

SMAC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

03/19/2024

- 1) 1:00-1:15 **Check in/welcome**
2) 1:15-1:25 **Welcome New Governing Board Members**
Our new Governing Board Members include:
Mica Bingel
Trisha Cook
leasha Wofford
Marla Dotson

- 3) 1:25-1:50 **Old Business—February meeting votes**
- Shelter demonstration proposal—Jaime facilitation
Bill language (House bill ([HF 3971](#)) & Senate bill ([SF 4018](#)))
Shelter demonstration project – Pilot project proposal. Evolving from Hennepin County. **See Power Point and handout for details.** Seeking a vote from SMAC to support the proposal.
Discussion:
Would funds received go directly to projects? No, they would be received directly by SMAC first.
Discussed the challenges of HUD scoring being used as a determiner for Greater MN CoCs that would be included, along with the reality that using PIT data could be problematic for SMAC.
If SMAC gets the funds directly, there needs to be an entity that can receive that on behalf of SMAC. RMC may be able to serve as an example/entity with their cooperative agreement. Used an example of how Washington County shelter programming is anticipating a decrease in funds and could use dollars like this to help maintain services, imagining there are other counties and programs in a similar situation
Laquita noted that the coalition likes this proposal, but it only considers 4 or 5 CoCs, not the whole state. This could be a step towards that since it's a pilot program.
Discussed the reality that it's not a budget year and could not make it out of committee, but it's an opportunity to try.
Molly made the motion to move forward with support for the Hennepin County proposal. Kamaria seconds, and no one opposed - **motion passed**
Anyone interested in helping plan for this, reach out to Laquita to be part of that group.
Anyone can join, gov. board or community members.
 - Policy reviews—
 - Specific CE policy for review

Coordinated Entry Advisory – Group who reviews appeals for requests when someone needs to be transitioned from one program to another or needs more imminent prioritization can have their information sent to this group. This group will review the request, assess the availability of programming, and then proceed with a decision.

(Change Request #1) Current policy suggests that this committee is comprised of specific staff (7 members) and notes exactly who these staff are. Needing to change this to reflect the current staffing levels more appropriately at SMAC.

Recommendation: Two Coordinated Entry Staff and five other staff with experience in completing CE assessments, navigation or outreach, Rapid rehousing programs, Permanent Supportive Housing Programs, or program administration.

**Please note that there may be opportunities to support this committee's work.

Suggestion: Could it language be included to suggest a range or a minimum threshold

(Change Request #2) Including within the 'Provider Expectations' section of the CE Policy Manual document, that *"Housing providers are responsible for notifying CE staff of any changes in eligibility requirements."*

Jen Motioned, Doreen Seconded – **Approved.**

System Performance Measures (SPMs) used by HUD to assess how communities are doing to respond to homelessness. This informs the funding awards received through CoC Competitions.

Measure 1: Length of Time Homeless: Demonstrates how long someone was in emergency shelter or other homeless setting, along with transitional housing programming.

Pulled from HMIS – reflects the amount of time between entering shelter or THP prior to exit

At least a 5% improvement year over year shows improvement

Needing to identify where this back-up may be occurring.

Measure 2: Total Returns: This demonstrates when folks return to homelessness within a given period of time following their exit from a street outreach, emergency shelter, transition housing, and permanent housing.

Measure 3: Number of People Homeless: Broken down via Total Persons, those in Emergency Shelter, and those accessing Transitional Housing Programs. Determining the causations in these trends is necessary to ensure that we're not seeing further reductions to SPMs.

Measure 5: Number of Persons who Become Homeless for the First Time: This demonstrates households that have entered our CoC's programming within the year that hadn't previously accessed housing assistance and/or homeless-dedicated programming in SMAC within the last two year.

Measure 7: Successful Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing: Demonstrates the exits to permanent destinations from Street Outreach AND exits to permanent destinations from Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing Programs, and Permanent Housing Programs.

Discussion:

What trends/measure concern you the most? Which measure should we prioritize to improve in 2024?

Shelter needs – unfilled or unavailable shelter capacity

Shortening shelter stays

Returns to Homelessness – how can we ensure that we're further mitigating these transitions to homelessness for folks that are accessing various programming across our continuum?

Motion: Jen – Prioritize Length of Time folks are experiencing homelessness in our system. Doreen Seconded - Approved

Which committee(s) should take on which measure?

Coordinated Entry Committee: Rapid resolution

Focus on shelter providers, the CE processes, and the housing providers to ensure that these referrals are being processed in a timely manner

A sub committee will be assembled to work alongside the CE Committee to distribute this work and identify various opportunities for approaching the work needed to identify opportunities for addressing the question of how to shorten the length of homelessness experienced by SMAC residents.

Helpful to know which projects/providers are included in this measure

Data associated with length of time being identified from THP, Shelter, and overall

National averages or some ability to identify and respond to a threshold

SMAC GOVERNING BOARD



03/19/2024

PRESENTATION TITLE



AGENDA

Check-In/Welcom
Hennepin County Policy Proposal
Policy Review
SPM's
Adjourn

Check-in

Governing Board Members- on Camera Please
State name/Pronoun/Position

Community- In chat please State name/Pronoun

Question of the day- What are 2 words to
describe your 2024 so far?





WELCOME

We Are Happy to have you Join





WELCOME

NEW members:

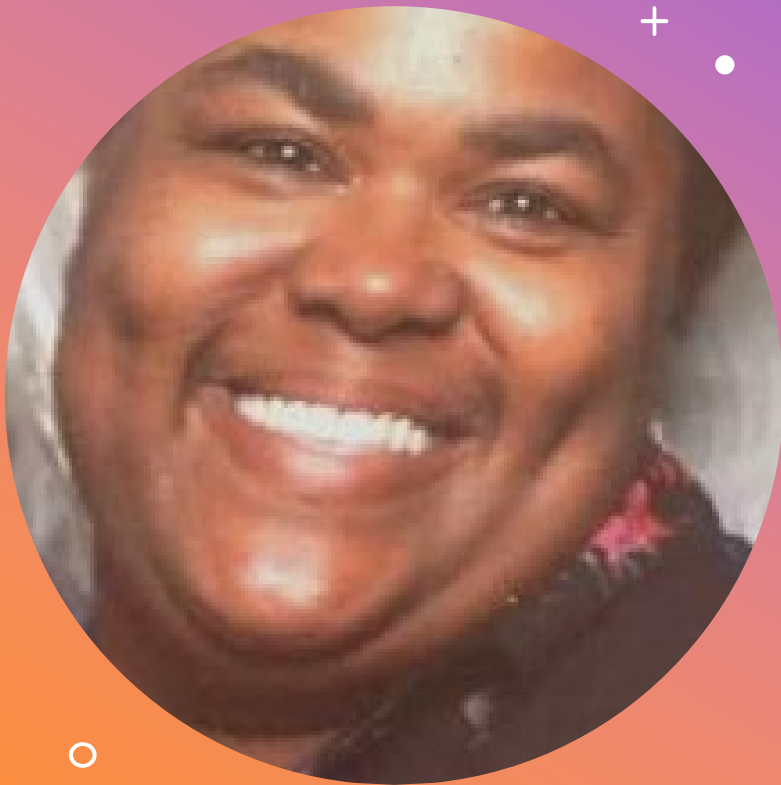
Marla Dotson-DC

leasha Wofford-DC

Mica Bingel-Hope 4 Youth

Trisha Cook-Common Bond

Thanks for being a Part of the SMAC Governing Board



MARLA DOTSON

Grand Day Everyone 😁 I am Mz. Marla D. And, I've made it to the Governing Board!!! I've wanted to be on the Governing Board since Liz told us about it... I think it was (2-3) years ago. And, finally I'm here! I look forward to adding my voice to work being done, and work that'll be done!! It's VERY IMPORTANT having those of Lived Experience such as I am to be doing this work along side of the many government programs, and various other organizations too. With that said... Let's Get This Party Started!!! 😊 😁



MICA BINGEL

I am excited to be a part of the SMAC governing Board! I started my career in human services over 20 years ago but have never served on a governing board, so am excited for this new opportunity! I have worked the entire spectrum of human service agencies from in-patient facilities to emergency shelters and everything in between.

I have held positions from Support Staff to Case Management, Shelter Director, Program Manager and now Senior Program Manager.

I have worked with both families and singles, adults and youth. I was involved with the Coordinated Entry system when it was first launched in the St. Cloud area (when all service agencies were doing the Vi-Spdat and entering the individual scores on a shared spreadsheet!). I love working with HOPE 4 Youth and see this as the “last” place I will work as I plan to work with this up-and-coming agency until I retire!

TRISHA COOK



My name is Trisha Cook and I currently work at CommonBond as a Housing Support Coordinator. It has been 18 years now that I have been working with families and individuals with very low to no incomes. Head Start as a Home visitor to working with homeless families in Anoka County with Family Promise. I worked with the Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP), working with at the family shelters in Hennepin and Anoka Counties. Worked with WCCA with the Head Start program until I had to move back. I worked with disabled adults on the CADI Waiver for three years with Allina, also doing Housing Support. I wanted to work with homeless families and found the job I have today. My job is to make referrals and get people into housing and help them live successfully. I have great compassion for others and could not think of doing anything else.

OLD BUSINESS



Shelter demonstration proposal-Jaime

Policy reviews-Liz

HENNEPIN COUNTY POLICY PROPOSAL



03/19/2024

BRIDGE TO SHELTER ACT

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Resolve vote—Saying YES to additional funding? Current bill language

Thinking about next steps—How could CoC/counties work together best in effort? (not digging into the content to solve, setting table for community planning)

POLICY REVIEWS



03/19/2024

POLICY REVIEW



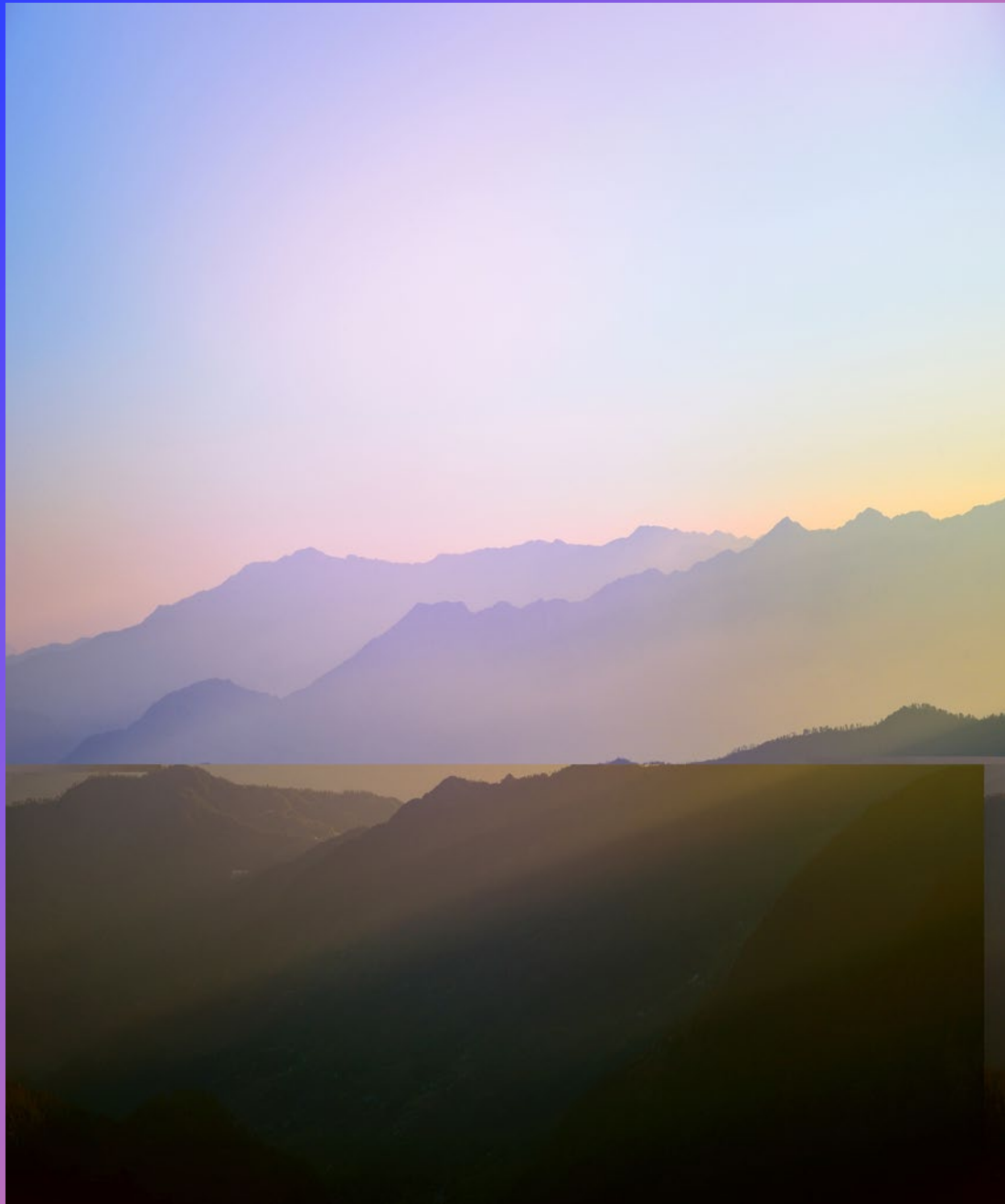
Specific CE policy for review

Where can policies be made? Process for tackling it. Seeking ad-hoc group to create proposal for next meeting

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT



Discussion



“Success is not defined by individual achievements, but by collective determination and vision.”

-Someone Smart-

*SPM'S / SPM'S /
SPM'S*

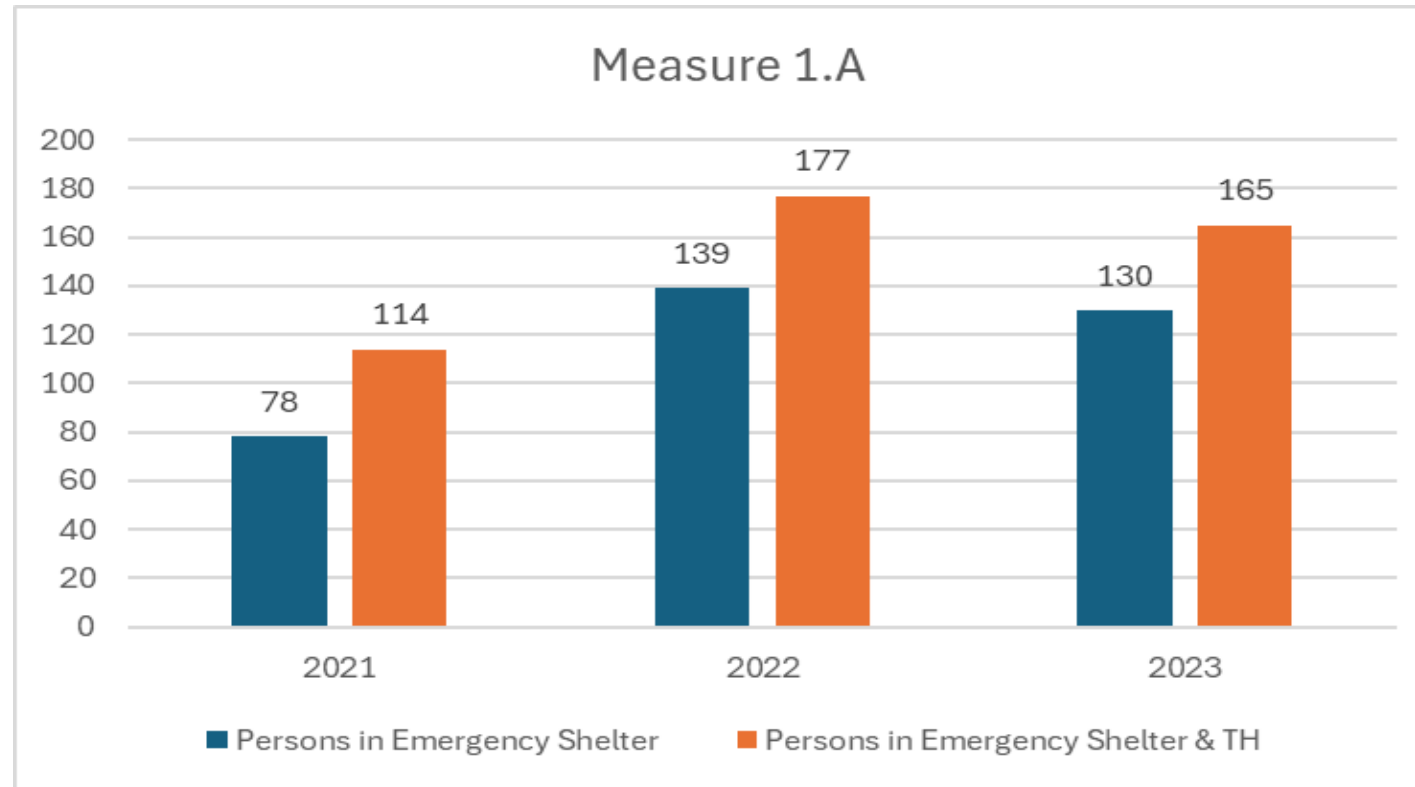


System Performance Measures

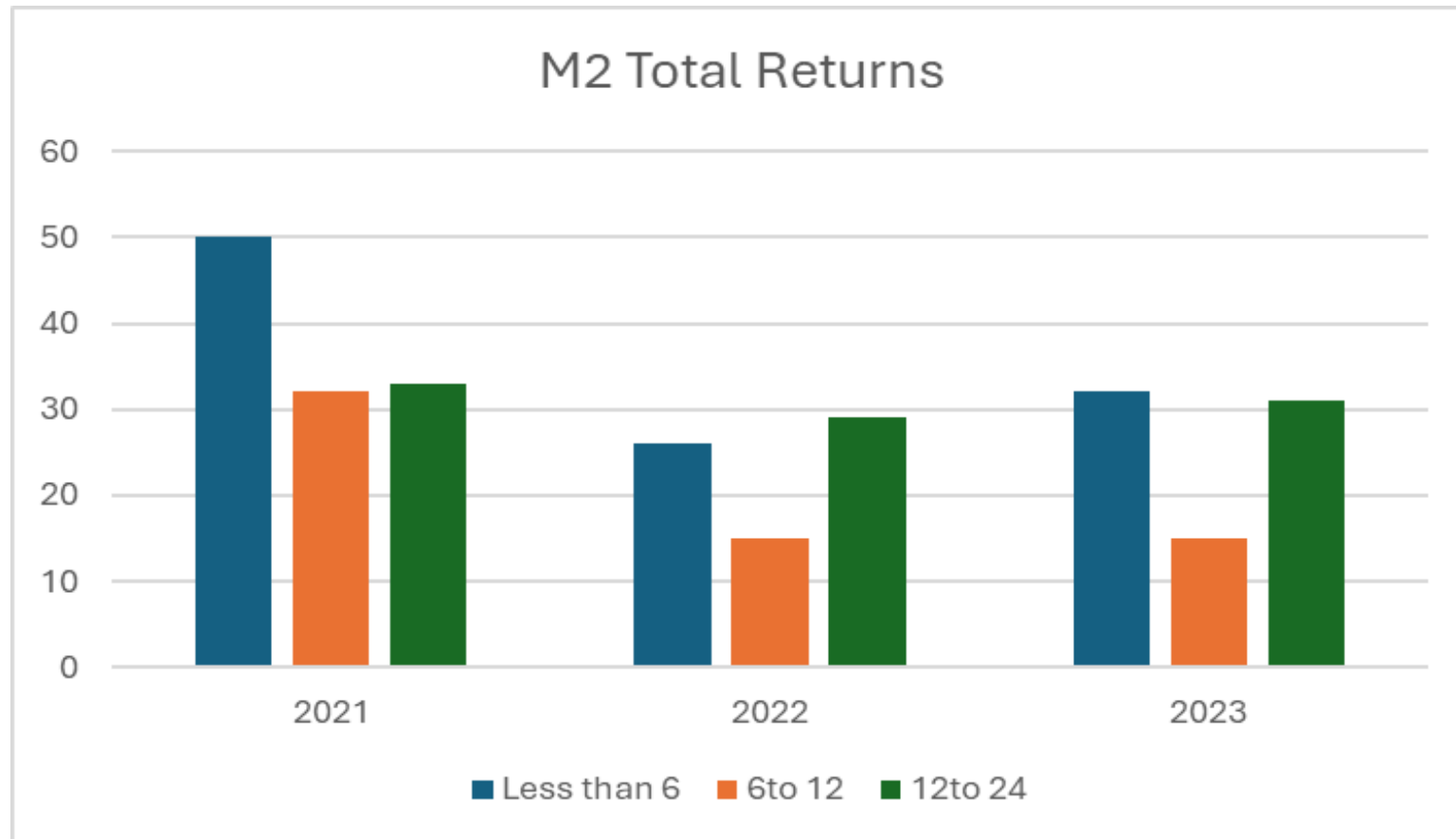
System Performance Measures

- **Background:** The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act emphasizes the importance of viewing local homeless response efforts as a coordinated system rather than independent programs. Communities are now required to measure their performance as a coordinated system and report it to HUD. Selection criteria have been established for HUD to award funding, encouraging communities to measure progress in meeting the needs of homeless individuals and report it to HUD. Continuums of Care (CoCs) play a crucial role in the planning process of Consolidated Plan jurisdictions, providing necessary information for homeless assistance planning. HUD utilizes system-level performance information for competitive funding allocations and to assess the national state of homeless response systems. HUD provides guidance, tools, and training for CoCs to collect, report, and interpret system performance measures to improve crisis response systems locally.
- **Purpose:** The purpose of the System Performance Measures is to help communities gauge their progress in preventing and ending homelessness and provide a more complete picture of how well a community is achieving this goal.

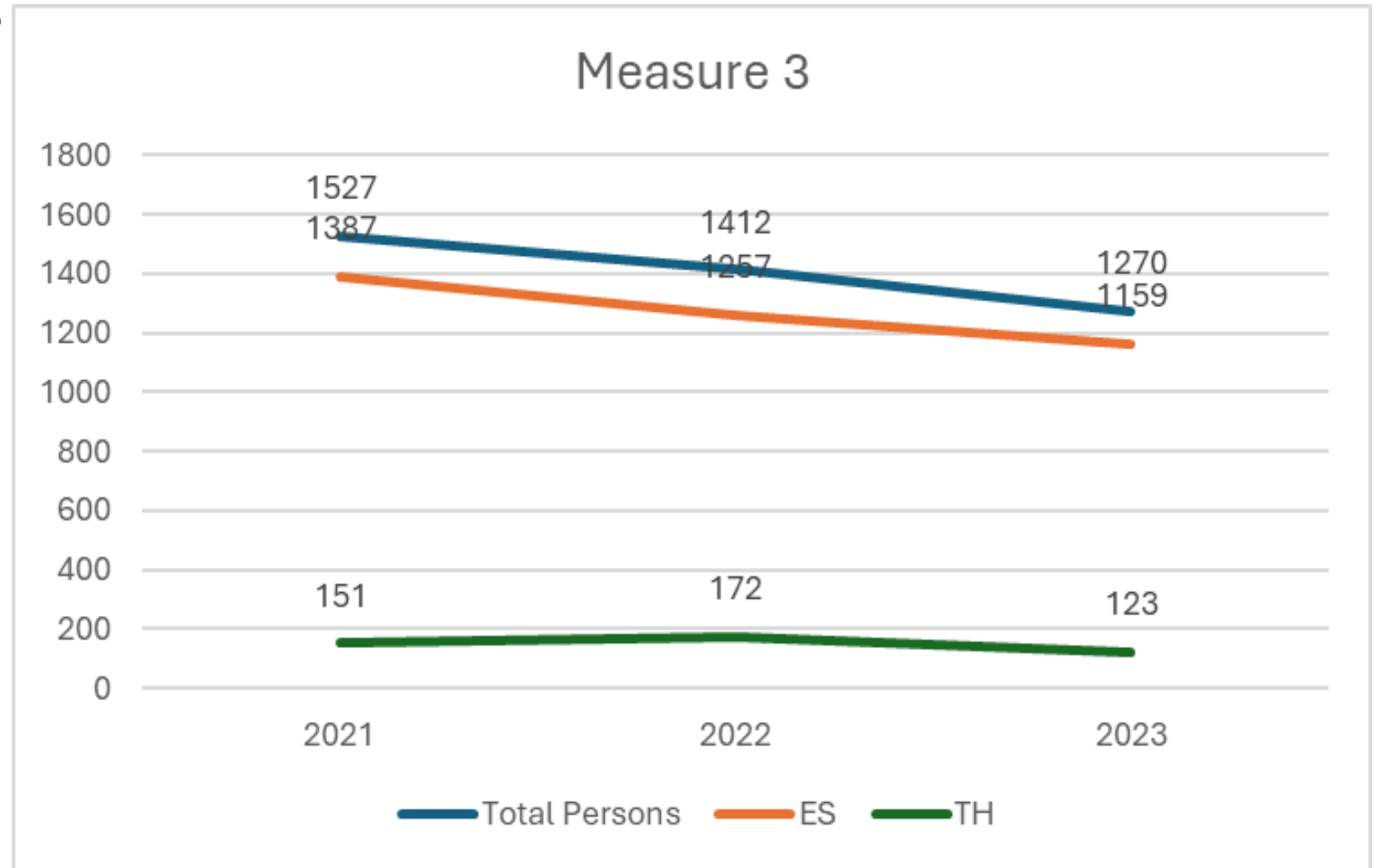
Measure 1 Length of Time homeless



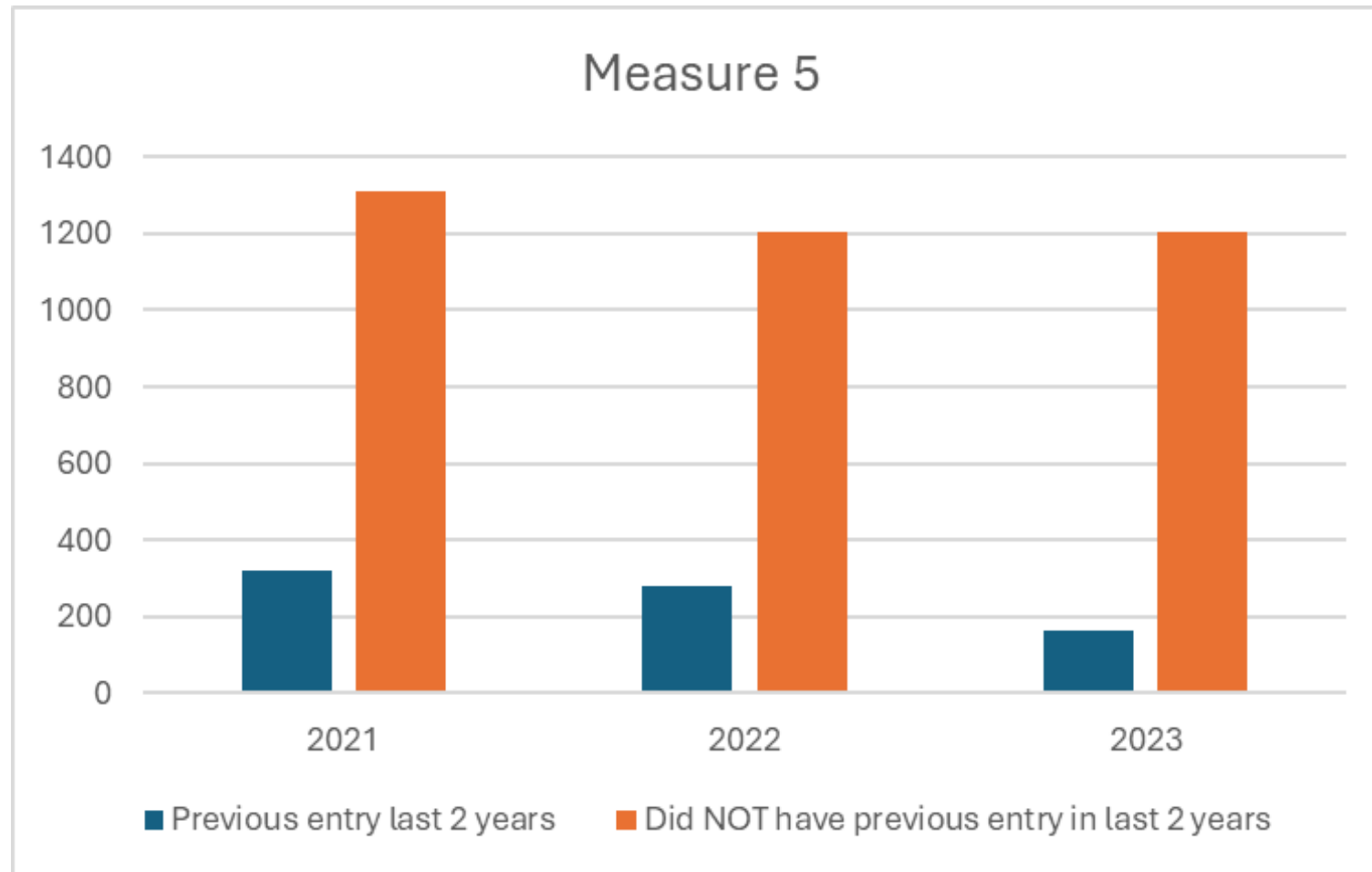
Measure 2 Total Returns



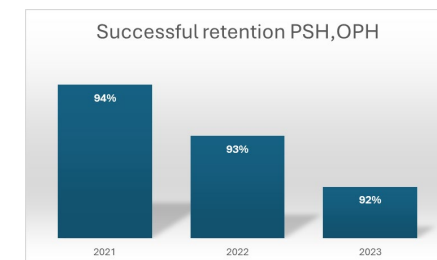
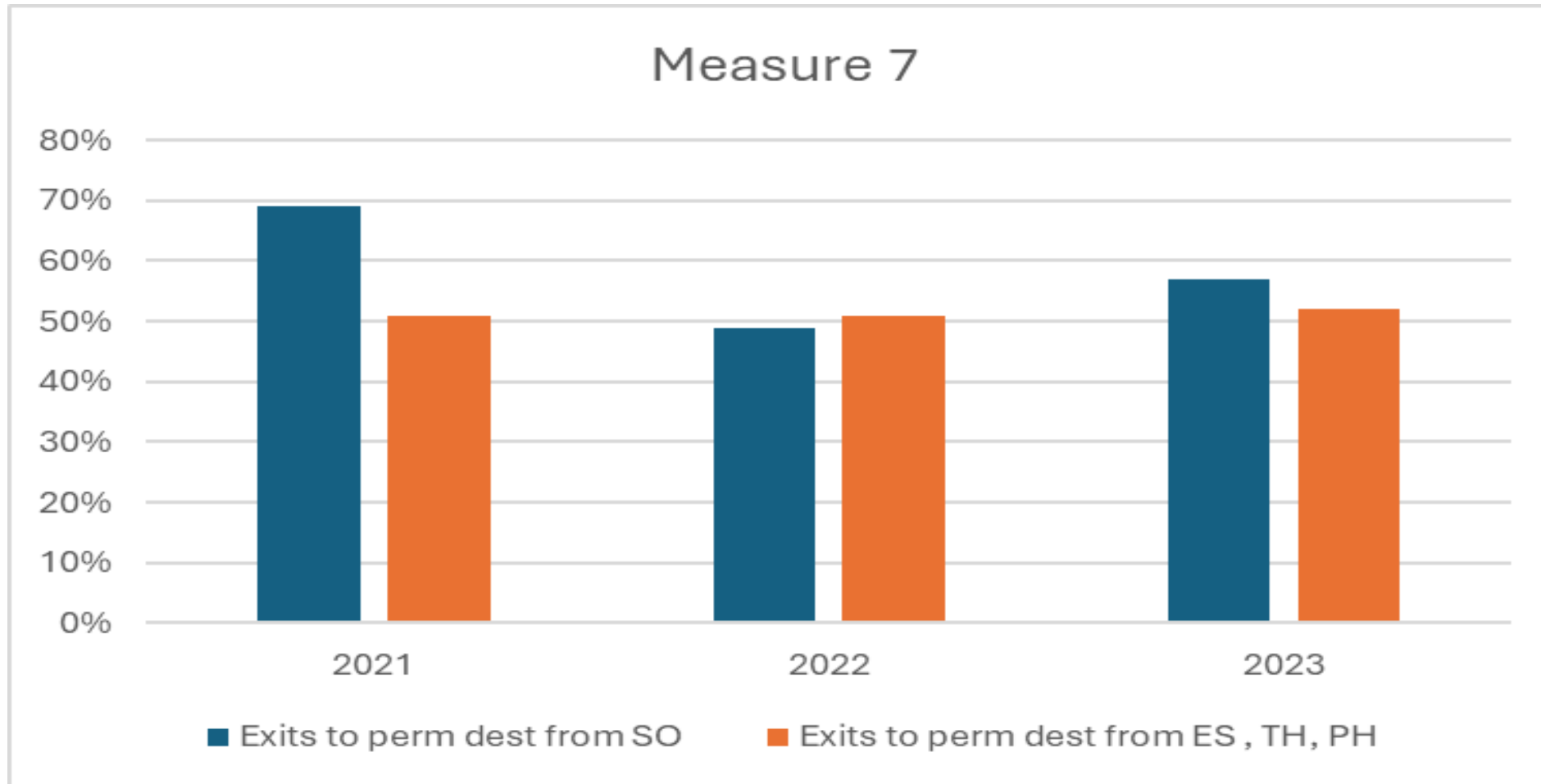
Measure 3 Number of People Homeless



Measure 5 Number of Persons who Become Homeless for the First Time



Measure 7 Successful Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing



Discussion

- 1) What trends/measure concern you the most?
- 2) Which Measure should we prioritize to improve in 2024?
 - How do we want to measure progress?
- 3) Which Committee should take on what measure?

NEXT STEPS

- Who's responsible for what?

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THANK YOU

Have a fabulous remainder of the week!!!

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Shelter Demonstration Pilot Proposal:

Problem Statement:

Lack of coordination among system partners and government fail to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring. Overreliance on local property taxes disincentivizes stronger county leadership in addressing homelessness.

Proposed Approach:

Metro focused demonstration program to incentivize county level leadership across the homelessness continuum.

Program Elements:

- Five-year pilot program
- \$54 million annually for the program.
- Inspired by metro demonstration program for housing with supports/group residential housing.
- Addresses critical systems gaps- particularly crisis response and operations/services for emergency shelter.
- Fills gaps existing programs do not fund:
 - Crisis response services
 - Shelters and outreach
 - Diversion
 - Unsheltered navigation services
 - Housing focused case management
 - Other critical services
- Emergency Shelter Programs were designed with shelters in mind, not for the entirety of the continua of care.
- Flexibility for counties to address unique approaches and target populations.
- Counties direct funding to providers to address unmet needs and serve target populations.
- Criteria:
 - HUD's identified continuums of care
 - There are three in the metro area.
 - DHS to select one non-metro awardee. Recommend selecting continuum with the highest HUD score.
 - Formula funded based on percentage of the *Homeless Point in Time Count*
- Counties/awardees need autonomy to direct funding to most critical areas of need and partners.

Benefits/Outcomes:

- Improved accountability to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.
- State level incentives to step up in proactive systems design and operations.
- Improved stability for vulnerable families.
- Improved access to shelter



HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

- Stronger supports in exiting shelter and entering long term housing.
- Clearer governmental accountability for delivery of effective homelessness services
- Ensuring target populations are equipped with the knowledge to uplift themselves through resource access and awareness.
- Strengthens the crisis response system while affordable and supportive housing are in development through the new Metro Housing Sales Tax and Statewide Affordable Housing Aid.
- Ensure existing programs can fulfill their intended purpose and are not expected to be reallocated outside of their scope.

Hennepin Sample Priorities:

- Single adults
- Families
- Emergency Shelter providers
- Unsheltered homelessness



Single Night Count of People Experiencing Homelessness

2023 Minnesota Homeless Study Counts Fact Sheet

Every three years,¹ 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: 1) face-to-face interviews with people who meet the [federal definition of homelessness](#), and 2) a count of people experiencing homelessness.

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

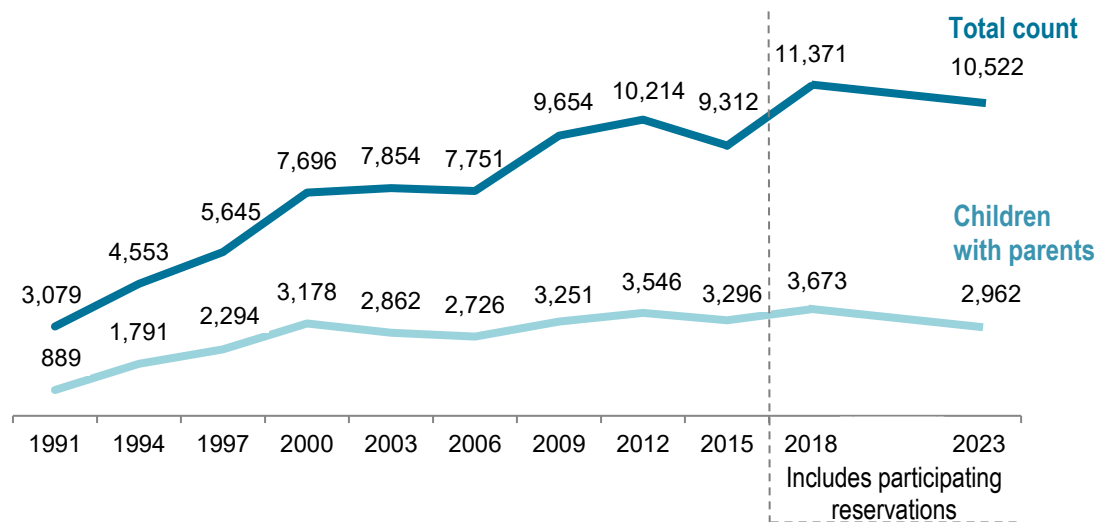
- *In shelter*: People staying in all known emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, transitional housing sites, and hotels/motels for which they receive a voucher.
- *Not in a formal shelter*: People staying outside, on transit, or temporarily doubled up, and identified through interviews in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

10,522 people experienced homelessness in Minnesota on a single night in 2023.

- Overall, this number represents a decrease of 7% since the 2018 study.
- It is important to note that this decrease masks year-over-year fluctuations in homelessness, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented funding for rental and housing assistance.

ONE-NIGHT STUDY COUNTS OF THE MINNESOTA HOMELESS POPULATION, 1991-2023



¹ The study was postponed for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore, it has been five years since the previous study in 2018.

Fewer children and youth are experiencing homelessness. However, the number of older adults (age 55+) experiencing homelessness has increased.

- Since 2018, there was a 19% decrease in the number of children who were homeless with their parents.
- There was a 17% decrease in the number of homeless youth (age 24 and younger) on their own without their parents.
- Older adults (age 55+) were the only age group that saw an increase over 2018 (7%). Although older adults are a growing group of people experiencing homelessness, they are still least likely to be homeless compared to their numbers in the overall population of Minnesotans.

2018 AND 2023 COUNTS BY AGE GROUP

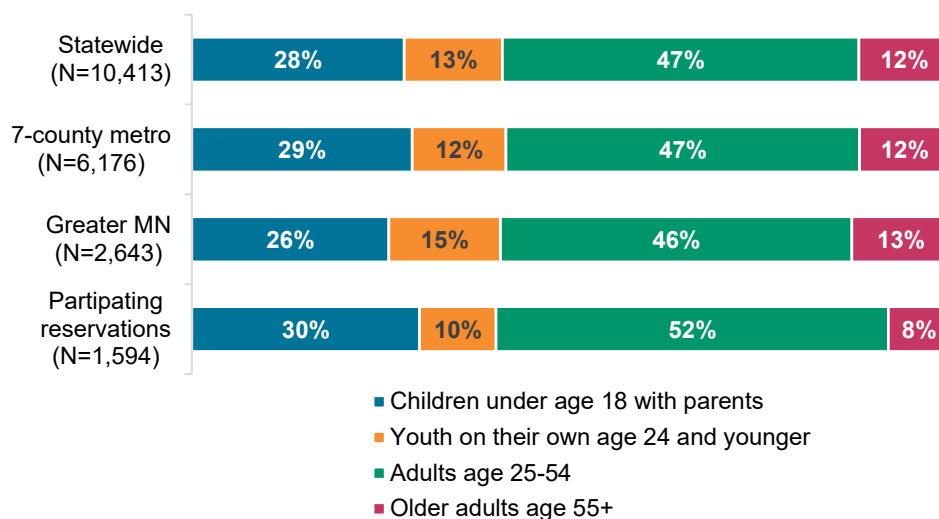
	2018 study	2023 study	% change (2018-2023)
Children under age 18 with parents	3,673	2,962	-19% ↓
Youth on their own age 24 and younger	1,587	1,315	-17% ↓
Adults age 25-54	4,934	4,932	<1% ↔
Older adults age 55+	1,129	1,204	+7% ↑
Total^a	11,371	10,522	-7% ↓

^a Total includes the number of people who were in detox and homeless on the night of the study (N=27), as well as those people whose ages were unknown (N=82).

Children and youth make up a sizeable proportion of the homeless population.

- Together, children and youth (age 24 and younger) account for 4 out of every 10 people experiencing homelessness.
- The age distribution of people experiencing homelessness is similar for the 7-county Twin Cities metro, greater Minnesota, and participating reservations.

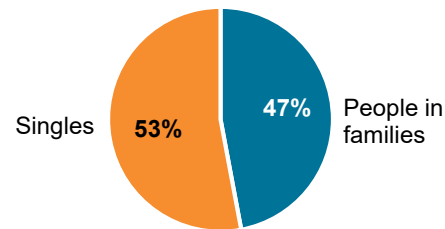
AGES OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY GEOGRAPHY



Families make up nearly half of Minnesota’s homeless population.

- People in families (with children under 18) account for 47% of people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.
- The proportion of families is slightly higher in the Twin Cities metro (48%) than it is in greater Minnesota (41%).

PEOPLE IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND SINGLES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

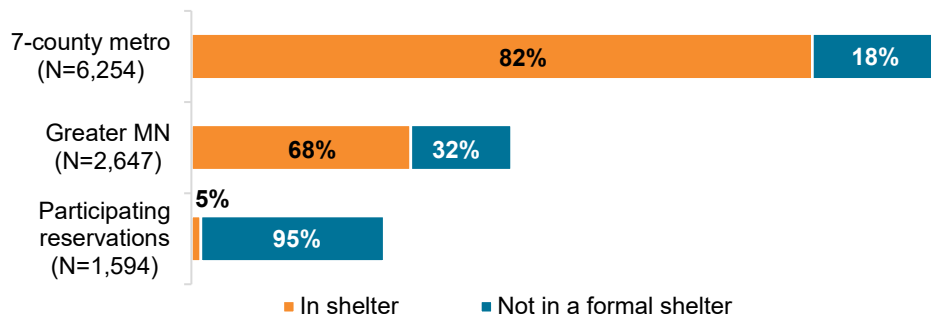


Across the state, one-third of people experiencing homelessness are not in a formal shelter.

It is impossible to identify all people experiencing homelessness who are not in a formal shelter.² These numbers can be affected by variations in outreach efforts and the visibility of the population.

- Overall, 33% of people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota are not in a formal shelter. There was a smaller proportion of people not in a formal shelter in the Twin Cities metro (18%), compared to greater Minnesota (32%) and participating reservations (95%) where there are fewer shelters available.

PEOPLE LIVING IN SHELTER VERSUS NOT IN A FORMAL SHELTER, BY GEOGRAPHY



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.

² 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.

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 statewide and regional reports which break down the counts data by shelter types, age, gender, race, and family status.

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 the statewide counts to get a more complete number of people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. This is the first time researchers requested permission to present this more complete count in this overall counts fact sheet (permission was granted for 2018 data after its publication). Since the first Reservation Homeless Study in 2006, data have been analyzed and aggregated separately, guided by principles of data sovereignty. Therefore, please note this change when making comparisons to pre-2018 counts.

Additional resources on homelessness in Minnesota

Wilder's Minnesota Homeless Study is considered the most comprehensive source of descriptive information about homeless adults, youth, and children in Minnesota. It is not intended to be a complete count because no study strategy can locate all people experiencing homelessness. Other sources of information that complement our understanding of homelessness include:

- An annual January point in time (PIT) count of persons living in shelters, outdoors, and in places not meant for habitation. This count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which includes client information compiled by all providers of federal- and state-funded emergency shelter and supportive housing programming.

Together, these sources are used nationwide to inform federal, state, and local policies to prevent and end homelessness.

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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.

MARCH 2024