

North Dakota Homeless Population Point in Time Survey January 25, 2006

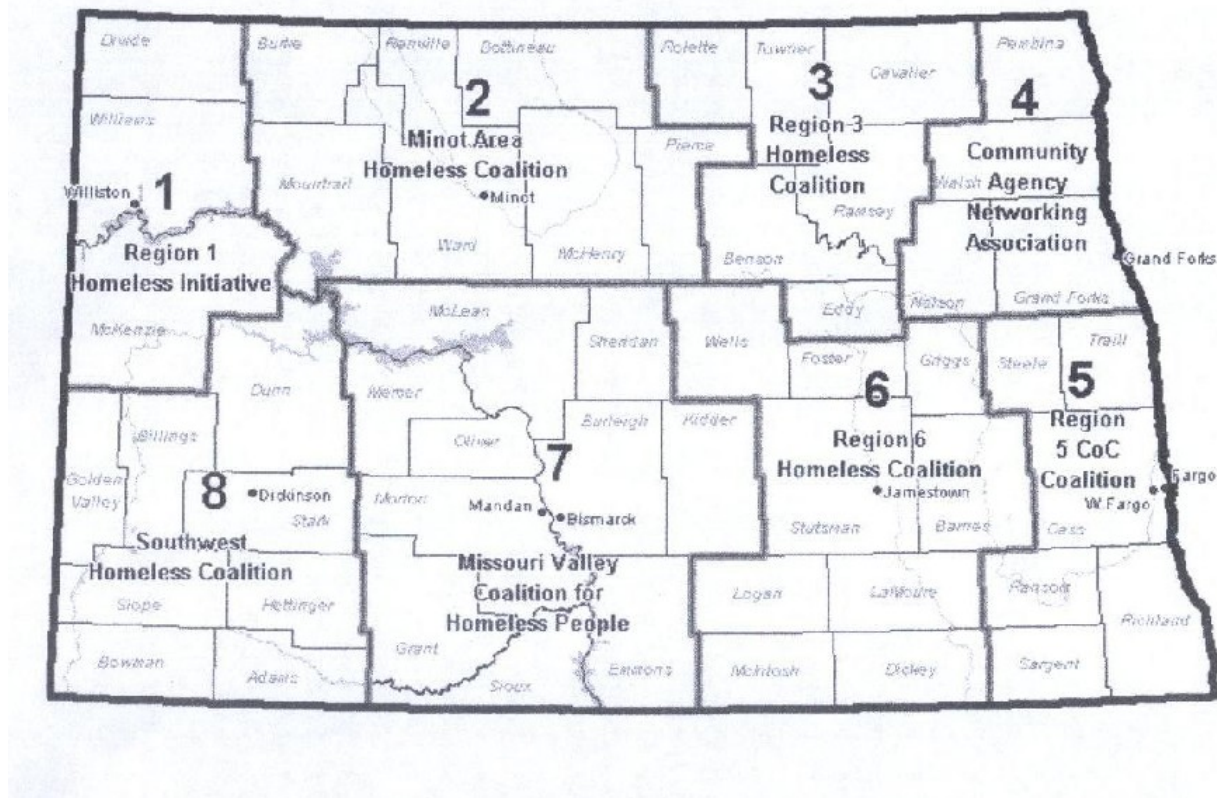
The North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People (NDCHP) conducted a statewide point-in-time survey of homeless people on January 25, 2006. The survey collected information relating to demographics, education, employment, veteran status, common characteristics, and service utilization.

The following table shows the total count of homeless persons by region, age and status as “chronic” or “long term homeless”.

Region	Adults	Children <18	Total persons	Chronic*	Long Term Homeless**
1	19	5	24	2	7
2	30	20	50	0	6
3	54	38	92	7	20
4	90	25	115	16	19
5	208	45	253	63	79
6	30	0	30	15	15
7	96	54	150	12	31
8	19	6	25	7	8
Total ND	546	193	739	122	185

2006 *Chronic status* is determined using the HUD definition, which is an individual with a disabling condition who has been homeless for at least one year or, four or more times in the last three years.

**** Long term homeless (LTH)** is the definition adopted by the ND Interagency Council on Homelessness, which is an individual or a family with a disabling condition who has been homeless continuously for at least one year or more than four times in the last three years. The ICH definition does not exclude people who are currently living “doubled up” with friends/family.



In general, there is a high degree of consistency in the survey data between 2005 and 2006. A few items of note:

- **Total count.** 739 homeless people were counted in North Dakota's 2006 point in time survey. This is an increase of 84 people from 2005. The majority of that difference can be accounted for in better survey methodology/participation – Region 3 reported 0 homeless in 2005 and 92 homeless in 2006.
- **Type of shelter**
 - North Dakota's long term homeless are twice as likely as the total homeless population to report living in an "unsheltered" location (11% compared to 6% for total pop).
 - There were 225 individuals who spent the night in an emergency shelter, according to the point in time. 61 of those were "long term homeless", which represents 27% of the total emergency shelter population.
 - 13% of the long term homeless were staying with family/friends. The prevalence of this type of shelter varied by region (highest in Region 3). The survey did not seek out individuals who were "doubled up" but rather, was designed to count them in a separate category if they were seeking services from a participating agency on the day of the survey.
- **Duration and frequency of homelessness**
 - The average homeless person in North Dakota has been homeless for 182 days. For the long term homeless, the average duration of homelessness is 2 years.
 - Half of the homeless population in the state reported 1 episode of homelessness in the last 3 years (same proportion for long term homeless). However, the long term homeless are three-times as likely as the total population to report four or more episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years (31% compared to 13% for total population).
- **Family status**
 - 18% of the total homeless population reported that they were traveling with family (15% of the total population reported having children under the age of 18). For the long term homeless, 9% had family with them; 6% of survey respondents had children under age 18 (25 children in 11 families).
 - 3% of long term homeless households (4 households) are headed by someone under age 18. Another 9% by young adults (age 18-21).
- **Characteristics of Long Term Homeless Population**
 - One-third of the homeless population in the state is American Indian. Just over half are White.
 - Only 15% (13% of total population) do not have at least a high school diploma or GED.
 - 36% report earning income from a job. 23% receive income from SSI and 18% receive help from family and friends. 55% report that they are unemployed (20% claim status as "employed").
 - 61% have a history of substance abuse; 49% a history of mental illness.

- 65% report not being able to afford rent and 56% report having money management problems. 40% list “bad credit” as an issue.
- 21% of the long term homeless are veterans (12% of total homeless pop).
- 52% report having medical problems. 18% state that they have a developmental disability.
- **Reasons for Homelessness**
 - Half of the long term homeless population says that Substance Abuse is a reason for their homelessness.
 - One-third say they are homeless because they cannot afford rent (35%) or because they have a mental illness (34%).
 - 18% list criminal background as the reason for homelessness; 9% list status as a parolee/probationer, and 16% note bad credit as an issue.
- **Service Needs**
 - Transportation and Permanent Housing are listed in all regions and by all subpopulations as the most difficult services to access.
 - One-third of the population states that obtaining a Job and/or Housing that is affordable and/or available to them would be the services that would most help them obtain housing.

The 2005 and 2006 survey results for the state of North Dakota are shown below. The results are listed by question.

1. Where was the survey taken?

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
3%	3%	3%	4%	Outdoors
45%	34%	43%	35%	Emergency shelter
36%	30%	30%	26%	Transitional housing
1%	3%	2%	2%	Motel
14%	21%	13%	26%	Other (abandoned building, auto, hospital, agency office)
	7%	9%	8%	<i>No answer</i>

n=479

n=516

n=122

n=152

2. Number of agencies submitting surveys

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	
2	4	Region 1
4	4	Region 2
0	2	Region 3 *
8	10	Region 4
7	14	Region 5
1	3	Region 6
11	9	Region 7
5	5	Region 8
38	51	Total ND

* 2006 is the first point in time survey that includes any of the homeless population that is living on an Indian Reservation in the state.

The Turtle Mountain Housing Authority participated in the ND Point in Time survey. 11% of the total surveys received were from the Reservation (84 people, including 29 children, were included in those 57 surveys).

3. Where did you sleep last night?

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
3%	2%	3%	3%	Outdoors
46%	35%	48%	39%	Emergency Shelter
35%	31%	43%	27%	Transitional Housing
4%	6%	5%	5%	Motel
3%	4%	7%	8%	Abandoned building/Automobile
0%	1%	1%	1%	Hospital
1%	5%	4%	4%	Detox/Substance Abuse Treatment
1%	1%	1%	1%	Prison/Jail
na	14%	0%	13%	Family/Friend
6%	0%	0%	1%	Other
0%	1%	0%	0%	No answer

n=479

n=516

n=122

n=152

Summary - Type of Shelter (% of surveys completed)

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
	6%	10%	11%	Unsheltered (includes outdoors and abandoned auto/bldg)
	46%	57%	47%	Emergency Shelter (includes emergency shelter, motel, hospital, detox, sub abuse treatment, jail)
	33%	34%	29%	Transitional Housing
	14%	0%	13%	"Doubled up"
	0%	0%	1%	No answer

n=516

n=122

n=152

Summary - Type of Shelter (# of people counted in survey)

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
	67	12	29	Unsheltered
	318	69	77	Emergency Shelter
	227	41	52	Transitional Housing
	124	0	25	"Doubled up"
	3	0	2	No answer

n=739

n=122

n=185

Specific places in ND where long term homeless population slept on January 24, 2006

Site	Location	# surveys	# people	Families w/children
Unsheltered (16 surveys)				
Automobile	Fargo, Bismarck, Dickinson	8	19	1 – 3 PHH 1 – 5 PHH 1 – 6 PHH
Abandoned building	Mandaree (Reg 1), Belcourt, Fargo	4	6	1 – 3 PHH*
Outdoors	Fargo, Bismarck	4	4	0
Unsheltered Total		16	29	4
Emergency Shelter (72 surveys)				
New Life Center	Fargo	31	31	0
Northlands Rescue Mission	Grand Forks	13	13	0
Motels	Belcourt, Fargo, Bismarck	8	9	0
Other	Belcourt, Bismarck, Dickinson	6	7	1 – 2 PHH
YWCA	Fargo	3	3	0
Littleshell	Belcourt	3	3	0
Detox/Treatment Center	Fargo	2	3	0
Mel's Crisis Bed	Williston	1	1	0
Douglas Place (Treatment Ctr)	Grand Forks	1	1	0
Abused Adult Resource Center	Bismarck	1	3	1 – 3 PHH
VA Hospital	Fargo	1	1	0
Queen City Motel	Dickinson	1	1	0
Prison/Jail	Dickinson	1	1	0
Total		72	77	2
Transitional Housing (44 surveys)				
Centre	Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck	13	13	0
Cottage Lane	Jamestown	10	10	0
Jamestown Trans Living	Jamestown	5	5	0
New Life Center	Fargo	3	3	0
Sharehouse	Fargo	3	3	0
Other	Devils Lake, Grand Forks, Dickinson	3	3	0
Ruth Meiers Hospitality House	Bismarck	2	2	0
Badlands Human Service Ctr	Dickinson	1	1	0
YWCA	Fargo	1	5	1 - 5 PHH
Dickinson Trans Living	Dickinson	1	1	
Domestic Violence Crisis Ctr	Minot	1	3	1 – 3 PHH
Salvation Army	Grand Forks	1	3	1 – 3 PHH
Total		44	52	3
Doubled Up with family/friends				
Region 1	Williston, Tioga	2	2	0
Region 3	Belcourt	11	11	0
Region 4	Grand Forks	1	1	0
Region 5	Fargo	2	4	1 – 3 PHH
Region 7	Bismarck	2	6	1 – 5 PHH
Region 8	Dickinson	1	1	0
Total		19	25	2
GRAND TOTAL		151**	183	11

* PHH = Person Household

**1 survey (2 person household) – no answer to this question

4. How long have you been homeless?

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
9.6 days	13.2 days	9.3 days	12 days	Average # days (if homeless less than 1 month)
4.6 mo	4.9 mo	4.8 mo	4.7 mo	Average # months (if homeless less than 1 year)
4.0 yr	3.7 yr	4.6 yr	4.1 yr	Average # years (if homeless 1 year or more)
1.4 yr	1.5 yr	4.1 yr	3.6 yr	Average length of time homeless (for entire survey population)
	23	2	5	No answer
	10 days	8 days	8.5 days	Median # days (if homeless less than 1 month)
	4.0 mo	4.0 mo	4.0 mo	Median # months (if homeless less than 1 year)
	2.0 yr	3.0 yr	3.0 yr	Median # years (if homeless 1 year or more)
	0.5 yrs	2.3 yrs	2.0 yr	Median length of time homeless (for entire survey population)
	23	2	5	No answer

n=493 n=120 n=147

**Table note: A "median" is the mid-point of the dataset, which means exactly 50% of the respondents are above that number and 50% are below. The median does a better job of accounting for "outliers" in the data (i.e., one respondent that is much higher or lower than all the others can skew the results when you use an average).*

5. How many times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
60%	51%	54%	49%	Once
21%	19%	6%	7%	Twice
7%	12%	10%	10%	Three times
13%	13%	28%	31%	Four or more times
	5%	3%	3%	No answer

n=476 n=516 n=122 n=152

6. Did you have family with you last night?

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
19%	18%	0%	9%	Yes
81%	82%	100%	91%	No
				No answer
<i>More detail on "Yes, I had family with me"</i>				
	4%	0%	3%	Spouse or partner?
	2%	0%	2%	Children over age 18?
	15%	0%	6% *	Children under age 18?
	1%	0%	1%	Other family?

n=480

n=516

n=122

N=152

* This includes 11 families with a total of 25 children under age 18

Summary – Household type (# of people counted in survey)

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
419	426	122	138	Individuals
239	291	0	43	Persons in families with children <18
na	22	0	4	Persons in families with no children <18 *
0	0	0	0	No answer

n=655

n=739

n=122

N=185

*In 2005 "persons in families with no children <18" were included in the "Individuals" category

Summary – Youth head of household

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
	3%	3%	3%	Yes – under age 18
	11%	7%	9%	Yes – age 18-21
	85%	90%	89%	No – head of household older than 21
	0%	0%	0%	No answer

n=516

n=122

n=152

7. Basic Demographics of homeless persons counted in point in time survey

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
655	739	122	185	Total persons in survey
500	546	119	157	Adults
155	193	3	28	Children under age 18
<i>n=655</i>	<i>n=739</i>	<i>n=122</i>	<i>N=152</i>	
227	299	91	104	Adult males *
179	189	22	39	Adult females *
37.4	38.8	45.2	44.3	Average age of males *
34.9	34.0	39.6	37.5	Average age of females *
7.8	na	na	na	Average age of children *
<i>n=406</i>	<i>n=492</i>	<i>n=113</i>	<i>N=145</i>	
61%	55%	68%	58%	White
5%	5%	3%	5%	Black
0%	0%	0%	0%	Asian
31%	33%	21%	31%	American Indian
3%	2%	1%	1%	Other
	4%	7%	4%	No answer
<i>n=549</i>	<i>n=739</i>	<i>n=122</i>	<i>N=152</i>	
1%	1%	0%	0%	Some grade school
21%	13%	12%	15%	Some high school
29%	30%	35%	33%	Completed high school
19%	16%	16%	16%	Completed GED
24%	21%	22%	24%	Some college
7%	5%	3%	2%	Completed college
	2%	1%	1%	Other
	12%	12%	10%	No answer
<i>n=339</i>	<i>n=516</i>	<i>n=122</i>	<i>n=152</i>	

* 2006 survey results are for survey respondents only (not for all people noted on survey forms)

8. Sources of Income

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
	43%	42%	36%	Job
	11%	10%	25%	Other *
	12%	27%	23%	SSI
	20%	16%	18%	Family/Friends
	18%	13%	16%	Food stamps
	9%	12%	13%	Medicaid
	4%	13%	10%	Veteran's benefits
	6%	9%	9%	Social Security
	5%	2%	4%	TANF
	1%	5%	3%	Pension
	3%	2%	3%	Ask on the street
	2%	0%	1%	Child support
	1%	1%	1%	SSDI
	1%	1%	1%	Prostitution
	1%	0%	0%	Unemployment
	0%	0%	0%	Blood/plasma donation
	13%	14%	13%	<i>No answer</i>

n=516

n=122

n=152

* For long term homeless, "Other" category includes General Assistance (10%), Medicare (3%), Odd Jobs (2%), BIA (1%), Welfare (1%), VA Disability (1%)

9. Characteristics of the survey respondents (*Answers to the question: “x” affects me*)

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
52%	62%	59%	65%	Can't afford rent
49%	48%	57%	61%	History of substance abuse
35%	40%	53%	56%	Money management problems
41%	52%	48%	55%	Unemployed
25%	31%	54%	52%	Medical problems
33%	35%	50%	49%	Mental illness
28%	34%	37%	40%	Bad credit
24%	32%	25%	30%	Family breakup
na	28%	20%	24%	Criminal record
13%	18%	16%	22%	Can't locate an apartment
16%	12%	25%	21%	Veteran
22%	21%	23%	20%	Employed
7%	11%	21%	18%	Developmental disability
19%	17%	22%	18%	Underemployed
28%	27%	20%	18%	Relocated/Moved to this area
15%	17%	16%	17%	Evicted from apartment
16%	21%	11%	16%	Domestic violence
8%	8%	16%	13%	Discharged—from a psych. hospital
18%	18%	12%	11%	Parolee or probationer
4%	8%	4%	8%	Welfare issues
4%	5%	7%	6%	Discharged—from a hospital
5%	10%	5%	5%	Other
5%	3%	3%	2%	Homeless youth
1%	1%	2%	1%	Sexual orientation
1%	1%	0%	0%	HIV/AIDS

n=480

n=516

n=122

n=152

10. Is “x” a Reason for my homelessness?

2005 Total ND	2006 Total ND	2006 Chronic ND	2006 LTH	
31%	35%	48%	51%	History of substance abuse
35%	37%	27%	35%	Can't afford rent
19%	21%	34%	34%	Mental illness
21%	31%	24%	28%	Unemployed
14%	17%	21%	24%	Money management problems
7%	11%	21%	22%	Medical problems
15%	21%	12%	18%	Family breakup
0%	16%	17%	18%	Other—criminal background
10%	14%	11%	16%	Bad Credit
11%	13%	10%	13%	Evicted from apartment
15%	14%	6%	11%	Domestic violence
5%	10%	8%	10%	Can't locate an apartment
10%	8%	9%	9%	Parolee or probationer
3%	4%	9%	8%	Developmental disability
2%	4%	9%	8%	Discharged—from psych. hospital
8%	7%	7%	6%	Underemployed
10%	6%	3%	3%	Relocated/Moved to this area
2%	5%	3%	3%	Other
1%	2%	2%	2%	Discharged—from hospital
1%	2%	1%	2%	Welfare
0%	1%	2%	1%	Sexual orientation
0%	0%	0%	0%	HIV/AIDS
1%	0%	0%	0%	Employed
2%	1%	0%	0%	Homeless youth

n=480

n=516

n=122

n=152

11a. Service utilization – Statewide – Long term Homeless (2006 point in time)

	Long Term Homeless		
	Received	Waiting to Receive	Difficult to Access
Basic Needs			
Emergency Shelter	51%	3%	11%
Food/Hot Meals	71%	0%	5%
Clothing	62%	1%	9%
Case Management	57%	4%	5%
Health Care Needs			
Mental Health Care	39%	1%	3%
Medical/Dental	40%	3%	4%
Medication	59%	3%	3%
Domestic Violence Services	10%	1%	1%
Substance Abuse Services	36%	4%	1%
Stabilizing Needs			
Transitional Housing	29%	6%	11%
Permanent Housing	1%	22%	16%
Housing Placement	7%	6%	8%
Job Training/Placement	20%	9%	11%
Life Skills training	18%	4%	5%
Child Care	3%	0%	3%
Legal Aid	5%	1%	5%
GED/English Classes	5%	2%	2%
Transportation	34%	12%	19%
Storage	20%	1%	7%
Relocation Assistance	2%	3%	9%
Mainstream Resources			
Veterans Benefits	12%	1%	3%
Food Stamps	29%	3%	3%
SSI	19%	8%	3%
SSDI	5%	3%	2%
TANF	3%	1%	3%
Immigration Documentation	0%	0%	1%
Other	1%	2%	1%

n=151 (1 survey respondent did not complete this question)

11b. Service utilization – North Dakota (total from 2006 point in time)

	All survey respondents			Chronic homeless (HUD def)		
	Received	Waiting to Receive	Difficult to Access	Received	Waiting to Receive	Difficult to Access
Basic Needs						
Emergency Shelter	47%	3%	7%	57%	1%	6%
Food/Hot Meals	60%	1%	4%	78%	0%	2%
Clothing	51%	2%	6%	67%	2%	4%
Case Management	51%	4%	3%	60%	5%	3%
Health Care Needs						
Mental Health Care	30%	3%	2%	38%	1%	2%
Medical/Dental	30%	5%	6%	36%	4%	3%
Medication	37%	3%	4%	60%	2%	2%
Domestic Violence Services	11%	3%	1%	6%	2%	1%
Substance Abuse Services	29%	5%	2%	39%	4%	1%
Stabilizing Needs						
Transitional Housing	35%	9%	7%	30%	5%	7%
Permanent Housing	3%	25%	16%	2%	21%	12%
Housing Placement	11%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%
Job Training/Placement	16%	11%	8%	22%	9%	6%
Life Skills training	20%	3%	4%	21%	3%	2%
Child Care	7%	1%	3%	1%	0%	1%
Legal Aid	6%	3%	4%	3%	2%	3%
GED/English Classes	7%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Transportation	34%	9%	14%	30%	15%	17%
Storage	15%	1%	5%	23%	1%	4%
Relocation Assistance	3%	7%	8%	3%	3%	4%
Mainstream Resources						
Veterans Benefits	6%	1%	2%	16%	1%	3%
Food Stamps	28%	6%	3%	18%	3%	3%
SSI	10%	5%	4%	23%	7%	3%
SSDI	6%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%
TANF	5%	3%	3%	0%	0%	3%
Immigration Documentation	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Other	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%

n=509 (7 survey respondents did not complete this question)

12. “What services would help you the most to find or obtain housing?” (% of people who responded to this question who indicated “yes” to each category below)

Statewide

2006 Total	2006 Chronic	2006 LTH	
29%	31%	32%	Affordable housing (willing landlord, lower rent)
33%	35%	31%	Job
12%	18%	19%	Other *
13%	14%	18%	Car/Transportation
13%	10%	15%	Job training/education/job placement
8%	4%	13%	Rent deposit/1 st month rent
7%	12%	11%	Life skills/credit counseling/money mgmt
8%	12%	11%	Housing planning
12%	8%	8%	Housing assistance (Sec 8, etc)
7%	12%	8%	Medical/dental/mental health/domestic violence
5%	6%	7%	Receive benefits (TANF, SSI, SSDI, VA)
9%	8%	7%	Addiction services/Stay sober
8%	2%	4%	Income
9%	6%	4%	Case management
2%	2%	3%	Housing for criminal background
6%	4%	3%	Shelter/Transitional housing
3%	2%	3%	Food/Clothing
2%	0%	1%	Child Care
1%	0%	0%	Reunification with family
<i>n=301</i>	<i>n=49</i>	<i>n=72</i>	

* The “Other” category for the total homeless population includes: legal assistance, freedom, time, stable employee, no discrimination, citizenship, not to be judged, etc.

* The “Other” category for the long term homeless population includes: residential programs, different rules, opportunity to get started, find roommate, etc.