



Single Night Count of People Experiencing Homelessness

2023 Minnesota Homeless Study Counts Data Tables

STATEWIDE

Every three yearsⁱ, Wilder Research conducts a one-day statewide study to better understand the prevalence of homelessness in Minnesota, as well as the circumstances of those experiencing homelessness. The most recent study took place on October 26, 2023, and included two components that captured information on that date:

- Face-to-face interviews with people throughout the state who meet the [federal definition of homelessness](#)
- A count of people experiencing homelessness

This report contains counts data from the 2023 Minnesota Homeless Study and Reservation Homeless Study, including those:

- **In shelter:** People staying in all known emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, transitional housing sites, and hotels/motels for which they receive a voucher.
- **Not in a formal shelter:** People staying outside, on transit, or temporarily doubled up, and identified through interviews in outreach locations such as encampments and other drop-in sites.

Six tribes in Minnesota partnered with Wilder Research to conduct the 2023 Reservation Homeless Study. This study took place during a similar time period as the Minnesota Homeless Study, and honors tribal ownership of their data. With permission from participating tribes (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Red Lake, and White Earth), Wilder Research combined reservation counts with statewide counts to get a more complete number of people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.

This report does *not* contain estimates of the uncounted or hidden homeless population. In addition, there are 82 people included in the overall count (Table 1) who are *not* included in the remaining tables, because data were not reported or were unknown with regard to their demographic information (e.g. age, race, family status).

ALL PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

1. People experiencing homelessness

	IN SHELTER	NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER	TOTAL
People experiencing homelessness	6,947	1,954	8,901
People experiencing homelessness on participating American Indian reservations	78 ^a	1,516	1,594
People experiencing homelessness and in detox ^b	27	0	27
Total number of people experiencing homelessness	7,052	3,470	10,522

^a The count of people staying in shelter on participating American Indian reservations only includes those who are in shelters that report to HMIS (Homeless Management Information System).

^b People experiencing homelessness and temporarily in detox facilities are included in the federal definition of homelessness. To protect data privacy of individuals, numbers in detox are only aggregated at the statewide level and not included in regional reports.

2. People experiencing homelessness, by age and gender

ADULTS AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS...			IN SHELTER		NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER
Age	Age group total	Gender ^a	Emergency and domestic violence shelters	Transitional housing	
Unaccompanied minors age <18	115	Female	28	24	18
		Male	17	9	14
		Trans, non-binary, or other gender identity	3	1	1
Young adults age 18-21	638	Female	104	147	92
		Male	86	79	96
		Trans, non-binary, or other gender identity	9	16	9
Young adults age 22-24	562	Female	111	111	80
		Male	79	53	111
		Trans, non-binary, or other gender identity	10	2	5
Adults age 25-54	4932	Female	1,068	400	863
		Male	1,124	249	1,141
		Trans, non-binary, or other gender identity	27	8	52
Older adults age 55+	1204	Female	223	68	138
		Male	439	107	216
		Trans, non-binary, or other gender identity	4	5	4
Total number of adults and unaccompanied minors			3,332	1,279	2,840
Total number of children under age 18 in families			1,693	639	630

Note. This table does *not* include the number of people who were in detox.

^a 2023 Wilder counts reporting includes a “trans, non-binary, or other gender identity” gender category. The numbers in this category may be an undercount. While interviewers and shelter staff are instructed to ask about gender identity, some may have assumed or guessed, while some people with non-binary identities may have felt uncomfortable or unsafe reporting their identity.

3. People experiencing homelessness, by race/ethnicity

	IN SHELTER	NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER ^a	TOTAL
American Indian	457	1,118	1,575
Asian or Pacific Islander	125	25	150
Black, African American, or African	2,200	349	2,549
Hispanic or Latina/e/o	474	43	517
Middle Eastern or North African	24	3	27
White	1,701	539	2,240
Multi-racial	1,155	343	1,498
Unknown race or ethnicity	889	25	914

Note. This table does *not* include the number of people who were in detox. For this report, race data is reported as a single response option. Future reports, using interview data, will include additional data for people who identify with more than one racial group.

^a The race/ethnicity of those not in shelter is available for interview respondents only. Their partners and/or children are not represented in these data.

4. People experiencing homelessness, by family type

	IN SHELTER	NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER	TOTAL
Parents in families	1,501	384	1,885
Individuals	3,110	2,456	5,566
Children under age 18 in families	2,332	630	2,962

Note. This table does *not* include the number of people who were in detox. “Families” includes parents who have children under 18 years old living with them. “Parents” includes heads of household and their partners. “Individuals” includes singles and couples who do not have children (under age 18) accompanying them.

PEOPLE IN FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

5. People in families experiencing homelessness, by age of parents

	IN SHELTER	NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER	TOTAL
Unaccompanied minors age <18	4	1	5
Young adults age 18-21	117	26	143
Young adults age 22-24	145	29	174
Adults age 25-54	1,192	312	1,504
Older adults age 55+	43	16	59
Total parents in families	1,501	384	1,885
Total children under age 18 in families	2,332	630	2,962
Total people in families	3,833	1,014	4,847

Note. “Families” includes parents who have children under 18 years old living with them. “Parents” includes heads of household and their partners.

INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

6. Individuals experiencing homelessness, by age

	IN SHELTER	NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER	TOTAL
Unaccompanied minors age <18	78	32	110
Young adults age 18-21	324	171	495
Young adults age 22-24	221	167	388
Adults age 25-54	1,684	1,744	3,428
Older adults age 55+	803	342	1,145
Total individuals	3,110	2,456	5,566

Note. "Individuals" includes singles and couples who do not have children under age 18 accompanying them.

Explanation of 2023 data

The findings above are based on the 2023 Minnesota Homeless Study counts data. Counts data include: 1) a count of all shelter guests either identified through HMIS data (for shelters reporting to HMIS) or from Wilder-collected data (for shelters not reporting to HMIS), and 2) a count of all interviews conducted with people not in a formal shelter. Because a single night count and interviews can never fully identify all people experiencing homelessness who are not using shelters, the numbers represented in this fact sheet should be considered a minimum count. Please visit mnhomeless.org for detailed regional reports with counts data by shelter types, age, gender, race, and family status, as well as the 2023 Minnesota Homeless Study Counts Fact Sheet.

What's next?

Beginning in May 2024, Wilder will report findings from thousands of face-to-face interviews conducted throughout Minnesota, plus:

- Data tables for each interview question, for every region of the state.
- Findings from the Reservation Homeless Study.
- Specialized briefings on smaller sub-groups such as homeless youth, Veterans, older adults, families, and long-term homeless populations.

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- ⁱ The study was postponed for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore, it has been 5 years since the previous study in 2018.
- ⁱⁱ A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a community strategic plan to coordinate, organize and deliver housing and services and promote community-wide commitment to reduce the incidences of homelessness. CoCs also apply for funding to address homelessness from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). (Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System, n.d.).

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The study is an independent initiative of Wilder Research in partnership with public and private funders and in-kind support from service providers throughout the state. Study co-directors: Michelle Decker Gerrard and Rebecca Sales.

For more information about this report, call Wilder Research, 651-280-2700, or visit mnhomeless.org.

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