

## BACKGROUND AND NOTES ON THE 2015 TABLES FOR YOUTH

These tables provide detailed survey results from the October 2015 Statewide survey of people without permanent shelter. The data are provided to help planners and service providers develop summary information about the characteristics of homeless people, their experiences and needs, and the barriers that prevent them from obtaining housing.

For actual counts of people who were homeless on October 22, 2015, see the report *Statewide and Region Counts of Homeless People* found at [http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/detailed-data-counts/2015/All-2015-Homeless-Counts\\_3-16.pdf](http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/detailed-data-counts/2015/All-2015-Homeless-Counts_3-16.pdf). Other reports regarding the 2015 homeless study are published at [www.mnhomeless.org](http://www.mnhomeless.org) as they are available.

To fit with legislation, we have defined these segments of the youth homeless population as follows:

- **Unaccompanied minors:** age 17 and under and not with their parents.
- **Young adults:** age 18 through 24.
- **Youth** combines both groups to describe all homeless persons ages 17 and under and on their own.

Interviews were conducted on October 22, 2015 with 213 unaccompanied minors, ages 17 and under, including 119 in temporary housing programs and 94 in non-shelter locations. These minors had a total of 5 children with them. In addition, interviews were conducted with 1,250 young adults, ages 18 through 24, including 889 in temporary housing programs and 361 in non-shelter locations. Young adult respondents had a total of 539 children with them.

## NOTES FOR INTERPRETING THE DATA TABLES

**Tables report frequency distributions for all questions included in the survey. There are two sets of data tables about homeless youth. The first includes breakdowns by geographic area** (Twin Cities metro area vs. greater Minnesota), **by gender, and by shelter type** (emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, and temporary arrangements/street). **The second includes break-downs by age grouping** (minors vs. young adults) **and by geographic area** (Twin Cities metro area vs. greater Minnesota) The metro region includes the following counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington. Temporary arrangements include outside, abandoned buildings, staying with friends or family members, and temporary paid, exchange, or voucher arrangements.

**The data tables are organized by question.** Within each question, data tables display the responses for greater Minnesota, the Twin Cities metro area, and statewide. For one set of data tables, they are also organized by shelter type (emergency shelter, transitional housing programs, and temporary arrangements/street) and gender; for the other, they are organized by age grouping (minor youth, age 17 and under vs. young adults, age 18-24).

**The total number of responses is different for each question, based on the number of valid responses to that question.** Missing data (cases when a respondent did not answer a question) are not reported or included in the percentages.

**The percentages apply only to the respondents who were qualified to answer that question.** Some tables report data that were collected only from those who answered a previous question in a certain way.

For example, many questions about children are asked only of those persons who have children with them, so the percentages apply only to that group.

**The tables do not contain data for all homeless youth in Minnesota.** Although efforts were made to interview as many persons as possible, not all homeless youth staying in shelter on October 22, 2015 were interviewed for this study. Based on counts of actual shelter use on survey night, 49 percent of youth were interviewed. Interviews are only conducted with one person per household and the survey is voluntary. In addition, youth are more likely to be sleeping in temporary arrangements with friends and less likely to be found in shelters. It was not feasible to cover the state to find all homeless youth staying in non-shelter locations. Consequently, this study describes primarily those homeless youth who are connected in some way to service providers and does not represent all youth experiencing homelessness on the date of the survey.

**Unlike in the adult data tables, these data are not weighted.** In the companion adult tables, survey results have been statistically adjusted to reflect the actual adult populations residing in shelters and transitional housing programs (1,502 men and 1,428 women) on the day of the survey. We do not weight the data in the youth tables. This is because many homeless youth do not use shelter and we do not want to over-represent the backgrounds and experiences of the small proportion of those using shelter during the one-night snapshot.

For questions about the study, please refer to our publications on homelessness at [www.mnhomeless.org](http://www.mnhomeless.org) or contact [michelle.gerrard@wilder.org](mailto:michelle.gerrard@wilder.org).

2015 Homeless youth - MN statewide survey data  
Tobacco, alcohol, and chemical dependency

192. During the past 30 days have you used any of the following substances?

By Region Within Age Group	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cigarettes	22	37.9%	29	34.9%	51	36.2%	176	68.2%	224	58.5%	400	62.4%	198	62.7%	253	54.3%	451	57.7%
E-cigarettes or a vaporizer	10	17.2%	8	9.5%	18	12.7%	49	19.0%	67	17.4%	116	18.1%	59	18.7%	75	16.0%	134	17.1%
Alcohol	15	25.9%	12	14.3%	27	19.0%	90	34.9%	144	37.6%	234	36.5%	105	33.2%	156	33.4%	261	33.3%
Marijuana	20	34.5%	38	45.2%	58	40.8%	70	27.7%	143	37.3%	213	33.5%	90	28.9%	181	38.8%	271	34.8%
Crack or other cocaine	-	-	1	1.2%	1	0.7%	-	-	4	1.0%	4	0.6%	-	-	5	1.1%	5	0.6%
Heroin	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1.9%	2	0.5%	7	1.1%	5	1.6%	2	0.4%	7	0.9%
Inhalants	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.4%	2	0.5%	3	0.5%	1	0.3%	2	0.4%	3	0.4%
Methamphetamines	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	4.6%	12	3.1%	24	3.7%	12	3.8%	12	2.6%	24	3.1%
Synthetic stimulants (bath salts)	1	1.7%	1	1.2%	2	1.4%	5	1.9%	5	1.3%	10	1.6%	6	1.9%	6	1.3%	12	1.5%
Prescription or pharmaceutical drugs not intended for you	2	3.5%	3	3.6%	5	3.5%	22	8.5%	33	8.6%	55	8.6%	24	7.6%	36	7.7%	60	7.7%

193. Have you smoked any cigarettes during the past 30 days?

By Region Within Age Group	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	22	37.9%	29	34.9%	51	36.2%	176	68.2%	224	58.5%	400	62.4%	198	62.7%	253	54.3%	451	57.7%
No	36	62.1%	54	65.1%	90	63.8%	82	31.8%	159	41.5%	241	37.6%	118	37.3%	213	45.7%	331	42.3%
<b>Total</b>	58	100%	83	100%	141	100.0%	258	100%	383	100%	641	100.0%	316	100%	466	100%	782	100.0%

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194. For those who smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days, how old were you when you first started smoking cigarettes?

By Region Within Age Group	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
11 years old or younger	5	23.8%	4	13.8%	9	18.0%	39	22.4%	29	13.2%	68	17.3%	44	22.6%	33	13.3%	77	17.3%
12-13 years old	4	19.0%	7	24.1%	11	22.0%	34	19.5%	37	16.8%	71	18.0%	38	19.5%	44	17.7%	82	18.5%
14-15 years old	9	42.9%	9	31.0%	18	36.0%	37	21.3%	54	24.5%	91	23.1%	46	23.6%	63	25.3%	109	24.5%
16-17 years old	3	14.3%	9	31.0%	12	24.0%	43	24.7%	52	23.6%	95	24.1%	46	23.6%	61	24.5%	107	24.1%
18-21 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	11.5%	45	20.5%	65	16.5%	20	10.3%	45	18.1%	65	14.6%
22 years old or older	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.6%	3	1.4%	4	1.0%	1	0.5%	3	1.2%	4	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	21	100%	29	100%	50	100.0%	174	100%	220	100%	394	100.0%	195	100%	249	100%	444	100.0%

195. For those who smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days, how many cigarettes per day do you smoke?

By Region Within Age Group	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 cigarette or less	2	10.0%	12	44.4%	14	29.8%	17	10.1%	27	12.3%	44	11.3%	19	10.1%	39	15.9%	58	13.3%
2-5 cigarettes	5	25.0%	9	33.3%	14	29.8%	49	29.0%	94	42.9%	143	36.9%	54	28.6%	103	41.9%	157	36.1%
6-9 cigarettes	6	30.0%	2	7.4%	8	17.0%	18	10.7%	30	13.7%	48	12.4%	24	12.7%	32	13.0%	56	12.9%
10 cigarettes	5	25.0%	3	11.1%	8	17.0%	37	21.9%	30	13.7%	67	17.3%	42	22.2%	33	13.4%	75	17.2%
11-20 cigarettes	2	10.0%	-	-	2	4.3%	43	25.4%	32	14.6%	75	19.3%	45	23.8%	32	13.0%	77	17.7%
More than 20 cigarettes	-	-	1	3.7%	1	2.1%	5	3.0%	6	2.7%	11	2.8%	5	2.6%	7	2.8%	12	2.8%
<b>Total</b>	20	100%	27	100%	47	100.0%	169	100%	219	100%	388	100.0%	189	100%	246	100%	435	100.0%

196. Do you consider yourself an alcoholic or chemically dependent?

By Region Within Age Group	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	3	5.2%	6	7.2%	9	6.4%	46	18.0%	40	10.6%	86	13.6%	49	15.7%	46	10.0%	95	12.3%
No	55	94.8%	77	92.8%	132	93.6%	209	82.0%	336	89.4%	545	86.4%	264	84.3%	413	90.0%	677	87.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

197. Have you ever been treated in an outpatient alcohol or drug treatment program?

By Region Within Age Group	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	3	5.2%	8	9.5%	11	7.7%	64	24.7%	52	13.5%	116	18.0%	67	21.1%	60	12.8%	127	16.2%
No	55	94.8%	76	90.5%	131	92.3%	195	75.3%	332	86.5%	527	82.0%	250	78.9%	408	87.2%	658	83.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

198. For those who have been treated in an outpatient alcohol or drug treatment program, was that in the last two years?

By Region Within Age Group	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	1	33.3%	5	71.4%	6	60.0%	41	64.1%	33	66.0%	74	64.9%	42	62.7%	38	66.7%	80	64.5%
No	2	66.7%	2	28.6%	4	40.0%	23	35.9%	17	34.0%	40	35.1%	25	37.3%	19	33.3%	44	35.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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199. Have you ever been admitted to a detox center?

By Region Within Age Group	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	1	1.7%	1	1.2%	2	1.4%	35	13.6%	28	7.3%	63	9.8%	36	11.4%	29	6.2%	65	8.3%
No	57	98.3%	83	98.8%	140	98.6%	223	86.4%	356	92.7%	579	90.2%	280	88.6%	439	93.8%	719	91.7%
<b>Total</b>	58	100%	84	100%	142	100.0%	258	100%	384	100%	642	100.0%	316	100%	468	100%	784	100.0%

200. For those who have been admitted to a detox center, approximately how many times?

By Region Within Age Group	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 - 5 times	1	100%	1	100%	2	100.0%	31	88.6%	24	85.7%	55	87.3%	32	88.9%	25	86.2%	57	87.7%
6 - 10 times	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5.7%	4	14.3%	6	9.5%	2	5.6%	4	13.8%	6	9.2%
11 - 30 times	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5.7%	-	-	2	3.2%	2	5.6%	-	-	2	3.1%
<b>Total</b>	1	100%	1	100%	2	100.0%	35	100%	28	100%	63	100.0%	36	100%	29	100%	65	100.0%

	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
Mean	1		3		2		3		2		3		3		2		3	
Median	1		3		2		2		1		1		2		1		1	

**201. For those who have been admitted to a detox center, was that in the last two years?**

<i>By Region Within Age Group</i>	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	1	100%	1	100%	2	100.0%	20	60.6%	21	75.0%	41	67.2%	21	61.8%	22	75.9%	43	68.3%
No	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	39.4%	7	25.0%	20	32.8%	13	38.2%	7	24.1%	20	31.7%
<b>Total</b>	1	100%	1	100%	2	100.0%	33	100%	28	100%	61	100.0%	34	100%	29	100%	63	100.0%

**202. Respondents who report current problems with alcohol (current alcohol abuse disorder or time in detox in last 2 years).**

<i>By Region Within Age Group</i>	Unaccompanied minors (17 years or younger)						Young adults (18 to 24 years)						Total (24 years or younger)					
	Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide		Greater Minnesota		Metro		Statewide	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	4	6.7%	5	6.0%	9	6.3%	46	17.6%	33	8.5%	79	12.1%	50	15.5%	38	8.0%	88	11.1%
No	56	93.3%	79	94.0%	135	93.8%	216	82.4%	357	91.5%	573	87.9%	272	84.5%	436	92.0%	708	88.9%
<b>Total</b>	60	100%	84	100%	144	100.0%	262	100%	390	100%	652	100.0%	322	100%	474	100%	796	100.0%