Homelessness in North Dakota

Statewide Point-in-Time Survey of Homelessness,
Conducted by the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Inc.
On January 26, 2005

Acknowledgements

The North Dakota Coalition For Homeless People would like to recognize the members of the Continuum of Care Needs Assessment Committee and Project Coordinator, the North Dakota Department of Commerce's Division of Community Services, the Social Science Research Institute at the University of North Dakota, the City of Fargo Planning Department, as well as the agencies, caseworkers and staff, and the homeless individuals who participated in this survey. The high-level of participation by people in our state ultimately helps us address the challenge to decrease and prevent homelessness.

Continuum of Care Needs Assessment Subcommittee

Data Collection

Surveys were distributed to 172 agencies including: emergency shelter providers, transitional housing providers, social services agencies, community action agencies, human service centers, housing authorities, healthcare providers, emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, faith-based organizations, and law enforcement agencies. A thank you goes to the staff and caseworkers who conducted the survey, and to the homeless persons, who provided this important information.

Data Preparation and Entry

- City of Fargo Planning Department

Data Analysis and Report Production

- City of Fargo Planning Department
- Social Science Research Institute at the University of North Dakota

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: KEY FINDINGS

The purpose of this study is to assess the extent of homelessness in the state of North Dakota and to identify the most common characteristics of homeless people, the primary reasons for homelessness, and the most important basic service needs of homeless people. This study also looks specifically at the characteristics and service needs of veterans and the chronically homeless, and provides information on characteristics of homeless people and service needs by region.

The comprehensive data collected with this survey provides information that will:

- Support North Dakota's Coalition for the Homeless People's (NDCHP) requests for funding for the homeless

- Help community partners (service providers, policy makers, etc.) to better understand homelessness and to work together to solve homeless issues

- Further NDCHP's mission to decrease and prevent homelessness and its vision to ensure that housing and other basic needs are within everyone's reach in an affordable and dignified manner

- Assist the North Dakota Interagency Council on Homelessness in its work to end chronic homelessness in North Dakota

The survey was distributed on January 14, 2005 to 172 North Dakota agencies that may have had contact with people who are homeless. The survey mailing list included agencies that provide housing for the homeless, social services agencies, community action agencies, human services centers, law enforcement agencies, health care providers, emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, housing authorities and faith-based organizations.

Agency staff members administered the survey to their homeless clients on January 26, 2005, providing direct assistance to individuals as needed. The results of the surveys are unduplicated counts for individual agencies. A federally accepted definition of who should be considered homeless was given to each surveyor. Information relating to demographics, education, employment, income, veteran status, common characteristics, and service utilization was collected. A 90 percent participation rate was achieved with the point-in-time survey.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: HOMELESS POPULATION

The point-in-time survey identified a total of 655 homeless persons on January 26, 2005, including 500 adults and 155 children under age 18. Of the 480 persons surveyed, 392 were unaccompanied adults and the remaining 88 adults were accompanied by other family members, including spouses and children.

Of the 500 adults counted with the survey, 44% were female and 56% were male (gender was unknown for 98 adults) (Figure 1). Thirty-two percent of the unaccompanied adults were female and 69% were male (the gender of 97 adults was unknown). Of adults in family units, 76% were female and 24% were male.

Seventy percent of the 403 adults for whom race is known were white; 25% were American Indian.

Twenty-nine percent of the homeless adults surveyed (n=339) had completed high school, 19% had completed their GED, and 7% were college graduates.

Figure 1. Gender of Homeless Adults by Family Status
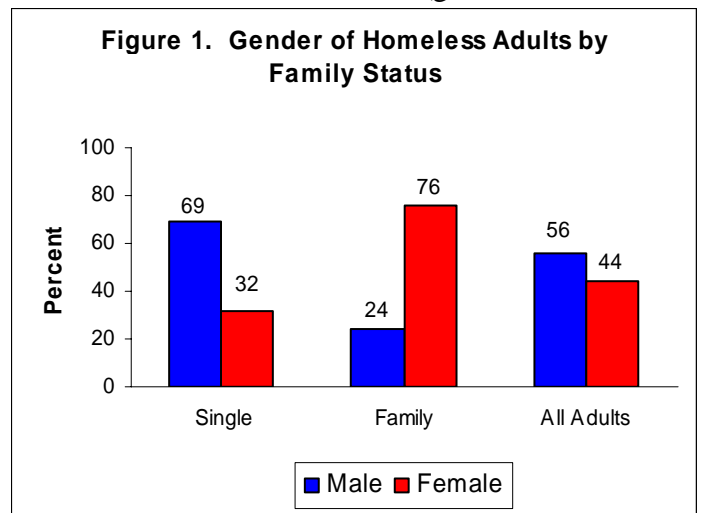
The average age of all adults was 37.9, 34.6 for females, 37.3 for males, and 46.7 for those for whom gender was unknown (Figure 2). The average age of unaccompanied adults was 39.8, 38.0 for females, 37.8 for males, and 46.7 for those for whom gender was not known. Adults in families were younger, with an average age of 31.5, 31.1 for females, and 33.0 for males.
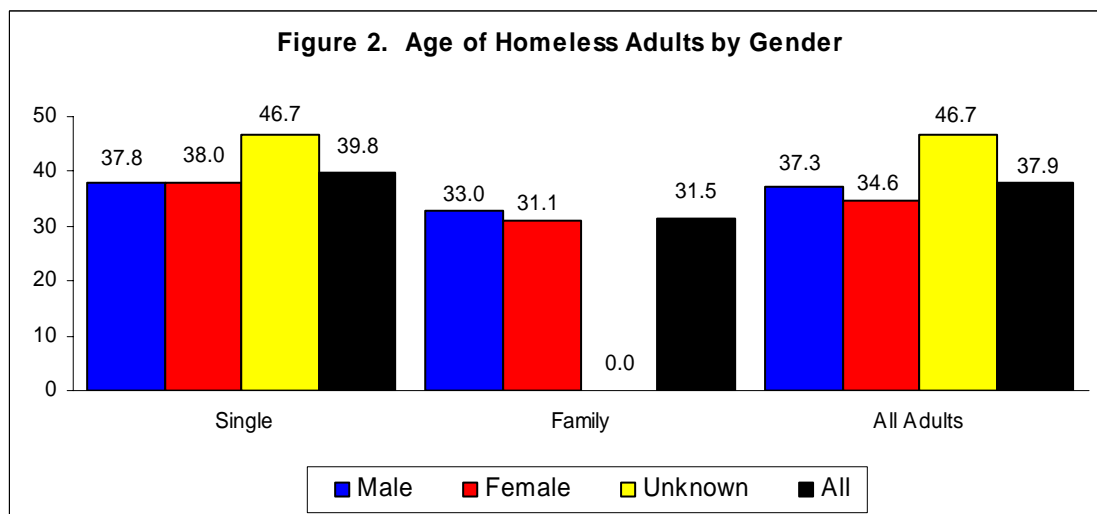
Figure 2. Age of Homeless Adults by Gender

Length of Homelessness

For people who reported being homeless for less than one month, the average number of days homeless was 9.6 days. The average number of months for those who have been homeless less than a year was 4.6 months and the average number of years for those who have been homeless for years was 4.0 years. Overall, respondents reported the average length of time for being homeless was 1.4 years.

Twenty-nine percent of the 392 unaccompanied adults (113 individuals) met the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of chronic homelessness. HUD considers someone to be "chronically homeless" is they are an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Figure 3. Chronic Homelessness by Family Type

In addition to the 113 individuals that fit HUD's definition of chronic homelessness, 18% of the 88 families included in the survey (16 families) met the definition of "chronic homeless" except for the fact that they were in a family as opposed to being an unaccompanied individual.

Figure 3 shows chronic homelessness by family type. Overall, twenty-seven percent of the 479 survey respondents are defined as chronically homeless.

Sources of Income

The five main sources of income for the individuals surveyed were jobs, family and friends, food stamps, Medicaid, and Social Security (Table 1). The primary source of income was jobs.

Table 1. Primary Sources of Income

Income Source	Percent
Jobs	51
Family and friends	19
Food stamps	18
Medicaid	10
Social Security	10

Veteran Status

Sixteen percent of those surveyed were veterans (75 individuals) – veterans comprise roughly 13% of the total population in North Dakota. Almost half of the homeless veterans surveyed are currently receiving veteran's benefits.

Common Characteristics

Personal economics, substance abuse and mental illness are the most common areas of shared experience for the homeless people surveyed.

Figure 4 shows that more than half were unable to afford rent. Forty-one percent of the homeless surveyed were unemployed and 35% indicated having money management issues.

Figure 4. Five Most Common Characteristics
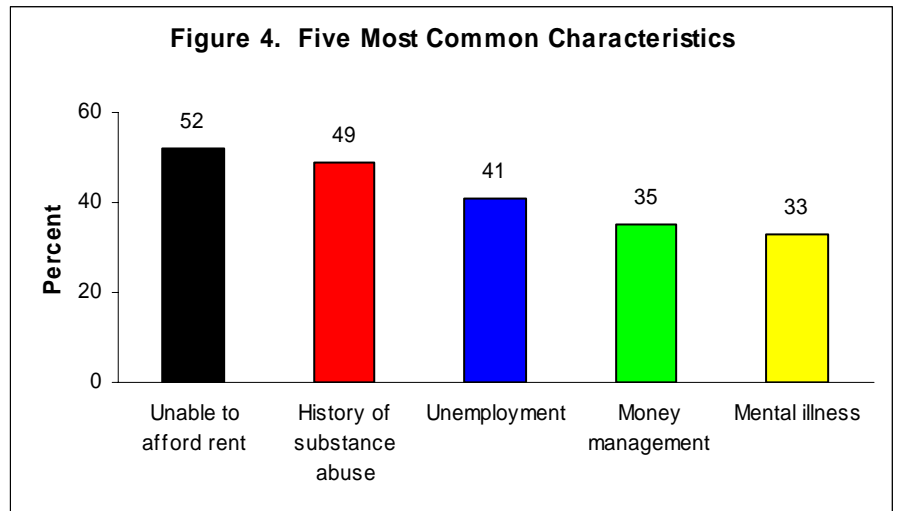
Forty-nine percent reported a history of substance abuse; comparatively, the 2002-2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates that 14% of North Dakota's population (over age 12) reported either alcohol dependence or illicit drug dependence or abuse in the last year. Thirty-three percent of homeless respondents reported having a mental illness.

Primary Reasons for Homelessness

More than one-third of people surveyed indicated that the primary reason they were homeless was because they could not afford rent. Another 31% indicated the primary reason for their homelessness was a history of substance abuse.

Roughly 20% of respondents said that either unemployment or mental illness was the cause of homelessness (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Most Common Primary Reasons for Homelessness
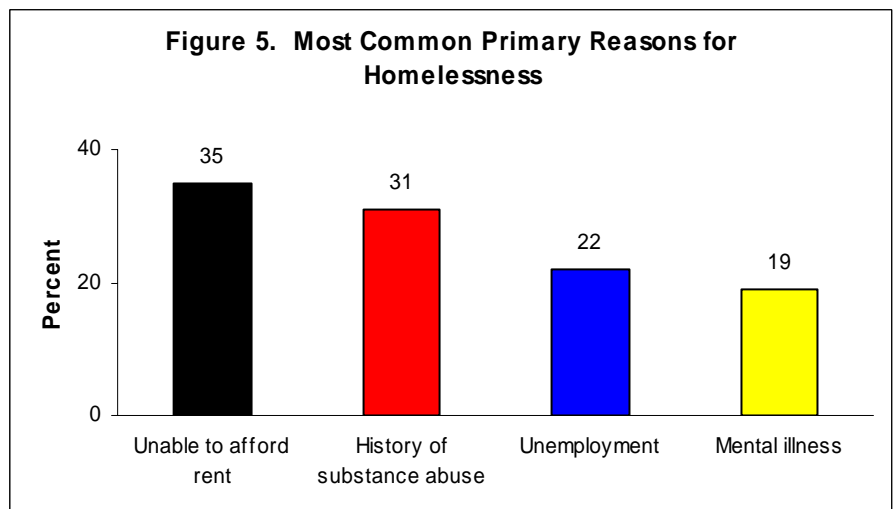
Service Utilization

The most highly utilized services were those that provide for basic needs, including food, clothing, case management services, and emergency shelter (average utilization rate of 52%).

About one-third of homeless individuals surveyed used transportation services and slightly more than 40% accessed transitional housing.

Services that provided for health related needs (medication, mental health care, medical and dental care, and substance abuse services) were utilized by approximately 25% of the individuals surveyed.

Relatively fewer individuals receive stabilizing assistance (14%) or other mainstream resources (9%). The services utilized most often by survey respondents are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Utilization of Services

Service	Percent
Food/hot meals	64%
Clothing	50%
Case management	50%
Emergency shelter	45%
Transitional housing	42%
Medication	36%
Transportation	35%
Substance abuse services	28%
Mental health care	27%

Services considered by survey respondents to be most "difficult to access" were permanent housing (14%), transportation assistance (12%), and medical and dental care (17%).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Chronic homelessness affects 113 unaccompanied adults and 16 families. Region 5 (Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele and Traill Counties) has a much larger percentage of the chronically homeless than the other regions of the state (Figure 6). Fifty-five percent of the homeless in Region 5 are chronically homeless, compared to less than 18% for all other regions.

Figure 6. Chronic Homelessness by Region
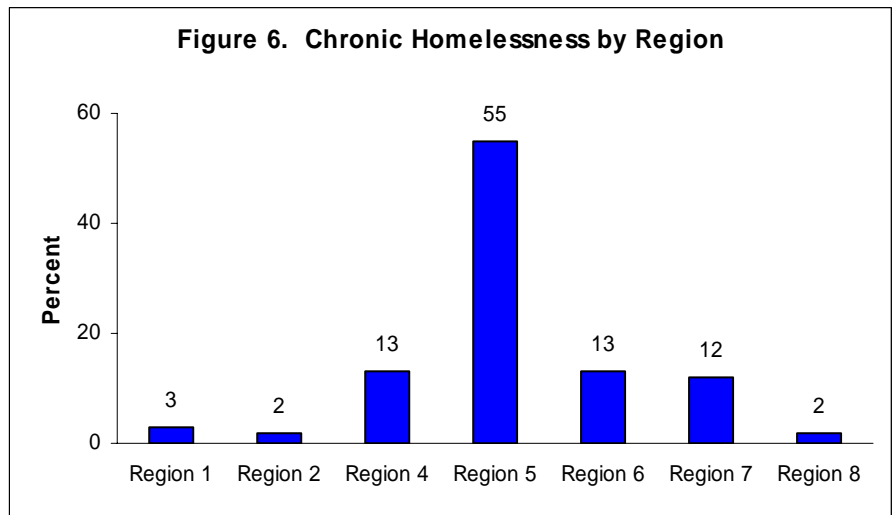
Veterans make up a larger share of the chronically homeless (21%) than they do the non-chronic homeless population (14%).

Sources of Income

The chronically homeless are more likely to receive income from SSI, Social Security and veteran's benefits than the general homeless population, but are less likely to receive food stamps than those not chronically homeless.

Common Characteristics

The most common characteristic of the chronically homeless in North Dakota is a history of substance abuse. Almost 75% of chronic homeless adults report substance abuse as an issue.

In general, in North Dakota the chronically homeless are more likely to have a history of substance abuse, to have money management problems, to experience mental illness, and to have medical problems than the homeless persons who are not chronically homeless (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Common Characteristics by Chronic Status
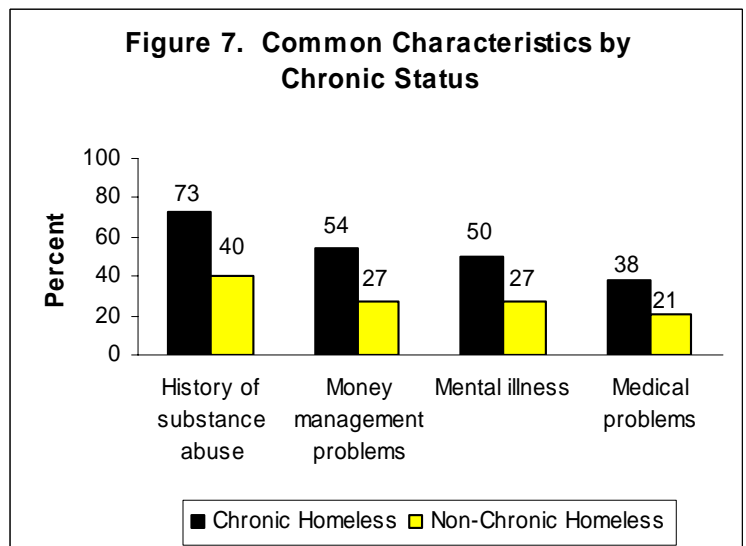
Primary Reasons for Chronic Homelessness

Among the primary reasons for homelessness, significant differences were apparent between those who are chronically homeless and those who are not.

The three areas of largest difference between these groups are a history of substance abuse, mental illness and medical problems (Figure 8). In all cases, the chronically homeless are more likely to indicate that these are the primary reasons for their homelessness.

Figure 8. Primary Reasons for Homelessness by Chronic Status

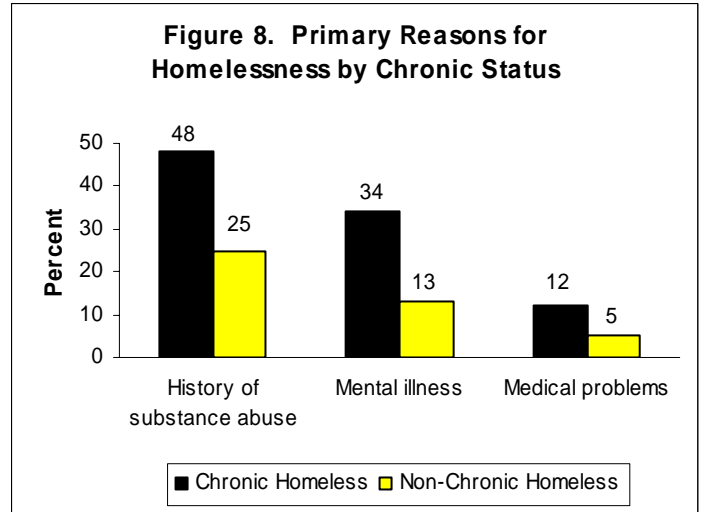|	History of substance abuse	Mental illness	Medical problems
Chronic Homeless	48	34	12
Non-Chronic Homeless	25	13	5

Utilization of Services

Significant differences were found in the utilization of eight types of services. The chronically homeless were <u>more</u> likely to have received clothing, medication, SSI, job training, substance abuse services, mental health care and medical and dental care. They were <u>less</u> likely to have received domestic violence services.

Figure 9 presents the percentage by "chronic" status for the three services that showed the largest variation in rate of utilization.

Figure 9. Utilization of Services by Chronic Status

	Substance abuse services	Clothing	Medication
Chronic Homeless	3	63	48
Non-Chronic Homeless	25	45	31
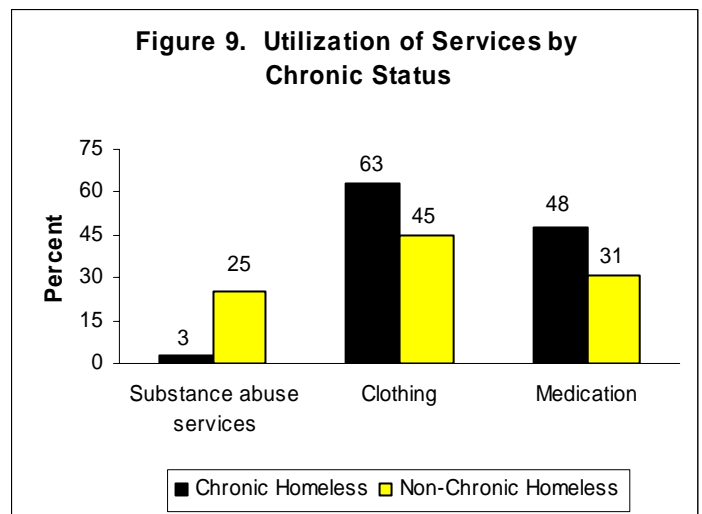
Difficulty in Accessing Services

When asked if they had difficulty accessing particular services in the last month, the chronically homeless reported having had more difficulty obtaining transportation assistance, mental health care, substance abuse services, house planning, life skills training, case management services, SSI and permanent housing than the general homeless population. The major difference was in access to transportation assistance, with 21% of the chronic homeless reporting difficulty in accessing this service compared to 8% of those not chronically homeless.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: DIFFERENCES BY REGION

North Dakota is divided into eight planning regions. Survey results are compared by region in this section of the document. The following map shows the regions used for analysis purposes.
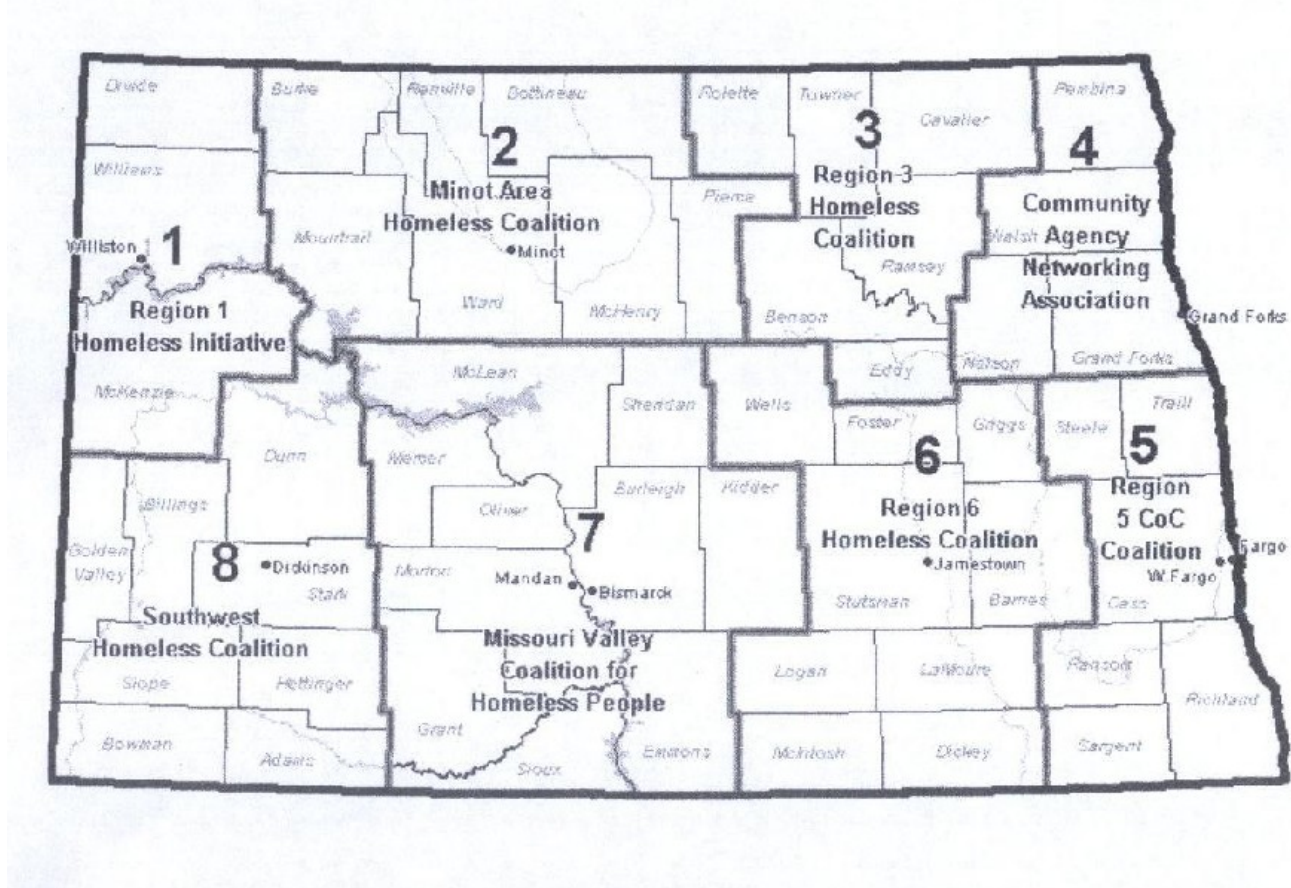
The 655 homeless individuals counted statewide in the Point-in-Time survey were distributed across the eight regions as follows:

	Adults (age 18+)	Children (<18 years old)	Total Individuals
Region 1	20	2	22
Region 2	29	22	51
Region 3	0	0	0
Region 4	123	33	156
Region 5	202	47	249
Region 6	23	2	25
Region 7	82	42	124
Region 8	21	7	28
Total - ND	500	155	655

Gender

The number of females in the homeless adult population is highest in Region 2 and Region 5, and lowest in Region 1, Region 6, and Region 8 (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Gender by Region

Region	Female	Male
Region 1	29	71
Region 2	68	32
Region 4	30	70
Region 5	55	45
Region 6	29	71
Region 7	46	54
Region 8	52	48
ND	44	56
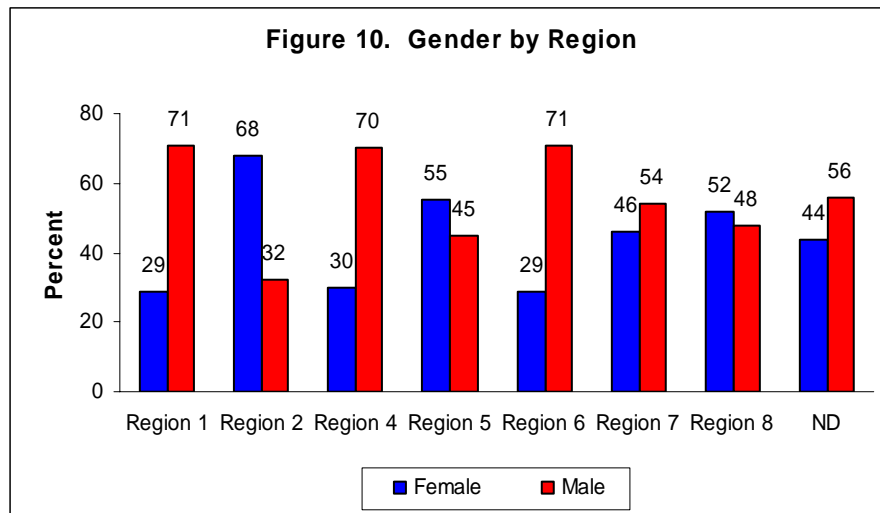
Age

Overall, homeless individuals in Region 7 tend to be younger than the average and those in Region 6 tend to be older than the average (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Average Age by Region

Region	Average Age
Region 1	34.9
Region 2	34.3
Region 4	36.4
Region 5	37.7
Region 6	43.5
Region 7	31.1
Region 8	39.3
ND	36.1
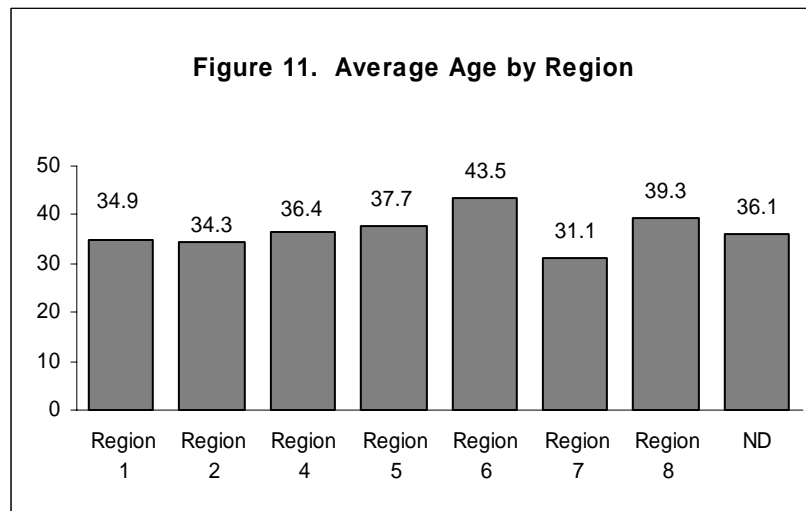
Educational Level

Region 8 had larger percentages of homeless individuals with college degrees (25%) than did other regions of the state. Overall, Region 8 had the largest percentage of adults with high school/GED educations or higher, and Region 1 had the smallest percentage of adults with this level of education (Figure 12).

Figure 12. High School or Higher Level of Education by Region

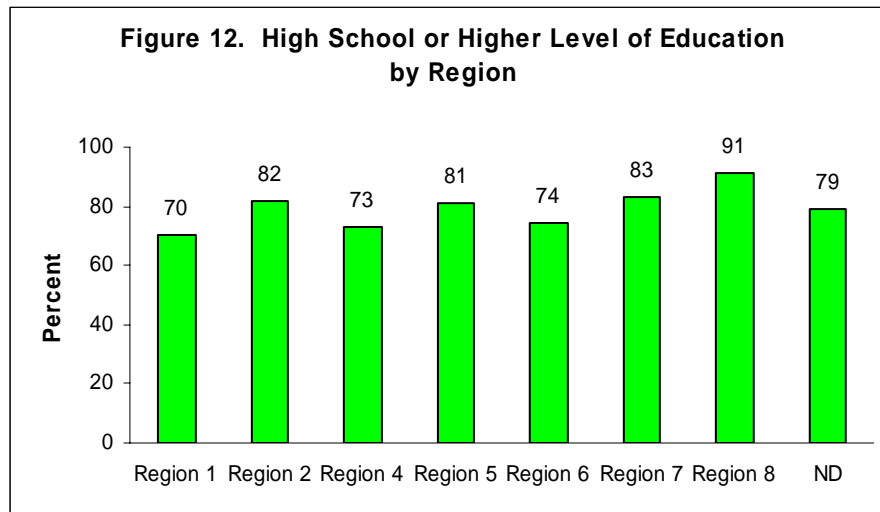| Region	Percent
Region 1	70
Region 2	82
Region 4	73
Region 5	81
Region 6	74
Region 7	83
Region 8	91
ND	79

Sources of Income

There was significant variation in source of income to homeless individuals across regions. Table 3 presents the sources of income where significant differences were found and also the regions that varied significantly from the state average. All percentages in Region 5 were close to the state averages. Region 6 varied significantly in the percentage of the homeless receiving income from all sources except veteran's benefits.

Table 3. Regions Different from the State Average in Sources of Income

Source of Income	Higher than Average	Lower than Average
Jobs	Region 6	Region 1 Region 8
Family or friends	Region 7 Region 8	Region 1 Region 6
Food stamps	Region 2 Region 4	Region 6
Social Security	Region 6	Region 2
TANF	Region 7	Region 1 Region 6
SSI	Region 6	Region 1 Region 7
Veteran's benefits		Region 8
Medicaid	Region 6	
SSDI	Region 6	

Common Characteristics

Table 4 presents the characteristics where significant differences were found between regions as well as regional profiles that varied significantly from the state average. Note that Region 4 was close to state averages in all characteristics and Region 6 varied significantly from state averages in all characteristics listed.

Table 4. Regions Different from the State Average
Characteristics of the Homeless

Characteristic	Higher than Average	Lower than Average
Mental illness	Region 6	
History of substance abuse	Region 1	Region 2
Victim of domestic violence	Region 7	Region 6
Unemployment	Region 1	Region 6
Employment	Region 5	Region 1
		Region 6
		Region 7
		Region 8
Underemployment	Region 6	
Parolee or probationer	Region 7	Region 2
		Region 6
Family breakup	Region 2	Region 6
Unable to afford rent	Region 1	Region 6
		Region 8
Can't locate an apartment	Region 1	Region 6
Relocated		Region 6
Money management problems	Region 6	Region 2
Discharged from psychiatric hosp.	Region 6	

Primary Reasons for Homelessness

Table 5 identifies the regions whose profile varied significantly from other regions and/or from the state average with regards to the primary reasons the local homeless population was homeless.

Region 4 and Region 5 are close to the state averages in all areas. Regions 2 and 6 appeared to be the most unique in that they exhibited the largest number of differences.

Region 6 respondents answered the question "what is the primary reason you are homeless" with a response of "mental illness" at a rate that far exceeded the rate in other regions. Eighty-three percent of the homeless in Region 6 identified mental illness as the primary reason for their homelessness as opposed to an average of 19% in other regions of the state. While this variation is large, it is fairly predictable; the State Hospital is located in Region 6.

Table 5. Regions Different from the State Average
Primary Reasons for Homelessness

Primary Reason	Higher than Average	Lower than Average
Mental illness	Region 6	Region 2
History of substance abuse	Region 1	Region 2
Victim of domestic violence	Region 2	
	Region 8	
Unemployment	Region 1	Region 6
Underemployment	Region 7	
Parolee or probationer	Region 7	
Family breakup	Region 7	Region 6
Unable to afford rent		Region 6
		Region 8
Can't locate an apartment	Region 1	
Relocated	Region 7	
Money management problems	Region 1	
Bad credit history	Region 7	

Utilization of Services

Table 6 lists the most common services used by homeless people in North Dakota, identifying specifically the regions in which the percentage of persons using the service was significantly higher or lower than the state average for that service.

Individuals in Region 4 and Region 5 were close to state averages in all service categories. There was relatively higher variation in Regions 1 and 6 and relatively less variation in Regions 2, 7, and 8.

Region 6 again exhibited the greatest variation from the statewide average. Ninety-two percent of the homeless in Region 6 receive mental health care compared to 27% overall; 96% receive medication compared to 36% overall; and 100% receive transportation assistance compared to a state average of 35%.

Table 6. Regions Different from the State Average
Utilization of Services

Service Area	Higher than Average	Lower than Average
Basic Needs:		
Emergency shelter		Region 1
		Region 6
Food/hot meals		Region 1
Clothing		Region 1
		Region 8
Case management services	Region 1	
	Region 6	
	Region 8	
Health Care Needs:		
Mental health care		Region 6
Medication	Region 1	Region 6
Domestic violence services	Region 2	
	Region 8	
Substance abuse services	Region 7	Region 6
Stabilizing Needs:		
Transitional housing	Region 6	Region 1
Transportation assistance	Region 2	Region 1
	Region 6	

Difficulty in Accessing Services

There were smaller, but still statistically significant, differences among regions regarding the difficulty of accessing some needed services. The homeless in Region 1 experienced more difficulty in accessing transportation assistance and those in Region 7 experienced more difficulty accessing case management services, medical and dental care, medication, substance abuse services, house planning, and relocation assistance. Regions 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8 were close to state averages in all service areas.

OVERVIEW: POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY OF HOMELESS PEOPLE IN NORTH DAKOTA

This study presents findings from a point-in-time survey of homeless people for the state of North Dakota. The survey took place throughout the state on January 26, 2005. The assessment was conducted for the North Dakota Coalition of for Homeless People, Inc. The purpose of the study is to assess the extent of homelessness in the state of North Dakota and to identify the most common characteristics and the most important basic service needs of the homeless.

The main areas of study included:
- o extent of homelessness in North Dakota
- o sources of income for the homeless
- o characteristics of the homeless
- o primary reasons for homelessness
- o basic service needs received, pending, and those most difficult to access
- o main differences in characteristics and access to basic services by veteran status, chronic homelessness status, and region

The Point-In-Time Survey of Homeless People for the State of North Dakota is divided into three chapters. Chapter 1 covers homeless persons in the state of North Dakota, Chapter 2 covers the chronically homeless, and Chapter 3 describes differences by geographical region. Appendix A contains the survey document and Appendix B contains definitions of terms.

Methodology

The survey was distributed on January 14, 2005, to 172 agencies throughout the state that may have had contact with people who are homeless. The survey mailing list included agencies that provide housing for the homeless, social services agencies, community action agencies, human services centers, law enforcement agencies, health care providers, emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, housing authorities, and faith-based organizations. Agency staff administered the survey to their homeless clients on January 26, 2005, providing direct assistance to individuals as needed.

Each administering agency was provided with written instructions for conducting the survey and used U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of persons and families who are homeless. These definitions of homeless, chronic homeless, and chronic homeless family are included in Appendix B.

The completed surveys were returned to the Continuum of Care Project Coordinator. Members of the North Dakota Continuum of Care Needs Assessment Subcommittee and the Continuum of Care Project Coordinator made follow-up telephone calls to agencies that had failed to respond.

Persons who had all of the following characteristics were counted as chronically homeless: living in an emergency shelter or in a place not meant for human habitation; single individual not

accompanied by family members; disabled by substance abuse, mental illness, a physical disability, or chronic medical problem; reported being homeless for one year or longer or four or more times during the last three years.

A 90% response rate was achieved with the point-in-time survey. This high rate of response from agencies was due to additional work by the Needs Assessment Subcommittee to promote participation. A postcard announcing the coming survey was mailed to agencies three weeks before the survey was mailed. Two days before the survey was to be conducted, Subcommittee members called agencies in their regions to remind agency staffs about the survey, answer questions, and send out another copy of the survey if it had not been received. Subcommittee members and the CoC Project Coordinator made follow-up telephone calls two days after the deadline for returning completed surveys to remind agencies to return their surveys. At that time a response was recorded from agency staff if the agency had not served any homeless on January 26, 2005, and not returned a survey.

No survey process, however thorough, can count all the homeless persons in the community. The nature of homelessness combined with the vast geographic size and rural character of North Dakota make it a challenge to conduct a comprehensive count. The Needs Assessment Subcommittee agreed that conducting the point-in-time survey the last week of January, as required by HUD, produced a more accurate count of the sheltered homeless as many moved inside to escape the statewide cold temperatures.

In all regions, local police, county sheriff's departments, and Human Service Center staff or agencies that typically work with the unsheltered homeless made a special effort to team up to count the unsheltered homeless. Specific outdoor locations where the unsheltered homeless typically stayed were identified in advance and individuals were assigned to go to these areas to count and conduct interviews. These areas included train depots, grain elevators, bars, apartment building parking lots and alleys behind apartments, and the dumpsters outside the back doors of grocery stores and other businesses.

CHAPTER 1. HOMELESSNESS IN NORTH DAKOTA

Region

North Dakota service providers in eleven cities in eleven counties participated in the survey process, including: Bowman, Bowman County; Bismarck, Burleigh County; Fargo, Cass County; Grand Forks, Grand Forks County; Beulah, Mercer County; Mandan, Morton County; Ft. Yates, Sioux County; Dickinson, Stark County; Jamestown, Stutsman County; Minot, Ward County and Williston, Williams County. These eleven counties are located in seven of the state's 8 regions.
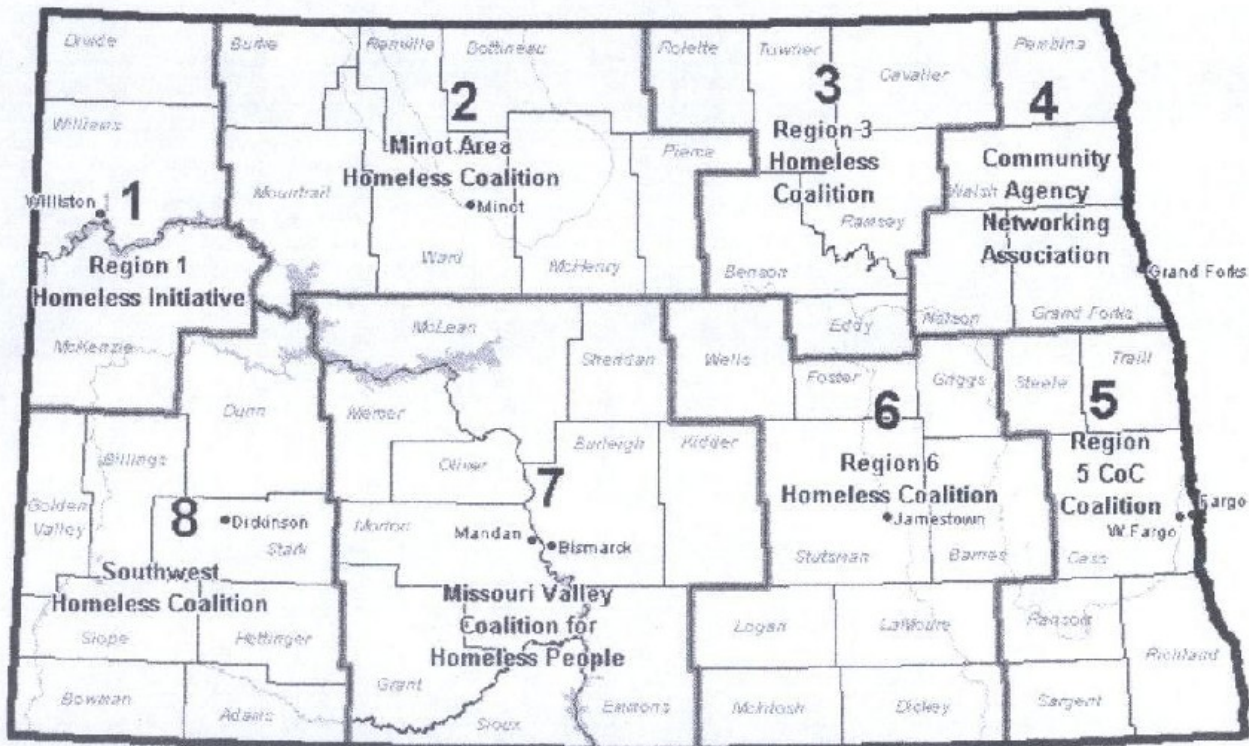
    Region 1 - Divide, McKenzie, Williams
    Region 2 - Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Ward; Fort Berthold Reservation
    Region 3 - Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner; Turtle Mountain and Fort Totten Reservations
    Region 4 - Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Walsh
    Region 5 - Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Traill
    Region 6 - Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, Lamoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman, Wells
    Region 7 - Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, Sioux; Standing Rock Reservation
    Region 8 - Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope, Stark

The point-in-time survey identified a total of 655 homeless persons on January 26, 2005, including 500 adults and 155 children under age 18. Of the 480 persons surveyed, 392 were unaccompanied adults and the remaining 88 adults were accompanied by other family members, including spouses and children.

Forty percent of these surveys were from Region 5 (Cass County), 25% from Region 4 (Grand Forks County), and 17% from Region 7 (Burleigh, Mercer, Morton, and Sioux County) (Table 7). No homeless individuals or families were surveyed in Region 3.

Table 7. Distribution of Homelessness (individuals and surveys) by Region

	# of Surveys	% of total surveys	Adults (age 18+)	Children (<18 years old)	Total Individuals	% of total homeless population	% of total ND pop*
Region 1	17	3%	20	2	22	3%	4%
Region 2	27	6%	29	22	51	8%	13%
Region 3	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	7%
Region 4	119	25%	123	33	156	24%	14%
Region 5	192	40%	202	47	249	38%	26%
Region 6	24	5%	23	2	25	4%	9%
Region 7	80	17%	82	42	124	19%	21%
Region 8	21	4%	21	7	28	4%	6%
Total ND	480		500	155	655		

Based on July 1, 2003 Census Bureau estimate of county populations

Almost half (46%) of all surveys were completed in emergency shelters and 35% took place in transitional housing, followed by outdoors (3%), motels (1%) and other locations (15%).

Twenty-two percent of the surveys were completed by the homeless individual; 78% were completed by agency staff or a case worker.

Demographics

Family Status

Three hundred ninety-two (392) of the 655 homeless persons (including spouses, other adults and children) were unaccompanied single persons (60%); 263 adults and children were members of families (40%) (Table 8). One hundred fifty-five of these family members were children under the age of 18 and 108 were adults. Of the 88 families included in the survey, 15 had no children, five were two-parent families and 68 were families with single parents, 5 headed by males and 62 by females (the gender of one head of household is unknown).

Table 8. Distribution of
Homeless Persons by Family Status

	Number	Percent
Unaccompanied adults	392	60%
Adults in families	108	16%
Total adults	500	76%
Children under age 18	155	24%
Total homeless	655	100%

Gender

Of the 500 adults surveyed, males accounted for 40% of the unaccompanied adults and 5% of the adults in families. Females accounted for 18% of the unaccompanied homeless adults and 17% of the adults in families. The gender of 98 individuals (19%) was not known (Table 9).

Table 9. Distribution of Homeless Adults by Gender

	Percent	
	Male	Female
Unaccompanied adults	68%	32%
Adults in family units	24%	76%
All Adults	56%	44%

Average Age

The average age of all unaccompanied adults was 39.8. The average age for females was 38.0 and the average age for males was 37.8. The gender of 81 persons was unknown, and the average age for these individuals was 46.7 (Table 10). Adults in family groups were younger, with an average age of 31.5, 31.1 for females and 33.0 for males.

The average age for all adults was 37.9, 34.6 for females and 37.3 for males, with an average age of 46.7 for those for whom gender was not known. The average age of the children was 8.2.

Table 10. Average Age by Family Status and Gender

|	Average Age
Unaccompanied adults	
Female	38.0
Male	37.8
Gender unknown	46.7
All unaccompanied adults	39.8
Adults in families	
Female	31.1
Male	33.0
All adults in families	31.5
Adults	
Female	34.6
Male	37.3
Unknown	46.7
All adults	37.9
Children	8.2

Race and Ethnicity

Ethnic background is known for 403 of the surveyed adults. Only 3% of these adults were Hispanic/Latino.

Seventy percent of the 403 adults for whom race is known were white; 25% were American Indian (Figure 13).

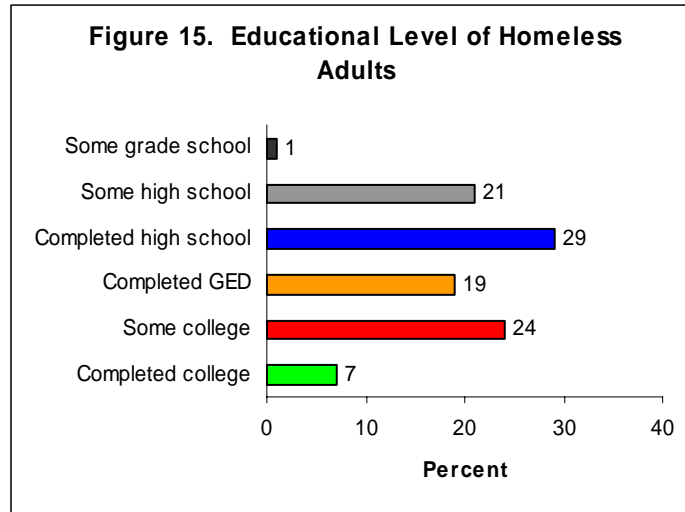**Figure 13. Race of Homeless Adults**
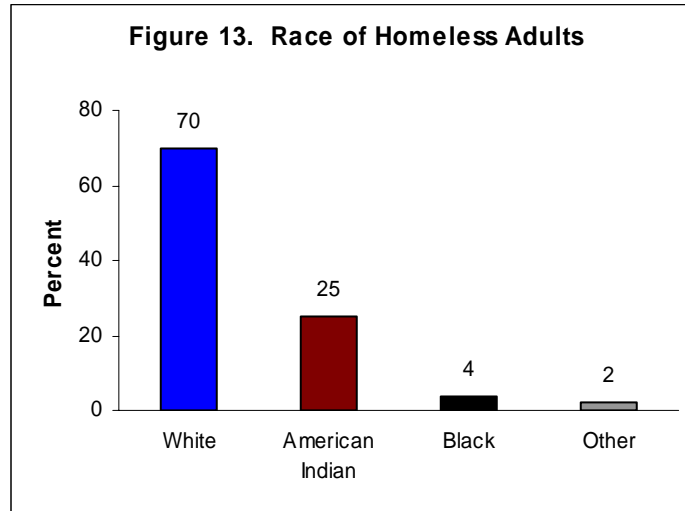
Seventy-five percent of the unaccompanied homeless adults were white and 19% were American Indian, compared to 56% white and 39% American Indian for adults in family units (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Race of Homeless Adults by Family Status
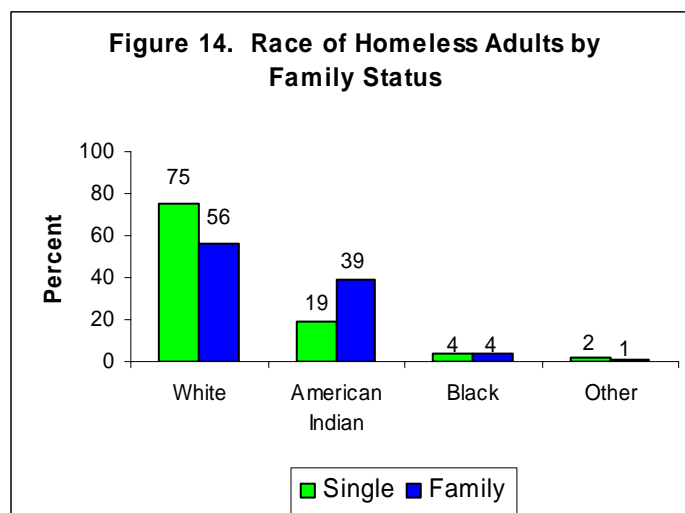
Educational Level

Figure 15 presents the educational level of the homeless adults surveyed (n=339). Twenty-nine percent of the adults had completed high school, 19% had completed their GED, and 7% were college graduates.

Figure 15. Educational Level of Homeless Adults

Category	Percent
Some grade school	1
Some high school	21
Completed high school	29
Completed GED	19
Some college	24
Completed college	7

Sleeping Location on "Previous Night"

Most of the homeless persons surveyed spent the previous night in emergency shelters (47%) and in transitional shelters (34%). Other locations mentioned were motels (4%), outdoors (3%), automobiles (2%), prison/jail (2%), detox/substance abuse centers (1%), and other (7%).

Eighty-one percent (390 individuals) were unaccompanied; nineteen percent (90 individuals) were accompanied by other family members.

Length of Homelessness

For people who reported being homeless for less than one month, the average number of days homeless was 9.6 days. The average number of months for those who have been homeless less than a year was 4.6 months and the average number of years for those who have been homeless for years was 4.0 years. Overall, respondents reported the average length of time for being homeless was 1.4 years.

Table 11. Average Length of Homelessness

	Length
Average number of days if homeless less than a month	9.6 days
Average number of months if homeless less than a year	4.6 months
Average number of years if homeless for more than 1 year	4.0 years
Average length homelessness for survey respondents	1.4 years

Frequency of Homelessness

Sixty percent of the adults surveyed (n=476) reported being homeless once in the past three years. Twenty-one percent reported being homeless twice, 6% three times, and 13% four or more times in the past three years (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Degree of Homelessness over Past Three Years
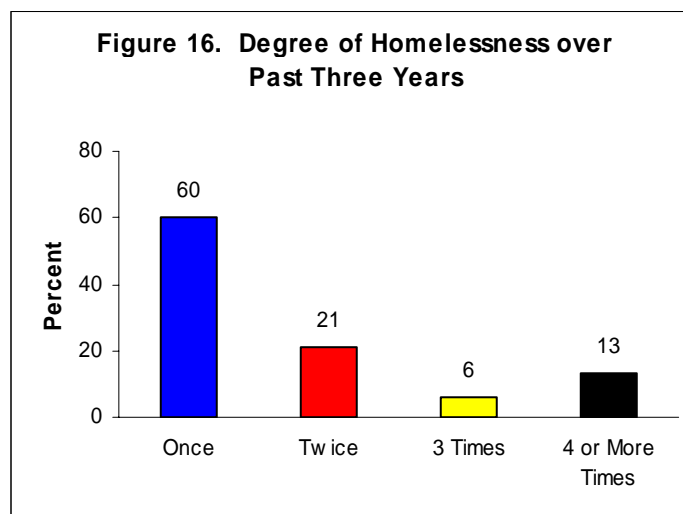
Chronic Homelessness

Twenty-nine percent of the 392 unaccompanied adults (113 individuals) met the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of chronic homelessness. HUD considers someone to be "chronically homeless" is they are an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

In addition to the 113 individuals that fit HUD's definition of chronic homelessness, 18% of the 88 families included in the survey (16 families) met the definition of "chronic homeless" except for the fact that they were in a family as opposed to being an unaccompanied individual.

Figure 17 shows chronic homelessness by family type. Overall, twenty-seven percent of the 479 survey respondents are defined as chronically homeless.

Figure 17. Number of Chronic Homelessness
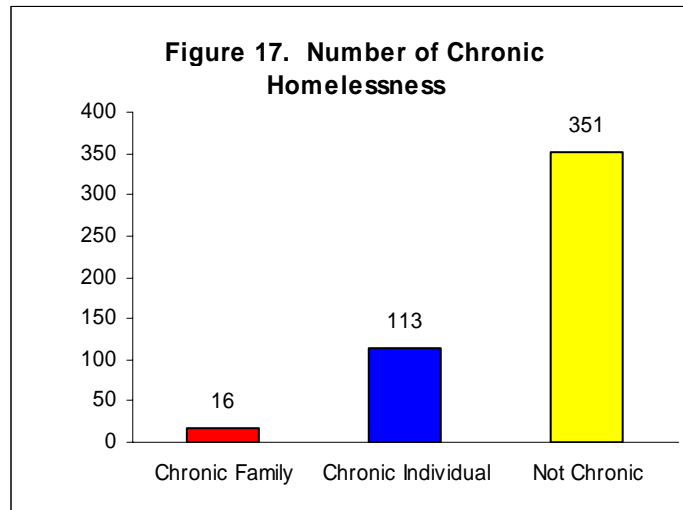
Sources of Income

Table 12 presents the sources of income reported by the individuals surveyed. The most common source of income was jobs, with over half of these individuals presently employed. Family and friends and food stamps provide income for 19% and 18% of homeless individuals and families, followed by Medicaid and Social Security (10%).

Table 12. Sources of Income

Income Source	Number	Percent
Jobs	243	51%
Family and friends	91	19%
Food stamps	84	18%
Medicaid	49	10%
Social Security	46	10%
SSI	34	7%
TANF	33	7%
Veteran's benefits	33	7%
Child support	13	3%
Asking for money on street	13	3%
SSDI	12	3%
Selling blood/plasma	9	2%
Pension	6	1%
Unemployment	6	1%
Prostitution	2	-

Common Characteristics of the Homeless

Sixteen percent of those surveyed were veterans (75 individuals). Almost half (47%) are currently receiving veteran's benefits; 4% are waiting to receive these benefits. Nine percent of veterans reported having had trouble getting these benefits.

Personal economics, substance abuse and mental illness are the most common areas of shared experience for the homeless people surveyed.

Table 13 shows that more than half were unable to afford rent. 41% of the homeless surveyed were unemployed and 35% indicated having money management issues.

49% reported a history of substance abuse; comparatively, the 2002-2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates that 14% of North Dakota's population (over age 12) reported either alcohol dependence or illicit drug dependence or abuse in the last year. 33% of homeless respondents reported having a mental illness.

Table 13. Characteristics/Disabilities of the Homeless

Characteristic/Disability	Number	Percent
Unable to afford rent	251	52%
History of substance abuse	235	49%
Unemployment	198	41%
Money management problems	166	35%
Mental illness	158	33%
Bad credit history	136	28%
Relocated/moved here	134	28%
Medical problems	121	25%
Family breakup	114	24%
Employment	107	22%
Underemployment	92	19%
Parolee or probationer	88	18%
Victim of domestic violence	77	16%
Evicted from apartment	70	15%
Can't locate apartment	63	13%
Discharged from psychiatric hospital	39	8%
Developmental disabilities	35	7%
Homeless youth	24	5%
Discharged from medical hospital	20	4%
Welfare issues	18	4%
Sexual orientation	5	1%
HIV/AIDS	4	1%

Primary Reasons for Homelessness

More than one-third of people surveyed indicated that the primary reason they were homeless was because they could not afford rent. Another 31% indicated the primary reason for their homelessness was a history of substance abuse.

Roughly 20% of respondents said that either unemployment or mental illness was the cause of homelessness (Table 14).

Table 14. Primary Reasons for Homelessness

Characteristic/Disability	Number	Percent
Unable to afford rent	169	35%
History of substance abuse	150	31%
Unemployment	103	22%
Mental illness	89	19%
Victim of domestic violence	71	15%
Family breakup	70	15%
Money management problems	65	14%
Evicted from apartment	53	11%
Bad credit history	50	10%
Parolee or probationer	49	10%
Relocated/moved here	46	10%
Underemployed	37	8%
Medical problems	35	7%
Can't locate apartment	25	5%
Developmental disabilities	14	3%
Homeless youth	11	2%
Discharged from psychiatric hospital	9	2%
Welfare issues	6	1%
Employment	5	1%
Discharged from medical hospital	3	1%
Sexual orientation	2	-
HIV/AIDS	1	-

Utilization of Services

Individuals surveyed were asked to indicate which services they had received, which they were waiting to receive, and which they had trouble accessing in the past month. A definition of each of these services is included in Appendix B.

Survey results indicated that basic needs and health care needs are being met throughout the state, with small numbers of people either waiting for these services or having trouble accessing them, although 7% have experienced difficulty obtaining medical and dental care (Table 15), 27% of those surveyed are waiting to receive permanent housing and 14% have had problems getting permanent housing.

The most highly utilized services were those that provide for basic needs, including food, clothing, case management services, and emergency shelter (average utilization rate of 52%). About one-third of homeless individuals surveyed used transportation services and slightly more than 40% accessed transitional housing. Services that provided for health related needs (medication, mental health care, medical and dental care, and substance abuse services) were utilized by approximately 25% of the individuals surveyed.

Table 15. Services Received, Pending and Difficult to Access in Past Month

	Percentages		
Service	Received	Pending	Difficult
Basic Needs			
Emergency shelter	45%	3%	3%
Food/hot meals	64%	1%	2%
Clothing	50%	1%	3%
Case management	50%	4%	3%
Health Care Needs			
Mental health care	27%	5%	3%
Medical/dental	23%	8%	7%
Medication	36%	3%	4%
Domestic violence services	12%	2%	-
Substance abuse services	28%	8%	2%
Stabilizing Needs			
Transitional housing	42%	7%	5%
Permanent housing	2%	27%	14%
Housing planning	12%	8%	4%
Job training/job placement	15%	14%	3%
Life skills	16%	6%	3%
Child care	6%	3%	1%
Legal aid	3%	4%	4%
GED/English classes	7%	3%	1%
Transportation	35%	9%	12%
Storage	15%	-	1%
Relocation assistance	3%	6%	4%
Mainstream Resources			
Veteran's benefits	9%	1%	2%
Food stamps	22%	6%	3%
SSI	8%	3%	3%
SSDI	8%	2%	3%
TANF	7%	2%	2%
Immigration documentation	-	-	-

When asked what services would be most helpful in finding or obtaining housing, the services most often mentioned were jobs, affordable housing/housing options, housing assistance, addiction services, car/transportation, and job training. The services deemed most helpful are listed in Table 16.

Table 16. Services Most Helpful in
Finding or Obtaining Housing

Service	Number
Job	65
Affordable housing/housing options	47
Housing assistance	45
Addiction services	39
Car/transportation	26
Job training	23
Adequate income	21
Life skills/credit counseling/money management	19
Receive benefits	15
Medical/dental/mental health	15
House planning	13
Emergency shelter/transitional housing	9
Rent deposit	8
Case management	8
Housing – criminal background accepted	7

CHAPTER 2. CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

According to the definitions established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, chronic homelessness refers to an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years or a family in which one member has a disabling condition and the family has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Using these definitions, 113 individuals and 16 families among the homeless surveyed on January 26 meet this definition of chronic homelessness.

This chapter of the analysis looks specifically at statistically significant differences between these 129 individuals and families compared to the other homeless persons and families surveyed (351 individuals). These comparisons do not include any spouses and pertain only to the 480 persons interviewed, not the total number of homeless adults (507 individuals).

Table 17. Chronic Homelessness by Region

Region	Number	Percent
Region 1	4	3%
Region 2	2	2%
Region 4	17	13%
Region 5	71	55%
Region 6	17	13%
Region 7	15	12%
Region 8	3	2%

As presented in Table 17, Region 5 has a larger percentage of the chronically homeless than do the other regions. Region 5 includes the counties of Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, and Traill. Fifty-five percent of the homeless in those counties are chronically homeless, compared to under 18% for all other regions.

Demographics

Chronically homeless individuals and heads of families tend to be older, with an average age of 40.4 compared to 35.6 for those not chronically homeless. No significant differences were found in race or ethnic background between the homeless and the chronically homeless. Levels of education were also very similar. The chronically homeless group, however, contained a higher percentage of veterans than did those not chronically homeless (Figure 18). Twenty-one percent of the chronically homeless are veterans compared to 14% of the non-chronic homeless.
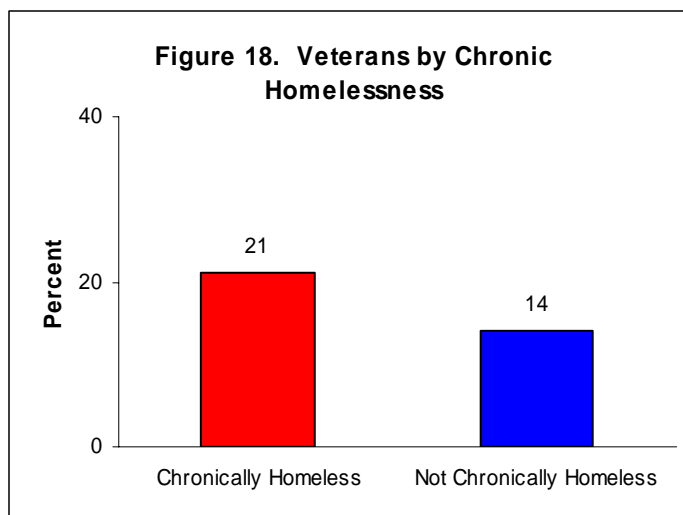
Sources of Income for the Chronic Homeless

Statistically significant differences appeared in six sources of income for the chronically homeless and for the non-chronically homeless. These income sources and comparable percentages among the two groups are shown in Table 18. The chronically homeless were more likely to receive income from SSI, veteran's benefits, asking for money on the street, Social Security, and pension. The non-chronically homeless were more likely to report receiving income from food stamps.

Table 18. Sources of Income by Chronic Homeless Status

	Percentages	
Source of Income	Chronic Homeless	Non-Chronic Homeless
SSI	18%	3%
Food stamps	11%	20%
Veteran's benefits	11%	5%
Asking for money on street	5%	2%
Social Security	14%	8%
Pension	3%	1%

Common Characteristics of the Chronic Homeless

Statistically significant differences were found for eight characteristics of the homeless (Table 19). The chronically homeless were more likely to experience mental illness, to have a history of substance abuse, to have medical problems, to have money management problems, to have developmental disabilities, and to have been discharged from medical or psychiatric hospitals. The non-chronically homeless members were more likely to have trouble finding an apartment.

Table 19. Characteristics of the Homeless by Chronic Homeless Status

	Percentages	
Characteristic	Chronic Homeless	Non-Chronic Homeless
Mental illness	50	27
History of substance abuse	73	40
Medical problems	38	21
Money management problems	54	27
Developmental disabilities	13	5
Discharged from medical hospital	8	3
Discharged from psychiatric hospital	12	7
Can't locate an apartment	9	15

Primary Reasons for Homelessness

Among the primary reasons for homelessness, significant differences were found in six of these areas (Table 20). The chronically homeless were more likely to identify mental illness, a history of substance abuse, developmental disabilities, welfare issues, and medical problems as primary reasons for their homelessness, while the non-chronically homeless were more likely to mention relocation as a primary reason.

Table 20. Primary Reasons for Homelessness by Chronic Homeless Status

	Percentages	
Primary Reason	Chronic Homeless	Non-Chronic Homeless
Mental illness	34%	13%
History of substance abuse	48%	25%
Developmental disabilities	7%	1%
Welfare issues	4%	-
Medical problems	12%	5%
Relocation/moved here	5%	11%

Utilization of Services

Services Received

The persons surveyed were asked to indicate the services they had accessed in the past month and those that they have had trouble accessing during this period.

Significant differences were found in the utilization of eight services (Table 21). The chronically homeless were <u>more</u> likely to have received clothing, medication, SSI, job training, substance abuse services, mental health care, and medical/dental care and <u>less</u> likely to have received domestic violence services.

Table 21. Services Received During Past Month by Chronic Homeless Status

	Percentages	
Services Received	Chronic Homeless	Non-Chronic Homeless
Clothing	63%	45%
Medication	48%	31%
SSI	17%	4%
Job training	24%	12%
Substance abuse services	3%	25%
Mental health care	35%	24%
Domestic violence services	7%	13%
Medical/dental	29%	21%

Difficulty in Accessing Services

The chronically homeless reported having had more difficulty accessing some services than the non-chronic homeless (Table 22). The chronic homeless had more difficulty obtaining transportation, mental health care, substance abuse services, house planning, life skills training, case management, SSI, and permanent housing.

**Table 22. Difficulty in Accessing Services During Past Month
by Chronic Homeless Status**

	Percentages	
Service	Chronic Homeless	Non-Chronic Homeless
Transportation	21%	8%
Mental health care	7%	1%
Substance abuse services	5%	1%
House planning	8%	2%
Life skills training	5%	1%
Case management	5%	2%
SSI	6%	2%
Permanent housing	19%	13%

Additional Services Needed

When asked what services would be most helpful in finding or obtaining housing, the services most often mentioned by the chronically homeless were jobs, affordable housing/housing options, housing assistance, addiction services, car/transportation, and job training. The services deemed most helpful are listed in Table 23.

**Table 23. Services Most Helpful in Finding or
Obtaining Housing for Chronically Homeless**

Service	Number
Job	15
Addiction services	11
Car/transportation	8
Affordable housing/housing options	7
Housing assistance	7
Receive benefits	5
Medical/dental/mental health services	5
Life skills/credit counseling/money management	4
Job training	4
Housing – criminal background accepted	3
Adequate income	2
Case management	2
Housing planning	2
Rent deposit	1
Emergency shelter/transitional housing	1

CHAPTER 3. HOMELESSNESS BY REGION

North Dakota service providers in ten counties participated in the survey process, including Bowman, Burleigh, Cass, Grand Forks, Morton, Sioux, Stark, Stutsman, Ward and Williams. These ten counties are located in seven of the eight geographical areas (no homeless persons were surveyed in Region 3). These service area counties and reservations include:

Region 1
> Divide, McKenzie, Williams

Region 2
> Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Ward; Fort Berthold Reservation

Region 3
> Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner; Turtle Mountain and Fort Totten Reservations

Region 4
> Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Walsh

Region 5
> Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Traill

Region 6
> Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, Lamoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman, Wells

Region 7
> Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, Sioux; Standing Rock Reservation

Region 8
> Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope, Stark

Chronic Homelessness

A statistically significant difference in chronic homelessness appears among the seven regions (Figure 19). Region 5 has a larger percentage of chronically homeless individuals and families than do the other regions.

Figure 19. Chronic Homelessness by Region

Region	Percent
Region 1	3
Region 2	2
Region 4	13
Region 5	55
Region 6	13
Region 7	12
Region 8	2
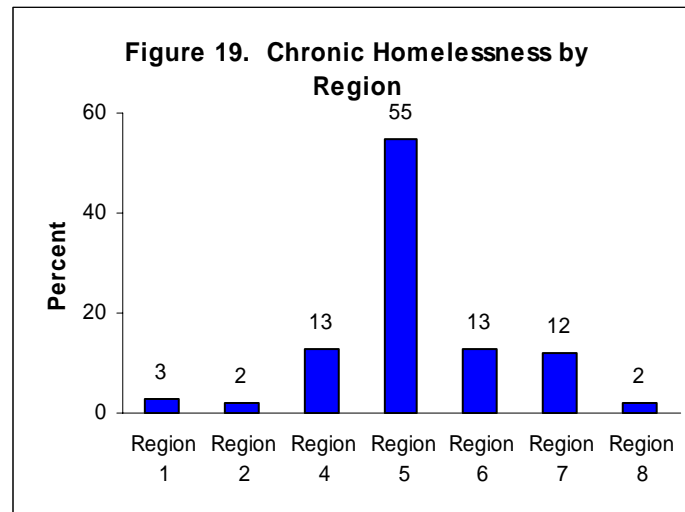
Gender

The percentage of females in the homeless adult population is highest in Region 2 (68%) and Region 5 (55%) and lowest in Region 1 and Region 6 (29%) and in Region 4 (30%) (Table 24). The overall gender breakdown for the 480 homeless individuals surveyed was female, 44%, and male, 56%.

Table 24. Gender by Region

Region	Female	Male
Region 1	29%	71%
Region 2	68%	32%
Region 4	30%	70%
Region 5	55%	45%
Region 6	29%	71%
Region 7	46%	54%
Region 8	52%	48%
North Dakota	44%	56%

Percentages

Age

The average age of the individuals surveyed was 36.1. The average age of females was 34.9 and the average age of males was 37.0. Table 25 presents the average age of males and females by region.

Table 25. Average Age by Gender by Region

Region	Female	Male	All
Region 1	31.0	36.7	34.9
Region 2	34.9	32.9	34.3
Region 4	32.4	38.1	36.4
Region 5	36.2	39.4	37.7
Region 6	49.6	40.9	43.5
Region 7	31.5	30.8	31.1
Region 8	39.7	38.8	39.3
North Dakota	34.9	37.0	36.1

Overall, homeless individuals in Region 7 tend to be younger than average and those in Region 6 tend to be older than average. Among female adults, those in Region 6 were much older than the average female. Among male adults, those in Region 6 tend to be older than the average male.

Race and Ethnicity

Table 26. Race by Region

Region	Percentages			
	White	American Indian	Black	Other
Region 1	100%	0%	0%	0%
Region 2	64%	32%	4%	0%
Region 4	80%	13%	3%	3%
Region 5	66%	23%	9%	2%
Region 6	88%	12%	0%	0%
Region 7	49%	48%	0%	3%
Region 8	76%	14%	5%	5%
North Dakota	70%	24%	4%	2%

Overall, the percentage of white homeless adults was 70% and the percentage of American Indians was 24% (Table 26). Region 1 and Region 6, however, had significantly higher percentages of white adults and Region 2 and Region 7 had significantly higher percentages of American Indian adults. Region 2, however, includes the Fort Berthold Reservation and Region 7 includes the Standing Rock Reservation. No significant differences were found in ethnic background.

Education

Region 1 had higher percentages of adults with some high school education (Table 27). Region 2 and Region 6 had higher percentages of adults who had completed high school or obtained their GED. Region 5 had higher percentages of adults with some college and Region 7 and Region 8 had much smaller percentages of adults with some college education. Region 8 had larger percentages of homeless individuals with college degrees (25%) than did other regions of the state.

Overall, Region 8 had the largest percentage of adults with high school/GED educations or higher, and Region 1 had the smallest percentage of adults with this level of education.

Table 27. Education by Region

Region	Some Grade School	Some High School	High School Grad/GED	Some College	College Grad
			Percentages		
Region 1	0%	30%	50%	20%	0%
Region 2	4%	13%	61%	17%	4%
Region 4	0%	26%	44%	25%	4%
Region 5	1%	18%	38%	33%	10%
Region 6	0%	26%	52%	22%	0%
Region 7	0%	17%	61%	13%	9%
Region 8	0%	8%	58%	8%	25%
North Dakota	1%	21%	48%	24%	7%

Veteran Status

Overall, 16% of the 480 persons surveyed were veterans. Region 1 and Region 6 had no homeless individuals who were veterans (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Veterans by Region
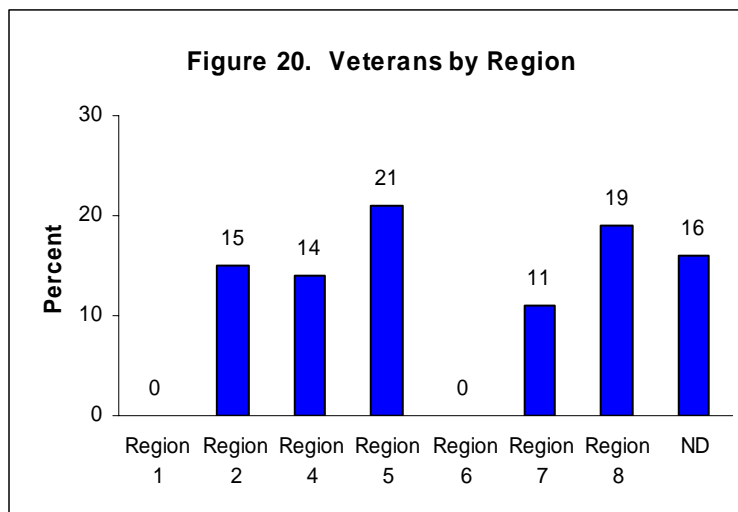
Sources of Income

Homeless adults in Region 6 were most likely to be employed, and lower percentages in Region 1 and Region 8 had jobs (Table 28). All percentages in Region 5 were close to state averages. Homeless adults in Region 1 and Region 6 were less likely to receive money from family and friends and those in Region 7 and Region 8 were more likely to receive money from these sources. None of the homeless adults reported income from food stamps in Region 6, and Region 2 and Region 4 had higher percentages of adults receiving food stamps.

Table 28. Income Sources by Region

Income Source/Region	*Percentages*							
	1	**2**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**ND**
Job	29%	56%	48%	52%	96%	50%	14%	51%
Family or friends	6%	11%	18%	18%	0%	30%	33%	19%
Food stamps	18%	33%	29%	8%	0%	25%	14%	18%
Social Security	18%	0%	10%	10%	29%	5%	5%	10%
TANF	0%	11%	8%	4%	0%	14%	10%	7%
SSI	0%	11%	4%	5%	63%	0%	5%	7%
Veteran's benefits	0%	7%	0%	14%	0%	1%	19%	7%
Medicaid	0%	22%	13%	5%	38%	9%	10%	10%
SSDI	6%	7%	0%	1%	21%	0%	10%	3%

None of the homeless adults in Region 2 received Social Security, while larger percentages of homeless adults in Region 6 received income from Social Security. None of the homeless adults in Region 1 or Region 6 received TANF; larger percentages of those in Region 7 did so. Homeless adults in Region 6 were significantly more likely to receive SSI, while no homeless adults in Region 1 or Region 7 received SSI.

Homeless adults in Region 8 were more likely to receive veteran's benefits; those in Region 1, Region 4, and Region 6 received no income from veteran's benefits. No adults in Region 1 reported receiving income from Medicaid; adults in Region 6 were significantly more likely to receive Medicaid benefits, as well as SSDI benefits. None of the adults in Region 4 or Region 7 reported SSDI benefits as income.

Characteristics of the Homeless

Table 29 displays the percentage of homeless individuals who say that these common characteristics or disabilities affect them. Significant differences from the average for each region are summarized below. The first number following each characteristic is the percentage of homeless adults in each region; the second is the overall state average.

Table 29. Characteristics of the Homeless by Region

Characteristic/Region				*Percentages*				
	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	ND
Mental illness	41%	41%	28%	27%	92%	29%	48%	33%
History of substance abuse	65%	30%	39%	56%	42%	55%	43%	49%
Victim of domestic violence	6%	22%	16%	12%	4%	30%	19%	16%
Unemployment	65%	48%	51%	37%	4%	38%	57%	41%
Employment	6%	26%	20%	34%	0%	10%	5%	22%
Underemployment	12%	22%	13%	18%	42%	29%	10%	19%
Parolee or probationer	24%	4%	15%	19%	4%	33%	10%	18%
Family breakup	12%	44%	24%	22%	8%	31%	10%	24%
Unable to afford rent	71%	59%	61%	51%	0%	60%	19%	52%
Can't locate an apartment	35%	22%	17%	12%	0%	5%	19%	13%
Relocated/moved here	18%	30%	38%	25%	0%	31%	24%	28%
Money management problems	29%	22%	29%	34%	67%	43%	24%	35%
Discharged: psychiatric hospital	12%	4%	8%	3%	58%	4%	19%	8%

Region 1
- more likely to have a history of substance abuse (65/49)
- more likely to be unemployed (65/41)
- more likely to be unable to afford rent (71/52)
- more likely to have difficulty locating an apartment (35/13)
- less likely to be employed (6/22)

Region 2
- more likely to experience family breakup (44/8)
- less likely to have a history of substance abuse (30/49)
- less likely to be a parolee or probationer (4/18)
- less likely to experience money management problems (22/35)

Region 5
- more likely to be employed (34/22)

Region 6
- more likely to experience mental illness (92/33)

- more likely to be underemployed (42/19)
- more likely to experience money management problems (67/35)
- more likely to be discharged from psychiatric hospital (58/8)
- less likely to be victims of domestic violence (4/16)
- less likely to be unemployed (4/41)
- less likely to be employed (0/22)
- less likely to be a parolee or probationer (4/48)
- less likely to experience family breakup (8/24)
- less likely to be unable to afford rent (0/52)
- less likely to be unable to locate an apartment (0/13)
- less likely to have relocated (0/28)

Region 7
- more likely to be a victim of domestic violence (30/16)
- more likely to be a parolee or probationer (33/18)
- less likely to be employed (10/22)

Region 8
- less likely to be employed (5/22)
- less likely to be unable to afford rent (19/52)

Region 4 was closer to state averages in all characteristics.

Primary Reasons for Homelessness

Statistically significant differences were also found in primary reasons for homelessness. Table 30 presents the primary reasons for homelessness and the percentage of adults in each region and overall number in the state who selected each primary reason.

Table 30. Primary Reasons for Homelessness by Region

Characteristic/Region	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	ND
				Percentages				
Mental illness	18%	7%	14%	16%	83%	13%	29%	19%
History of substance abuse	53%	7%	23%	38%	17%	41%	14%	31%
Victim of domestic violence	6%	48%	8%	9%	0%	28%	33%	15%
Unemployment	41%	15%	27%	17%	4%	26%	24%	22%
Underemployment	6%	7%	2%	6%	8%	23%	5%	8%
Parolee or probationer	6%	4%	5%	9%	4%	28%	0%	10%
Family breakup	12%	22%	13%	12%	0%	28%	5%	15%
Unable to afford rent	47%	37%	40%	35%	0%	41%	14%	35%
Can't locate an apartment	24%	0%	4%	5%	0%	6%	10%	5%
Relocated/moved here	6%	11%	9%	6%	0%	21%	14%	10%
Money management problems	29%	4%	7%	14%	4%	25%	19%	14%
Bad credit history	6%	0%	9%	8%	4%	28%	0%	10%

The significant differences from the average for each primary reason by region are summarized below. The first number following each characteristic is the percentage of homeless adults in each region; the second is the overall state average.

Region 1
- more likely to be due to a history of substance abuse (53/31)
- more likely to be due to unemployment (41/22)
- more likely to be due to difficulty locating an apartment (24/5)
- more likely to be due to money management problems (29/14)

Region 2
- more likely to be due to domestic violence (48/15)
- less likely to be due to mental illness (7/19)
- less likely to be due to a history of substance abuse (7/31)

Region 6
- more likely to be due to mental illness (83/19)
- less likely to be due to unemployment (4/22)
- less likely to be due to family breakup (0/28)
- less likely to be due to inability to afford rent (0/14)

Region 7
- more likely to be due to underemployment (23/8)
- more likely to be a parolee or probationer (28/10)
- more likely to be due to family breakup (28/15)
- more likely to be due to relocation (21/10)
- more likely to be due to bad credit history (28/10)

Region 8
- more likely to be due to domestic violence (33/15)
- less likely to be due to inability to afford rent (14/35)

Utilization of Services

The individuals surveyed had access to a variety of services during the past month and had experienced difficulty in accessing some of these services. Statistically significant differences were found among regions in the utilization of most of these services.

Table 31. Utilization of Services in Past Month by Region

Service/Region	*Percentages*							
	1	**2**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**ND**
Basic Needs								
Emergency shelter	29%	48%	43%	55%	13%	34%	57%	45%
Food/hot meals	12%	52%	64%	68%	67%	71%	62%	64%
Clothing	6%	44%	48%	56%	46%	58%	19%	50%
Case management services	88%	67%	34%	45%	96%	55%	76%	50%
Health Care Needs								
Mental health care	29%	48%	22%	18%	92%	28%	23%	27%
Medication	18%	33%	27%	35%	96%	36%	33%	36%
Domestic violence services	6%	52%	6%	7%	0%	18%	33%	12%
Substance abuse services	41%	19%	17%	32%	8%	43%	19%	28%
Stabilizing Needs								
Transitional housing	12%	56%	57%	26%	88%	46%	29%	42%
Housing planning	41%	37%	5%	7%	8%	23%	14%	12%
Job training/job placement	6%	22%	8%	14%	67%	15%	0%	15%
Life skills training	12%	44%	9%	7%	75%	24%	10%	16%
Child care	0%	30%	3%	7%	0%	3%	10%	6%
GED/English classes	0%	0%	5%	4%	4%	20%	0%	7%
Transportation	12%	59%	24%	30%	100%	40%	38%	35%
Storage	0%	19%	16%	14%	4%	18%	29%	15%
Relocation assistance	0%	0%	1%	4%	0%	1%	19%	3%
Mainstream Resources								
Veteran's benefits	0%	4%	3%	16%	4%	3%	19%	9%
Food stamps	35%	48%	29%	13%	0%	28%	19%	22%
SSI	6%	7%	5%	6%	67%	0%	0%	8%
SSDI	12%	15%	4%	5%	50%	1%	14%	8%

Table 31 displays the percentage of homeless adults in each region who have received each of these services in the past month. No significant differences were found in the utilization of permanent housing, medical/dental care, legal aid, TANF, and immigration documentation. The major differences are summarized below.   The first number following the service is the

percentage of people in the region who are receiving that particular service; the second number is the statewide average for utilization of that service.

Region 1
- more likely to be receiving case management services (88/50)
- more likely to be receiving housing planning (41/12)
- less likely to be receiving emergency shelter (29/45)
- less likely to be receiving food/hot meals (12/64)
- less likely to be receiving clothing (6/50)
- less likely to be receiving medication (18/36)
- less likely to be receiving transitional housing (12/42)
- less likely to be receiving transportation (12/35)
- less likely to be receiving storage (0/15)
- less likely to be receiving veteran's benefits (0/9)

Region 2
- more likely to be receiving domestic violence services (52/12)
- more likely to be receiving housing planning (37/12)
- more likely to be receiving life skills training (44/16)
- more likely to be receiving child care (30/6)
- more likely to be receiving transportation (59/35)
- more likely to be receiving food stamps (48/22)

Region 6
- more likely to be receiving case management services (96/50)
- more likely to be receiving mental health care (92/27)
- more likely to be receiving medication (96/36)
- more likely to be receiving transitional housing (88/42)
- more likely to be receiving job training/job placement (67/15)
- more likely to be receiving life skills training (75/16)
- more likely to be receiving transportation (100/35)
- more likely to be receiving SSI (67/8)
- more likely to be receiving SSDI (50/8)
- less likely to be receiving emergency shelter (13/45)
- less likely to be receiving substance abuse services (8/28)
- less likely to be receiving food stamps (0/22)

Region 7
- more likely to be receiving substance abuse services (43/28)
- more likely to be receiving GED/English classes (20/7)

Region 8
- more likely to be receiving case management services (76/50)
- more likely to be receiving domestic violence services (33/12)

- more likely to be receiving storage (29/15)
- more likely to be receiving relocation assistance (19/3)
- less likely to be receiving clothing (19/50)

Individuals in Region 4 and Region 5 were closer to state averages in all categories.

Difficulty in Accessing Services

Lesser, but still statistically significant, differences were apparent among regions in difficulty of accessing some needed services during the past month. The percentage of individuals who have experienced some difficulty in accessing services by region and the state averages are presented in Table 32.

Table 32. Difficulty in Accessing Services in Past Month by Region

Service	Percentages							
	Reg. 1	Reg. 2	Reg. 4	Reg. 5	Reg. 6	Reg. 7	Reg. 8	ND
Basic Needs								
Case management services	6	0	1	2	0	9	0	3
Health Care Needs								
Medical/dental care	0	0	5	6	0	18	5	7
Medication	0	0	2	2	0	14	5	4
Substance abuse services	0	0	0	2	0	8	0	2
Stabilizing Needs								
Housing planning	0	0	1	5	0	10	0	4
Transportation	29	0	4	17	0	18	0	12
Relocation assistance	0	7	1	3	0	10	0	4

The most significant differences in ease of accessing services during the past month by region are summarized below. The first number following each service is the percentage of persons in that region who reported difficulty in accessing that particular service and the second number is the state average for that service.

Region 1
- more difficulty accessing transportation (29/12)

Region 7
- more difficulty accessing case management services (9/3)
- more difficulty accessing medical/dental care (18/7)
- more difficulty accessing medication (14/4)
- more difficulty accessing substance abuse services (8/2)
- more difficulty accessing housing planning (10/4)
- more difficulty accessing relocation assistance (10/4)

Region 2, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6 and Region 8 were closer to state averages in all service areas.

APPENDIX A: SURVEY INSTRUMENT

North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People
SURVEY OF HOMELESS PERSONS

<u>For Agency Use Only</u>:

Case Worker's/Staff's Name: _____

Name of Agency/Organization: _____

City: _____ County: _____

Telephone: _____

Date: _____

<u>Location Where Survey is Taken</u>: (Check One)

❑ 1. Outdoors   ❑ 2. Motel

❑ 3. Abandoned Building / Automobile

❑ 4. Emergency Shelter (Name): _____

❑ 5. Transitional Housing (Name): _____

❑ 6. Other: (Describe) _____

<u>Indicate if survey was completed by:</u> (Check One)

❑ 7. Homeless Individual   ❑ 8. Case Worker / Agency Staff

A. Where did you spend the night last night? (Check one)

❑ 9. Outdoors   ❑ 10. Motel   ❑ 11. Prison/Jail *   ❑ 12. Abandoned Building   ❑ 13. Auto

❑ 14. Emergency Shelter (name)_____   ❑ 15. Transitional Shelter (name)_____

❑ 16. Hospital *(name)_____   ❑ 17. Detox/Substance Abuse Center *(name)_____

❑ 18. Other (describe)_____

Note: if individual stayed in prison, jail, hospital or detox/substance abuse center, they may not meet the definition of homeless. See definitions.

B. How long have you been homeless? (Indicate the number of years, months, or days)

❑ 19. _____Years   ❑ 20. _____Months   ❑ 21. _____Days

C. How many times have you been homeless in the last three years? (Check one)

❑ 22. Once   ❑ 23. Twice   ❑ 24. Three times ❑ 25. Four or more times

D. Do you have family with you? (Check one)

❑ 26. Yes   ❑ 27. No

If Yes, circle which of the following are present on the night of the survey:

❑ 28. Spouse/Partner   ❑ 29. Other (description)_____

❑ 30. Children (under 18)_____   ❑ 31. If you have children with you, how many?_____

E. What is the age, sex and race/ethnicity of all those in your family?

(<u>Important</u>: Count only those present on the night of the survey.) Also, what is your highest level of education completed?

Family Member (Persons 18+ are considered adults)	Age	Sex (M/F) Trans-gender (T)	Race (Asian, Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native, Black/African Amer., White, Other)	Ethnicity (Hispanic/Latino or NonHispanic/NonLatino)	What is the highest level of education you have completed? (High School Graduate, GED, Some College, College Graduate, Other)
32. Yourself:					
33. Adult #2:					
34. Adult #3:					
35. Child #1:					
36. Child #2:					
37. Child #3:					

F. Have you ever served in the military? (Check one)

❑ 38. Yes   ❑ 39. No

G. Sources of Income: (Check all that apply)

❑ 40. Job   ❑ 41. Family or Friends   ❑ 42. Food Stamps   ❑ 43. Social Security   ❑ 44. Pension   ❑ 45. Unemployment Benefits

❑ 46. Child Support   ❑ 47. Asking for money on Streets   ❑ 48. TANF   ❑ 49. SSI (Soc. Sec.)   ❑ 50. Veteran's Benefits

❑ 51. Selling Blood/Plasma   ❑ 52. Prostitution   ❑ 53. Medicaid   ❑ 54. Other:_____

H. Listed below are common characteristics/disabilities experienced by those who are without a home.
- Please check as many as apply under "This affects me."
- Also, please check the primary reason(s) you are without a home under "Reason(s) for my homelessness."

Common Characteristics/Disability	This affects me	Reason(s) for my homelessness	Common Characteristics/Disability	This affects me	Reason(s) for my homelessness
55. Mental illness	❑	❑	67. Evicted from apartment Reason_____	❑	❑
56. History of substance abuse	❑	❑	68. Can't locate an apartment	❑	❑
57. HIV/AIDS	❑	❑	69. Relocated/moved here	❑	❑
58. Developmental disability	❑	❑	70. Money management problems	❑	❑
59. Medical problems	❑	❑	71. Discharged from medical hospital	❑	❑
60. Victim of domestic violence	❑	❑	72. Discharged from psychiatric hosp	❑	❑
61. Unemployed	❑	❑	73. Homeless youth	❑	❑
62. Employed	❑	❑	74. Welfare issues (please explain)	❑	❑
63. Underemployed (day labor or part-time)	❑	❑	75. My sexual orientation	❑	❑
64. Parolee or probationer	❑	❑	76. Bad credit history	❑	❑
65. Family breakup	❑	❑	77. Other reason (please explain)	❑	❑
66. Unable to afford rent	❑	❑			

I. In the last month, which of the following services have you received?
- Check as many as apply under "Received."
- If you are waiting for these services, check under "Waiting to receive."
- Also check under "Difficulty getting this service" if, in the last month, you are having or have had trouble getting any services regardless of whether you received the service yet.

Type of Service	Received	Waiting to receive	Difficulty getting this service	Type of Service	Received	Waiting to receive	Difficulty getting this service
78. Emergency shelter	❑	❑	❑	92. Relocation Assistance	❑	❑	❑
79. Transitional housing	❑	❑	❑	93. Job training/Job placement	❑	❑	❑
80. Permanent housing	❑	❑	❑	94. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	❑	❑	❑
81. Housing planning	❑	❑	❑	95. Soc. Sec. Disability Income (SSDI)	❑	❑	❑
82. Case management	❑	❑	❑	96. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	❑	❑	❑
83. Mental health care	❑	❑	❑	97. Medical/Dental	❑	❑	❑
84. Life skills training	❑	❑	❑	98. Medication	❑	❑	❑
85. Child care	❑	❑	❑	99. Legal aid	❑	❑	❑
86. Veterans benefits	❑	❑	❑	100. GED or English classes	❑	❑	❑
87. Food stamps	❑	❑	❑	101. Domestic violence services	❑	❑	❑
88. Food/Hot meals	❑	❑	❑	102. Substance abuse service	❑	❑	❑
89. Clothing	❑	❑	❑	103. Immigrant documentation	❑	❑	❑
90. Storage	❑	❑	❑	104. Other_____	❑	❑	❑
91. Transportation	❑	❑	❑				

J. What services would help you the most to find or obtain housing? 105. _____

106. _____   107. _____

APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS

Definition of "HOMELESS"

Established by HUD, used in taking the January 2005 Point-In-Time Survey of Homeless People

A person is considered homeless <u>only</u> when he/she resides in one of the places described below:

- Places not meant for human habitation – cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings (on the street)
- Emergency shelter
- Transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters
- Any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution
- Is being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and lacks resources and support networks needed to obtain housing
- Is being discharged within a week from an institution, such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or jail/prison, in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days so long as that institution is not required to provide housing <u>and</u> no subsequent residence has been identified <u>and</u> the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing
- Is fleeing a domestic violence housing situation and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing

In taking the Point in Time survey, the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People advised agencies that the following do <u>not</u> meet the HUD definition of homeless:

- Persons paying an excessive amount for housing
- Persons living in overcrowded housing
- Persons living in substandard housing in need of repair
- Persons being released from prison or jail <u>unless</u> the institution is not required to provide housing upon release <u>and</u> the individual does not have alternative housing or the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing
- Persons living with relatives or friends, even if the housing is overcrowded
- Persons living in a board and care, adult congregate living facility, or substance abuse treatment center
- Persons being discharged from an institution required to provide or arrange housing upon release
- Wards of the State, although youth in foster care may receive needed supportive services that supplements, but does not substitute for, the state's assistance

A "homeless youth" is an individual under the age of 18, unaccompanied by an adult or legal guardian.

Definition of "CHRONIC HOMELESS"

Definition established by HUD

Chronic homelessness refers to an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Definition of "CHRONIC HOMELESS FAMILY"

Established to facilitate additional analysis of survey results from the January 2005 Point-In-Time Survey of Homeless People

Chronic homelessness refers to a family in which one member has a disabling condition, and the family has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Definition of "SERVICES"

The majority of these definitions are adapted from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care for Homeless Grant Application.

Emergency Shelter Temporary shelter provided as an entry point into services and an alternative to living on the streets.

Transitional Housing Housing in which clients are allowed to live for 24 months or less, during which they receive case management and supportive services that will help them make the transition to stable housing.

Permanent Housing Regular housing in the community, including housing with support services for persons with disabilities.

Housing Planning Services that help homeless individuals or families locate and obtain suitable housing. May include tenant counseling; helping clients understand leases; securing utilities; and making moving arrangements.

Case Management The arrangement, coordination, monitoring and delivery of services to meet the needs of homeless persons. Can include developing individual service plans; providing counseling; monitoring, developing, securing and coordinating services; monitoring and evaluating client progress; and assuring that client's rights are protected.

Mental Health Care Services that apply therapeutic processes to address personal, family, situational or occupational problems. Mental health services may

include crisis intervention; individual, family or group therapy; and prescription and management of medication.

Life Skills Training Training that provides homeless persons with critical life management skills necessary to help them function independently in the community. May include training on budgeting and money management; household management; conflict management; shopping for food and needed items; nutrition; use of public transportation; and parenting training.

Child Care Services for children provided in a setting that meets state and local standards for a portion of a 24-hour day. Services may include developmental activities; recreation; meals and snacks; transportation; health support services; and social service counseling for parents.

Veteran's Benefits Benefits and services available to veterans, their dependents and survivors including, service-connected compensation; pension; vocation and employment assistance; education benefits; and health care.

Food Stamps Coupons or plastic card (like a credit card) that low income persons can use to buy food.

Storage Services provided to homeless persons to prevent loss of personal possessions.

Transportation Services that provide and arrange for travel, including travel costs, in order to help individual's access treatment, medical care, services or employment.

Relocation Assistance Services that provide a bus ticket, train ticket, or use of a vehicle for the purpose of relocating to another city.

Job Training / Job Placement Services that help homeless persons find and secure employment or acquire job skills. May include employment screening; assessment and testing; tutoring; literacy and pre-vocational training; counseling or job coaching; and referral to community resources.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Monthly payments to people who have low incomes and few assets. To get SSI, an individual must be living in the U.S., be 65 or older, blind, or disabled.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Payments to individuals who have worked at a job that was covered under the provisions of the Social Security Act and become disabled. "Disability" can be physical, emotional, or some combination of both. To obtain benefits, individuals must have a disability severe enough to keep them from working in any regular paying job for at least 12 consecutive months.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	(TANF – formerly AFDC) Program providing financial assistance and work opportunities to low income persons. The program requires that recipients obtain work as soon as they are job ready or no later than two years after receiving assistance.
Medical/Dental Care	Services designed to help homeless individuals and families maintain good health. Services may include conducting health assessment; helping individuals identify and understand their health needs; providing medical treatment; helping locate and secure health care; preventive medical care; in-home health services; emergency medical services; and follow-up services.
Medication	Services that provides medication.
Legal Aid	Services provided by a lawyer or other person under the supervision of a lawyer to help individuals obtain legal assistance in civil matters such as housing, divorce, child support, guardianship, paternity and legal separation. Services may include receiving and preparing cases for trial; providing legal advice; representing homeless persons at hearings; and counseling.
GED or English Classes	Instruction or training in English as a Second Language or General Educational Development (GED). May include screening; assessment and testing; individual or group instruction; tutoring; and providing books, supplies and other materials.
Substance Abuse Services	Services that prevent, deter, reduce or eliminate substance abuse or addictive behaviors. Such services can include intake and assessment; treatment planning; behavioral therapy and counseling; screening; clinical and case management; outcome evaluation; and self-help and peer support groups.