



Minnesota **H O U S I N G** Partnership

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## Updated Housing Data by County Released by MHP

### Saint Louis County Leads State in Most Households Spending Over 30 Percent of Income on Rent

St. Paul, Minn. (Jan.16, 2006) – Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) recently released data summarizing the housing situation for all 87 of Minnesota’s counties. The reports showed that the county with the most households spending over 30 percent of their income on rent is not in the Twin Cities Metro area, as one might suspect, but in the northeast part of the state—55% of Saint Louis County renting households pay over 30 percent of their income on rent, a widely accepted standard of affordability.

“While rents are lower in St. Louis County than they are in the Twin Cities, incomes are too, and that presents a problem for the 11,000 rent-burdened families in the county,” said Chip Halbach, executive director of MHP. “When a low- or moderate-income household spends over thirty percent of their gross income on housing, tough decisions need to be made, like choosing between medical care and groceries. It’s just not a sustainable way for families, or communities, to operate.”

The top ten counties of renting households spending over 30 percent of their income are:

1. Saint Louis County at 52%
2. Ramsey County at 49%
3. Anoka County at 48%
4. Hennepin County at 48%
5. Washington County at 48%
6. Dakota County at 48%
7. Wright County at 47%
8. Sherburne County at 43%
9. Olmsted County at 42%
10. Stearns County at 42%

The county profiles, which are updated annually, provide a snap-shot of housing needs in each Minnesota county. The profiles cover information such as area housing cost, housing need, median household income, homelessness numbers, and regional living wage. In addition to the County Fact Sheets, MHP just updated their housing indicators, which measure housing trends in Minnesota, and three primers, which review the causes of and solutions to the housing situation in Minnesota.

More information about housing affordability and to find the MHP County Fact Sheets, go to [www.mhponline.org](http://www.mhponline.org).

The Minnesota Housing Partnership is a statewide nonprofit organization that advances the preservation and creation of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income people as a means of strengthening communities and families. MHP provides local governments and nonprofit housing organizations access to loans, grants and technical expertise to plan and construct housing, in addition to educating people on sound housing policies.

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