanied youth most often grew up in greater Minnesota (43%), Minneapolis (21%), St. Paul (14%), and the seven county metropolitan area (8%).

Two-thirds (67%) of homeless young adults lived in Minnesota most of their lives (birth to age 16). Young adults most often grew up in greater Minnesota (22%), Minneapolis (21%), St. Paul (12%), and the seven county metropolitan area (12%).

Length of time in Minnesota

Fourteen percent of homeless youth had lived in Minnesota two years or less. Two-thirds (66%) had lived in Minnesota for 11 or more years.

Over half (55%) of the 21 unaccompanied youth who were recent residents (lived in Minnesota two years or less) had lived in Minnesota previously. The two main reasons for coming to Minnesota were interpersonal factors (65%) or for quality of life/improve opportunities (59%).

Eighteen percent of homeless young adults had lived in Minnesota two years or less. Three-fifths (60%) of homeless young adults had lived in Minnesota for 11 or more years.

One-third (34%) of 79 homeless young adults who were recent residents (lived in Minnesota two years or less) had lived in Minnesota previously. The two main reasons for coming to Minnesota were for quality of life/improve opportunities (59%) and for interpersonal factors (54%).

History of placements

Youth

Unaccompanied homeless youth had high rates of previous out-of-home placements. Nearly two-thirds (65%) experienced some type of social service/treatment placement and 34 percent some type of correctional placement. Overall, 70 percent of youth had lived in some type of placement outside of their homes.

The most common types of placements for homeless unaccompanied youth included foster care (40%), juvenile correctional facilities (34%), group homes (33%), and mental health facilities (22%).

At some time in their life, more than three-fourths (78%) of unaccompanied youth interviewed reported living in an emergency shelter, a battered women's shelter, transitional housing, or in permanent supportive housing.

Youth were asked about the placements that they had left in the previous year – and more specifically – about the placement they had *last* left. Overall, 23 percent of homeless youth had last left a correctional facility, 15 percent left foster care, 9 percent a mental health facility, and 7 percent a group home. The percentage of homeless unaccompanied youth who reported having stable housing after leaving a correctional facility was 65 percent, after leaving a foster home was 59 percent, after leaving a mental health facility was 100 percent, and after leaving a group home was 73 percent.

Young adults

Homeless young adults had high rates of previous out-of-home placements. Three-fifths (60%) of homeless young adults had some type of residential social service placement and 45 percent had a correctional placement. Overall, 70 percent of young adults had lived in some type of placement outside of their homes.

The most common types of placements for homeless young adults included foster care (37%), juvenile correctional facilities (37%), group homes (33%), and mental health facilities (24%).

At some time in their life, 81 percent of young adults interviewed reported living in an emergency shelter, a battered women's shelter, transitional housing, or in permanent supportive housing.

Young adults were asked about the placements that they had left in the previous year – and more specifically – about the placement they had *last* left. Overall, 18 percent of homeless young adults had last left a correctional facility, 4 percent left a drug or alcohol treatment facility, 4 percent a group home, 4 percent a mental health facility, and 3 percent left foster care. The percentage of homeless young adults who reported having stable housing after leaving a correctional facility was 41 percent, after leaving a drug or alcohol treatment facility was 56 percent, after leaving a group home was 73 percent, after leaving a mental health facility was 77 percent, and after leaving a foster home was 36 percent.

The following table shows the percentage of unaccompanied youth who had a history of residential program and shelter use.

Previous residential placement and shelter use (unaccompanied youth)			
Have you ever lived in:	Males	Females	Total
Foster home	36%	43%	40%
Group home	37%	30%	33%
Facility for persons with mental health problems	20%	24%	22%
Drug or alcohol treatment	17%	12%	14%
Halfway house	3%	5%	4%
Orphanage	2%	1%	1%
Indian boarding school	-	-	-
Residence for persons with physical disabilities	2%	0%	1%
Any of the above	62%	67%	65%
Emergency shelter	67%	66%	66%
Battered women's shelter	3%	12%	8%
Transitional housing	32%	37%	35%
Permanent supportive housing	8%	9%	9%
Any shelter use	79%	76%	78%

The following table shows the percentage of youth who had a history of correctional placements.

Previous placement in correctional facilities (unaccompanied youth)			
Have you ever been held in:	Males	Females	Total
Juvenile detention center or other juvenile facility or camp for more than a week	40%	30%	34%
County jail or workhouse for a month or more	5%	5%	5%
Any of the above correctional facilities	38%	31%	34%
Any non-shelter social service or corrections placement	70%	71%	70%

Previous residential placement and shelter use (young adults age 18-20)

Have you ever lived in:	Males	Females	Total
Foster home	43%	32%	37%
Group home	40%	28%	33%
Facility for persons with mental health problems	28%	21%	24%
Drug or alcohol treatment	25%	16%	20%
Halfway house	16%	7%	11%
Orphanage	8%	2%	4%
Indian boarding school	3%	1%	2%
Residence for persons with physical disabilities	2%	2%	2%
Any of the above	70%	53%	60%
Emergency shelter	53%	46%	49%
Battered women's shelter	4%	3%	20%
Transitional housing	40%	55%	49%
Permanent supportive housing	12%	8%	10%
Any shelter use	74%	86%	81%

The following table shows the percentage of young adults with a history of correctional placements.

Previous placement in correctional facilities (young adults age 18-20)

Have you ever been held in:	Males	Females	Total
Juvenile detention center or other juvenile facility or camp	48%	30%	37%
County jail or workhouse for a month or more	33%	11%	20%
State or federal prison	4%	1%	2%
Any of the above correctional facilities	59%	36%	45%
Any non-shelter social service or corrections placement	80%	63%	70%

Education and job training

Youth

Education

One homeless youth had completed high school, one had passed his/her GED, and one had completed some schooling beyond high school. Ninety-three percent of homeless youth had attended school or GED classes in the previous school year.

The number of schools attended during the last school year ranged from one through five. Somewhat over half (55%) of homeless youth surveyed had attended only one school during the previous school year, 22 percent had attended two schools, 19 percent had attended three schools, and 5 percent had attended more than three schools.

Of those attending school in the previous school year, 51 percent reported having problems with truancy, 40 percent had problems with suspensions, 48 percent had problems with failing grades, 26 percent had problems with getting to school because of housing or transportation issues, and 11 percent did not feel safe at school.

Eighty-eight percent of homeless youth were currently enrolled in any school or educational program. Of these students, three-quarters (75%) attended school on the day of the survey. However, when we included students who should have been enrolled, but were not, 61 percent attended school on the day of the survey.

Of the 16 homeless youth who were enrolled but not currently attending school (2006-2007), 44 percent said they were dealing with other issues or had dropped out; 38 percent said it was because they had no permanent address.

Young adults

Forty-four percent of homeless young adults had completed high school or passed their GED. Six percent had completed some post-high school education. Just over two-thirds (68%) of homeless young adults had attended school or GED classes in the previous school year.

The number of schools attended during the last school year ranged from one through eight. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of homeless young adults had attended only one school during the previous school year, 20 percent had attended two schools, 7 percent had attended three schools, 5 percent had attended four schools, and 6 percent had attended more than four schools.

Of those attending school in the previous school year, 36 percent reported having problems with truancy, 21 percent had problems with suspensions, 39 percent had problems with failing grades, 39 percent had problems with getting to school because of housing or transportation issues, and 7 percent did not feel safe at school.

Forty-four percent of homeless young adults surveyed were currently enrolled in any school or educational program. Of these students, about 47 percent attended school on the day of the survey.

Of the 164 homeless young adults who said they were not currently attending school, 42 percent said that their main reason for not attending school was because they were dealing with other issues.

Youth

Young adults

Special education

Just over one-third (35%) of homeless youth (43% of males and 30% of females) received special education services while in school.

Forty-two percent of homeless young adults (52% of males and 34% of females) received special education services while in school.

Independent living skills program

Forty-one percent of homeless youth (33% of males and 48% of females) had attended a program that offers training in life skills or independent living skills.

Fifty-five percent of homeless young adults (55% of males and 56% of females) had attended a program that offers training in life skills or independent living skills.

Employment and income

Employment

Fifteen percent of homeless youth were employed. Two homeless youth (1%) had full-time jobs, and 21 youth (14%) had part-time jobs. Of those with jobs, 83 percent earned less than \$8.00 an hour, and 29 percent had held their job for at least three months.

Of the homeless youth who were unemployed, 24 percent had been unemployed for less than six months, 20 percent had been unemployed between six months and one year, and 4 percent had been unemployed for more than one year. Fifty-two percent of homeless youth had never been employed.

According to the youth who were unemployed, the main barriers to employment were: age (47%), lack of transportation (37%), lack of education (22%), lack of housing (17%), and lack of job experience/history.

Thirty-seven percent of homeless young adults were employed. Fifty-nine (13%) young adults had full-time jobs and 109 (24%) had part-time jobs. Of those with jobs, 52 percent earned less than \$8.00 per hour, and 45 percent had held their job for three months or more.

Of the homeless young adults who were unemployed, 39 percent had been unemployed for less than six months, 25 percent had been unemployed between six months and one year, and 17 percent had been unemployed for more than one year. Twenty percent of homeless young adults had never been employed.

According to the young adults who were unemployed, the main barriers to employment were: lack of transportation (34%), lack of housing (37%), and lack of resources to work or look for work (26%).

Income

The **main** sources of income for homeless youth in October in our survey included: short-term or steady employment (20%), parents (25%), and friends or relatives (21%). Twelve percent of homeless female youth and 2 percent of males had received MFIP in October. Three percent of homeless youth had received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in October. Seventeen homeless youth (17%) had not had any income. The median total monthly income was \$88 for homeless male youth and \$200 for homeless females.

The **main** sources of income for homeless young adults in October in our survey included: short-term or steady employment (36%), MFIP (19%), General Assistance (8%), and sale or pawning of personal belongings (4%). Thirty-six percent of female young adults and 5 percent of males had received MFIP in October. Seven percent of young adults had received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in October. Fifty-six homeless young adults (14%) had not had any income. The median total monthly income for young adults was \$203 for young adult males and \$416 for young adult females.

History of housing and homelessness

Youth

Current sleeping arrangements

Homeless youth were found in a number of different temporary living situations. Forty-three percent spent the previous night in an emergency shelter. Fourteen percent stayed in a transitional housing program, and 27 percent stayed in a temporary arrangement. Four percent stayed outdoors or in an abandoned building, vehicle, or squat; 6 percent spent the night in a juvenile detention center; 1 percent in a host home; and less than 1 percent each in a foster home or in their own place.

Forty-seven percent of homeless youth reported their current living arrangement had lasted one week or less. However, just over two-fifths (41%) of youth surveyed had been without a regular or permanent place to live for more than three months. Fourteen percent had been homeless for one year or more, while 8 percent had been homeless for more than 3 years.

Just over one-quarter (26%) of homeless youth surveyed had slept outdoors or in a place not meant for housing at least one night in October.

Fifteen percent of youth were unable to obtain shelter at some point within the previous three months because no beds were available. Nearly three-fifths (59%) of these youth found temporary shelter with a friend or family member. Other youth stayed in another shelter (18%), stayed outdoors (14%), stayed in a car or abandoned building (5%), or stayed with a voucher in a motel or other place (5%).

Young adults

Slightly over one-third (36%) of homeless young adults spent the previous night in a transitional housing program. One-third (33%) stayed in a temporary arrangement, 12 percent stayed in an emergency shelter, and 8 percent stayed in a battered women's shelter. Four percent stayed outdoors or in an abandoned building, vehicle, or squat; 2 percent spent the last night in some other type of temporary arrangement, and 2 percent stayed in their own place.

Nearly one-third (30%) of homeless young adults reported their current living arrangement had lasted one week or less. Most had been without regular or permanent housing for much longer. Over half (51%) of the young adults had been without a regular or permanent place to live for more than three months. One-third (33%) had been homeless for one year or more, while 10 percent had been homeless for more than 3 years.

Nearly one-third (30%) of homeless young adults surveyed had slept outdoors or in a place not meant for housing at least one night in October.

Twenty-three percent of young adults were unable to obtain shelter at some point within the previous three months because no beds were available. Nearly half (48%) of these young adults found temporary shelter with a friend or family member. The other young adults stayed outdoors (18%), stayed in a car or abandoned building (11%), stayed in another shelter (10%), stayed with a voucher in a motel or other place (3%), or stayed in a church (1%).

Youth

Less than one-third (30%) of youth were homeless for the first time. More than one-third (36%) of youth had been homeless four or more times in the last three years.

The Minnesota definition of “long-term homeless” includes those who are homeless for one year or more or those who have been homeless four or more times in the last three years. Nearly two-fifths (39%) of homeless youth surveyed met Minnesota’s “long-term homeless” criteria.

Assessment of current housing needs

Close to half of youth (45%) reported that they could not afford to pay any amount for rent. Nearly one-quarter (24%) could pay between \$1 and \$200 for rent and utilities. On average, male homeless youth could afford to pay \$132 per month and female homeless youth could afford to pay \$152, including rent and utilities. Most homeless youth (84%) needed only a one-bedroom or a studio apartment, and 16 percent needed two or more bedrooms.

Eleven percent of the youth were on a waiting list for Section 8 housing. Of those on a waiting list, the average wait had been two months.

Housing history

Most of the homeless youth (90%) lived in Minnesota in their last regular or permanent housing, primarily with a family member (82%). Only 5 percent of youth lived alone in their last housing.

Young adults

More than one-quarter (28%) of young adults were homeless for the first time. Nearly one-third (32%) of young adults had been homeless four or more times in the last three years.

The Minnesota definition of “long-term homeless” includes those who are homeless for one year or more or those who have been homeless four or more times in the last three years. Nearly half (49%) of homeless young adults surveyed met Minnesota’s “long-term homeless” criteria.

More than one-fifth (22%) of homeless young adults surveyed reported they could not afford to pay any amount for rent. Slightly over one-quarter (26%) of young adults reported they could pay between \$1 and \$200 for rent and utilities. On average, homeless young men could afford \$233 per month and homeless young women could afford \$284, including rent and utilities. Two-thirds of homeless young adults (66%) needed only a one-bedroom or a studio apartment, and one-third (34%) needed two or more bedrooms.

One-third (33%) of homeless young adults were on a waiting list for Section 8 housing. Of those on a waiting list, the average wait had been seven months.

Most of the homeless young adults (83%) lived in Minnesota in their last regular or permanent housing, primarily with a family member (52%). Thirteen percent of young adults lived alone in their last housing.

Youth

The main reasons for leaving their last housing included problems getting along with the people they lived with (63%), abuse by someone they lived with (25%), eviction (18%), drinking or drug problems of someone else in the household (16%), and a behavior problem of a guest or visitor (15%).

The most common reasons homeless youth cited for having difficulty in getting or keeping housing included lack of job or income (32%), their age (29%), no housing they could afford (27%), no local rental history (16%), and alcohol or chemical use by the youth or anyone in the household (16%).

Most homeless youth originally left home around age 14-15. The main reasons cited for becoming homeless included: frequent fighting with parents or guardians (43%), couldn't stand to be around someone in house (36%), not wanting to live by parents' rules (25%), kicked out or told to leave (21%), and physical or sexual abuse by someone in the household (18%). Seventy percent of homeless youth indicated that if they wanted to return home, they could do so. Nearly half of the homeless youth respondents (49%) believe they will live with their families again.

Young adults

The main reasons for leaving their last housing included problems getting along with the people they lived with (37%), relationship problems (29%), abuse by someone they lived with (21%), eviction (25%), could not afford the rent (25%), a drinking or drug problem of someone else in the household (17%), a behavior problem of a guest or visitor (16%), and lost job or had hours cut (15%).

The most common reasons for difficulty getting or keeping housing were lack of a job or income (55%), lack of housing they could afford (51%), lack of local rental history (29%), their age (28%), the cost of application fees (24%), and credit problems (22%).

Most homeless young adults originally left home around age 16. The main reasons cited for leaving home included: told to leave or locked out (33%), couldn't stand to be around someone in the home (27%), fighting frequently with parents or guardians (26%), and not willing to live by parents' rules (17%). Half of homeless young adults surveyed (50%) indicated that, if they wanted to return home, they could. However, only 16 percent of homeless young adults believed they would live with their families again.

Service use

Youth

Homeless youth used many different services in the month prior to the survey. Of homeless youth, 42 percent used transportation services, 29 percent used Food Stamps, 28 percent used a free medical clinic, 26 percent used food shelves, 25 percent used drop-in centers, and 23 percent used outreach services.

Of all services used by youth, those considered most helpful were transportation assistance, Food Stamps, drop-in centers, outreach services, free medical clinic, and food shelves. Eight percent of youth reported that during the previous year, they had lost or had become unable to afford services, such as Food Stamps.

Sixteen percent of homeless youth reported needing help applying or reapplying for services.

Young adults

Many different services were used by homeless young adults in the month prior to the survey: transportation assistance (52%), Food Stamps (43%), clothing shelves (32%), food shelves (31%), outreach services (30%), drop-in centers (28%), help to find a job (27%), hot meal programs (21%), WIC (21%), and help getting public benefits (20%).

Of all the services used by young adults, those considered most helpful were Food Stamps, transportation assistance, drop-in centers, food shelves, WIC, and out-reach services. Twenty-four percent of young adults reported that during the previous year, they had lost or had become unable to afford services, such as Food Stamps.

Thirty-one percent of homeless young adults reported needing help applying or reapplying for services.

Health care

Youth

Physical health

Over one-fifth (21%) of homeless youth reported needing to see a doctor about a physical health problem. Nearly one-third (32%) encountered barriers to getting needed health care. The main barriers cited were lack of insurance and lack of money.

Nonetheless, just over three-quarters (76%) of homeless youth were covered by some type of medical insurance in the previous month, including just over half (52%) who were covered by Medical Assistance, General Assistance Medical Care, or the MinnesotaCare health plan.

Twenty-nine percent of homeless youth reported at least one chronic health condition (asthma, other chronic lung or respiratory problems, high blood pressure, tuberculosis, diabetes, hepatitis, or HIV/AIDS).

Twelve percent of homeless youth reported having a physical, mental, or other health condition that limited the kind or amount of work they could do, and 5 percent had conditions that made it hard to bathe, eat, get dressed, get in or out of a chair or bed, or get around. Nearly one-quarter (24%) reported often feeling confused to the point that it interfered with daily activities.

Young adults

Twenty-nine percent of homeless young adults reported needing to see a doctor about a physical health problem. Over one-third (35%) encountered barriers to getting needed health care. The main barriers cited are lack of money and lack of insurance.

Nonetheless, 61 percent of homeless young adults were covered by some type of medical insurance in the previous month, including two-thirds (66%) who were covered by Medical Assistance, General Assistance Medical Care, or the MinnesotaCare health plan.

Just over one-third (34%) of homeless young adults report at least one chronic health condition (asthma, other chronic lung or respiratory problems, high blood pressure, tuberculosis, diabetes, hepatitis, or HIV/AIDS).

One-fifth (20%) of homeless young adults reported having a physical, mental, or other health condition that limited the kind or amount of work they could do, and 4 percent had conditions that made it hard to bathe, eat, get dressed, get in or out of a chair or bed, or get around. Twenty-eight percent reported often feeling confused to the point that it interfered with daily activities.

Youth

Seventeen percent of homeless youth reported having problems with headaches, concentration or memory, understanding, excessive worry, sleeping, or getting along with people, following a serious blow to the head (indications of possible traumatic brain injury).

Fifteen percent of homeless youth were not taking their prescribed medication. Over one-third of homeless youth (35%) received services in an emergency room during the previous six months. Females were somewhat more likely than males to have used emergency room services (38% vs. 32%). Just over one-third (34%) reported needing to see a dentist.

Mental health

Nearly one-quarter (24%) of homeless youth reported needing to see a health professional about a current mental health problem. One-third (33%) of the homeless youth had been told by a doctor or nurse, within the previous two years, that they had a serious mental health problem. Eighteen percent had been told they had alcohol abuse disorder or drug abuse disorder. Thirteen percent reported a dual diagnosis (severe or persistent mental illness in addition to an alcohol or drug abuse disorder).

Nearly half (49%) of homeless youth had received outpatient care because of mental health problems. Of homeless youth who had received outpatient mental health care, 87 percent received this care in the previous two years.

Just under one-third of homeless youth (31%) had considered suicide, and 15 percent had attempted suicide. Of those who had considered suicide, 62 percent reported seeking help for this.

Young adults

Twenty-two percent of homeless young adults reported having problems with headaches, concentration or memory, understanding, excessive worry, sleeping, or getting along with people following a serious blow to the head (indications of possible traumatic brain injury).

One-fifth (20%) of young adults surveyed were not taking their prescribed medication. Over one-third of homeless young adults surveyed (35%) received services in an emergency room during the previous six months. Females were more likely than males to have used emergency room services (40% vs. 27%). Nearly half (49%) reported currently needing to see a dentist.

Over one-quarter (28%) of homeless young adults reported needing to see a health professional about a mental health problem. Thirty-eight percent of homeless young adults in our sample had been told by a doctor or nurse within the last two years that they had a serious mental health problem. Fifteen percent had been told they had an alcohol abuse disorder or a drug abuse disorder. Nine percent reported a dual diagnosis (severe or persistent mental illness in addition to an alcohol or drug abuse disorder).

Just over two-fifths (41%) of homeless young adults had received outpatient care because of mental health problems. Of homeless young adults who had received outpatient mental health care, two-thirds (67%) received this care in the previous two years.

One-third of the homeless young adults (33%) had considered suicide, and 22 percent had attempted suicide. Of those who had considered suicide, three-fifths (60%) reported seeking help for this.

Youth

Sex-related health issues

Over one-fourth (26%) of homeless youth reported having had sexual relationships that resulted in pregnancy (35% of females and 13% of males). One-third (33%) of homeless youth reported that they used or needed birth control. Five percent of homeless youth who reported a need for birth control indicated that they had **not** been able to get what they needed.

Five percent of homeless youth reported that they had had a sexually transmitted disease (other than HIV/AIDS) within the previous 12 months. Less than 1 percent of homeless youth reported testing positive for HIV/AIDS.

Chemical dependency

Ten percent of homeless youth reported needing to see a health professional about a current alcohol or drug problem.

Substance abuse in the family of origin was given as one of the reasons youth leave home.

Eighteen percent of homeless youth had been told by a doctor or nurse, within the last two years, that they had an alcohol or drug abuse disorder. Eleven percent of homeless youth considered themselves chemically dependent. Males were more likely than females (14% to 9%) to report chemical dependency. Nineteen percent of homeless youth had been treated in either an inpatient (13%) or outpatient (16%) alcohol or drug treatment program. Seven percent had been admitted to a detox facility.

In the last two years, 13 percent of homeless youth had been treated in an outpatient alcohol or drug treatment program, and 5 percent had been admitted to a detox center.

Young adults

Nearly half (49%) of homeless young adults reported having had sexual relationships that resulted in pregnancy (61% of females and 31% of males). Thirty-five percent of homeless young adults reported that they used or needed birth control. Six percent of homeless young adults who reported a need for birth control indicated that they had **not** been able to get what they needed.

Four percent of homeless young adults reported that they had had a sexually transmitted disease (other than HIV/AIDS) within the previous 12 months. Less than 1 percent of homeless young adults reported testing positive for HIV/AIDS.

Eight percent of homeless young adults reported needing to see a health professional about a current alcohol or drug problem.

Substance abuse in the family of origin was given as one of the reasons young adults leave home.

Fifteen percent of homeless young adults had been told by a doctor or nurse, within the last two years, that they had an alcohol or drug abuse disorder. Fourteen percent of homeless young adults considered themselves chemically dependent. Males were more likely than females to report chemical dependency (19% vs. 11%). Twenty-five percent of homeless young adults had been treated in either an inpatient (19%) or outpatient (20%) alcohol or drug treatment program. Eight percent had been admitted to a detox facility.

In the last two years, 13 percent of homeless young adults had been treated in an outpatient alcohol or drug treatment program, and 4 percent had been admitted to a detox center.

Abuse and victimization

Youth

Over half (53%) of homeless youth surveyed had been physically mistreated, and nearly one-quarter (24%) had been sexually mistreated. Just over half (51%) of homeless youth had been either physically or sexually abused. Over one-third (35%) of homeless youth reported their parents neglected to provide food, shelter, or medical care, or consistently ignored their physical or emotional needs. Over half (54%) of homeless youth had been neglected, physically abused, or sexually abused.

One-third (33%) of females and 17 percent of males reported having been assaulted or threatened with violence in a relationship during the previous year. Nearly one-quarter (24%) of homeless youth stayed in an abusive situation, because they had no other housing options.

Twelve percent of homeless youth had been physically or sexually attacked or beaten since being homeless. In the previous year, 7 percent of homeless youth sought health care because of an injury or illness resulting from violence. Twelve percent of homeless youth (5% of males and 16% of females) reported they had been sexual with someone for the purpose of getting shelter, clothing, food, or other things.

Sixteen percent of homeless youth reported they had been encouraged to make money in the sex industry. On average, females were approached at age 14-15 and males at age 16.

Young adults

Nearly half (46%) of homeless young adults surveyed had been physically mistreated, and nearly one-third (31%) had been sexually mistreated. Just over half (51%) of homeless young adults had been either physically or sexually abused. Just over one-third (34%) of homeless young adults reported their parents neglected to provide food, shelter, or medical care, or consistently ignored their physical or emotional needs. Over half (57%) of homeless young adults had been neglected, physically abused, or sexually abused.

Thirty-seven percent of homeless young adult females and nearly one-quarter (23%) of the males reported they had been assaulted or threatened with violence in a relationship during the past year. Nearly one-third (32%) of young adults said they stayed in an abusive situation, because they had no other housing options.

Nearly one-fifth (19%) of homeless young adults had been physically or sexually attacked or beaten since being homeless. In the past year, 12 percent of homeless young adults sought health care because of an injury or illness resulting from violence. Fifteen percent of homeless young adults (21% of males and 12% of females) reported they had been sexual with someone for the purpose of getting shelter, clothing, food, or other things.

One-fifth (20%) of homeless young adults had been encouraged to make money in the sex industry. On average, females were approached at the age 15-16 and males at age 17.

Social contacts

Youth

The majority of youth (89%) had had contact with a family member or relative within the month prior to the survey. Nine percent had contact with family members within the prior year, but not during the previous month. Two percent had had no contact with any family members for one year or more.

Asked which people helped them find the services they needed in the previous year, homeless youth most often mentioned friends (63%), parents (49%), social workers (48%), relatives other than their parents (44%), youth workers (42%), and shelter staff (40%).

Eighty-four percent of homeless youth surveyed reported that there is an adult in their life whom they trust and have regular contact with.

Young adults

The majority of young adults (83%) had had contact with a family member or relative within the month prior to the survey. Ten percent had contact with family members within the prior year, but not during the previous month. Seven percent had had no contact with any family members for one year or more.

Asked which people helped them find the services they needed in the previous year, young adults reported the people who had helped them were friends (62%), youth workers (47%), and social workers (45%).

Seventy-nine percent of homeless young adults surveyed reported that there is an adult in their life whom they trust and have regular contact with.

Children

Youth

Nineteen homeless youth surveyed (13%) are parents (16 females and 3 males). On the night of the survey, there were 13 children with their homeless youth parents. All of the children were under age three, and six were infants under age one. Two of the homeless female youth who were parents did not have any children living with them on the night of the survey because of program restrictions in the shelter or facility.

Young adults

One hundred sixty-two homeless young adults surveyed (38%) are parents (130 females and 32 males). On the night of the survey, there were 177 children with their homeless young adult parents. All of their children living with them were seven or younger. Fifty-one parents (47 females and 4 males) had infants under age one. Two females and one male homeless young adult parent did not have any children living with them on the night of the survey because of program restrictions in the shelter or facility.

Youth

A few of the homeless youth interviewed faced problems related to caring for their children. Three parents (females) had open child protection cases. Four parents (females) had court-ordered child support, but none were receiving it.

One of the homeless youth parents reported that their child has a chronic or severe physical health problem. None reported that their child has an emotional or behavioral problem that interferes with the child's daily activities.

All parenting youth were able to get needed physical health care and mental health care for their children, but one parenting youth was unable to obtain dental care for her child during the previous 12 months. Three homeless youth parents were unable to obtain regular child care during the previous year.

None of the parenting youth reported that a child had skipped a meal in the preceding month due to lack of money.

Young adults

A few homeless young adult parents face problems related to caring for their children. Sixteen parents (14 females and 2 males) had open child protection cases. Thirty-five parents (33 females and 2 males) have court-ordered child support, but only nine parents are receiving it.

Of the homeless young adult parents who had children living with them, 9 reported that their child has a chronic or severe physical health problem that interferes with the child's daily activities. Eight parents reported that their child has an emotional or behavioral problem that interferes with their daily activities.

Seven young adult parents reported being unable to obtain needed dental care for their children, and seven parents were unable to get needed physical health care for their children in the previous 12 months. Over two-fifths of these parents (42%) were unable to obtain regular child care during the previous year. In the month preceding the survey, five young adult parents reported that their child skipped a meal due to lack of money.

Two parents had school-age children. Both parents reported that all of their children attended school on the day of the survey and neither parent reported that their children had any school problems or had repeated a grade.

Comparison of homeless youth to the general youth population

In this section, we compare the homeless youth interviewed for this study (age 17 and under) to a sample of youth in the general population, as well as to three other populations: youth in alternative schools, youth in residential behavioral treatment facilities, and youth in juvenile correctional facilities.

The first comparison examines data from all ninth-graders (ages 13 to 17) who participated in the 2007 Minnesota Student Survey.¹³

As part of the Minnesota Student Survey, youth in alternative schools and learning centers (2007) and juvenile correctional facilities (2007) were also surveyed.¹⁴

Youth between the ages of 11 and 21 are included in these tables. The vast majority of the youth are 14 to 17 years old (81% of juvenile corrections youth and 60% of alternative school or Area Learning Center youth).

¹³ The Minnesota Student Survey is conducted every three years in 6th, 9th, and 12th grades. Data available through the Minnesota Department of Education website at: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/Statewide_Tables/index.html

¹⁴ Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team. (2007). *2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Tables*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Education.
Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team. (2007). *2007 Minnesota Student Survey, 2007 Tables for Alternative Schools and Area Learning Centers*. St. Paul, MN: Author.
Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team. (2007). *2007 Minnesota Student Survey, 2007 Tables for Juvenile Correctional Facilities and Detention Centers*. St. Paul, MN: Author.

Comparing the Minnesota student population to the homeless youth survey sample

	Student survey, 9 th grade, general population, 2007 (N=50,713)		Student survey, alternative schools population, 2007 (N=2,847)		Student survey, juvenile corrections population, 2007 (N=587)		Homeless youth survey, 2006 (N=151)	
	Male (N=25,007)	Female (N=25,706)	Male (N=1,531)	Female (N=1,316)	Male (N=480)	Female (N=107)	Male (N=63)	Female (N=88)
Race: White	75%		56%	56%	31%	39%	36%	33%
Ran away from home in last year	9%	10%	19%	27%	32%	68%	Not available	Not available
Cigarette use ^a	11%	12%	59%	64%	34%	65%	53%	62%
Treated for drug or alcohol problem	4%	3%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	18%	15%
Ever been hit by date ^b	5%	9%	11%	39%	11%	50%	17%	33%
Ever been pregnant (females)	-	1%	-	31%	-	28%	-	35%
Ever gotten someone pregnant (males)	2%	-	15%	-	29%	-	13%	-
Ever been physically abused ^c	8%	13%	14%	23%	23%	51%	48%	56%
Ever been sexually abused ^d	3%	9%	5%	25%	9%	39%	8%	35%
Ever attempted suicide	5%	9%	13%	25%	15%	41%	14%	17%
Recent use of alcohol ^e	24%	24%	56%	58%	30%	45%	33%	32%

Notes: a) The Minnesota Student Survey states, “during the last 30 days, on how many days did you smoke a cigarette?” (those reporting more than one day were counted for this item). The homeless youth survey states, “during the past 30 days have you used cigarettes or other tobacco products?”

b) The Minnesota Student Survey states, “has someone you were going out with ever hit you, hurt you, threatened you or made you feel afraid?” The homeless youth survey states, “during anytime in the past 12 months, have you been in a personal relationship with someone who hit you, slapped you or pushed you around or threatened to do so?”

c) The Minnesota Student Survey states, “has any adult in your household ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were afraid of that person?” The homeless youth survey states, “physically mistreated as a child or youth?”

d) The Minnesota Student Survey states, “has any older person outside the family touched you sexually against your wishes or forced you to touch them sexually?” The homeless youth survey states, “sexually mistreated as a child or youth?”

e) The Minnesota Student Survey states, “On how many occasions have you had alcoholic beverages to drink during the last 30 days?” (those reporting more than one day were counted for this item). The homeless youth survey states, “during the last 30 days, have you used alcohol (beer, wine, hard liquor)?”

Comparisons between homeless youth and the general population of similarly aged youth

By examining information provided by the general population of Minnesota youth (Minnesota Student Survey) compared with youth who were homeless on October 26, 2006, we find:

- Homeless youth are more likely than youth in the general Minnesota student population to have been physically or sexually abused, to smoke cigarettes, to have experienced violence in a recent relationship, to have been pregnant, and to have attempted suicide.
- Homeless youth are somewhat more likely than youth in the general Minnesota student population to report alcohol use in the last 30 days, and they are more likely to have been treated for an alcohol or drug problem.

The incidence of substance abuse disorder (diagnosed within the last six months) in the general population of youth 9-17 years of age is 2 percent.¹⁵ In the homeless youth sample, the rate of alcohol or drug abuse disorder (diagnosis within the last two years) is 14 percent. Even allowing for the different timeframes (two years versus six months), and the fact that the homeless youth sample includes a high proportion of 16 and 17 year olds, homeless youth interviewed are more likely to have substance abuse disorder than youth in the general population.

Comparisons between homeless youth and youth taking the Minnesota Student Survey in alternative schools and juvenile corrections facilities

Where comparison data are available, it is apparent that many of the experiences of homeless youth are very similar to those found in youth surveyed in juvenile corrections or residential behavioral treatment programs.

- Youth in alternative schools and juvenile corrections, and youth who are homeless *similarly* report high rates of having been physically abused and having been the victim of domestic violence.

¹⁵ Shaffer, D. et. al. (1996). The NIMH Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children Version 2.3 (DISC-2.3): Description, acceptability, prevalence rates and performance in the MECA Study. Methods for the Epidemiology of Child and Adolescent Mental Disorders Study. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 35 (7), 865-77.

- Compared to youth surveyed in juvenile corrections programs, homeless youth are *less* likely to have attempted suicide and less likely to have received chemical dependency treatment services.
- Homeless boys are *more* likely to have been sexually abused than boys in alternative schools and as likely to have been sexually abused as boys in juvenile corrections.

Prevalence of running away reported by Minnesota youth

- According to the Minnesota Student Survey, 9 percent of 9th grade boys and 10 percent of 9th grade girls have run away from home at some point during the 12 months prior to the 2006 survey.
- These rates jump to about one-fifth of boys and one-quarter of girls attending alternative schools and to about one-third of boys and two-thirds of girls in juvenile corrections facilities.
- Particularly for those living in corrections programs, girls are much more likely than boys to report that they have run away within the past year.

It is not known how many of these youth end up participating in the homeless youth and young adult survey. We do know that over two-thirds (70%) of youth who participate in our study have lived in some type of out-of-home placement.

In 2006, there were 1,075 calls to the National Runaway Switchboard placed by children and youth from Minnesota. Seventy-six percent of calls made to the switchboard were made by girls, and 57 percent were made by youth on the street one week or less.¹⁶

¹⁶ Retrieved February 1, 2008, from: http://www.1800runaway.org/news_events/call_stats.html

Appendix

Interview sites

Interview sites for homeless youth ages 11 to 17

Anoka County continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Transitional housing						
Elim Transitional Housing	-	2	2	-	1	1
Totals	-	2	2	-	1	1
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				-	50%	50%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				1	-	1
Total interviews completed in the Anoka County continuum of care region				1	1	2

Dakota County continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Transitional housing						
Safe Haven – Men's Transitional Housing	1	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	1	-	-	-
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				-	-	-
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				-	-	-
Total interviews completed in the Dakota County continuum of care region				-	-	-

Central Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Youth emergency shelters						
LSS Youth Services	-	2	2	-	2	2
Transitional housing						
Catholic Charities Supported Housing for Youth	-	1	1	-	1	1
New Beginnings	-	1	1	-	1	1
LSS Journey Transitional Housing	-	1	1	-	-	-
LSS Red Path Transitional Housing	1	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	1	5	6	-	4	4
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				-	80%	67%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				-	1	1
Total interviews completed in the Central Minnesota continuum of care region				-	5	5

Hennepin County continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Youth emergency shelters						
Avenues for Youth	3	3	6	2	3	5
Bridge for Runaway Youth	6	9	15	1	1	2
Hope Street Shelter	1	1	2	-	1	1
Youth transitional housing						
Bridge for Runaway Youth – Transitional	-	1	1	-	1	1
Hope Street Transitional Housing	4	-	4	2	-	2
Freeport West – Project Solo	-	1	1	-	1	1
Totals	14	15	29	5	7	12
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				36%	47%	41%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				10	12	22
Total interviews completed in the Hennepin County continuum of care region				15	19	34

Northeast Minnesota continuum of care region (excluding Saint Louis County)

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Youth emergency shelters						
Carlton Youth Shelter	4	4	8	3	4	7
Totals	4	4	8	3	4	7
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				75%	100%	88%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				-	2	2
Total interviews completed in the Northeast Minnesota continuum of care region				3	6	9

Northwest Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Youth emergency shelters						
Evergreen House	3	7	10	3	7	10
Youth transitional housing						
Evergreen House Transitional Housing	3	3	6	-	-	-
Totals	6	10	16	3	7	10
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				50%	70%	63%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				3	4	7
Total interviews completed in the Northwest Minnesota continuum of care region				6	11	17

Ramsey County continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Youth emergency shelters						
Arlington House	5	6	11	4	6	10
Ain Dah Yung	4	3	7	3	3	6
LSS Safe House	2	1	3	2	1	3
Salvation Army – Booth Brown	-	6	6	-	-	-
Youth transitional housing						
Safe Haven for Youth						
LSS Life Haven	-	4	4	-	2	2
LSS Rezek House	1	1	2	1	-	1
LSS Transitional Living Program	2	10	12	1	2	3
ROOF Project	-	2	2	-	1	1
Salvation Army – Foyer Program	2	-	2	1	-	1
Totals	16	33	49	12	15	27
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				75%	45%	55%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				5	2	7
Total interviews completed in the Ramsey County continuum of care region				17	17	34

Saint Louis County continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Youth emergency shelters						
LSS Bethany Crisis Shelter	2	9	11	2	7	9
LSS Family Resource Center	-	2	2	-	2	2
Youth transitional housing						
Harbor House for Youth	-	2	2	-	2	2
Lifehouse – Proctor House	2	-	2	2	-	2
LSS – Renaissance	-	2	2	-	-	-
Totals	4	15	19	4	11	15
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				100%	73%	79%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				1	9	10
Total interviews completed in the St. Louis County continuum of care region				5	20	25

Southwest Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Youth transitional housing						
LSS SEARCH Program	-	1	1	-	1	1
Percent of shelter census population Interviewed				-	100%	100%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				2	1	3
Total interviews completed in the Southwest Minnesota continuum of care region				2	2	4

Southeast Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Youth emergency shelter						
CADA House	-	1	1	-	-	-
LSS Crossroads of Owatonna	6	1	7	6	1	7
<i>Totals</i>	6	2	8	6	1	7
Percent of shelter census population Interviewed				100%	50%	88%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				-	-	-
Total interviews completed in the Southeast Minnesota continuum of care region				6	1	7

West Central Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census Counts			Interview Counts		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Transitional housing						
Clay County Juvenile Justice Shelter	7	2	9	7	2	9
<i>Totals</i>	7	2	9	7	2	9
Percent of shelter census population Interviewed				100%	100%	100%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				1	4	5
Total interviews completed in the West Central Minnesota continuum of care region				8	6	14

Young adult interview sites ages 18 to 21

Anoka County continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
Alexandra House	-	2	2	-	2	2
Overnight shelters						
Ferry Street Shelter	-	2	2	-	2	2
Transitional housing						
Elim Transitional Housing – Anoka	-	3	3	-	2	2
LSS Abaku Transitional Housing	-	2	2	-	-	-
Totals	-	9	9	-	6	6
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				-	67%	67%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				4	1	5
Total interviews completed in the Anoka County continuum of care region				4	7	11

Dakota County continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
Lewis House – Eagan	-	2	2	-	2	2
Lewis House – Hastings	-	2	2	-	2	2
Transitional housing						
Cochran	4	-	4	3	-	3
Dakota County Transitional Housing	-	4	4	-	1	1
Dakota Woodlands	-	3	3	-	3	3
Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency – Dakota	-	1	1	-	1	1
Youth transitional housing						
Safe Haven – Women's Transitional	-	5	5	-	5	5
Safe Haven – Men's Transitional	4	-	4	4	-	4
Totals	8	17	25	7	14	21
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				88%	82%	84%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				-	-	-
Total interviews completed in the Dakota County continuum of care region				7	14	21

Central Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
Anna Mari's Alliance	-	1	1	-	-	-
Mid-Minnesota Women's Center	-	2	2	-	2	2
Overnight shelter						
Central MN Receiving & Referral Center (homeless persons only)	1	-	1	1	-	1
Salvation Army Emergency Shelter	3	-	3	2	-	2
Transitional housing						
Anna Marie's Alliance	-	2	2	-	-	-
Hope Housing	1	2	3	-	-	-
New Beginnings	-	6	6	-	5	5
Youth transitional housing						
Catholic Charities Supported Housing for Youth	5	3	8	4	2	6
LSS Journey Transitional Living Program	-	3	3	-	3	3
LSS Red Path Transitional Living Program	2	1	3	2	-	2
Totals	12	20	32	9	12	21
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				75%	60%	66%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				1	4	5
Total interviews completed in the Central Minnesota continuum of care region				10	16	26

Hennepin County continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
Cornerstone Emergency Services Program	-	4	4	-	4	4
Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter	-	1	1	-	1	1
Home Free	-	3	3	-	3	3
Overnight shelters						
Catholic Charities Safe Waiting Space (Pay for Stay)	1	-	1	1	-	1
Harbor Lights Center	3	-	3	3	-	3
Harbor Lights – Sally's Place	-	3	3	-	1	1
Harbor Lights – Safe Bay	3	-	3	3	-	3
St. Anne's	-	3	3	-	2	2
Our Savior's Housing	1	-	1	-	-	-
People Serving People	2	18	20	2	8	10
Simpson Women's Shelter	-	1	1	-	-	-
Simpson Men's Shelter	1	-	1	-	-	-
Youth overnight shelters						
Avenue for Homeless Youth	6	4	10	1	1	2
Hope Street Shelter	10	4	14	4	-	4
The Bridge for Runaway Youth	3	-	3	2	-	2
Transitional housing						
Ascension Place	-	2	2	-	2	2
Catholic Charities - Exodus Hotel	4	1	5	-	1	1
Families in Transition	-	1	1	-	1	1
Elim Transitional Housing – Hennepin	-	1	1	-	-	-
Tubman Family Alliance	-	5	5	-	-	-
House of Charity Transitional Housing	2	-	2	-	-	-
Incarnation House	-	2	2	-	2	2
Kateri Residence	-	3	3	-	3	3
LSS Family Program	-	3	3	-	2	2
Mary's Place	10	11	21	-	1	1
Perspectives, Inc.	-	1	1	-	1	1
Simpson Housing Services	1	4	5	-	4	4
Women's Community Housing	-	3	3	-	1	1
Youth Transitional						
Ampa Waste'	-	3	3	-	3	3
Hope Street Transitional Housing	1	-	1	1	-	1
Freeport West, Project Solo Transitional	3	22	25	1	5	6
The Bridge Transitional Living Program	2	3	5	2	3	5
YMCA Point Northwest	2	6	8	1	4	5
Totals	55	112	167	21	53	74
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				38%	47%	44%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				60	40	100
Total interviews completed in the Hennepin County continuum of care region				81	93	174

Northeast Minnesota continuum of care region (excluding Saint Louis County)

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
Advocates for Family Peace	-	1	1	-	1	1
Emergency shelter						
Kootasca – Itasca Shelter	1	-	1	1	-	1
Grace House	1	-	1	1	-	1
Transitional housing						
LIFE – Living Independently From Experience	1	2	3	-	1	1
Kootasca – Itasca Transitional Housing	-	2	2	-	1	1
Totals	3	5	8	2	3	5
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				67%	60%	63%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				13	8	21
Total interviews completed in the Northeast Minnesota continuum of care region				15	11	26

Northwest Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Overnight shelter						
Mahube Emergency Shelter Grants	-	1	1	-	1	1
Transitional housing						
Bi-CAP Transitional Housing	-	1	1	-	1	1
Northwest Community Action Transitional Housing	-	2	2	-	2	2
Youth transitional housing						
Evergreen Offsite Transitional Housing	5	14	19	1	9	10
Totals	5	18	23	1	13	14
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				20%	72%	61%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				6	8	14
Total interviews completed in the Northeast Minnesota continuum of care region				7	21	28

Ramsey County continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
Casa De Esperanza	-	1	1	-	1	1
Doris and Stann Hill Home	-	2	2	-	2	2
Women's Advocates	-	3	3	-	3	3
Women of Nations	-	5	5	-	3	3
Overnight shelters						
Catholic Charities - Dorothy Day Evening Shelter	2	1	3	1	1	2
Catholic Charities - Family Service Center	-	1	1	-	1	1
Union Gospel Mission	16	-	16	-	-	-
Youth overnight shelters						
Ain Dah Yung	1	-	1	1	-	1
LSS Safe House	-	1	1	-	-	-
Transitional housing						
Caroline Family Services	-	2	2	-	1	1
East Metro Place – Ramsey County	-	2	2	-	2	2
Emma Norton Residence	-	1	1	-	1	1
Hart House	-	1	1	-	1	1
Mary Hall Supportive Housing	3	2	5	1	1	2
Naomi Family Center	-	3	3	-	3	3
ROOF Project	-	2	2	-	2	2
Rose Center	-	4	4	-	-	-
Safe Haven Service – Ramsey	1	-	1	1	-	1
St. Paul YWCA	-	7	7	-	7	7
The Dwelling Place – Transitional						
Theresa Living Center	-	4	4	-	3	3
Youth Transitional						
Beverly Benjamin Youth Lodge	-	2	2	-	1	1
LSS Rezek House	3	6	9	3	5	8
LSS Transitional Living Program	3	25	28	2	4	6
Salvation Army – Foyer Program	2	7	9	1	3	4
Totals	31	82	113	10	45	55
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				32%	55%	49%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				12	13	25
Total interviews completed in the Ramsey County continuum of care region				22	58	80

Saint Louis County continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
Safe Haven for Battered Women	-	2	2	-	1	1
Overnight shelter						
AEOA- emergency shelter	-	1	1			
Central Hillside United Ministry Emergency Shelter	1	-	1	-	1	1
Transitional Housing						
CHUM – First Lutheran Transitional House	-	1	1	-	-	-
Women's Transitional Housing Coalition	-	2	2	-	-	-
Range Transitional Housing – Virginia	2	1	3	-	-	-
Youth transitional housing						
Proctor House	2	-	2	2	-	2
Harbor House for Youth	-	2	2	-	2	2
LSS Renaissance	2	2	4	2	2	4
Totals	7	11	18	4	6	10
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				57%	55%	56%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				13	9	22
Total interviews completed in the St. Louis County continuum of care region				17	15	32

Scott-Carver Counties continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Transitional housing						
Carver County Community Development Agency	-	4	4	-	3	3
Totals		4	4	-	3	3
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				-	75%	75%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				-	1	1
Total interviews completed in the Scott-Carver Counties continuum of care region				-	4	4

Southeast Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
CADA House	-	3	3	-	1	1
International Women's Shelter	-	3	3	-	3	3
Women's Shelter, Inc.	-	1	1	-	-	-
Overnight shelter						
Rochester YWCA –LINK	1	-	1	1	-	1
Theresa House	-	2	2	-	1	1
Welcome Inn	1	-	1	1	-	1
Transitional housing						
June Kjome Place	-	1	1	-	-	-
Rochester YWCA –LINK	1	4	5	-	2	2
Steele County Transitional	-	2	2	-	-	-
Theresa House	-	1	1	-	1	1
Totals	3	17	20	2	8	10
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				67%	47%	50%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				3	4	7
Total interviews completed in the Southeast Minnesota continuum of care region				5	12	17

Southwest Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
Shelter House	-	1	1	-	1	1
Overnight shelter						
Salvation Army – Willmar	-	1	1	-	1	1
Western Community Action	1	-	1	1	-	1
Transitional housing						
Heartland Community Action Transitional	1	1	2	-	1	1
Heartland Community Action TANF Transitional	1	2	3	-	2	2
Youth transitional housing						
LSS SEARCH Program	4	5	9	1	4	5
Totals	7	10	17	2	9	11
Percent of shelter census population interviewed				29%	90%	65%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				3	3	6
Total interviews completed in the Southwest Minnesota continuum of care region				5	12	17

Washington County continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percent of shelter census population Interviewed				-	-	-
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				2	1	3
Total interviews completed in the Washington County continuum of care region				2	1	3

West Central Minnesota continuum of care region

Agency	Census counts			Interview counts		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Battered women's shelter						
Someplace Safe	-	1	1	-	1	1
Overnight shelter						
Churches United for the Homeless	1	-	1	1	-	1
YWCA (Minnesota residents only)	-	1	1	-	1	1
Transitional housing						
Churches United for the Homeless Transitional	-	1	1	-	1	1
Share House (Minnesota residents only)	1	4	5	1	2	3
Youth overnight shelter						
Clay County Juvenile Shelter	1	-	1	1	-	1
Totals	3	7	10	3	5	8
Percent of shelter census population Interviewed				100%	71%	80%
Number of interviews conducted in non-shelter locations/street				6	1	7
Total interviews completed in the West Central Minnesota continuum of care region				9	6	15

Number of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults interviewed or counted in Minnesota on a single night in October 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2003, and 2006

1991	Interviewed In shelters	Interviewed in other locations	Total
Homeless youth (under age 18)	42	27	69
Homeless young adults (18-20)*	59	28	87
Total (based on interviews conducted)	101	55	156
1994	Interviewed In shelters	Interviewed in other locations	Total
Homeless youth (under age 18)	52	62	114
Homeless young adults (18-20)*	105	64	169
Total (based on interviews conducted)	157	126	283
1997	Counted or Interviewed In shelters	Interviewed in other locations	Total
Homeless youth (under age 18)	199 (count)	55	254
Homeless young adults (18-20)*	291 (interview)	95	386
Total (based on counts & interviews conducted)	490	150	640
2000	Counted or Interviewed In shelters	Interviewed in other locations	Total
Homeless youth (under age 18)	179 (count)	87	266
Homeless young adults (18-20)*	187 (interview)	102	289
Total (based on counts & interviews conducted)	366	189	555
2003	Counted in shelters	Interviewed in other locations	Total
Homeless youth (under age 18)	141	34	175
Homeless young adults (18-20)*	335	98	433
Total (based on counts & interviews conducted)	476	132	608
2006	Counted in shelters	Interviewed in other locations	Total
Homeless youth (under age 18)	148	58	206
Homeless young adults (18-21)*	446	215	661
Total (based on counts & interviews conducted)	594	273	867

***Note.** Prior to 2003, there was no way of distinguishing young adults ages 18 to 20 from other adults in the counts of numbers staying in shelters. Therefore for these items, we used the number of young adults interviewed on survey night. In each study, we interviewed approximately 45 to 55 percent of adults found in shelters on the survey night. In 2006, the age range changed for young adults to include those who are age 21.