

A woman and a young girl are standing in front of a house under construction. The woman is wearing a black jacket and a headband, and the girl is wearing a pink polka-dot shirt and blue jeans. They are both smiling. The house is made of orange-painted wooden framing. The background shows a cloudy sky and some trees.

Impacts of Habitat for Humanity Homeownership

Connections to Quality of Life

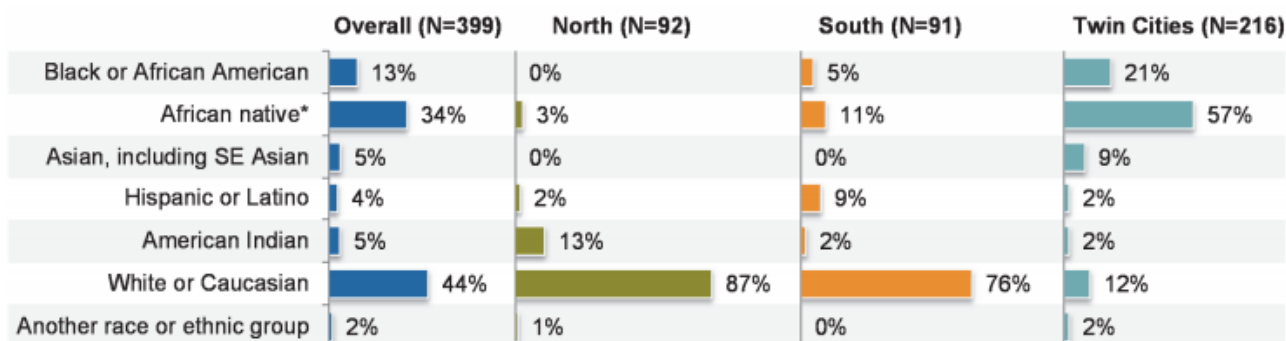
About the study

- Wilder Research conducted phone interviews of 402 homeowners from across Minnesota
- Investigates connection between Habitat homeownership and quality of life.
 - Safety
 - Health
 - Education
 - Social Connectedness
 - Family Interaction & Personal Well-Being
 - Economic Situation
- Data analyzed by region (Northern, Southern, Twin Cities) and by length of residence

Homeowner characteristics

- 55% lived in Habitat home more than 5 years; 87% at least two years
- 98% have children
- 70% of respondents were female; in Twin Cities, just 58% vs. 83% in Greater MN

2. Respondents' race/ethnicity by region (N=399)



* Including Oromo, Somali, and Ethiopian

Overall, 92 percent of homeowners said their lives were better

- Of those 92 percent who said their lives were better, **89 percent said they attributed that positive change either “completely” or “a lot” to Habitat.**

“Habitat for Humanity - they make me happy because when you have little children and when they are young, they are jumping or running every day. When you rent, people complain. Now they jump and run and they are free. No one complains. They have a yard, a backyard. We’re feeling good, very good.”

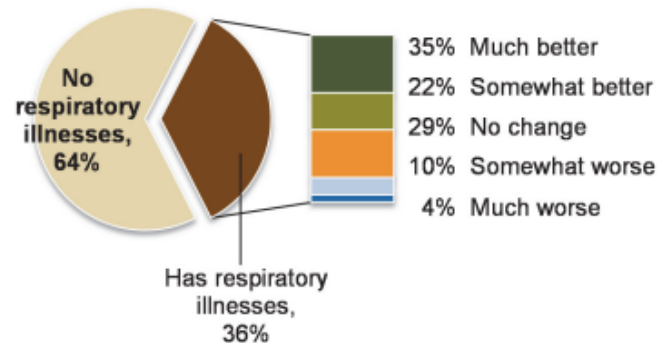
Homeowners feel safe

- Over 90% of homeowners feel safe in their homes
- About 80% feel safer than they were in their previous homes and similar percentage feel that their children are now safer
- Relatively similar across regions

“Before we were living in a drug infested neighborhood in a tiny little house that had been made into a duplex. We had lead paint, no furnace filter; there was a hole in the furnace which would leak. I had to tape over the hole so we didn't have to breathe in the fumes. So having this [Habitat] home makes a huge difference of not having to live in that environment.”

Homeowners report improvements in respiratory conditions

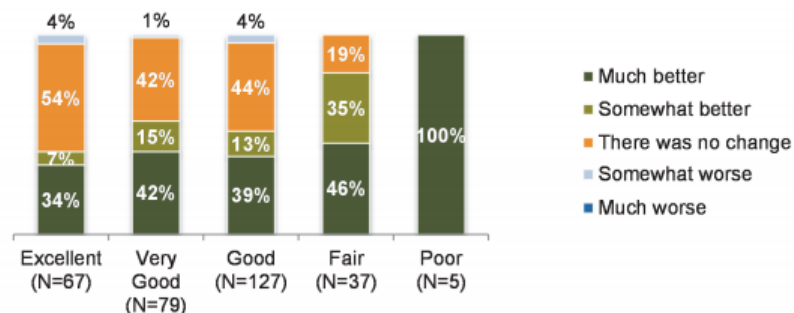
- Of homeowners who have a family member with respiratory illnesses, 57 percent said they improved after moving into their Habitat home.
 - Of those with respiratory illnesses, 74 percent of shorter-term homeowners noted an improvement to their condition, whereas 47 percent of longer-term homeowners noted improvement. The improvement with shorter-term homeowners aligns with the implementation of the Healthy Homes program, and more research should be done to explore this connection.



Habitat has positive influence on children's education

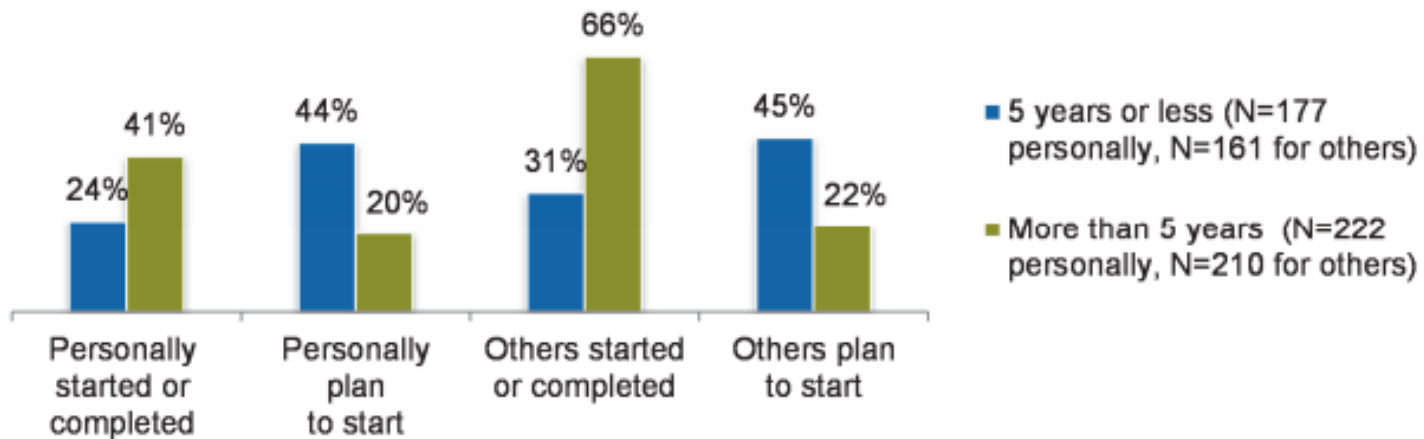
- Over half of homeowners said their children's grades improved after moving into their Habitat home. **Impact is more significant for those who were struggling most in previous housing situation.**
- About two-thirds of the homeowners feel more confident about their ability to fund their children's college education.
- Overall, 90 percent of homeowners said they feel better about their children's future.

6. Children's grades before Habitat and improvement levels (N=315)



Habitat has positive influence on adult education too

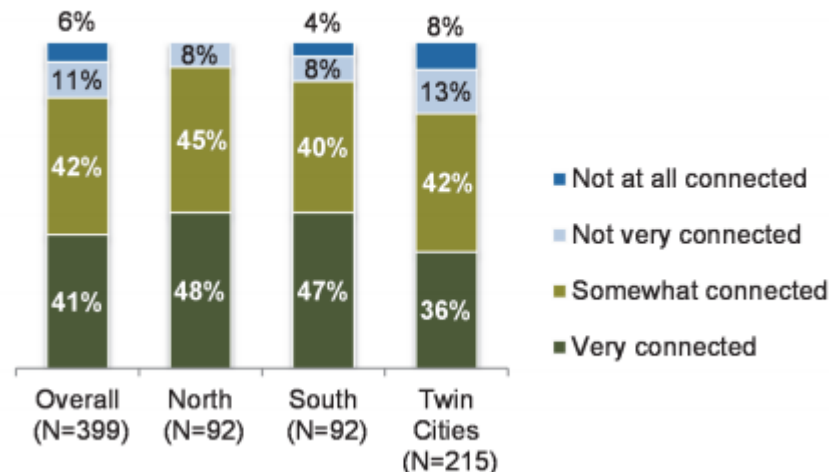
- In 92 percent of the Habitat homes, at least one adult started, completed, or plans to start higher education or training programs after moving in.



Homeowners feel connected

- More than 80 percent of homeowners reported they feel connected to their community, and over half said they participate more in community activities.
- Two-thirds of families said their children spend more time with their friends and classmates.

11. Community connectedness (N=399)



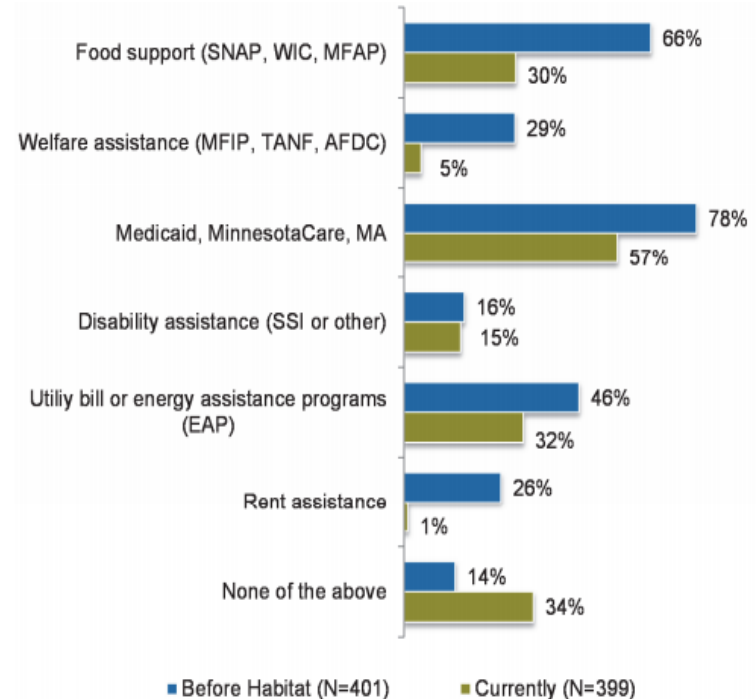
Homeownership affects self-esteem & families

- Two-thirds of homeowners said they get along better with their families, and 70 percent spend more time with their families.
- Nearly 90 percent of homeowners said they feel at least “somewhat better” about themselves, and 75 percent of homeowners feel “much better” about themselves, compared to before becoming a Habitat homeowner.

“We get along a lot better. Before we lived in a very cramped place, we fought a lot more - my two sons were not friends at all - now they are best friends. My daughter and I did not have a relationship but since the Habitat house, my daughter and I are very close.”

More than 50% have more money and pay less for housing

- Over half of homeowners said they have more money since moving into their Habitat home, and almost 40 percent said they pay less in housing costs.
- In nearly half of Habitat households, someone changed jobs since becoming a homeowner. Of those, 80 percent said their jobs are better.



Decreased use of government assistance

- Overall, 87 percent of homeowners used some form of government assistance at the time of application, and, at the time of the interview, that percentage declined by 20 points.
 - Use of every type of government assistance program except for disability declined by at least 15 percentage points.

Cost-benefit analysis - 2,200 Habitat homeowners save Minnesota \$6.4 to \$9.3 million government assistance programs annually.

