

County of Riverside 2004 Homeless Survey

Section C

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Introduction

*The primary purpose of the **County of Riverside 2004 Homeless Survey Project** is to provide the people of Riverside County and its wide variety of community stakeholders with a unique opportunity to understand its homeless population unlike ever before. Awareness of, and concern for, homeless people often exceeds a community's knowledge of the issue. Thus, the range and severity of the issues surrounding homelessness are yet to be fully understood. The results of the 2004 Homeless Survey provide Riverside County with a comprehensive battery of information that will serve as the basis for developing strategies for public and private agencies to respond to specific needs of homeless families and individuals and develop strategies for filling gaps in services in the regional homeless continuum of care system through public and private collaborations.*

The primary objective of the 2004 Homeless Survey was to implement a street-based and service-based one-on-one interview process designed to identify specific demographic information as well as assess the service needs of the homeless population throughout the County of Riverside.

The Homeless Survey was conducted over an eight week period from February through April of 2004. During this period, over 1,000 (1,091) comprehensive one-on-one survey interviews were conducted with homeless adults living on the streets and in shelter/transitional housing environments throughout the county. Over 30 public and private agencies, service-providers and faith-based institutions participated in conducting survey interviews in all five regions of the countywide homeless continuum of care.

HOW THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED

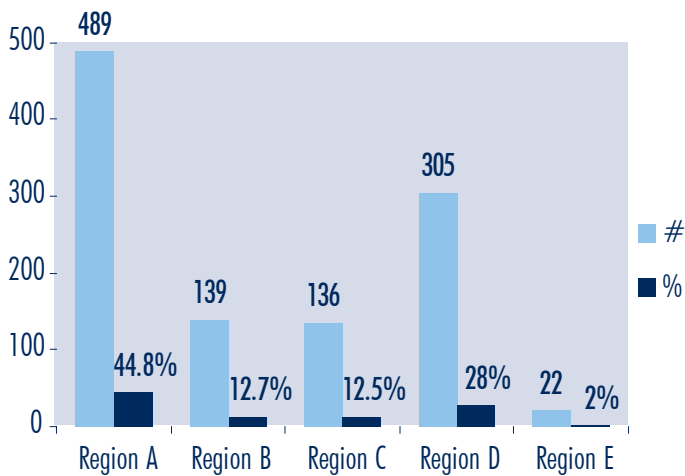
The 2004 Homeless Survey involved a process of administering a comprehensive one-on-one interview survey with a representative sampling of homeless adults in Riverside County. There were three (3) primary methods of contact with homeless persons who participated in the assessment survey. They were: 1) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted on the streets; 2) interviews with homeless persons who

were contacted while living in shelters and transitional housing; and 3) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while using non-residential homeless services.

One primary goal of the 2004 Homeless Survey process was to administer at least 1,000 surveys in order to produce a representative sample of the homeless adult population living on the streets, using homeless services, or living in residential homeless programs. Current estimates of the number of homeless adults on any given day in the County of Riverside range from 2,500 to 8,100. The total number of complete and valid surveys administered during this process was 1,091 which represents 20.6% of the mid-range (5,300) of the estimated number of homeless people on any given day in Riverside County.

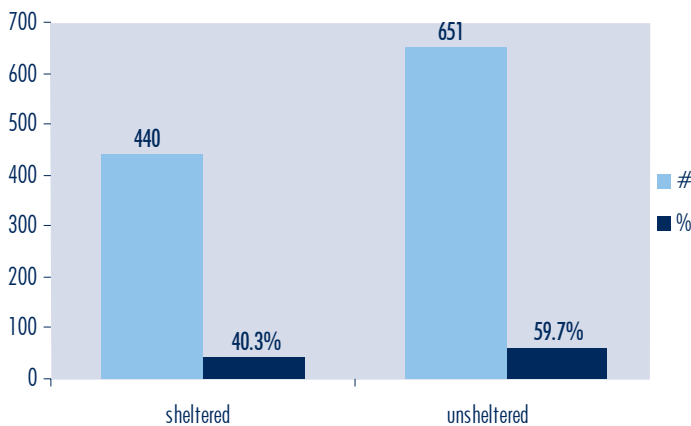
In addition to the countywide survey goal, a primary objective was to collect a representative sampling of surveys from within each of the designated regions within the county's homeless continuum of care. The following table identifies the number and percentage of complete and valid surveys collected from homeless adults in each of the designated regions in the county.

Number of Surveys completed by Region



Efforts were also made to collect a representative sample of surveys reflecting the estimated percentage of homeless persons on the streets and those housed in shelters and transitional housing. Almost three (3) out of every five (5) people surveyed were encountered on or otherwise identified as living on the streets.

Number of Surveys by Housing Situation



The Homeless Survey instrument was designed to collect a battery of demographic information on homeless individuals as well as assess their service needs using questions focusing on a wide range of areas including: Age, Domestic Violence, Education, Ethnicity, Familial Status,

Geo-History, Health Care, Income, Mental Health History, Residency, Substance Abuse History, Veteran’s status, etc.

The survey was also designed to compile a cross-section of information concerning several pre-determined sub-populations that included: chronically homeless persons, families with children, men, people living in homeless facilities, people living on the streets, persons with dual diagnoses, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with mental illness, pregnant women, seniors, substance abusers, various ethnic groups, veterans, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, and women. As a result, the survey provides a sampling of data that helps us examine the issues and needs of each homeless sub-population as well as the entire homeless population

The one-on-one survey instrument was administered by local service providers and volunteers trained to conduct thorough and complete interviews with homeless adults that they encountered in a variety of venues including on the streets, in temporary and emergency shelters, at “soup kitchens” or food service programs, food and clothing distributing centers, social service centers, and transitional housing facilities. Homeless individuals who agreed to participate in the survey interview were assured that their responses would be anonymous and confidential thus giving them the ability to be candid in their responses to the survey interview questions.

All volunteers who participated in administering the 100+ survey questionnaire were oriented and trained by staff of the Institute for Urban Research and Development with assistance from the DPSS homeless services staff. Utilizing trained interviewers to administer the survey, as opposed to conducting a self-administered survey instrument, increased

the opportunity for collecting complete and accurate answers to the questions as well as provides opportunity for receiving useful evaluation information from the interviewers.

Over 30 public and private agencies and institutions from throughout the County of

Riverside participated in the collection of surveys. Volunteers and staff from the following agencies, service-providers and faith-based institutions conducted survey interviews or provided opportunities for interviews to be conducted on their sites for this project.

ABC Recovery Center	Institute for Urban Research and Development
Alpha and Omega Homes	Lutheran Social Services
Alternatives to Domestic Violence	Martha's Village and Kitchen
Calvary Foursquare Church - Hemet	MFI Recovery
Calvary Presbyterian Church - Riverside	Nightingale Manor
Catholic Charities	Operation Safehouse
Circle of Hope	Path of Life Ministries
City of Moreno Valley	Palo Verde Sr. Citizens - Harmony Kitchen
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	Project ACHIEVE Riverside
Community Access Center	Salvation Army - Hemet
Community Pantry	Shelter from the Storm
Crossroads Ministries	U.C. Riverside Students
Desert AIDS Project	U.S. Veteran's Initiative
Dept. of Mental Health, System of Care	Valley Restart Center
DPSS, Homeless Programs	Vineyard Christian Fellowship
Episcopal Community Services	Volunteer Center of Riverside
God's Helping Hand Ministries	Well in the Desert
First Congregational Church - Riverside	Whiteside Manor

WHO WAS SURVEYED

More than 1,000 adults (1,091) participated in the survey interviews providing us with detailed information about themselves and, when applicable, their children. A demographic breakdown of survey respondents includes:

Gender

- 364 or 33.6% were women;
- 721 or 66.4% were men.

Ethnicity

- 36 or 3.3% were American Indian or Alaskan Native;
- 9 or .8% were Asian or Pacific Islander;
- 185 or 17.0% were Black or African American;
- 244 or 22.4% were Hispanic or Latino
- 589 or 54.2% were White
- 22 or 2% were “Other” almost all of whom identified themselves as mixed race.

Age

- 3 or .3% were unaccompanied youth 17 years of age or younger;
- 104 or 9.6% were youth between the ages of 18 and 24;
- 932 or 85.8% were between the ages of 25 and 59;
- 48 or 4.4% were adults 60 years of age or older.

Family Composition

- 135 or 12.6% were married;
- 457 or 42.6% had children under 18 years of age;
- 186 or 40.7% had their children under 18 years of age living with them totaling 342 children.

Section 1

Key Findings — Primary Contributors to Homelessness

a. Frequency of Domestic Violence

The homeless population of Riverside County reported that they had significant experience with domestic violence. Women, as well as men, stated that they were victims of domestic violence.

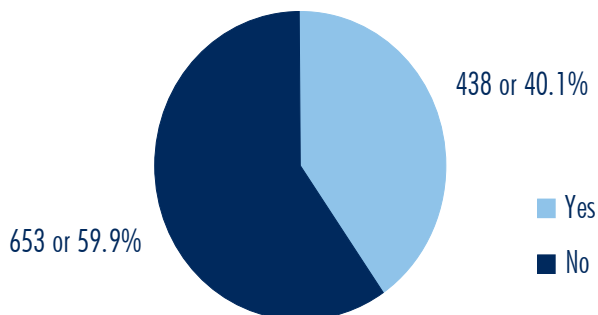
KEY FINDINGS:

1. two-thirds (67.1%) of all female survey respondents stated that they experienced domestic violence;
2. Almost half (47%) of the female survey respondents who were victims of domestic violence identified the abuse as a factor in their becoming homeless
3. More than one (1) out of four (4) male survey respondents stated that they experienced domestic violence;

The two primary questions that were used to determine if a survey respondent experienced domestic violence were the following:

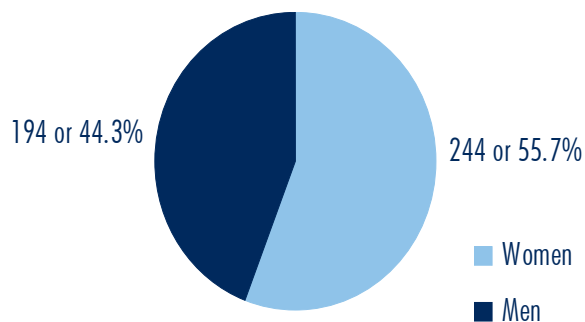
- Have you ever been abused/mistreated by a spouse or intimate partner?; and
- Have you ever been abused/mistreated by a parent or relative?

Survey Question: Have you ever been abused/mistreated by a spouse or intimate partner and/or Have you ever been abused/mistreated by a parent or relative



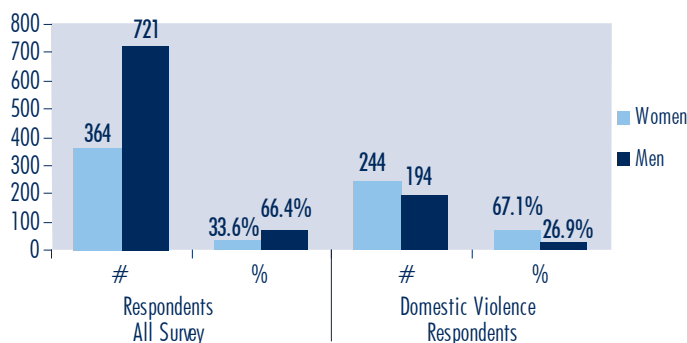
Four (4) out of 10 survey respondents or 40.1% experienced domestic violence. Of these persons, as shown below, 244 or 55.7% were women and 194 or 44.3% were men.

Domestic Violence By Gender



What is disturbing is that two-thirds (67.1%) of all female survey respondents stated that they experienced domestic violence. A little more than one (1) out of four (4) male survey respondents stated that they experienced domestic violence.

Domestic Violence By Gender Compared To All Survey Respondents



b. Lack of Income

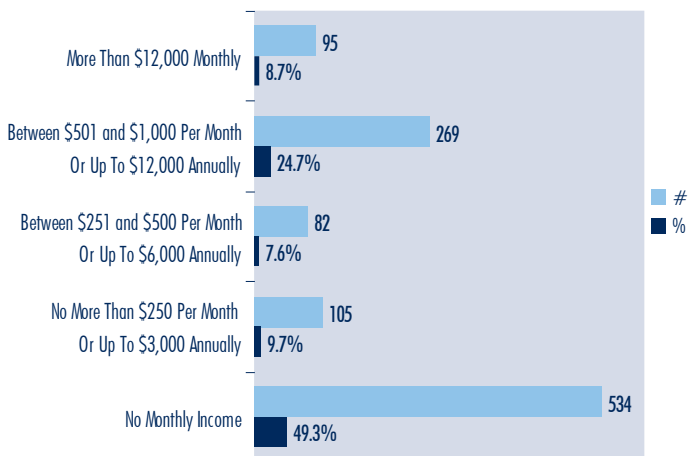
The survey data revealed that nearly half (49.3%) of survey respondents reported that they had no monthly income and two-thirds (66.5%) had a very limited monthly income that equaled no more than \$6,000 a year.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. nearly half (49.3%) of survey respondents reported that they had no monthly income;
2. two-thirds (66.5%) of survey respondents had a monthly income that equaled no more than \$6,000 a year;
3. Over 90% of survey respondents had a monthly income that equaled no more than \$12,000 a year.

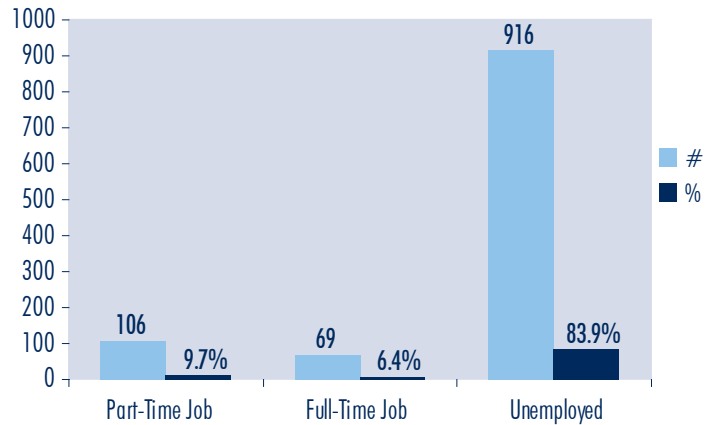
As noted in the table below, nearly 50% of survey respondents had no monthly income. Nearly one of 10 (9.7%) had a monthly income of \$250 or less which at best is the equivalent of \$3,000 annually. Less than one of 10 (7.6%) survey respondents had a monthly income between \$251 and \$500 which at best is the equivalent of \$6,000 annually and one of four (4) had a monthly income between \$501 and \$1,000 which at best is the equivalent of \$12,000 a year.

Survey Question: What Is Your Total Current Monthly Income?



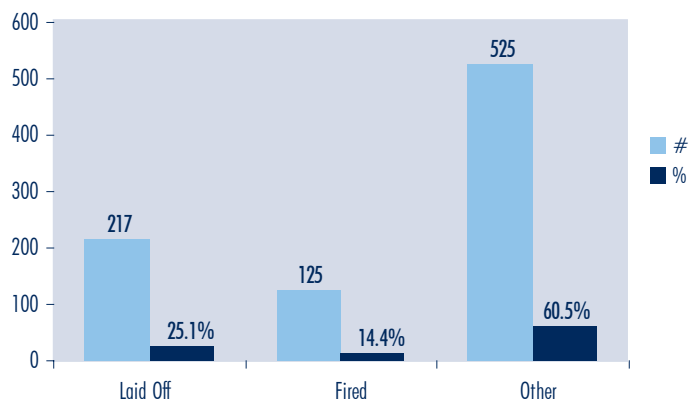
There were two (2) primary questions that focused on employment. The question about employment concerned part-time and full-time work. Just 175 or 16.1% of survey respondents were employed. One hundred and six (106) or 9.7% of respondents had a part-time job and 69 or 6.4% had a full-time job.

Survey Question: Do You Have A Part-Time or a Full-Time Job?



When asked “What was the reason that you left your last job”, 217 survey respondents or one-fourth (25.1%) stated that they were laid off and 125 or 14.4% stated that they were fired.

Survey Question: What Was the Reason That You Left Your Last Job?

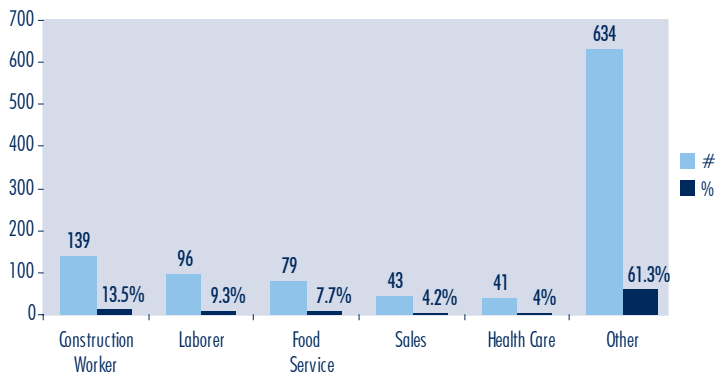


Survey Question: What Is Your Primary Occupation?

When asked “What is your primary occupation, nearly one (1) out of (4) survey respondents

(22.8%) stated that they were a construction worker (13.5%) or a laborer (9.3%). Other common occupations noted by survey respondents included food service (7.7%), sales (4.2%), and health care (4.0%).

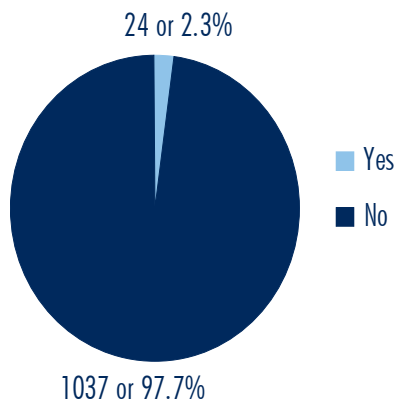
Survey Question: What Is Your Primary Occupation?



Survey Question: Are You A Migrant Worker?

An additional occupation question was asked—Are you a migrant worker? Twenty-four (24) or 2.3% of survey respondents stated that they were a migrant worker.

Survey Question: Are you a migrant worker?



c. Need for Health Care

Survey results underline what is largely known to homeless service providers—the need for health care is related to both causes and consequences of homelessness. Without access to appropriate health care, acute and chronic health problems go untreated which

often impedes the homeless individual’s ability to secure greater self-sufficiency and maintain independent living.

KEY FINDINGS:

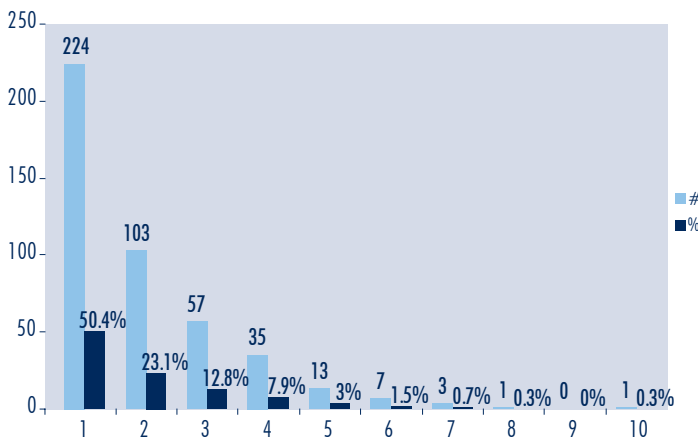
1. There were 444 survey respondents representing 40.7% who had “persistent” health care needs;
2. Of the 444 survey respondents, half (50.4%) had at least one (1) persistent health care problem;
3. Approximately half (49.6%) of survey respondents had more than one (1) persistent health care problem;
4. Approximately 25% of survey respondents had three (3) or more persistent health care problems.

There were 444 survey respondents representing 40.7% who had “persistent” health care needs in addition to mental illness, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, etc. These individuals answered “yes” to one (1) or more of the following questions and were considered as having “persistent” and potentially life-threatening health care needs :

1. Do you have arthritis?
2. Do you have asthma?
3. Do you have diabetes?
4. Do you have heart trouble?
5. Do you have high blood pressure?
6. Do you have hypertension?
7. Do you have respiratory problems?
8. Do you have seizures?
9. Do you have strokes?
10. Do you have tuberculosis?

Of the 444 survey respondents, half (50.4%) had at least one (1) persistent health care problem. Approximately half (49.6%) had more than one (1) persistent health care problem. About one (1) in four (4) survey respondents (23.1%) had two (2) persistent health care problems and about one (1) in four (4) survey respondents or approximately 25% had three (3) or more persistent health care problems.

Number of Persistent Health Problems



d. Pervasiveness of Substance Abuse

The homeless population of Riverside County acknowledged that it has a problem with alcohol and/or other drugs. The data in this section reveals that there was extensive use of alcohol and other drugs at the time the survey was administered. The data also reveals that there was significant past use of alcohol and/or other drugs. Key findings include:

KEY FINDINGS:

Current Use

- 52.4% or 571 survey respondents stated that they were currently using alcohol and/or other drugs;

Past Use

- 79.1% or 863 survey respondents identified past use of alcohol and/or certain other drugs that they were not currently using;

Current Use and Past Use

- 86.2% of all survey respondents stated that they were currently using alcohol and/or other drugs or had used alcohol and/or other drugs in the past.

The positive responses to the questions below reveal that the relationship between alcohol/drugs and homelessness is intense. These responses also reveal that problems with alcohol and drugs is the biggest, most frequent single disorder diagnosed among the county's homeless population.

The primary questions that were used to determine if a survey respondent was a substance abuser centered on whether they:

- were currently using alcohol and/or other drugs;
- used alcohol and/or other drugs in the past; and
- never used alcohol and/or other drugs.

Current Use

- 52.4% or 571 survey respondents stated that they were currently using alcohol and/or other drugs;

Past Use

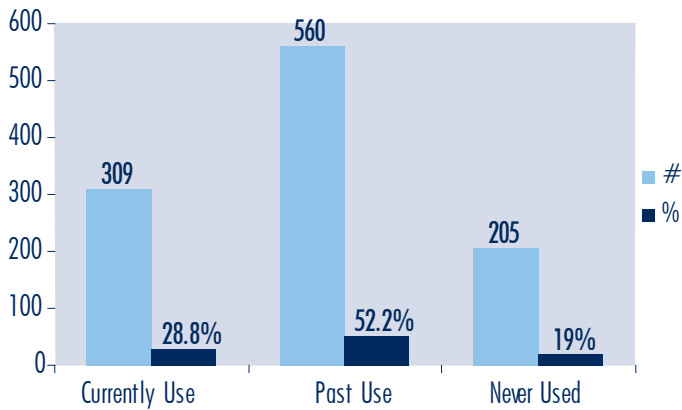
- 79.1% or 863 survey respondents identified past use of alcohol and/or certain other drugs that they were not currently using;

Current Use and Past Use

- 86.2% of all survey respondents stated that they were currently using alcohol and/or other drugs or used alcohol and/or other drugs in the past.

Use of Alcohol

Survey Question: Do You Now Use or Have You Ever Used Alcohol?



The number of survey respondents that stated that they were currently using alcohol was 309 which represents 28.8% of respondents. The number of survey respondents that stated that they were not currently using alcohol but used alcohol in the past was 560 which represents 52.2% of respondents. Together, the number of survey respondents that were currently using alcohol or not currently using alcohol but used alcohol in the past was 869 or 81.0% of survey respondents.

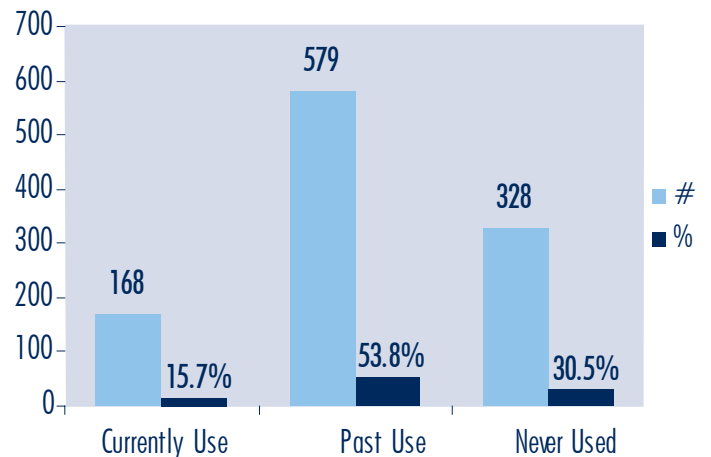
Use of Other Drugs

The survey also obtained information on eight (8) categories of drug use: cocaine, downers, heroin, marijuana, methadone, PCP/LSD, tranquilizers, and uppers/speed. Hashish was included with marijuana and crack was considered a form of cocaine. PCP and LSD were grouped together as hallucinogens.

The following tables reveal the frequency of drug use among survey respondents. Often respondents were currently using drugs and/or used drugs in the past. Responses disclose that the average respondent was currently using or used in the past 3.5 different drugs. The tables reflect the multiple usage.

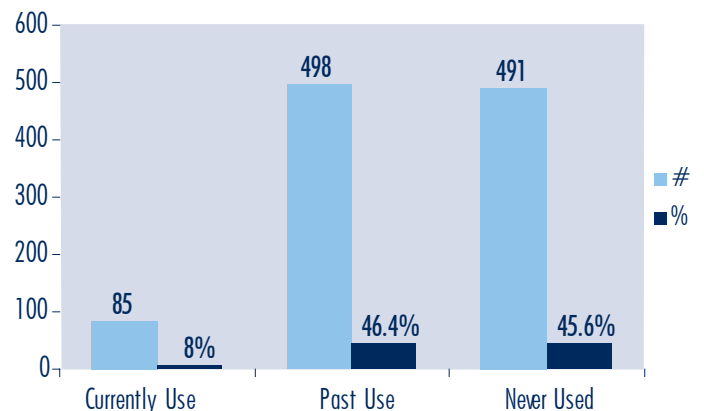
The survey reveals that marijuana was the most common drug of choice. Nearly seventy percent (69.5%) of survey respondents disclosed that they currently used marijuana or used marijuana in the past—15.7% were currently using marijuana and 53.8% had used it in the past.

Survey Question: Do You Now Use or Have You Ever Used Marijuana?



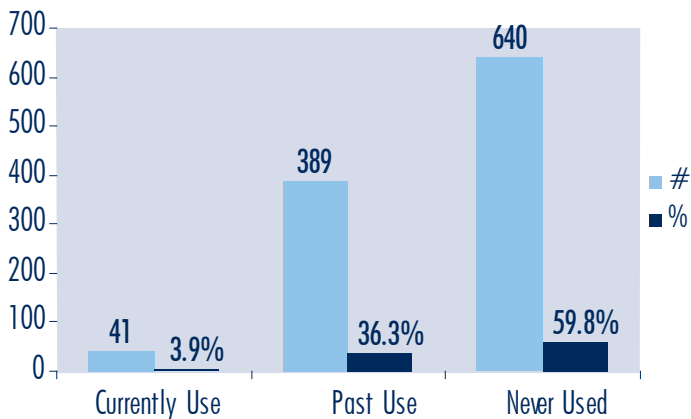
Apart from Marijuana, uppers/speed and cocaine/crack were the drugs most often used currently and in the past. More than half (54.4%) of survey respondents were currently using uppers/speed or used the drug(s) in the past—8.0% were currently using uppers/speed and nearly half (46.4%) of survey respondents had used uppers/speed in the past.

Survey Question: Do You Now Use or Have You Ever Used Uppers/Speed



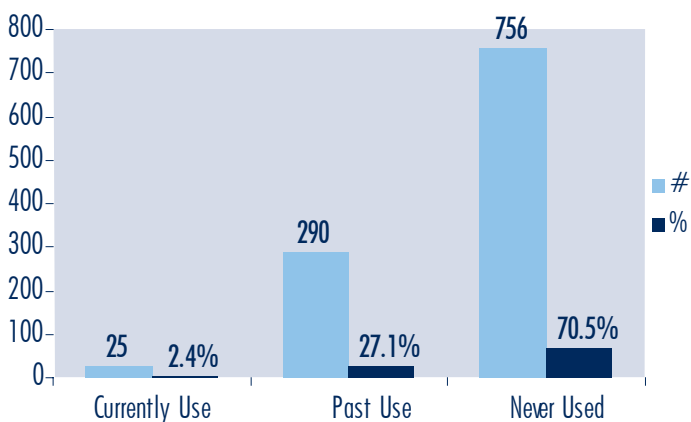
More than four (4) out of 10 survey respondents (40.2%) used cocaine/crack—3.9% were currently using cocaine/crack and more than one out of three (36.3%) of survey respondents had used cocaine/crack in the past.

Survey Question: Do You Now Use or Have You Ever Used Cocaine/Crack?



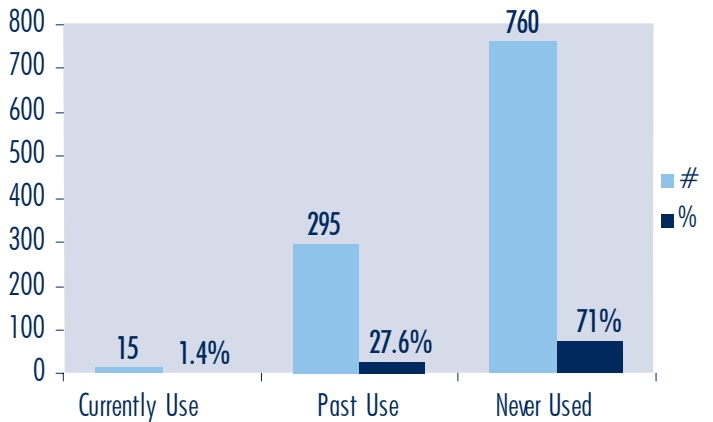
The current use and/or past use of downers and PCP/LSD were significant as well. More than one (1) in four (4) of survey respondents were currently using downers or used the drug in the past—2.4% stated that they were currently using the drug and 27.1% stated that they used the drug in the past.

Survey Question: Do You Now Use or Have You Ever Used Downers?



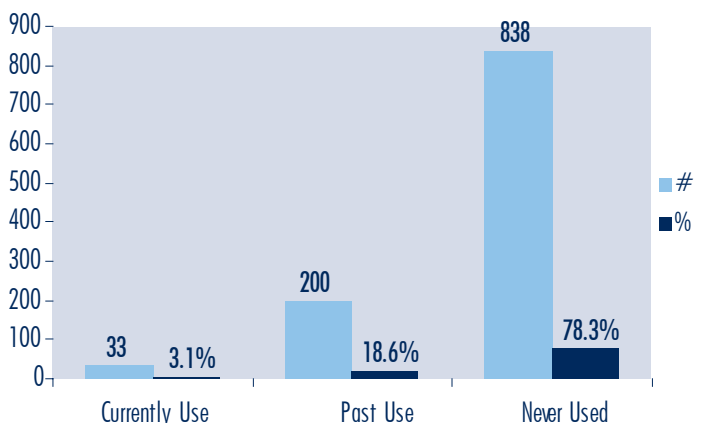
More than one (1) in four (4) of survey respondents were currently using PCP/LSD or used the drug in the past—1.4% stated that they were currently using the drugs and 27.6% stated that they used the drug in the past.

Survey Question: Do You Now Use or Have You Ever Used PCP/LSD?



Questions concerning the use of heroin were also asked. More than two (2) out of 10 survey respondents (21.7%) were currently using or used heroin in the past—3.1% revealed that they were currently using and 18.6% stated that they used the drug in the past.

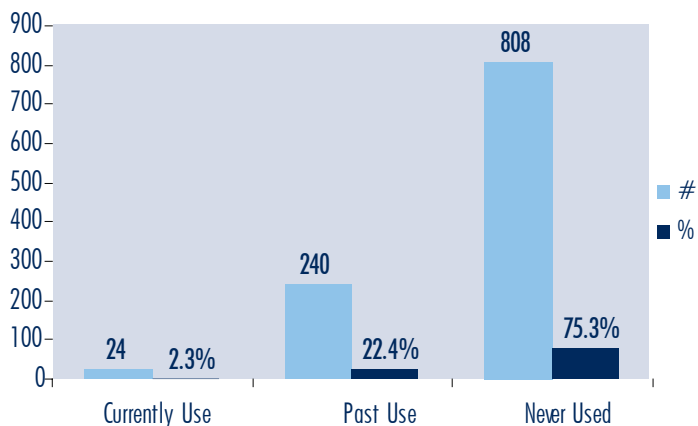
Survey Question: Do You Now Use or Have You Ever Used Heroin?



Survey respondents had a current or past history concerning the use of tranquilizers. Nearly one (1) out of four (4) survey respondents (24.7%) were currently using or

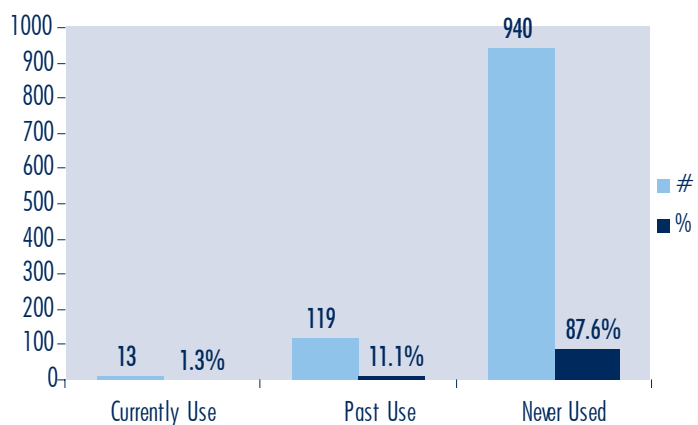
used tranquilizers in the past—2.3% revealed that they were currently using and 22.4% stated that they used the drug in the past.

Survey Question: Do You Now Use or Have You Ever Used Tranquilizers?



Methadone was the least used drug. Very few (1.3%) of survey respondents were using methadone and 11.1% had used it in the past.

Survey Question: Do You Now Use or Have You Ever Used Methadone?



e. Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness

Mental illness is a serious problem among the homeless population of Riverside County. The data collected from survey respondents describes a homeless sub-population filled with psychotic and mood disorder/depressive symptoms including bi-polar symptoms. Key findings include:

KEY FINDINGS:

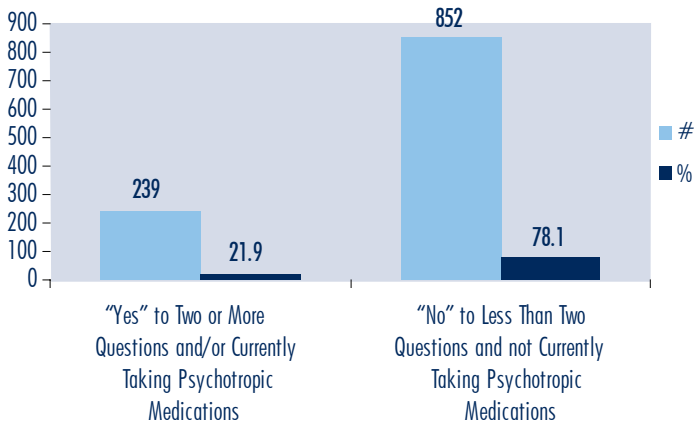
1. Of the 1,091 survey respondents, 675 adults representing 61.9% of survey respondents reported symptoms of mental illness;
2. 239 or 21.9% of survey respondents identified that they have psychotic symptoms;
3. 459 or 42.1% of survey respondents identified that they have mood disorder/depressive symptoms;
4. 411 or 37.7% of survey respondents stated that they have bipolar type symptoms.

Survey respondents identified themselves as having one or more of the mental illness problems or symptoms described in this section after answering the 23 survey questions that focused on mental health difficulties. These questions were asked specifically in order to find out how many survey respondents had psychotic symptoms and/or mood disorder/depressive symptoms including bi-polar symptoms.

The questions that were used in the survey were developed taking into account symptoms described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-IV). The survey questions follow criteria specific to each type of mental health problem as described in the DSM-IV. The mental health problems described in the DSM-IV and included in the survey were psychotic symptoms, general depressive symptoms, and symptoms characteristic of bipolar disorder.

Psychotic Symptoms

Psychotic Symptoms



Two hundred and thirty-nine (239) or 21.9% of survey respondents identified that they have psychotic symptoms. Someone was considered having psychotic symptoms if they answered "yes" to two of the following questions:

1. Have you ever heard voices or seen things that no one else could hear or see?

2. Have you ever felt that your mind or body was being secretly controlled, or controlled somehow against your will?

3. Have you ever felt that others wanted to hurt you or really get you for some special reason?

4. Do you feel that you have any special powers of some sort?

5. Have you ever had any other strange, odd, or very peculiar things happen to you?

6. Have you ever felt influenced by machines, radio waves, tv, radar, etc.?

In addition, someone was considered having psychotic symptoms if they answered "yes" to the following question:

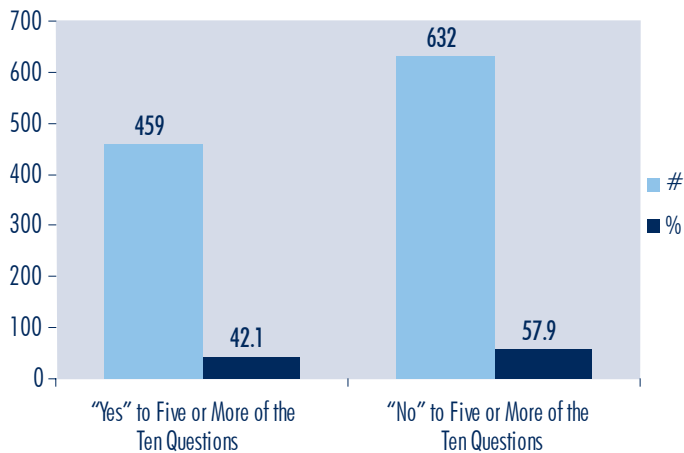
7. Are you currently taking any psychotropic (psychiatric) medications?

A breakdown of each of the psychotic symptoms is as follows:

Questions Concerning Psychotic Symptoms:	Yes		No	
	#	%	#	%
Have you ever heard voices or seen things that no one else could hear or see?	130	12.8	888	87.2
Have you ever felt that your mind or body was being secretly controlled, or controlled somehow against your will?	74	7.3	944	92.7
Have you ever felt that others wanted to hurt you or really get you for some special reason?	127	12.5	891	87.5
Do you feel that you have any special powers of some sort?	47	4.6	971	95.4
Have you ever had any other strange, odd, or very peculiar things happen to you?	77	7.6	941	92.4

Mood Disorder/Depressive Symptoms

Mood Disorder/Depressive Symptoms



Four hundred and fifty-nine (459) or 42.1% of survey respondents identified that they have mood disorder/depressive symptoms. Someone was considered having a mood disorder and/or depressive symptoms if they answered “yes” to five (5) or more of the following ten (10) questions:

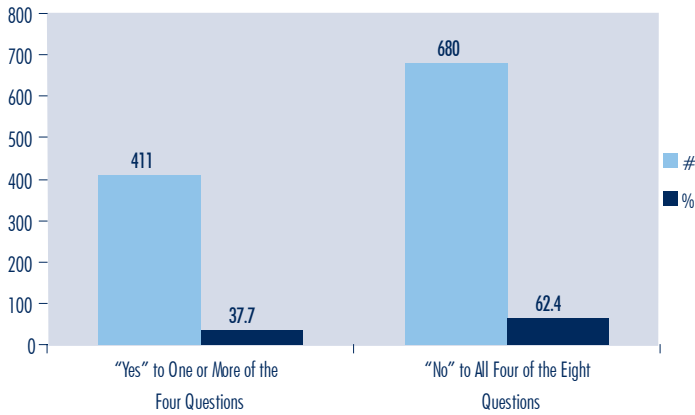
1. Do you have difficulty sleeping?
2. Do you often feel like crying?
3. Has your appetite decreased?
4. Do you find that you are no longer interested in activities that you used to enjoy?
5. Do you feel more comfortable when alone than with others?
6. Do you have difficulty concentrating?
7. Have there been times when you have felt unusually sad, empty, or hopeless for several days or weeks at a time?
8. Do you have difficulty making everyday decisions?
9. Do you ever feel like killing yourself?
10. Have you ever attempted to hurt or kill yourself?

A breakdown of each of the mood disorder/depressive symptoms is as follows:

Questions Concerning Mood Disorder/Depressive Symptoms:	Yes		No	
	#	%	#	%
Do you have difficulty sleeping?	182	17.9	836	82.1
Do you often feel like crying?	148	14.5	870	85.5
Has your appetite decreased?	112	11.0	906	89.0
Do you find that you are no longer interested in activities that you used to enjoy?	179	17.6	839	82.4
Do you feel more comfortable when alone than with others?	220	21.6	798	78.4
Do you have difficulty concentrating?	153	15.0	865	85.0
Have there been times when you have felt unusually sad, empty, or hopeless for several days or weeks at a time?	209	20.5	809	79.5
Do you have difficulty making everyday decisions?	128	12.6	890	87.4

Bipolar Type Symptoms

Bipolar Type Symptoms



Four hundred and eleven (411) or 37.7% of survey respondents identified that they

have bipolar type symptoms. Someone was considered having bipolar type symptoms if they answered "yes" to one (1) or more of the following three (3) questions:

1. Have there ever been times when you felt unusually high, charged up, excited, or restless for several days at a time?
2. Have there ever been times when other people said that you were too high, too charged up, too excited, or too talkative?
3. Do you feel that your moods sometime alternate between very high and very low?

A breakdown of each of the bipolar type symptoms is as follows:

Questions Concerning Bipolar Type Symptoms:	Yes		No	
	#	%	#	%
Have there ever been times when you felt unusually high, charged up, excited, or restless for several days at a time?	144	14.1	874	85.9
Have there ever been times when other people said that you were too high, too charged up, too excited, or too talkative?	84	8.3	934	91.7
Do you feel that your moods sometime alternate between very high and very low?	111	10.9	907	89.1

Section 2

Key Findings — General Profile

a. Chronic Homelessness

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is increasingly emphasizing in its Continuum of Care application the importance for local communities to address chronic homelessness. According to HUD, a chronically homeless person is

- an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

Disabling condition is defined as “a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions.” Also, to be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) or in an emergency homeless shelter during that time.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. Of the 906 single survey respondents, 425 or 46.9% were chronically homeless because they stated that they were homeless for one (1) year or more and/or four (4) times during the past three (3) years and had a disability;
2. Of the 185 survey respondents who were adult members of families, 89 or 48.1% were chronically homeless because they

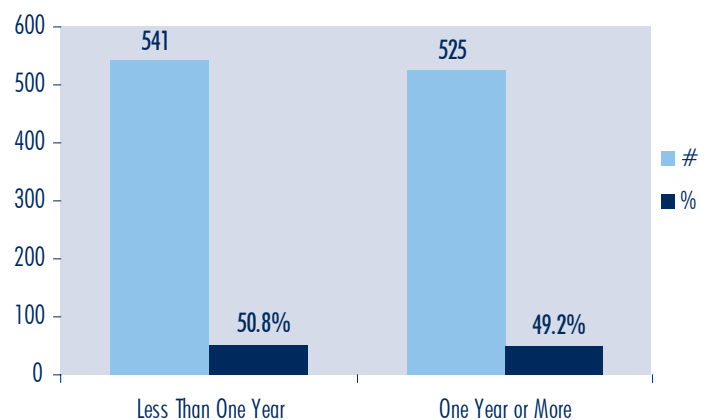
stated that they were homeless for one (1) year or more and/or four (4) times during the past three (3) years and had a disability;

3. Together, 610 or 55.9% of all survey respondents were homeless for one (1) year or more and/or four (4) times during the past three (3) years and had a disability.

The survey included two questions to determine if a survey respondent was either continuously homeless for a year or more or had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. The questions were

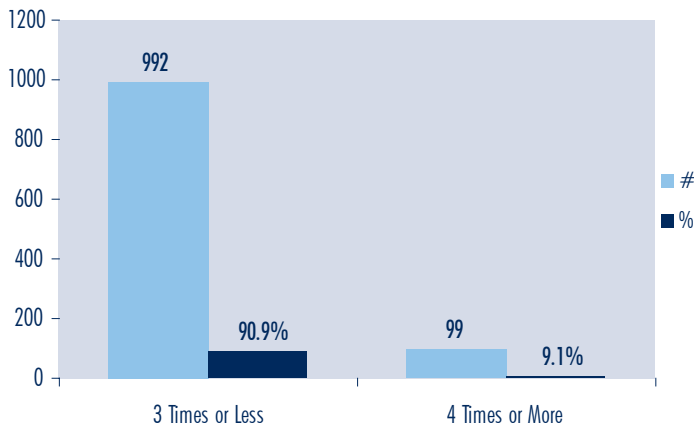
- How long have you been currently homeless?
- How many times have you experienced homelessness during the last three (3) years?

Survey Question: How Long Have You Been Currently Homeless?



The table above reveals that 525 or 49.2% of survey respondents stated that they were homeless one (1) year or more. The table below discloses that 99 or 9.1% of survey respondents reported that they were homeless four (4) times or more during the past three (3) years.

Survey Question: How Many Times Have You Experienced Homelessness During the Last Three (3) Years?



As previously noted, in order for someone to be considered chronically homeless the person must have been homeless for one (1) year or more and/or four (4) times during the past three (3) years **and have a disability**. This means that not everyone who was homeless for one (1) year or more and/or four (4) times during the past three (3) years was chronically homeless.

Also, to be chronically homeless HUD notes that chronic homeless persons must be single individuals and not members of families. Family members, however, are chronically homeless as well.

Of the 906 single survey respondents, 512 or 56.6% stated that they were homeless for one (1) year or more and/or four (4) times during the past three (3) years and had a disability. Of the 185 survey respondents who were adult members of families, 89 or 48.1% were homeless for one (1) year or more and/or four (4) times during the past three (3) years and had a disability.

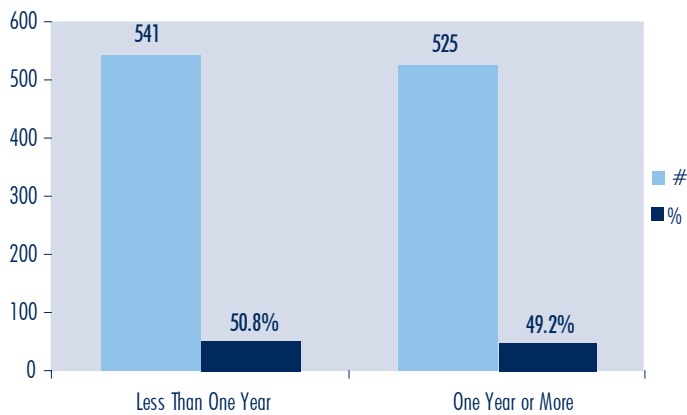
b. Duration of Homelessness

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) lists being homeless one year or more as a condition of chronic homelessness and should be a top priority in terms of service delivery. Nearly half (49.2%) of survey respondents have been homeless for one (1) year or more.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. Nearly half (49.2%) of survey respondents have been homeless for one (1) year or more;
2. More than one (1) out of 10 (14.8%) survey respondents have been homeless for 5 years or more and nearly one (1) out of 10 (7.1%) have been homeless for 10 years or more;
3. Conversely, nearly one-third (29.4%) of survey respondents have been homeless for three (3) months or less.

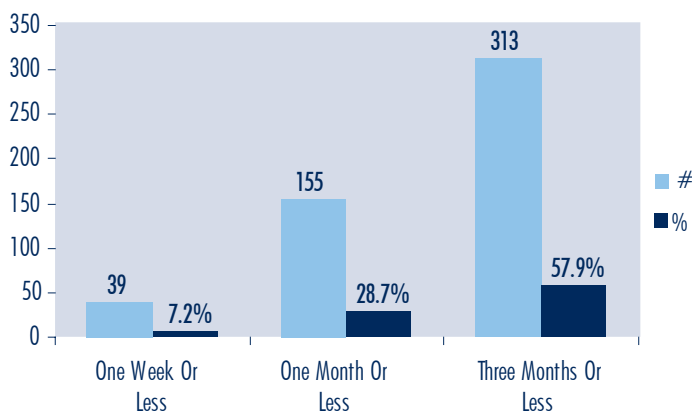
Survey Question: How Long Have You Been Currently Homeless?



The number of survey respondents who have been homeless for one (1) year or more almost equals the number of survey respondents who have been homeless one (1) year or less. The number of survey respondents who have been homeless for one (1) year or more is 49.2% and the number who have been homeless one (1) year or less is 50.8%.

Of the 541 (50.8%) survey respondents who have been homeless one (1) year or less, one (1) out of four (4) were homeless one month or less and more than half (57.9%) three (3) months or less.

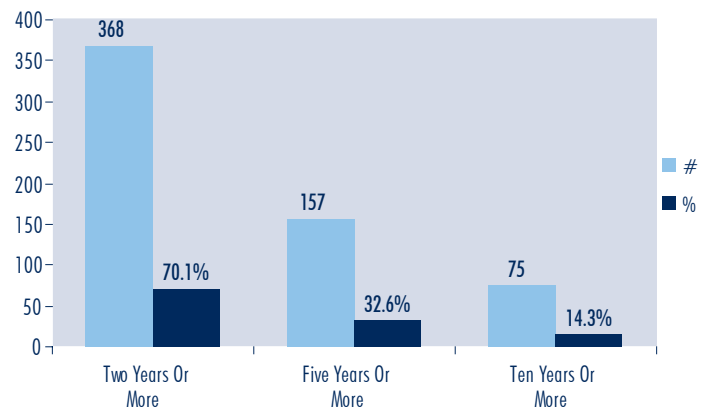
Less Than One Year*



*data is not mutually exclusive

Of the 525 (49.2%) survey respondents who have been homeless one (1) year or more, nearly three-fourths (70.1%) were homeless two (2) years or more, one-third were homeless five (5) years or more, and 14.3% were homeless 10 years or more.

One Year Or More*



*data is not mutually exclusive

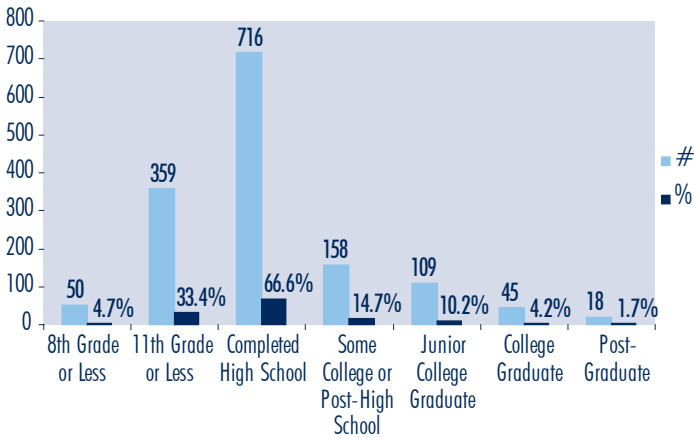
c. Education

The majority of the homeless population of Riverside County reported that they have a high school education or greater. Thus, their level of education may not be a barrier to self-sufficiency.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. 716 or two-thirds (66.6%) of survey respondents stated that they had completed high school;
2. Conversely, one-third (33.4%) did not finish high school and 50 or 4.7% completed eight grade or less;
3. There were 172 or 16.1% of survey respondents that stated they had completed a junior college, four-year college or post-graduate education.

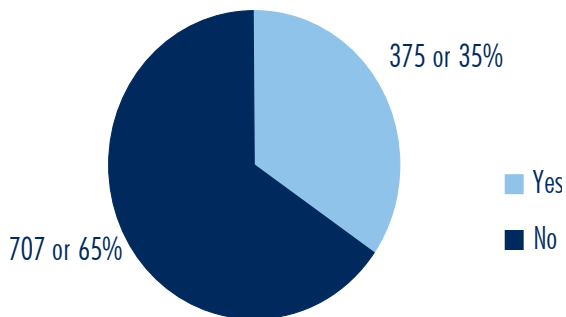
1. Survey Question: What is the Highest Grade of School That You Completed?*



*Categories not mutually exclusive. Percentages were based upon the responses of 1,075 survey respondents.

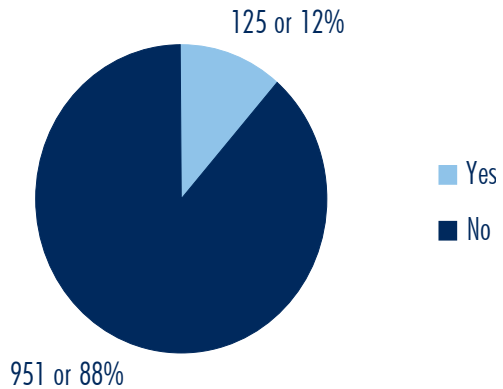
The chart above reveals that out of 1,075 survey respondents, 716 or two-thirds (66.6%) of survey respondents have a high school education or more and that an additional 172 or 16.1% have completed a junior college four-year college or post-graduate education. In addition, the following table notes that more than one-third of survey respondents (375 or 34.7%) reported that they had completed a vocational training course.

2. Survey Question: Have You Completed A Vocational Training Course?



One hundred and twenty-five (125) or 11.7% of survey respondents reported that they had attended business school.

3. Survey Question: Have You Ever Attended A Business School?



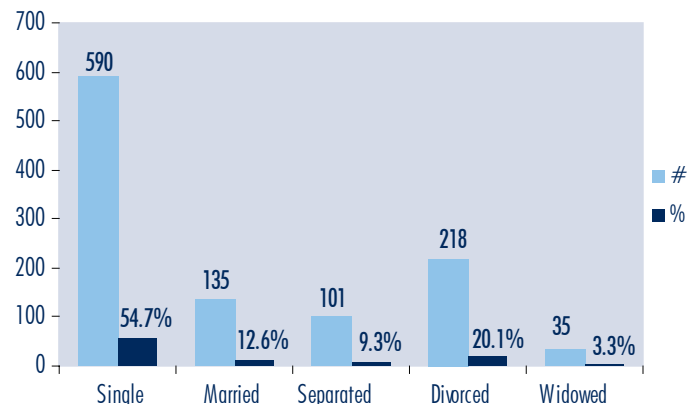
d. Family History

The following section focuses on family history. In particular, the focus was on marital status and children.

KEY FINDINGS:

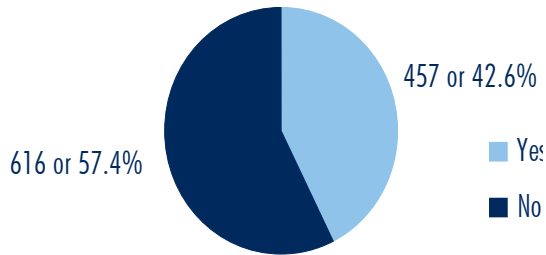
1. Nearly nine (9) out of 10 (87.4%) survey respondents were single;
2. Nearly half (42.6%) of survey respondents stated that they have children under 18 years of age;
3. More than a third (34.9%) of survey respondents stated that they have children living with them.

1. Survey Question: What Is Your Marital Status?



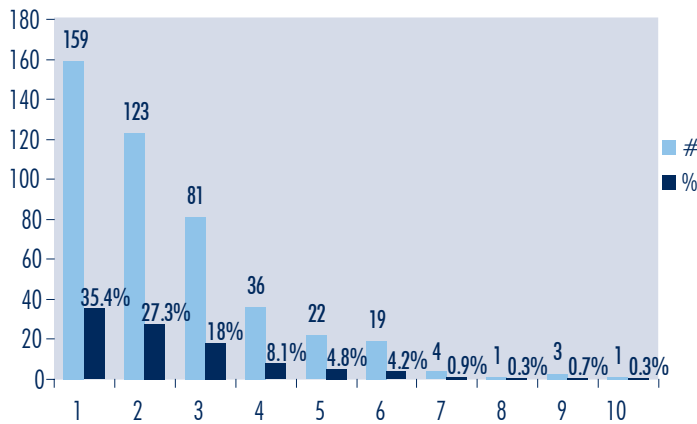
Nearly nine (9) out of 10 (87.4%) survey respondents were not married. Nearly half (54.7%) stated that they were single, 9.3% were separated, 20.1% were divorced, and 3.3% were widowed.

2. Survey Question: Do You Have Children Under 18 Years Of Age?



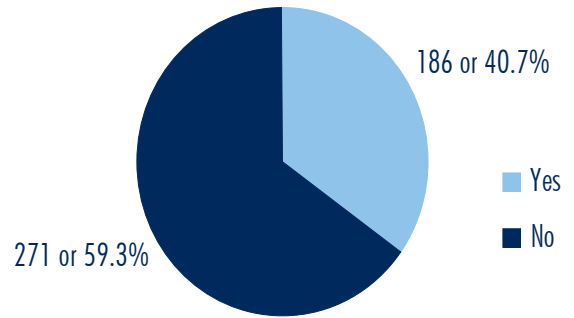
Nearly half (42.6%) of survey respondents stated that they have children under 18 years of age. The following table notes how many.

3. Survey Question: How Many Children Under 18 Years Of Age Do You Have?



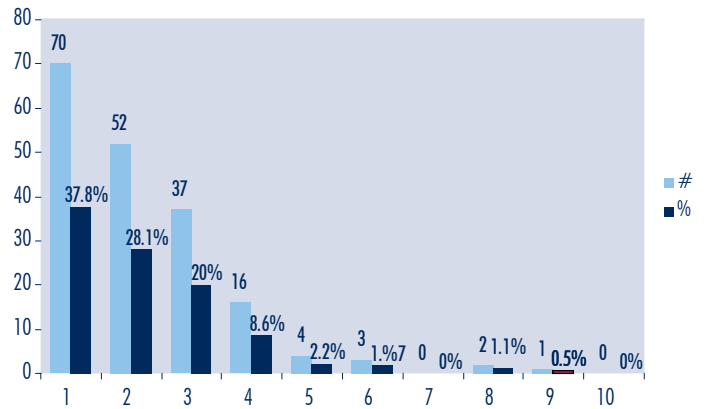
Nearly two-thirds (62.7%) of survey respondents stated that they had one (1) or two (2) children—35.4% noted that they had one (1) child and 27.3% noted that they had two (2) children. Nearly another third (30.9%) stated that they had three (3) to five (5) children—18.0% noted three (3) children, 8.1% noted four (4) children, and 4.8% noted five (5) children. There were 28 survey respondents or 6.4% who stated that they had six (6) or more children.

4. Survey Question: Do You Have Children Living With You Today?



More than a third (40.7%) of survey respondents who had children under 18 years of age stated that they had children living with them. The following table notes how many.

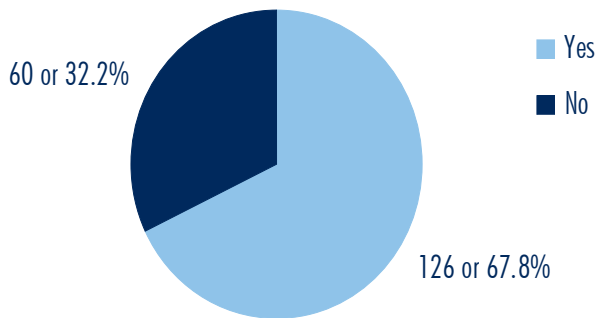
5. Survey Question: How Many Children Under 18 Years Of Age Do You Have Living With You Today?



Nearly two-thirds (65.9%) of survey respondents stated that they had one (1) or two (2) children—37.8% noted that they had one (1) child and 28.1% noted that they had two (2) children. Nearly another third (30.8%) stated that they had three (3) to five (5) children—20.0% noted three (3) children, 8.6% noted four (4) children, and 2.2% noted five (5) children. There were 6 survey respondents or 3.3% who stated that they had six (6) or more children.

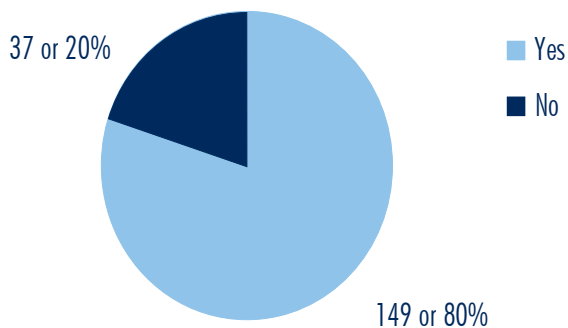
The majority of families were single-parent households. Of the 186 survey respondents who stated that they have children living with them today, two-thirds (67.8%) noted that they were the only parent in the household.

Survey Question: Are You The Only Parent In Household?



Of the 186 single-parent households, the majority were female-headed households (80.1%). One (1) out of five (5) single-parent households (19.7%) were male-headed households.

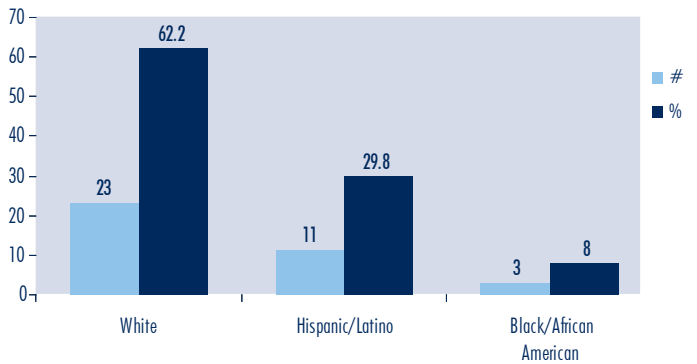
Only Parent in Household By Gender



Only Parent in Household By Male-Headed Households And Ethnicity

Nearly two-thirds (62.2%) of male-headed households were White, 29.8% were Hispanic/Latino, and 8.0% were Black/African American.

Only Parent in Household By Gender

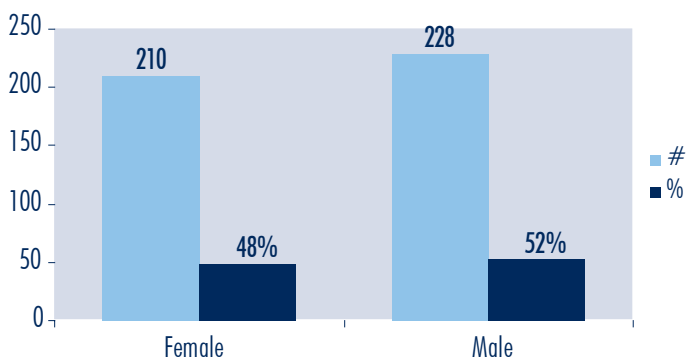


e. Children

Children under 18 years of age who were currently living with their homeless adult survey respondent are the focus of the following section.

- Gender
- Age
- Length of time homeless
- School enrollment
- Health care
- Meals
- Location: streets or shelter

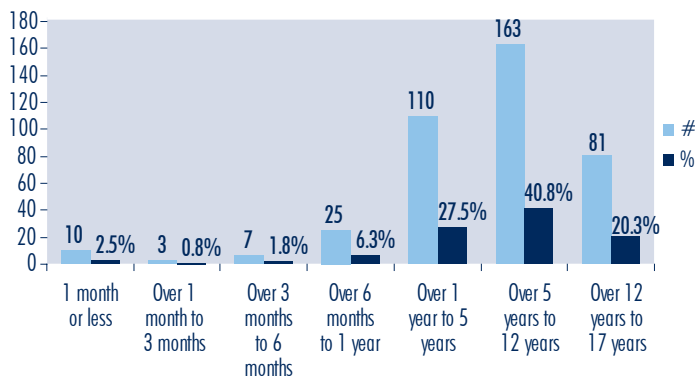
1. Survey Question: What Is The Gender of Your Child(ren)?



Slightly more than half of the children living with their homeless parents were male (52%) and a little less than half were female (48%).

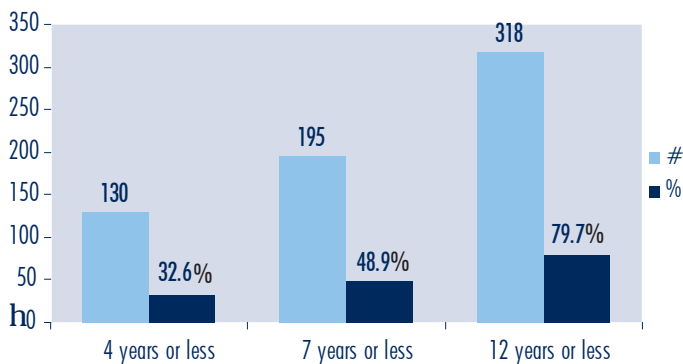
The majority—more than three (3) out of four (4)—or 79.7% of children were under the age of 12. Of the children under the age of 12, 11.4 (or more than one (1) out of 10 were one (1) years of age or younger.

2. Survey Question: What Is The Age of Your Child(ren)?



The following table further breaks down the age of children and underlines the fact of how young they are. Of the 399 children, 130 or approximately one (1) out of every three (3) children (32.6%) were four (4) years of age or younger and approximately half (48.9%) were seven (7) years or younger. As already noted, more than three (3) out of four (4) children or 79.7% were 12 years of age or younger.

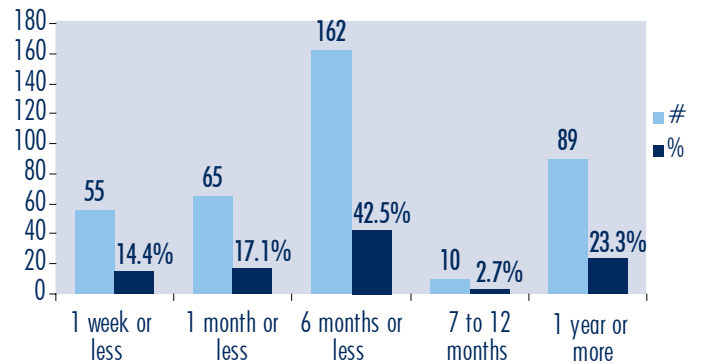
Age of Children



Survey respondents were also asked how long their children have been homeless. One-third (31.5%) of the children had been homeless for one (1) month or less and nearly three-quarters

of the children (74%) had been homeless six (6) months or less. What is most disturbing is that nearly one (1) out of four (4) children had been homeless for one (1) year or more.

3. Survey Question: How Long Has Your Child(ren) Been Homeless?



f. Foster Care

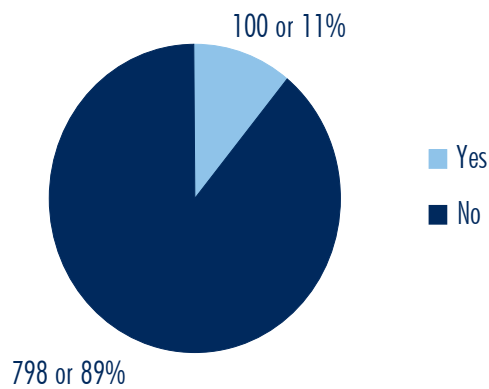
There is a troubling link between foster care and homelessness among the county's homeless population. More than one out of 10 (11.2%) survey respondents stated that they have been in the foster care system. Thus, leaving care and entering adulthood has been a difficult transition for a noteworthy number of youth who are vulnerable to homelessness at the start of adulthood.

KEY FINDINGS

1. There were 100 homeless persons (representing 11.2% of survey respondents who had been in the foster care system);
2. Thirty-three or 33% of the 100 survey respondents stated that they became homeless while in foster care;
3. Twenty-five or 25% of the 100 survey respondents stated that they became homeless upon discharge from the foster care system.

The primary question concerning foster care was—“Have you ever been in the foster care system? There were 100 survey respondents representing 11.2% who stated that they had been in the foster care system.

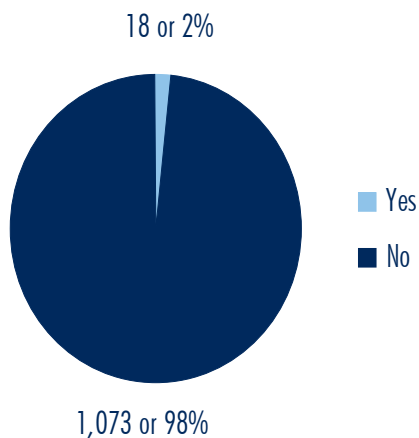
Survey Question: Have You Ever Been in the Foster Care System?



Other questions involving foster care included:

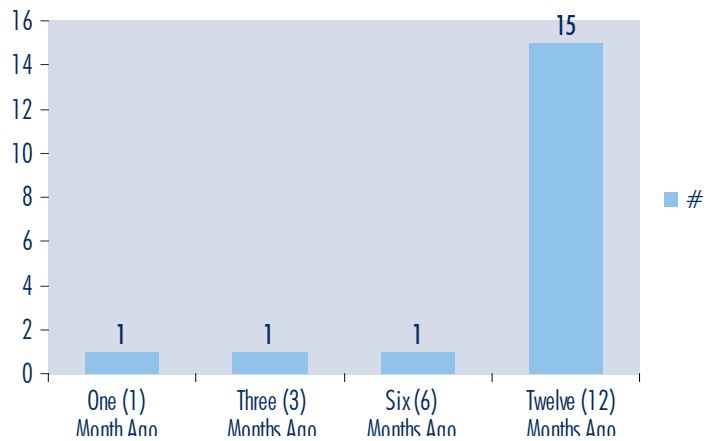
- Were you recently in the foster care system?
- When were you in the foster care system?
- Did you become homeless during the time you were in foster care?
- Did you become homeless upon discharge from foster care?

Survey Question: Were you recently in the Foster Care System?



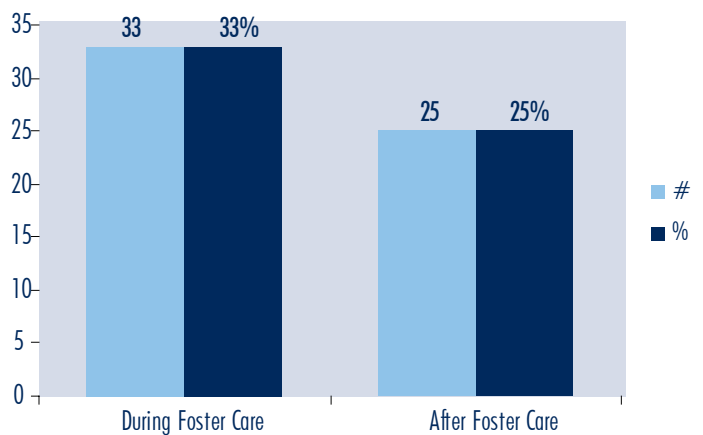
There were 18 survey respondents who stated that they were recently in foster care. When asked the following question, “When Were You in the Foster Care System,” three (3) of them stated during the past six (6) months and 15 of them within the past year.

Survey Question: When Were You in the Foster Care System?



The next table combines survey questions and reveals that homelessness became a problem for those survey respondents that were in foster care.

Survey Questions: Were You Homeless During the Time You Were in Foster Care and Did You Become Homeless Upon Discharge from Foster Care?*



Thirty-three or 33% of the 100 survey respondents who had been in the foster care system stated that they became homeless while in foster care. Twenty-five or 25% stated that they became homeless upon discharge from the foster care system.

g. HIV/AIDS

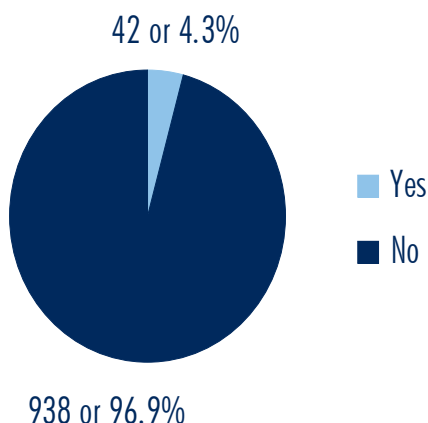
There were 42 survey respondents who stated that they were HIV+. This represents 4.3% of all survey respondents. One notable Key Finding is that nearly two-thirds (64.3) of survey respondents who stated that they were HIV+ were living on the streets.

KEY FINDINGS

1. 42 or 4.3% of survey respondents reported that they had tested positive for HIV/AIDS;
2. Nearly two-thirds (64.3) of survey respondents who stated that they were HIV+ were living on the streets;
3. Of the 42 survey respondents who stated that they were HIV+, 24 or a little more than half (57.2%) were receiving HIV-related services.

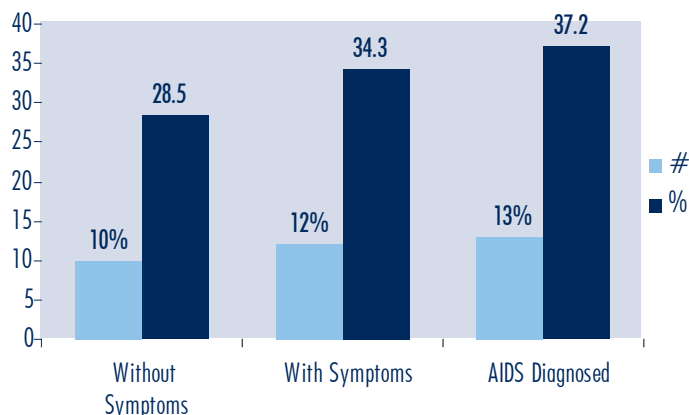
Survey respondents were asked if they had ever been tested for HIV/AIDS? They were then asked “Are You HIV+?”

Survey Question: Are You HIV+?



Forty two or 4% of respondents reported that they were HIV+. Of the 42 survey respondents, 35 responded to the following question.

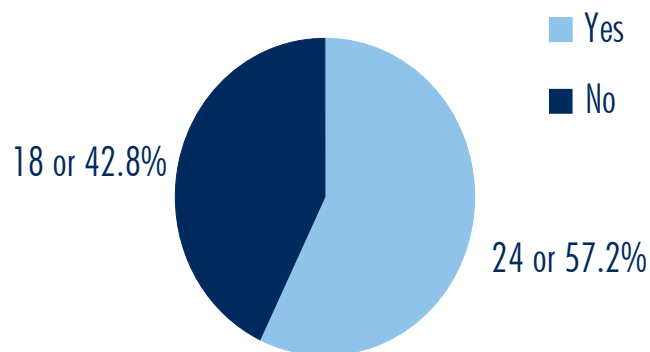
Survey Question: Do You Know if You Are Without Symptoms, With Symptoms, or AIDS Diagnosed?



Of the 35 survey respondents to this question, 10 or 28.5% stated that they were without symptoms, 12 or 34.3% with symptoms, and 13 or 37.2% noted that they were AIDS diagnosed.

Of the 42 survey respondents who stated that they were HIV+, 24 or a little more than half (57.2%) were receiving HIV-related services. A little less than half (42.8%) or four (4) out of 10 were not receiving HIV-related services.

Survey Question: Have You Been Receiving HIV-Related Services?



What is notable is that 18 persons (42.8%) were not receiving HIV-related services and

were living on the streets. What is even more notable is that a much larger percent of HIV+ women than men were living on the streets. Of

the 10 women who were HIV+, seven (7) or 70% were living on the streets. Of the 32 men, 11 or 34.4% were living on the streets.

	Living On The Streets		Living In Facilities		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Women	7	70.0	3	30.0	10	100.0
Men	11	34.4%	21	65.6	32	100.0
Total	18	-	24	-	42	-

h. Mainstream Resources

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is increasingly emphasizing the importance of homeless persons having access to mainstream resources (e.g. public assistance benefits) in order to obtain and remain in permanent housing. Each year, the County of Riverside is required by HUD in its Continuum of Care application to show if homeless persons are being identified for, being enrolled into, and receiving, mainstream resources.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. Of the 1,091 survey respondents, 455 or 41.7% stated that they were receiving one or more of the public assistance benefits;
2. The most common type of public assistance benefits that individuals were currently receiving was Medi-Cal and Food Stamps—211 or 19.3% were receiving Medi-Cal and 181 or 16.6% were receiving Food Stamps;
3. Of the 1,091 survey respondents, 429 or 39.3% stated that they had received one or more of the public assistance benefits in the past;

4. The most common type of public assistance benefits that individuals had received in the past was Food Stamps and Medi-Cal—283 or 25.9% respondents were receiving Food Stamps and 162 or 14.8% were receiving Medi-Cal;
5. More individuals were receiving the following public assistance benefits in the past than currently—
 - AFDC/TANF—141 or 12.9% of individuals in the past compared to 125 or 11.5% currently;
 - General Relief—62 or 5.7% of individuals in the past compared to 20 or 1.8% currently;
 - Unemployment—115 or 10.5% of individuals in the past compared to 36 or 3.3% currently;
 - Food Stamps—283 or 25.9% of individuals in the past compared to 181 or 16.6% currently.
6. More individuals were receiving the following public assistance benefits currently than in the past—

- Social Security-Retirement (Age 62+)—30 or 2.7% of individuals currently compared to nine (9) or 0.8% in the past;
- Social Security-Disability—145 or 13.3% of individuals currently compared to 20 or 1.8% in the past;
- Medi-Cal—211 or 19.3% of individuals currently compared to 162 or 14.8% in the past;

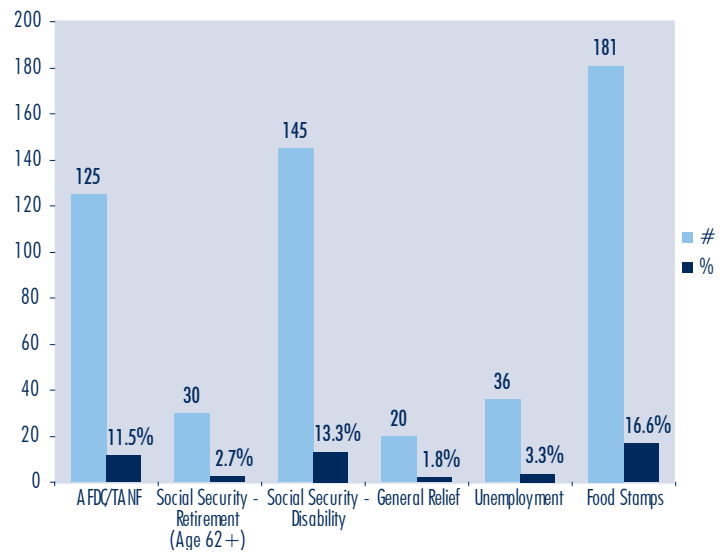
7. More veterans were receiving veteran benefits in the past than currently—15 or 8.4% of veterans in the past compared to 3 or 1.7% currently.

The survey included a general question about public assistance benefits—“Do you receive any of the following kinds of monthly incomes?”

1. AFDC/TANF?
2. Social Security – Retirement?
3. Social Security – Disability?
4. General Relief?
5. Unemployment?
6. Veterans Benefits?
7. Food Stamps?

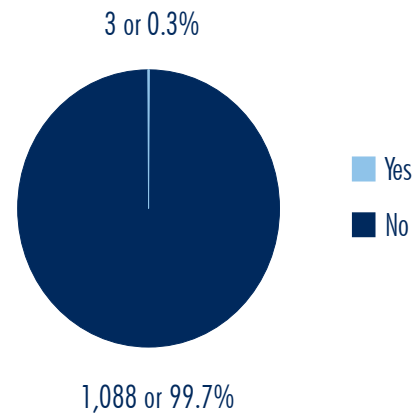
Of the 1,091 survey respondents, 455 or 41.7% stated that they had received one or more of the public assistance benefits noted above. A breakdown by each type of public assistance benefits noted above follows:

Survey Question: Do You Receive Any Of The Following Kinds of Monthly Incomes?



The survey also included the following question:

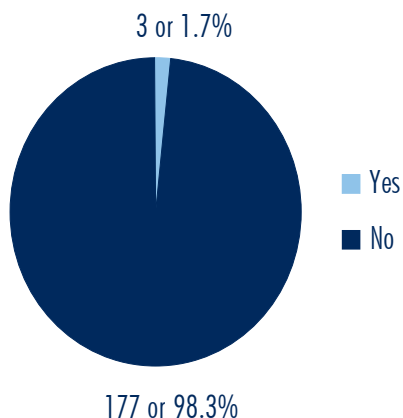
Survey Question: Do you Receive a Union Pension?



Just three (3) or 0.3% of 1,091 survey respondents stated that they receive a union pension.

The survey also included the following question:

Survey Question: Do you Receive Veteran Benefits?

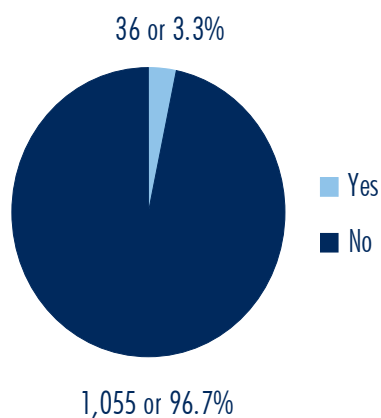


Of the 180 veterans, three (3) or 1.7% were receiving veteran benefits.

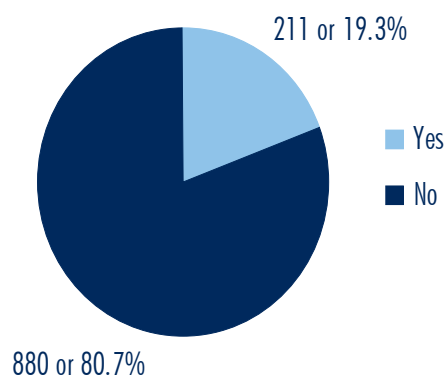
The survey also included the following questions:

1. Do you receive MediCare?
2. Do you receive Medi-Cal?

Survey Question: Do you Receive MediCare?



Survey Question: Do you Receive Medi-Cal?



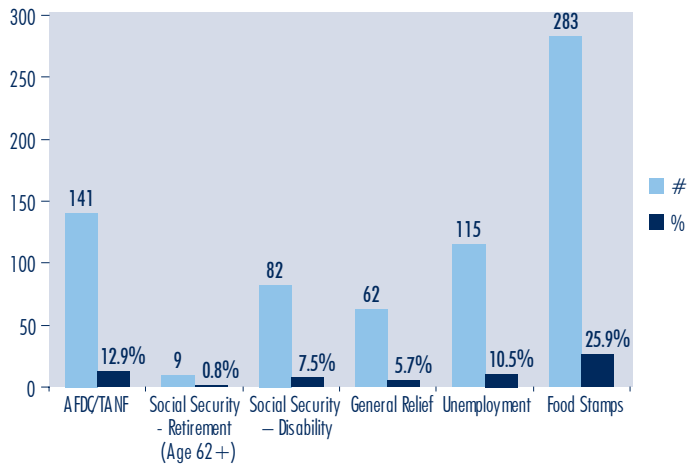
Nearly one in four (4) or 22.7% of survey respondents stated that they were receiving Medicare or Medi-Cal—36 or 3.3% of survey respondents were receiving MediCare and 211 or 19.3% were receiving Medi-Cal.

Survey respondents who were not currently receiving public assistance benefits were asked the following—Did you receive any of the following monthly incomes in the past?

1. AFDC/TANF?
14. Social Security – Retirement?
15. Social Security – Disability?
16. General Relief?
17. Unemployment?
18. Veterans Benefits?
19. Food Stamps?

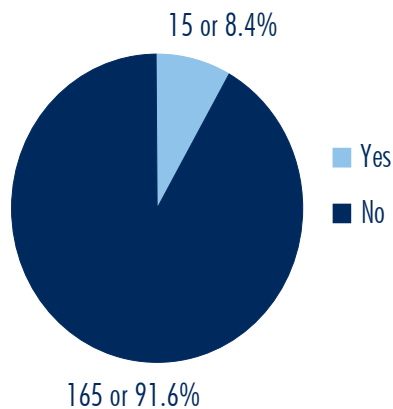
Of the 1,091 survey respondents, 429 or 39.3% stated that they had received one or more of the public assistance benefits noted above in the past. A breakdown by each type of past public assistance benefits follows:

Survey Question: Did You Receive Any Of The Following Monthly Incomes in the Past?



The survey also included the following question:

Survey Question: Did you Receive Veteran Benefits in the Past?

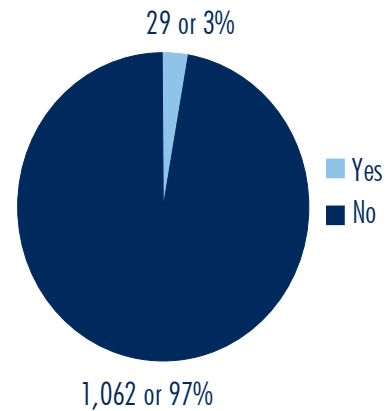


Of the 180 veterans, 15 or 8.4% were receiving veteran benefits in the past.

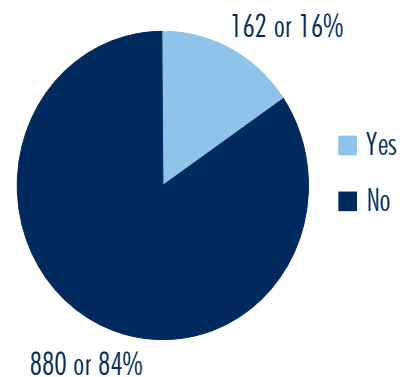
The survey also included the following questions:

3. Did you receive MediCare in the past?
4. Did you receive Medi-Cal in the past?

Survey Question: Did you Receive MediCare?



Survey Question: Did you Receive Medi-Cal?



Nearly one in five (5) or 17.5% of survey respondents stated that they were receiving Medicare or Medi-Cal—29 or 2.7% of survey respondents had received MediCare and 162 or 14.8% had received Medi-Cal in the past.

i. Meals

The survey reveals that nearly eight (8) out of 10 (77.3%) of survey respondents eat at least two (2) meals each day—33.5% of respondents stated that they eat two (2) meals per day and 43.8% stated that they eat at least three (3) meals per day.

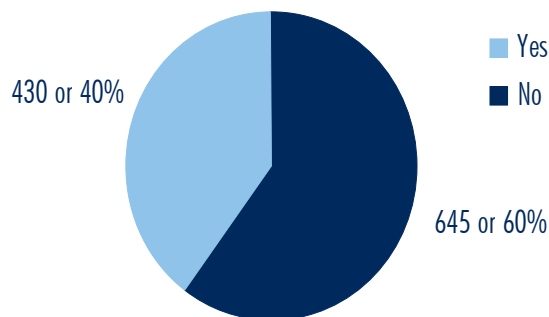
The survey also reveals, however, that survey respondents had difficulty accessing food as noted in the Key Findings table below.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. A large majority of survey respondents (77.3%) eat at least two (2) meals a day— 33.5% eat two (2) meals a day and 43.8% eat at least three (3) meals per day;
2. However, 242 (or 22.7%) of survey respondents noted that they eat just one (1) meal per day;
3. Also, survey respondents stated that they have difficulty accessing food:
 - 430 (or 40.0%) of survey respondents stated that they have difficulty accessing food;
 - 686 (or 63.4%) of survey respondents stated that they had to skip meals in the past month because there was not enough money to buy food;
 - 381 (or 35.2%) of survey respondents stated that they have stolen food to eat.

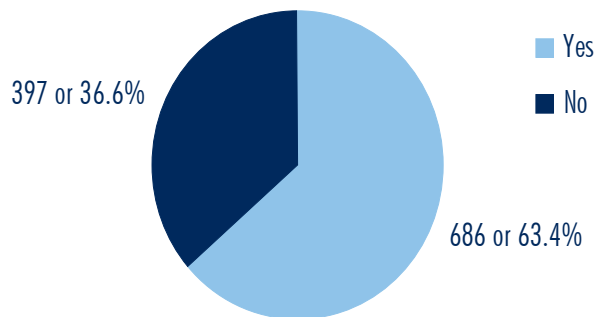
Most notably, the table above reveals that 22.7% or 242 survey respondents usually eat just one meal per day. The following table discloses that an even higher percent (40%) or 430 survey respondents have difficulty accessing food.

Survey Question: Have You Been Able To Obtain Food When Needed?



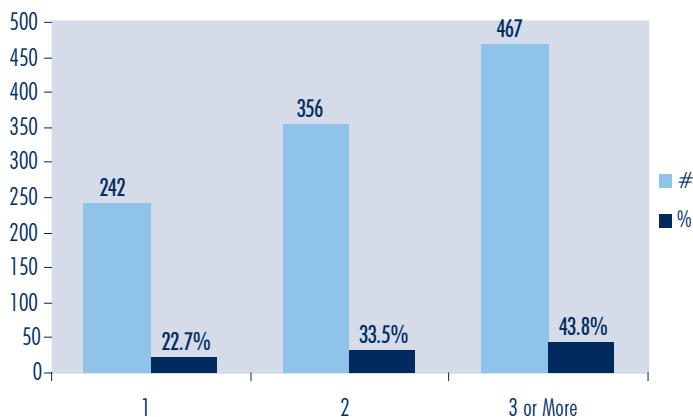
The next table notes that having difficulty accessing food is underlined by the fact that 686 (or 63.4%) of survey respondents had to skip meals in the past month because of not having enough money to buy food.

Survey Question: Have You Had to Skip Meals in the Past Month Because There Was Not Enough Money to Buy Food?

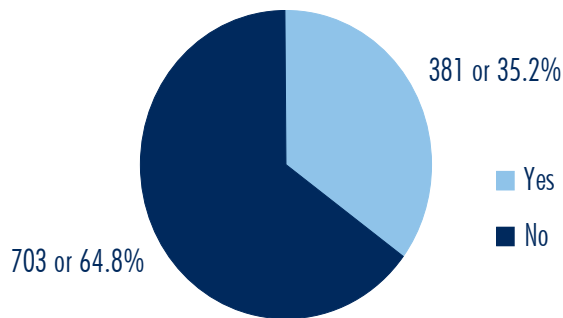


Having difficulty accessing food may also be underlined by the fact that 381 (or 35.2%) of survey respondents reported that they had stolen food in order to eat..

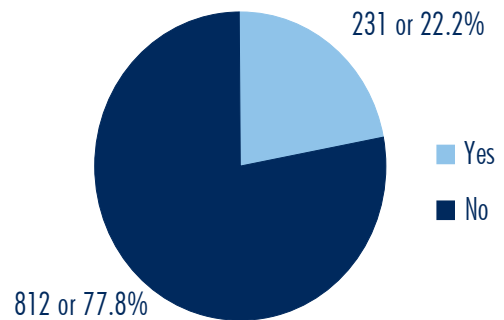
1. Survey Question: How Many Meals Do You Usually Eat Each Day?



Survey Question: Have You Ever Stolen Food When You Were Unable To Obtain a Meal?



Survey Question: Have You Ever Been a Victim of Assault While Living on the Streets?



j. Physical Assault

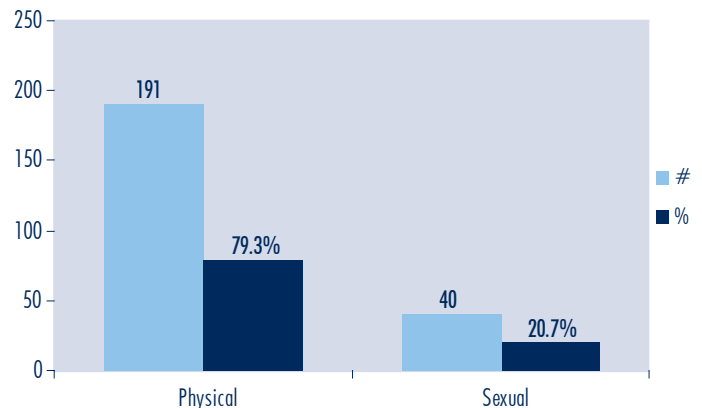
The homeless population of Riverside County not only reported that they experienced violence while living in homes but while living on the streets as well. The primary question noted below was purposely worded to find out if survey respondents experienced assault while living on the streets. One notable Key Finding is that nearly three-quarters (72.7%) of those persons who stated that they experienced violence while living on the streets were still living on the streets.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. 231 or 22.2% of survey respondents stated that they had experienced assault while living on the streets;
2. One (1) out of five (5) assaults were sexual (20.7%) and four (4) out of five (5) were physical (79.3%).
3. Nearly three-quarters (72.7%) of those persons who stated that they experienced violence while living on the streets were still living on the streets.

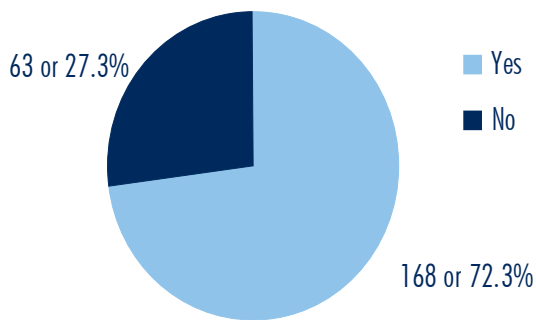
The chart above discloses that nearly one of four (22.2%) survey respondents reported being a victim of assault while living on the streets. Of the 231 survey respondents who stated that they were a victim of assault while living on the streets, the majority (79.3%) stated that they were physically assaulted (20.7%) and one (1) out of five (5) were sexually assaulted.

Survey Question: Was The Assault Physical or Sexual?



The next chart in this section reveals that nearly three-quarters (72.7%) of the persons who experienced physical assault while living on the streets were still living on the streets.

The primary question concerning assault while living on the streets was—”Have you ever been a victim of assault while living on the streets?”

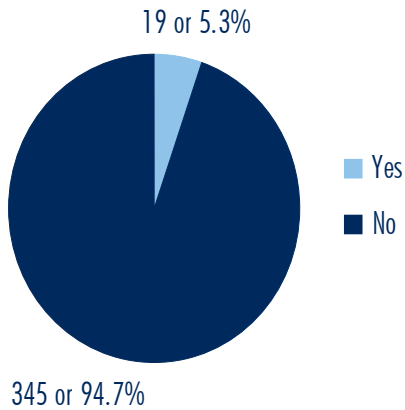


k. Pregnancy:

Homelessness, the lack of on-going prenatal care, and drug use during pregnancy can complicate the health of mother and child and result in serious illnesses.

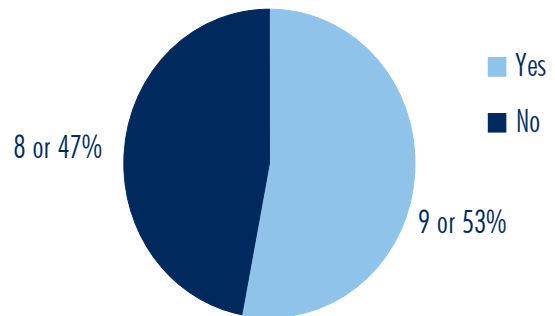
Of the 364 female survey respondents, 19 or 5.3% stated that they were pregnant.

Survey Question: Are You Pregnant?



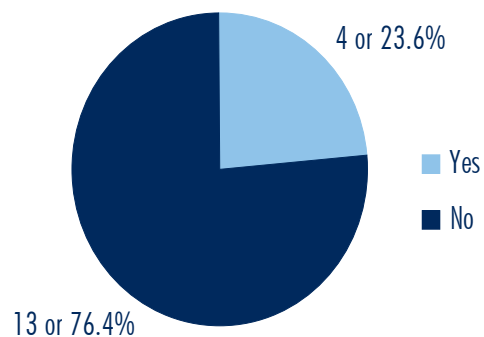
The lack of on-going prenatal care, and drug use during pregnancy can complicate the health of mother and child and result in serious illnesses. Of the 19 survey respondents who stated that they were pregnant, nearly half (47%) were not receiving on-going prenatal care.

Survey Question: Are You Receiving On-going Prenatal Care?



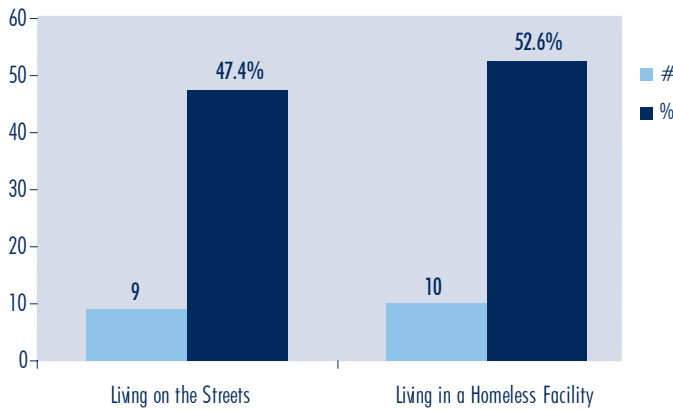
The use of street drugs can seriously complicate the health of mother and child and result in serious illnesses. Four (4) survey respondents representing 23.6% or nearly one (1) out of four (4) respondents used “street drugs” during their pregnancy.

Survey Question: Have You Used Any “Street Drugs” During Your Pregnancy?



Living on the streets can also seriously complicate the health of mother and child and result in serious illnesses. Nine (9) or nearly half (47.4%) of survey respondents who were pregnant were living on the streets at the time the survey was administered.

Pregnancy and Location



I. Residency

Many often wonder where the homeless people in their community actually come from. The majority of the homeless population of Riverside County reported that they had residential, employment, educational, and familial ties to the many cities and communities in the County. Community ties included having attended school in, having worked in and/or having family that live in Riverside County cities and communities.

KEY FINDINGS

1. More than three-fourths (77.7%) or 848 survey respondents consider a city or community in Riverside County to be their home;
2. Over two-thirds (67.2%) or 733 of the survey respondents were residents of cities and communities in Riverside County.

The survey included a series of questions designed to establish whether respondents were residents of a Riverside County city or community. A survey respondent was considered a resident of Riverside County based upon the following criteria.

First, each respondent was asked the following question:

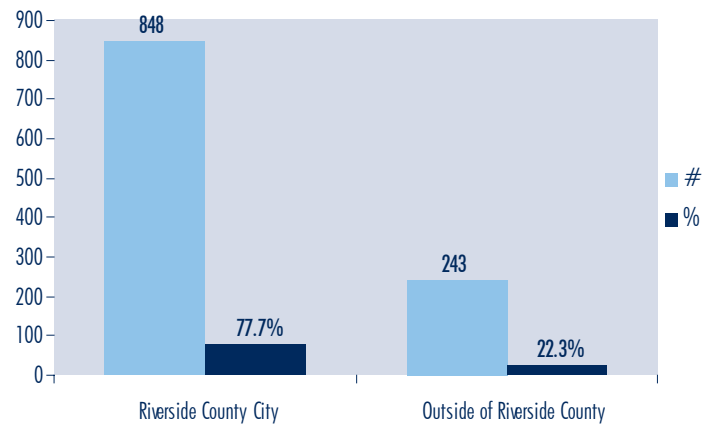
- What city do you consider to be your home?

If the respondent identified a city or community in Riverside County as their home, they then had to answer “yes” to two (2) of the following four (4) questions in order to be considered a resident of that community:

- Do you have family who live in the above city?
- Do you have friends who live in the above city?
- Have you worked or are you currently working in the above city?
- Have you ever attended school in the above city?

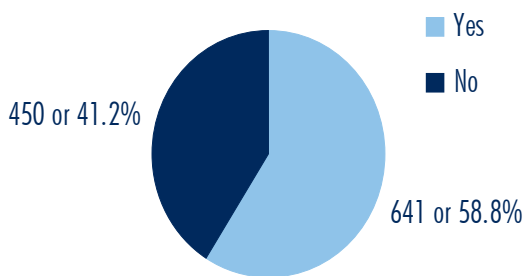
More than three-fourths (77.7%) of the survey respondents identified a city or community in Riverside County as their home.

Survey Question: What City Do You Consider to be Your Home?



As noted above, respondents who identified a city or community in Riverside County as their home had to answer “yes” to two (2) or more of the residency criteria questions to be considered a resident of Riverside County. Nearly three out of every five (58.8%) survey respondents were residents of a city or community in Riverside County based upon the criteria described above.

Respondents who met the Riverside County Residency Criteria described above



Because the residency criteria formula could only be applied to respondents who first self-identified a Riverside County city or community as their home, a second series of questions was included in the survey upon which residency in Riverside County could be established.

Following the first series of questions above, each respondent was then asked the following question:

- In what city did you sleep last night?

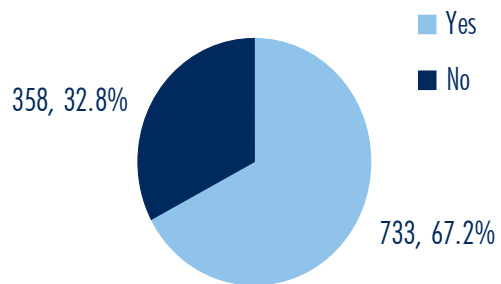
Again, if the respondent identified a city or community in Riverside County, they were also considered to be a resident if they answered “yes” to two (2) of the same four (4) residency criteria questions:

- Do you have family who live in the above city?
- Do you have friends who live in the above city?

- Have you worked or are you currently working in the above city?
- Have you ever attended school in the above city?

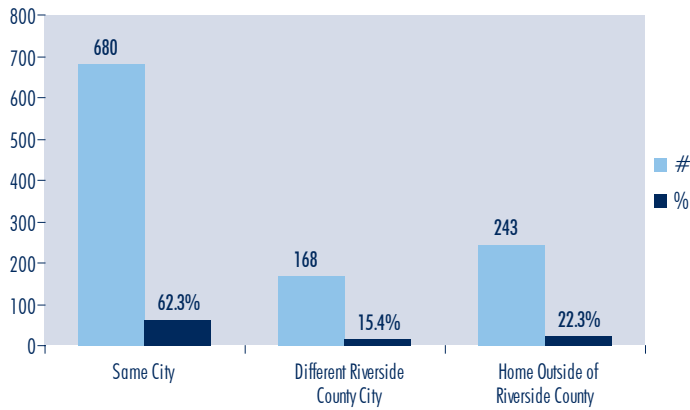
Based on the responses to the second series of residency questions, 92 additional survey respondents were established as residents of Riverside County on top of the 641 respondents who met the criteria based on the first series of questions. Thus, based on the two sets of residency criteria described above, over two-thirds (67.2%) of the survey respondents (733) were residents of a Riverside County city or community.

Survey Respondents Who Were Residents of Riverside County



Asking two sets of residency related questions, “What city do you consider to be your home?” and “In what city did you sleep last night?” also produced another set of findings. Almost two-thirds (62.3%) of the survey respondents (680) reported that they slept in the same city as they consider to be their home while almost one out of every six respondents (15.4%) reported that they slept in a different Riverside County community than they consider to be their home.

Survey Questions: What city do you consider to be your home? In what city did you sleep last night?



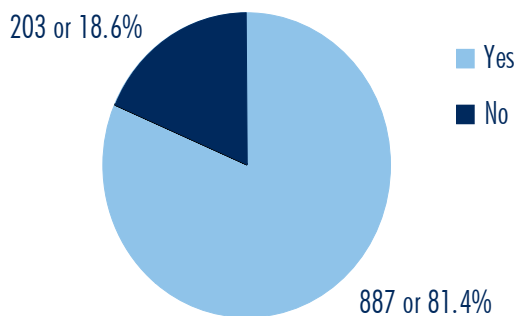
m. Transportation

There were questions concerning public transportation that focused on use and access.

KEY FINDINGS

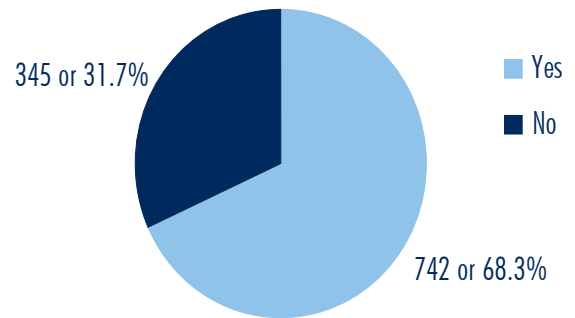
1. A large majority (81.4%) of survey respondents stated that they had access to public transportation;
2. Nearly seventy percent (68.3%) of survey respondents stated that they use public transportation;
3. More than seventy percent (73.7%) stated that they can access public transportation when they need it.

Survey Question: Do You Have Access To Public Transportation?



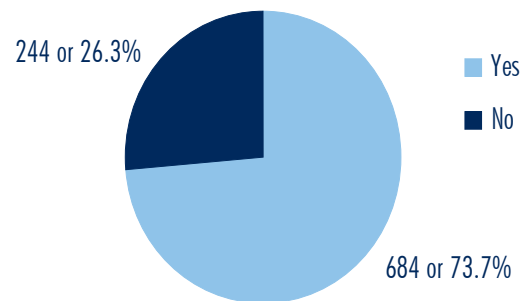
A large majority (81.4%) of survey respondents stated that they had access to public transportation. The next table reveals that not everyone who stated that they have access to public transportation use public transportation. Nearly seventy percent (68.3%) of survey respondents stated that they use public transportation.

Survey Question: Do You Use Public Transportation?



A smaller percentage of survey respondents who stated “yes” to the question “Do You Use Public Transportation” stated that they can access public transportation when they need it. Seventy-three percent (73.7%) stated that they can access public transportation when they need it.

Survey Question: If Yes, Can You Access Public Transportation When You Need It?



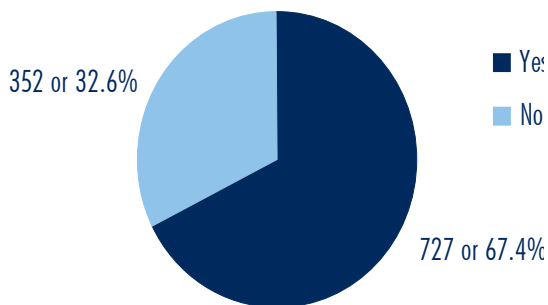
n. Use of Tobacco

The survey reveals that more than two-thirds of the County’s homeless population smokes or uses tobacco (67.4%). Nearly half (45.0%) of the County’s homeless population smokes one pack or more of cigarettes each day and seven (7) out of 10 survey respondents (70.7%) were not interested in quitting or “somewhat interested” in quitting. Three (3) out of 10 survey respondents (29.3%) were “very interested” in quitting.

KEY FINDINGS

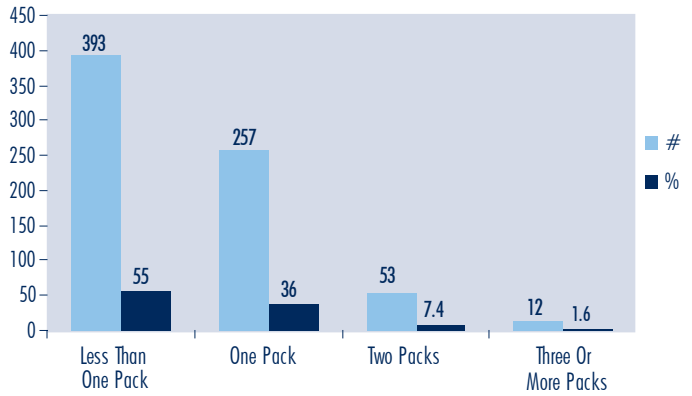
1. Nearly half (45.0%) of the County’s homeless population smokes one pack or more of cigarettes each day;
2. Most survey respondents (70.7%) were “not interested” in quitting (38.2%) or “somewhat interested” (32.5%) in quitting while a minority (29.3%) were “very interested” in quitting.

Survey Question: Do You Smoke or Use Tobacco?



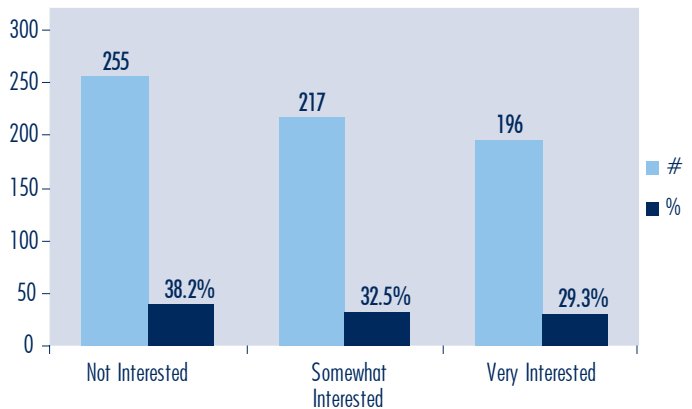
Not only do a large percentage (67.4%) of the county’s homeless population smoke and/or use tobacco, most of them smoke a large number of cigarettes each day. Nearly half (45.0%) smoke one or more packs of cigarettes a day—36.0% one pack a day; 7.4% two packs a day; and 1.6% three packs or more a day.

Survey Question: How Many Cigarettes Do You Smoke Per Day?



In spite of the fact that smoking is detrimental to the health of smokers and those around them while smoking, the majority were not interested (38.2%) or only somewhat interested (32.5%) in quitting. Conversely, very few smokers (29.3%) were very interested in quitting.

Survey Question: How Interested Are You In Quitting Smoking?



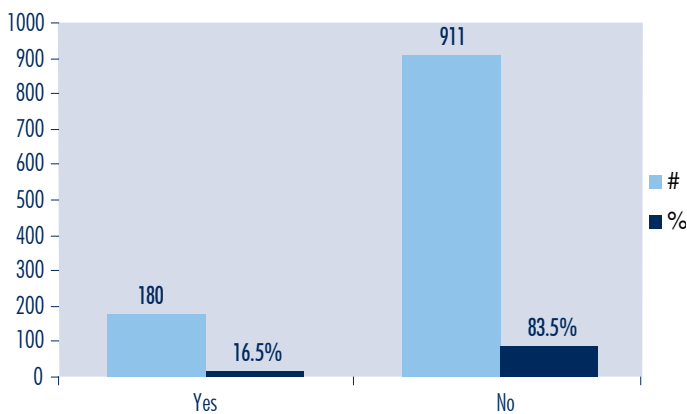
o. Veteran Status

Homeless veterans, like other homeless persons, share a variety of factors that contribute to their homelessness such as health care problems, mental illness, substance abuse, and lack of income. There is, however, one difference between homeless veterans and the rest of the homeless population—their military service in defense of their country.

KEY FINDINGS

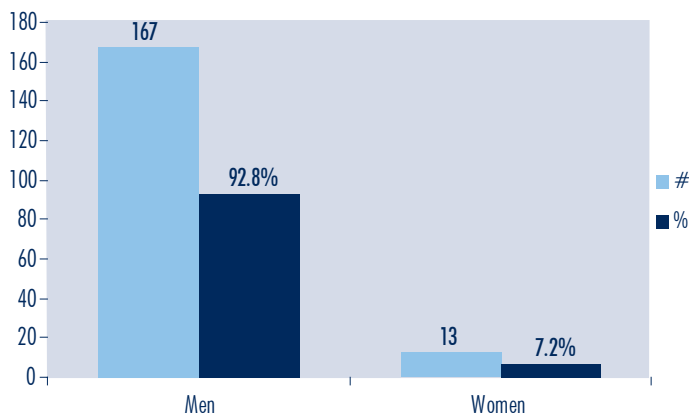
1. Nearly one (1) out of four (4) male survey respondents were veterans;
2. Thirteen (13) female survey respondents were veterans representing 3.6% of all female survey respondents;
3. Seventy percent (70) of all veteran survey respondents were living on the streets.

1. Survey Question: Are You A Veteran?



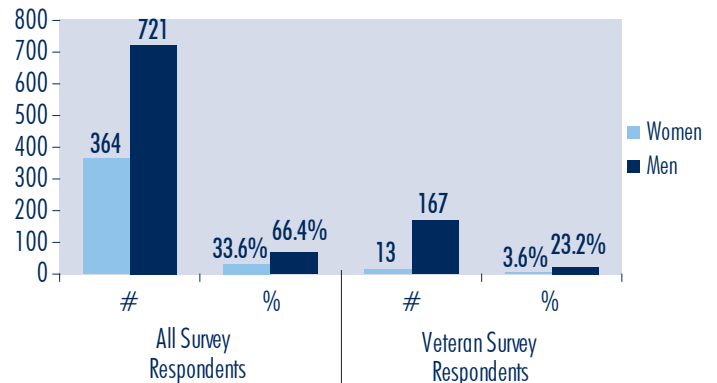
There were 180 or 16.5% of survey respondents stated that they were a veteran. As noted in the following table, homeless women as well as men were veterans—13 or 7.2% of veterans were women and 167 or 92.8% were men.

Are You A Veteran By Gender:



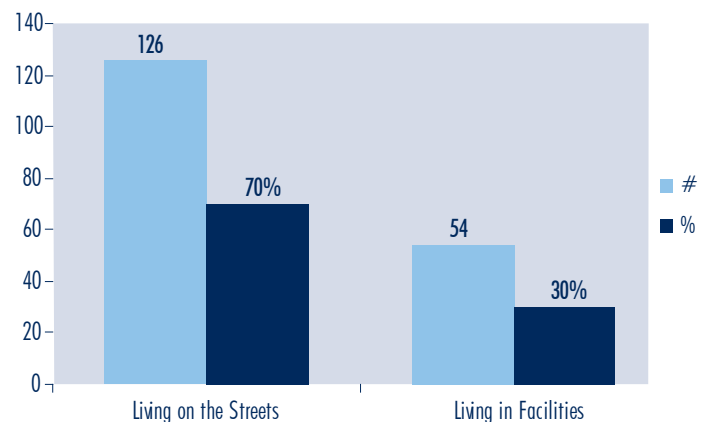
When compared to all survey respondents by gender, the percentage of men who were veterans is 23.2% which means that nearly one (1) out of four (4) men were veterans. Nearly four percent (3.6%) of all female survey respondents were veterans.

Are You A Veteran By Gender and Compared To All Survey Respondents



The next table reveals that most survey respondents who were veterans were living on the streets. Of the 180 veterans, 126 or 70% were living on the streets.

Veterans and Location



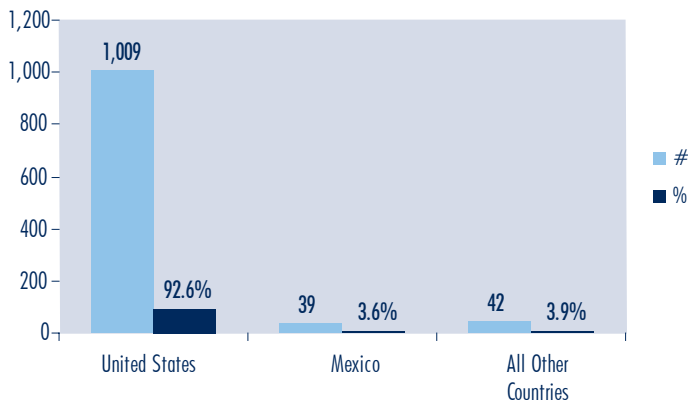
p. Geo-History

The basis of this section concerns questions that specifically asked survey respondents about the country, state, and city in which they were born.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. The majority (92.6%) of survey respondents were born in the United States;
2. The majority (55.5%) of survey respondents were born in the State of California;
3. More (10.5%) survey respondents were born in the City of Riverside than in any other city—more than one (1) out of 10.

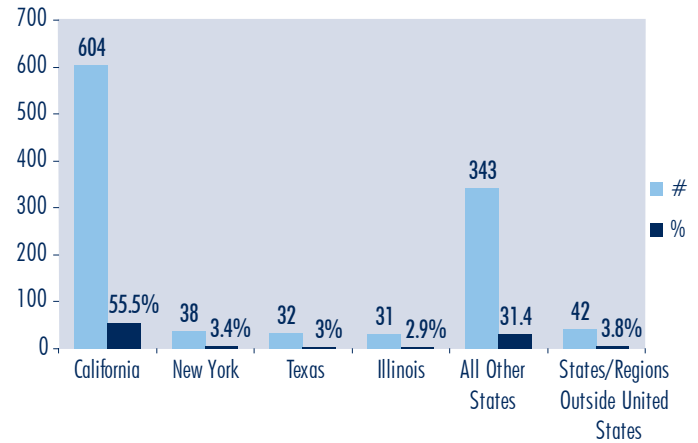
1. Survey Question: Where Were You Born (Country)?



A large majority (92.6%) of survey respondents were born in the United States. Conversely, few were born outside the United States—3.6% in Mexico and 3.9% in all other countries. A majority (55.5%) of survey respondents were born in the State of California. The three (3)

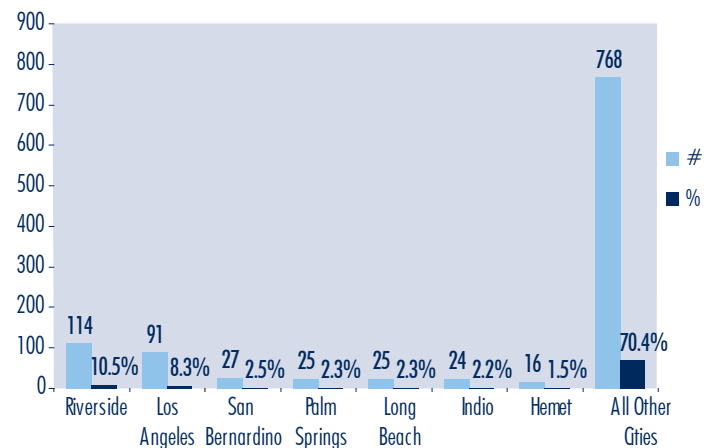
states in which the largest numbers of survey respondents were born outside California were New York (3.4%), Texas (3.0%), and Illinois (3.1%).

2. Survey Question: Where Were You Born (State)?



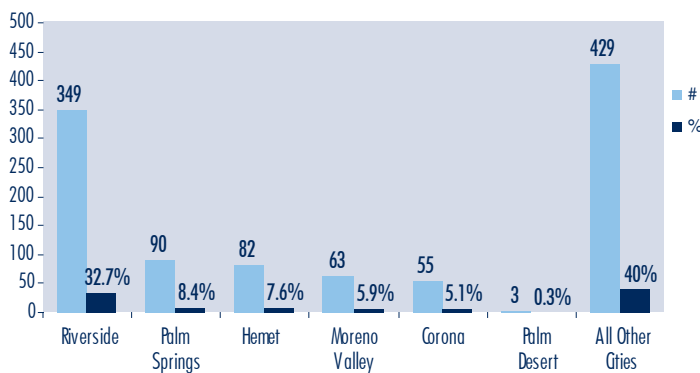
More survey respondents were born in the City of Riverside than in any other city—more than one (1) out of 10. Nearly one (1) out of 10 were born in the City of Los Angeles.

3. Survey Question: Where Were You Born (City)?



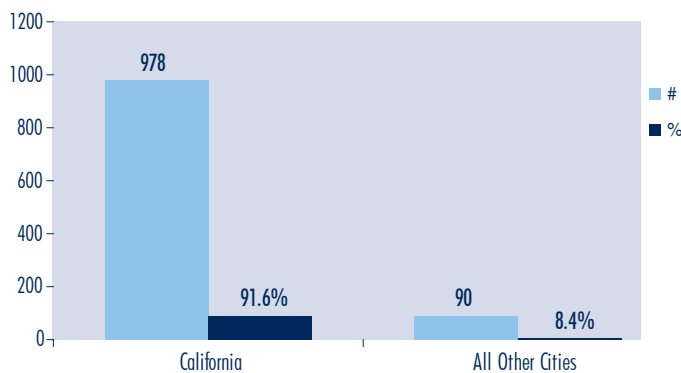
Sixty percent (59.7%) of survey respondents first became homeless while living in five (5) Riverside County cities: 1) Riverside; 2) Palm Springs; 3) Hemet; 4) Moreno Valley; and 5) Corona. More survey respondents became homeless for the first time in Riverside than in any other city—nearly two-thirds (32.7%). An additional 27% of survey respondents became homeless for the first time in one of the following cities—Palm Springs (8.4%); Hemet (7.6%); Moreno Valley (5.9%); and Corona 5.1%.

Survey Question: In What City Did You First Become Homeless?



A large majority (91.6%) of survey respondents first became homeless while living in the State of California.

Survey Question: In What State Did You First Become Homeless?



q. Religion

The majority of survey respondents revealed that they were a religious person and had religious experience

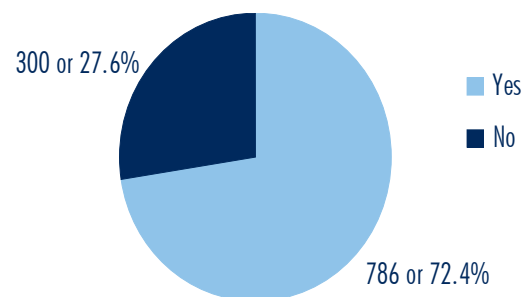
KEY FINDINGS:

1. Nearly three-fourths (72.4%) of survey respondents stated that they considered themselves a religious person;
2. More than half (58.9%) stated that they were a member of a religious faith;
3. Less than half (40.4%) of survey respondents stated that they regularly attended a religious service;
4. Nearly two-thirds (64.5%) of survey respondents stated that they were raised as a child in a religious home;

More than two-thirds (68.6%) of survey respondents stated that their faith increased during their homeless experience.

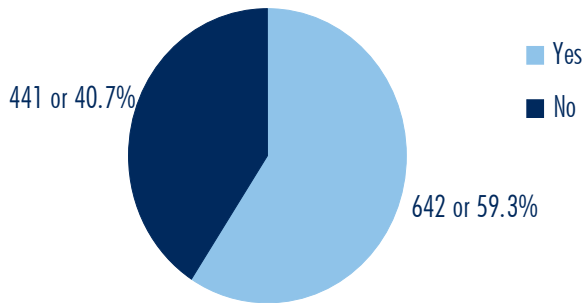
There were several questions that pertained to religion. The first question asked survey respondents if they considered themselves a religious person.

Survey Question: Do you consider yourself a religious person?



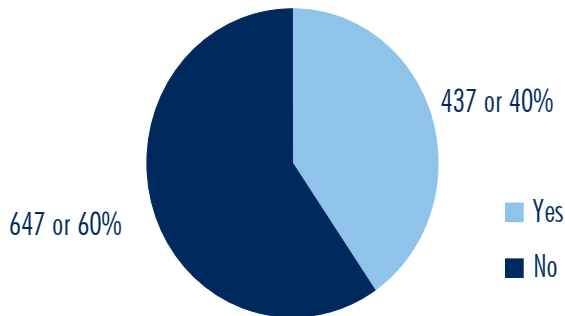
Nearly three-fourths (72.4%) of survey respondents stated that they considered themselves a religious person. Also, more than half (58.9%) stated that they were a member of a religious faith.

Survey Question: Are you a member of a religious faith?



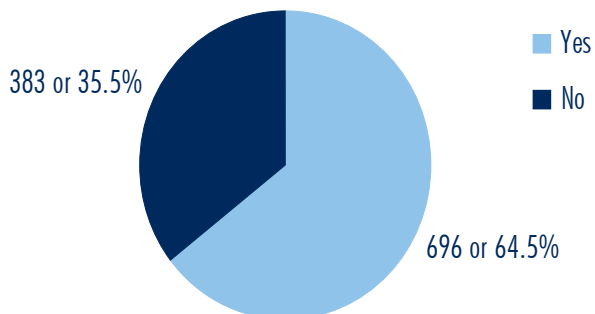
Less than half (40.4%) of survey respondents stated that they regularly attended a religious service.

Survey Question: Do you regularly attend a religious service?



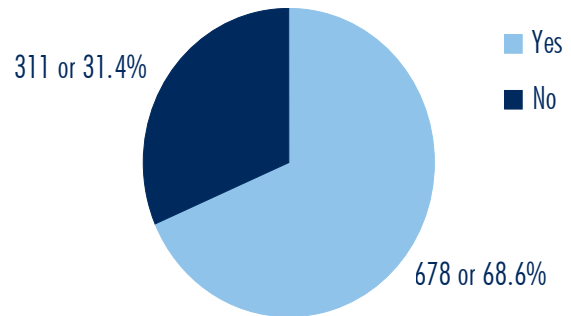
Nearly two-thirds (64.5%) of survey respondents stated that they were raised as a child in a religious home.

Survey Question: Were you raised as a child in a religious home?



More than two-thirds (68.6%) of survey respondents stated that their faith increased during their homeless experience.

Survey Question: Has your faith increased or decreased during your homeless experience?

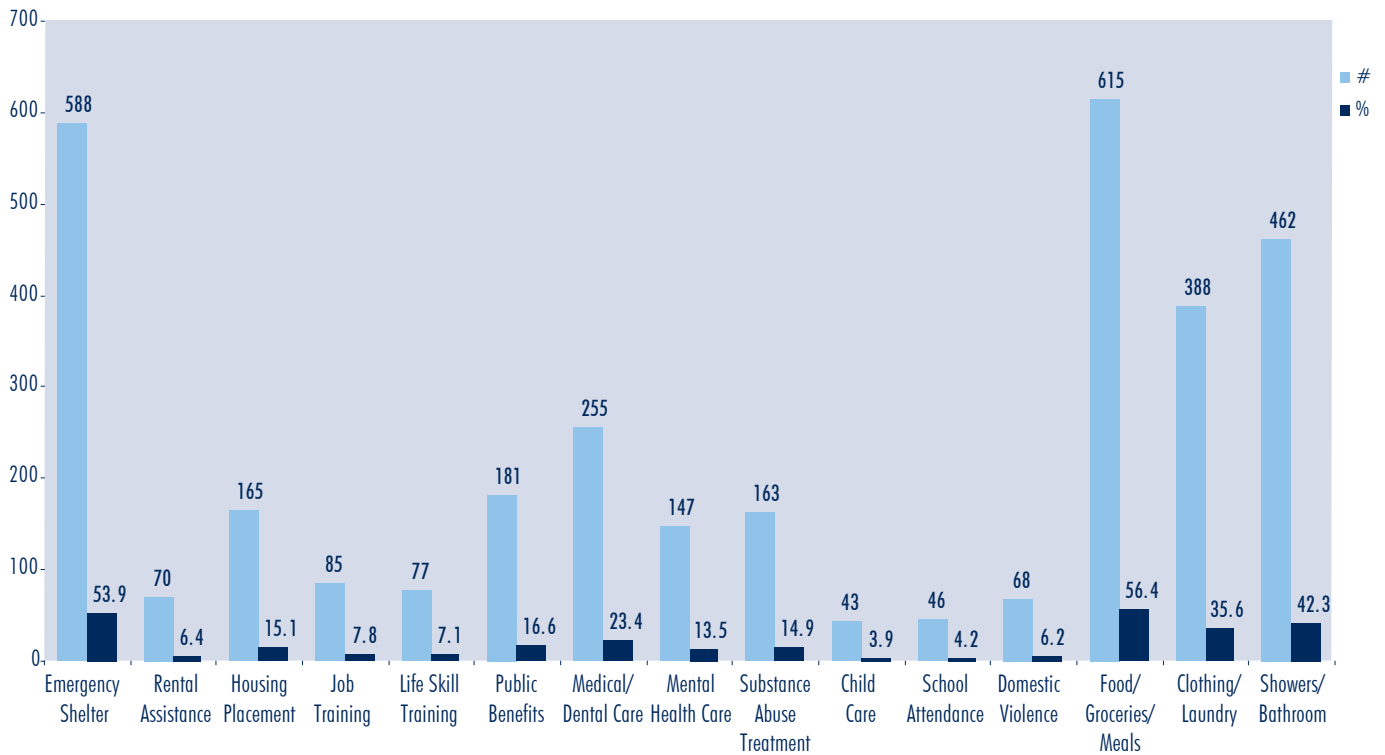


r. Social Services

This section focuses on services that survey respondents received in the past year and the type of services they feel that they need to get off the streets.

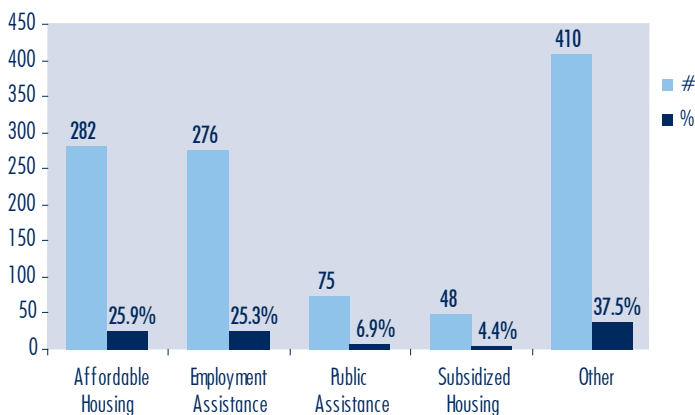
Survey Question: What social services have you accessed during the past year?

Of the various services noted in the table below, the two services that more than 50% of respondents received during the past year were food/groceries/meals and shelter—56.4% received food/groceries/meals and 53.9% shelter.



The next table lists the types of services that survey respondents stated that they need to get off the streets.

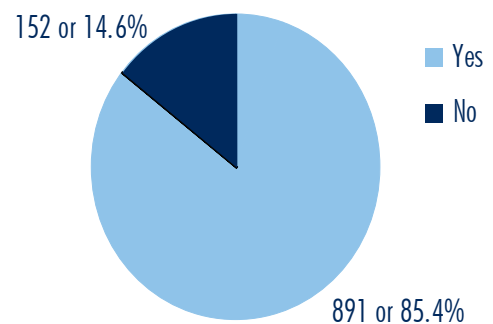
Survey Question: What Services Do You Feel You Need To Get Off The Streets?



More than 50% of survey respondents (51.2%) noted that they needed affordable housing and employment assistance to get off the streets—

25.9% stated affordable housing and 25.3% employment assistance.

Survey Question: Would You Be Willing To Sign A Social Contract In Order To Obtain Services?



A large majority (85.4%) of survey respondents stated that they would be willing to sign a contract in order to receive services.

Section D

Conclusion

County of Riverside 2004/2005 Homeless Assessment

There is one thing that we can all agree on – the streets are not a home. The information and issues identified within this report underlines the complex nature of homelessness within Riverside County. However, one thing that becomes very clear is the fact that homelessness is not caused merely by a lack of shelter, but involves a variety of underlying issues – physical, economic and social – that must be addressed if we are to fully alleviate homelessness as we know it today within our communities.

The results of the 2005 Homeless Census combined with the results of the 2004 Homeless Survey provides us with a battery of information that serves as the basis for:

- understanding the nature and extent of the current trends in homelessness in Riverside County communities;
- responding to the unmet needs and gaps in services for homeless individuals and families in Riverside County;
- developing local community and county-wide strategies to meet the goal of ending homelessness as we know it today over the next ten years.

The challenge is to develop solution-oriented approaches through a well-coordinated, outcome driven social service system designed to directly meet the needs of our local homeless population. Such activities will further build upon collaborative efforts between homeless service providers, business enterprises,

residents, faith-based organizations, other community agencies, and local government that will provide service-enriched program environments in which homeless persons will receive the tools necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and maintain permanent housing. Thus, an important use of this report is to provide accurate information necessary to design and implement the housing and social service assistance needed to bring homeless persons back into our workforce, schools, faith-based institutions, and other community institutions and provide the means for them to become stable, productive contributors to our communities.

To this end, the County of Riverside 2004/2005 Homeless Assessment will serve as a foundation for “The County of Riverside 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness.” The awareness and understanding of our homeless population developed through this effort will help enable public and private partners and all concerned in Riverside County to formulate findings and make recommendations to substantially reduce the incidence of homelessness within this County.

Ten years ago, the National Alliance to End Homelessness put out the initial challenge that “ending homelessness is well within the nation’s grasp.” The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness has adopted this approach and has worked with a wide range of federal agencies to focus significant attention and resources to pursue this goal on a national and local level.

“Five year ago the notion of (local communities) having 10-year plans to end homelessness was naïve and risky. No one thought it was possible. But the new research and new technologies have created such movement and innovation on this issue that it may now be naïve and risky not to have such a plan.”

- Executive Director, Philip Mangano, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Whatever the limitations of the data, the clear message is that there are homeless men, women and children in crisis in Riverside County. They are comprised of many racial/ethnic groups. Some are alcoholics, drug addicts, and mentally ill persons; and some suffer from a combination of all three. Others

are victims of other domestic violence or other people’s alcohol and drug abuse. The types of assistance needed to get them in stable housing, address their social service needs and increase their incomes are not so different from the types of assistance that have long been recommended to help all women, men, and children with these difficulties—the need is only more intense and more immediate in the context of homelessness.