

## 2015 Homeless Veterans (Minnesota definition of Veterans) - Minnesota statewide survey data

### BACKGROUND AND NOTES ON THE 2015 TABLES FOR VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

These tables provide detailed survey results from the October 2015 Minnesota Homeless Study. These tables include information about a subset of the overall population: Veterans experiencing homelessness (as identified through survey responses). The data are provided to help planners and service providers develop summary information about the characteristics of homeless Veterans, 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.

### VETERAN STATUS – MINNESOTA DEFINITION

There are several definitions of Veteran status used to determine eligibility for various services and benefits. These tables reflect the state of Minnesota's definition, which is defined as "a citizen of the United States or a resident alien who has been separated under honorable conditions from any branch of the armed forces of the United States after having served on active duty for 181 consecutive days or by reason of disability incurred while serving on active duty, or who has met the minimum active duty requirement as defined by Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, section 3.12a, or who has active military service certified under section 401, Public Law 95-202. The active military service must be certified by the United States secretary of defense as active military service and a discharge under honorable conditions must be issued by the secretary." (MN Statute 197.447). These Veterans are a subset of the Veterans who meet the federal definition.

The data tables that follow are based on interviews with 251 Veterans who were experiencing homelessness including 225 men and 26 women. In the data tables, survey results have been weighted to represent 351 Veterans; 314 men and 36 women.

### NOTES FOR INTERPRETING THE DATA TABLES

**The tables contain weighted estimates.** This means that the survey results have been statistically adjusted to reflect the actual populations residing in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, transitional housing programs, and a few Rapid Rehousing programs that continue to function as transitional housing on the day of the survey. (We interviewed a large sample, not every person in each shelter.)

**For non-shelter locations, the data are not weighted.** We do not adjust the numbers for non-sheltered respondents, because the actual numbers of men, women, and children on the streets or in non-shelter locations on the day of the survey is unknown.

**You should use the percentages, not the frequencies, when interpreting these tables.** Sample weighting, such as we have performed with these data, uses calculations that can result in "fractional" persons. When we use computer rounding to adjust for this, the numbers do not always add up exactly to the total for each category.

**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.

**There may be small difference in the medians reported in these tables versus those reported in aggregate reports.** This is due to inconsistencies in how medians are calculated within the statistical software (SPSS).

**Unaccompanied minors (under 18) are not included in these tables.** They will be included in separate tables about the characteristics of homeless youth ages 24 and younger, when available.

### WEIGHTING TECHNIQUES

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 adults who have children with them, so the percentages apply only to that group.

The Metro region includes the following seven counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington. The 2015 survey data were weighted to reflect the actual number of sheltered homeless persons, as indicated by specific site counts of people in shelters throughout the state on October 22, 2015. Only sites from which there were completed interviews were used in the weighting. The actual number of homeless persons in non-sheltered locations cannot be accurately estimated, so these cases were given a weight of 1.0.

The weightings were calculated by a sample-balancing program available in the Princeton Statistical Program (P-Stat). Individual case weights were computed based on:

- Individual sites.
- Gender (male, female).
- Region (northwest, northeast, central, west central, southwest, southeast, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott/Carver, Ramsey, Washington, and St. Louis County).
- Shelter type (emergency, transitional/Rapid Rehousing, domestic violence shelter).

Weightings were used to estimate the characteristics of homeless persons in Minnesota's temporary housing programs on the night of the survey based on the sample of 2,416 interviews with adults. The actual number of adults in temporary housing programs on the night of the survey was 4,426. When this is combined with the results of the 1,112 interviews completed with adults in non-shelter locations, the total sample for which estimates are available is 5,538.

If questions on weighting techniques, contact the research staff at [brian.pittman@wilder.org](mailto:brian.pittman@wilder.org).

2015 Homeless Veterans - State of MN definition  
 Contact with family

214. How long has it been since you have had contact with any of your family or relatives other than those living with you here?

Statewide Veterans (State of MN definition)

By Shelter Type	Emergency shelter / Domestic violence shelter				Transitional housing / Rapid Re-housing				Non-shelter locations			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 1 month	67	56.9%	14	63.7%	81	73.7%	6	63.8%	36	54.5%	2	50.0%
More than 1 month, but less than 1 year	15	13.0%	-	-	6	5.6%	1	11.4%	9	13.6%	1	25.0%
1 year or more	36	30.1%	8	36.3%	23	20.7%	2	24.8%	21	31.8%	1	25.0%
<b>Total</b>	119	100%	22	100%	111	100%	9	100%	66	100%	4	100%

214. How long has it been since you have had contact with any of your family or relatives other than those living with you here?  
 (continued)

Statewide Veterans Totals (State of MN definition)

By Geographic Comparisons	Greater Minnesota						Metro						Statewide					
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 1 month	64	70.2%	10	91.2%	75	72.5%	120	59.2%	12	48.3%	132	58.1%	185	62.6%	22	62.2%	207	62.6%
More than 1 month, but less than 1 year	7	8.1%	-	-	7	7.2%	23	11.4%	2	8.6%	25	11.1%	31	10.4%	2	5.8%	33	9.9%
1 year or more	20	21.8%	1	8.8%	21	20.3%	60	29.3%	10	43.0%	70	30.8%	80	27.0%	11	32.0%	91	27.5%
<b>Total</b>	92	100%	11	100%	103	100.0%	203	100%	24	100%	227	100.0%	295	100%	35	100%	330	100.0%