

**Manchester's Continuum of Care
Annual Survey
of
Manchester's Homeless
Population**



Introduction

The Manchester Continuum of Care's (CoC) Homeless Liaison Committee conducts an annual survey to remain up-to-date on the demographic trends and needs of the homeless individuals in Manchester, New Hampshire. This survey compliments the Point In Time (PIT) Count and strives to gather more in-depth information that can help agencies and organizations better serve the Manchester's homeless population.

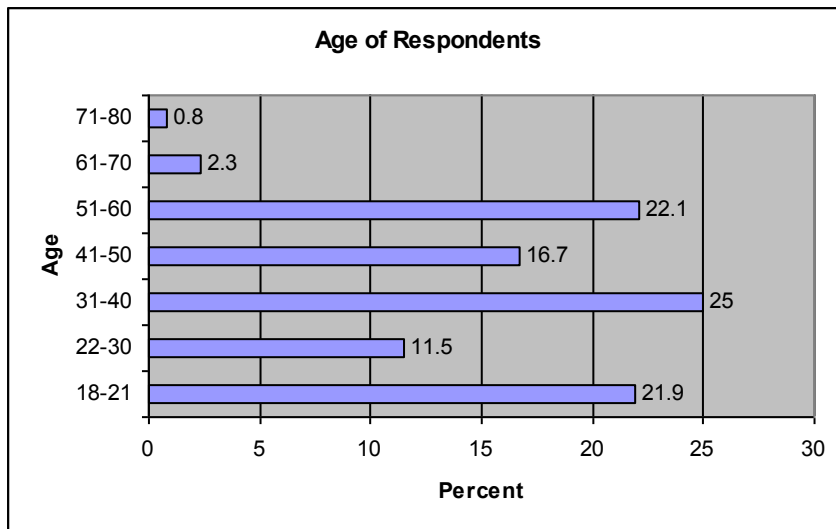
The survey consists of 33 closed-ended questions. Questions were derived from surveys conducted in past years, examples of surveys conducted by other CoC's across the nation and input from homeless service providers and HMIS staff.

Survey Methodology

The Continuum of Care's Homeless Liaison Committee members conducted outreach to all homeless service providers located in Manchester, New Hampshire. Staff members from each participating agency were responsible for administering surveys to their homeless constituents and for getting surveys back to the Homeless Liaison Committee. The total number of surveys collected was 135. The data was entered in Survey Monkey, a web-based data processing tool which allows for quick and easy data entry and analysis.

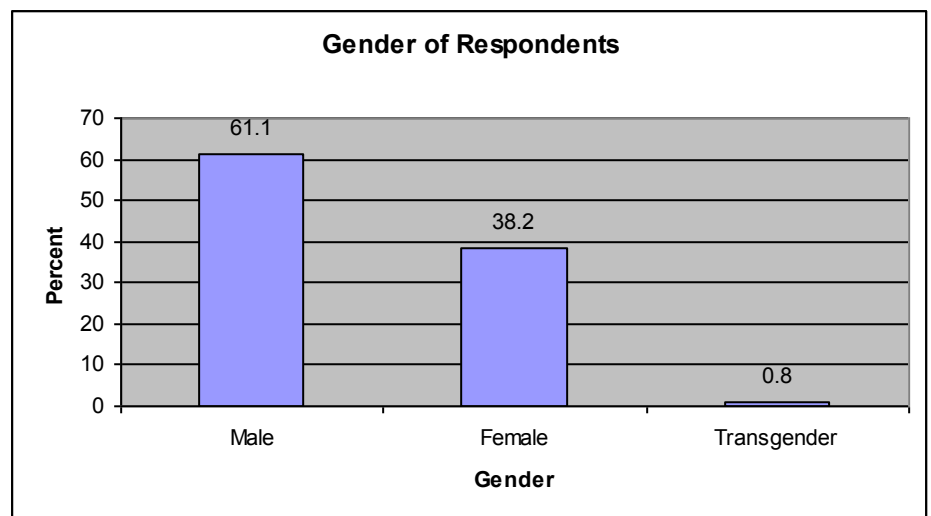
Demographic Information

Respondents were asked demographic questions designed to get a better understanding of the general characteristics of the homeless population in Manchester.

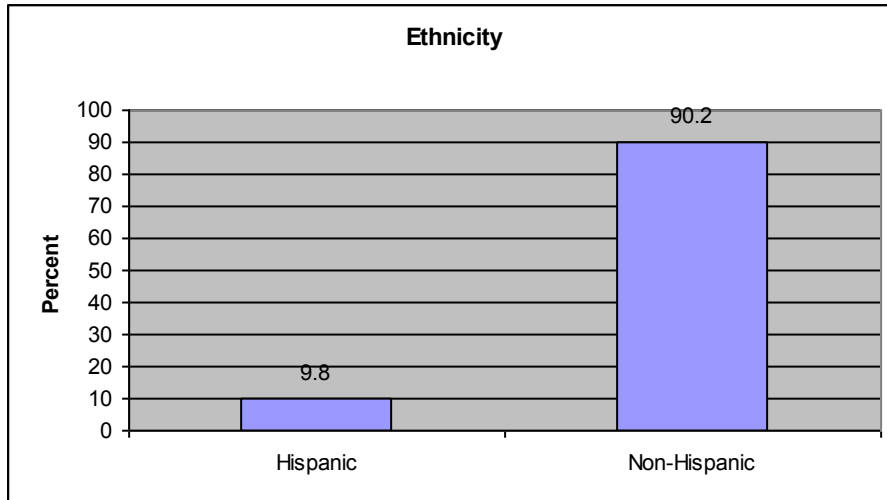


The age of the homeless population in Manchester is spread across several different age groups. The three age groups containing the highest number of respondents were in the middle three categories (18-21, 31-40 and 51-60). 25% of survey respondents were between age 31-40. While the percentage of respondents in all of the age groups varied from the last survey conducted in July of 2007, the percentage of respondents between ages 18-21 saw the greatest increase, from 10.1% to 21.9%.

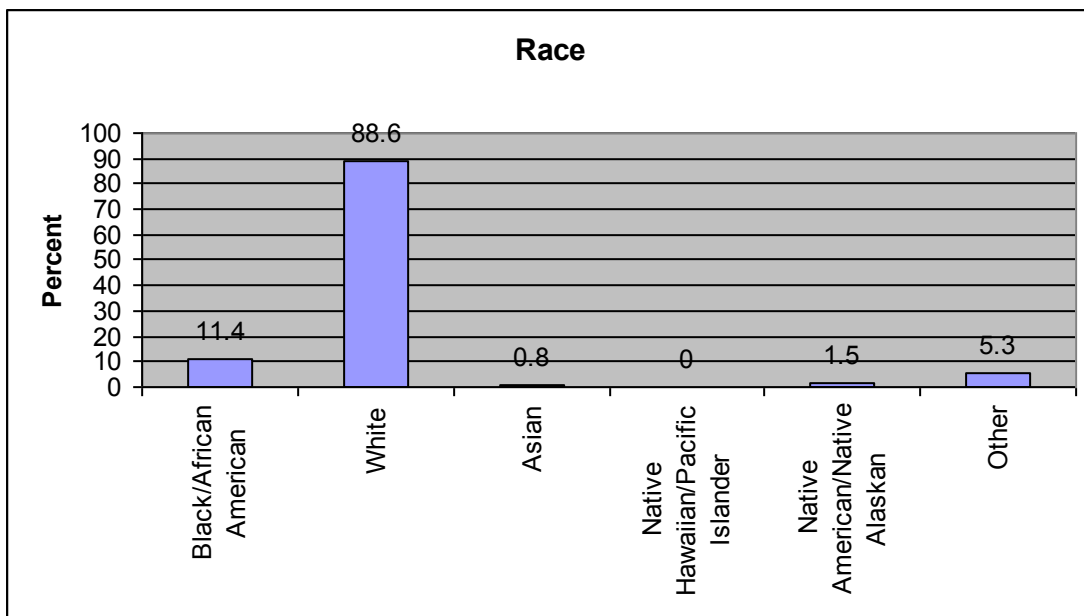
More males than females responded to the survey, which is consistent with the findings from the previous survey. In this survey, however, the gap between the two percentages was greater, with less females and more males responding. .8% of the respondents were transgender, which is an increase from the last survey in which there were no transgender respondents.



Demographic Information



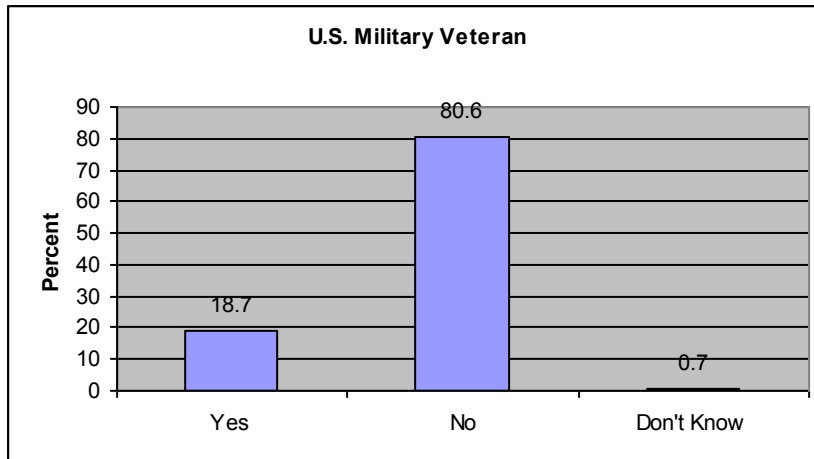
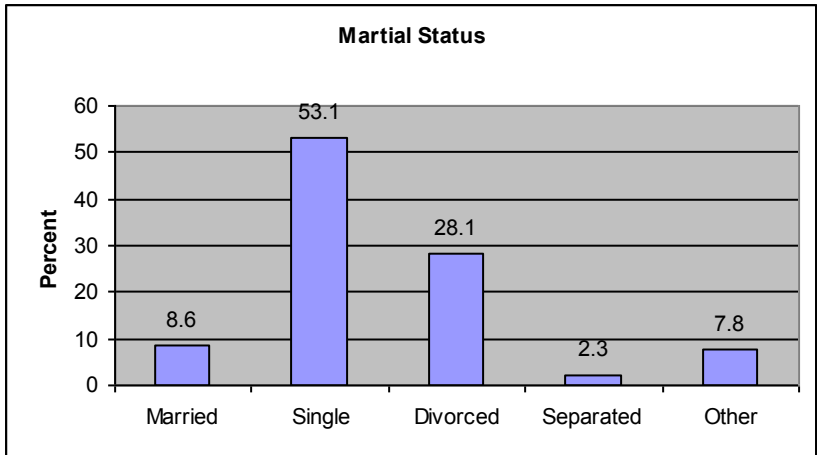
The overwhelming majority of the respondents were Non-Hispanic (90.2%). The number of Hispanic respondents increased slightly from the last survey, from 6.1% to 9.8%. Based on the 2000 US Census the percentage of Manchester's population that is Hispanic is 4.6%, which suggests that Hispanics are overrepresented among the homeless in Manchester.



The predominant race of respondents was White (88.6%). Black/African American respondents made up 11.4% of the sample. According to the 2000 Census the percentage of Manchester's population that is White is 91.8% and the percentage that is Black/African American is 2.1%. This data suggests that while whites are underrepresented among the homeless in Manchester, like Hispanics, African Americans are overrepresented.

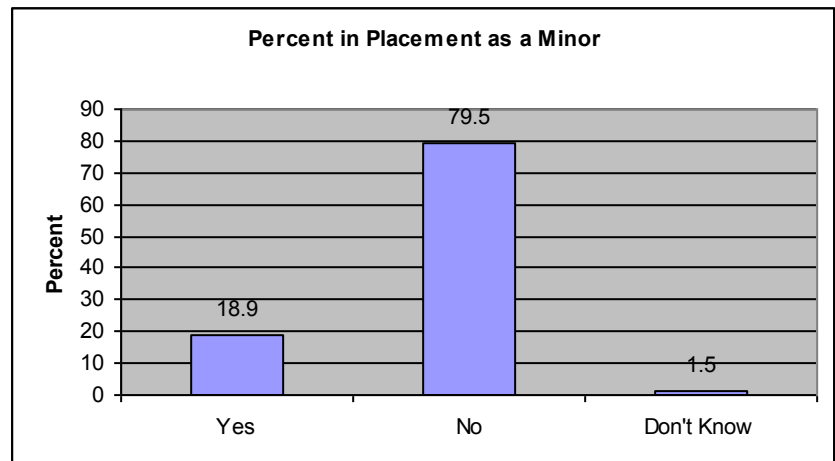
Demographic Information

The majority of the respondents reported being single (53.1%). Over 30% of the sample reported being divorced or separated. Only 8.6% of the sample reported being married.

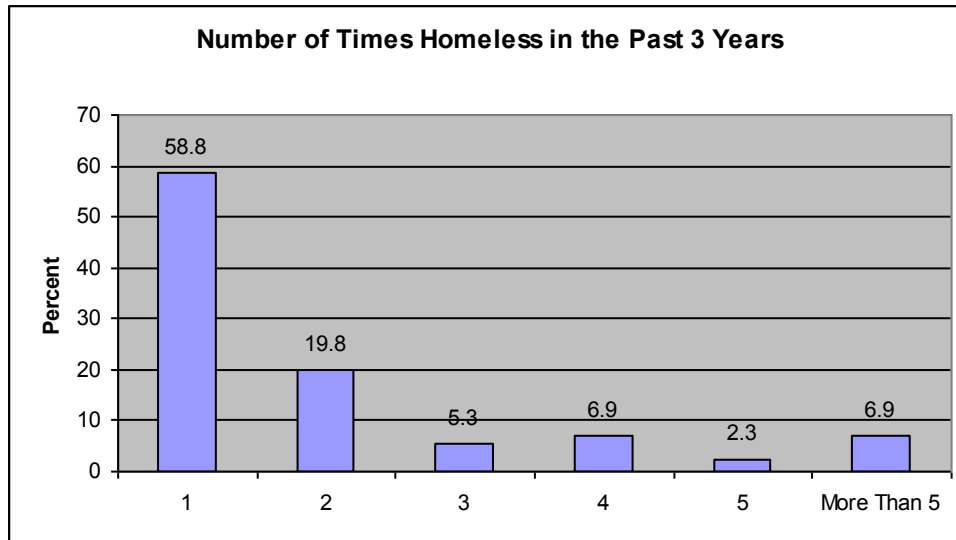


Close to 20% of the sample reported being a military veteran.

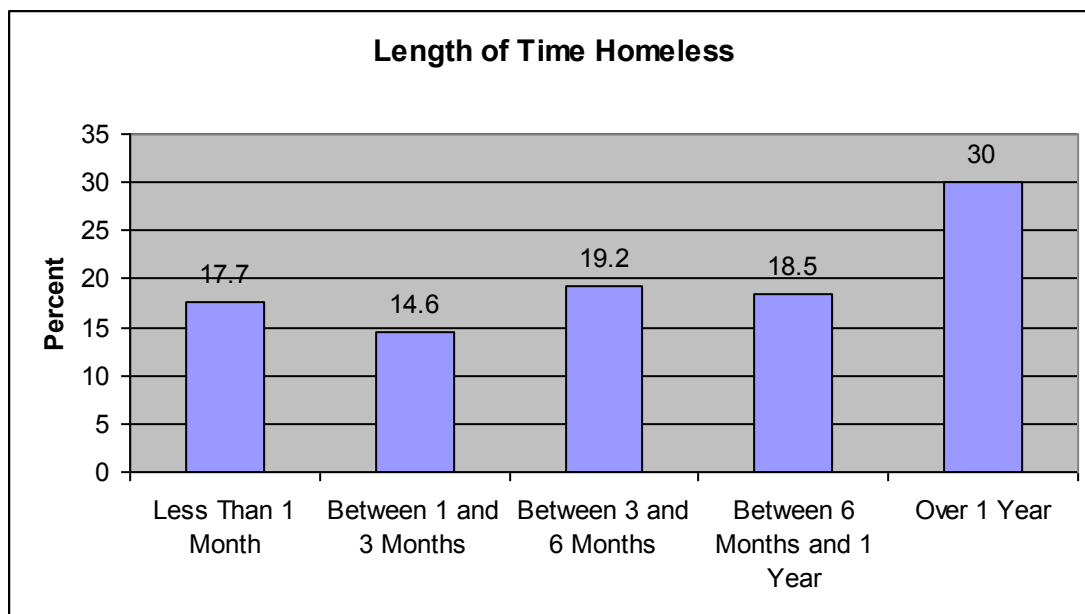
18.9% of respondents reported being in placement as a youth. According to a study by the National Alliance to End Homelessness “between three and ten of the nation’s homeless adults report foster care history”.



Homeless Experience

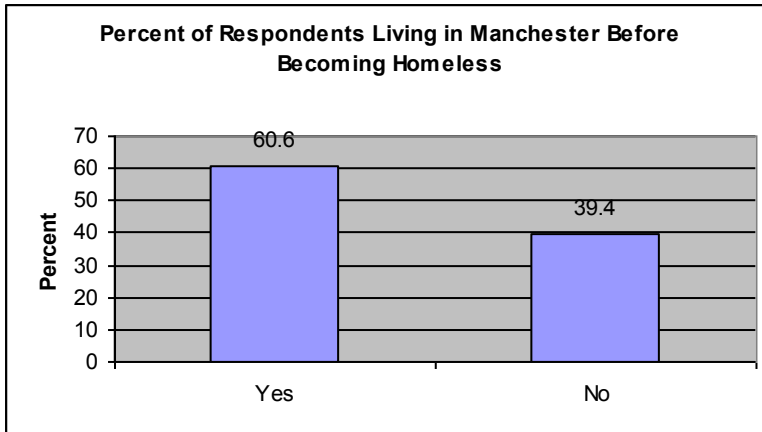


The majority of respondents have been homeless one time in the past three years (58.8%). Almost 20% have been homeless two times in the past three years. Over a fifth of the respondents reported being homeless three or more times in the past three years. Of these, 6.9% were homeless more than five times in the past three years.



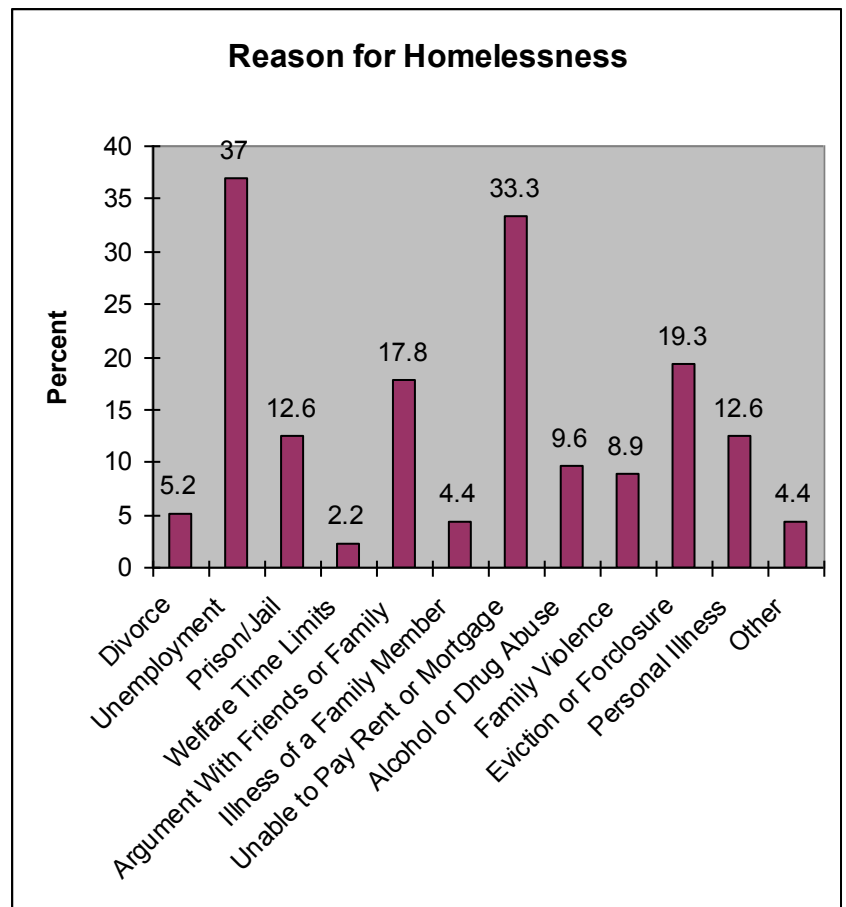
The length of time that respondents spent homeless ranged from less than one month to over a year. The highest percentage of respondents have been homeless for over a year, (30%).

Homeless Experience

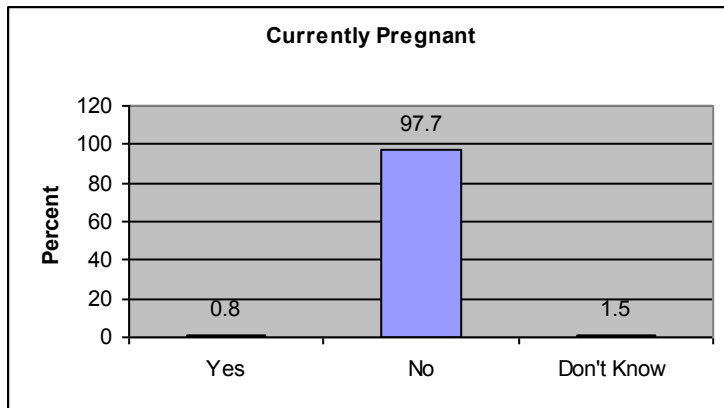


60.6% of respondents reported living in Manchester before becoming homeless.

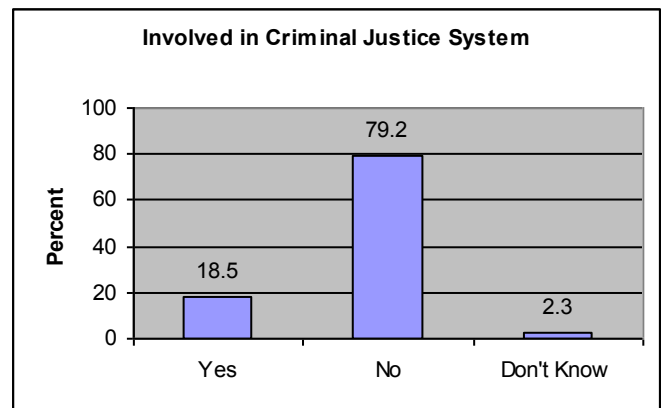
Respondents' reasons for becoming homeless are varied. The two reasons with the highest percentage of responses included unemployment (37%) and inability to pay rent or mortgage (33.3%).



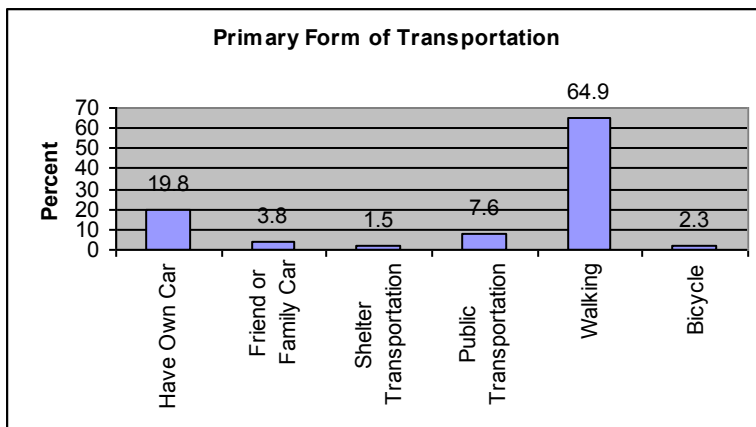
Homeless Experience



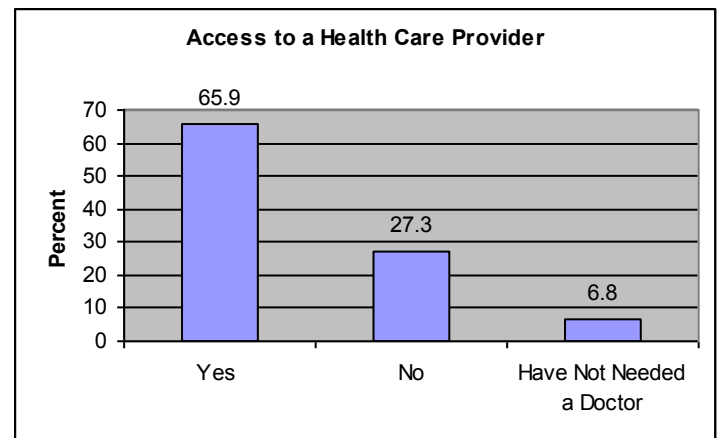
Less than 1% of female respondents reported being currently pregnant.



Close to 20% of respondents reported being currently involved in the criminal justice system.

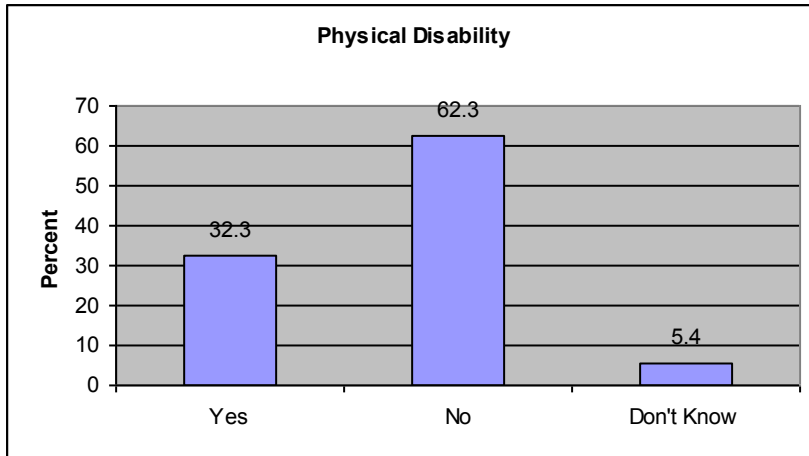


The majority of the respondents reported using walking as their primary form of transportation, (64.9%). Only 7.6% use public transportation and only 2.3% use a bicycle. Close to 20% of respondents reported that their own car was their primary means of transportation.

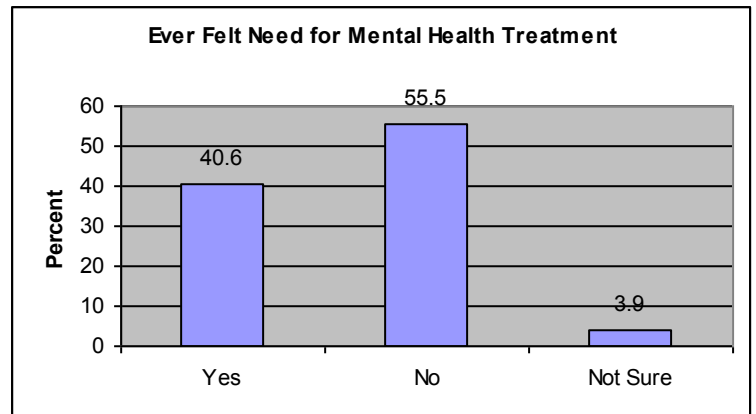
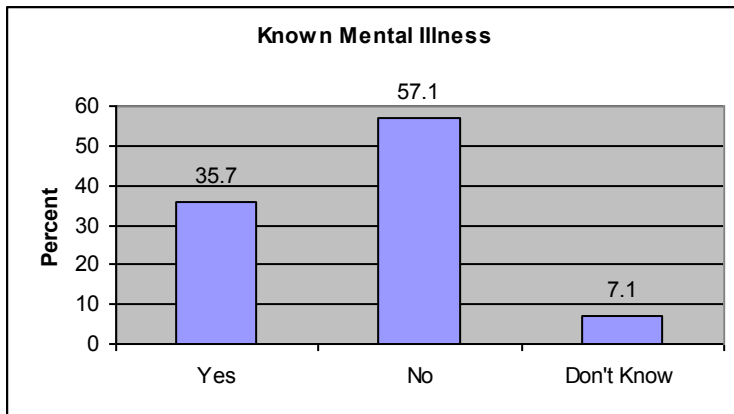


65.9% of respondents reported having access to some form healthcare if needed.

Mental Illness & Physical Disabilities

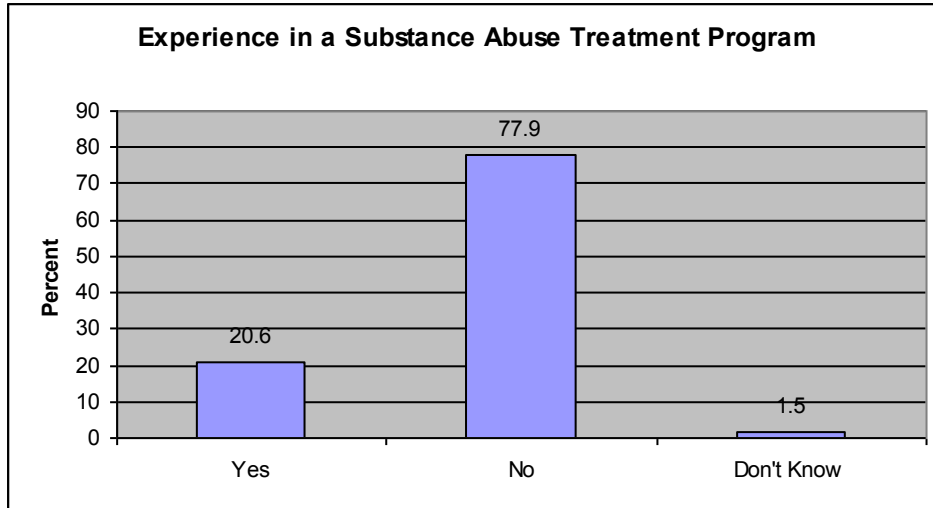


Almost 1/3 of respondents reported having a physical disability.

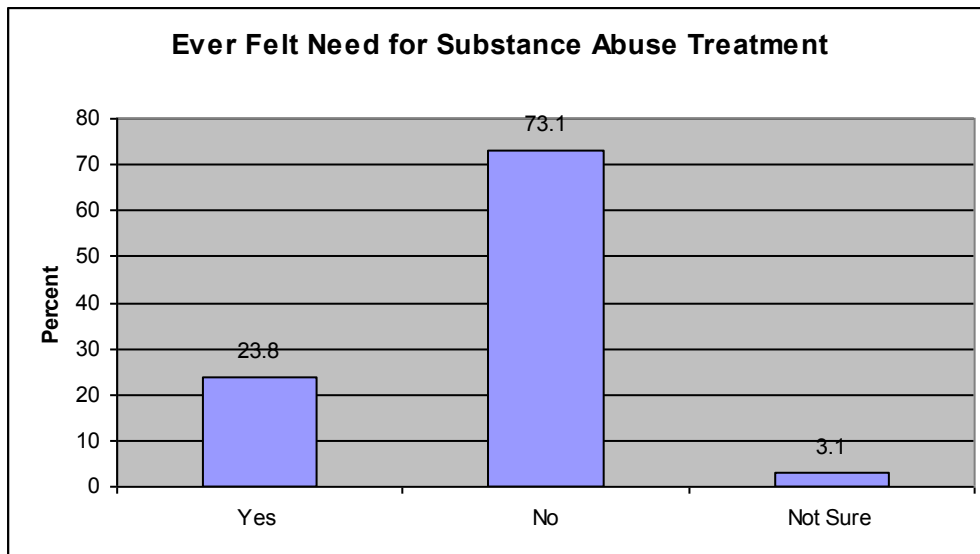


35.7% of respondents reported having a known mental illness. Slightly over 40% of the sample reported that they have felt the need for mental health services at some point in their lives.

Substance Abuse

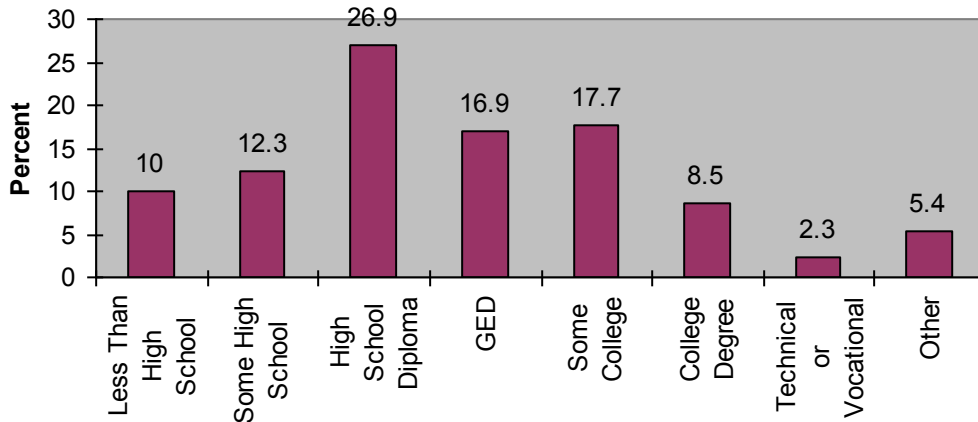


Over a fifth of the respondents reported having experience with a substance abuse program. Slightly more than this number (23.8%) reported that they have felt the need for substance abuse treatment at some point in their lives.



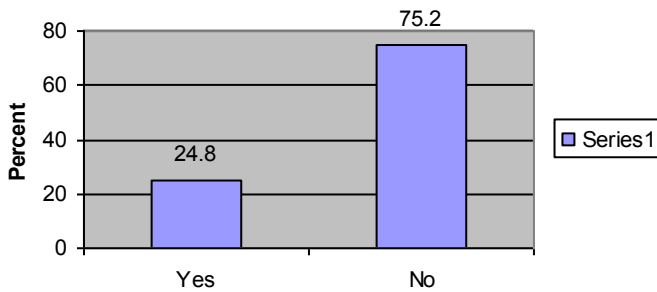
Education and Employment

Education Level

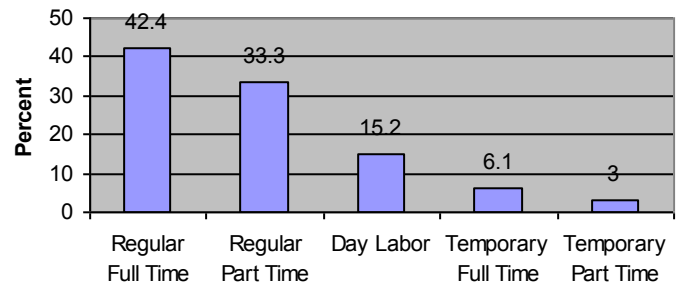


The majority of respondents held at least a high school diploma at the time of the survey. Almost a quarter of the respondents had some form of advanced degree experience.

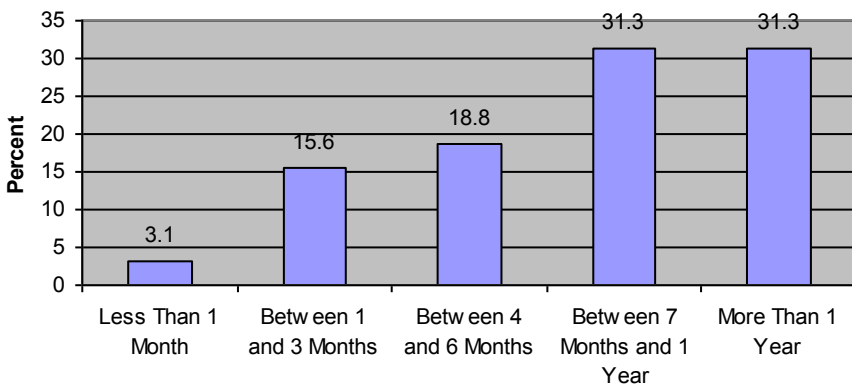
Employment



Employment Schedule

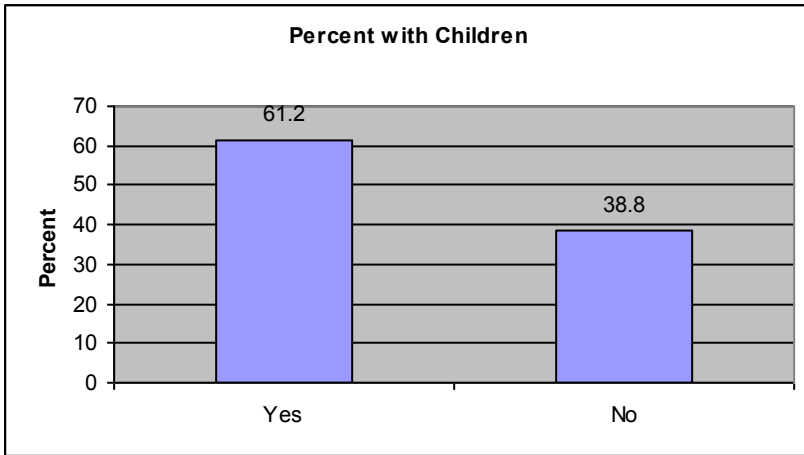


Length of Employment



Almost a quarter of the respondents reported being currently employed. Of these, 42.4% had a regular fulltime job and 33.3% had a regular part-time job. 15.2% was engaging in some type of day labor, while 6.1% were engaging in some type of temporary labor. The majority of employed respondents had held their job for 7 months or more.

Children & Families



61.2% of respondents had children. However, the majority of the respondents with children reported that they were not currently residing with their children. (59.8%)

Almost 70% of the sample reported having only one or two children.

80% of parents with school aged children reported that their children were currently enrolled in school.

