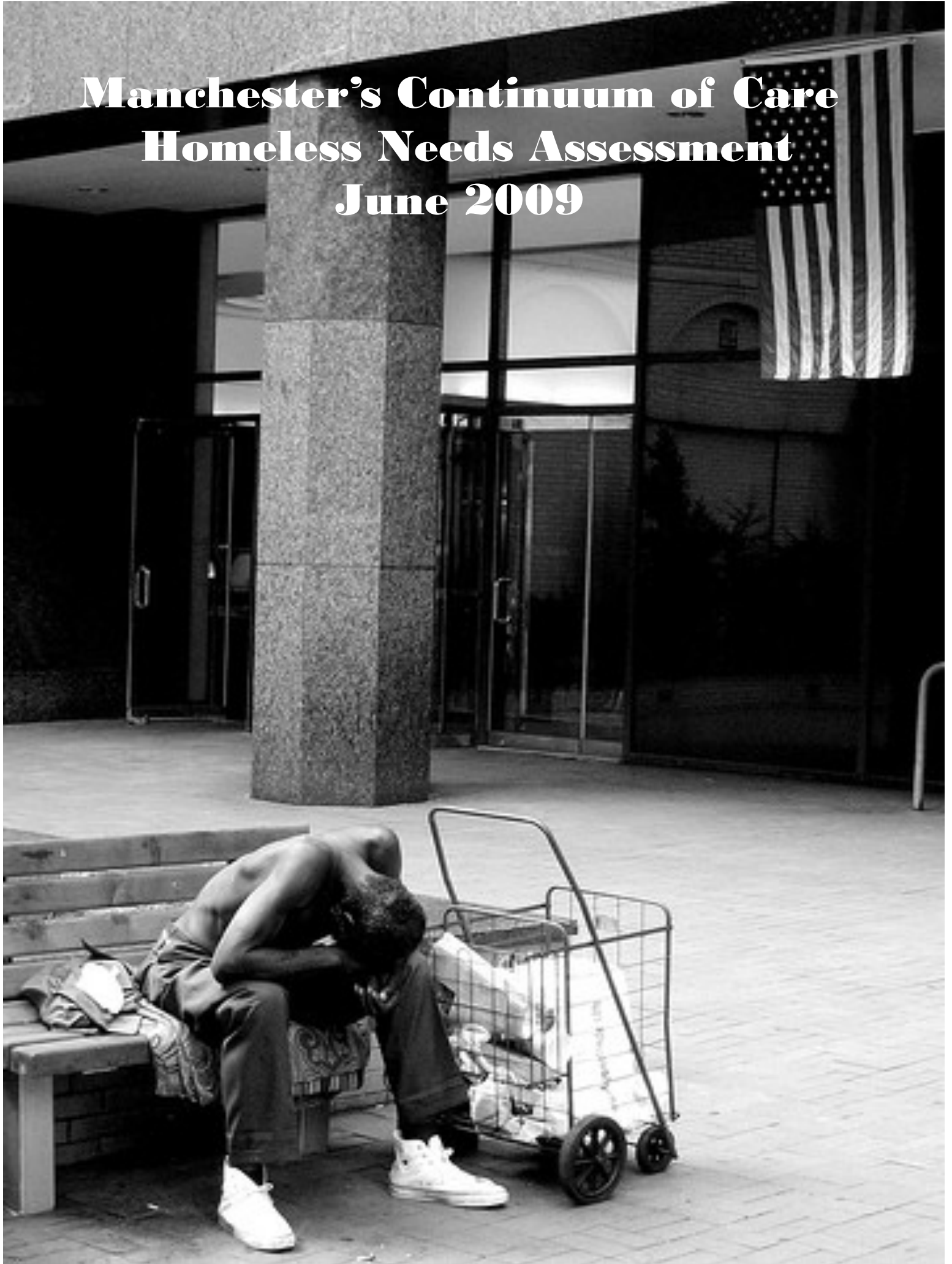


**Manchester's Continuum of Care
Homeless Needs Assessment
June 2009**



Introduction

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

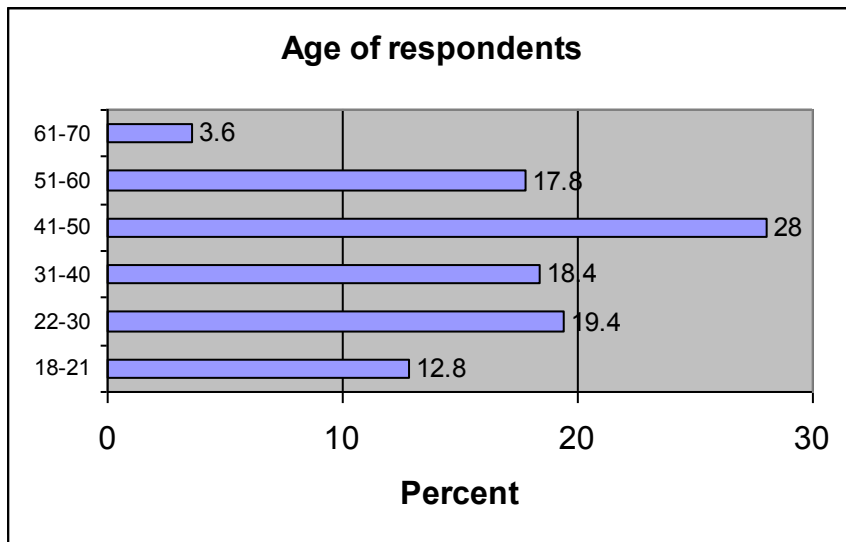
The survey consists of 33 closed-ended questions. Questions came from annual surveys conducted in past years, examples of surveys conducted by other CoC's across the nation, and input from homeless service providers and HMIS staff.

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 310. 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

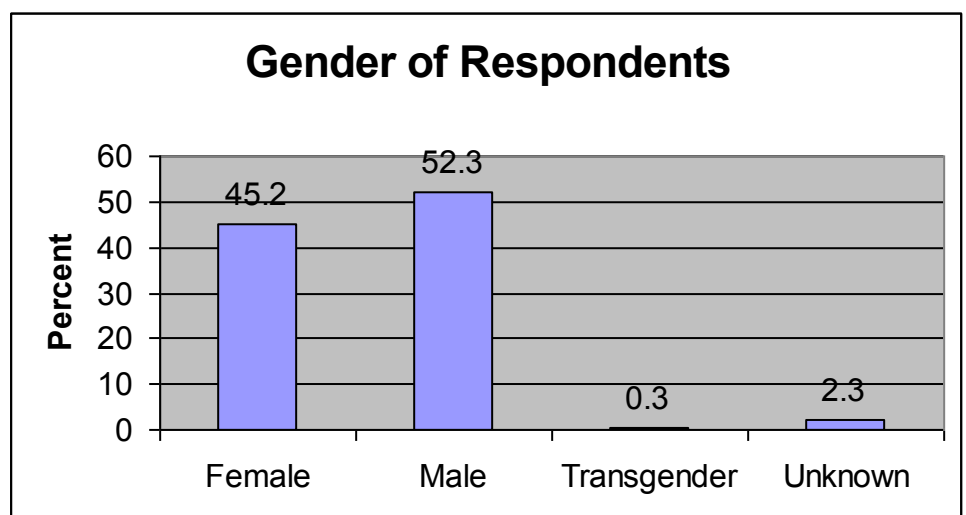
Respondents were asked general demographic questions in order to determine the characteristics of the homeless population in Manchester.



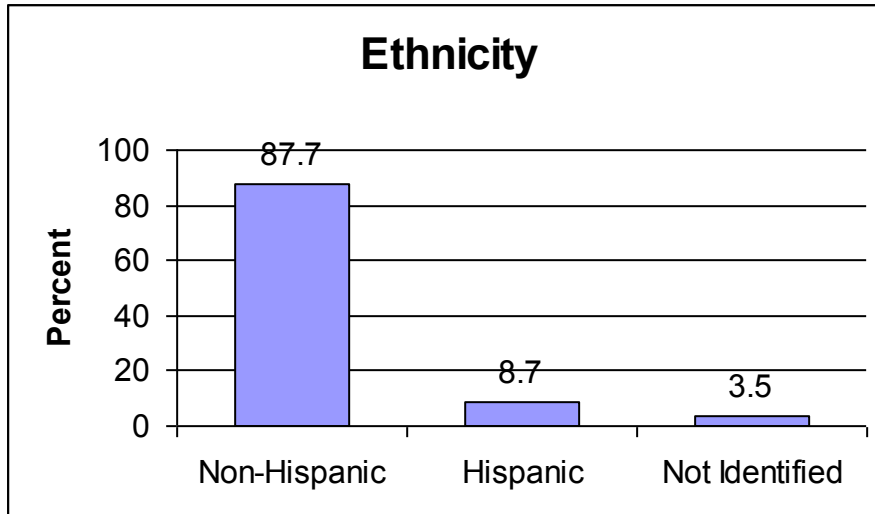
The ages of respondents spanned a wide range with the largest group falling into the 41-50 range (28%). Respondents in the 61-70 age range represented the smallest group (3.6%)

Compared to the last survey, the largest changes in respondent ages were represented in the 18-21 range (decreased by 9.1%) and the 41-50 range (increased by 11.3%)

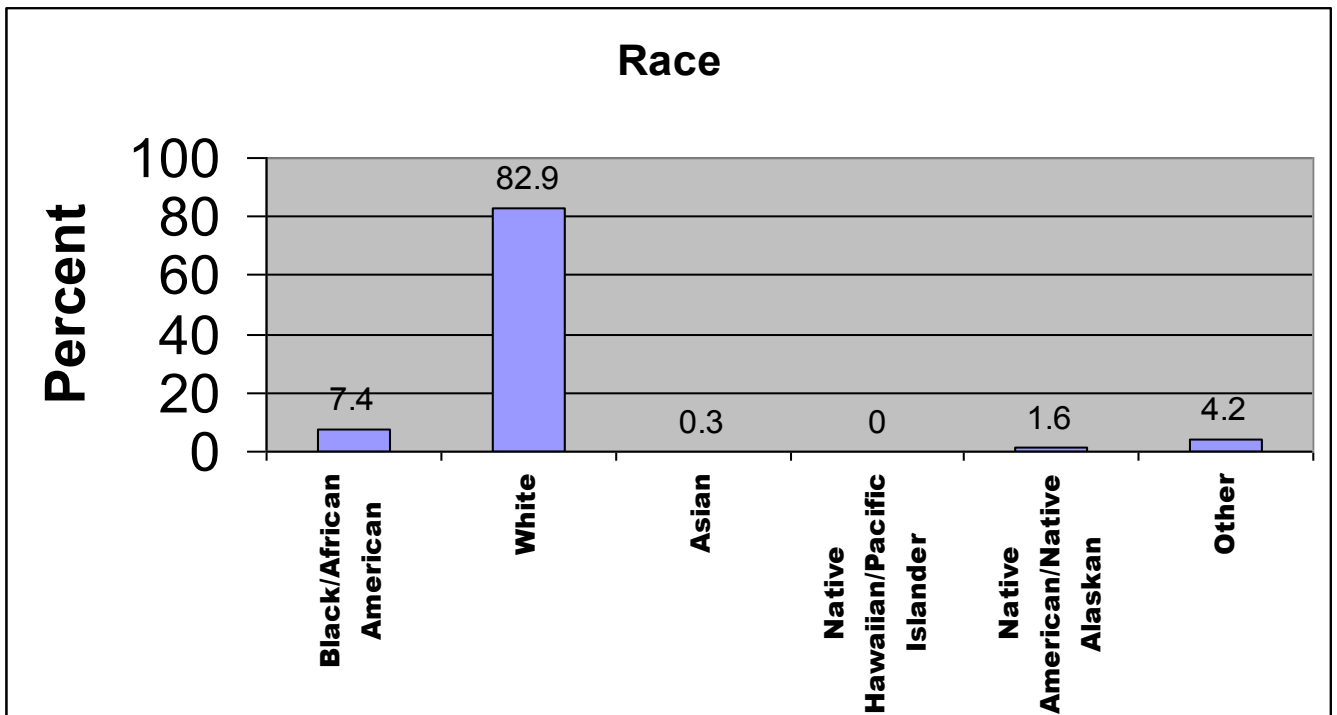
More males than females responded to the survey, which is consistent with previous results. However, the gap has been narrowing, with 7% more female respondents compared to the last survey



Demographic Information



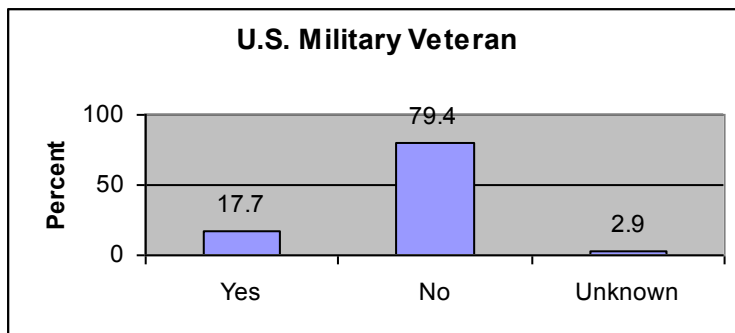
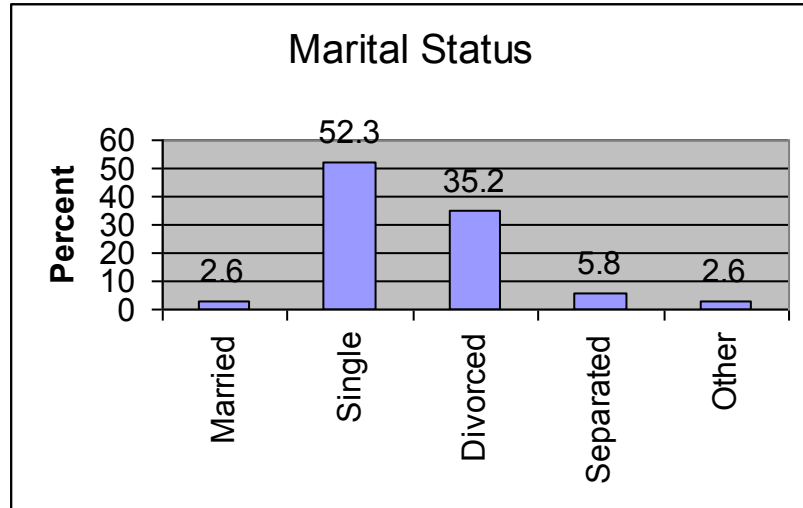
8.7% of respondents identified as Hispanic, representing a trend of increases over the last three surveys.



The majority of respondents (82.9%) indicated their race as White, with Black/African American respondents representing 7.4% .

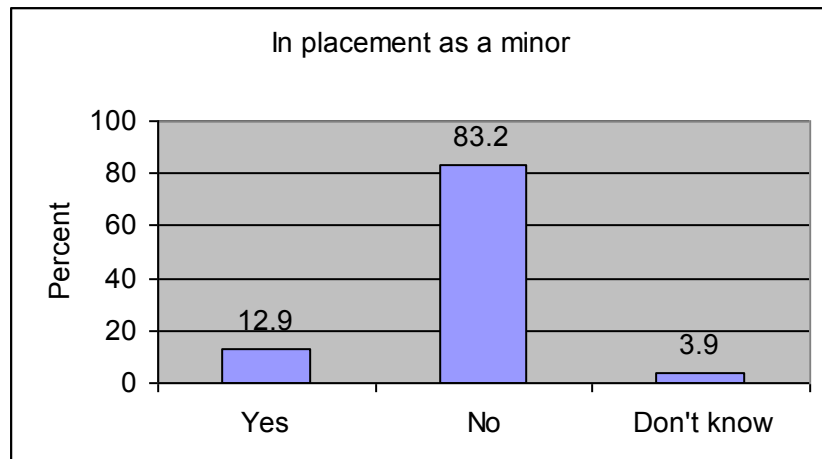
Demographic Information

The majority of the respondents are single (52.3%). The second highest percentage of respondents are divorced (35.2%).

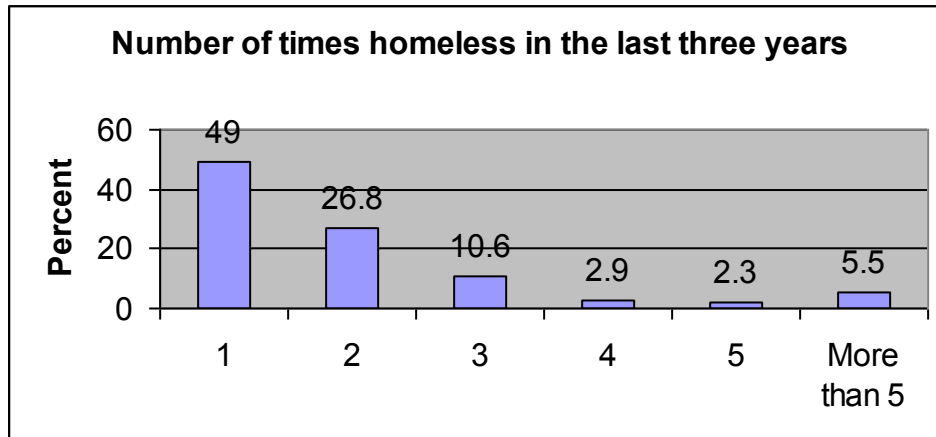


Military Veterans comprised 17.7% of respondents.

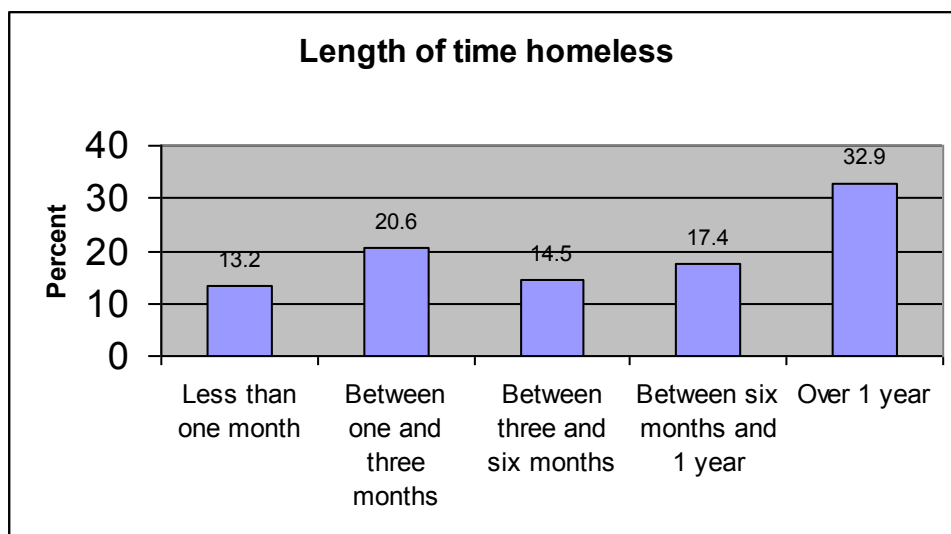
12.9% of respondents reported being in placement as a minor.



Homeless Experience

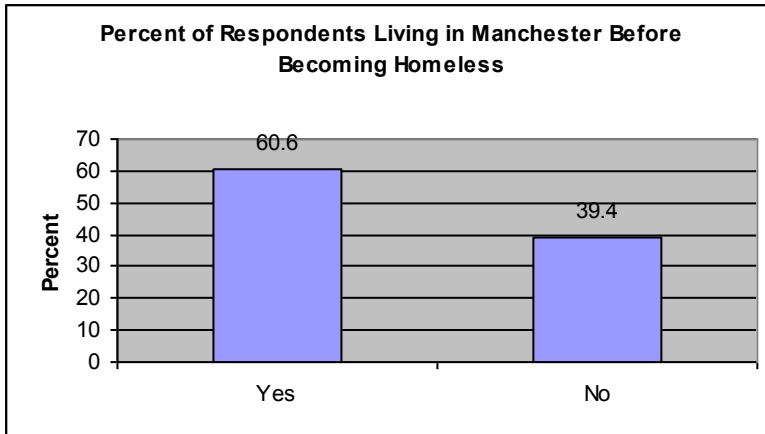


The majority of respondents have been homeless one time in the past three years (49%). Respondents who answered 4, 5, or more than 5 times collectively represent 10.7% of all respondents, placing them within the category of the “chronically homeless”.



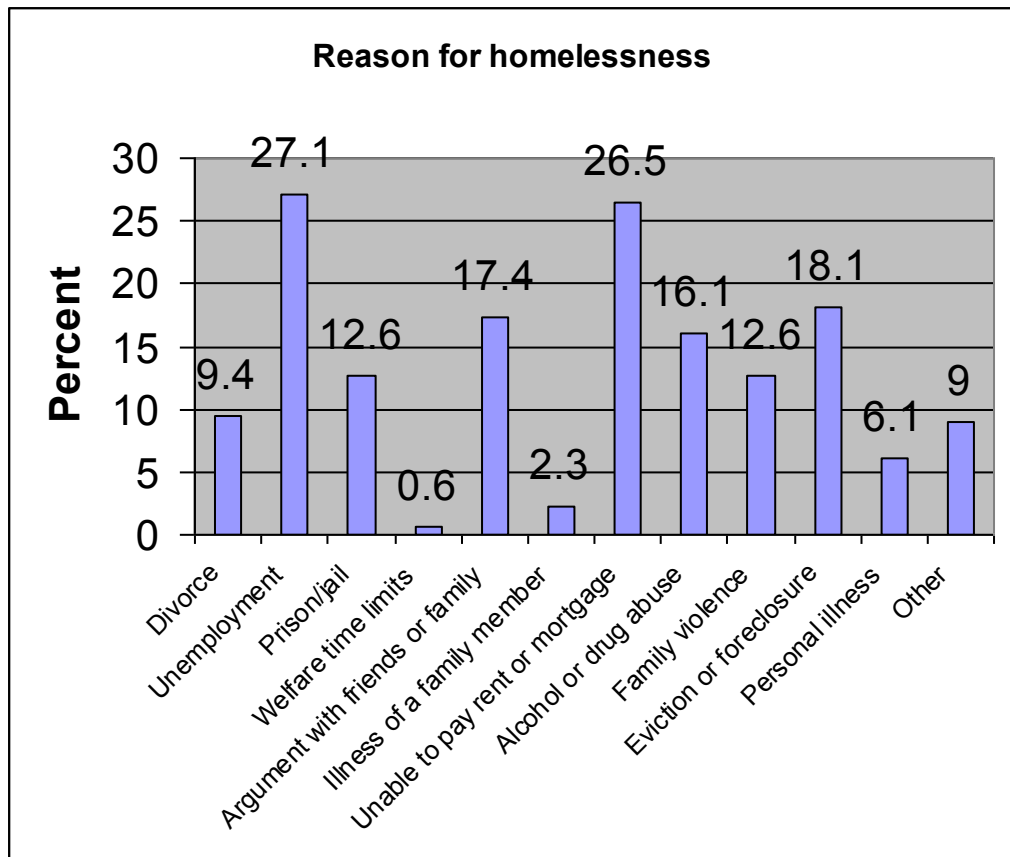
Respondents’ length of homelessness is varied and ranges from less than one month to over a year. The highest percentage of respondents have been homeless for over a year, 32.9%, also meeting criteria for the definition of “chronically homeless”.

Homeless Experience

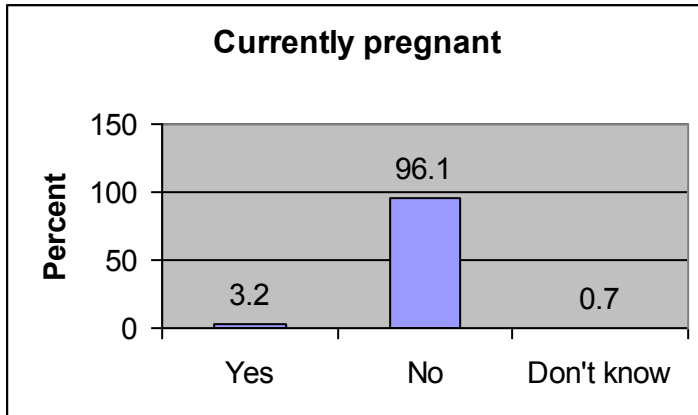


The percentage of respondents living in Manchester before becoming homeless is 60.6%.

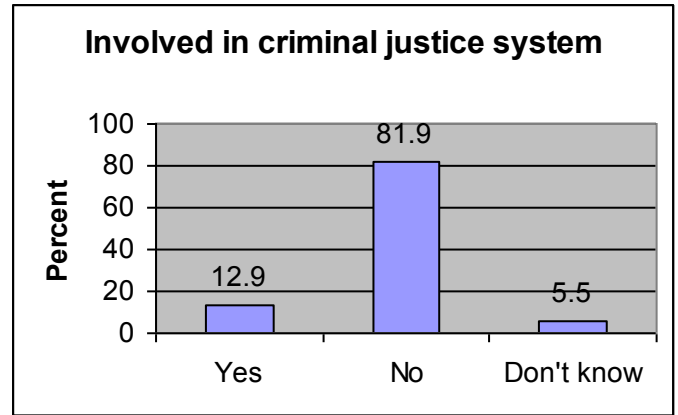
Respondents' reasons for becoming homeless are varied. The two reasons with the highest percentage are unemployment (27.1%) and inability to pay rent or mortgage (26.5%).



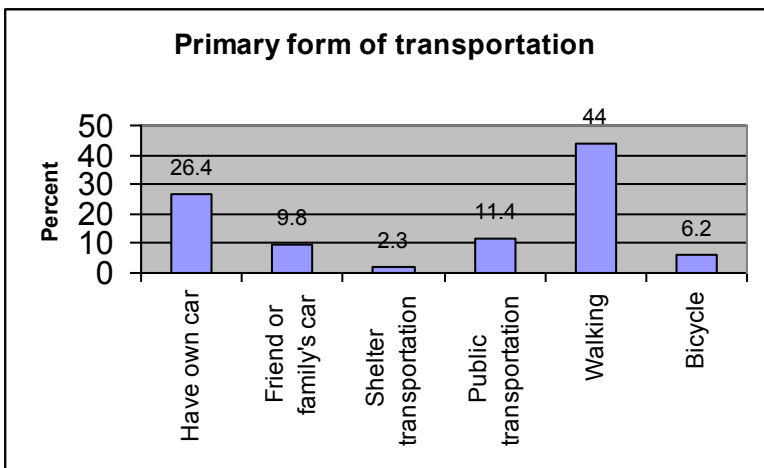
Homeless Experience



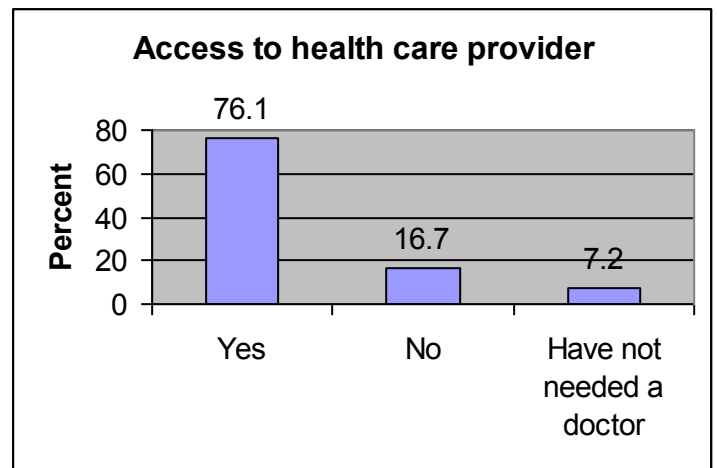
3.2% are currently pregnant



12.9 % are involved in the criminal justice system.

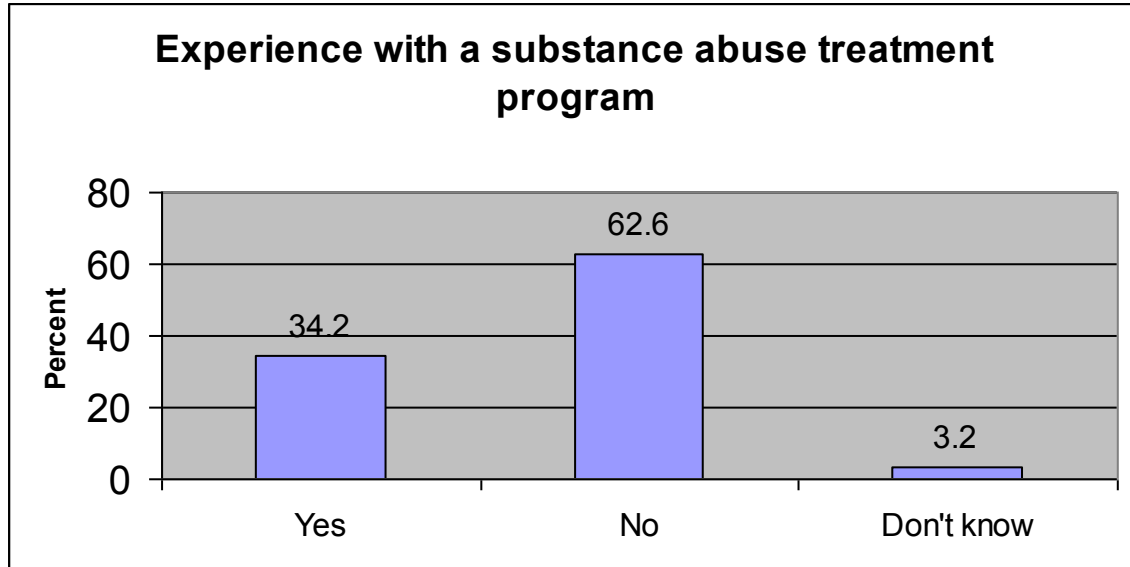


The majority of the respondents use walking as their primary form of transportation, 44%.

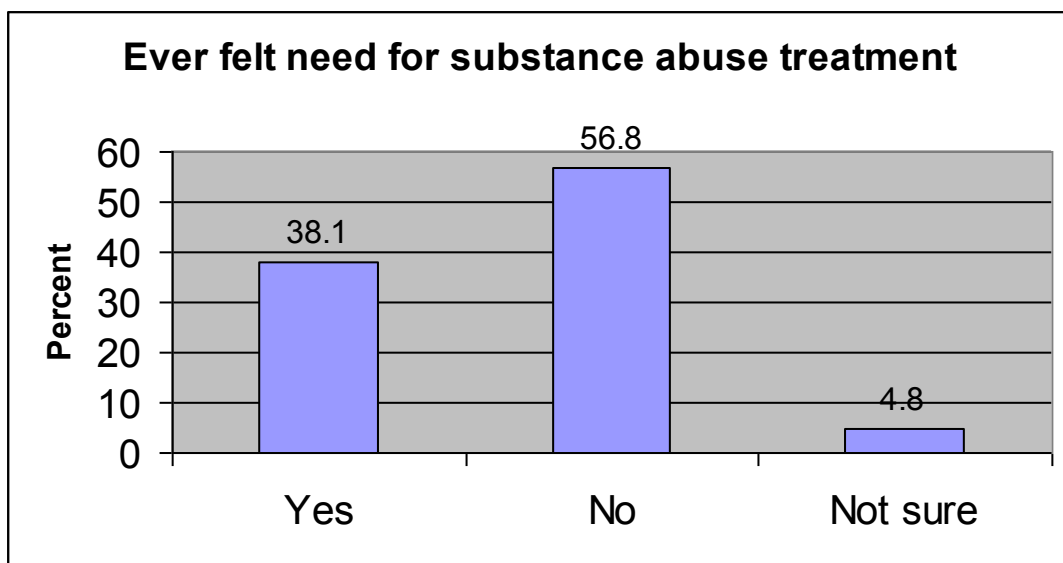


76.1% of respondents reported having access to healthcare.

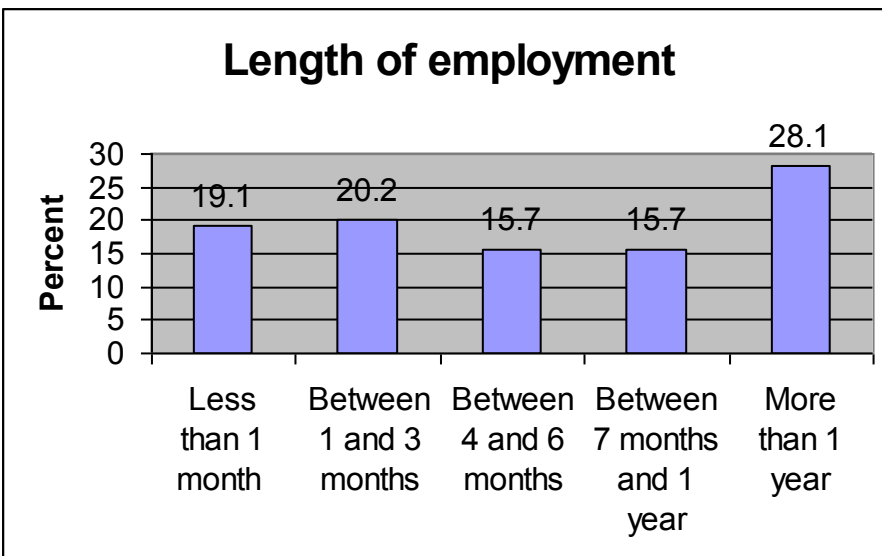
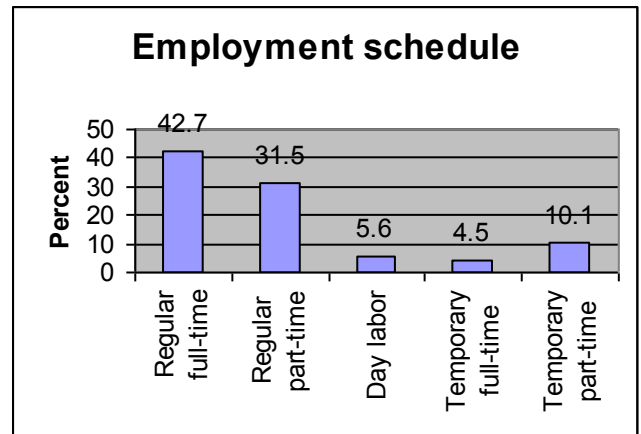
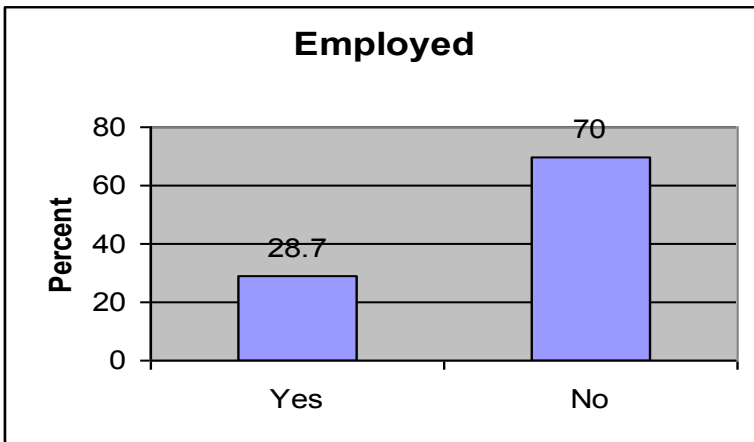
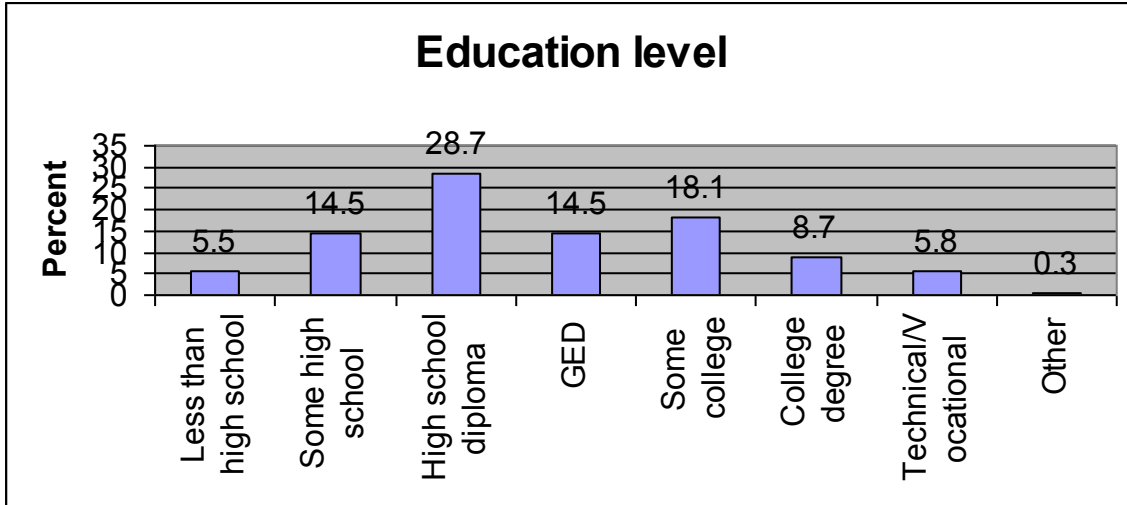
Substance Abuse



34.2% of respondents reported having had an experience with a substance abuse program. 38.1% reported having felt the need for substance abuse treatment at some time.



Education and Employment

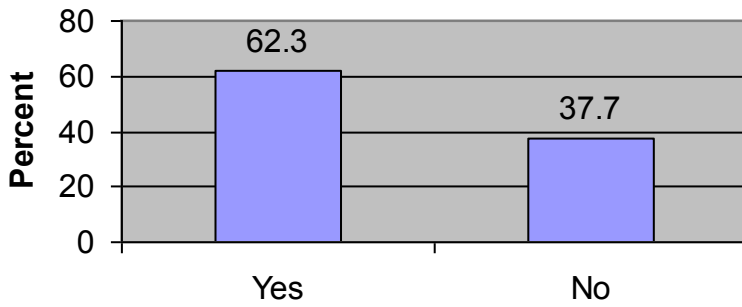


A majority of respondents have a high school diploma, 28.7%

28.7% of respondents are employed. Of these respondents, 42.7% have a regular full-time job and 28.1% have been working for more than 1 year.

Children & Families

Percent with children

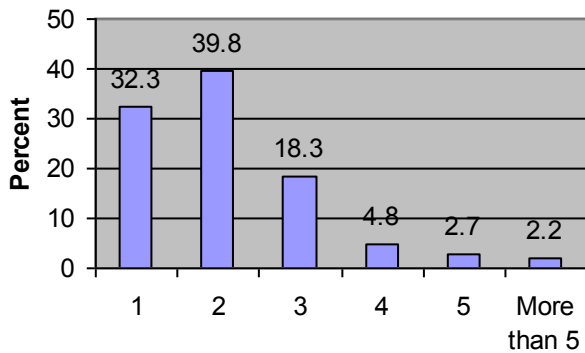


The percent of respondents who have children is 62.3%, the majority having one or two children (72.1%).

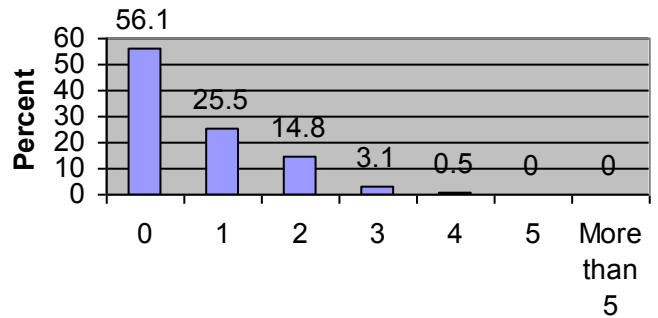
56.1% of those respondents with children do not currently reside with their children.

School aged children of respondents represented 47.3% . 83.8% of these children are currently enrolled in school.

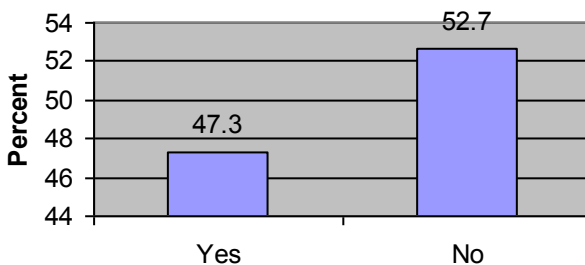
Number of children



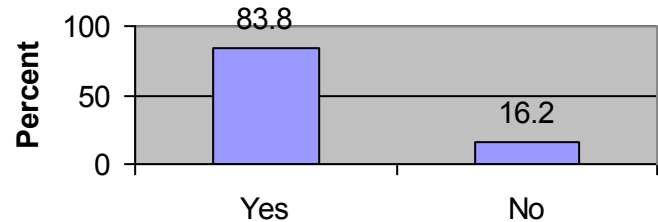
Number of children residing with respondent



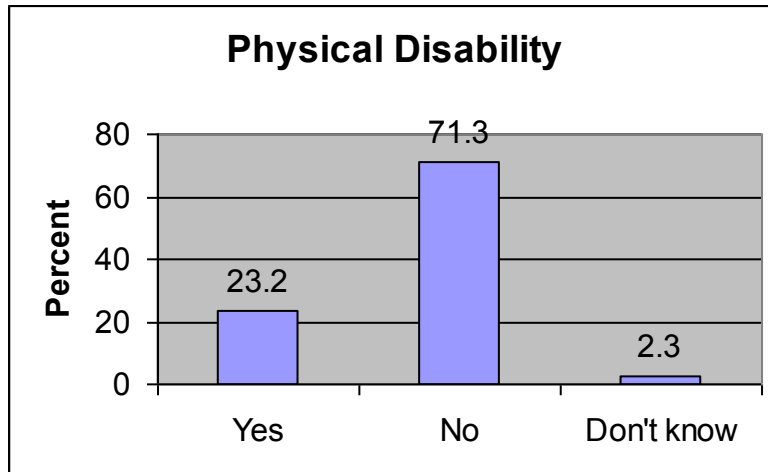
Percentage of respondent's children of school age



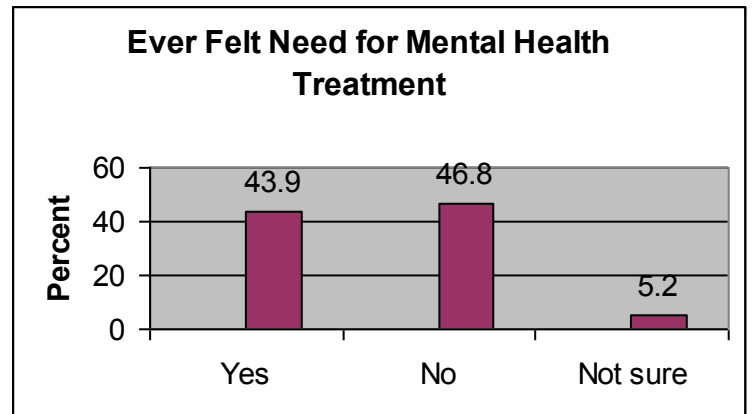
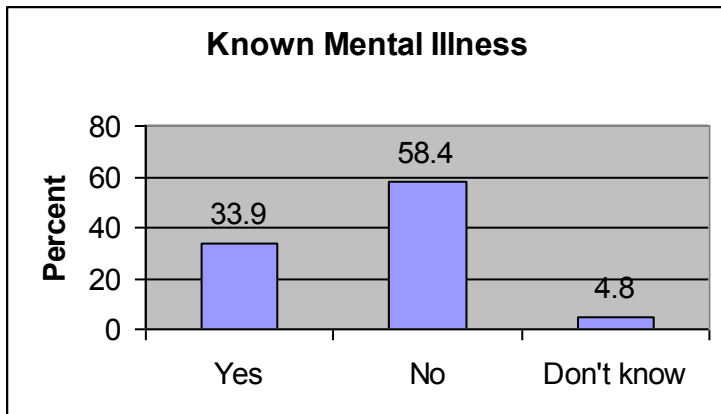
Percent of school enrollment among respondent's school aged children



Mental Illness & Physical Disabilities

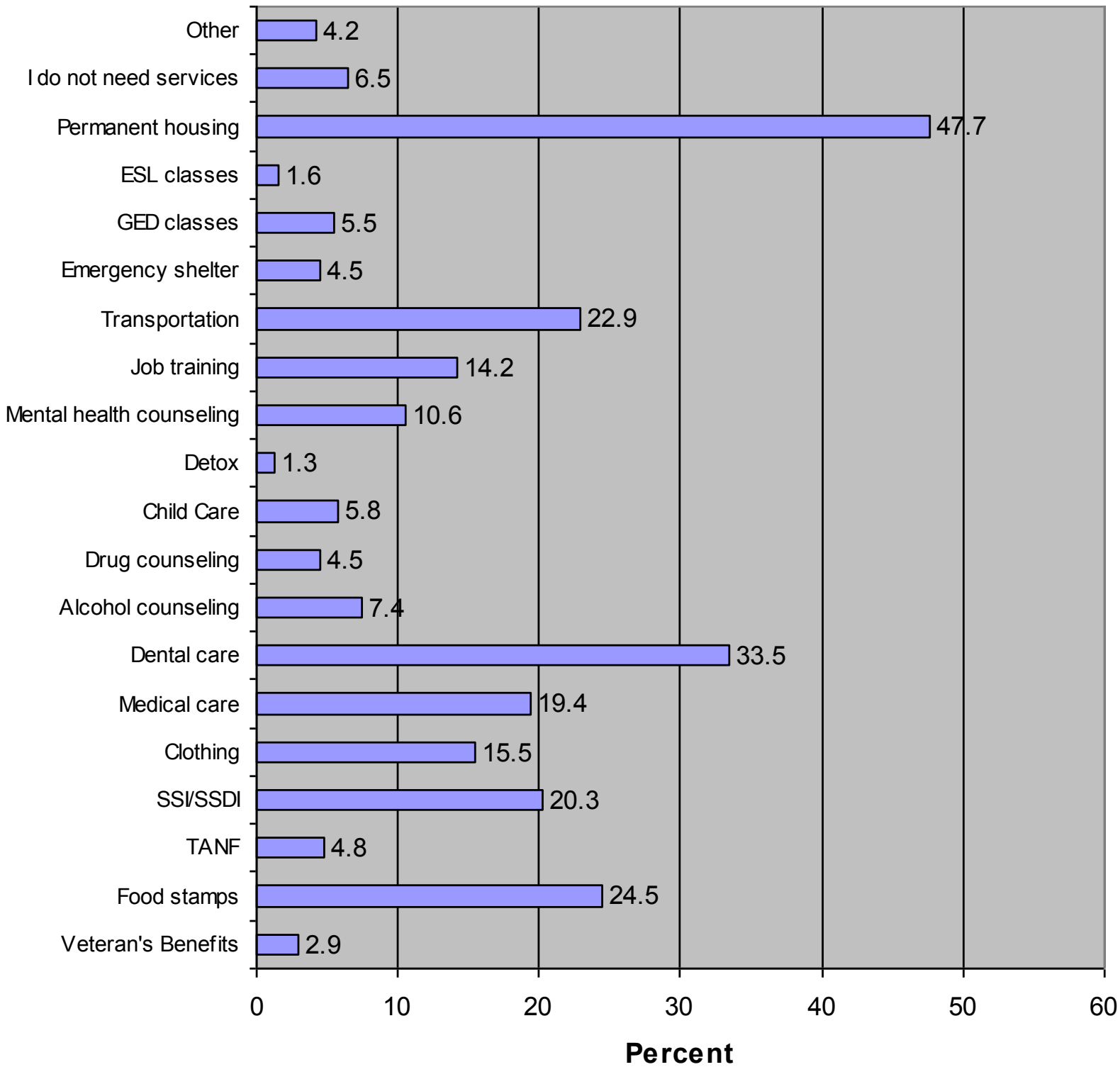


23.2% of respondents reported having a physical disability



33.9% of respondents reported having a known mental illness, consistent with national data indicating that approximately one-third of homeless people suffer from mental illness. 43.9% of respondents have at some point felt the need for mental health treatment, while 5.2% were not sure.

Services that respondents need but are not receiving



Respondents were asked to choose as many responses as they would like from a list of services. The top three needs identified by respondents were permanent housing (47.7%), dental care (33%), and Food Stamps (24.5%). On a follow up question, 28.3% of respondents identified permanent housing as the most difficult service to obtain.