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Towards a Better Understanding of Rural Homelessness: An Examination of Housing Crisis in a Small, Rural Minnesota Community

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A partnership for community
revitalization between the City of
Morris and the University of
Minnesota, Morris

*Towards a Better Understanding
of Rural Homelessness:
An Examination of Housing Crisis
in a Small, Rural Minnesota Community*

by
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and Joel Deuth at the
University of Minnesota at Morris

with
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This report is the result of the applied research component of the Morris COPC Partnership. Further information can be found at: www.morrispartnership.org or by contacting

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*“BELIEVING IN A BRIGHT, PROSPEROUS
FUTURE FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES”*

Towards a Better Understanding of Rural Homelessness: An Examination of Housing Crisis in a Small, Rural Minnesota Community

Background

In October 2004, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the city of Morris, Minnesota and the University of Minnesota at Morris (UMM) a Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) program grant. The award allowed the City of Morris to collaborate with UMM on a wide range of research and service projects related to housing in west central Minnesota. A full description of the grant project and activities can be found at:

<http://www.morrispartnership.org/>

One of the projects supported by the COPC grant was the administration of a new course, Rural Housing Policy, that was administered during Fall 2006 semester at the University of Minnesota at Morris. This report is the compilation of the work done collectively by the students in the course and the instructor, Professor Greg Thorson. Together, the class reviewed the literature on urban and rural homelessness, interviewed local providers of social service programs, developed a survey to be administered at regional homeless shelters, wrote the Institutional Review Board (IRB) proposal to authorize the administration of the survey, administered the survey, and analyzed the results. Some of the writing was done collectively by the class, although Joel Deuth and Professor Thorson eventually were responsible for writing much of the content.

Housing Crisis and Homelessness: Problems with Definitions

One of the immediate problems in studying homeless is defining who is homeless. Are those who are “doubled up” and living temporarily with friends and/or family homeless? How about those who are living in motels with weekly rates? How about those who are sleeping in their cars?

There are many competing definitions of homelessness. Some of the definitions studied by our class include:

- 1) Lack of shelter
- 2) Statutory definitions from federal law (US Code Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I, § 11302)

“a homeless person is... ”(1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and (2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is— (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

3) Statutory definition from the Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act: "those who lack a fixed, regular night-time residence."

4) U.S Congress, House 1987

"Individuals are deemed to be homeless in they have no fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence, and must therefore constantly move around seeking security, rest, nutrition, and protection from the elements."

5) Yvonne Vissing (1996) provides a more all-encompassing definition. She argues that "rural homelessness is defined ... as the lack of a consistent, safe, physical structure and the emotional deprivation that occurs as a result." (page 8).

Our class thus adopted the more comprehensive definition developed by Vissing. Subsequent references to homelessness in this paper utilize Vissing’s broader definition.

Is Rural Homeless Distinctive?

Our class found Paul Rollinson’s *Homelessness in Rural America: Policy and Practice* (2006) to be the most helpful text in understanding rural homelessness. Rollinson points out that homelessness is most typically thought of as an urban phenomenon. Most Americans characterize the homeless as urban, alcoholic men (Anderson 1923) that might live on city grates, on park benches wrapped in cardboard, and perhaps suffering from severe psychological illness.

Yet Castle (1995) has demonstrated that rural areas experience higher poverty levels than either urban or suburban areas, and First (1994) argues that the resulting homelessness of rural residents is substantively different than those of urban populations.

Another outstanding text on rural homelessness is Yvonne Vissing’s *Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Homeless Children and Families in Small-Town America*. Vissing reviews the literature on homelessness and finds that rural homelessness is distinctive. She cites the work of Roth, Bean,

and Hyde (1986) who found that the rural homeless were more likely to be composed of single women with children in rural areas than in urban areas (32% v. 16%), were less likely to be found in shelters (11% v. 37%), and were more likely to be living with friends or families (41% v. 11%). In addition, they find that 90% of the rural homeless had previously held jobs, and over 30% had worked within 30 days prior to their arrival at the shelter.

Meanwhile, Peter Rossi (1994) found that more than 60% of the rural homeless lived with friends and/or family, 30% lived in inexpensive motels, and 10% lived in cars and other temporary, mobile spaces. According to Rossi, drinking problems were less likely to occur for the rural homeless than for the urban or suburban homeless. Only 10% of the rural homeless reported drinking a lot, compared to over 20% in urban areas.

Our review of the literature concludes that the rural homeless are more likely to be composed of families, especially single-parent families headed by women, that are housed precariously rather than in shelters.

Thinking about Rural Homelessness: Stages and Progression

Vissing (1996) develops a typical progression experienced by many rural homeless families. According to Vissing, the typical pattern of homelessness for a rural family might involve the following:

Stage 1: Previously financially stable families suffer some significant economic stress. While most were homeowners, the severe economic event forced them to sell their home in favor of a less expensive rental.

Stage 2: The financially distraught family lives in a rental apartment or mobile home prior to becoming homeless. The down payment and first month's rent typically covered two months of residency, but after this period, many families moved several times over relatively short periods. Most typically, the distressed family found that no housing was cheap enough given their difficult economic condition.

Stage 3: After a final eviction or other rental problem, the family now moves in with family or friends while "they get their feet back on the ground". By the definitions of homelessness described above, the family has now become homeless, although they may be "hidden" from public view. Typically these housing situations are very unstable. The friends and/or extended family are not able to accommodate another family.

Stage 4: The distressed family, now having exhausted their options, resort to living in temporary facilities, such as a homeless shelter or a campground. Living in a homelessness shelter presents significant strain on the family as the power structure of the family is significantly altered.

Parental authority over such every day matters as eating times, quiet time for homework, etc. are now dictated by the shelter.

e) The family finds some solutions that enable their recovery, such as Section 8 housing, inexpensive apartments, and/or connections with other social services that increase their overall income.

Setting the Context: The Social Safety Net in Stevens County, Minnesota

Our study focuses on rural homelessness as it occurs in west central Minnesota and the surround region. Our interviews focused on administrators of social service programs in Stevens County, Minnesota. Stevens County is located in west central Minnesota. The city of Morris is the county seat of Stevens County. According to the 2000 census, the population of Morris in 2000 was 5,068 while the county population was 10,053.

The class interviewed many county officials whose responsibilities included providing for a social safety net in Stevens County. Among those interviewed was Morris Police Chief Jim Beauregard, Stevens County HRA Executive Director Nora Jost, Morris HRA Director Melanie Fohl, Christine Peacock of Someplace Safe (a local domestic abuse shelter), Lisa Kleinwolterink of Stevens County Social Services, and Mary Ellen Grossman of the Stevens County Food Shelf.

This section of the paper is certainly not intended to be a comprehensive overview of how social services are delivered in Stevens County. Rather, it was intended to provide context for the development of the homeless survey that is the focus of this paper, and to provide the class members with more information as to how poverty prevention programs are administered in rural areas.

Interview Findings

All policy administrators that were interviewed by the class agreed that the delivery of rural services was much more tightly integrated than in urban areas. Some of the partnering organizations include the formal social services identified in the preceding paragraph, along with the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the area school districts, and the Stevens County ministerial association.

Residents as well as transients are served by these groups.

All agreed that rural poverty is distinctive. For example, panhandling is exceptionally rare in Stevens County. However, there is a general belief that the needs of the rural poor are increasing. All believed that there had been large increases in dual families and lots of downsizing of houses in our region.

One of the key tools used by social service organizations for emergency housing needs is the issuance of hotel vouchers. According to Police Chief Jim Beauregard, there were 69 hotel voucher requests made between January 2000 and December 2006. These hotel vouchers are most frequently used for very short periods to assist a person or family with dealing with immediate, pending homelessness. While used somewhat infrequently, they are very important in stabilizing emergency housing needs. Most are distributed either through the Morris Police Department or the local Salvation Army.

Another tool frequently used by the city and county governments to address the problem of affordable housing is the issuance of housing vouchers. Section 8 vouchers, referred to as Housing Choice Vouchers in Minnesota, are heavily utilized in Stevens County. Table 1 shows the usage of Housing Choice vouchers in Stevens County between 2002 and 2005.

Table 1. Housing Choice Voucher Utilization in Stevens County, 2002-2005

	2002	2003	2004	2005
# of Vouchers	1344	1374	1486	1537
Average Cost per Voucher	259	260	262	242
\$ for Housing Assistance Payments	\$348,505	\$357,034	\$388,799	\$372,111
\$ for Administration	\$52,999	\$55,771	\$55,864	\$58,133

We talked to several policymakers in the community who believe that the Housing Choice Vouchers are critical in maintaining the viability of the Morris area region as they effectively subsidize the low wages offered by local employers.

Tables 2 and 3 show the pricing of single family and apartment dwelling rental properties within the City of Morris as of February 20, 2007. While rates are low compared to the Twin Cities metro area, the median rents are higher than the surrounding areas largely due to the presence of University of Minnesota at Morris (UMM) college students. The affordability decreases even further for larger rental units.

Table 2. Morris Median Single Family Dwelling Rental Rates, February 2007

# of Bedrooms	# of Properties	Least Expensive (<\$400)	Less Expensive (\$401-\$650)	More Expensive (\$651-\$900)	Most Expensive (\$900+)
1	8	8	0	0	0
2	26	16	10	0	0
3	29	2	19	8	0
4	29	4	9	10	6
5+	12	0	4	5	3

Table 3. Morris Median Apartment Rental Rates, February 2007

	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom
Number	239	162	38
Average Rent	\$314	\$472	\$565

For a more complete report outlining the problem with the affordability of rental properties in Morris, see the Morris Housing Study Final Report issued in March 2007 by Scott Kudson and Steve Griesert of Community Partners Research as well as the Student Housing Choices Report completed by Arne Kildegaard. Both reports were sponsored by this Morris Area COPC project and are downloadable from the Morris Area COPC website.

Upward pressure on rental rates is likely should the University experience the significant increases that it projects in student enrollment.

Another problem addressed by area experts was the recent closure of the Stevens Community Medical Center's Chemical Dependency unit in 2005. The outpatient program was established in July 1982 and was an important asset of the community.

Table 4. Participation in Outpatient Chemical Dependency Programs, Stevens Community Medical Center, 2003-2005

	Outpatient Chemical Dependency	Mirror Image (Adults)	Reflections (Teenagers)
2003	47	44	32
2004	56	66	14
2005	47	31	22

The literature on homelessness clearly demonstrates that a significant proportion of social problems are the result of unaddressed chemical addiction problems.

Fortunately for the Morris area, the New Vision Center opened up an office in Morris in January 2008. The New Vision Center provides a wide range of chemical dependency programming, including services for adolescents and adults, relapse prevention, and DUI programming. Many of our interviews occurred following the closure of the chemical dependency program and prior to the opening of the New Vision Center. Several of those interviewed discussed in detail how the absence of chemical addiction programming presented significant hardship for area families, as those who sought treatment were disconnected from their family and needed resources. In our opinion, it is critically important that the Morris area continue to offer effective and affordable chemical dependency programming.

Another important service provider in Stevens County is the Stevens County Food Shelf. Table 5 shows the amount of food distributed by the food shelf during the period of August 2006 through February 2007. There is a strong, consistent need for food shelf services in the county.

Table 5. Stevens County Food Shelf Usage, August 2006-February 2007

Month	Households Served	Persons Served	Pounds of Food Distributed
August 2006	76	242	6367
September 2006	84	275	6749
October 2006	80	238	5636
November 2006	84	256	6767
December 2006	79	309	8589
January 2007	76	201	5379
February 2007	61	174	5015

Finally, the class interviewed Christine Peacock from Someplace Safe. Someplace Safe serves victims of domestic abuse. They have an office in Morris and a shelter located in Fergus Falls. Their maximum occupancy is 10 women per night, and their average occupancy is 7 per night.

The interviews with leaders of each of these organizations demonstrated that they work together closely to combat rural housing crisis. The interviews also revealed that there is strong demand for their services, and that their resources are stretched.

Survey Development and Administration

The next step for the class was to gather information from the rural homeless themselves. To gather this information, students in the class along with the professor collectively reviewed the relevant literature, wrote the survey, took the necessary Course in the Protection of Human Subjects offered by the University of Minnesota, wrote the Institutional Review Board (IRB) proposal, and administered a survey of the four homeless shelters in the Fargo – Moorhead region.

Participation in the study was entirely voluntary. Participants reviewed a comprehensive consent form and were fully informed of both the risks and benefits of being in the study. Participants were offered \$5 for completing the questionnaire. Surveys were administered by the students and the faculty member during the spring of 2006. All data were collected and stored in a confidential manner consistent with University of Minnesota requirements.

Site of Survey

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YWCA of Cass Clay County	18	18.4	18.4	18.4
	New Life Center	34	34.7	34.7	53.1
	Churches United	37	37.8	37.8	90.8
	Dorothy Day House	9	9.2	9.2	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Most of the surveys were administered at Churches United in Moorhead, Minnesota. The Dorothy Day House had only 9 participants, but this was due to the low count of people staying in the house in the first place. The New Life Center and Churches United had the best outcome because of the number of people staying at those two shelters and also the amount of people present during the survey administration over the dinner period.

Was R a resident?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	21	21.4	21.4	21.4
	Yes	77	78.6	78.6	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Most of those surveyed were residents of the shelter visited. Those who were not residents were present because of the open-door policy during the dinner period. Although these individuals were not residents of a shelter, they were homeless and had a past of homelessness that we felt was important to our survey.

R's gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	71	72.4	72.4	72.4
	Female	27	27.6	27.6	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Only 27% of those surveyed were females. The YWCA of Cass Clay County was a female-only facility, which is where 18 of the 27 females were surveyed. The other three shelters were predominantly male, which is a characteristic found among the homeless.

R's age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18.00	1	1.0	1.0	1.0
	20.00	3	3.1	3.1	4.1
	21.00	1	1.0	1.0	5.2
	24.00	4	4.1	4.1	9.3
	25.00	1	1.0	1.0	10.3
	26.00	2	2.0	2.1	12.4
	27.00	2	2.0	2.1	14.4
	28.00	1	1.0	1.0	15.5
	30.00	2	2.0	2.1	17.5
	31.00	1	1.0	1.0	18.6
	32.00	1	1.0	1.0	19.6
	33.00	3	3.1	3.1	22.7
	34.00	1	1.0	1.0	23.7
	35.00	4	4.1	4.1	27.8
	36.00	2	2.0	2.1	29.9
	37.00	1	1.0	1.0	30.9
	38.00	1	1.0	1.0	32.0
	39.00	4	4.1	4.1	36.1
	40.00	1	1.0	1.0	37.1
	41.00	2	2.0	2.1	39.2
	42.00	3	3.1	3.1	42.3
	43.00	3	3.1	3.1	45.4
	44.00	2	2.0	2.1	47.4
	45.00	2	2.0	2.1	49.5
	46.00	3	3.1	3.1	52.6
	47.00	5	5.1	5.2	57.7
	48.00	2	2.0	2.1	59.8
	49.00	6	6.1	6.2	66.0
	50.00	3	3.1	3.1	69.1
	51.00	2	2.0	2.1	71.1
	52.00	2	2.0	2.1	73.2
	53.00	4	4.1	4.1	77.3
	54.00	6	6.1	6.2	83.5
	55.00	2	2.0	2.1	85.6
56.00	4	4.1	4.1	89.7	
57.00	1	1.0	1.0	90.7	
59.00	1	1.0	1.0	91.8	
60.00	1	1.0	1.0	92.8	
61.00	2	2.0	2.1	94.8	
62.00	1	1.0	1.0	95.9	
64.00	1	1.0	1.0	96.9	
67.00	1	1.0	1.0	97.9	
69.00	1	1.0	1.0	99.0	
74.00	1	1.0	1.0	100.0	
Total		97	99.0	100.0	

Missing System	1	1.0		
Total	98	100.0		

The median age of the people surveyed was 46 years. The youngest was 18 and the oldest was 74. The median of 46 years is a higher number than expected. This could be attributed to the demographics around the shelters and from rural areas surrounding Fargo-Moorhead or it could be that middle-age people are more likely to be homeless.

R's marital status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Married	9	9.2	9.2	9.2
Separated	9	9.2	9.2	18.4
Divorced	33	33.7	33.7	52.0
Widowed	5	5.1	5.1	57.1
Never Married	42	42.9	42.9	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Only 9% of those surveyed were married while the rest were separated, divorced, widowed or never married. The largest proportion (42%) was never married while 33% were divorced. Marital status did factor into the likelihood of homelessness as we found later on. According to this sample data, most of the homeless do have relationship problems.

Does R have children?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	55	56.1	56.1	56.1
No	43	43.9	43.9	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Over half of the sample did have children. This is a fairly high number to have children and be homeless. Clearly, prevalence of children does factor into a person's likelihood of becoming homeless among many other factors.

How many children does R have?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid .00	43	43.9	43.9	43.9
1.00	11	11.2	11.2	55.1
2.00	12	12.2	12.2	67.3
3.00	13	13.3	13.3	80.6
4.00	10	10.2	10.2	90.8
5.00	4	4.1	4.1	94.9
6.00	4	4.1	4.1	99.0
8.00	1	1.0	1.0	100.0

Total	98	100.0	100.0	
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The median number of children was 1. The most was 8 children. Most of the sample had between 1 and 4 children. Not having children was the minority of the sample population. Nearly 55% of the sample has 1 or more children.

How many kids ages 0-5 does R have?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	87	88.8	88.8	88.8
	1.00	9	9.2	9.2	98.0
	2.00	2	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total		98	100.0	100.0	

Of those having children, 9% had one child under the age of 5 and 2% had 2 children under the age of 5. By far, the majority of the sample, 89%, did not have any children under the age of 5.

How many kids ages 6-12 does R have?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	84	85.7	85.7	85.7
	1.00	9	9.2	9.2	94.9
	2.00	3	3.1	3.1	98.0
	3.00	2	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total		98	100.0	100.0	

Of those people having children, 14% had one or more children between the ages of 6 and 12. The majority, 85%, had no children between the ages of 6 and 12. Of the 14% have one or more children between these ages, 9% had only one child between these ages.

How many kids ages 13-17 does R have?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	78	79.6	79.6	79.6
	1.00	7	7.1	7.1	86.7
	2.00	7	7.1	7.1	93.9
	3.00	5	5.1	5.1	99.0
	5.00	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total		98	100.0	100.0	

Over 20% of the people who had children, had one or more of their children between the ages of 13 and 17. The highest number of children between these ages was 5, while 7% had one child between 13 and 17.

Are R's kids staying in shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	15	15.3	26.3	26.3
	No	42	42.9	73.7	100.0
	Total	57	58.2	100.0	
Missing	Not Applicable/Refused	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Of those people who had children, only one-quarter of them had their kids staying in the shelter. The other three-quarters did not have their children in the shelter with them for reasons including the age of the child, staying with relatives, or with friends.

R's Highest Level of Education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No High School	6	6.1	6.1	6.1
	Some High School	21	21.4	21.4	27.6
	High School Diploma or GED	46	46.9	46.9	74.5
	Some College	14	14.3	14.3	88.8
	Tech/Vocational/Associates Degree	5	5.1	5.1	93.9
	College Degree	5	5.1	5.1	99.0
	Post Graduate Degree	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

The median level of education among this sample population was a high school diploma or GED. 46% had a high school diploma and 25% had some college or more. One-quarter of the sample had some high school or no high school. 10% had a tech/vocational/associates degree or a college degree. This number is surprisingly high considering the factors that are highly correlated with homelessness. Typically, the higher the education a person has, the more income they will receive or at the least the higher the likelihood of them receiving employment.

R's Father Highest Level of Education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No High School	7	7.1	10.4	10.4
	Some High School	20	20.4	29.9	40.3
	High School Diploma or GED	26	26.5	38.8	79.1
	Some College	3	3.1	4.5	83.6
	Tech/Vocational/Associates Degree	3	3.1	4.5	88.1
	College Degree	7	7.1	10.4	98.5
	Post Graduate Degree	1	1.0	1.5	100.0
	Total	67	68.4	100.0	
Missing	Refused	31	31.6		

Total	98	100.0		
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The respondents' father's highest level of education was a median of high school diploma or GED. This data is very close to that of the respondent's own level of education showing that a person is likely to have the same level of education as their parents.

R's Mother Highest Level of Education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No High School	5	5.1	6.4	6.4
	Some High School	12	12.2	15.4	21.8
	High School Diploma or GED	40	40.8	51.3	73.1
	Some College	6	6.1	7.7	80.8
	Tech/Vocational/Associates Degree	2	2.0	2.6	83.3
	College Degree	8	8.2	10.3	93.6
	Post Graduate Degree	5	5.1	6.4	100.0
	Total	78	79.6	100.0	
Missing	Refused	20	20.4		
Total		98	100.0		

Just as was found with a respondents' father's level of education, the median level of education of a respondent's mother was a high school diploma or GED. The numbers throughout this data match up closely with the respondent's level of education and the respondents' father's level of education.

Did R stay in temporary housing during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	56	57.1	57.7	57.7
	No	41	41.8	42.3	100.0
	Total	97	99.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	1.0		
Total		98	100.0		

The majority of respondents had stayed in temporary housing during the 7 days prior to coming to their current shelter. This is a strong indicator of why they are in a shelter currently. Nearly 42 % of the sample had not stayed in temporary housing during the 7 days prior to coming to their current shelter.

Did R stay outdoors during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	18	18.4	31.6	31.6
	No	39	39.8	68.4	100.0
	Total	57	58.2	100.0	

Missing	System	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Of those that had stayed in temporary housing prior to coming to their current shelter, 31% had stayed in the outdoors.

Did R stay in vehicle during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	10	10.2	17.5	17.5
	No	47	48.0	82.5	100.0
	Total	57	58.2	100.0	
Missing	System	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Of those that had stayed in temporary housing prior to coming to their current shelter, only 17% had stayed in a vehicle during that time.

Did R stay in a condemned or abandoned building during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	2	2.0	3.5	3.5
	No	55	56.1	96.5	100.0
	Total	57	58.2	100.0	
Missing	System	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Of those that had stayed in temporary housing prior to coming to their current shelter, only 3.5% had stayed in a condemned or abandoned building during that time. This form of temporary shelter is clearly not preferred or not widely available in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Did R stay in a public place or place of business during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	7	7.1	12.3	12.3
	No	50	51.0	87.7	100.0
	Total	57	58.2	100.0	
Missing	System	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Of those that had stayed in temporary housing prior to coming to their current shelter, only 12% had stayed in a public place or a place of business during that time.

Did R stay in a place the s/he received a voucher for during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	1.0	1.8	1.8
	No	56	57.1	98.2	100.0
	Total	57	58.2	100.0	
Missing	System	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Of those that had stayed in temporary housing prior to coming to their current shelter, only 1.8% had stayed in a place that they received a voucher for during that time.

Did R stay in a church during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	4.1	7.0	7.0
	No	53	54.1	93.0	100.0
	Total	57	58.2	100.0	
Missing	System	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Of those that had stayed in temporary housing prior to coming to their current shelter, only 7% had stayed in a church. This form of temporary housing is many times thought to be used in rural, faith-based communities, but is hardly used according to this sample data.

Did R stay with friends during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	26	26.5	45.6	45.6
	No	31	31.6	54.4	100.0
	Total	57	58.2	100.0	
Missing	System	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Staying with friends prior to coming to a shelter was the most prevalent form of temporary housing found among the sample. 45% had stayed with friends prior to coming to their current shelter.

Did R stay with family during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	14.3	25.0	25.0
	No	42	42.9	75.0	100.0
	Total	56	57.1	100.0	
Missing	System	42	42.9		
Total		98	100.0		

About one-quarter of those having stayed in temporary housing prior to coming to their current shelter had stayed with family. This is significantly less than the percentage that had stayed with friends prior to entering their current shelter. Still, the majority of people did not stay with family prior to their current shelter.

Did R stay in a hotel or motel during the 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	16	16.3	28.1	28.1
	No	41	41.8	71.9	100.0
	Total	57	58.2	100.0	
Missing	System	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

A little more than a quarter of those that had stayed in temporary housing prior to their current shelter stayed in a hotel or motel. This percentage is slightly more than the percentage that had stayed at a family member's residence.

Did R live temporarily outdoors during the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	28	28.6	28.9	28.9
	No	69	70.4	71.1	100.0
	Total	97	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	1	1.0		
Total		98	100.0		

A slightly less percentage of those surveyed had stayed outdoors a year prior to their current shelter than those who had lived outdoors only 7 days within their admittance to the shelter.

Did R live temporarily in a vehicle during the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	23	23.5	24.0	24.0
	No	73	74.5	76.0	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Close to a quarter of those surveyed had lived temporarily in a vehicle within the past year. This is a higher percentage of people than those who had lived in a vehicle within the 7 days prior to entering their shelter.

Did R live temporarily in a condemned or abandoned building during the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	4.1	4.2	4.2
	No	92	93.9	95.8	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

A very small percentage of the sample had stayed temporarily in a condemned or abandoned building within the past year. This is also seen in the experience of those who had stayed in temporary housing within 7 days prior to the shelter.

Did R live temporarily in a public place or place of business during the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	15	15.3	15.6	15.6
	No	81	82.7	84.4	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Most of those surveyed did not live temporarily in a public place or a place of business within the past year. This is mirrored in the previous question for those who had stayed in temporary housing within the previous 7 days of coming to their shelter.

Did R live temporarily in a place for which s/he received a voucher for during the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	11	11.2	11.5	11.5
	No	85	86.7	88.5	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

A small percentage of the sample had stayed in a temporary place for which they received a voucher for during the past year. This is also evident in those who had stayed in a temporary place within the previous 7 days of coming to the shelter.

Did R live temporarily in a church during the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	11	11.2	11.6	11.6
	No	84	85.7	88.4	100.0
	Total	95	96.9	100.0	
Missing	System	3	3.1		
Total		98	100.0		

A small percentage of the homeless surveyed had stayed in a church during the past year. This is surprising based on the fact that many rural communities are faith-based and offer to provide shelter or assistance any way they are able to.

Did R live temporarily with friends during the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	46	46.9	47.9	47.9
	No	50	51.0	52.1	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

By far, the highest percentage of those living in temporary housing within the past year was with friends. This was also seen in the percentage of those who had lived in temporary housing within the 7 days prior to coming to their shelter. Presumably, the homeless rely on their friends for support and for housing when family members have ignored them.

Did R live temporarily with family during the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	37	37.8	38.5	38.5
	No	59	60.2	61.5	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

A rather high percentage of those living in temporary housing within the past year stayed with family. It is not as large a percentage as those who stayed with friends, but still roughly 40%.

Did R live temporarily in a hotel or motel in the past year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	44	44.9	45.8	45.8
	No	52	53.1	54.2	100.0

	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Living in a motel or hotel within the past year was the second most used form of temporary housing behind living with friends. This may be because a hotel or motel is the choice before or after living with friends.

Is R currently employed?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	38	38.8	39.2	39.2
	No	59	60.2	60.8	100.0
	Total	97	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	1	1.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Nearly 40% of those homeless in the sample were employed with just over 60% unemployed.

If R is currently employed, is s/he employed full or part-time?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Part-time	19	19.4	50.0	50.0
	Full-time	19	19.4	50.0	100.0
	Total	38	38.8	100.0	
Missing	System	60	61.2		
Total		98	100.0		

Of the 40% employed, half worked part-time and the other half worked full-time.

If R is currently employed, in what industry?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Clerical	2	2.0	5.7	5.7
	Factory	7	7.1	20.0	25.7
	Food Service	3	3.1	8.6	34.3
	Health Care Services	3	3.1	8.6	42.9
	Cleaning	4	4.1	11.4	54.3
	Material handling	2	2.0	5.7	60.0
	Construction	5	5.1	14.3	74.3
	Other	9	9.2	25.7	100.0
	Total	35	35.7	100.0	
	Missing	System	63	64.3	
Total		98	100.0		

Of those people who were currently employed, 20% worked in the factory industry. The highest percentage worked in another industry than the ones listed. The cleaning industry was the second highest percentage among industries.

If R is currently employed, are they being paid hourly, salary, etc.?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	hourly	36	36.7	94.7	94.7
	commission	1	1.0	2.6	97.4
	hourly plus commission	1	1.0	2.6	100.0
	Total	38	38.8	100.0	
Missing	System	60	61.2		
Total		98	100.0		

An overwhelming majority of those employed are paid hourly. One person is paid by commission and another hourly plus commission.

If R is currently employed, what is his/her hourly wage?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than \$6 per hour	2	2.0	5.4	5.4
	\$6.00 - \$7.99	20	20.4	54.1	59.5
	\$8.00 - \$9.99	10	10.2	27.0	86.5
	\$10.00 - \$11.99	2	2.0	5.4	91.9
	\$12.00 - \$13.99	1	1.0	2.7	94.6
	\$14.00 - \$15.99	2	2.0	5.4	100.0
	Total	37	37.8	100.0	
Missing	System	61	62.2		
Total		98	100.0		

Around 85% of those paid hourly are paid between \$6.00 and \$10.00 per hour. 14% of respondents were paid between \$10.00 and \$15.99 per hour.

How many hours per week does R work?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 10 hours per week	1	1.0	2.6	2.6
	10 to 20 hours per week	5	5.1	13.2	15.8
	20 to 30 hours per week	8	8.2	21.1	36.8
	30 to 40 hours per week	16	16.3	42.1	78.9
	More than 40 hours	8	8.2	21.1	100.0
	Total	38	38.8	100.0	
Missing	System	60	61.2		

Total	98	100.0		
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Nearly 80% of people worked at least 30 to 40 hours per week. 21% worked more than 40 hours per week, while only 2.6% worked less than 10 hours per week.

If R is currently unemployed, what industry did they last work in?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Clerical	5	5.1	8.2	8.2
	Factory	7	7.1	11.5	19.7
	Food Service	2	2.0	3.3	23.0
	Cashier	1	1.0	1.6	24.6
	Health Care Services	5	5.1	8.2	32.8
	Cleaning	4	4.1	6.6	39.3
	Material handling	2	2.0	3.3	42.6
	Construction	13	13.3	21.3	63.9
	Professional Driver	1	1.0	1.6	65.6
	Security	2	2.0	3.3	68.9
	Other	14	14.3	23.0	91.8
	None	5	5.1	8.2	100.0
	Total	61	62.2	100.0	
Missing	System	37	37.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Of those that are unemployed, almost 80% worked in an industry listed such as clerical, factory, food service etc. Construction had the highest percentage of all industries with 21.3% while both professional driver and cashier had the smallest percentage of 1.6%. Most jobs that will be offered to the homeless fall under the construction industry or an industry other than the ones listed.

If R is currently unemployed, were they paid hourly, salaried, etc. at their last job?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	hourly	45	45.9	80.4	80.4
	salary	6	6.1	10.7	91.1
	commission	2	2.0	3.6	94.6
	per job	2	2.0	3.6	98.2
	other	1	1.0	1.8	100.0
	Total	56	57.1	100.0	
Missing	System	42	42.9		
Total		98	100.0		

Again, when those who are unemployed were employed at one time, they were predominantly paid an hourly wage. This was also the case with those that are currently employed.

If R is currently unemployed, what was their hourly wage at their last job?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than \$6 per hour	2	2.0	3.8	3.8
	\$6.00 - \$7.99	11	11.2	21.2	25.0
	\$8.00 - \$9.99	18	18.4	34.6	59.6
	\$10.00 - \$11.99	11	11.2	21.2	80.8
	\$12.00 - \$13.99	5	5.1	9.6	90.4
	More than \$16.00 an hour	1	1.0	1.9	92.3
	Paid by the job	2	2.0	3.8	96.2
	No Job	1	1.0	1.9	98.1
	Don't Know	1	1.0	1.9	100.0
	Total	52	53.1	100.0	
Missing	System	46	46.9		
Total		98	100.0		

Of those that were employed in the past and paid an hourly wage, the wage at their last job was a median of \$8.00 to \$9.99. 90% were paid no more than \$13.99 per hour and roughly 3% were paid more than \$16.00 per hour.

If R is currently unemployed, how many hours per week did they work at their last job?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 10 hours per week	3	3.1	5.3	5.3
	10 to 20 hours per week	1	1.0	1.8	7.0
	20 to 30 hours per week	5	5.1	8.8	15.8
	30 to 40 hours per week	32	32.7	56.1	71.9
	More than 40 hours	15	15.3	26.3	98.2
	Do not work	1	1.0	1.8	100.0
Total		57	58.2	100.0	
Missing	System	41	41.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Most of those who were previously employed worked 30 to 40 hours per week. 71% of those from the sample worked no more than 40 hours per week while 26% did work more than 40 per week.

How many jobs has R had in the last year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	none	25	25.5	26.0	26.0
	One	27	27.6	28.1	54.2
	Two	20	20.4	20.8	75.0
	Three	7	7.1	7.3	82.3
	More than four	17	17.3	17.7	100.0
	Total		96	98.0	100.0

Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

The median number of jobs within the last year was 1. Three-quarters of those surveyed had two jobs or less. Nearly 18% had more than four jobs while 7% had three jobs within the past year.

How many total people are in R's current household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00	68	69.4	69.4	69.4
	2.00	14	14.3	14.3	83.7
	3.00	5	5.1	5.1	88.8
	4.00	3	3.1	3.1	91.8
	5.00	2	2.0	2.0	93.9
	6.00	1	1.0	1.0	94.9
	7.00	1	1.0	1.0	95.9
	8.00	2	2.0	2.0	98.0
	14.00	2	2.0	2.0	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Most people had only themselves in their current household; however, the number of people went up to 14. Nearly 30% had 2 or more people in their current household.

What is R's current monthly income, including any job, government assistance, and/or child support payments?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	27	27.6	28.4	28.4
	40.00	1	1.0	1.1	29.5
	80.00	1	1.0	1.1	30.5
	100.00	2	2.0	2.1	32.6
	115.00	1	1.0	1.1	33.7
	150.00	3	3.1	3.2	36.8
	200.00	3	3.1	3.2	40.0
	280.00	1	1.0	1.1	41.1
	300.00	4	4.1	4.2	45.3
	325.00	1	1.0	1.1	46.3
	340.00	1	1.0	1.1	47.4
	400.00	2	2.0	2.1	49.5
	425.00	1	1.0	1.1	50.5
	500.00	4	4.1	4.2	54.7
	532.00	1	1.0	1.1	55.8
	590.00	1	1.0	1.1	56.8
	600.00	3	3.1	3.2	60.0
	625.00	1	1.0	1.1	61.1

629.00	1	1.0	1.1	62.1
640.00	1	1.0	1.1	63.2
650.00	1	1.0	1.1	64.2
663.00	1	1.0	1.1	65.3
695.00	1	1.0	1.1	66.3
697.00	1	1.0	1.1	67.4
700.00	3	3.1	3.2	70.5
720.00	1	1.0	1.1	71.6
750.00	2	2.0	2.1	73.7
800.00	2	2.0	2.1	75.8
900.00	2	2.0	2.1	77.9
1000.00	8	8.2	8.4	86.3
1147.00	1	1.0	1.1	87.4
1150.00	1	1.0	1.1	88.4
1200.00	3	3.1	3.2	91.6
1300.00	1	1.0	1.1	92.6
1360.00	1	1.0	1.1	93.7
1500.00	2	2.0	2.1	95.8
1600.00	2	2.0	2.1	97.9
2200.00	1	1.0	1.1	98.9
2900.00	1	1.0	1.1	100.0
Total	95	96.9	100.0	
Missing System	3	3.1		
Total	98	100.0		

The median monthly income from employment, government assistance, and/or child support was \$425. The monthly income of some went all the way up to \$2900 and down to \$0. The mode of this distribution is at \$0, showing that the highest percentage of people made no money at all.

Does R receive any income from employment?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	42	42.9	43.3	43.3
	No	55	56.1	56.7	100.0
	Total	97	99.0	100.0	
Missing System		1	1.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Over half of those sampled said they did not receive any income from employment. 43% did receive income from employment.

Does R receive any income from Federal, State, County assistance?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	32	32.7	33.0	33.0
	No	65	66.3	67.0	100.0

	Total	97	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	1	1.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Two-thirds of those sampled did not receive income from federal, state, or county assistance.

Does R receive any income from child support?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	4.1	4.2	4.2
	No	91	92.9	95.8	100.0
	Total	95	96.9	100.0	
Missing	System	3	3.1		
Total		98	100.0		

An overwhelming number of the sample is not receiving any income from child support. As seen previously, over 50% of those sampled did have children and 33% were divorced showing that child support is not matching up with those with children and those who are divorced.

Has R ever owned their own home?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	27	27.6	27.6	27.6
	No	71	72.4	72.4	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Three-quarters of the sample has never owned a home. Somewhat surprisingly, nearly 28% of the homeless have owned a home before and are now staying in a shelter.

Has R ever been turned down for housing due to credit problems?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	32	32.7	33.0	33.0
	No	65	66.3	67.0	100.0
	Total	97	99.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	1.0		
Total		98	100.0		

The majority of the sample had never been turned down for housing due to credit problems. Still, 32 people had been turned down for housing before due to credit problems.

Has R ever applied for rent or housing assistance of any kind?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	57	58.2	58.2	58.2
	No	41	41.8	41.8	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Over half of those sampled have applied for rent or housing assistance before while 41% had never done so.

If yes, has R ever received rent or housing assistance?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	23	23.5	39.0	39.0
	No	32	32.7	54.2	93.2
	On a waiting list	4	4.1	6.8	100.0
	Total	59	60.2	100.0	
Missing	System	39	39.8		
Total		98	100.0		

Of the 58% that had applied for rent or housing assistance, 39% received the assistance while 6.8% are still on a waiting list. That means that roughly 13% did not receive housing or rent assistance after applying for it.

Is R currently on a waiting list for housing?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	30	30.6	31.9	31.9
	No	64	65.3	68.1	100.0
	Total	94	95.9	100.0	
Missing	System	4	4.1		
Total		98	100.0		

Most of the people in the shelters during the survey were not on a waiting list for housing. 31% of the sample was currently on a waiting list for housing.

If R is on a waiting list, how many weeks have they been on the waiting list?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00	8	8.2	28.6	28.6
	2.00	3	3.1	10.7	39.3
	3.00	3	3.1	10.7	50.0
	4.00	2	2.0	7.1	57.1
	8.00	1	1.0	3.6	60.7
	12.00	2	2.0	7.1	67.9
	16.00	1	1.0	3.6	71.4
	28.00	2	2.0	7.1	78.6
	78.00	1	1.0	3.6	82.1
	104.00	1	1.0	3.6	85.7
	120.00	1	1.0	3.6	89.3
	156.00	1	1.0	3.6	92.9
	208.00	1	1.0	3.6	96.4
	260.00	1	1.0	3.6	100.0
	Total	28	28.6	100.0	
	Missing	System	70	71.4	
Total		98	100.0		

Of the 31% of the sample that was on a waiting list, the median number of weeks on the list was 3. Some had been on a waiting list for 5 years. The mode number of weeks was 1 and 50% had not been on a list for more than 3 weeks.

How long has R been without stable housing?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A week	8	8.2	8.4	8.4
	A month	15	15.3	15.8	24.2
	2-6 months	19	19.4	20.0	44.2
	6-12 months	10	10.2	10.5	54.7
	more than a year, but less than two	9	9.2	9.5	64.2
	more than two years, but less than five	19	19.4	20.0	84.2
	more than five years	15	15.3	15.8	100.0
	Total	95	96.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	1.0		
	System	2	2.0		
	Total	3	3.1		
Total		98	100.0		

The median number of months without stable housing was 6-12. Some have been without stable housing for more than five years. 54% had been without stable housing for less than 12 months.

How far in miles did R have to relocate from their most recent permanent place of residence to come to this shelter?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	8	8.2	8.7	8.7
	1.00	12	12.2	13.0	21.7
	2.00	4	4.1	4.3	26.1
	3.00	2	2.0	2.2	28.3
	5.00	9	9.2	9.8	38.0
	8.00	1	1.0	1.1	39.1
	10.00	3	3.1	3.3	42.4
	13.00	1	1.0	1.1	43.5
	18.00	1	1.0	1.1	44.6
	20.00	3	3.1	3.3	47.8
	25.00	1	1.0	1.1	48.9
	40.00	2	2.0	2.2	51.1
	45.00	2	2.0	2.2	53.3
	50.00	2	2.0	2.2	55.4
	54.00	2	2.0	2.2	57.6
	70.00	1	1.0	1.1	58.7
	80.00	1	1.0	1.1	59.8
	90.00	1	1.0	1.1	60.9
	100.00	2	2.0	2.2	63.0
	120.00	1	1.0	1.1	64.1
	130.00	1	1.0	1.1	65.2
	140.00	1	1.0	1.1	66.3
	150.00	3	3.1	3.3	69.6
	180.00	2	2.0	2.2	71.7
	198.00	2	2.0	2.2	73.9
	200.00	5	5.1	5.4	79.3
	250.00	2	2.0	2.2	81.5
	300.00	1	1.0	1.1	82.6
	321.00	1	1.0	1.1	83.7
	350.00	1	1.0	1.1	84.8
	395.00	1	1.0	1.1	85.9
	420.00	1	1.0	1.1	87.0
	950.00	1	1.0	1.1	88.0
	1000.00	1	1.0	1.1	89.1
	1020.00	1	1.0	1.1	90.2
	1050.00	1	1.0	1.1	91.3
	1200.00	1	1.0	1.1	92.4
	1500.00	2	2.0	2.2	94.6
	1600.00	1	1.0	1.1	95.7
	1670.00	1	1.0	1.1	96.7
	1700.00	2	2.0	2.2	98.9
	3000.00	1	1.0	1.1	100.0
	Total	92	93.9	100.0	

Missing System	6	6.1		
Total	98	100.0		

The median number of miles traveled to come to one of the four shelters visited was 40 miles. Some had traveled 3000 miles while others traveled less than 1 mile, many times mere blocks. The mode number of miles traveled was 1.

In which community was your most recent permanent housing located?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	3	3.1	3.1	3.1
Anoka, MN	1	1.0	1.0	4.1
Bismarck, ND	3	3.1	3.1	7.1
Boulder, CO	2	2.0	2.0	9.2
Brainerd, MN	1	1.0	1.0	10.2
Cambridge, MN	1	1.0	1.0	11.2
Cass County	1	1.0	1.0	12.2
Casselon, ND	1	1.0	1.0	13.3
Colorado	1	1.0	1.0	14.3
Crookston, MN	1	1.0	1.0	15.3
Denver, CO	1	1.0	1.0	16.3
Detroit Lakes, MN	2	2.0	2.0	18.4
Devils Lake, ND	1	1.0	1.0	19.4
Duluth, MN	1	1.0	1.0	20.4
Elk River, MN	1	1.0	1.0	21.4
Fargo, ND	29	29.6	29.6	51.0
Glyndon, MN	1	1.0	1.0	52.0
Grand Forks, ND	3	3.1	3.1	55.1
Hawley, MN	1	1.0	1.0	56.1
Hillsboro, ND	1	1.0	1.0	57.1
Jamestown, ND	2	2.0	2.0	59.2
La Crosse, WI	1	1.0	1.0	60.2
Lawton, OK	1	1.0	1.0	61.2
Monroe, LA	1	1.0	1.0	62.2
Montana	1	1.0	1.0	63.3
Moorhead, MN	9	9.2	9.2	72.4
Omaha, NE	1	1.0	1.0	73.5
Orkman, Alabama	1	1.0	1.0	74.5
Owensboro, KY	1	1.0	1.0	75.5
Paduka, KY	1	1.0	1.0	76.5
Park County, OH	1	1.0	1.0	77.6
Park Rapids, MN	1	1.0	1.0	78.6
Pelican Rapids, MN	1	1.0	1.0	79.6
San Antonio, TX	1	1.0	1.0	80.6
Sauk Centre, MN	2	2.0	2.0	82.7
Soap Lake, WA	1	1.0	1.0	83.7

Spirit Lake Res	1	1.0	1.0	84.7
St. Cloud, MN	4	4.1	4.1	88.8
St. Paul, MN	1	1.0	1.0	89.8
St.Cloud, MN	1	1.0	1.0	90.8
Texas	1	1.0	1.0	91.8
Valley City, ND	1	1.0	1.0	92.9
Vancouver, BC	1	1.0	1.0	93.9
Wahpeton, ND	2	2.0	2.0	95.9
West Fargo, ND	3	3.1	3.1	99.0
White Earth, MN	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

The highest percentage of the most recent community among those surveyed was Fargo, ND with nearly 30% coming from within the city. Others came from Washington State, Texas, Ohio, and Alabama among other states.

What is the population of R's community of their most recent permanent housing?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	424.00	1	1.0	1.1	1.1
	1100.00	1	1.0	1.1	2.3
	1500.00	1	1.0	1.1	3.4
	1700.00	1	1.0	1.1	4.6
	1865.00	1	1.0	1.1	5.7
	1888.00	1	1.0	1.1	6.9
	2300.00	1	1.0	1.1	8.0
	3200.00	1	1.0	1.1	9.2
	3930.00	2	2.0	2.3	11.5
	6339.00	1	1.0	1.1	12.6
	6800.00	1	1.0	1.1	13.8
	7200.00	1	1.0	1.1	14.9
	7340.00	2	2.0	2.3	17.2
	8000.00	1	1.0	1.1	18.4
	8190.00	1	1.0	1.1	19.5
	8580.00	2	2.0	2.3	21.8
	13100.00	1	1.0	1.1	23.0
	15500.00	2	2.0	2.3	25.3
	18000.00	1	1.0	1.1	26.4
	20000.00	1	1.0	1.1	27.6
	20300.00	3	3.1	3.4	31.0
	38300.00	9	9.2	10.3	41.4
	51800.00	1	1.0	1.1	42.5
	52000.00	1	1.0	1.1	43.7
	53200.00	3	3.1	3.4	47.1
	55500.00	3	3.1	3.4	50.6

	64200.00	5	5.1	5.7	56.3
	86900.00	1	1.0	1.1	57.5
	91685.00	2	2.0	2.3	59.8
	92750.00	1	1.0	1.1	60.9
	93000.00	29	29.6	33.3	94.3
	276900.00	1	1.0	1.1	95.4
	425000.00	1	1.0	1.1	96.6
	558000.00	1	1.0	1.1	97.7
	1200000.00	1	1.0	1.1	98.9
	2180700.00	1	1.0	1.1	100.0
	Total	87	88.8	100.0	
Missing	System	11	11.2		
Total		98	100.0		

The median number of the population of the previous community was 55,500 people. The smallest community was 424 while the largest was 2.18 million. There is clearly a diverse population within the shelters visited with some coming from largest metropolitan areas and others from small communities around Fargo.

As a result of R's relocation to a shelter, what are the effects on employment?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Significant	38	38.8	44.7	44.7
	Somewhat Significant	12	12.2	14.1	58.8
	Not Significant	35	35.7	41.2	100.0
	Total	85	86.7	100.0	
Missing	Refused or Not Applicable	10	10.2		
	System	3	3.1		
	Total	13	13.3		
Total		98	100.0		

44% of the sample said their relocation to a shelter had very significant effects on employment. 35% said there was not a significant effect on employment and 10% found their relocation to be non-applicable to employment.

As a result of R's relocation to a shelter, what are the effects on receiving support from family?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Significant	16	16.3	20.5	20.5
	Somewhat Significant	8	8.2	10.3	30.8
	Not Significant	54	55.1	69.2	100.0
	Total	78	79.6	100.0	
Missing	Refused or Not Applicable	17	17.3		
	System	3	3.1		

Total	Total	20	20.4		
Total		98	100.0		

The majority of the sample said there was not a significant effect on receiving support from family as a result of relocating to a shelter. 30% of respondents said there was a very or somewhat significant effect on receiving support from family as a result of their relocation.

As a result of R's relocation to a shelter, what are the effects on receiving support from friends?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Significant	16	16.3	18.8	18.8
	Somewhat Significant	14	14.3	16.5	35.3
	Not Significant	55	56.1	64.7	100.0
	Total	85	86.7	100.0	
Missing	Refused or Not Applicable	10	10.2		
	System	3	3.1		
	Total	13	13.3		
Total		98	100.0		

35% of respondents said that relocating to a shelter had somewhat or very significant effects on receiving support from friends. Almost two-thirds said that their relocation had no significant effects on receiving support from friends.

As a result of R's relocation to a shelter, what are the effects on receiving good medical care?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Significant	30	30.6	33.3	33.3
	Somewhat Significant	17	17.3	18.9	52.2
	Not Significant	43	43.9	47.8	100.0
	Total	90	91.8	100.0	
Missing	Refused or Not Applicable	5	5.1		
	System	3	3.1		
	Total	8	8.2		
Total		98	100.0		

Over half of respondents said that as a result of their relocation to a shelter, the effects on receiving good medical care are somewhat or very significant. 33% felt relocating had a very significant effect while 48% said relocating had no significant effect on receiving good medical care.

As a result of R's relocation to a shelter, what are the effects on receiving chemical treatment program?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Significant	11	11.2	16.7	16.7
	Somewhat Significant	6	6.1	9.1	25.8
	Not Significant	49	50.0	74.2	100.0
	Total	66	67.3	100.0	
Missing	Refused or Not Applicable	29	29.6		
	System	3	3.1		
	Total	32	32.7		
Total		98	100.0		

Three-quarters of respondents said they experienced no significant effects on receiving chemical treatment assistance as a result of relocating to their current shelter. Only 16.7% said relocating had a very significant effect on receiving chemical treatment assistance.

As a result of R's relocation to a shelter, what are the effects on their children's schooling?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Significant	6	6.1	15.4	15.4
	Somewhat Significant	4	4.1	10.3	25.6
	Not Significant	29	29.6	74.4	100.0
	Total	39	39.8	100.0	
Missing	Refused or Not Applicable	55	56.1		
	System	4	4.1		
	Total	59	60.2		
Total		98	100.0		

One-quarter of respondents indicated that they experienced either somewhat or very significant effects on their children's schooling as a result of relocating to their current shelter. An overwhelming percentage of respondents felt relocating had no significant effects on their children's schooling.

Approximately how many times has R not had permanent shelter in their life?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	2	2.0	2.2	2.2
	1.00	28	28.6	30.4	32.6
	2.00	20	20.4	21.7	54.3
	3.00	12	12.2	13.0	67.4
	4.00	10	10.2	10.9	78.3
	5.00	7	7.1	7.6	85.9
	6.00	2	2.0	2.2	88.0
	7.00	3	3.1	3.3	91.3

	10.00	5	5.1	5.4	96.7
	12.00	2	2.0	2.2	98.9
	15.00	1	1.0	1.1	100.0
	Total	92	93.9	100.0	
Missing	System	6	6.1		
Total		98	100.0		

The median number of times a respondent had not had permanent shelter was 2. Some had not had permanent shelter 15 times in their life. Over three-quarters of those responding had not had permanent shelter 4 times or less in their lifetime.

Is the loss of a job a factor that best explains why R is homeless?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	50	51.0	52.1	52.1
	No	46	46.9	47.9	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Over half of respondents indicated that they are homeless because of the loss of a job.

Are relationship problems or divorce factors that best explain why R is homeless?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	31	31.6	32.3	32.3
	No	65	66.3	67.7	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

It appears as though the nearly one-third of those respondents divorced indicated that relationship problems or divorce best explains why they are homeless. Just over two-thirds of respondents indicated that relationship problems did not explain why they were homeless.

Is domestic abuse a factor that best explains why R is homeless?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	13	13.3	13.5	13.5
	No	83	84.7	86.5	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

By far, the majority of respondents said that domestic abuse was not the best factor that explained why they were homeless. Just 13.5% indicated that domestic abuse did explain their current situation.

Is chemical dependency a factor that best explains why R is homeless?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	29	29.6	30.2	30.2
	No	67	68.4	69.8	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

3 in 10 said that chemical dependency was a factor that best explained why they were homeless. Still, a majority of respondents did not think that chemical dependency explained their homelessness.

Is mental illness a factor that best explains why R is homeless?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	22	22.4	22.9	22.9
	No	74	75.5	77.1	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Mental illness was a factor that best explained why 23% of respondents were homeless.

Are there any other factors that best explain why R is homeless?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		78	79.6	79.6	79.6
	building condemned	1	1.0	1.0	80.6
	child support	1	1.0	1.0	81.6
	climate	1	1.0	1.0	82.7
	criminal record	1	1.0	1.0	83.7
	finances	2	2.0	2.0	85.7
	Health	1	1.0	1.0	86.7
	illness	1	1.0	1.0	87.8
	Jail	2	2.0	2.0	89.8
	kicked out of house	1	1.0	1.0	90.8
	lymes disease	1	1.0	1.0	91.8
	marriage obligation	1	1.0	1.0	92.9
	new to area w/o job	1	1.0	1.0	93.9
	personal preference	1	1.0	1.0	94.9

physical illness	1	1.0	1.0	95.9
physical injury	1	1.0	1.0	96.9
relocation	1	1.0	1.0	98.0
transportation	2	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Other factors that explained homelessness included health, illness, jail, child support and transportation. Almost 80% of respondents did not mention factors other than those listed that explained why they were homeless.

How often, if ever, does R use alcohol?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Daily	8	8.2	8.2	8.2
	Once a week	17	17.3	17.5	25.8
	Once a month	20	20.4	20.6	46.4
	Once a year	5	5.1	5.2	51.5
	Less than once a year	3	3.1	3.1	54.6
	Never	44	44.9	45.4	100.0
	Total	97	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	1	1.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Nearly half of the respondents said they currently never use alcohol. 51% indicated that they use alcohol at least once a year. 46% of respondents said they use alcohol once a month, once a week, or daily.

Does R believe that they have, or have ever had, an alcohol problem?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	45	45.9	46.4	46.4
	No	52	53.1	53.6	100.0
	Total	97	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	1	1.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Over half of respondents said they have not had an alcohol problem in the past or currently have a problem. Still, 46% said they have or have had, an alcohol problem.

Has R ever received or is currently receiving treatment for alcohol abuse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	36	36.7	37.1	37.1

	No	61	62.2	62.9	100.0
	Total	97	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	1	1.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Over two-thirds of respondents say they have received or are receiving alcohol abuse treatment. This is in contrast with the 46% who said they have or have had an alcohol problem.

Has R ever used drugs?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	50	51.0	51.0	51.0
	No	48	49.0	49.0	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

The respondents were nearly evenly divided on their use of drugs. 51% said they have used drugs before while 49% said they had never used drugs.

How often, if ever, does R use drugs?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Daily	5	5.1	5.5	5.5
	Once a week	5	5.1	5.5	11.0
	Once a month	1	1.0	1.1	12.1
	Once a year	3	3.1	3.3	15.4
	Less than once a year	13	13.3	14.3	29.7
	Never	64	65.3	70.3	100.0
	Total	91	92.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	1.0		
	System	6	6.1		
	Total	7	7.1		
Total		98	100.0		

About 15% of respondents said they use drugs at least once a year. 14% said they use drugs less than once a year while an overwhelming 70% of respondents replied that they never use drugs.

Does R believe that they have, or have ever had, a drug problem?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	26	26.5	28.0	28.0
	No	67	68.4	72.0	100.0
	Total	93	94.9	100.0	
Missing	System	5	5.1		
Total		98	100.0		

In comparison with the number of respondents that said they never use drugs, 72% indicated that they never have, or have had, a drug problem. Almost 3 in 10 said they have, or have had, a drug problem.

Has R ever received or is currently receiving treatment for drug abuse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	16	16.3	17.2	17.2
	No	77	78.6	82.8	100.0
	Total	93	94.9	100.0	
Missing	System	5	5.1		
Total		98	100.0		

While 28% indicated that they have, or have had, a drug problem, 17% said they have received or are currently receiving treatment for drug abuse. Over 80% of respondents said they have never received or are currently receiving drug abuse treatment.

Does R suffer from any mental disability, such as depression, learning disabilities, or other mental health condition?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	46	46.9	46.9	46.9
	No	52	53.1	53.1	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Over half of respondents said they do not suffer from any mental disability such as depression or learning disabilities. 46% said they were suffering from a mental disability of some kind.

Has R ever received or is currently receiving treatment for a mental disability?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	34	34.7	34.7	34.7
	No	64	65.3	65.3	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

35% of respondents said they have or are currently receiving treatment for a mental disability. This is in contrast with the 46% of those indicating they currently suffer from a mental disability. Perhaps 35% of those are currently receiving treatment and 11% have received treatment previously.

Does R suffer from a physical disability, such as a back injury, epilepsy, or cancer?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	41	41.8	41.8	41.8

No	57	58.2	58.2	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

About 42% of respondents indicated that they currently suffer from a physical disability such as a back injury or epilepsy. 6 in 10 said they do not suffer from a physical injury.

Has R ever been the victim of mental abuse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	25	25.5	26.0	26.0
	No	71	72.4	74.0	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Three-quarters of the homeless surveyed said they have never been the victim of mental abuse.

Has R ever been the victim of emotional abuse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	30	30.6	31.3	31.3
	No	66	67.3	68.8	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Just over 30% of respondents said they have been the victim of emotional abuse. A large majority, 69%, said they have never been the victim of emotional abuse.

Has R ever been the victim of physical abuse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	21	21.4	21.9	21.9
	No	75	76.5	78.1	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

Over three-quarters of respondents said they had never been the victim of physical abuse. Just over 20% indicated that they had been the victim of physical abuse.

Has R ever been the victim of sexual abuse?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	13	13.3	13.5	13.5
	No	83	84.7	86.5	100.0
	Total	96	98.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	2.0		
Total		98	100.0		

A majority of respondents, almost 87%, said they have never been the victim of sexual abuse. This is one of the highest percentages among the various abuse-related questions including emotional, physical, and mental. Only 13.5% of respondents said they have been the victim of sexual abuse.

Has R ever had to obtain a protection order against a friend, relative, or acquaintance?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	16	16.3	16.3	16.3
	No	82	83.7	83.7	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Although there were sizeable percentages of respondents throughout the previous tables stating whether or not the respondent had been the victim of a type of abuse, just 16% of respondents have had to obtain a protection order against someone. Perhaps those who have been the victim of a type of abuse did not know the person well and therefore did not get a protection order against them.

Has R ever been arrested?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	86	87.8	87.8	87.8
	No	12	12.2	12.2	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Just shy of 88% of respondents out of 98 have been arrested prior to the survey administration. This is a very large number to have been arrested although could be a factor why they are homeless.

Has R ever served time in a juvenile detention facility?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	12	12.2	12.2	12.2

No	86	87.8	87.8	100.0
Total	98	100.0	100.0	

Of those arrested, only 12% served time in a juvenile detention facility, which are reserved for minors under the age of 18.

Has R ever served time in a jail?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	66	67.3	67.3	67.3
	No	32	32.7	32.7	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

A large majority of the respondents who had been arrested spent time in jail. Over two-thirds of respondents indicated that they have served time in jail after being arrested.

Has R ever served time in a prison?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	13	13.3	13.3	13.3
	No	85	86.7	86.7	100.0
	Total	98	100.0	100.0	

A small minority of respondents who have been arrested spent their time in prison. About 88% of respondents indicated that they had spent time in prison.

Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

A significant amount of literature has identified that the rural homeless are distinctive from the urban homeless. The rural homeless are more likely to be composed of single women with children. The rural homeless are also more likely to be employed. The rural homeless are more likely to have previously owned their own homes. Finally, the rural homeless are less likely to be chronic alcoholics.

The data gathered in our survey support the larger findings in the literature on the homeless. A clear portrait of the rural homeless emerges from the results of our survey.

Finally, through the interviews with local social service coordinators, it is apparent that these agencies effectively work together to combat rural housing crisis. A combination of governmental and non-governmental agencies meet regularly to coordinate their efforts in ways that many of those interviewed believe would be impossible in larger urban areas.

Rural areas face significant loss of economic viability due to their chronic loss of population. Their attempts at reducing these population losses by actively addressing their resident's housing crises are likely producing outcomes that help rural communities maintain their population.

Our class was able to make three policy recommendations based on our research.

- 1) The city of Morris should streamline the issuance of hotel vouchers so that people in distress can easily access them under emergency conditions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without contacting emergency services.
- 2) The city of Morris should develop policies that provide a clear path for those facing housing crisis so that a) emergency housing needs are addressed by hotel vouchers, b) short-term housing needs are accommodated by Section 8 vouchers, and c) long-term housing needs are met for those residents for whom permanent housing is appropriate by gaining access to state-guaranteed renovation funds to be used to improve existing substandard housing stock in the city of Morris. Such a program would benefit the individuals and their families, as well as the city as it tries to find ways to improve its older, substandard housing. It would also help the city stabilize its population as those who experience housing crisis would not need to leave the city to have their needs met. For the individual and/or their family, the program would offer quality, affordable housing for them. We recommend that grants be written so the loans for renovation can be guaranteed by the state and spread out over the length of a typical mortgage (30 years).
- 3) It is critical that the Morris area continue to offer chemical dependency counseling to our residents. The continued operation of the New Vision Center in Morris should be supported. It is vital that these chemical dependency services are administered locally.

Overall, members of the class found this research to be very rewarding. We are all extremely thankful to the Department of Education, the COPC program, the City of Morris, the University of Minnesota at Morris, the organizational leaders that assisted us in this research, the leaders of the homeless shelters, and perhaps most of all, the residents of the homeless shelters that taught us lessons we would have never learned elsewhere. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you!

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Appendix A: Rural Homelessness Survey

Rural Homelessness Survey Pol 3268 Rural Housing Crisis

Interviewer Directions: Prior to asking any questions, you MUST review the consent form with the respondent, obtain consent, complete with signatures, detach the consent form, and leave an unsigned copy with the respondent.

Please remember that a respondent may choose not to answer any question for any reason, and the respondent may terminate the interview at any time. If this occurs, simply thank the respondent for their time.

Complete all interviews in groups of two. If you have any questions and/or encounter any problems, ask Professor Thorson immediately prior to moving forward with the survey administration.

Interviewer's Names (Please Print):

1) _____ 2) _____

Q1. Gender of Respondent

- (1) Male
- (2) Female

Q2. How old are you? _____

Q3. What is your marital status?

- (1) Married
- (2) Separated
- (3) Divorced
- (4) Widowed
- (5) Never married
- (99) Refused

Q4. Do you have any children (If no, proceed to Question 8)?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q5. If you do have children, how many children do you have? _____

Q6. If you have children, what are their ages (list youngest to oldest)? _____

Q7. Are your children staying here at the shelter with you?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Not Applicable/Refused

Q8. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- (1) Some High School
- (2) High School Diploma or GED
- (3) Some College
- (4) Tech/Vocational/Associates Degree
- (5) College Degree
- (6) Post Graduate Degree
- (99) Refused

Q9. What is the highest level of education obtained by your father?

- (1) Some High School
- (2) High School Diploma or GED
- (3) Some College
- (4) Tech/Vocational/Associates Degree
- (5) College Degree
- (6) Post Graduate Degree
- (99) Unknown/Refused

Q10. What is the highest level of education obtained by your mother?

- (1) Some High School
- (2) High School Diploma or GED
- (3) Some College
- (4) Tech/Vocational/Associates Degree
- (5) College Degree
- (6) Post Graduate Degree
- (99) Unknown/Refused

Q11. In the most recent 7 days prior to coming to this shelter, have you stayed in a place that is not permanent due to inadequate permanent housing, such as outdoors, in a vehicle or condemned building, or with friends or family (If no, proceed to Question 13)?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q12. If yes, which of these locations have you stayed in the most recent 7 days prior to coming to the shelter?(circle all that apply)

- a) outdoors (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- b) in a vehicle (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- c) in a condemned or abandoned building (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- d) in a public place or place of business (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- e) a place that you received a voucher for (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- f) in a church (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- g) with friends (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- h) with family (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- i) in a hotel or motel (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- j) other, please specify _____

Q13. Within the past year, have you ever lived temporarily in...

- a) outdoors (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- b) in a vehicle (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- c) in a condemned or abandoned building (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- d) in a public place or place of business (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- e) a place that you received a voucher for (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- f) in a church (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- g) with friends (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- h) with family (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- i) in a hotel or motel (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- j) other, please specify _____

Q14. Are you currently employed (If no, proceed to Question 20)?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q15. If yes, are you employed part-time or full-time?

- (1) Part-time
- (2) Full-time
- (3) Refused

Q16. If yes, in what industry are you currently working?

- (1) Clerical (including reception, data entry, and administrative assistant)
- (2) Factory work (including manufacturing, assembly, and machine operator)
- (3) Food service (including cook, server, and bartender)
- (4) Cashier (including sales and customer service)
- (5) Health care services
- (6) Cleaning (including housekeeping, janitorial, and maintenance services)
- (7) Material handling, packaging, and warehouse work
- (8) Child care or teacher's aide or other kinds of program aides
- (9) Construction, trades, or laborer
- (10) Professional driver including truck driver
- (11) Protective services or security
- (12) Other Specify:_____
- (13) None
- (99) Refused

Q17. If yes, are you being paid...

- (1) hourly
- (2) salary
- (3) commission
- (4) hourly plus commission
- (5) salary plus commission
- (6) hourly plus tips
- (7) per job
- (8) other: specify_____

Q18. If hourly, what is your current wage?

- (1) Less than \$6.00 an hour
- (2) \$6.00 to \$7.99
- (3) \$8.00 to \$9.99
- (4) \$10.00 to \$11.99
- (5) \$12.00 to \$13.99
- (6) \$14.00 to \$15.99
- (7) More than \$16.00 an hour
- (8) Paid by the job
- (9) No job
- (10) Don't know
- (99) Refused

Q19. On average, how many hours a week do you work? (Skip to Q24 after answering)

- (1) Less than 10 hours
- (2) 10 to 20 hours
- (3) 20 to 30 hours
- (4) 30 to 40 hours
- (5) More than 40 hours
- (6) Do not work
- (99) Refused

Q20. If currently unemployed, in which industry did you work most recently?

- (1) Clerical (including reception, data entry, and administrative assistant)
- (2) Factory work (including manufacturing, assembly, and machine operator)
- (3) Food service (including cook, server, and bartender)
- (4) Cashier (including sales and customer service)
- (5) Health care services
- (6) Cleaning (including housekeeping, janitorial, and maintenance services)
- (7) Material handling, packaging, and warehouse work
- (8) Child care or teacher's aide or other kinds of program aides
- (9) Construction, trades, or laborer
- (10) Professional driver including truck driver
- (11) Protective services or security
- (12) Other Specify:_____
- (13) None
- (99) Refused

Q21. Were you paid...

- (1) hourly
- (2) salary
- (3) commission
- (4) hourly plus commission
- (5) salary plus commission
- (6) hourly plus tips
- (7) per job
- (8) other: specify_____

Q22. If hourly, what was your wage when you ended your employment?

- (1) Less than \$6.00 an hour
- (2) \$6.00 to \$7.99
- (3) \$8.00 to \$9.99
- (4) \$10.00 to \$11.99
- (5) \$12.00 to \$13.99
- (6) \$14.00 to \$15.99
- (7) More than \$16.00 an hour
- (8) Paid by the job
- (9) No job
- (10) Don't know
- (99) Refused

Q23. On average, how many hours a week did you work at your most recent job?

- (1) Less than 10 hours
- (2) 10 to 20 hours
- (3) 20 to 30 hours
- (4) 30 to 40 hours
- (5) More than 40 hours
- (6) Do not work
- (99) Refused

Q24. How many jobs have you had in the last year?

- (1) None
- (2) 1
- (3) 2
- (4) 3
- (5) more than 4
- (99) Refused

Q25. How many total people are in your current household? _____

Q26. What is your current monthly income, including any job, government assistance, and/or child support payments? _____

Q27. Do you receive any income from the following sources?

- a. Employment (1) Yes (2) No (99)Refused
- b. Federal, State, County assistance (1) Yes (2) No (99)Refused
- c. Child Support (1) Yes (2) No (99)Refused
- d. Any other? Specify _____

Q28. Have you ever owned your own home?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q29. Have you ever been turned down for housing due to credit problems?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q30. Have you ever applied for rent/housing assistance of any kind?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q31. If yes, have you ever received rent/housing assistance?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) On a waiting list

Q32. Are you currently on a waiting list for housing?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q33. If you are on a waiting list, how many weeks have you been on the waiting list? _____

Q34. How long have you been without stable housing?

- (1) a week
- (2) a month
- (3) 2-6 months
- (4) 6-12 months
- (5) more than a year but less than two
- (6) more than two years but less than five
- (7) more than five years
- (99) Refused

Q35. How far (in miles) did you have to relocate from your most recent permanent place of residence to come to this shelter? _____

Q35a. In which community was your most recent permanent housing? _____

Q36. Some people experience hardships as a result of their relocation to a shelter. Would you describe the hardships listed below as Very Significant, Somewhat Significant, or Not Significant for you as a result of your relocation to a shelter?

Q36a. Effects on Employment	(1) Very Significant	(2) Somewhat Significant	(3) Not Significant	(99) Refused or Not Applicable)
Q36b. Effects on Receiving Support from Family	(1) Very Significant	(2) Somewhat Significant	(3) Not Significant	(99) Refused or Not Applicable)
Q36c. Effects on Receiving Support from Friends	(1) Very Significant	(2) Somewhat Significant	(3) Not Significant	(99) Refused or Not Applicable)
Q36d. Effects on Receiving Good Medical Care	(1) Very Significant	(2) Somewhat Significant	(3) Not Significant	(99) Refused or Not Applicable)
Q36e. Effects on Receiving Chemical Treatment Program	(1) Very Significant	(2) Somewhat Significant	(3) Not Significant	(99) Refused or Not Applicable)
Q36f. Effects on Children's Schooling	(1) Very Significant	(2) Somewhat Significant	(3) Not Significant	(99) Refused or Not Applicable)

Q37. Approximately how many times in your life have you not had permanent shelter?

Q38. Which of the following factors best explains why you are homeless? Check all that apply.

- a. Loss of job (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- b. Relationship problems/divorce (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- c. Domestic abuse (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- d. Chemical dependency (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- e. Mental illness (1) Yes (2) No (99) Refused
- f. Other: _____

Q39. How often, if ever, do you use alcohol?

- (1) Daily
- (2) Once a week
- (3) Once a month
- (4) Once a year
- (5) Less than once a year
- (6) Never
- (99) Refused

Q40. Do you believe that you have, or have ever had, an alcohol problem?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q41. Have you ever received or are you currently receiving treatment for alcohol abuse?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q42. Have you ever used drugs?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q43. How often, if ever, do you use drugs?

- (1) Daily
- (2) Once a week
- (3) Once a month
- (4) Once a year
- (5) Less than once a year
- (6) Never
- (99) Refused

Q44. Do you believe that you have, or have ever had, a drug problem?

- (3) Yes
- (4) No
- (99)Refused

Q45. Have you ever received or are you currently receiving treatment for drug abuse?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q46. Do you suffer from any mental disability, such as depression, learning disabilities, or other mental health condition?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q47. Have you ever received or are you currently receiving treatment for a mental disability?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q48. Do you suffer from a physical disability, such as a back injury, epilepsy, or cancer?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q49. Have you ever been the victim of mental, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse? (Circle all that apply.)

- (1) No
- (2) Mental abuse
- (3) Emotional abuse
- (4) Physical abuse
- (5) Sexual abuse
- (99) Refused

Q50. Have you ever had to obtain a protection order against a friend, relative, or acquaintance?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Refused

Q51. Have you ever been arrested?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (99) Refused

Q52. Have you ever served time in a juvenile detention facility, jail, or prison?

- (1) No
- (2) Juvenile Detention Facility
- (3) Jail
- (4) Prison
- (99) Refused

Thank you for your participation in this survey. Your responses will be used to develop new policies aimed at helping those in housing crisis. In appreciation of your participation, please accept our gift of \$5. Thanks!