



Homelessness in Southwest Minnesota

2016

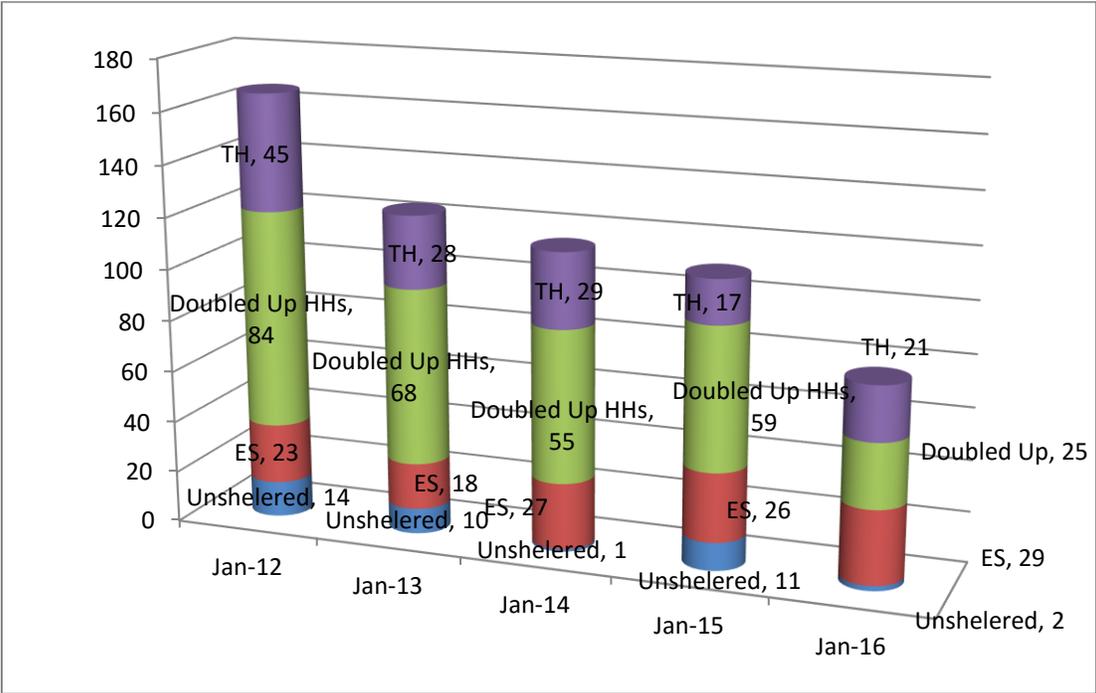


During the last ten days of January each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) asks that a “point-in-time” count of homeless households be completed. The count is organized by the SW MN Continuum of Care, a housing and services planning group serving as the local entry point for homeless program funding through HUD. The SW MN Continuum of Care is currently lead by the SW MN Housing Partnership. The group, which meets monthly in Marshall or Willmar, works to track need, secure financial resources, and coordinate regional goals to prevent and end homelessness in 18 counties in Southwest Minnesota. Information about homeless households is provided via surveys conducted by community action agencies, food shelves, mental health agencies, the Salvation Army, county human and family service agencies, domestic violence programs, school homeless liaisons, law enforcement, veteran service officers, department of corrections staff, public housing programs and housing redevelopment authorities.

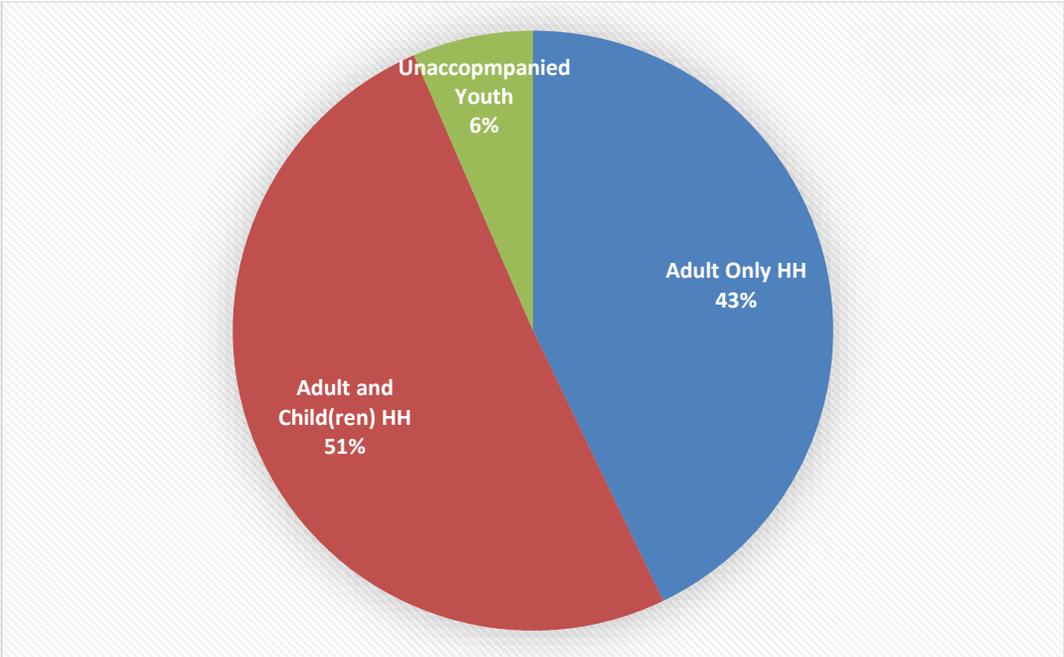
The following data are from the “Point-in-Time” counts done in the 18 counties of SW Minnesota for January 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Numbers represent households, not people. A household could represent an individual, a couple, a parent or parents with children, or homeless unaccompanied youth under 18. The goal of the counts was to identify every household unsheltered or living in a place not meant for human habitation, every household in emergency shelter (often using a motel voucher), every household in a temporary transitional housing program, and every household temporarily doubled up with family or friends due to lost housing. It is not a total of every household homeless in the month or year, but just on one particular night. Here are the total homeless **households counted** in January of the last three years.

1/25/2012	1/23/2013	1/22/2014	1/22/2015	1/28/2016	
38	36	38	35	35	Kandiyohi
43	25	7	19	3	Nobles
32	22	20	16	22	Lyon
13	14	14	8	6	McLeod
15	3	18	5	4	Redwood
0	0	1	5	3	Chippewa
8	8	6	4	2	Meeker
10	6	1	3	0	Jackson
3	3	2	3	1	Renville
2	4	3	1	0	Cottonwood
2	2	0	1	0	Murray
0	0	0	1	0	Big Stone
0	0	3	0	1	Yellow Medicine
4	0	2	0	0	Rock
0	1	0	0	0	Lincoln
0	1	0	0	0	Lac qui Parle
4	0	0	0	0	Pipestone
0	0	0	0	0	Swift
174	125	115	101	77	TOTAL

SW MN Continuum of Care, All Households Experiencing Homelessness: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016:



SW MN Households Experiencing Homelessness by Household Type



For those households who are have been homeless for less than a year, homelessness could be the result of a job loss, a health crisis, a divorce, a domestic violence situation, or an inability to find affordable housing while doing low-wage work. For those who have been homeless for more than a year, the causes could be a disability, mental illness and/or addiction.

The Southwest MN Continuum of Care group, along with many collaborating agencies, is working to minimize homelessness in Southwest Minnesota and prevent it among those precariously housed. The group aims to identify need and target resources to address needs most efficiently and effectively in the areas of prevention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing. Collaborating agencies include Western Community Action, Heartland Community Action, Prairie Five Community Action, Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, the Salvation Army of Willmar, the Salvation Army Extension, Lutheran Social Services Youth Programs, the Kandiyohi Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Southwest Minnesota Adult Mental Health Consortium, Southwestern Mental Health Center, County Human and Family Services Departments, Minnesota Action Council for Veterans, Safe Avenues, Women's Rural Advocacy Program, Southwest Crisis Center, Common Cup of Hutchinson, Litchfield Area Ministerial Association, Marshall Area Ministerial Association, and Volunteers of Mercy. Any individual or agency interested in ending homelessness in southwestern Minnesota is welcome to join.

Continuum of Care member agencies provide housing and coordinate services because stable housing contributes to more employment stability, better school performance for kids, and better physical and mental health. Stable housing also contributes in public savings as less is spent on crisis interventions such as hospitalizations, incarcerations, and emergency motel assistance.

For more information about efforts to address homelessness in Southwest Minnesota, contact Justin Vorbach at justinv@swmhp.org or (507) 530-2942.