

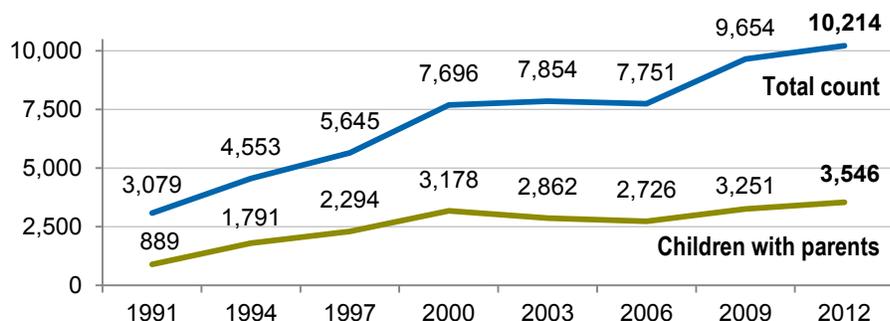
Single night count of people experiencing homelessness 2012 Minnesota Homeless Study

Every three years, Wilder Research conducts a statewide study to better understand the prevalence, causes, circumstances, and effects of homelessness. The study includes interviews with people throughout the state who meet the federal definition of homelessness, and a count of homeless people.

This fact sheet provides numbers of homeless people counted on the night of the study, October 25, 2012. Counts of all people staying in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters, and transitional housing programs were provided by the housing sites. It also includes counts of homeless people who were interviewed through outreach in non-shelter locations such as encampments, hot-meal programs, and other drop-in service locations.

Overall, 10,214 homeless adults, youth, and children were counted, up 6 percent over 2009

ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE MINNESOTA HOMELESS POPULATION, 1991-2012



After six years of relative stability from 2000-2006, the number of homeless people counted as part of the study has increased considerably over the past 6 years although the rate of growth has slowed since 2009.

- The 6% increase between 2009 and 2012 follows a jump of 25% between 2006 and 2009.
- Since 2009, most of the increase is in the number of people using emergency shelters, which is up 27%.
- The number of homeless children with parents increased by 9% from 2009 to 2012.
- There was a slight increase (4%) in the total number of families experiencing homelessness, but a 22% increase in the number of two-parent homeless families.

These numbers are a minimum, not an estimate

The count underrepresents the total homeless population, since many homeless people outside the shelter system are not found on the night of the study. This is especially true of youth on their own, who often couch hop or find other temporary places to stay, and homeless people in greater Minnesota where there are fewer shelters. The count does not include estimates of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population. Total single night estimates of Minnesota's homeless population will be reported in May.

Young people are most at-risk for homelessness

AGE GROUPINGS OF HOMELESS MINNESOTANS COMPARED TO ALL MINNESOTANS

	Percent of MN homeless population	Percent of MN total population	Number of homeless per 10,000 people in MN
Children with parents and unaccompanied minors (17 and under)	36%	24%	29
Young adults (18-21)	10%	6%	33
Adults (22-54)	46%	45%	20
Older adults (55 and over)	8%	26%	6

Source for MN total population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey

- Children and youth ages 21 and younger make up nearly half (46%) of all homeless persons, similar to 2009.
- Compared to their representation in the total Minnesota population, children and youth are the most likely to be homeless – this is especially evident among young adults 18-21.

Changes since 2009 vary depending on age

CHANGES BY AGE GROUP, BETWEEN 2009 AND 2012

	2009 study	2012 study
Unaccompanied minors (17 and under)	227	146
Young adults (18-21)	1,041	1,005
Adults (22-54)	4,585	4,708
Older adults (55 and over)	526	777
Children (<18) with parents	3,251	3,546
Total	9,654*	10,214*

*Totals include homeless people (of unknown age) in detox on the night of the survey (24 in 2009 and 32 in 2012).

- While the greatest percent increase in homelessness between 2009 and 2012 was among adults age 55 and older (up 48%), it is important to note that the older adult population has the lowest risk of homelessness. Conversely, youth on their own, ages 21 and younger, are the most at risk for homelessness though their numbers have decreased since 2009 (down 9%).

For unaccompanied youth, some of the differences in numbers between 2009 and 2012 varied by gender and shelter type.

- For the young adult population, there was a 16% decrease in the number of females, and a 17% increase in the number of males between 2009 and 2012.
- For youth minors age 17 and younger, there was a 73% decrease in the number in transitional housing sites while the number of youth minors found in emergency shelters was up 8%.

Twin Cities metro vs. greater Minnesota

2012 COUNTS BY METRO AND GREATER MINNESOTA, AND SHELTERED VS. NOT IN SHELTER

	Metro in shelters	Metro <u>not</u> in shelter	Total Metro	Greater MN in shelters	Greater MN <u>not</u> in shelter	Total greater MN
Unaccompanied minors (17 and under)	45	29	74	33	39	72
Young adults (18-21)	402	188	590	225	190	415
Adults (22-54)	2,654	412	3,066	878	764	1,642
Older adults (55 and over)	451	87	538	128	111	239
Children (<18) with parents	2,365	78	2,443	780	323	1,103
Total	5,917	794	6,711	2,044	1,427	3,471

- Statewide, the number of people who were found outside the shelter system remained relatively flat since 2009, but greater Minnesota saw a 10% increase, while the Twin Cities metro area was down by 17% since 2009.
- In the metro, the number of children in emergency shelters rose 44%.
- In greater Minnesota, there was an increase in families with children who were not using the shelter system.
- In greater Minnesota, the number of homeless older adults age 55 and older nearly doubled between 2009 and 2012.

More from the homeless study

This fact sheet draws from the more detailed report, *Statewide and Region Counts of Homeless People*, that includes counts by geographic regions of the state, and by shelter types, age categories, gender, and families/singles within each region (available at <http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Research-Areas/Homelessness/Pages/Statewide-Homeless-Study-Detailed-Data.aspx>).

Reports with detailed information about background and characteristics of homeless Minnesotans, as well as specialized reports on homeless youth, veterans, older adults, families, and long-term homeless populations will be released throughout 2013 and made available on our website.

Additional resources on homelessness

Wilder's triennial statewide study of homelessness is considered the most comprehensive source of descriptive information about homeless adults, youth, and children in Minnesota. It is not intended to be a complete count because no study strategy can locate all homeless people. Other sources of information that complement our understanding of homelessness include:

- An annual point in time (PIT) count of persons living without shelter
- The *Homeless Management Information System* (HMIS), which includes client information compiled by all providers of federal and state funded supportive housing and emergency shelter
- A semi-annual shelter count of men, women, and children conducted by the Minnesota Department of Human Services' Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

The first two are used nationwide to inform federal, state, and local policies to prevent and end homelessness. The state uses the OEO count to plan for the disbursement of state and federal funds.



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The study is an independent initiative of Wilder Research in partnership with public and private funders and in-kind support from service providers throughout the state.

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