



Q & A

Who are the Homeless?

Data taken from Wilder Research, May 2009, for
Cabrini Partnership Evaluation Design Project

Question: Every night, there are how many homeless people in Minnesota?

- A. 5,700
- B. 9,200
- C. 11,100

Answer: In 2006, Wilder estimated that there were between 9,200 and 9,300 (B) homeless people on any given night. Of those, nearly half (47%) reported being homeless for more than one year.

Question: Homelessness affects people of every race and ethnicity, every age, and every city and rural community in America.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: While certain populations are at increased risk, homelessness affects people from all sectors of society (A).

Question: Before the 1980's, the majority of homeless persons were single men struggling with alcohol dependence. The face of homelessness has since changed partly because of:

- A. Increasing rates of poverty
- B. Lack of affordable housing
- C. Reduced number of well-paid, unskilled jobs
- D. All of the above

Answer: After the 1980's, increasing numbers of single men and women, families with young children and the elderly found themselves without adequate, stable housing due to (D) all of the above.

Question: In 2006, Wilder research found that 54% of all homeless people interviewed were diagnosed with what serious health condition?

- A. Malnourishment
- B. HIV/Aids
- C. Chemical dependency
- D. Mental illness

Answer: The percentage of homeless adults with mental illness (D) has increased over the previous 12 years and includes major depression, bi-polar disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, anti-social and obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia and other personality and delusional disorders. Adults experiencing long-term homelessness reported a significantly higher rate of all disabilities.

Question: The homeless are usually grouped into one of two categories: transitional homeless and long-term homeless. The majority fall into which category?

- A. Transitional homeless
- B. Long-term homeless

Answer: Individuals or families who are homeless for less than six months fall into the majority categorized as transitional homeless (A). "Many transitional homeless adults are employed, but in positions that do not pay a living wage (Levinson et.al., 2004)."

Transitional housing programs are designed to help individuals build the skills necessary to live independently, and to secure and maintain stable housing (Washington, 1999).