

The Homeless in Minnesota

By Ms. Michelle Peterick



The homeless population in the United States is epidemic especially among the United States Veterans. These people are not money grabbers nor the “worst of the worst.”

Due to unfortunate circumstances, they have fallen into the situation of being “homeless.”



They look for hope and salvation yet as they turn they get hit broadsided.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) says the nation's homeless veterans are mostly males (**four percent** are females). The clear majority is single, most come from poor, disadvantaged communities, 45 percent suffer from mental illness, and half have substance abuse problems.

In fact, the veterans who have served our country and voluntarily put it “all” on the line cannot even get the necessities.

They are one who may who have “fall between the cracks” another sub-group is the aged. It used to be that the aged were taken care of but now they are tossed aside.



Even the disabled cannot be gauranteed an bed in our society they are not assured that they will be promised an meal or place to sleep.



You cannot begin to explain the horror of not having an place to sleep or eat especially in Minnesota where the temptures are as follows:

Climate data for [Duluth Int'l](#), Minnesota (1981–2010 normal,^[a] extremes 1871–present^[b])

[\[hide\]](#)Climate data for Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (1981–2010 normal,^[c] extremes 1871–present)^[d]

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	58 (14)	64 (18)	83 (28)	95 (35)	106 (41)	104 (40)	108 (42)	103 (39)	104 (40)	90 (32)	77 (25)	68 (20)	108 (42)
Mean maximum °F (°C)	43.1 (6.2)	47.3 (8.5)	65.9 (18.8)	80.1 (26.7)	87.9 (31.1)	93.3 (34.1)	94.8 (34.9)	92.4 (33.6)	87.9 (31.1)	79.1 (26.2)	61.6 (16.4)	45.5 (7.5)	96.6 (35.9)
Average high °F (°C)	23.7 (−4.6)	28.9 (−1.7)	41.3 (5.2)	57.8 (14.3)	69.4 (20.8)	78.8 (26)	83.4 (28.6)	80.5 (26.9)	71.7 (22.1)	58.0 (14.4)	41.2 (5.1)	27.1 (−2.7)	55.2 (12.9)
Average low °F (°C)	7.5 (−13.6)	12.8 (−10.7)	24.3 (−4.3)	37.2 (2.9)	48.9 (9.4)	58.8 (14.9)	64.1 (17.8)	61.8 (16.6)	52.4 (11.3)	39.7 (4.3)	26.2 (−3.2)	12.3 (−10.9)	37.2 (2.9)
Mean minimum °F (°C)	−15 (−26)	−9.4 (−23)	3.6 (−15.8)	21.6 (−5.8)	34.9 (1.6)	45.0 (7.2)	53.2 (11.8)	50.7 (10.4)	36.4 (2.4)	25.3 (−3.7)	7.6 (−13.6)	−10 (−23)	−18.9 (−28.3)
Record low °F (°C)	−41 (−41)	−33 (−36)	−32 (−36)	2 (−17)	18 (−8)	34 (1)	43 (6)	39 (4)	26 (−3)	10 (−12)	−25 (−32)	−39 (−39)	−41 (−41)
Average precipitation on inches (mm)	0.90 (22.9)	0.77 (19.6)	1.89 (48)	2.66 (67.6)	3.36 (85.3)	4.25 (108)	4.04 (102.6)	4.30 (109.2)	3.08 (78.2)	2.43 (61.7)	1.77 (45)	1.16 (29.5)	30.61 (777.6)
Average snowfall inches (cm)	12.2 (31)	7.7 (19.6)	10.3 (26.2)	2.4 (6.1)	trace	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	trace	0.6 (1.5)	9.3 (23.6)	11.9 (30.2)	54.4 (138.2)
Average precipitati	8.9	7.4	9.3	10.7	11.5	11.3	10.2	9.7	9.8	9.2	8.7	9.8	116.5

on days (\geq 0.01 in)													
Average snowy days (\geq 0.1 in)	8.4	6.8	5.4	2.0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.6	5.2	9.3	37.8
Average <u>relative humidity</u> (%)	69.9	69.5	67.4	60.3	60.4	63.8	64.8	67.9	70.7	68.3	72.6	74.1	67.5
Mean monthly <u>sunshine hours</u>	156.7	178.3	217.5	242.1	295.2	321.9	350.5	307.2	233.2	181.0	112.8	114.3	2,710.7
Percent <u>possible sunshine</u>	55	61	59	60	64	69	74	71	62	53	39	42	59

Source #1: NOAA (relative humidity and sun 1961–1990)^{[30][31][32]}

Source #2: The Weather Channel^[33]

(1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_Minnesota#Winter_temperature

Imagine if you can appealing for food and sheleter when it is forty below zero and you do not even have an jacket. What happens-- I will tell you what happens, the homeless end up in the ER and frostbite is created; furthermore, limbs are amputated.



Finally, there is the innocent; the children. How can we let our children suffer in the cold without food, without hope, without purpose. How can you put the image of the greatest country in the world and apply that to the archetype to the homeless and say, “you have no future.”



You cannot simply pigeonhole these people they are not Americans -- not an second class people trying to take advantage of other people's rights/food/jobs. Indeed, these people would be happy to fill the jobs that most Americans cannot or will not do.

In our current society we look for blaming and hatred and fingerpointing instead of healing the vast majority of wounds that impregnate this nation. The nation is stacked full of veanomous hatred and subjugated sub-classes that make America an country somewhat similar to India where they have an caste system. Where the bottom caste never has an hope to be more than washing laundry and the top class gets free education and compete's for jobs in the Untied States.

What shall we do about the people, shall we cast them aside. Shall we forget about them— close our eyes as they and their children freeze to death on the streets. Do you want to be the one to sentence them to death?













This is Leah at the Salvation Army and they provide daily services to the homeless. They are the front soldiers to the front on fight for decency and just, “what is right and decent.” Personally, I have my own story to tell about the *Salvation Army*, when I was young my father who was an WWII vet, much like his father an WWI vet and yes, I am a Cold War vet...he was in roofing and fell on a ladder and broke his leg...he had to have pins inserted into his leg and could not afford anaesthetic. That Christmas the *Salvation Army* gave us, and my four other siblings Christmas presents.

These *Chariots of God* are doing God’s work, yet they continue to have funding problems.

I would encourage you to look at these pictures; they are down-- but not beaten. They can face ungodly problems, but you cannot take their self-respect.

My father told me the most important aspect of someone was, “Character.” He valued that among all else. It did not matter how much money you made, nor you’re position in life, if you had character you stood ahead of the crowd.

Our governor has been very proactive on the homeless. And has initiated the following plan much beyond the other states.

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR DAYTON

I am pleased that

Heading Home: Minnesota's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

reflects public input and strong interagency collaboration among the 11 agency commissioners and staff.

I strongly believe all Minnesotans should have access to safe and stable housing and I am committed to the plan's objectives and strategies. Stable housing results in better educational outcomes for our children, a stronger workforce now and in the future increased public safety, better health, reduced health care costs, and reduced disparities among communities.

The plan to prevent and end homelessness lays out concrete action steps for state agencies and opportunities for the state to partner with the private sector. These steps build on the progress my administration has made through bonding support for housing for Minnesotans at risk of homelessness, increased funding for the Homeless Youth Act, and rental assistance for families with school-age children and those most likely to become homeless.

Minnesotans care deeply about ending homelessness. We believe working people should be able to afford a place to live, and that people with physical or mental health needs must have a place to call home. However, there is no easy solution, and certainly state government cannot do it alone. Based on our values, both individually and collectively, we must solve the problem of homelessness together—as Minnesotans, as communities, as non-profits and businesses, and as government.

By working as a statewide team to implement this plan, Minnesota can and will solve big problems like homelessness and deliver results for Minnesotans.

Mark Dayton, Governor

State of Minnesota

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LETTER FROM COMMISSIONERS TINGERTHAL AND JESSON

As co-chairs of the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness, we are honored to present Minnesota's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: a plan that both builds on what has been working to end homelessness for some of Minnesota's most vulnerable people and presents new, coordinated strategies to stabilize housing for all Minnesotans, including children, who experience or are at risk of homelessness.

Over the past year, the Council has been re-formed to include Commissioners from eleven state agencies: Corrections, Education, Employment and Economic Development, Health, Higher Education, Human Rights, Human Services, Housing, Public Safety, Transportation and Veterans Affairs. These Commissioners, along with the Governor's Chief of Staff, comprise the Council, which began its work by engaging a new state director to prevent and end homelessness and drafting a new state plan.

This plan differs from previous efforts to address homelessness among Minnesotans, primarily because it establishes accountabilities for all Commissioners and their staff. In addition to a plan with a long-term vision, we asked our senior leaders and state director to bring clear actions that agencies will implement over the next two years. The plan identifies these actions and describes the results we want. We will measure these results and hold each other accountable for producing them.

The Council drew ideas for the plan and the actions to be accomplished in the next two years from a broad spectrum of stakeholders across Minnesota, as well as from work being done at the federal level and in other states. We expect to continue consulting the community and adjusting the plan as needed over the course of its implementation. The Council has adopted the actions included in the plan and committed the agencies to participating in full. The Council will continue to meet and measure our progress and report on that progress to the people of Minnesota.

We stand ready to work with our colleagues – and partners throughout the state – to make government work better for our fellow Minnesotans in greatest need. We feel privileged to be working together for a better Minnesota: a Minnesota that honors the dignity of each and maximizes the potential of all.

Lucinda Jesson, Commissioner
Department of Human Services
Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner
Minnesota Housing

Letters

Heading Home: Minnesota's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“There is nothing more important than a good, safe, secure home.”

Rosalynn Carter

Stable housing is out of reach for far too many Minnesotans. Systemic changes over the past several decades have resulted in incomes not keeping pace with the cost of housing. In addition to the more than 10,000 Minnesotans who are homeless on any given night, another 248,000 are paying more than half of their income on housing. This disconnect between incomes and the cost of housing undermines our state's ability to improve educational outcomes for our children, build a stronger workforce, improve health, and reduce disparities. While we are aware that the full solution to homelessness, including addressing income inequality, will require the commitment of many sectors and all levels of government, this plan focuses on strategies and actions state agencies are and can be pursuing. These strategies set us on a path not only to end

homelessness

for more families and individuals, but also to substantially prevent

homelessness,

by addressing some of the most significant barriers to maintaining housing stability.

The Vision

The long-term vision of the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness is Housing Stability for All Minnesotans

. The Interagency Council is contributing to

this overarching result by focusing on solving the most egregious form of housing instability – homelessness. The role of the Council is to lead the state in efforts to prevent and end homelessness for all Minnesotans.

What does it mean to prevent and end homelessness?

Preventing Homelessness

means that families and individuals are helped to reduce their likelihood of becoming homeless and avoid crises that, without intervention, would precipitate a loss of housing.

Ending Homelessness

means that if a family or individual does become homeless, we will have a crisis response system to assess their needs and quickly provide them the opportunity to access stable housing. It does not

mean that no one will

experience homelessness ever again.

Why does it matter to prevent and end homelessness?

Preventing and ending homelessness matters to Minnesota's future. Children and youth need stable homes to succeed in school, to develop relationships with peers and community, and eventually to contribute to society as adults. Families and single adults, including Veterans, need stable homes to secure and maintain health and employment.

(2) <http://www.headinghomeminnesota.org/sites/default/files/MICH%20executive%20summary.pdf> (2017)

All of this is great! However, there is simply not enough there are simply hundreds in the shelter every night.

What strikes me about our cruel society is that it strikes all equally the old, the disabled, the mom's, the dad's, and the children. I ask you just how you or anyone can condemn and five-year-old child to spending a night in forty below weather.



Just who are these people who have no faces and only dollar signs to hide behind the institutions they create to better themselves and ignore the others as they ignore the call out for hideous and emotional frequency for a plea for help.

They are everywhere chemists, lawyers, accountants, fiduciary's, and the list goes on and on.

They look at the ones in peril and ignore the final call for help.

Mountain climbers can tell you that there is no way worse to die than to freeze to death—or the not quite that -- frostbite; losing limbs.

Indeed, life expectancies for people, indeed what a sanitary term—let's say it as it is, babies, mother's, children, father's is the following: DEATH.

The new research found that the average homeless person has a life expectancy of 47, compared to 77 for the rest of the population: a startling difference of **30 years**. The life expectancy for women was even lower, at just **43 years**.

(3) Google (2017).

They are our “expendable” people. The forgotten class, the ones that can be tossed aside.





Still there is hope, as the needy reach out. Something kicks in, much as Gandhi said, “When you do not back down but are able to receive many blows for what is right, something in your adversary makes their respect for you increase and their hostility decrease, and he further said that Christ grasped that, and he said that he saw that work in his peaceful noncompliant resistance.”

I am a big fan of Gandhi, he further said, “If you are a minority of one, the truth is still the truth.”

The *Chariots of God and Goodness* come in many forms from helpers to people that have initialized and started the whole thing.





Although they wear many vests they seek the same goal to help people or as the *Scriptures* Say, “Do onto others as you would have them do onto you.”



By one we can be defeated; however, as a group we are invincible and together we can achieve great things. If we hide and tunnel into the hole we will be forgotten; however, if we stand up for ourselves and seek to simply let people see the injustice we cannot fail—we cannot. The sheer magnitude of the injustice makes the injustice that much more obvious and with that the attention comes to it.



The military, the ones tasked to defend us who place their lives on the line not only on our soil but overseas with tanks, M-16's, Aircraft, Helicopters, Bombers, Satellite, Black Op's, plus many more where we put our country first and our lives second.

This is the data on "Homeless Vet's" in the United States:

Homeless Veterans

Published by the National Coalition for the Homeless, September 2009

This fact sheet examines homelessness among U.S. veterans. A list of resources for further study is also provided.

BACKGROUND

Far too many veterans are homeless in America—between 130,000 and 200,000 on any given night—representing between one fourth and one-fifth of all homeless people. Three times that many veterans are struggling with excessive rent burdens and thus at increased risk of homelessness.

Further, there is concern about the future. Women veterans and those with disabilities including post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury are more likely to become homeless, and a higher percentage of veterans returning from the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have these characteristics.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 131,000 veterans are homeless on any given night [\[1\]](#). And approximately twice that many experience homelessness over the course of a year. Conservatively, one out of every three homeless men who is sleeping in a doorway, alley or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served this country.

Approximately 40% of homeless men are veterans, although veterans comprise only 34% of the general adult male population. The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates that on any given night, 200,000 veterans are homeless, and 400,000 veterans will experience homelessness during a year (National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 2006). 97% of those homeless veterans will be male (Department of Veterans Affairs, 2008).

DEMOGRAPHICS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) says the nation's homeless veterans are mostly males (four percent are females). The clear majority is single, most come from poor, disadvantaged communities, 45 percent suffer from mental illness, and half have substance abuse problems. America's homeless veterans have served in World War II, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan),

Operation Iraqi Freedom, or the military's anti-drug cultivation efforts in South America. 47 per cent of homeless veterans served during the Vietnam Era. More than 67 per cent served our country for at least three years and 33 per cent were stationed in a war zone.

Here are some statistics concerning the veterans homeless [\[2\]](#):

- 23% of homeless population are veterans
- 33% of male homeless population are veterans
- 47% Vietnam Era
- 17% post-Vietnam
- 15% pre-Vietnam
- 67% served three or more years
- 33% stationed in war zone
- 25% have used VA Homeless Services
- 85% completed high school/GED, compared to 56% of non-veterans
- 89% received Honorable Discharge
- 79% reside in central cities
- 16% reside in suburban areas
- 5% reside in rural areas
- 76% experience alcohol, drug, or mental health problems
- 46% white males compared to 34% non-veterans
- 46% age 45 or older compared to 20% non-veterans

Female homeless veterans represent an estimated 3% of homeless veterans. They are more likely than male homeless veterans to be married and to suffer serious psychiatric illness, but less likely to be employed and to suffer from addiction disorders. Comparisons of homeless female veterans and other homeless women have found no differences in rates of mental illness or addictions.

PROGRAMS AND POLICY ISSUES [\[3\]](#)

While most housing help available to veterans focuses on homeownership, there have been Federal investments in programs for homeless veterans. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) funds temporary housing for homeless veterans including:

- shelter and two-year transitional housing funded through the Grant and Per Diem Program,
- long-term care through the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program, and
- skills programs such as the Compensated Work Therapy/Veterans Industries Program.

These programs do not meet existing need. For example, Grant and Per Diem only funds 8,000 beds.

In addition, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) works with VA to operate the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. HUD-VASH connects HUD Housing Choice Vouchers with VA case management and services. This is HUD's only program targeted directly to veterans. HUDVASH, a long standing and rigorously tested program, has been under-resourced in past years, but the recent addition of 10,000 vouchers a year for two years has been a crucial step forward. The Administration did not request additional vouchers for

2010. However, the program is popular in Congress, and there is a strong possibility of additional vouchers this year.

VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program -

The Grant and Per Diem program is offered annually (as funding permits) by the VA to fund community-based agencies (up to 65% of a given project) providing transitional housing or service centers for homeless veterans.

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In VA's Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) Program, disadvantaged, at-risk, and homeless veterans live in supervised group homes while working for pay in VA's Compensated Work Therapy Program (also known as Veterans Industries). Veterans in the CWT/TR program work about 33 hours per week, with approximate earnings of \$732 per month, and pay an average of \$186 per month toward maintenance and up-keep of the residence. The average length of stay is about 174 days. VA contracts with private industry and the public sector for work done by these veterans, who learn new job skills, relearn successful work habits, and regain a sense of self-esteem and self-worth.

Supported Housing -

In 2008, according to the annual homeless assessment report to Congress, 3% of the shelter's beds were reserved for the veterans.

Like the HUD-VASH program, staff in VA's Supported Housing Program provides ongoing case management services to homeless veterans. Emphasis is placed on helping veterans find permanent housing and providing clinical support needed to keep veterans in permanent housing.

Staff in these programs operate without benefit of the specially dedicated Section 8 housing vouchers available in the HUD-VASH program but are often successful in locating transitional or permanent housing through local means, especially by collaborating with Veterans Service Organizations.

In addition, the VA extends loans, funds Veterans Benefits Counselors, and operates drop-in centers where veterans can clean up and receive therapeutic treatment during the day.

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates that the VA serves about 25% of veterans in need – a figure that would leave approximately 300,000 veterans each year to seek assistance from local government agencies and voluntary organizations.

In general, the needs of homeless veterans do not differ from those of other homeless people. The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans suggests the most effective programs are “community-based, nonprofit, “veterans helping veterans” groups” (NCHV “Background and Statistics”). However, there is some evidence that programs which recognize and acknowledge veteran experience may be more successful in helping homeless veterans transition into stable housing. Until serious efforts are made to address the underlying causes of homelessness, including inadequate wages, lack of affordable housing, and lack of accessible, affordable health care, the tragedy of homelessness among both veterans and non-veterans will continue to plague American communities.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- Alker, Joan. Heroes Today, Homeless Tomorrow? Homelessness Among Veterans in the United States, 1991. National Coalition for the Homeless, 2201 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20037; 202/462-4822.
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Providing reasonable estimates of Homeless Veterans in America On Any Given Night in May 1994, 1994. Available, free, from the [National Coalition for Homeless Veterans](#), 333-1/2 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003-1148. Phone: 800-838-4357.
- [National Coalition for Homeless Veterans](#), 333-1/2 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003-1148. Phone: 800-838-4357; Fax: 888-233-8582; Email: nchv@nchv.org
- [HUDVET](#). Established by HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) in consultation with national veteran service organizations, HUDVET is a Veteran Resource Center designed to provide veterans and their family members with information on HUD's community-based programs and services. HUDVET may be reached at 1-800-998-9999 (TDD 1-800-483-2209).
- National conference on ending homelessness, policy Guide, 2009:
<http://www.signup4.net/Upload/NATI12A/2009194E/2009%20Policy%20Guide.pdf>

National Coalition for homeless veterans: <http://www.nchv.org/background.cfm>

National Coalition for homeless veterans: <http://www.nchv.org/background.cfm>

<http://www.signup4.net/Upload/NATI12A/2009194E/2009%20Policy%20Guide.pdf>

(4) <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/veterans.html> (2017)

Just to reiterate here are some pictures of frostbite:



Yet in all this bleak an unforgiving landscape there is life, much like the Jews in 1941 in Germany. They seek out the soul of humanity and touch the heartstrings and make us all realize that it could be us instead of them.





It makes us realize that “their future is our future.”



The people are fantastic they are the kindest and most touching people you could ever meet which is hard to explain. Given all that is against them they maintain a positive self-image and core value and love for one self and others and God.

Even when confronted with the necessities they fight back vigorously and maintain their love for humanity.



To make a donation please send cash/check to the following addresses:

Emergency Shelter

400 U.S. Highway 10 S.
St. Cloud, MN 56304

(“Salvation Army”)

Pastor Geary & Pastor Carol Jean Smith

Place of Hope Ministries

511 9th Av. North

St. Cloud, MN. 56303