Housing is considered affordable if it consumes less than 30% of a household’s gross income. At higher levels, families must choose between housing and other basic needs and will struggle to weather financial setbacks. In Minnesota, housing costs continue to consume a large portion of families’ income. For many, extended economic hardship is taking a toll.

| Household Income | Renters | | | | Home Owners | | | |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|
|                   | Number of Households Paying 30% or More in Rent | Percent of Households Paying 30% or More in Rent | Number of Households Paying 30% or More in Ownership Costs | Percent of Households Paying 30% or More in Ownership Costs |
| Less than $20,000 | 225 | 51.6% | 266 | 40.2% |
| $20,000 – $34,999 | 28 | 7.7% | 123 | 13.2% |
| $35,000 – $49,999 | 4 | 2.2% | 56 | 6.3% |
| $50,000 and over | 7 | 4.7% | 26 | 1.7% |
| All Income Levels | 264 | 23.3% | 471 | 11.8% |

The table above shows the number and percent of households at different income levels that pay 30% or more of household income for rental or ownership costs. It illustrates that the burden of housing costs weighs more heavily on lower-income families.  

Even before the current economic downturn, housing needs were severe. In 2008, 1 in 8 Minnesota households spent at least half of their income on housing, up from 1 in 15 in 2000. Minnesota experienced the fastest increase of extremely cost burdened households of any state in the nation during this time period.

In 2000, about 81% of Renville County residents owned their home and 19% were renters. Of these, approximately 11.8% of homeowners and 23.3% of renters in Renville County spent 30% or more of their household income on housing.
Higher-income households face extreme affordability challenges.

The chart below compares median earnings across different occupations to the income required to afford housing.4

### Foreclosures in Minnesota
- From 2005-2009 in Renville County, there were 122 foreclosures. Of these, 41 occurred in 2009.10
- Almost 8% of primary mortgages in Minnesota were delinquent by 60 days or more by early 2010.11
- The most common reason people sought foreclosure counseling in 2009 was loss or reduction of income.12

### Homelessness in Minnesota
- On a single day in 2009, 270 people were known to be homeless in the Southwest Region, including 150 children and youth through age 21.13
- An estimated 13,100 Minnesotans are homeless on any given night. The number of homeless people identified increased by 25% from 2006 to 2009.14
- The largest increase in homelessness from 2006 to 2009 was among young adults (18-21). Youth aged 12-21 saw the largest increase in likelihood of being turned away from a shelter.15

### Extreme Cost Burden
- Approximately 10% of renter households pay at least half of their income on housing in Renville County.16
- For homeowner households in Renville County, 4% pay at least half of their income on housing.17

### SOURCES: