

Long-term homelessness

Definition of long-term homelessness

For this fact sheet, the term “long-term homeless” includes a person of any age and any family configuration who has been homeless for a year or longer in the current episode, or homeless at least four times in the past three years, and at the time of the interview was staying:

- In an emergency shelter, battered women’s shelter, or in a place not part of any formal shelter program, *or*
- In a transitional housing program, and had a mental illness, substance abuse disorder, or chronic health condition for which they reported they had not received treatment within the past 12 months.

Total number of long-term homeless in the 2009 statewide study

On the date of the survey, 2,449 adults and unaccompanied youth were identified who were experiencing long-term homelessness. They had 727 children with them, for a total of 3,176 people. This total number includes:

- 2,017 adults who did not have children with them (82% of LTH households)
- 42 unaccompanied youth who did not have children with them (2% of LTH households)
- 390 parents (nearly all adults) who had children with them (16% of LTH households)
- 727 children with their parents

The distribution of these individuals between emergency settings and transitional settings is shown in the table below.

DISTRIBUTION OF LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS BY FAMILY TYPE AND SETTING

	Adults without children	Unaccompanied youth without children	Parents (of any age) with children	Children with their parents	Total persons	Total households
Emergency or battered women’s shelters or unsheltered	1,801	40	274	478	2,593	2,115
Transitional housing and with problems not receiving care	216	2	116	249	583	334
Total	2,017	42	390	727	3,176	2,449

Estimated annual number

Using a simple estimation procedure based on patterns of homelessness of those surveyed, we assume that about twice as many people experience long-term homelessness over the course of a full year as the number on any given night. Thus we estimate that about 6,352 persons experience long-term homelessness in Minnesota in a year, in about 4,898 households.

continued

**2003 count of persons to be included in Working Group plans
 to address the needs of the long term homeless***

Counts of the long-term homeless are presented here in two separate ways. This page uses a more conservative method in which transitional housing residents who meet the definition of long-term homelessness* are only counted if they *have not* received recent care for a serious health condition. The reverse side of this page includes all transitional housing residents who meet the definition of long-term homelessness, regardless of current health status or need.

Single night count of long-term homeless people in Emergency Shelters, Battered Women's Shelters, other emergency arrangements and places not intended for habitation:

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Greater MN</u>
Adults without children	1,046	814	232
Unaccompanied youth	19	10	9
Parents	58	33	25
Children who are with parents	<u>105</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>49</u>
Total	1,228	913	315

Single night count of those in transitional housing who have chemical dependency, mental illnesses, and/or chronic health conditions for which they have not received recent care:

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Greater MN</u>
Adults without children	227	180	47
Unaccompanied youth	2	0	2
Parents	65	49	16
Children who are with parents	<u>122</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>38</u>
Total	416	313	103

Grand total (single night count of long term homeless individuals including those in transitional housing likely to need additional support):

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Greater MN</u>
Total persons:	1,644	1,226	418
Total households:	1,417	1,086	331

Annual estimate, using the conservative assumption that the single night count is approximately one-half of the annual count:

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Greater MN</u>
Total persons:	3,288	2,452	836
Total households:	2,834	2,172	662

This figure would not include the number of new people entering this population each year. Based on an analysis of homeless episode length and previous experiences of homelessness, it is estimated that under current conditions, the following number of new long-term homeless would be added to this population each year:

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Greater MN</u>
Total persons:	612	264	348
Total households:	528	228	300

* **Note:** A long-term homeless person is defined here as someone who has been homeless for a year or longer or someone who has been homeless less than one year, but at least 4 times in the last 3 years.