

Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness in Minnesota

Summary of 2018 Statewide Counts and Continuum of Care Regions in the State

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Summary of 2018 Statewide Counts and Continuum of Care Regions in the State

Statewide

Every three years, Wilder Research conducts a one-day statewide study to better understand the prevalence of homelessness in Minnesota, as well as the circumstances of those experiencing homelessness. The 2018 study took place on October 25, 2018, and included two components that captured information on that date: 1) face-to-face interviews with people throughout the state who meet a [federal definition of homelessness](#), and 2) a count of people experiencing homelessness. Because point-in-time counts and surveys can never completely include all people experiencing homelessness, especially those not using shelters, the numbers represented in this fact sheet should be considered a minimum count. This report shows comparisons between counts of homeless older adults statewide and Continuum of Care regions in the state.

Initial observations about older adults (55 and older)

- The number of older adults experiencing homelessness is up 25% from 2015 and has nearly doubled in the last decade.
- On the night of the study, 73% of older adults were staying in shelter but there are critical differences by region of the state.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter (outside or temporarily doubled up) increased considerably since 2015 (up 58%).
- Older adults make up 10% of Minnesota's homeless population.

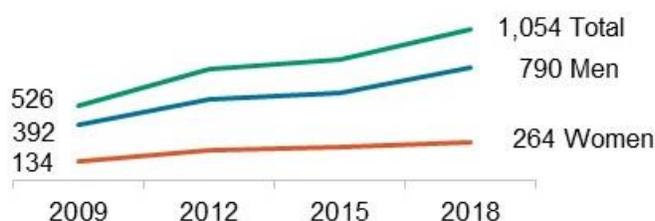
This fact sheet highlights initial observations from the counts data only, which include:

- All people staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing programs (referred to as "in shelter" in this summary).
- People located outside, temporarily doubled up, and identified through interviews in outreach locations such as encampments, hot-meal programs, and other drop-in service sites (referred to as "not in a formal shelter" in this summary).

The number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness is up 25% since 2015 and has doubled in the last decade.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness increased from 526 in 2009 to 1,054 in 2018. Three-quarters of older adults experiencing homelessness are men (75%).

ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE MINNESOTA OLDER ADULT (55 AND OLDER) HOMELESS POPULATION



Most older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing (73%), but there are critical differences by region of the state.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of older adults are staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, or transitional housing programs. However, these proportions are greater in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area (79%) versus greater Minnesota (54%).

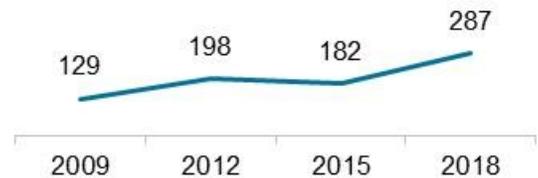
2018 OLDER ADULT COUNTS BY TWIN CITIES METRO AND GREATER MINNESOTA, SHELTERED VS. NOT IN SHELTER

	Total in shelters	Total not in shelters	Total
Older adults Twin Cities metro	630	168	798
Percentage Twin Cities metro	79%	21%	100%
Older adults greater Minnesota	137	119	256
Percentage greater Minnesota	54%	46%	100%
Total older adults	767	287	1,054
Percentage statewide	73%	27%	100%

Between 2015 and 2018, there was a considerable increase in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

Most people who were interviewed in outreach locations had spent time staying in a variety of locations throughout the month of the study. The majority of these were in unsheltered locations such as encampments, in their cars, or riding public transportation. Many piece together night-to-night accommodations, which may include staying with others temporarily doubled up.

COUNTS OF OLDER ADULTS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER (OUTSIDE OR DOUBLED UP), MINNESOTA



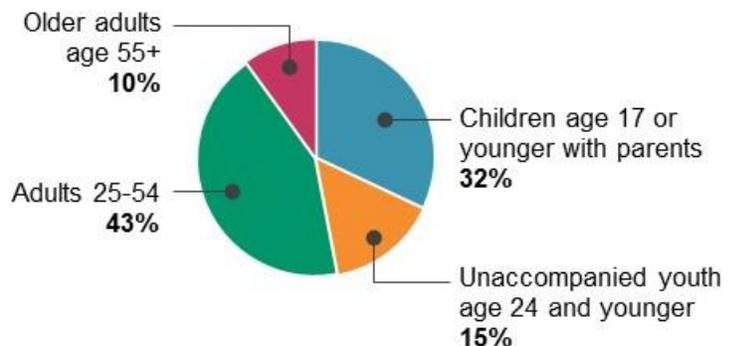
It is impossible to identify all people experiencing homelessness who are not in a formal shelter. These numbers can be impacted by variations in outreach efforts and the visibility of the population. The 2018 study was conducted in conjunction with increased visibility of people staying in encampments and on public transportation. In addition, there were homeless outreach events conducted throughout the state that also allowed access to those not staying in shelter.

- In the 2018 study, 27% of older adults experiencing homelessness were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter increased 58% between 2015 and 2018.

Older adults (55 and older) make up 10% of the overall homeless population.

In Minnesota, 29% of the population is age 55 and older (Minnesota Compass: Demographics 2017). In Minnesota’s homeless population, 10% are 55 and older. While older adults are still the age group least likely to be homeless, their increased numbers are cause for concern.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP, MINNESOTA



Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

Readers should note that this fact sheet does not include estimates of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population, in-depth characteristics of Minnesota’s homeless population, or the count of those experiencing homelessness on American Indian reservations.

What’s next?

Future reports will include detailed findings from thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted throughout Minnesota, as well as a separate report about interviews conducted in partnership with six of Minnesota’s Native American tribes. At the end of 2019, Wilder Research will complete a more in-depth report on older adults experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, as well as detailed data tables on the characteristics of older adults by region of the state. Reports and data tables are posted at: www.mnhomeless.org.

Throughout the next year, Wilder Research staff will also publish specialized reports on homeless youth, veterans, people identifying as LGBTQ, families, and long-term homeless populations.

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Study co-directors: Michelle Decker Gerrard, Greg Owen

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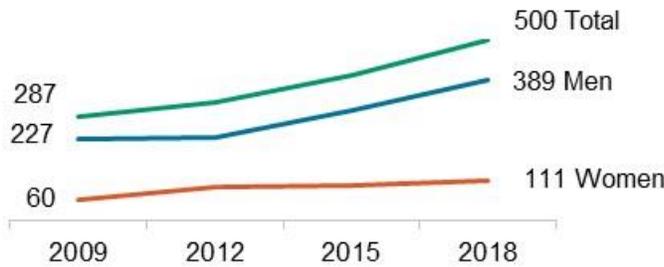
Hennepin County

In Hennepin County, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness is up 24% since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County increased from 287 in 2009 to 500 in 2018. Over three-quarters of older adults experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County are men (78%).



ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE OLDER ADULT (55 AND OLDER) HOMELESS POPULATION, HENNEPIN COUNTY



In Hennepin County, most older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing.

Eighty percent of older adults are staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters or transitional housing programs.

NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS (55 AND OLDER) COUNTED IN SHELTER, HENNEPIN COUNTY

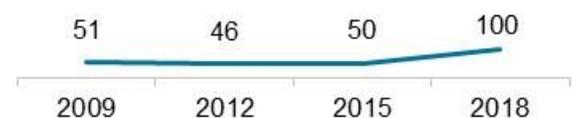
		Emergency shelters	Transitional housing	Total in shelters	Total not in shelters	Total
Older adults	Male	260	57	317	72	389
	Female	52	31	83	28	111
	Total	312	88	400	100	500

Note: Numbers for domestic violence shelters have been combined with emergency shelter numbers because they are too small.

Between 2015 and 2018 in Hennepin County, there was an increase in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

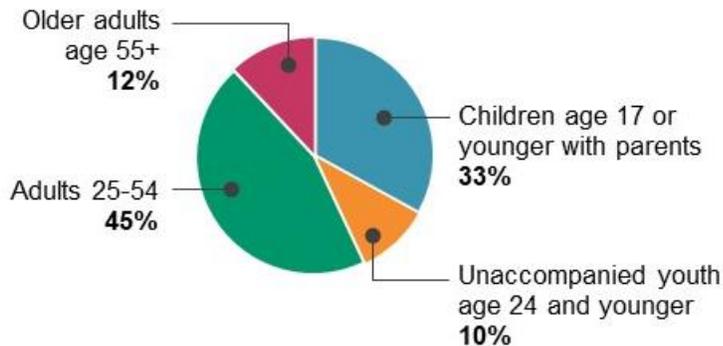
- In the 2018 study, 20% of older adults experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in Hennepin County doubled between 2015 and 2018.

COUNTS OF OLDER ADULTS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER (OUTSIDE OR DOUBLED UP), HENNEPIN COUNTY



Older adults (55 and older) make up 12% of the overall homeless population in Hennepin County.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP, HENNEPIN COUNTY



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own or in a couple on the night of the study; few older adults had children with them.

The majority of older adults were on their own on the night of the study. Thirteen older adults had children under 18 with them. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

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What’s next?

Future reports will include detailed findings from thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted throughout Minnesota, as well as a separate report about interviews conducted in partnership with six of Minnesota’s Native American tribes. At the end of 2019, Wilder Research will complete a more in-depth report on older adults experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, as well as detailed data tables on the characteristics of older adults by region of the state. Reports and data tables are posted at: www.mnhomeless.org.

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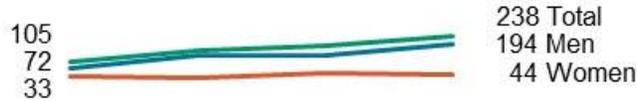
Ramsey County

In Ramsey County, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness is up 25% since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in Ramsey County increased from 105 in 2009 to 238 in 2018. Most older adults experiencing homelessness in Ramsey County are men (82%).



ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE OLDER ADULT (55 AND OLDER) HOMELESS POPULATION, RAMSEY COUNTY



In Ramsey County, most older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing.

Eighty-eight percent of older adults are staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, or transitional housing programs.

NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS (55 AND OLDER) COUNTED IN SHELTER, RAMSEY COUNTY

		Emergency shelters	Transitional housing	Total in shelters	Total not in shelters	Total
Older adults	Male	153	18	171	23	194
	Female	30	8	38	6	44
	Total	183	26	209	29	238

Note: Numbers for domestic violence shelters have been combined with emergency shelter numbers because they are too small.

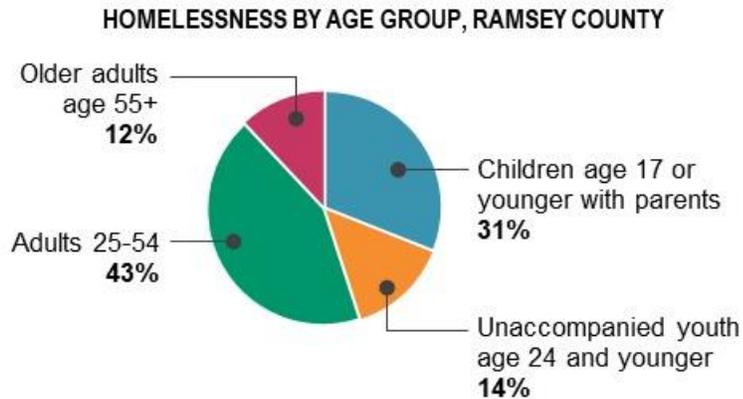
Between 2015 and 2018 in Ramsey County, there was an increase in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

- In the 2018 study, 12% of older adults experiencing homelessness in Ramsey County were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in Ramsey County increased 45% between 2015 and 2018.

COUNTS OF OLDER ADULTS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER (OUTSIDE OR DOUBLED UP), RAMSEY COUNTY



Older adults (55 and older) make up 12% of the overall homeless population in Ramsey County.



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own or in a couple on the night of the study; few older adults had children with them.

The majority of older adults were on their own on the night of the study. Two older adults had children under 18 with them. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

Readers should note that this fact sheet does not include estimates of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population, in-depth characteristics of Minnesota’s homeless population, or the count of those experiencing homelessness on American Indian reservations.

What’s next?

Future reports will include detailed findings from thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted throughout Minnesota, as well as a separate report about interviews conducted in partnership with six of Minnesota’s Native American tribes. At the end of 2019, Wilder Research will complete a more in-depth report on older adults experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, as well as detailed data tables on the characteristics of older adults by region of the state. Reports and data tables are posted at: www.mnhomeless.org.

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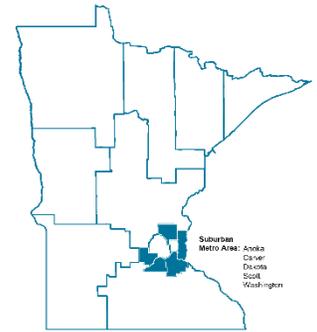
Study co-directors: Michelle Decker Gerrard, Greg Owen

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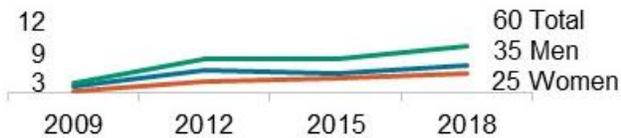
Suburban Metro Area Counties (SMAC)

In SMAC, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness is up over one third since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in SMAC increased from 12 in 2009 to 60 in 2018. Over half of the older adults experiencing homelessness in the SMAC are men (58%).



ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE OLDER ADULT (55 AND OLDER) HOMELESS POPULATION, SMAC



In SMAC, fewer older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing.

Thirty-five percent of older adults were staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, or transitional housing programs.

NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS (55 AND OLDER) COUNTED IN SHELTER, SMAC

		Emergency shelters	Transitional housing	Total in shelters	Total not in shelters	Total
Older adults	Male	7	5	12	23	35
	Female	7	2	9	16	25
	Total	14	7	21	39	60

Note: Numbers for domestic violence shelters have been combined with emergency shelter numbers because they are too small.

Between 2015 and 2018 in SMAC, there was an increase in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

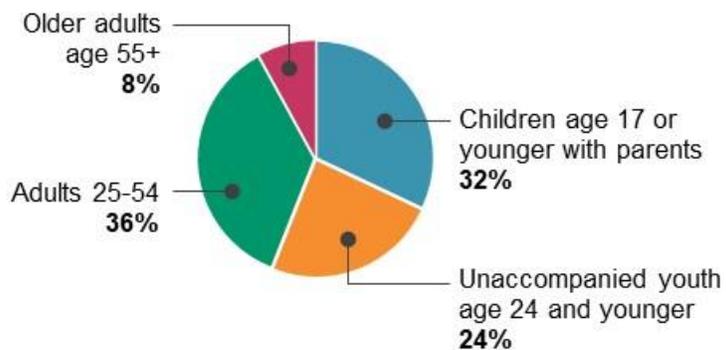
- In the 2018 study, 65% of older adults experiencing homelessness in SMAC were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in SMAC increased over two-thirds between 2015 and 2018.

COUNTS OF OLDER ADULTS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER (OUTSIDE OR DOUBLED UP), SUBURBAN METRO AREA COUNTIES



Older adults (55 and older) make up 8% of the overall homeless population in SMAC.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP, SUBURBAN METRO AREA COUNTIES



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own or in a couple on the night of the study; few older adults had children with them.

Most of the older adults were on their own on the night of the study, although six older adults had children under 18 with them. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

Readers should note that this fact sheet does not include estimates of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population, in-depth characteristics of Minnesota’s homeless population, or the count of those experiencing homelessness on American Indian reservations.

What’s next?

Future reports will include detailed findings from thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted throughout Minnesota, as well as a separate report about interviews conducted in partnership with six of Minnesota’s Native American tribes. At the end of 2019, Wilder Research will complete a more in-depth report on older adults experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, as well as detailed data tables on the characteristics of older adults by region of the state. Reports and data tables are posted at: www.mnhomeless.org.

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Central Minnesota

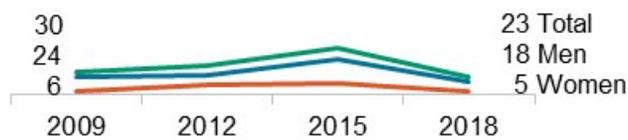
In rural regions of the state, it is much more difficult to find people experiencing homelessness. Some go to shelters in other areas of the states, others are nearly invisible, because they are not connected to resources that help identify them for the study.



In Central Minnesota, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness is up 28% since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in Central Minnesota increased from 30 in 2009 to 78 in 2018. Nearly one-quarter of older adults experiencing homelessness in Central Minnesota are men (23%).

ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE OLDER ADULT (55 AND OLDER) HOMELESS POPULATION, CENTRAL MINNESOTA



In Central Minnesota, most older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing.

Sixty percent of older adults are staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters or transitional housing programs.

NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS (55 AND OLDER) COUNTED IN SHELTER, CENTRAL MINNESOTA

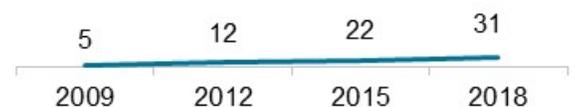
		Emergency shelters	Transitional housing	Total in shelters	Total not in shelters	Total
Older adults	Male	18	19	37	20	57
	Female	6	4	10	11	21
	Total	24	23	47	31	78

Note: Numbers for domestic violence shelters have been combined with emergency shelter numbers because they are too small.

Between 2015 and 2018 in Central Minnesota, there was an increase in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

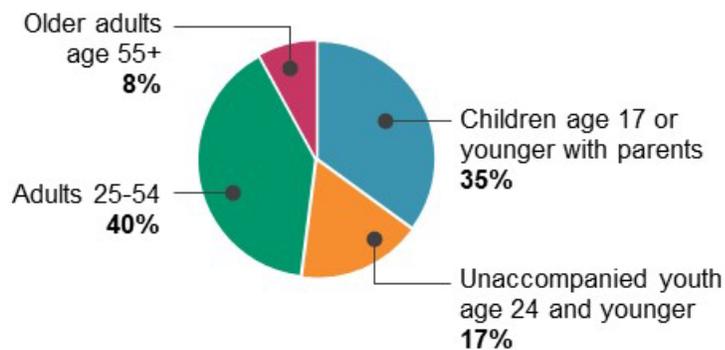
- In the 2018 study, 40% of older adults experiencing homelessness in Central Minnesota were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in Central Minnesota increased 41% between 2015 and 2018.

COUNTS OF OLDER ADULTS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER (OUTSIDE OR DOUBLED UP), CENTRAL MINNESOTA



Older adults (55 and older) make up 8% of the overall homeless population in Central Minnesota.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP, CENTRAL MINNESOTA



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own or in a couple on the night of the study; few older adults had children with them.

The majority of older adults were on their own on the night of the study. Three older adults had children under 18 with them on the night of the study. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

Readers should note that this fact sheet does not include estimates of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population, in-depth characteristics of Minnesota’s homeless population, or the count of those experiencing homelessness on American Indian reservations.

What’s next?

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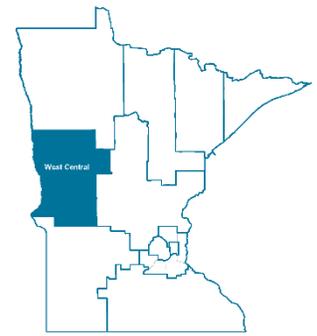
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West Central Minnesota

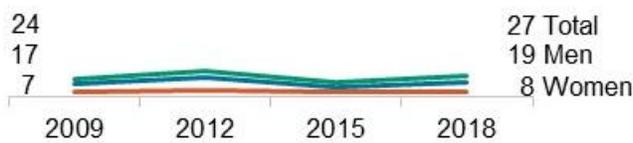
In rural regions of the state, it is much more difficult to find people experiencing homelessness. Some go to shelters in other areas of the states, others are nearly invisible, because they are not connected to resources that help identify them for the study.



In West Central Minnesota, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness has increased over one-third since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in West Central Minnesota increased from 24 in 2009 to 27 in 2018. Most older adults experiencing homelessness in West Central Minnesota are men (70%).

ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE OLDER ADULT (55 AND OLDER) HOMELESS POPULATION, WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA



In West Central Minnesota, most older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing.

Seventy percent of older adults are staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters or transitional housing programs.

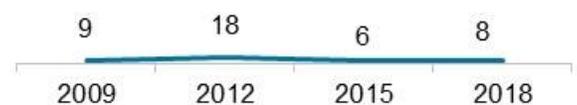
NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS (55 AND OLDER) COUNTED IN SHELTER, WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

		Emergency shelters	Domestic violence shelters	Transitional housing	Total in shelters	Total not in shelters	Total
Older adults	Male	10	0	3	13	6	19
	Female	3	0	3	6	2	8
	Total	13	0	6	19	8	27

Between 2015 and 2018 in West Central Minnesota, there was a slight increase in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

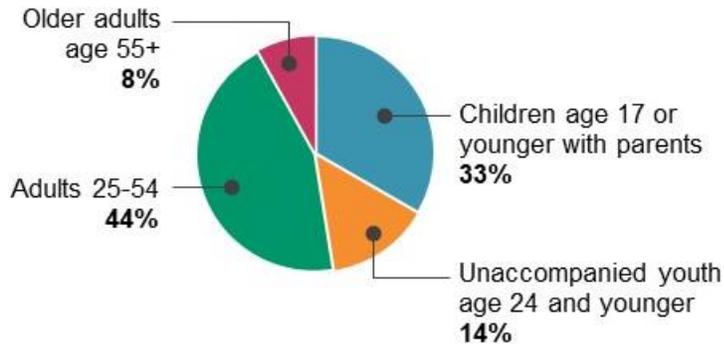
- In the 2018 study, 8 out of 27 older adults experiencing homelessness in West Central Minnesota were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in West Central Minnesota increased slightly between 2015 and 2018.

COUNTS OF OLDER ADULTS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER (OUTSIDE OR DOUBLED UP), WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA



Older adults (55 and older) make up 8% of the overall homeless population in West Central Minnesota.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP, WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own or in a couple on the night of the study; few older adults had children with them.

1 | Wilder Research, June 2019

All older adults except for one were on their own on the night of the study. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

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What’s next?

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Northeast Minnesota

In rural regions of the state, it is much more difficult to find people experiencing homelessness. Some go to shelters in other areas of the states, others are nearly invisible, because they are not connected to resources that help identify them for the study. Therefore, full representation of homeless individuals and families has been suppressed in this summary in consideration for the privacy of study participants.



In Northeast Minnesota, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness has not changed since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in Northeast Minnesota has remained fairly consistent between 2009 (11) and 2018 (10). An equal number of older adult men and women are experiencing homelessness in the region.

In Northeast Minnesota, a few older adults (55 and older) are staying in formal shelters or transitional housing.

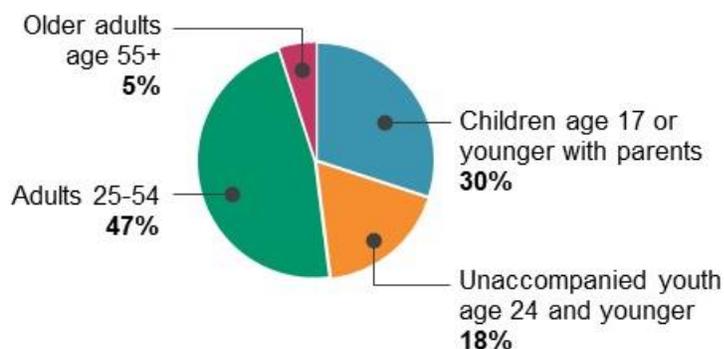
Four out of 10 older adults are staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

Between 2015 and 2018 in Northeast Minnesota, there was an increase in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

- In the 2018 study, six out of 10 older adults experiencing homelessness in Northeast Minnesota were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in Northeast Minnesota doubled between 2015 and 2018.

Older adults (55 and older) make up 5% of the overall homeless population in Northeast Minnesota.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP, NORTHEAST MINNESOTA



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own or in a couple on the night of the study; few older adults had children with them.

The majority of older adults were on their own the night of the study, while three older adults had children under the age of 18 with them. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

Readers should note that this fact sheet does not include estimates of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population, in-depth characteristics of Minnesota’s homeless population, or the count of those experiencing homelessness on American Indian reservations.

What’s next?

Future reports will include detailed findings from thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted throughout Minnesota, as well as a separate report about interviews conducted in partnership with six of Minnesota’s Native American tribes. At the end of 2019, Wilder Research will complete a more in-depth report on older adults experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, as well as detailed data tables on the characteristics of older adults by region of the state. Reports and data tables are posted at: www.mnhomeless.org.

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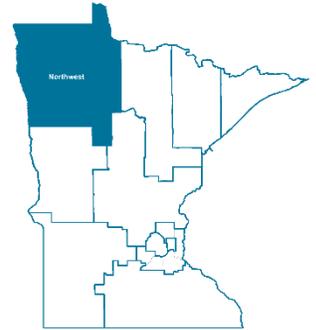
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Study co-directors: Michelle Decker Gerrard, Greg Owen

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Northwest Minnesota



In rural regions of the state, it is much more difficult to find people experiencing homelessness. Some go to shelters in other areas of the states, others are nearly invisible, because they are not connected to resources that help identify them for the study. Therefore, full representation of homeless individuals and families has been suppressed in this summary in consideration for the privacy of study participants.

In Northwest Minnesota, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness is down by 12 since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in Northwest Minnesota increased from 13 in 2009 to 18 in 2018, although these numbers were a decrease from the number reported in 2012 (68) and 2015 (30). Most older adults experiencing homelessness in Northwest Minnesota are men (67%).

In Northwest Minnesota, most older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing.

Twelve of the 18 older adults are staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, or transitional housing programs.

NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS (55 AND OLDER) COUNTED IN SHELTER, NORTHWEST MINNESOTA

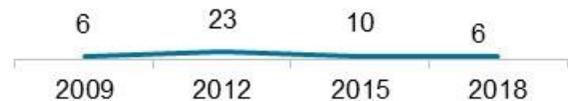
		Emergency shelters	Transitional housing	Total in shelters	Total not in shelters	Total
Older adults	Male	7	1	8	4	12
	Female	3	1	4	2	6
	Total	10	2	12	6	18

Note: Numbers for domestic violence shelters have been combined with emergency shelter numbers because they are too small.

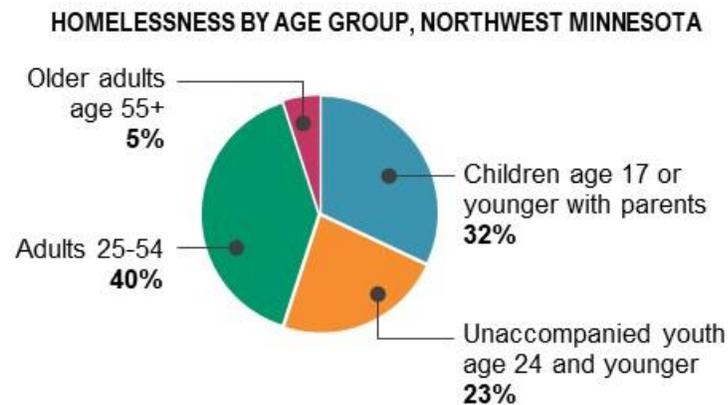
Between 2015 and 2018 in Northwest Minnesota, there was a decrease in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

- In the 2018 study, 6% of older adults experiencing homelessness in Northwest Minnesota were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in Northwest Minnesota decreased between 2015 and 2018.

COUNTS OF OLDER ADULTS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER (OUTSIDE OR DOUBLED UP), NORTHWEST MINNESOTA



Older adults (55 and older) make up 5% of the overall homeless population in Northwest Minnesota.



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own on the night of the study.

All 18 older adults were on their own on the night of the study. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

Readers should note that this fact sheet does not include estimates of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population, in-depth characteristics of Minnesota’s homeless population, or the count of those experiencing homelessness on American Indian reservations.

What’s next?

Future reports will include detailed findings from thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted throughout Minnesota, as well as a separate report about interviews conducted in partnership with six of Minnesota’s Native American tribes. At the end of 2019, Wilder Research will complete a more in-depth report on older adults experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, as well as detailed data tables on the characteristics of older adults by region of the state. Reports and data tables are posted at: www.mnhomeless.org.

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Southeast Minnesota

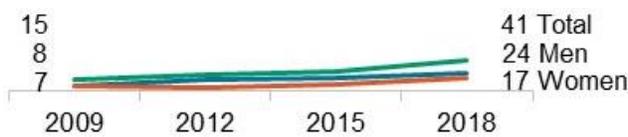
In rural regions of the state, it is much more difficult to find people experiencing homelessness. Some go to shelters in other areas of the states, others are nearly invisible, because they are not connected to resources that help identify them for the study.



In Southeast Minnesota, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness is up more than half since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in Southeast Minnesota increased from 15 in 2009 to 41 in 2018. Over half of older adults experiencing homelessness in Southeast Minnesota are men (59%).

ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE OLDER ADULT (55 AND OLDER) HOMELESS POPULATION, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA



In Southeast Minnesota, fewer older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing.

Thirty-nine percent older adults are staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters or transitional housing programs.

NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS (55 AND OLDER) COUNTED IN SHELTER, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA

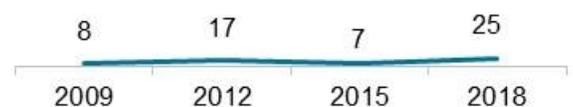
		Emergency shelters	Transitional housing	Total in shelters	Total not in shelters	Total
Older adults	Male	2	5	7	17	24
	Female	7	2	9	8	17
	Total	9	7	16	25	41

Note: Numbers for domestic violence shelters have been combined with emergency shelter numbers because they are too small.

Between 2015 and 2018 in Southeast County, there was an increase in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

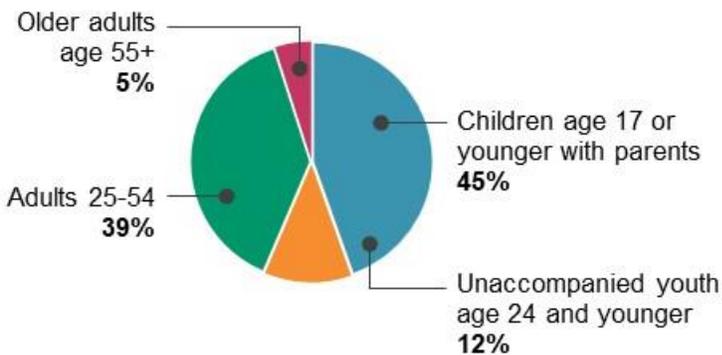
- In the 2018 study, 60% of older adults experiencing homelessness in Southeast County were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in Southeast County increased two and a half times between 2015 and 2018.

COUNTS OF OLDER ADULTS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER (OUTSIDE OR DOUBLED UP), SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA



Older adults (55 and older) make up 5% of the overall homeless population in Southeast County.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own or in a couple on the night of the study; few older adults had children with them.

All but one of the older adults were on their own on the night of the study. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

Readers should note that this fact sheet does not include estimates of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population, in-depth characteristics of Minnesota’s homeless population, or the count of those experiencing homelessness on American Indian reservations.

What’s next?

Future reports will include detailed findings from thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted throughout Minnesota, as well as a separate report about interviews conducted in partnership with six of Minnesota’s Native American tribes. At the end of 2019, Wilder Research will complete a more in-depth report on older adults experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, as well as detailed data tables on the characteristics of older adults by region of the state. Reports and data tables are posted at: www.mnhomeless.org.

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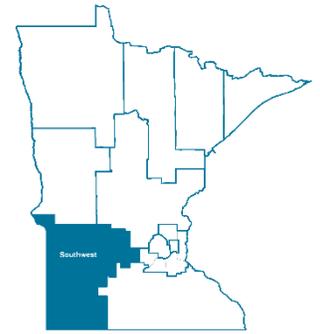
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Study co-directors: Michelle Decker Gerrard, Greg Owen

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Southwest Minnesota

In rural regions of the state, it is much more difficult to find people experiencing homelessness. Some go to shelters in other areas of the states, others are nearly invisible, because they are not connected to resources that help identify them for the study. Therefore, full representation of homeless individuals and families has been suppressed in this summary in consideration for the privacy of study participants.



In Southwest Minnesota, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness doubled since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in Southwest Minnesota increased from 6 in 2009 to 10 in 2018. Most older adults experiencing homelessness in Southwest Minnesota are men.

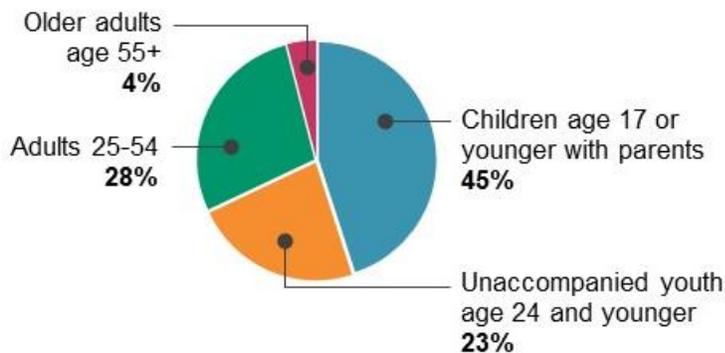
In Southwest Minnesota, half of older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing.

Between 2015 and 2018 in Southwest Minnesota, there was an increase in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

- In the 2018 study, half of the older adults experiencing homelessness in Southwest Minnesota were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in Southwest Minnesota increased slightly between 2015 and 2018.

Older adults (55 and older) make up 4% of the overall homeless population in Southwest Minnesota.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own on the night of the study.

All 10 older adults were on their own. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

Readers should note that this fact sheet does not include estimates of the uncounted or unidentified homeless population, in-depth characteristics of Minnesota’s homeless population, or the count of those experiencing homelessness on American Indian reservations.

What’s next?

Future reports will include detailed findings from thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted throughout Minnesota, as well as a separate report about interviews conducted in partnership with six of Minnesota’s Native American tribes. At the end of 2019, Wilder Research will complete a more in-depth report on older adults experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, as well as detailed data tables on the characteristics of older adults by region of the state. Reports and data tables are posted at: www.mnhomeless.org.

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St. Louis County

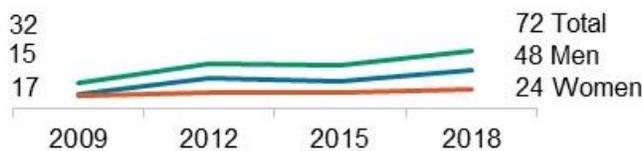


In rural regions of the state, it is much more difficult to find people experiencing homelessness. Some go to shelters in other areas of the states, others are nearly invisible, because they are not connected to resources that help identify them for the study.

In St. Louis County, the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness is up one third since 2015.

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness in St. Louis County increased from 32 in 2009 to 72 in 2018. Two-thirds of adults experiencing homelessness in St. Louis County are men (67%).

ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE OLDER ADULT (55 AND OLDER) HOMELESS POPULATION, ST. LOUIS COUNTY



In St. Louis County, fewer older adults (55 and older) are staying in shelters or transitional housing.

Forty-seven percent of older adults are staying in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters or transitional housing programs.

NUMBER OF OLDER ADULTS (55 AND OLDER) COUNTED IN SHELTER, ST. LOUIS COUNTY

		Emergency shelters	Transitional housing	Total in shelters	Total not in shelters	Total
Older adults	Male	22	3	25	23	48
	Female	7	2	9	15	24
	Total	29	5	34	38	72

Note: Numbers for domestic violence shelters have been combined with emergency shelter numbers because they are too small.

Between 2015 and 2018 in St. Louis County, there was a slight decrease in the number of older adults (55 and older) experiencing homelessness who were not in a formal shelter.

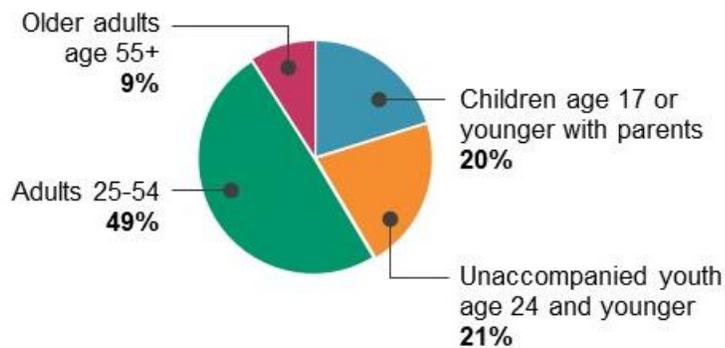
- In the 2018 study, 53% of older adults experiencing homelessness in St. Louis County were not in a formal shelter.
- The number of older adults not in a formal shelter in St. Louis County decreased 5% between 2015 and 2018.

COUNTS OF OLDER ADULTS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER (OUTSIDE OR DOUBLED UP), ST. LOUIS COUNTY



Older adults (55 and older) make up 9% of the overall homeless population in St. Louis County.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE GROUP, ST. LOUIS COUNTY



All older adults (55 and older) were on their own or in a couple on the night of the study; few older adults had children with them.

All but one older adult was on their own on the night of the study. Statewide there were 30 older adults who had children with them on the night of the study. Most of these people (23) were staying in shelters on the night of the study.

Notes about populations included in this fact sheet

Over the years, the Minnesota Homeless Study has defined “older adults” as age 55 and older. Older adults who are homeless experience issues related to health, well-being, and vulnerability that are magnified and hit at a younger age due to the difficult circumstances and conditions associated with being homeless.

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