

Minnesota's Reservation Homelessness Study

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National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference

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A few things to discuss...



- Overview of Minnesota's Statewide and Reservation Studies
 - Reservation study implementation process
 - A snapshot of Reservation Study Results (2012)
 - How study data is used
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Overview of Minnesota's Statewide and Reservation Homeless studies

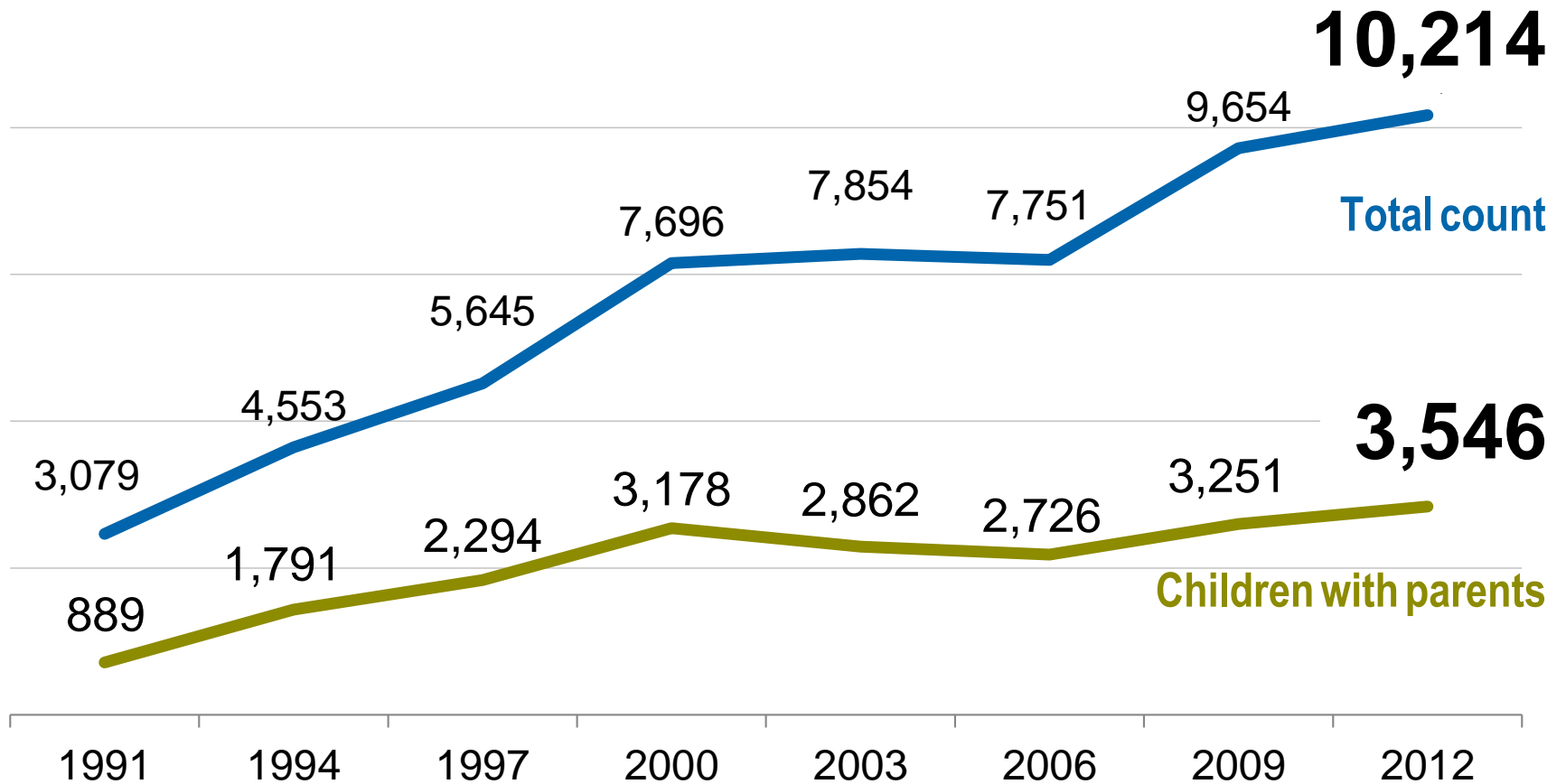
A brief history of the homeless survey in MN

- Statewide study has been conducted every three years since 1991
- Trained volunteer interviewers

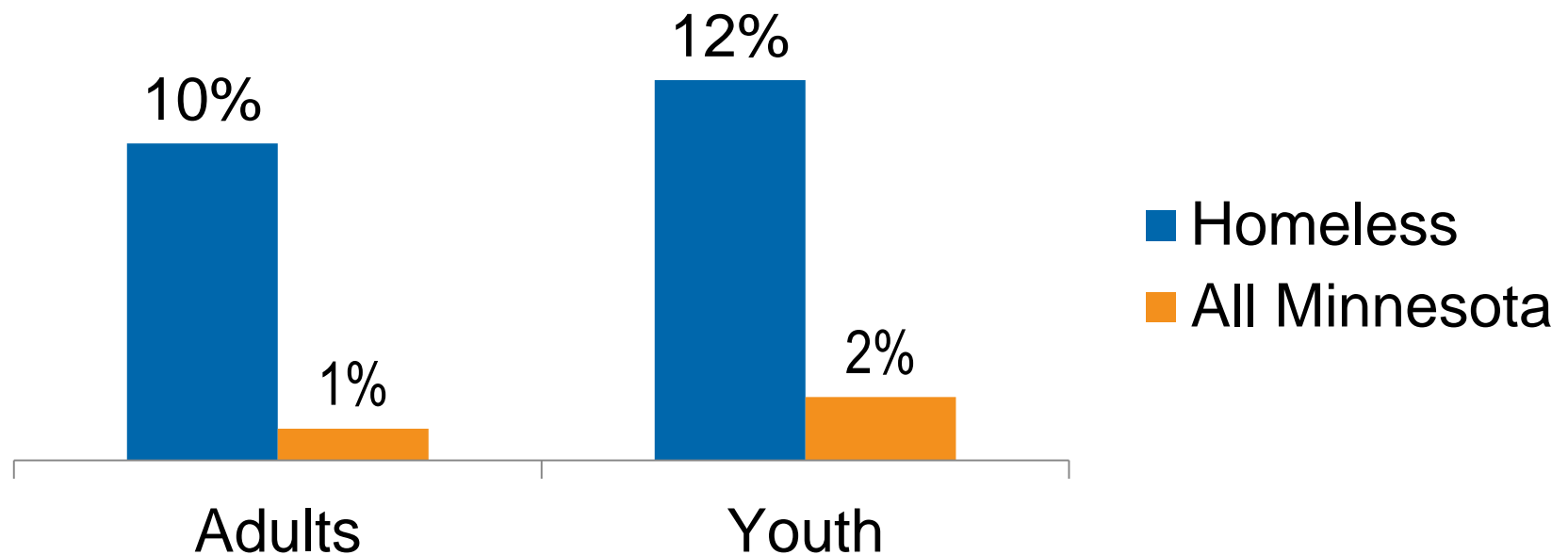
Last conducted on October 22, 2015:

- 45 minute interviews in 300 shelters and programs
- Outreach locations in 50+ cities, towns, and outlying areas

One-night study counts



American Indians are overrepresented among the homeless population



Notes: Homeless youth are age 21 and under; All Minnesota youth are age 10-24

Reservation Study implementation process

Reservation study implementation

- Reservation study conducted in 2006, 2009, 2012, and 2015
- Interview modified based on feedback from tribes (added doubled up and over crowding components)
- Funded by Minnesota Departments of Human Services, Housing, & other state agencies, CSH, private funders, and Wilder Foundation (at no cost to participating Tribes)

Reservation study implementation

- Six reservations across the state
- Respect tribal sovereignty
 - Can opt out of questions
 - Tribes determine who, where, when, & stipend
 - Tribes own their own data, only report aggregate
- Counts those who are “doubled up” with others
- Unique policy implications due to land ownership

Reservation study implementation

- Extensive outreach to tribes: phone calls, ITV, attendance at Tribal Housing Directors meetings
- Champions in State Government, including
 - Alicia Smith, Indian Policy Specialist, Office of Indian Policy, Minnesota Department of Human Services
(alicia.smith@state.mn.us)
- Tribal Council Resolutions for each major decision step (brought by Tribal Housing Directors and other champions)
- Dialogue and shared successes build trust

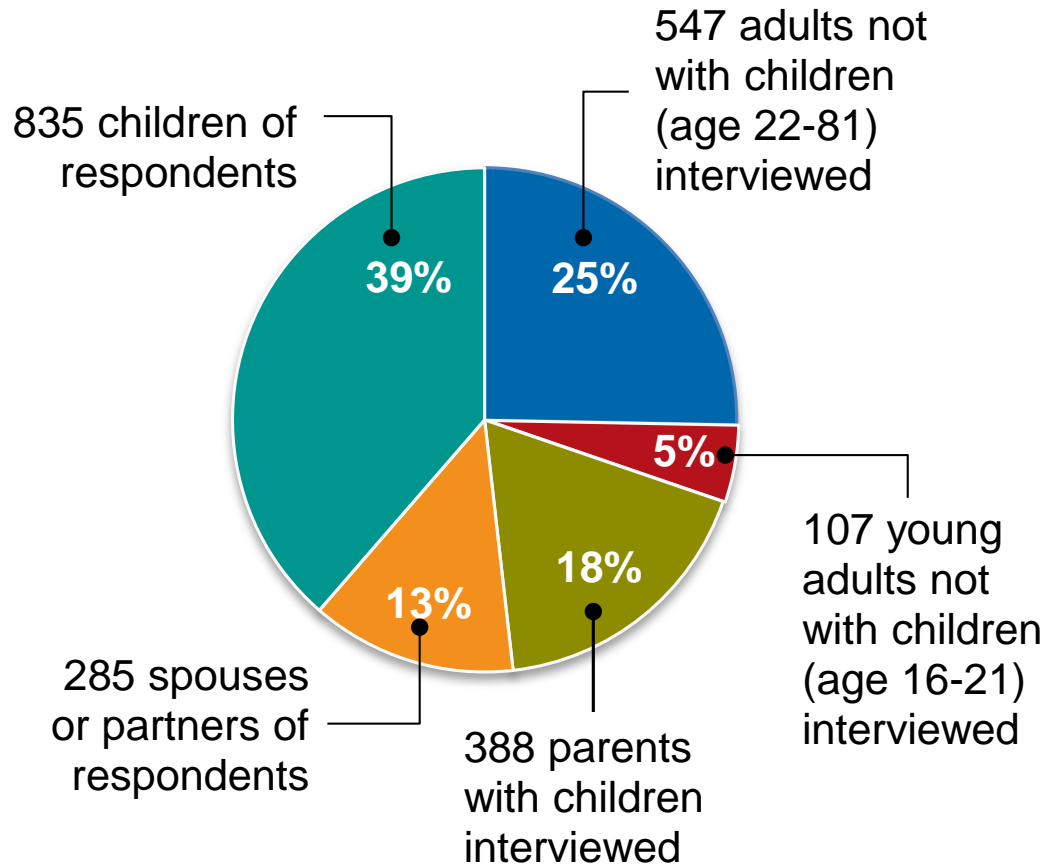
Snapshot of Reservation Study Results (2012)

2015 coming soon. . .

2,162

the number of people
who were counted as homeless in the
2012 reservation homeless study (272
met the federal definition)

2,162 homeless in total



Key findings

Overcrowding has steadily increased since 2006

Children represent 39% of the homeless population on reservations

30% were employed; 21% of young adults 19-21 were employed

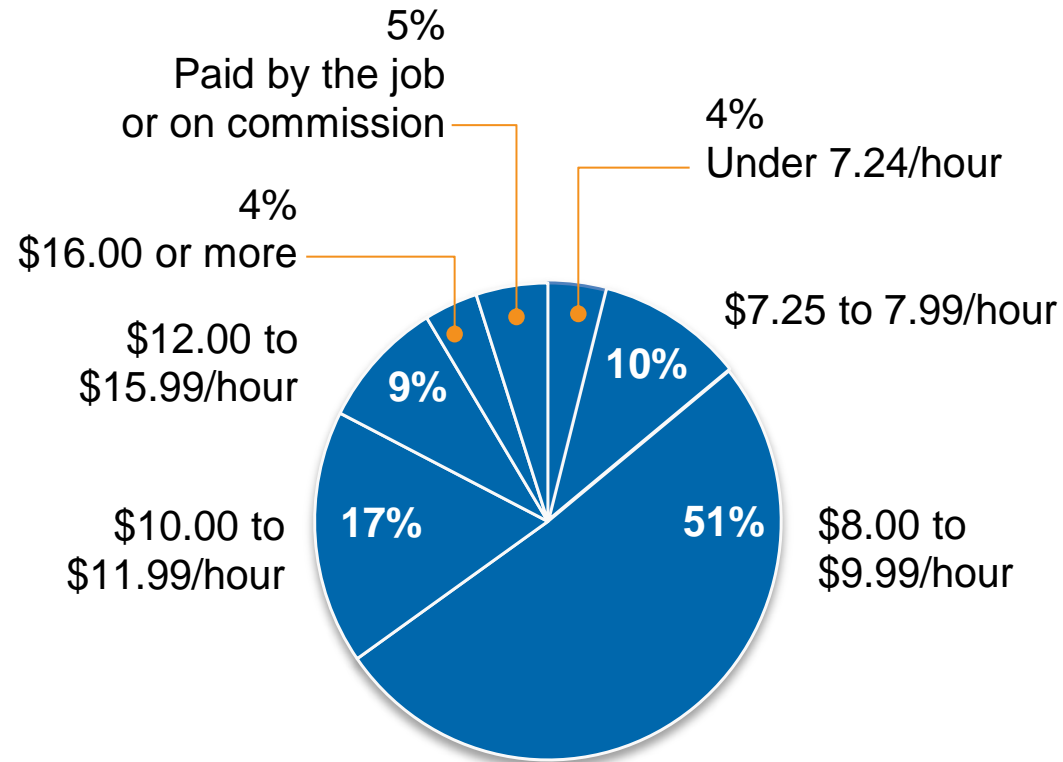
One-third of respondents have not received a high school diploma or GED

29% of the homeless population is impacted by mental illness

Transportation was listed as the primary barrier to employment and health care

Employment

- 30 percent employed
 - Half work full-time
 - Half earn between \$8 and \$10 an hour



Unemployment

- 70% were unemployed
 - 58% unemployed over one year
 - 40% unemployed over two years
- Top barriers to employment
 - Transportation, 50%
 - Physical health, 18%

Job assistance

- During October 2012,
 - 7% of the unemployed received job training
 - 16% of the unemployed received help to find a job
- 15% of unemployed said lack of resources to find a job was significant barrier to employment
 - Third most commonly cited barrier to employment, after transportation and physical health

Young adults, 19-21

- 21% of young adults employed
 - 31% of adults 22+
- 52% of young adults lack a high school diploma or GED
 - 28% of adults 22+
- Less likely to utilize SNAP and medical benefits

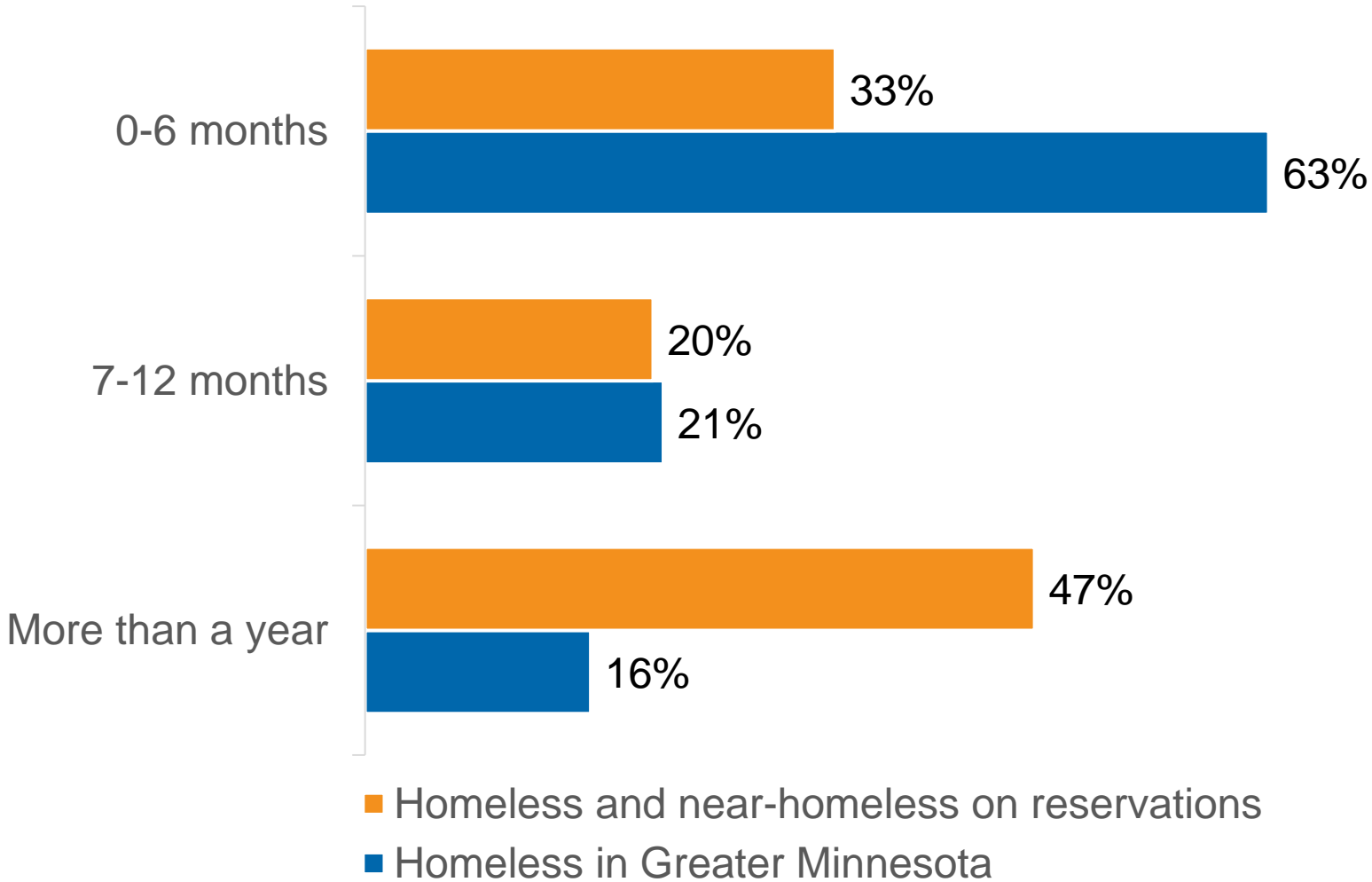
Mental health problems

- 29% diagnosed with a significant mental illness
 - 38% had suffered a traumatic brain injury
 - 25% also had a diagnosed substance abuse disorder
 - 25% not taking prescribed medications
- In general, higher rates of service and public assistance utilization
 - 18% used a free mental health clinic in October

High-risk population: Mentally ill

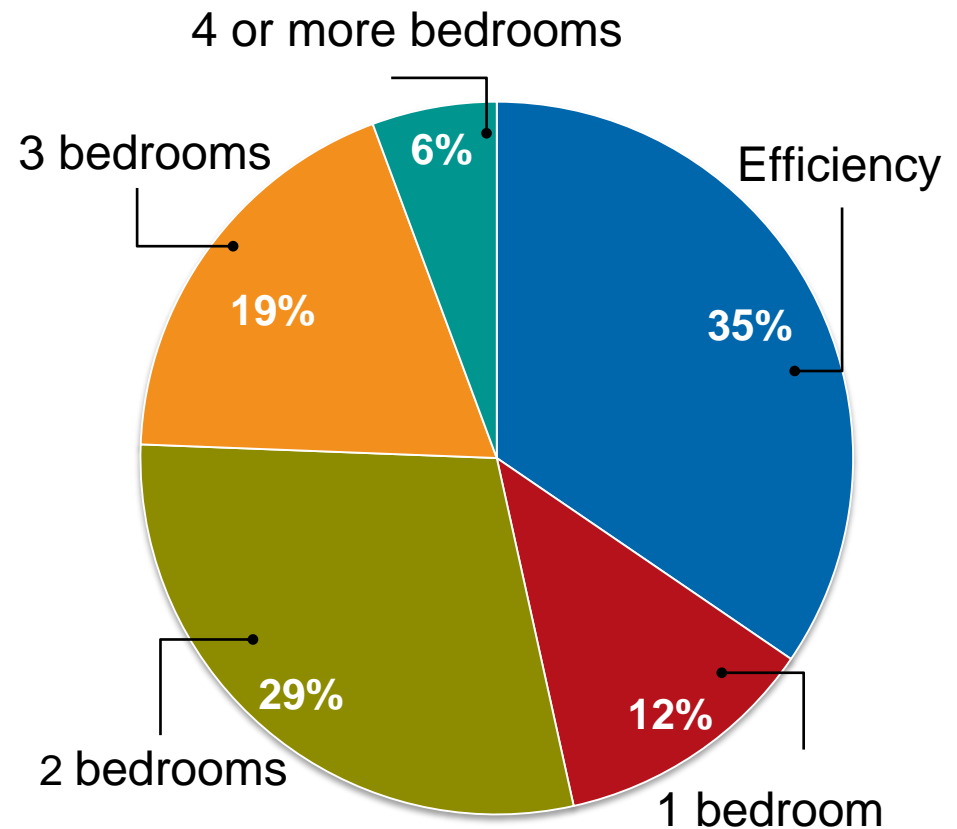
- Were more likely to suffer abuse while homeless
 - 20% had been beaten while homeless, compared to only 4% of those who were not mentally ill
- More likely to have a history of abuse
 - 38% stayed in an abusive situation to maintain housing (13%)
 - 32% physically mistreated as a child (10%)
 - 24% sexually mistreated as a child (6%)
 - 27% neglected as a child (13%)

Waiting list for housing support



Housing needs

- Modest housing needs
- Willing to pay \$250 per month (median)
- 19 percent could pay nothing



Doubling up

- Long-term
 - Two-thirds had been homeless 1+ years, including
 - 17 percent for 5+ years
- Unstable
 - 55 percent moved 2+ times in past 60 days
 - 22 percent slept in a location not suitable for housing
- Crowded
 - 74 percent living in overcrowded spaces, including
 - 55 percent in severely overcrowded spaces

How study data is used

**\$30
million**

the approximate dollar amount
that was leveraged using the 2006
Reservation Homeless Survey data

Fond du Lac



Fond du Lac



How have tribes used the study data?

- Understand homeless populations living on tribal land
- Provide better services, and target services to address the most pressing needs
- Seek grants and other funding
- Developed plans to end homelessness
- Unintended consequence of increasing awareness of those who are volunteer interviewers for the study (tribal and State staff)

Statewide: Used to inform policy

- Service utilization
- Access to benefits
- Barriers to services
- Housing needs

To learn more about homelessness
in Minnesota go to
www.wilderresearch.org

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