Using Homeless Study Data to Inform Service and Policy

MCH Virtual Learning Series

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AMHERST H. WILDER FOUNDATION

Here for good.
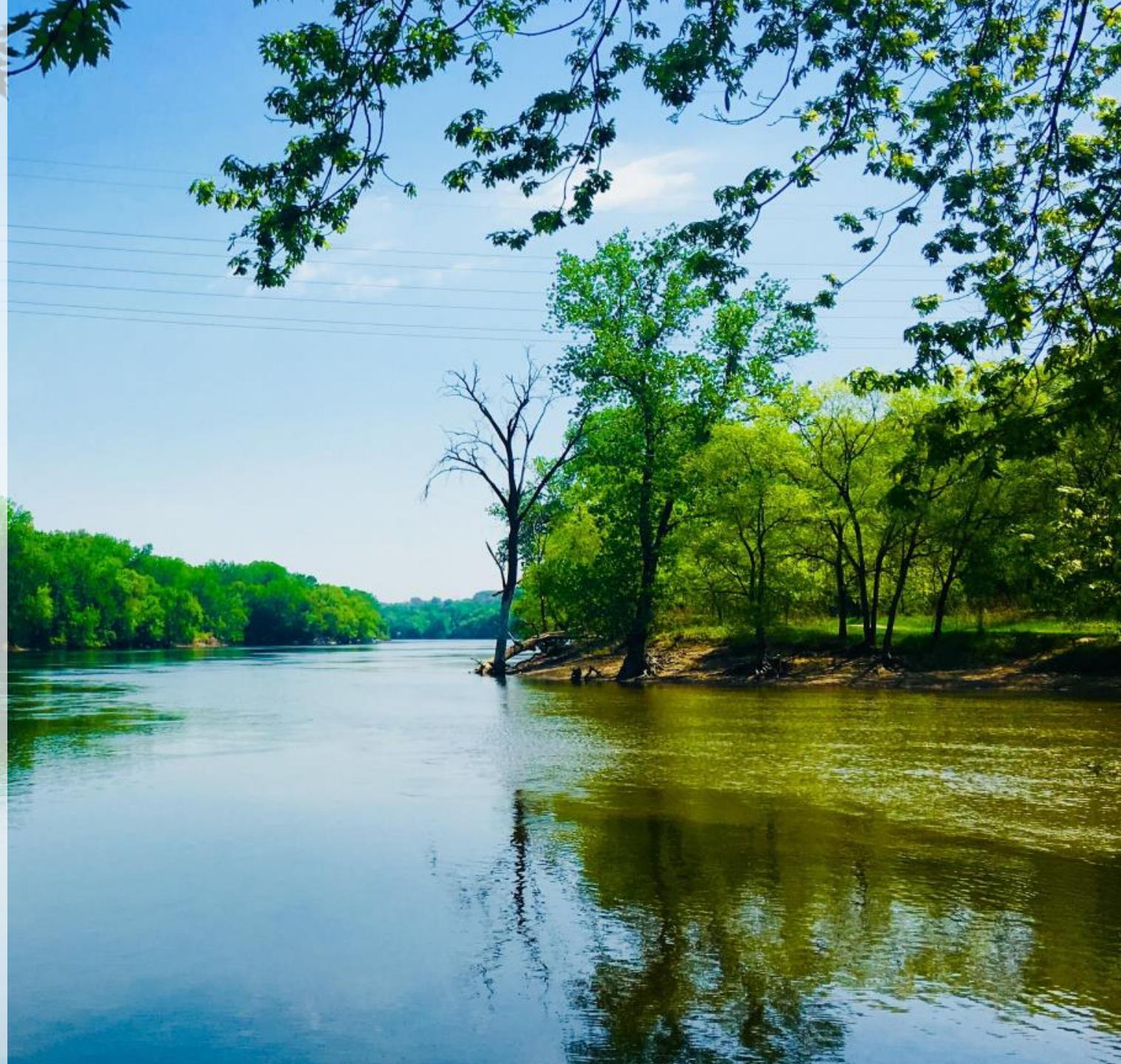
Wilder Research.

Welcome!

- Agenda

  – Background of Minnesota Homeless Study

  – Brief overview of other data sources

  – How to find Homeless Study data (demonstration)

  – Using Homeless Study data to support your work (discussion)

  – Preview what's next for the study

  – Q & A

- Quick poll

Ancestral Lands

- Mni Sota Makoce (Land Where the Water Reflects the Clouds) is the Dakota place name for what is now known as Minnesota

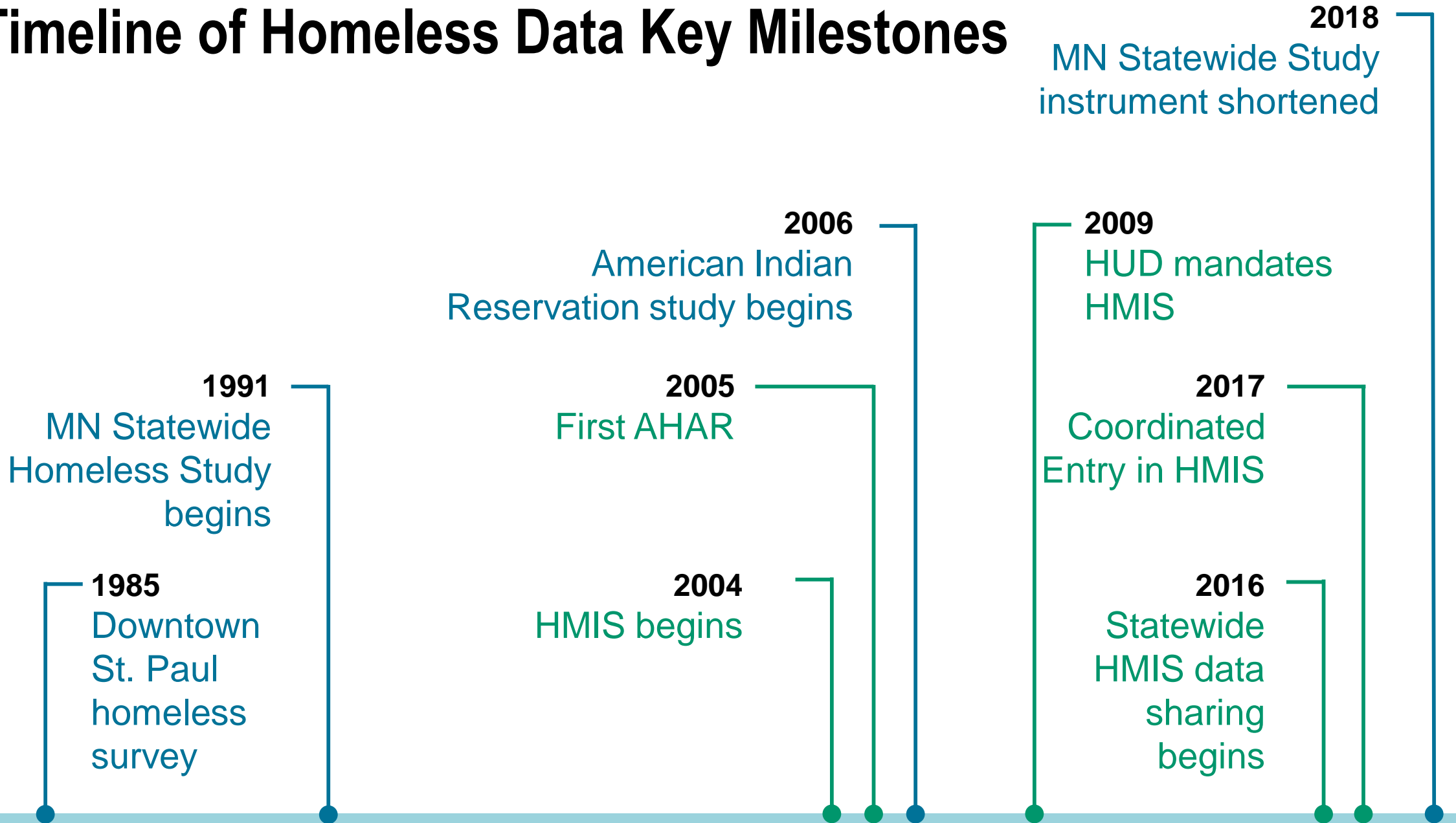- In Minnesota there are 60,000 American Indian people and 11 federally recognized tribes

YOU ARE HERE

Background of Minnesota Homeless Data and the Minnesota Homeless Study

Timeline of Homeless Data Key Milestones

2018
MN Statewide Study
instrument shortened

2006
American Indian
Reservation study begins

2009
HUD mandates
HMIS

1991
MN Statewide
Homeless Study
begins

2005
First AHAR

2017
Coordinated
Entry in HMIS

1985
Downtown
St. Paul
homeless
survey

2004
HMIS begins

2016
Statewide
HMIS data
sharing
begins

Pros and Cons of Key Homeless Data Sources

	MN Homeless Study	HUD Point in Time Count (PIT)	HMIS
Frequency:	Every 3 years	Every year	Continuous
Method:	45 min face-to-face facilitated interview	HMIS + short survey of unsheltered	Data entered at provider locations
Strengths:	*In-depth information *Historical trends	*National/inter-state comparisons *Updated annually	*Unique IDs for return clients *Common/consistent data *"Real-time" data
Limitations:	*Low frequency of implementation *Undercounts shorter-term homelessness	*Implementation varies across the state *Methodology has changed *Undercounts shorter-term homelessness	*Rigid, mandated system *Data entry challenges *Limited coverage of unsheltered

Minnesota Homeless Study

- Statewide study lead by Wilder Research every 3 years since 1991
    - In-depth interviews in 300+ shelters, programs, and outreach sites across MN
    - Point-in-time census count
    - 1,000 volunteer interviewers
- Mix of private and public funding
- **Next study is October 2021!**

Minnesota Homeless Study

What can study data tell us?

- In-depth characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota

- Needs among those experiencing homelessness

- Investigate trends over time (1991 to 2018)

- What other specific research questions need to be explore (via special analysis or raw data request)

Minnesota Homeless Study

Common breakdown of data

- Geographic (Statewide, Greater MN, Metro, CoC Region)

- Interview location (in shelter vs. non-shelter)

- Shelter type (Emergency, Domestic Violence, Transitional)

- Gender (Male, Female, Self-identify)

How to Find Homeless Study Data

Homeless Study Data: What's Available?

- Tables and reports at **mnhomeless.org**
  - Data tables detailing **counts** of those experiencing homelessness
  - Data tables detailing **face-to-face interview** responses
  - Overall report on homelessness in Minnesota
  - Topic- and region-specific reports
- Data requests and special analyses

Using Homeless Study Data to Support Your Work

Digging for Data: Your Turn!

Scenario A

You are planning to open an emergency shelter in Duluth. You want to provide services that will best meet the needs of the area, especially the types and severity of medical needs.

Scenario B

You are advocating at the legislature for more resources to build affordable and supportive housing in the Twin Cities metro area. You want to focus your message on the increasing number of people experiencing homelessness who are not using the formal shelter system (but are instead staying outside or other places not intended for habitation).

Scenario C

Something else that is applicable to your work.

1. Using data from mnhomeless.org, find the data you think would best support the scenario you choose.

2. **Share** what data points you would use in the Google Doc linked in the chat.

Wilder Data in Action at Catholic Charities

- Policy and advocacy
  - Homeless Youth Act

- Shelter funding
  - CARE Act
  - FEMA

- Strategic planning and visioning
  - Incidence of Trauma, ACEs

- Utility of data for services

Minnesota Homeless Study: What's next?

11th annual Minnesota Homeless Study in October 2021

- Fundraising

- Reviewing study methods and survey design

- Program outreach

- Volunteer outreach

- Study coordination

Thank you for coming!

- Please contact us with questions!
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