

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. Other reports regarding the 2015 homeless study are published at 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 or contact michelle.gerrard@wilder.org.

2015 Homeless youth - MN statewide survey data

Physical and sexual abuse

203. Do you have a parent who has ever been in jail or prison?

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	37	66.1%	52	66.7%	89	66.4%	138	56.1%	213	58.2%	351	57.4%	175	57.9%	265	59.7%	440	59.0%
No	19	33.9%	26	33.3%	45	33.6%	108	43.9%	153	41.8%	261	42.6%	127	42.1%	179	40.3%	306	41.0%
Total	56	100%	78	100%	134	100.0%	246	100%	366	100%	612	100.0%	302	100%	444	100%	746	100.0%

204. Do you have a parent who is currently in a jail or prison?

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	6	18.8%	12	25.0%	18	22.5%	18	13.6%	31	16.3%	49	15.2%	24	14.6%	43	18.1%	67	16.7%
No	26	81.3%	36	75.0%	62	77.5%	114	86.4%	159	83.7%	273	84.8%	140	85.4%	195	81.9%	335	83.3%
Total	32	100%	48	100%	80	100.0%	132	100%	190	100%	322	100.0%	164	100%	238	100%	402	100.0%

205. As a child, did either of your parents ever go to prison?

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	29	51.8%	40	50.6%	69	51.1%	104	42.1%	178	49.0%	282	46.2%	133	43.9%	218	49.3%	351	47.1%
No	27	48.2%	39	49.4%	66	48.9%	143	57.9%	185	51.0%	328	53.8%	170	56.1%	224	50.7%	394	52.9%
Total	56	100%	79	100%	135	100.0%	247	100%	363	100%	610	100.0%	303	100%	442	100%	745	100.0%

2015 Homeless youth - MN statewide survey data

Physical and sexual abuse

206. As a child, did you ever live with someone who was a problem drinker, alcoholic, or drug user?

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	38	66.7%	47	56.6%	85	60.7%	156	61.9%	228	60.8%	384	61.2%	194	62.8%	275	60.0%	469	61.1%
No	19	33.3%	36	43.4%	55	39.3%	96	38.1%	147	39.2%	243	38.8%	115	37.2%	183	40.0%	298	38.9%
Total	57	100%	83	100%	140	100.0%	252	100%	375	100%	627	100.0%	309	100%	458	100%	767	100.0%

207. As a child, did you witness abuse of another family member?

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	42	72.4%	40	48.2%	82	58.2%	157	61.8%	226	60.4%	383	61.0%	199	63.8%	266	58.2%	465	60.5%
No	16	27.6%	43	51.8%	59	41.8%	97	38.2%	148	39.6%	245	39.0%	113	36.2%	191	41.8%	304	39.5%
Total	58	100%	83	100%	141	100.0%	254	100%	374	100%	628	100.0%	312	100%	457	100%	769	100.0%

208. As a child, did a parent or guardian ever struggle with mental health issues?

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	33	62.3%	27	33.8%	60	45.1%	131	53.0%	164	45.2%	295	48.4%	164	54.7%	191	43.1%	355	47.8%
No	20	37.7%	53	66.3%	73	54.9%	116	47.0%	199	54.8%	315	51.6%	136	45.3%	252	56.9%	388	52.2%
Total	53	100%	80	100%	133	100.0%	247	100%	363	100%	610	100.0%	300	100%	443	100%	743	100.0%

2015 Homeless youth - MN statewide survey data
Physical and sexual abuse

209. As a child, were you ever physically mistreated?

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	27	49.1%	30	37.0%	57	41.9%	137	53.7%	160	42.9%	297	47.3%	164	52.9%	190	41.9%	354	46.3%
No	28	50.9%	51	63.0%	79	58.1%	118	46.3%	213	57.1%	331	52.7%	146	47.1%	264	58.1%	410	53.7%
Total	55	100%	81	100%	136	100.0%	255	100%	373	100%	628	100.0%	310	100%	454	100%	764	100.0%

210. As a child, were you ever sexually mistreated?

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	17	30.4%	9	11.0%	26	18.8%	89	35.3%	115	31.2%	204	32.9%	106	34.4%	124	27.5%	230	30.3%
No	39	69.6%	73	89.0%	112	81.2%	163	64.7%	254	68.8%	417	67.1%	202	65.6%	327	72.5%	529	69.7%
Total	56	100%	82	100%	138	100.0%	252	100%	369	100%	621	100.0%	308	100%	451	100%	759	100.0%

211. Did your parents ever neglect to provide you with food, shelter, or medical care or leave you unsupervised for long periods of time when you were too young to be on your own?

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	16	29.6%	16	19.3%	32	23.4%	81	32.0%	106	28.5%	187	29.9%	97	31.6%	122	26.8%	219	28.7%
No	38	70.4%	67	80.7%	105	76.6%	172	68.0%	266	71.5%	438	70.1%	210	68.4%	333	73.2%	543	71.3%
Total	54	100%	83	100%	137	100.0%	253	100%	372	100%	625	100.0%	307	100%	455	100%	762	100.0%

2015 Homeless youth - MN statewide survey data

Physical and sexual abuse

212. Child abuse and difficult starts in life (physically or sexually abused as a child, was a parent before age 18, or lived as a child in a foster home, treatment or detention facility, or other kind of institution)

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	47	78.3%	62	73.8%	109	75.7%	206	78.6%	291	74.6%	497	76.2%	253	78.6%	353	74.5%	606	76.1%
No	13	21.7%	22	26.2%	35	24.3%	56	21.4%	99	25.4%	155	23.8%	69	21.4%	121	25.5%	190	23.9%
Total	60	100%	84	100%	144	100.0%	262	100%	390	100%	652	100.0%	322	100%	474	100%	796	100.0%

213. Have you ever been sexual with someone only for the purpose of getting shelter, clothing, food, or other things?

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	2	3.5%	7	8.5%	9	6.5%	40	15.6%	63	16.6%	103	16.2%	42	13.4%	70	15.2%	112	14.5%
No	55	96.5%	75	91.5%	130	93.5%	216	84.4%	317	83.4%	533	83.8%	271	86.6%	392	84.8%	663	85.5%
Total	57	100%	82	100%	139	100.0%	256	100%	380	100%	636	100.0%	313	100%	462	100%	775	100.0%

214. During any time in the last 12 months have you been in a personal relationship with someone who hit you, slapped you, pushed you around, or threatened to do so?

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	7	12.5%	13	15.9%	20	14.5%	64	24.9%	96	25.1%	160	25.0%	71	22.7%	109	23.5%	180	23.2%
No	49	87.5%	69	84.1%	118	85.5%	193	75.1%	286	74.9%	479	75.0%	242	77.3%	355	76.5%	597	76.8%
Total	56	100%	82	100%	138	100.0%	257	100%	382	100%	639	100.0%	313	100%	464	100%	777	100.0%

2015 Homeless youth - MN statewide survey data

Physical and sexual abuse

215. Have you ever stayed in an abusive situation because you did not have other housing options?

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	15	26.8%	19	23.2%	34	24.6%	97	37.7%	127	33.3%	224	35.1%	112	35.8%	146	31.5%	258	33.2%
No	41	73.2%	63	76.8%	104	75.4%	160	62.3%	254	66.7%	414	64.9%	201	64.2%	317	68.5%	518	66.8%
Total	56	100%	82	100%	138	100.0%	257	100%	381	100%	638	100.0%	313	100%	463	100%	776	100.0%

216. Has anyone ever encouraged you to make money by dancing, stripping, posing for nude photos, working an escort service, or otherwise exchanging sex for money?

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	2	3.4%	7	8.5%	9	6.4%	39	15.1%	61	16.0%	100	15.6%	41	12.9%	68	14.7%	109	14.0%
No	56	96.6%	75	91.5%	131	93.6%	220	84.9%	321	84.0%	541	84.4%	276	87.1%	396	85.3%	672	86.0%
Total	58	100%	82	100%	140	100.0%	259	100%	382	100%	641	100.0%	317	100%	464	100%	781	100.0%

2015 Homeless youth - MN statewide survey data

Physical and sexual abuse

217. For those who have been approached to work in the sex industry, at what age were you first approached?

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	%
14 years old or younger	-	-	2	28.6%	2	25.0%	9	23.7%	13	22.0%	22	22.7%	9	23.1%	15	22.7%	24	22.9%
15-17 years old	1	100%	5	71.4%	6	75.0%	17	44.7%	27	45.8%	44	45.4%	18	46.2%	32	48.5%	50	47.6%
18-21 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	26.3%	19	32.2%	29	29.9%	10	25.6%	19	28.8%	29	27.6%
22-24 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5.3%	-	-	2	2.1%	2	5.1%	-	-	2	1.9%
Total	1	100%	7	100%	8	100.0%	38	100%	59	100%	97	100.0%	39	100%	66	100%	105	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	16		15		15		16		16		16		16		16		16	
Median	16		15		16		17		17		17		17		16		16	

218. During the last 12 months have you had to seek health care because of an injury or illness resulting from violence?

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	5.3%	4	4.8%	7	5.0%	28	10.8%	56	14.6%	84	13.1%	31	9.8%	60	12.9%	91	11.6%
No	54	94.7%	79	95.2%	133	95.0%	231	89.2%	327	85.4%	558	86.9%	285	90.2%	406	87.1%	691	88.4%
Total	57	100%	83	100%	140	100.0%	259	100%	383	100%	642	100.0%	316	100%	466	100%	782	100.0%

2015 Homeless youth - MN statewide survey data

Physical and sexual abuse

219. Have you ever been physically or sexually attacked or assaulted while you have been homeless?

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	5	8.9%	9	11.0%	14	10.1%	49	19.3%	81	21.3%	130	20.5%	54	17.4%	90	19.4%	144	18.6%
No	51	91.1%	73	89.0%	124	89.9%	205	80.7%	300	78.7%	505	79.5%	256	82.6%	373	80.6%	629	81.4%
Total	56	100%	82	100%	138	100.0%	254	100%	381	100%	635	100.0%	310	100%	463	100%	773	100.0%