

Report on Homelessness in North Dakota 2008



North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People
Statewide Point-in-Time Survey and Study of Homelessness
January 30, 2008



Acknowledgements

The North Dakota Coalition For Homeless People (NDCHP) would like to acknowledge the hundreds of volunteer hours contributed by the Continuum of Care Needs Assessment Committee, the network of regional homeless coalitions, and the many caseworkers and staff of local agencies in conducting the 2008 Statewide Point-in-Time Survey of Homeless People. The Coalition also thanks the many homeless individuals and families who provided valuable information that will be used to improve the delivery of housing and services in our communities. The high-level of participation across the state in providing the information for this report ultimately guides local communities, reservations, and the state of North Dakota in addressing the social tragedy of homelessness.

Definition of Terms

To assist our readers, definitions are provided for the following terms used throughout this report:

Literally Homeless - People who stay in emergency shelters or transitional housing. This category also includes unsheltered homeless people who sleep in places not meant for human habitation (for example: street, parks, abandoned buildings, dumpsters, subway tunnels) and who may also use shelters on an intermittent basis.
Precariously Housed - People who are at imminent risk of becoming literally homeless at any time. They may be temporarily doubled up with friends or relatives, or staying in a motel when they accumulate enough money for a room.
Overall Homeless – In this report the overall homeless population includes both the literally homeless and the precariously housed.
Chronically Homeless - An unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness within the past three years. To be considered chronically homeless, person must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation and /or in emergency shelter during that time.
Long-Term Homeless – Includes chronically homeless individuals and also includes families that have been homeless (lacking a permanent place to live) for a year or more, or has had four or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years. In addition, the person or family member has a disabling condition which limits their activities of daily living. This group does not exclude families who are temporarily living doubled up and not in a position to contribute to the household.

Data Collection

The 2008 Point-in-Time Survey was distributed to 261 organizations 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.

Data Preparation, Analysis, and Report Production

This report was produced in collaboration with the talented staff of:

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Key Findings

PURPOSE

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 in our state.

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

- Increase awareness of homelessness in our communities;
- Support policy change and funding;
- Help community partners (service providers, policy makers, etc.) to better understand homelessness and to work together to solve homeless issues;
- Assist local officials and homeless providers to develop strategic plans for providing housing and services needed in their communities;
- Assist the North Dakota Interagency Council on Homelessness, the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, and Regional Homeless Coalitions in their work to end long-term homelessness in North Dakota.

METHODOLOGY

The 2008 Point-in-Time Survey was distributed on January 30, 2008, to 261 North Dakota agencies that typically have 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, healthcare providers, emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, housing authorities, and faith-based organizations.

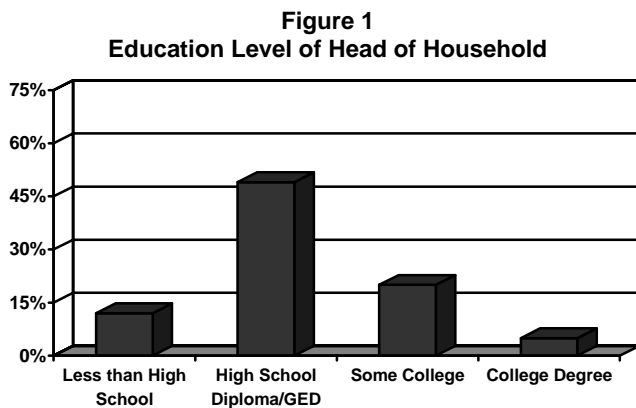
Survey teams in eight regional jurisdictions coordinated the canvassing of their areas. The survey of sheltered and unsheltered homeless was conducted on January 30, 2008, in accordance with guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In completing surveys, agency staff provided direct assistance to homeless people as needed. The results of the surveys are unduplicated counts. A federally accepted definition of who should be considered homeless was given to each surveyor. Information relating to demographics, education, employment, income, common characteristics, and service utilization was collected.

HOMELESS POPULATION

On January 30, 2008, there were 615 homeless persons in North Dakota identified as literally homeless: 427 adults, 166 children, and 22 persons for whom age was not known. They include 351 unaccompanied adults, two unaccompanied youths, 72 families with minor children and 12 families without minor children. In order to fully understand the challenges facing these households and identify the most beneficial means of assisting them, one must first become familiar with who they are, where they are, and how they got there.

Demographics

Among the adults for whom gender is known, 64% are male and 36% are female. More than half of the homeless population is white (54%), while about one-third is American Indian (31%), 7.5% are black and 3% are of another race. (Information on race was not available for 4.5% of the individuals.)



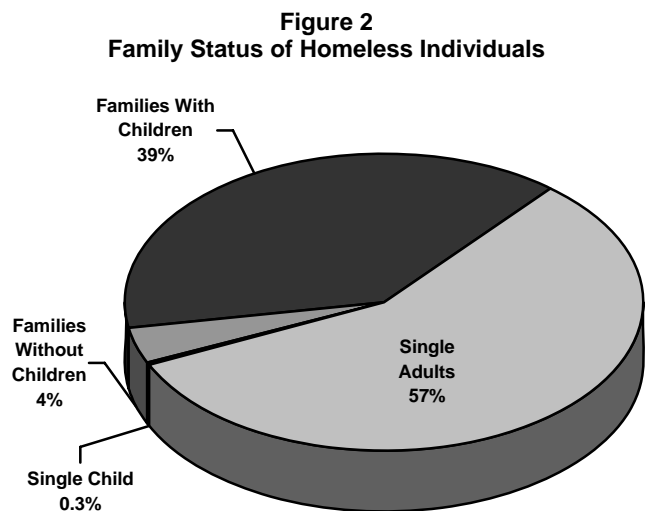
Sixteen percent of the households were new to the community within seven days prior to the survey and were already homeless before they came to the community in which they were surveyed.

Half (49%) of homeless heads of household have a high school diploma or GED, one in five (20%) attended some college and 5% are college graduates. Only 12% have less than a high school education. (Figure 1)

Overall, the average homeless adult is 39.7 years old, though men tend to be slightly older (42.5 years) and women tend to be younger (34.8 years). Unaccompanied adults are significantly older on average than those who have family members with them (42.0 years compared to 32.0 years among those in families). The average homeless child in North Dakota is 6.6 years old.

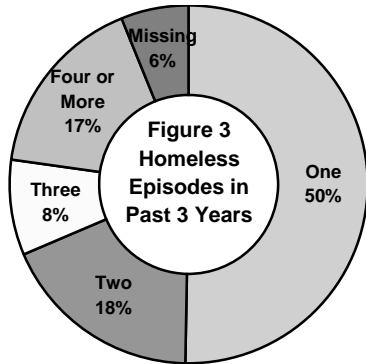
Of the 437 households counted, 72 include children under eighteen, two contain children who are eighteen or older, and 12 include a spouse or partner. Two of the households are headed by a youth under eighteen, 33 are headed by a young adult between eighteen and twenty-one, and 380 have heads of household who are over twenty-one. (The ages of 22 heads of household are not known.)

Of the 615 individuals counted, 351 (57%) are single adults, two (0.3%) are single youth, 22 (4%) are members of families without youth, and 240 (39%) are living in families with minor children. (Figure 2)



The night of the 2008 Point-in-Time Survey, a majority of the homeless stayed in an emergency shelter (65% of households). Less than half as many were in transitional housing (30% of households) and a small number were unsheltered, sleeping in abandoned buildings, automobiles or outdoors (3% of households). Eleven households (3%) didn't indicate where they had stayed the previous night. In the unsheltered group there were six people in families with children, nine unaccompanied individuals, and four people in a family without children.

Frequency and Length of Homelessness



This is the only episode of homelessness in the past three years for half (50%) of the households that make up the homeless population. Eighteen percent have been homeless once before and 8% have been homeless twice before this current episode. For one in six homeless households (17%), this is at least the fourth time they have experienced homelessness in the past three years. (Six percent of the households didn't indicate how many times they had been homeless.) (Figure 3)

Just as important, if not more important than how often people indicated they had been homeless, is how long they had been without a permanent home. Overall, respondents indicated they had been living in shelters, transitional housing or on the streets for an average of 2.1 years. The median length of a current homeless episode was 0.5 years, which means just as many had been homeless for half a year or less as had been homeless for half a year or longer. (Table 1)

For respondents who had been homeless less than one month, the average was 10.8 days, with a median of 10.0 days. For those who had been homeless at least a month, but less than a year, the average was 4.3 months, with a median of 4.0 months. Among those who had been homeless for a year or longer, the average length of their homelessness was 5.5 years, with a median of 3.0 years. (Table 1)

**Table 1
Length of Homelessness**

	Number of Households*	Average Length of Time	Median Length of Time
Overall	419	2.1 years	0.5 years
Homeless for a year or longer	143	5.5 years	3.0 years
Homeless for a month to a year	218	4.3 months	4.0 months
Homeless for less than a month	58	10.8 days	10.0 days

*Information regarding length of homelessness was not provided for 18 households.

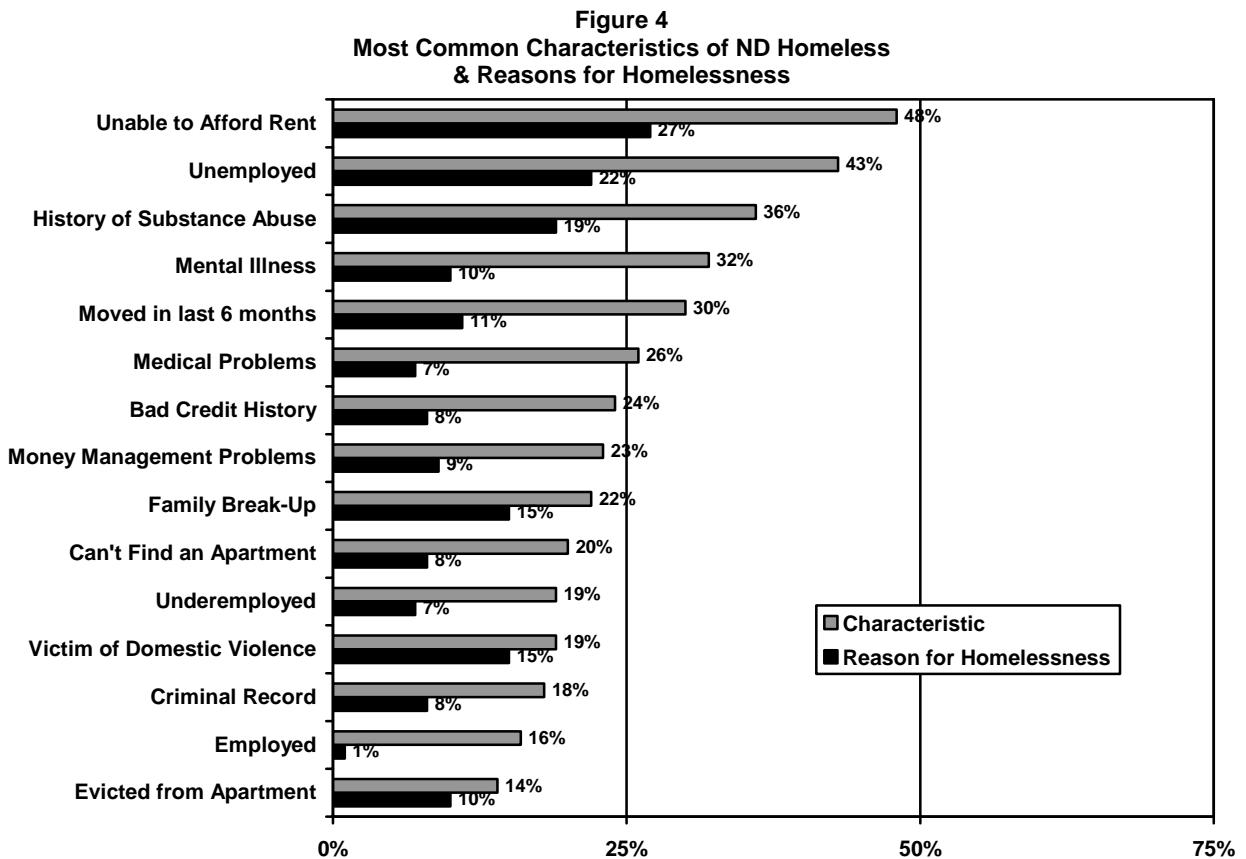
Veterans

Eighteen percent of the homeless households are headed by a veteran. Seven of these households are families; four include children under 18. Veterans are more apt to be staying in transitional housing (39% compared to 28% among non-veterans) and are twice as likely as the rest of the homeless population to be classified as long-term (29% compared to 14%) or chronic (31% compared to 16%) homeless. Homeless veterans were more likely to have medical problems (44% compared to 23%) and to have recently moved to the community in which they were surveyed (42% compared to 28%). Compared to their counterparts, veterans were also more likely to have received clothing (65% compared to 48%), food/hot meals (76% compared to 66%), medical/dental care (39% compared to 25%), and/or medication (41% compared to 31%). Less than one-third (28%) of the veterans reported receiving veteran's benefits.

Common Characteristics

The most common issues the homeless in North Dakota must contend with are financial hardship, substance abuse, health issues and being new to a community. Half (48%) reported they are unable to afford rent, which is presumably related to 43% being unemployed and 19% being underemployed. The prevalence of bad credit (24%) and money management problems (23%) further magnifies the economic strife facing the homeless population. (Figure 4)

On top of their financial struggles, more than one-third of the homeless individuals have a history of substance abuse (36%) and nearly as many have moved to the community in which they were surveyed in the last six months (30%). Health issues, such as mental illness (32%) and medical problems (26%), are also widespread. Other common issues among North Dakota's homeless population include a family break-up (22%), being unable to find an apartment (20%), domestic violence (19%), criminal records (18%), and eviction (14%). (Figure 4)



Reasons for Homelessness

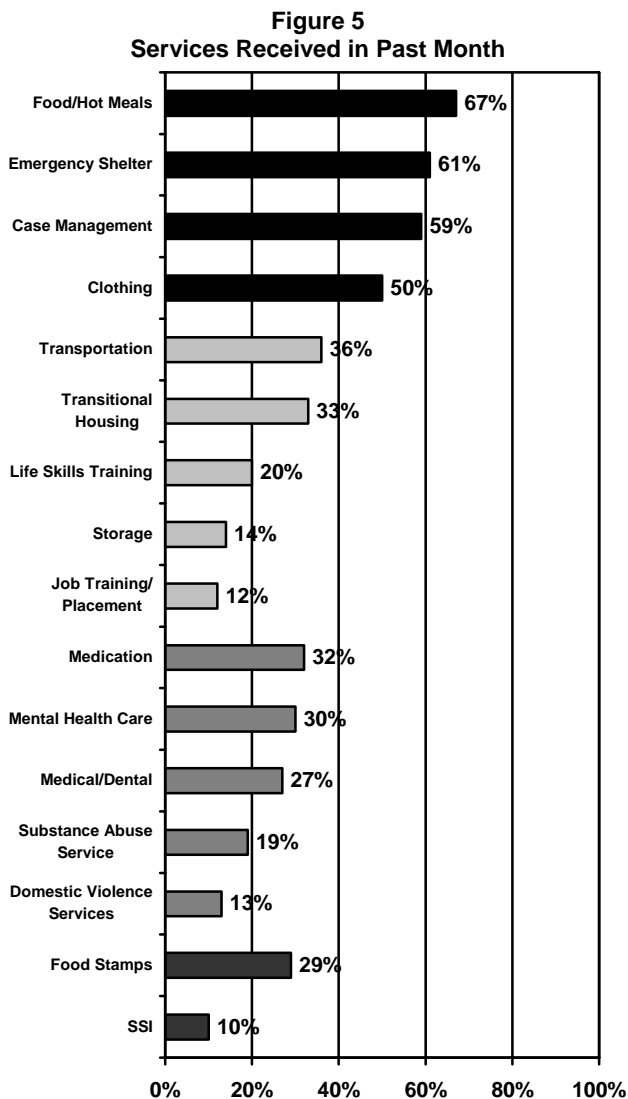
The most frequently identified causes of homelessness were very similar to the characteristics most commonly shared throughout the homeless population. The reasons most often cited were an inability to afford rent (27%), unemployment (22%), substance abuse (19%), domestic violence (15%), and a family break-up (15%). A recent relocation (11%), mental illness (10%), and eviction (10%) were also frequently identified, as was money management problems (9%). (Figure 4)

Sources of Income

Almost half (44%) of the homeless in North Dakota have a job, which is the most common source of income among them. Food stamps (25%) was another frequently cited source of income, as were family or friends (16%), Medicaid (13%), Social Security (13%), and SSI (11%). Small numbers of homeless individuals rely on TANF (7%), veteran’s benefits (5%), child support (3%), asking for money on the street (3%), pensions (2%), selling blood/plasma (2%), and/or unemployment benefits (1%).

Service Utilization

Services that meet individuals’ basic needs are the ones most commonly used: food/hot meals (67%), emergency shelter (61%), case management (59%), and clothing (50%). (Figure 5)



Various forms of stabilizing assistance are also widely used among homeless individuals. More than one-third use transportation (36%) and almost as many use transitional housing (33%). Life skills training (20%), storage (14%), and job training/placement (12%) are used less often. Stabilizing services are also the type of services homeless persons are most apt to be waiting to receive. Twenty percent are waiting for permanent housing, 7% are waiting for housing planning, 7% are waiting for job training or placement, 7% are waiting for transitional housing, and 7% are waiting on relocation assistance. Furthermore, permanent housing (13%) and transportation (8%) are the services most frequently identified as being difficult to access. (Figure 5)

Health-related services are also commonly used. One-third receive medication (32%), 30% receive mental health care, and medical/dental is used by 27%. Substance abuse (19%) and domestic violence services (13%) are also frequently utilized. (Figure 5)

Food stamps are the mainstream resource most frequently used by homeless individuals, with more than one-fourth (29%) of the respondents receiving them. One in ten homeless individuals received SSI (10%). Other mainstream resources are used less frequently. (Figure 5)

As far as what would be most helpful in obtaining housing, homeless individuals’ most frequent responses included: a job or a better job (9%), housing assistance (9%), case management (8%), affordable housing (7%), and more available housing (6%).

PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED POPULATION

In addition to the 615 individuals in the state who are literally homeless, another 217 people are precariously housed, staying in motels (2 individuals) or with friends or family (215 individuals) and are in imminent danger of becoming homeless. This at-risk group is comprised 117 households, which include 61 men, 68 women, 82 children, and 6 persons for whom age and/or gender is not known.

Compared to those who are literally homeless, the precariously housed in North Dakota are more apt to have family members with them. While 68 (31%) of the individuals staying with others or in a motel are unaccompanied adults, 123 (57%) are living in families with children and 26 (12%) are living in families without children. (Figure 6)

Overall, the precariously housed are younger than the literally homeless, especially in regard to men. The average age for precariously housed men is 31.2 years and the average age for women is 33.0 years. One in five households identified as precariously housed (21%) are headed by someone 21 or younger.

Almost half (46%) of the precariously housed population are American Indian; nearly as many (42%) are white. This differs from the literally homeless population where 54% are white and 31% are American Indian.

Figure 6
Family Status of Precariously Housed Individuals

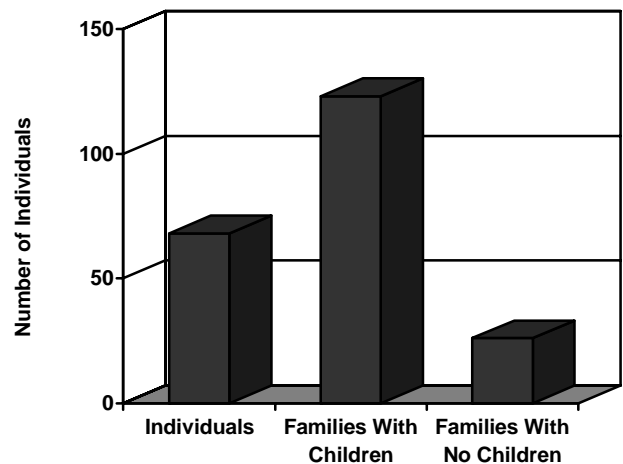
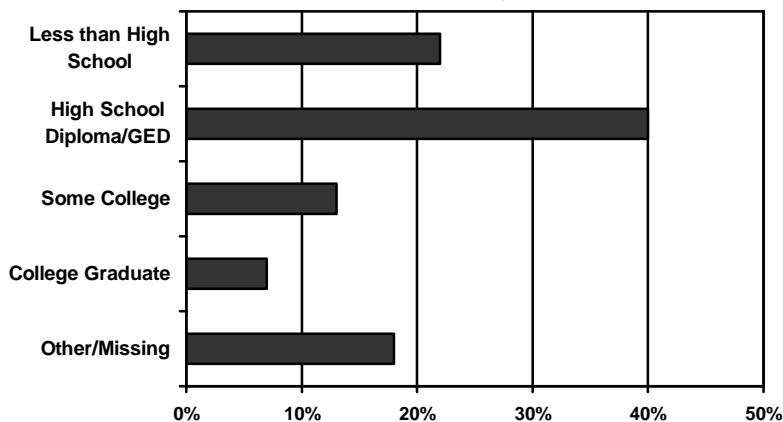


Figure 7
Education Level of Precariously Housed



Three out of five (60%) precariously housed households are headed by someone with at least a high school diploma or GED; only 22% have less than a high school education. (The education level of 18% of the individuals is not known.) Twenty percent of the respondents have attended at least some college, which includes 7% who are college graduates. (Figure 7)

In comparison to the literally homeless, the precariously housed population has been homeless more frequently but their

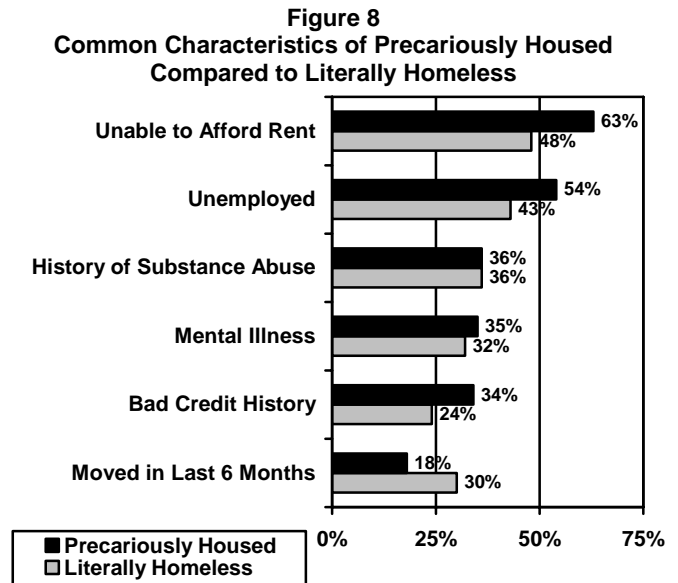
current episode hasn't been as long. Those who were staying in a motel or doubled up with friends or family have been without a home for an average of 0.9 years, with a median of 0.3 years. Thirty-nine percent have only been homeless once in the last three years, 25% have been homeless twice, 14% have been without a permanent home three times and 18% have been homeless four or more times.

The precariously housed are less likely than the literally homeless to have a job and more likely to receive income from food stamps and family or friends. One-third (32%) of precariously housed individuals have a job and similar numbers rely on food stamps (36%) and/or family or friends (37%).

Common Characteristics & Reasons for Homelessness

As seen with the literally homeless, the precariously housed population's most commonly shared characteristics are also the most common reasons for their homelessness: an inability to afford rent; unemployment; a history of substance abuse; and mental illness. Nearly two out of three (63%) precariously housed individuals aren't able to afford rent and more than half (54%) are unemployed. Substance abuse (36%), mental illness (35%), and bad credit (34%) are frequent issues as well. Compared to the literally homeless, bad credit, unemployment, and an inability to pay rent are significantly more common, while being new to the community is less common. (Figure 8)

The inability to afford rent (39%), unemployment (32%), and mental illness (20%) are the three most common reasons for homelessness among the precariously housed. While these reasons are also commonly cited by the literally homeless, they are much more prevalent among those who are staying in motels or with friends or family.



Service Utilization

In comparison to the literally homeless, persons who are precariously housed tend to receive fewer services. The most highly utilized services include case management (41%), food stamps (37%), food/hot meals (35%), medication (32%), mental healthcare (31%) and clothing (28%). Of these, case management, food/hot meals and clothing are used significantly less often by the precariously housed than they are by the literally homeless. While it may be assumed this is partially due to the differing characteristics of the two groups and assistance the precariously housed receive from those with whom they are staying, the actuality of the situation is the precariously housed have a more difficult time accessing services. Nearly one-fourth indicated it is hard to obtain transportation (23%), 21% have had a hard time finding permanent housing, and 16% have had a hard time finding emergency shelter. More than one in ten reported it was difficult for them to access medication (13%), transitional housing (12%), food stamps (11%), job training/job placement (11%), medical/dental (11%), and relocation assistance (11%). (Table 2)

According to the precariously housed population, the two things that would be most beneficial to them in obtaining permanent housing are having a job or a better job (15%) and more available housing (10%).

Table 2
Services Received in Past Month

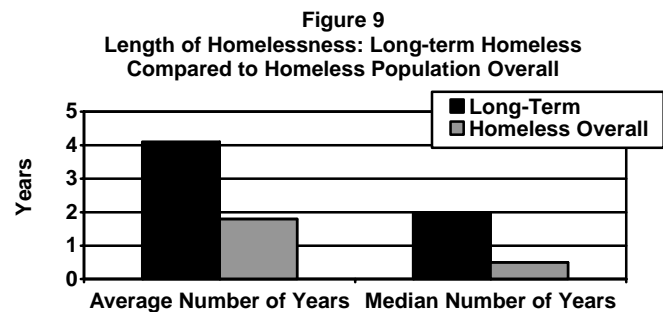
Service	Precariously Housed	Literally Homeless
Case management	41%	59%
Clothing	28%	50%
Emergency shelter	16%	61%
Food stamps	37%	29%
Food/hot meals	35%	67%
Life skills training	7%	20%
Medical/dental	22%	27%
Medication	32%	32%
Mental healthcare	31%	30%
Storage	2%	14%
Substance abuse services	11%	19%
Transitional housing	7%	33%
Transportation	24%	36%

LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS

One in five homeless persons in North Dakota are contending with long-term homelessness, which means they have a disabling condition and have either been homeless for at least a year or have been homeless four or more times in the past three years. Of the 177 individuals this definition applies to, 135 are adults, 38 are children, and the age of four respondents is unknown.

Length of Homelessness

By definition, the primary difference between the long-term homeless and the overall homeless population is how long and how frequently they have been without a permanent residence. The average length of a homeless episode overall is 1.8 years, with a median of 0.5 years. Among the long-term homeless, an average episode lasts 4.1 years, with a median of 2.0 years. (Figure 9)



In addition, the long-term homeless are more than twice as likely as the overall homeless to have been homeless four or more times in the past three years (42% compared to 17% overall). The long-term homeless are less likely to have been homeless once (31% compared to 48% overall), twice (20% compared to 20% overall) or three times (5% compared to 10% overall).

Demographic Differences

The long-term homeless are more likely than the general homeless population to stay in transitional housing (32% compared to 23% overall). They are also somewhat more likely to be men (66% compared to 60% overall) and less likely to be accompanied by a family member (33% compared to 49% overall). One trend to note is the proportion of the long-term homeless population that is living in a family with minor children has doubled since last year (32% compared to 15% in 2007). (Table 3)

Table 3
Demographics of Long-Term Homeless

	Long-Term Homeless	Homeless Overall
In transitional housing	32%	23%
Doubled up/precariously housed	18%	21%
Emergency shelter	51%	48%
Unsheltered	2%	1%
Male	66%	60%
Female	34%	40%
Unaccompanied adult	67%	51%
With family	33%	49%
White	58%	51%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	32%	35%
Other/Missing	10%	15%
High school diploma or less	70%	62%
Post secondary	22%	23%
Missing	8%	14%
Average age of adults	43.7 yrs	38.0 yrs

Compared to the homeless population overall, the long-term homeless are more likely to be white (58% compared to 51% overall) and more likely to report their highest level of education is a high school diploma or less (70% compared to 62% overall). (Table 3)

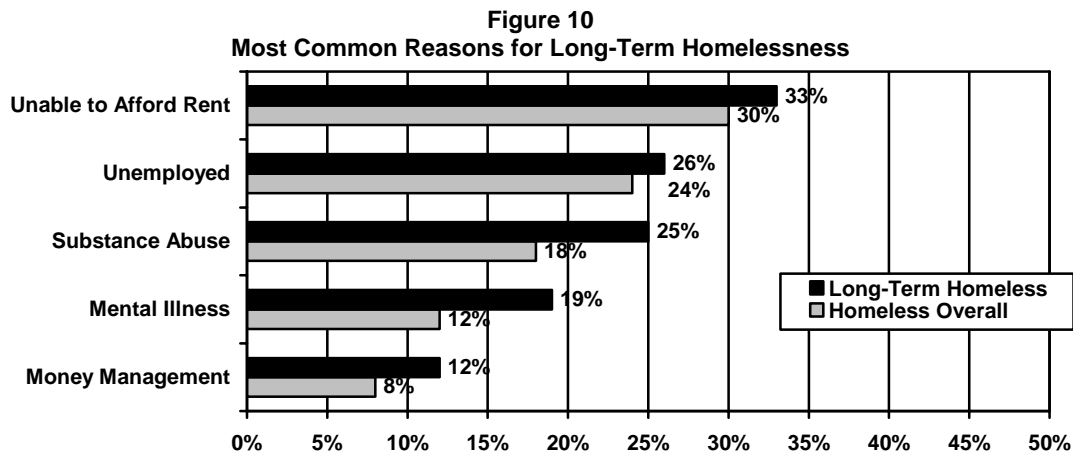
Age is another demographic that differs between the long-term homeless and the homeless population overall. With an average adult age of 43.7 years, the long-term homeless tend to be older than the general homeless population, whose average adult age is 38.0 years. The age difference among males (47.0 years compared to 40.4 years overall) is more pronounced than that among females (37.3 years compared to 34.3 years overall). (Table 3)

Common Characteristics

In order to be classified as long-term homeless, an individual must be affected by one of the following disabilities: a history of substance abuse (58%), mental illness (53%), medical problems (51%), developmental disability (8%), or HIV/AIDS (0%). Because of this requirement, the prevalence of many of these characteristics is much greater among the long-term homeless. Other traits more common among the long-term homeless than the general homeless population include an inability to pay rent (63%), money management problems (34%), bad credit (35%), and veteran status (24%).

Reasons for Long-Term Homelessness

The most common reasons for long-term homelessness are the same as homelessness overall: an inability to afford rent (33%); unemployment (26%); and substance abuse (25%). Substance abuse (25% compared to 18% overall) and mental illness (19% compared to 12% overall) are more common among the long-term homeless than the general homeless population. With the exception of these two issues, the reported reasons for homelessness among the long-term homeless do not differ that significantly from the homeless population overall. This suggests that the primary cause of extended homelessness is either not known or acknowledged by those it affects or it is not adequately measured by the Point-in-Time Survey instrument. The issues facing the long-term homeless may not vary from the general homeless population, but they may be more severe. (Figure 10)

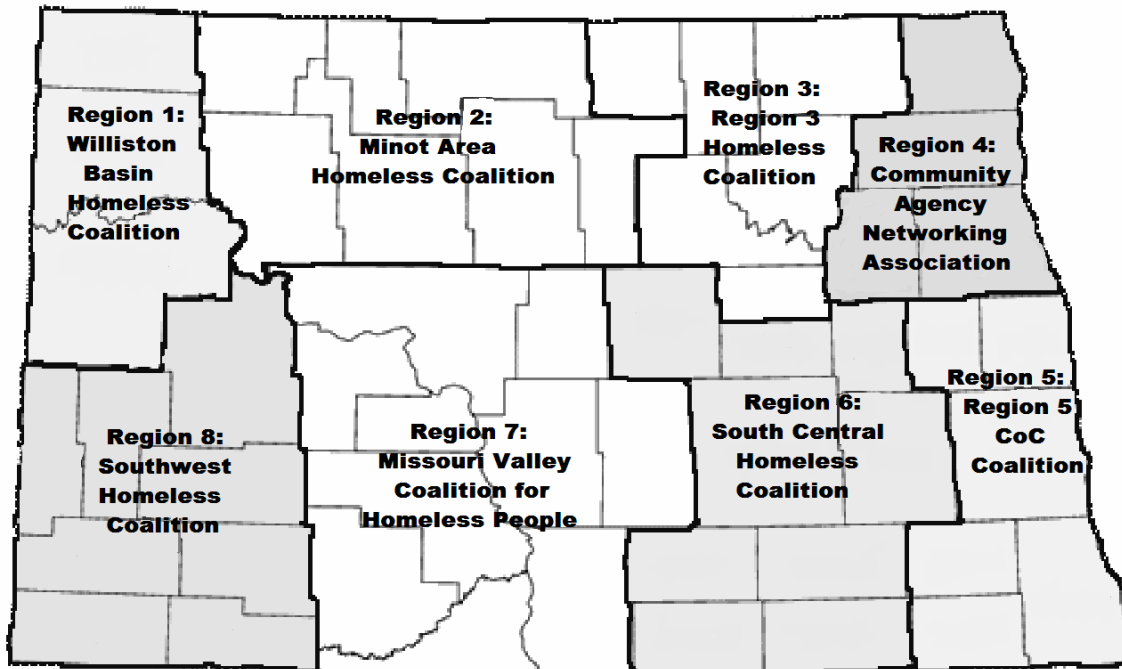


Utilization of Services

Compared to the general homeless population, the long-term homeless are more likely to receive food/hot meals (72%), case management (71%), and clothing (64%). They are also more likely to have received medication (45%), mental health care (39%), transitional housing (35%), medical/dental (33%), and substance abuse services (25%). There are no significant differences between the long-term homeless and the general homeless population in regard to sources of income, difficulty accessing services, or services considered most beneficial in obtaining housing.

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

North Dakota is divided into eight planning regions, as illustrated in the map below. Differences between the homeless populations of each region are noted in this section. Unless otherwise noted, findings in this section pertain to the overall homeless.



The number of homeless individuals and households in each of the eight regions are as follows:

Table 4
Homeless in North Dakota by Region

	Adults	Children	Total Individuals	Total Households	Literally Homeless	Long-Term Homeless
Region 1	18	0	19*	19	11	7
Region 2	19	16	35	18	32	5
Region 3	28	13	43*	21	5	11
Region 4	102	36	141*	101	113	25
Region 5	191	56	265*	207	237	91
Region 6	24	0	24	24	23	8
Region 7	159	113	275*	148	166	30
Region 8	15	14	30*	16	28	0
Total - ND	556	248	832*	554	615	177

*Age is missing for 28 individuals: 1 from Region 1, 2 from Region 3, 3 from Region 4, 18 from Region 5, 3 from Region 7, and 1 from Region 8.

Precariously Housed Population

Region 3 and Region 7 have more of an issue with precariously housed individuals than does the rest of the state. These regions have both a higher than average proportion and a higher than average count of precariously housed individuals. A majority of survey respondents who are precariously housed live in Region 7, though Region 3 has the highest proportion of their total homeless population that is precariously housed. The higher number of precariously housed individuals in Region 7 is presumably due to the large number of homeless in Bismarck and increased efforts by survey teams to locate respondents. (Figures 11 and 12)

Figure 11
Proportion of Precariously Housed to Homeless Population Overall by Region

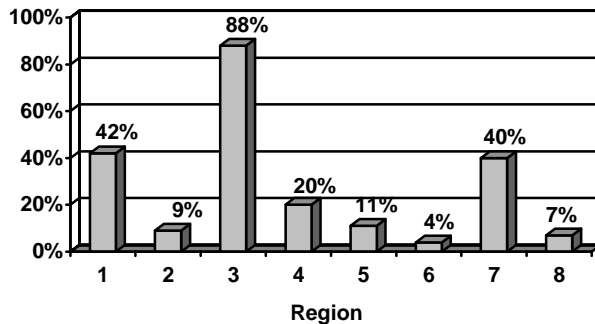
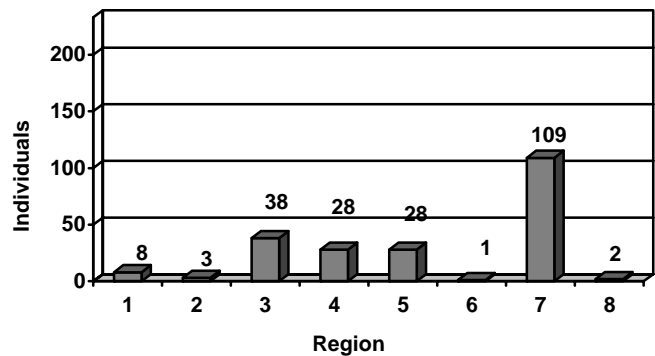


Figure 12
Count of Precariously Housed Homeless by Region



Long-Term Homelessness

Long-term homelessness is less of an issue in Region 2, Region 4, Region 7 and Region 8, and more of an issue in Region 5, which includes 51% of the state's long-term homeless population. Region 1, Region 5, and Region 6 have the largest proportions of long-term homeless in the state, meaning the homeless in these regions are more apt to be considered long-term than the homeless in other regions. However, the actual number of long-term homeless in Region 1 and Region 6 are relatively low, especially compared to Region 5. Region 4 and Region 7 also have somewhat higher numbers of long-term homeless individuals, which is a result of the large numbers of homeless in Grand Forks and Bismarck. (Figures 13 and 14)

Figure 13
Proportion of Long-Term Homeless to Overall Homeless Population by Region

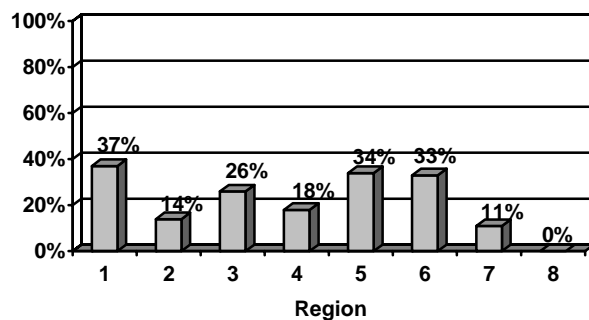
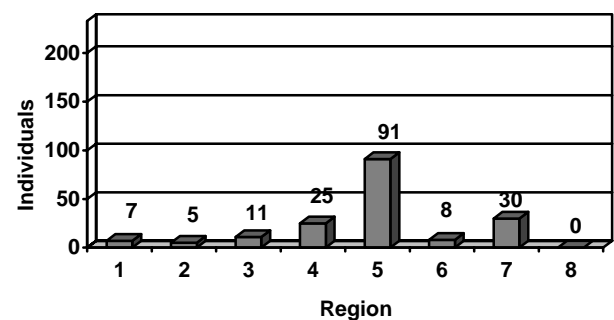
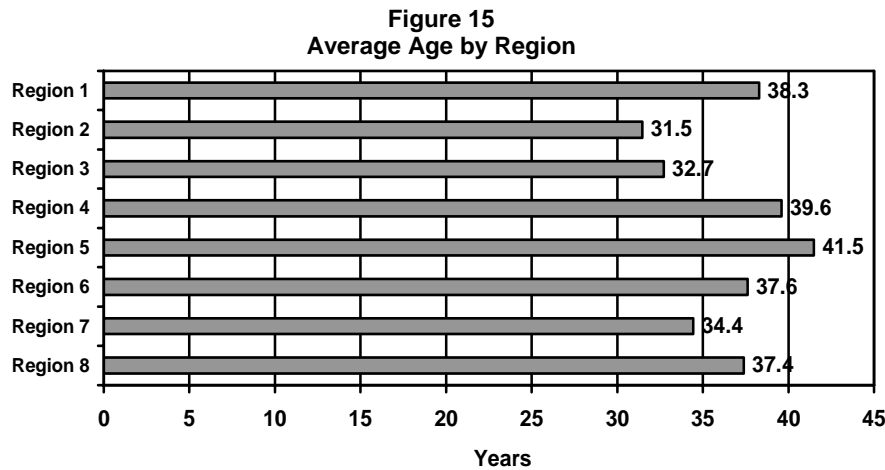


Figure 14
Count of Long-Term Homeless by Region



Demographics

There are higher proportions of homeless men in Region 1 (61%), Region 4 (65%), and Region 5 (72%); men are outnumbered by women in Region 2 (21%) and Region 8 (40%). Compared to other regions, homeless individuals in Region 3 (74%) and Region 7 (57%) are more apt to be American Indian; this is presumably due to tribal land being located in and/or near these areas. The homeless in Region 1 (74%), Region 2 (77%), and Region 6 (75%) are much more likely to be white than they are in other regions. There are higher percentages of homeless individuals who are Black/African American in Region 4 (11%), Region 5 (14%), and Region 8 (7%).

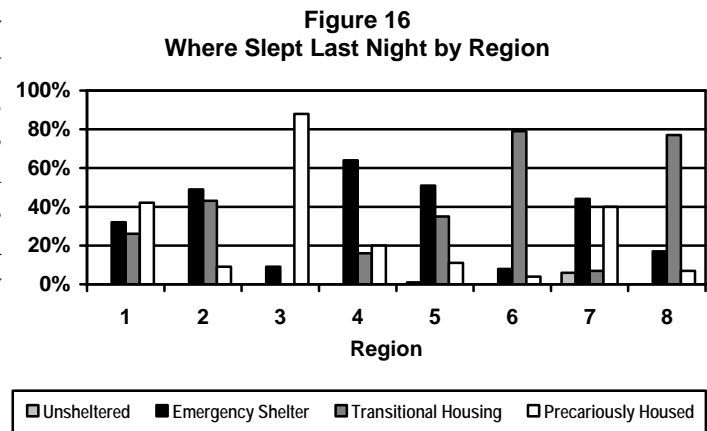


Compared to other regions, homeless individuals are older in Region 4 and Region 5. In Region 2, Region 3, and Region 7, the homeless tend to be younger. Households are more apt to be headed by someone 21 or younger in Region 1, Region 3 and Region 7. Region 4 and Region 6 households, on the other hand, are more likely to be headed by someone over 21. (Figure 15)

Region 1 (21%) and Region 3 (24%) have the highest percentage of homeless heads of household who do not have a high school diploma or GED. At the same time, those in Region 1 (32%), Region 3 (29%), and Region 4 (31%) are the most likely to have received at least some post-secondary education.

Homeless households are more apt to consist of a family in Region 2 (44%), Region 3 (62%), Region 7 (40%), and Region 8 (38%). Families are far less common in Region 1 (0%) and Region 6 (0%).

Emergency shelters are more commonly used by those in Region 4 (64%); they are less frequently used by those in Region 3 (9%), Region 6 (8%), and Region 8 (17%). Transitional housing is more common among homeless individuals in Region 6 (79%) and Region 8 (77%); it is less common in Region 3 (0%), Region 4 (16%), and Region 7 (7%). Being doubled up or precariously housed occurs much more frequently in Region 1 (42%), Region 3 (88%), and Region 7 (40%). (Figure 16)



The average current homeless episode is longer in Region 3 (1.9 years), Region 4 (1.9 years), and Region 5 (2.8 years) than in other regions. Length of homelessness is shorter in Region 2 (0.3 year) and Region 8 (0.2 year). Frequency of homelessness is lowest in Region 6 (63% are homeless for the first time and 0% have been homeless four or more times) and Region 8 (75% are homeless for the first time and 6% have been homeless four or more times). Region 3 has the highest frequency of homelessness (29% are homeless for the first time and 38% have been homeless four or more times).

Common Characteristics

Money management problems, relocation, and domestic violence are less commonplace among the homeless in Region 1, but a criminal record, substance abuse, an inability to afford rent, and not being able to find an apartment are more common. The homeless in Region 2 are more apt to be affected by unemployment and less apt to be affected by bad credit, substance abuse, relocation, and domestic violence. (Table 5)

Homeless individuals in Region 3 are more likely to have bad credit, a developmental disability, and be victims of domestic violence; they are less likely to have a mental illness, have been evicted, or to have recently relocated. Criminal records, substance abuse, and mental illness are less common among those in Region 4. (Table 5)

Homeless individuals in Region 5 are more likely than those in other regions to have medical and money management problems; they are less likely to be unable to find an apartment. (Table 5)

Likelihood of a criminal record, mental illness, substance abuse, and medical problems are higher among the homeless individuals in Region 6. Psychiatric hospital discharges are also more common among this group. They are less likely to be affected by bad credit, unemployment, underemployment, an inability to locate an apartment, a recent relocation, or an inability to afford rent. (Note that the North Dakota State Hospital is located in Region 6.) (Table 5)

Region 7's homeless are more likely than others to have been evicted from an apartment and/or have money management problems. The incidence of developmental disabilities, medical hospital discharges, medical problems, money management problems, and domestic violence are higher among the homeless in Region 8. Criminal records, evictions, substance abuse, being a parolee/probationer, and underemployment are less common among this group. (Table 5)

Table 5
Characteristics of the Homeless: Significant Differences Between Regions

	More Frequent	Less Frequent
Bad credit history	Region 3 (43%)	Region 2 (17%) Region 6 (8%)
Can't locate an apartment	Region 1 (53%)	Region 5 (12%) Region 6 (0%)
Criminal record	Region 1 (26%) Region 6 (29%)	Region 4 (12%) Region 8 (6%)
Developmental disability	Region 3 (14%) Region 8 (19%)	
Discharged from medical hospital	Region 8 (13%)	
Discharged from psychiatric hospital	Region 6 (75%)	
Employed		Region 6 (0%)
Evicted from apartment	Region 7 (22%)	Region 3 (0%) Region 8 (6%)
History of substance abuse	Region 1 (63%) Region 6 (71%)	Region 2 (28%) Region 8 (25%) Region 4 (19%)
Medical problems	Region 5 (34%) Region 8 (25%) Region 6 (29%)	
Mental illness	Region 6 (88%)	Region 3 (24%) Region 4 (17%)
Money management problems	Region 5 (29%) Region 8 (31%) Region 7 (24%)	Region 1 (5%)
Moved in last 6 months	Region 1 (16%)	Region 2 (6%) Region 6 (8%) Region 3 (0%)
Parolee or probationer		Region 8 (0%)
Unable to afford rent	Region 1 (79%)	Region 6 (13%)
Underemployed		Region 6 (8%) Region 8 (13%)
Unemployment	Region 2 (61%)	Region 6 (33%)
Victim of domestic violence	Region 3 (33%) Region 8 (44%)	Region 1 (11%) Region 2 (11%)

Primary Reasons for Homelessness

Not being able to find an apartment, criminal records, substance abuse, mental illness, an inability to afford rent and unemployment are much more likely to be reasons for homelessness in Region 1 than in other regions. In Region 2, family breakup and domestic violence are more often to blame. Other regions more closely resemble the overall findings. (Table 6)

Table 6
Reasons for Homelessness: Significant Differences Between Regions

	More Frequent	Less Frequent
Bad credit history	Region 1 (21%)	Region 6 (0%) Region 8 (0%)
Can't locate an apartment	Region 1 (37%)	Region 6 (0%) Region 8 (0%)
Criminal record	Region 1 (26%)	Region 8 (0%)
Evicted from apartment	Region 1 (16%) Region 7 (17%)	Region 3 (0%)
Family breakup	Region 2 (50%)	Region 6 (0%)
History of substance abuse	Region 1 (47%) Region 7 (23%) Region 5 (23%)	Region 8 (0%)
Medical problems	Region 1 (11%)	
Mental illness	Region 1 (42%) Region 6 (29%)	Region 3 (0%)
Moved in last 6 months		Region 2 (0%) Region 8 (0%) Region 6 (0%)
Unable to afford rent	Region 1 (68%)	Region 2 (11%) Region 6 (13%) Region 3 (19%) Region 8 (19%)
Unemployment	Region 1 (42%)	Region 6 (13%) Region 8 (0%)
Victim of domestic violence	Region 2 (56%)	Region 1 (0%) Region 6 (0%)

Sources of Income

In comparison to others, Region 2 is the most unique in terms of income sources. Region 6 also has a number of differences in contrast to other areas. Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, and Region 7 do not significantly differ from other regions in regard to income sources. (Table 7)

Table 7
Sources of Income: Significant Differences Between Regions

	More Common	Less Common
Asking for money on street	Region 1 (16%) Region 2 (11%)	
Child support	Region 2 (17%)	
Family or friends	Region 1 (42%) Region 2 (56%)	Region 5 (13%) Region 6 (8%)
Food stamps	Region 2 (44%) Region 7 (39%) Region 3 (43%) Region 8 (44%)	Region 1 (11%) Region 6 (4%)
Job	Region 4 (54%) Region 6 (50%)	Region 3 (19%)
Medicaid	Region 2 (50%) Region 8 (50%)	Region 1 (0%) Region 6 (0%)
Social Security	Region 6 (46%)	
SSI	Region 2 (28%) Region 8 (31%) Region 6 (33%)	Region 4 (3%) Region 7 (4%)
TANF	Region 2 (22%)	

Utilization of Services

The homeless in Region 2 and Region 8 are more likely than those in other regions to use services; homeless individuals in Region 3 are the least likely to use services. Service utilization in this region is undoubtedly linked to the fact that Region 3 reports the most accessibility issues. (Table 8)

Table 8
Service Utilization: Significant Differences Between Regions

	Used More		Used Less	
Basic Needs:				
Emergency shelter	Region 2 (83%)	Region 4 (74%)	Region 3 (5%)	Region 6 (0%)
Food/hot meals	Region 2 (83%) Region 6 (88%)		Region 1 (37%) Region 3 (0%)	Region 7 (46%)
Clothing	Region 2 (67%)	Region 5 (64%)	Region 3 (0%)	Region 6 (13%)
Case management	Region 1 (89%) Region 6 (83%)	Region 8 (94%)	Region 3 (14%) Region 4 (25%)	
Healthcare Needs:				
Medical/dental	Region 2 (50%) Region 5 (34%)	Region 7 (27%) Region 8 (50%)		
Mental healthcare	Region 1 (53%)	Region 6 (88%)	Region 3 (5%)	Region 4 (16%)
Medication	Region 1 (53%) Region 6 (63%)	Region 8 (63%)	Region 3 (5%) Region 4 (18%)	
Domestic violence services	Region 2 (44%)	Region 8 (44%)	Region 1 (0%)	
Substance abuse services	Region 1 (58%)	Region 6 (50%)		
Stabilizing Needs:				
Child care	Region 2 (33%)	Region 8 (25%)		
Housing placement	Region 1 (26%)	Region 8 (19%)		
Life skills training	Region 2 (33%) Region 6 (54%)	Region 8 (31%)		
Job training/placement	Region 8 (31%)		Region 3 (0%)	
Storage	Region 2 (33%)	Region 8 (31%)	Region 3 (0%)	Region 6 (0%)
Transitional housing	Region 6 (83%)	Region 8 (69%)	Region 3 (0%)	Region 4 (11%)
Transportation	Region 6 (75%)	Region 8 (75%)	Region 3 (10%)	
Mainstream Resources:				
Food stamps	Region 2 (56%)		Region 6 (4%)	
SSDI	Region 2 (22%)	Region 8 (25%)		
SSI	Region 6 (42%)			
TANF	Region 2 (22%)			

Homeless individuals in Region 1 are more likely than others to be waiting for emergency shelter (26%). Those in Region 2 (56%) and Region 8 (56%) are more likely to be waiting for permanent housing, while the homeless in Region 6 (0%) are the least likely to be waiting for permanent housing. The homeless in Region 8 are also more likely than others to be waiting to receive housing planning (25%).

Difficulty in Accessing Services

The homeless in Region 3 are the most likely to have difficulty in accessing services. (This finding is reinforced, and its consequences are demonstrated, by the service utilization rates in this region.) Permanent housing (43%), relocation assistance (38%), transportation (33%), emergency shelter (33%), case management (29%), housing planning (29%), and transitional housing (29%) are all cited as being difficult to obtain by more than one-fourth of homeless individuals in Region 3. Permanent housing (31%) and transportation (31%) were also frequently identified as being difficult to access in Region 8.