

Homelessness among Native Americans in Minnesota:

Understanding experiences and needs
in order to design solutions

November 19, 2020 – MCH Conference

Tammy Moreland, Pam Hughes, Jackie Aman,
Michelle Gerrard, & Nicole MartinRogers



Wilder Research.

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

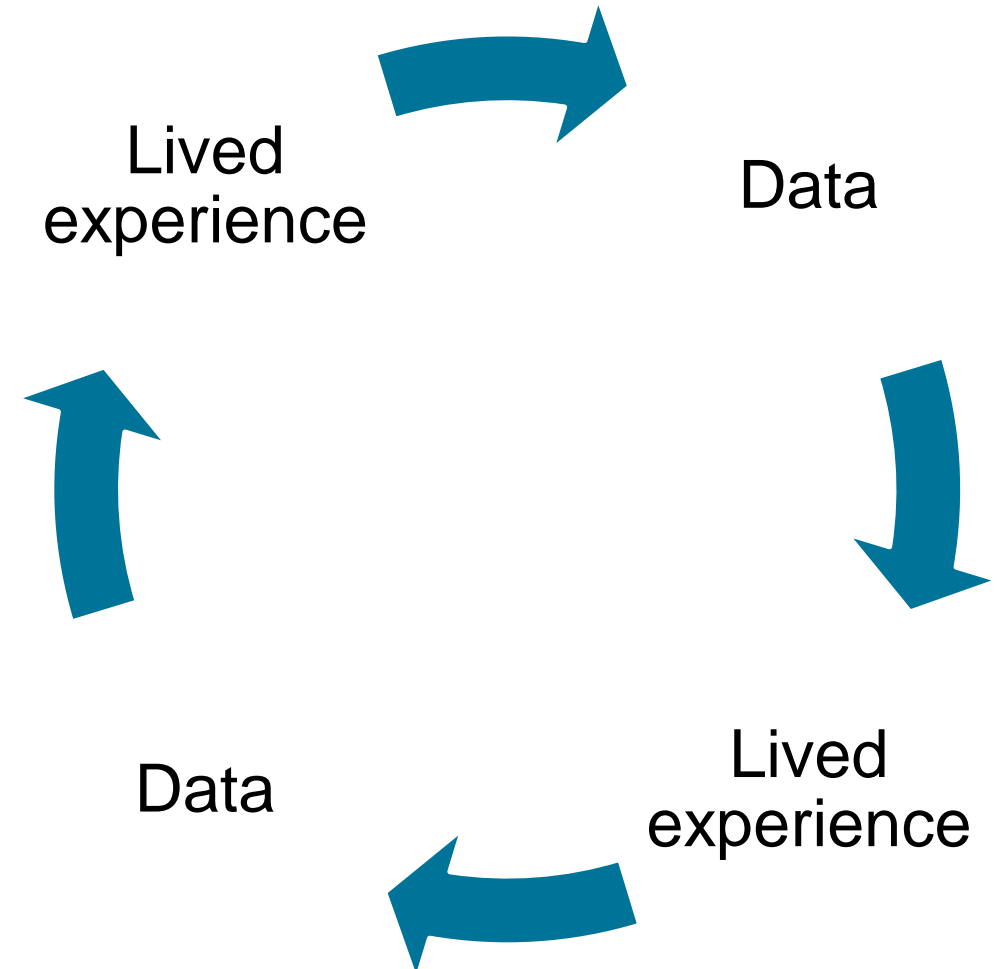


Recognizing where
we are and what we
bring today



Things we'll cover

- Overview of American Indian homelessness in Minnesota
- What the data tell us –
Statewide Homeless Survey +
Reservation Study
- What our work and experiences tell us
- Question/Answer



American Indian Homelessness in Minnesota

- Historical context
- Contemporary causes



What the data tells us

2018 Statewide and Reservation Homeless
Studies



Wilder Homeless Studies

2018 Reservation Study

- Interviews conducted on the reservations of 6 participating tribes
- Represent > 90% of American Indians living on MN reservations
- Study of both homelessness AND near-homelessness

2018 Statewide Study

- Interviews in 300 shelters and programs and 400 locations across the state
- Study of homelessness ONLY

Homeless vs. near-homeless

- **Homelessness** includes: staying in a shelter, transitional housing, or a place not intended for housing, or those who face eviction and have no other place to go, as well as some people who are temporarily staying with others (doubled up) if their situation is precarious.
- **Near-homelessness** includes: those who are temporarily staying with others (doubled up) in relatively more stable conditions.

2018 Statewide Homeless Study

Homelessness | in Minnesota

*Detailed Findings from the
2018 Minnesota Homeless Study*

Authors: Brian Pittman, Stephanie Nelson-Duack,
Michelle Decker Garrant, and Ellen Sheltan

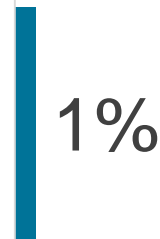


Full report available here:

<http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/reports-and-fact-sheets/2018/2018-homelessness-in-minnesota-3-20.pdf>

American Indians are overrepresented among Minnesota's statewide homeless population

While American Indians make up
1% of the Minnesota adult
population...



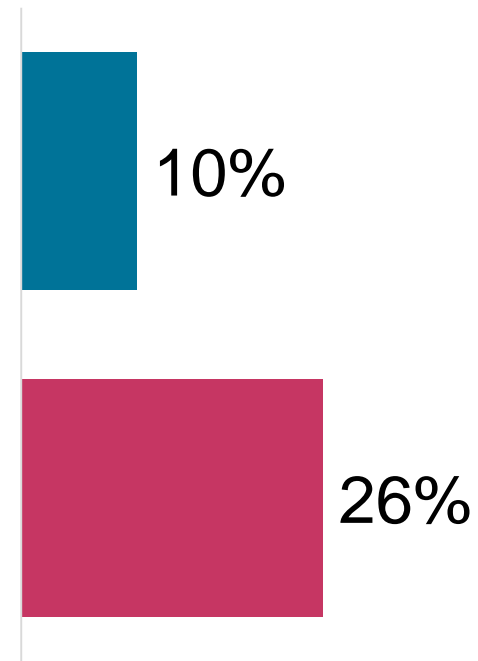
...12% of the Statewide
Homeless Study adults were
American Indian



American Indians are overrepresented in the unsheltered homeless population in the metro area

American Indians make up 10% of the metro area homeless population...

...and 26% of unsheltered interviewees in the metro area

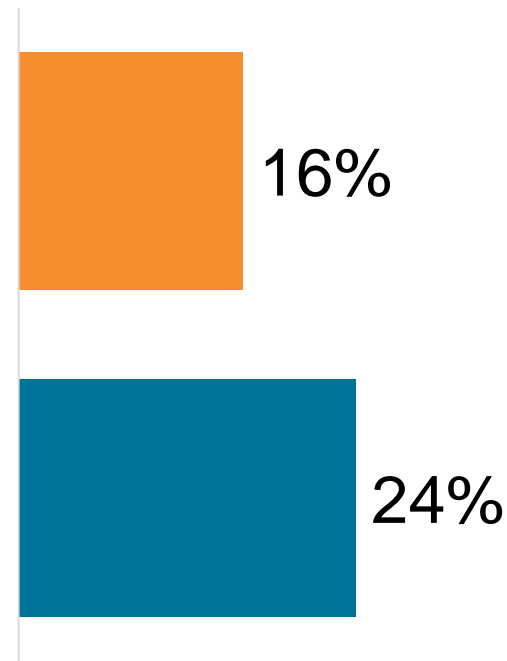


**Note: N=4,225 for all individuals interviewed in the Twin Cities metro area for the 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study*

American Indians are overrepresented in the unsheltered homeless population in Greater MN

American Indians make up
16% of the Greater MN
homeless population...

...and 24% of unsheltered
interviewees in Greater MN

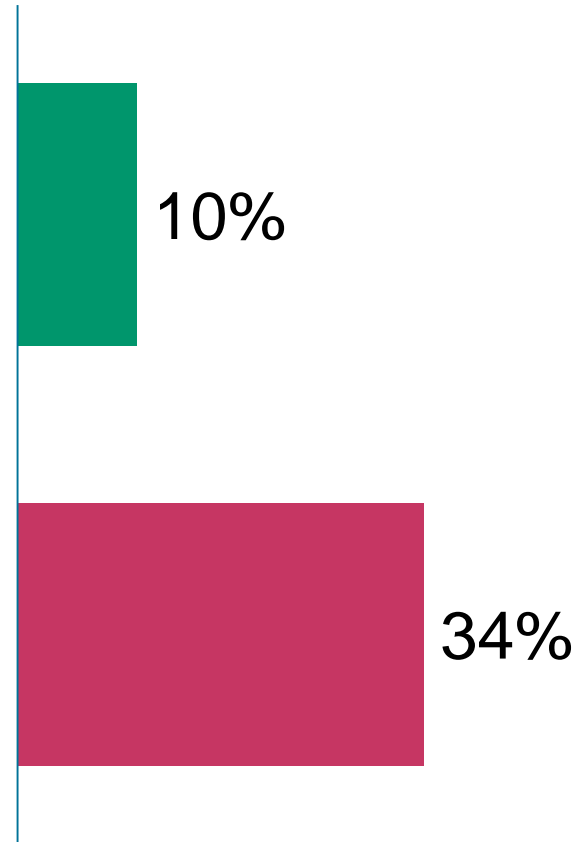


**Note: N=2,072 for all individuals interviewed in Greater MN for the 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study*

American Indian *families* are overrepresented among unsheltered homeless families in the metro area

American Indian families make up 10% of families experiencing homeless in the metro area...

...and 34% of unsheltered families in the metro area

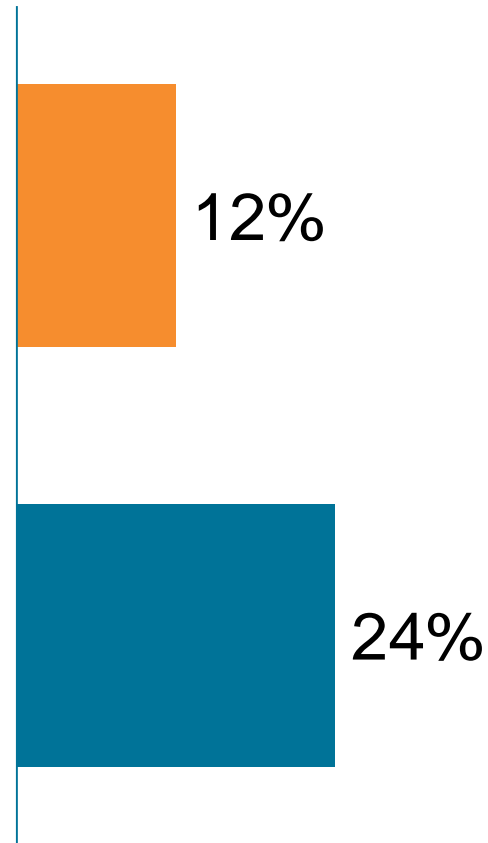


**Note: N=875 for all individuals interviewed in the Twin Cities metro area with at least one child with them on the night of the 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study*

American Indian *families* are overrepresented among unsheltered homeless families in Greater MN

American Indian families make up 12% of families experiencing homeless in Greater MN...

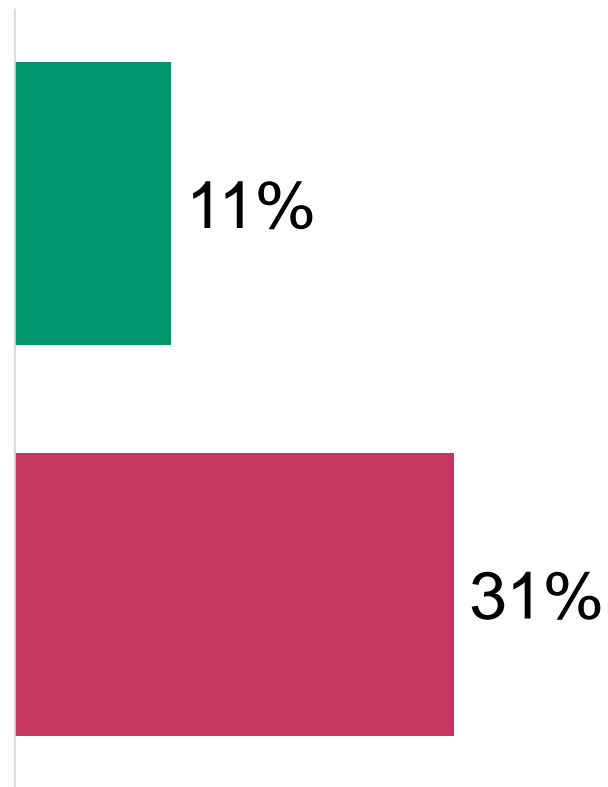
...and 24% of unsheltered families in Greater MN



**Note: N=556 for all individuals interviewed in Greater MN with at least one child with them on the night of the 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study*

American Indians are overrepresented in the unsheltered, unaccompanied youth homeless population in the metro area

American Indians make up 11% of unaccompanied youth in the metro area homeless population...



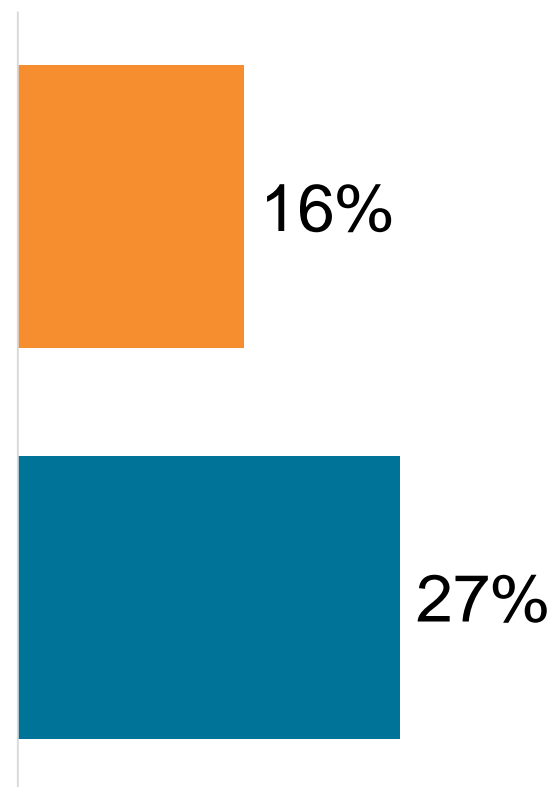
...and 31% of unaccompanied youth that are unsheltered in the metro area

**Note: N=449 for all unaccompanied youth interviewed in the Twin Cities metro area for the 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study. Unaccompanied youth are individuals age 24 years and younger who were unaccompanied by their parents on the night of the study.*

American Indians are overrepresented in the unsheltered, unaccompanied youth homeless population in Greater MN

American Indians make up 16% of unaccompanied youth in the Greater MN homeless population...

...and 27% of unaccompanied youth that are unsheltered in Greater MN



**Note: N=310 for all unaccompanied youth interviewed in Greater MN for the 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study. Unaccompanied youth are individuals age 24 years and younger who were unaccompanied by their parents on the night of the study.*



Reflections & Questions

2018 Reservation Homeless Study

Homelessness on Minnesota American Indian Reservations

*Findings from the 2018 Minnesota
Reservation Homeless Study*

Prepared by Jackie Aman, Virginia Pendleton, Nicole
Martin-Rogers, Walker Bosch, and Michelle Decker Gerrard



Full report available here:

<http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/reports-and-fact-sheets/2018/2018-homeless-reservations-4-20.pdf>

The number of people experiencing homeless or near-homeless on reservations is growing

1,138 people experiencing homelessness

+ 1,177 people experiencing near-homelessness

2,315 people total on reservations in 2018

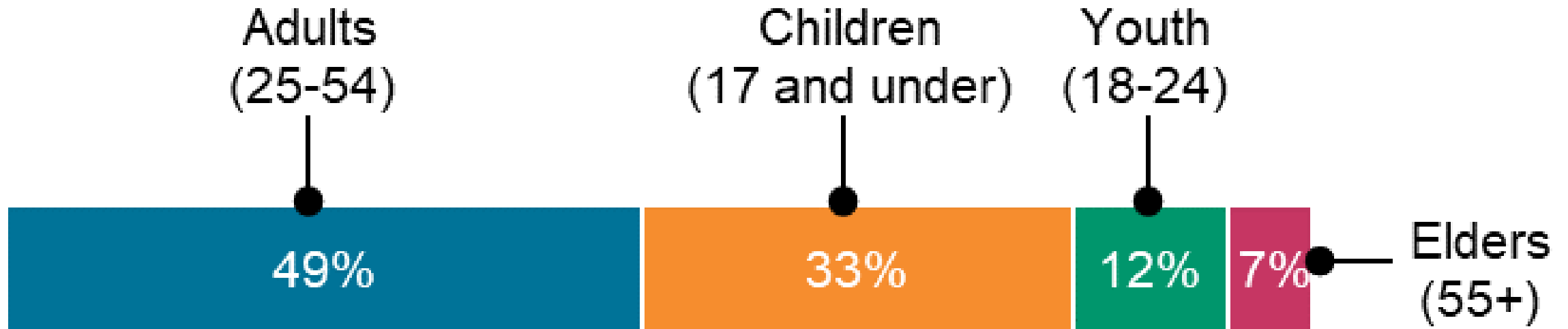


POLLING QUESTION

True or False: Most reservation respondents were living on a reservation before becoming homeless or near-homeless.

ANSWER: True. 2 of 3 respondents (64%) were living on a reservation before becoming homeless or near-homeless; 86% were enrolled tribal members

Who are the people experiencing homelessness and near-homelessness on reservations?



- Over one-quarter (28%) of reservation respondents were parents accompanied by their children.

Most reservation respondents are experiencing chronic, long-term homelessness and have significant barriers to getting housing

- 77% of people interviewed on reservations met the Minnesota definition of long-term homelessness: those who have been without a permanent residence for at least one year, or four or more times during the last three years.
- 1 in 4 reservation respondents (28%) face physical, mental, or other health challenges that limit their ability to work or perform daily activities.



POLLING QUESTION

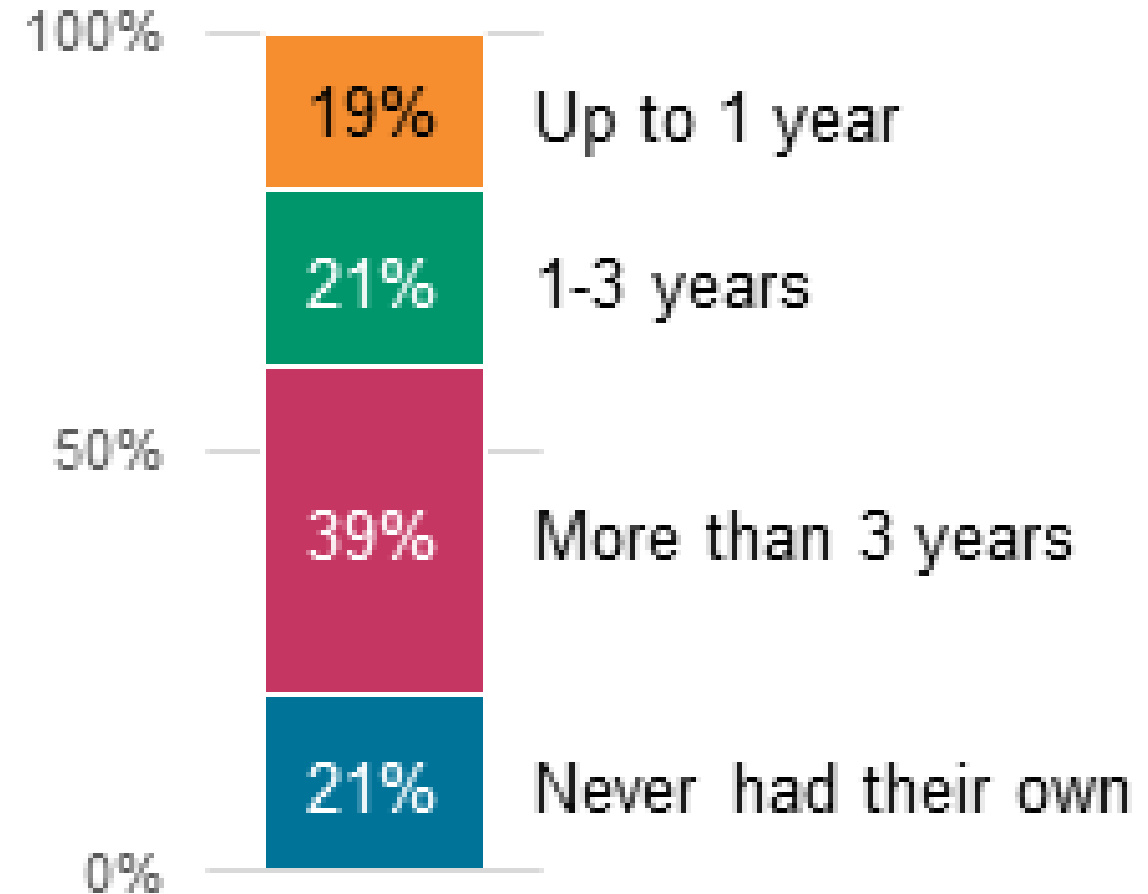
True or False: Most reservation respondents that were doubled-up at the time of the study prefer to live doubled-up (i.e., this is a “cultural preference” to live with extended family).

NOTE: Doubling up = staying with a family member or someone they know rather than living in a shelter or in places not intended for human habitation

ANSWER: False. Nearly all respondents (99%) would live in their own housing – not doubled up with family or friends – if they could find or afford it.

Doubling up is a concern

- 70% of reservation respondents were doubled up
- Doubling up is not a common preference
 - 74% of doubled-up respondents were in overcrowded spaces
 - 51% of doubled-up respondents were in severely overcrowded spaces
 - 22% living in substandard conditions



Time spent doubled up, 2018



Reflections & Questions

Economic opportunities on reservations are limited

- 24% of respondents were employed
 - 81% were earning wages of less than \$15.00 an hour

Employment rate of reservation and greater Minnesota respondents, 2009-2018





POLLING QUESTION

QUESTION: What is the most commonly reported reason for becoming homeless or near-homeless on reservations?

- a) Substance use
- b) Not getting along with family / domestic abuse
- c) Financial reasons**
- d) Challenges with mental health

Reasons for becoming homeless

- Most respondents *became* homeless because of financial reasons
 - 36% couldn't afford rent or house payments
 - 35% had been evicted
 - 32% lost job/had hours cut
- Lack of affordable housing was also the most common barrier to *obtaining* housing (50%) – substance use was the 8th most common barrier identified by respondents (15%).

Homelessness is often preceded by childhood trauma and abuse (ACEs)

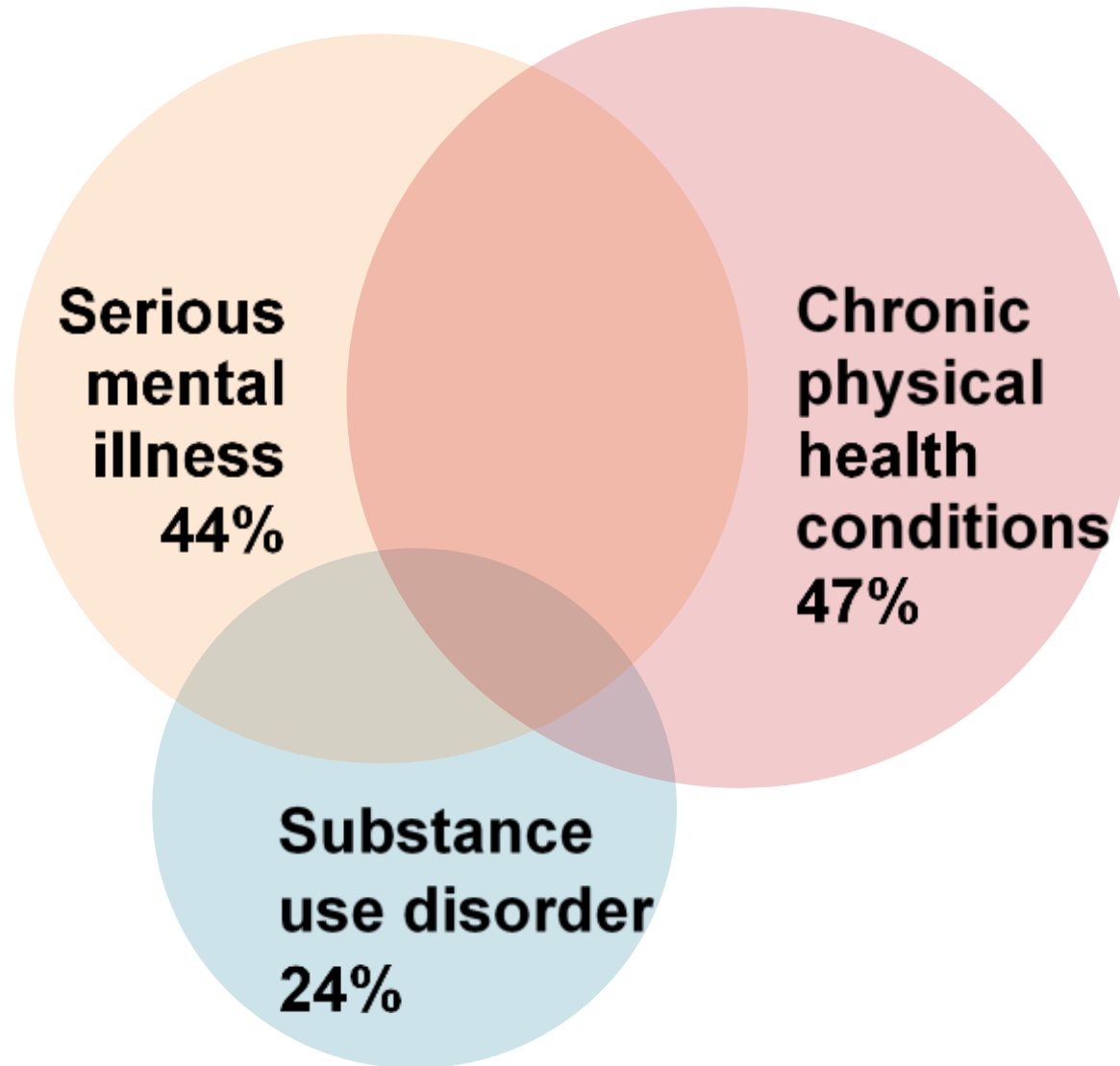
- ACEs are prevalent among reservation respondents
 - 71% had experienced at least 1 ACE (73% statewide)
 - 42% had experience 3 or more ACEs (59% statewide)
 - * *ACEs were **less** common compared to Statewide Homeless Study*
- The most commonly reported ACEs:
 - Lived with someone who abused substances (56%)
 - Witnessed abuse (52%)
 - Lived in an out of home placement (44%)

Involvement in the criminal justice system

- Compared to statewide respondents, a higher percentage of reservation respondents spent time in a correctional facility
 - 74% were homeless upon entry
 - 34% did not have a stable place to live upon exit



Health and well-being



31% report **no conditions**

38% report **multiple conditions**

11% report **all 3 conditions**



Reflections & Questions

Affordable housing is greatest need

- Average median income from all sources was \$300 / month
 - 27% reported no income
- 2018 fair market rent of \$576 for a one-bedroom apartment in greater Minnesota
- Housing waiting lists are very long on reservations

Housing size needs	
Efficiency / 1 bedroom	40%
2 bedrooms	30%
3+ bedrooms	29%

Substance use

In the past 30 days...

- 85% smoked cigarettes
 - 41% used marijuana
 - 32% drank alcohol
 - 14% used methamphetamine
 - 11% used heroin or any other type of opioid
- Over time, methamphetamine and marijuana use has increased among reservation respondents

Substance use during the past 30 days:
2012-2018 Reservation Studies

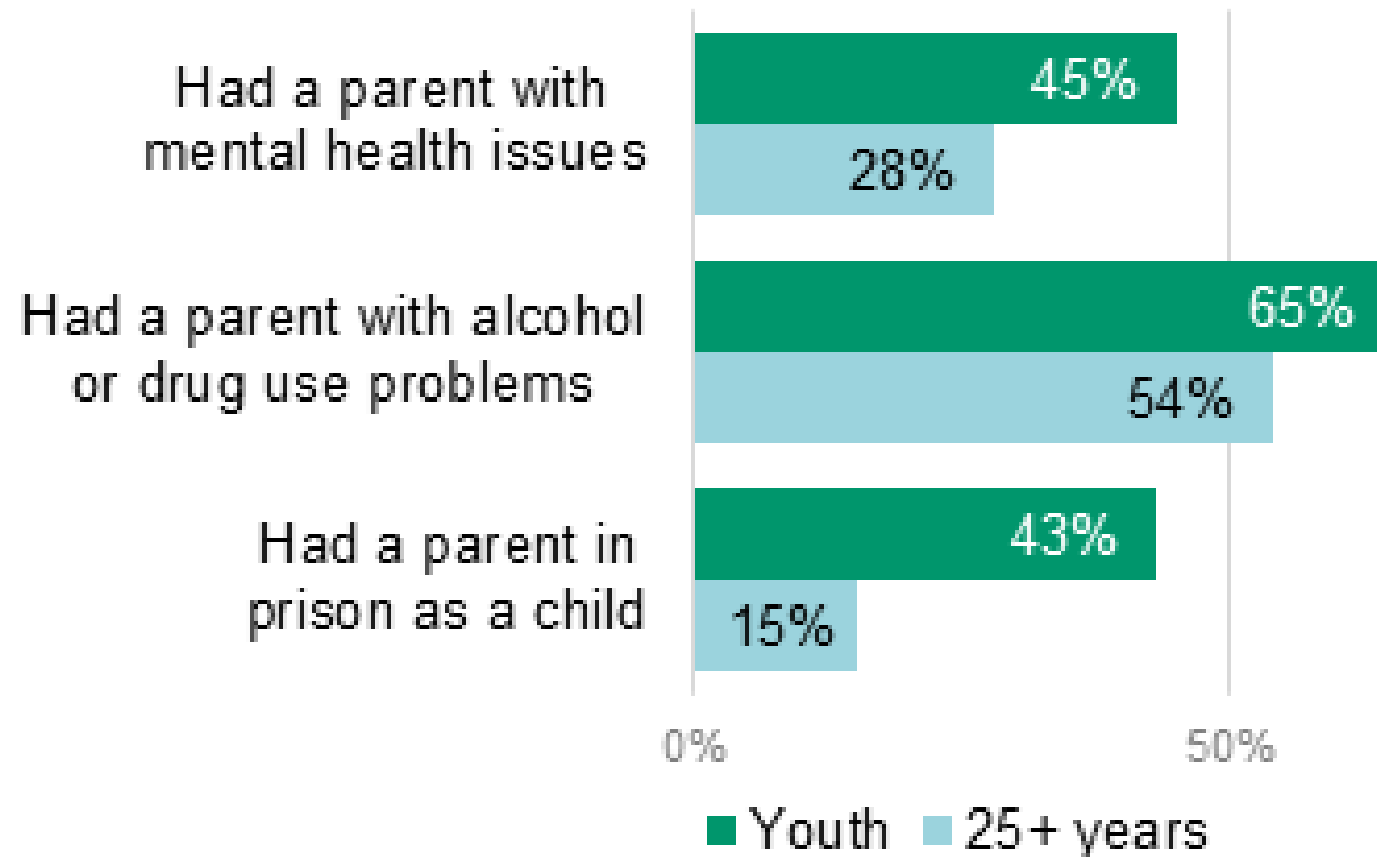
	2012	2015	2018
Marijuana	23%	31%	41%
Meth	4%	7%	14%
Heroin	2%	6%	6%
Codeine, morphine, fentanyl, or another opioid*	n/a	n/a	8%

*In 2018, codeine, morphine, fentanyl, or other opioids and other non-alcohol or non-tobacco substances were added to the list of possible substances.

Youth who are homeless on their own

- 17% of all reservation respondents
- Most youth left home due to problems with others living there
- 66% had lived in a foster home, a treatment facility, or juvenile detention at some point
- 63% of young adults were without a high school diploma or GED

Selected adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), youth and adult respondents





Reflections & Questions

Miigwech / Pidamayaye / Thank you!

Pam Hughes

Substance Use Disorder/New
Moon Program Director
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
phughes@boisforte-nsn.gov

Tammy Moreland

Chair of the MN Tribal
Housing Collaborative
tammy.moreland@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov

Nicole MartinRogers

Senior Research Manager
Wilder Research
651-280-2682
nicole.martinrogers@wilder.org

Michelle Gerrard

Senior Research Manager
Wilder Research
651-280-2695
michelle.gerrard@wilder.org

Jackie Aman

Research Scientist
Wilder Research
651-280-2669
jackie.aman@wilder.org



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the homeless
studies, visit:
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