



Clark County Homeless Youth Study

Submitted by:

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-HOMELESS YOUTH STUDY: INTRODUCTION/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS-

Introduction

In early 2005, a consortium of local homeless service providers comprised of the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY), St. Jude's Ranch for Children, the WestCare Foundation, and Girls and Boys Town commenced proactive discussions about the need to conduct an in-depth study addressing the size and scope of youth homelessness in Clark County, Nevada. The consortium of service providers conceptualized this study functioning not only as a benchmark of the incidence of youth homelessness in Clark County but as a diagnostic of descriptive characteristics, behavioral dispositions, and environmental circumstances that collectively define the experiences of homeless youth. It was an ambitious proposition considering that, at the time, a study specific to the homeless youth population would be the first of its kind undertaken within Clark County.

Whereas past efforts to describe our entire homeless population have provided valuable information in terms of a general understanding and estimation of Clark County's homeless population, descriptive and demographic characteristics (age, gender, ethnicity, etc.) in addition to behavioral dispositions (drug addiction, mental illness, criminal activity, etc.) have received only cursory measurement. The findings in this report are intended to build substantively upon what has been found in past studies of homelessness in Clark County by adding a critical dimension to the literature, one that speaks directly to the incidence of youth homelessness in our community and

complements enumeration strategies with descriptive and behavioral measurement tools. Furthermore, it is our sincerest hope that this research will provide the information needed by community leaders, service providers, and government agencies to adequately address the issues and challenges confronting homeless youth in our community.

The first section of the Clark County Homeless Youth Study report is best described as a payment of debts. Debts in terms of time, energy, knowledge, guidance, and support that our firm will never be able to adequately repay. This study would not have been possible without the contributions and sacrifices of countless individuals and organizations. Although its inevitable that our attempt at acknowledging all those to whom we owe our sincerest thanks will never service our debts, rest assured that your efforts survive in the findings of this report and the many lives that will be touched by your selflessness.

Section two of this report provides a comprehensive literature review of past efforts at enumerating homeless persons in other jurisdictions. The literature review allocates a significant amount of attention to the various methodological approaches and evaluative techniques used to coordinate point-in-time street and shelter counts of homeless individuals. The literature review will also demonstrate a justification for conducting a homeless youth survey, individual interviews that serve as the cornerstone our study findings. Section three of this report will introduce the federal and state definitions of homeless youth in relation to the operational definitions that define our study population. In this section of the report, the reader will also find a thorough review our methodological approach to data collection, applicable planning guidelines, and point-in-time street and shelter census schematic. Section four of the report will provide

an in-depth review of the point-in-time street and shelter census findings, annual turnover estimation construct, and the role of traditionally overlooked sources of homeless youth in our community. As the report transitions to section five, the reader is introduced to the second macro component of our research design, the homeless youth survey. Section five of the report will provide a comprehensive review of the findings derived from a series of in person homeless youth interviews conducted during the latter phase of the Clark County Homeless Youth Study. Although they will never be known to us by name, this section of the report paints with broad brush strokes the lives, experiences, and thoughts of fifty homeless youth who walk among us. Their stories are enlightening, intense, and full of valuable lessons from which all of us will learn a great deal. The report will conclude with section six, wherein our firm has formulated sound conclusions based on study findings, outlined relevant limitations to the interpretation our findings, and offered a review of assumptions embedded in the study design.

Acknowledgements

Strategic Solutions would like extend its gratitude to all of the homeless service providers and advocates who provided their assistance, insights, and cooperation during the Clark County Homeless Youth Study. Our firm is especially indebted to Kathleen Boutin and the staff of the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth for their unwavering commitment and dedication to our research. Special recognition is also extended to the staff of the Paradise Community Center, Desert Breeze Community Center, Mount Crest Neighborhood Services Center, and Hollywood Recreation Center for their contributions of time and space during deployment on the night of the street and shelter count. A

special thank you is offered to the staff of the United Methodist Church for allowing our firm to conduct volunteer training sessions at their facility. Strategic Solutions would also like to thank the parishioners of St. Thomas More Catholic Parish in Henderson, the Las Vegas Catholic Diocese, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Department of Sociology and School of Social Work, as well as the Winchester Community Center. A great deal of thanks goes to the staff of Westcare and the Las Vegas Outreach Team for all of their support and assistance during count team volunteer training.

Recognition is also due to state and local government agency staff for furnishing a wealth of information and resources during the course of our research, particularly the following:

- The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD)
- City of Henderson and City of North Las Vegas Police Departments
- Clark County Social Services
- Clark County School District
- Nevada Division of Child & Family Services
- City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services Division

Our community also owes a debt of gratitude to all of the generous donors whose financial contributions made this study possible. The broad-based donor profile demonstrates that this study truly was a community-wide collaborative effort. The study was supported financially by leading public, private, and non-profit organizations and entities. Many of these agencies matched their financial contributions with time and energy through volunteerism and assistance with the street and shelter census enumeration. Strategic Solutions would like to recognize and thank the following donors for their dedication to improving the lives of homeless youth in Clark County:

- Cirque du Soleil
- Clark County, NV
- Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors
- KB Homes

- Nevada Community Foundation
- Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
- Ritter Charitable Trust
- Station Casinos
- Terrible Herbst
- Wal-Mart Stores

Perhaps most importantly, we extend our heart felt gratitude and appreciation to the many volunteers who contributed hours upon hours of their time in order to make this study possible. Your names are too many to mention but your contributions are evidenced in the findings of this report and the lives that you have and will continue to impact as a result of your efforts. Volunteerism on a scale mandated by this study requires an uncommon degree of compassion, dedication, and altruism.

-HOMELESS YOUTH STUDY: LITERATURE REVIEW-

Section II: Literature Review

Homelessness among youth and young adults has been addressed in several studies outside the boundaries of Clark County. An important precursor to conducting a comprehensive study of homeless youth is a review of the literature that has been prepared on the topic. The following literature review will begin with a description of social conditions within Clark County that may contribute to the incidence of youth homelessness as well as the types of services that are currently available to assist homeless individuals in our community. The literature review will also describe previous methods used to enumerate homeless individuals in major metropolitan areas, including those conducted in Clark County.

Clark County: Operating Environment

Clark County, Nevada, encompasses the popular tourist destination of Las Vegas and is host to a cross-section of homeless individuals. In 2003, Las Vegas was rated by the National Coalition for the Homeless as the meanest city in the United States for homeless individuals (Curtis 2006). This ranking resulted from policies “criminalizing” homelessness coupled with frequent homeless “sweeps”-forced removal of homeless persons from temporary, makeshift shelters and encampments. Despite its consistent ranking as one of the meanest cities in the United States for homelessness, there are several programs and services throughout the Las Vegas metropolitan area to help homeless individuals. Services are available to homeless youth at agencies such as the

Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, WestCare, the Center for Independent Living, and Girls and Boys Town. Although some of these programs offer emergency and overnight shelter, homeless youth often compete with referrals from Clark County Department of Family Services (Child Haven) and other institutional transition programs for available shelter beds. The primary focus of these facilities is to guide homeless youth into a structured, stable environment by providing life-skills courses, GED testing, identification cards, job placement, hygiene accommodations, voice mail, and other necessities. Additionally, homeless youth are serviced by the Las Vegas Outreach Team, which consists of citizen volunteers and delegates from WestCare, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, and Aid for Aids of Nevada. The team conducts street outreach events several times a week to bring free services and information to youth in at-risk neighborhoods. The outreach workers make every attempt to address the immediate needs of homeless youth by serving as “gate-keepers” and linking youth to services that provide short and long term stabilization assistance. The team brings donated shoes and clothing, free condoms and bleach kits, and provides individualized services such as tutoring or training.

A closer look at regional trends such as the rate of referrals to public agencies for temporary, emergency shelter involving youth underscores the importance of establishing community wide baseline measurements of youth homelessness. For instance, according to figures provided by the Clark County Department of Family Services, 483 youth a month, on average, received placements at the temporary emergency ‘Child Haven’ facilities during 2005. That figure represents a 61.5% increase in average monthly referrals since 2000. During that same time period, the number of CPS investigations

increased from 6,359 in 2000 to 9,706 in 2005. As mentioned earlier, homeless youth compete for many of the same shelter beds as overflow Child Haven referrals at facilities such as Westcare and Girls and Boys Town. A sobering glance at the rate of runaways reported statewide also compounds community pressure to augment the provision of homeless youth services. According to figures reported by the Nevada Attorney General's Office, the total number of reported statewide runaways increased from 7,777 in 2004 to 8,382 in 2005.

Positive movement has been observed with regard to other regional trends that have been linked to homelessness among youth. According to figures released during February, 2006, by the Clark County School District, the overall drop out rate among 9th-12th grade students had decreased from 7.6% during 2003-2004 to 6.8% during 2004-2005. According to the Clark County Teen Pregnancy Coalition, the rate of teen pregnancy in Clark County is also declining. The coalition's *2005 Report to the Community: Review of Existing Data on Teen Births & Related Health Issues* report showed the birth rate among teens in Clark County has steadily declined during recent years from 29.89 per 1,000 births in 2003 to 29.21 per 1,000 births in 2004 (CCTPPC, 2005).

Homeless Youth

Homeless youth service providers and advocates have long held that public perceptions associated with youth homelessness are misguided and based on numerous fallacies. A recent internet publication by the City of Seattle, Washington addressed several myths about youth homelessness. The report attempted to dispel the myth that homeless youth are not interested in accessing services, stating that while homeless

children want to go to school and work, or to develop a normal life with healthy relationships, they're often turned away from services due to a lack of identification or parental consent. The City of Seattle report pointed to family conflict, inadequate child welfare and expensive housing as primary catalysts to youth homelessness. Essentially, the report claims that homeless youth are viewed in an inaccurate and critical light by the general public.

A closer look at the daily trials tribulations of homeless youth will serve to dispel some of these misconceptions. In reality, life for adolescents on the street is devoid of structure and safety. A study of 455 interviews with homeless youth in the Midwest revealed a snapshot of life on the street for homeless youth (Witbeck and Hoyt: 2002). The most commonly reported reasons given for children leaving their home were: "did not get along with family member" (31.4%) and "physical abuse by a family member" (21.5%) (4). Among females, 30.8% reported that they had been beaten since living on the streets, slightly lower than that reported by males (35.8%). Many of these same youth reported that they were actively working to improve their lot and were focused on bettering their lives. Thirty-six percent indicated that they had a steady job while 53.4% noted they earned money through day labor or odd jobs (4). Many of the youth studied for this report accessed counselors, runaway hotlines, rehabilitation centers, mental health facilities, or school officials to help them get off the streets. The study also showed that many homeless youth suffer from mental health issues, with 34.2% of males and 40.5% of females reporting at least one bout of major depression.

The prevalence of homeless youth also received attention in several metropolitan areas around the United States. A 1999 study of homeless families in America indicated

that the total number of children in homeless shelters topped 1.1 million. This study of homeless individuals housed in shelters in various cities across the country (Nunez and Fox: 1999) found that of the 2,049 children surveyed from fifty-eight homeless shelters, 80.0% were housed with their parents (296). Of the same children in shelters, 47% percent were under the age of five. Eight percent of parents in these facilities indicated they were first homeless when they were younger than eighteen years of age and 24 % percent of the same respondents indicated their first child was born when they were under age eighteen (307).

A 2005 point-in-time study specifically targeting unaccompanied homeless youth in Illinois estimated the total number to be 4,102 with 1,891 of the youth receiving services (Johnson and Graf, 10). The population of interest for this study was all homeless youth in Illinois. The study estimated 7.8% (107) of homeless youth accessing services were of fifteen years of age or younger (10).

Homeless youth are a particularly difficult population to study. For a variety of reasons homeless youth are less visible than homeless adults. Many homeless youth remain in school during the day and, rather than winding up directly on the streets at night, find themselves “couch-surfing” in the homes of their friends. Those who are on the streets avoid potential predators that exist in established homeless areas and shelter themselves on rooftops, in vacated apartments or other abandoned buildings. Though subject to limiting conditions, the most widely used and arguably the best method of enumerating homeless youth are physical, point-in-time street counts which rely on visible indicators of homelessness.

In 1999 and 2002, a census and survey with Homeless Youth was conducted in Monterey County, California (Giuriato, Cambell, & Connery 2002). The target population of this count was homeless youth between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one. The count was followed by interviews with children currently in the custody of foster care. The census component included observations in systematically selected census tracts throughout the county. These refined methods are regarded as best practice in the state of California. The Monterey County census found 104 unaccompanied homeless youth and 457 accompanied homeless children, including those younger than the target study population. They found the majority of homeless youth in urban areas, and most were residing within fifty miles of their families. 30% of homeless youth interviewed were female and half reported either being pregnant at the time of the interview or having been pregnant in the past.

Homeless population street counts have been employed in several metropolitan areas, including an enumeration of the entire homeless population in Clark County, Nevada. Dr. Fred Preston of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas has conducted homeless enumerations in 1999 and 2004. In 1999, Preston reported an estimate of 5,198 unsheltered and 1,509 sheltered homeless individuals during a point-in-time street and shelter count conducted during one evening. Those values changed to 4,149 unsheltered and 2,387 sheltered homeless men, women, and children in April 2004 (7). Volunteer teams were assigned to Rand McNally areas, as depicted in the 2004 Thomas Guide. The official April 13, 2005 count was followed in the subsequent week by walks of selected areas such as railroad tracks, known homeless corridors, and outlying areas. Dr.

Preston's findings were reported using a Horvitz-Thompson estimation technique to account for the inherent shortcomings of the direct, hard count enumeration approach.

The most obvious inherent limitation of the point-in-time enumeration method is a reliance on physical observations of homelessness. It can be tricky to determine which individuals are homeless, especially when the study population belongs to a specific age range. Furthermore, due to safety issues and other practical considerations, count teams typically do not have access to all of the areas where homeless persons may be found. To mitigate these limitations, researchers often rely on estimation methods such as the Horvitz-Thompson technique mentioned above. Researchers such as Dr. Charles Cowan of Birmingham, Alabama-based Analytic Focus, LLC, have warned, however, that estimation measures themselves are limited since they are based on assumptions that are difficult to test (Cowan, 1991 869). Cowan indicated that one of the best methods of attaining an accurate count of homeless individuals involves a capture-recapture method, which tracks multiple contacts of the same individuals through service providers and community-based organizations. This method must be employed over time and involve street surveys and cooperation of service providers in the study area to maintain identification records.

A similar recapture method was employed during the 2005 Riverside Homeless Census Project. While conducting surveys, enumerators created codes for individuals based on their first and last initials, gender, ethnicity, year and place of birth (Colletti, Smith & Herrera 2005 3). The codes were subsequently entered into a database- when a code was repeated, a note was made, but the individual was counted only once to mitigate duplication. Of the 4,785 unique homeless individuals counted in riverside, 23% were

children under the age of eighteen (4). The vast majority of children were accompanied by adults. The study observed just forty-five youth under the age of eighteen classified as unaccompanied (4). All of these studies and approaches were carefully weighed during the formulation of the Clark County Homeless Youth Study methodological design.

-HOMELESS YOUTH STUDY: ENUMERATION METHODOLOGY -

Section III: Enumeration Methodology

Operational Definitions

The operational definitions employed for studies of homeless youth often vary depending on the scope of the endeavor and jurisdictional guidelines. However, the federal definition of a homeless youth, according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C 11431) is a 'homeless child and youth' who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence. Generally speaking, the definition includes any child under the age of eighteen whose living situation is described as the following:

- Living in cars, abandoned buildings, parks, the streets or other public spaces
- Living in a runaway/homeless youth shelter
- Living double-up in housing with other families or friends
- Living in a hotel or motel
- Living in shelters with family members
- Living in campgrounds or inadequate trailer homes

The State of Nevada (NRS 244.424) loosely defines a runaway or homeless youth as:

- Without a place of shelter where supervision and care are available -or-
- Absent from his legal residence without the consent of his parent, guardian or custodian.
- Twelve years of age or older
- Unemancipated
- Mentally competent

The federal and state definitions of a homeless youth are broad in terms of environmental or living circumstances yet inconsistent with one another in terms age.

Although its commonly agreed and reasonably understood that the term “youth” is synonymous with “minor,” limiting our operational definition to homeless individuals under the age eighteen would render homeless young adults (typically described as up to twenty-one years of age or twenty-four years of age) unqualified for inclusion in our study. Given that Nevada law provides a minimum allowable age yet does not codify a maximum allowable age to qualify as a homeless youth, for the purpose of this study, the operational definition of a homeless youth includes individuals of no less than twelve and no more than twenty years of age.

Furthermore, although the federal definition of a homeless youth allows for the inclusion of youth doubled-up with family members or living in a hotel/motel, our operational definition applies a more practical and absolute construct for inclusion. Our study includes unaccompanied youth twelve to twenty years of age who are either unsheltered (living on the streets, in parks, vehicles, or other public places), currently residing in a runaway/homeless youth shelter, or couch-surfing in the absence of a parent or legal guardian. In this way, our research will focus on a more absolute interpretation of unaccompanied youth homelessness free of ambiguities associated with the appropriateness of including homeless youth who are otherwise sheltered, albeit unstable, and in the company of a parent or legal guardian.

Point-in-time Street & Shelter Count Logistics:

In order to provide a defensible enumeration of homeless youth, the methodological approach outlined in this report is based on an initial point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered unaccompanied homeless youth in accordance with operational definition described above.

The logistics of the point-in-time count were initiated with a large scale recruitment effort. Representatives from the project team reached out to many institutions while recruiting for count team volunteers. Large employers, trade associations, college students, and social clubs were petitioned for participation. Many of the volunteers were recruited from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas- specifically students within the social science departments such as psychology and sociology. Additionally, Gina Olivares, of the Clark County Public Information Officer, transmitted a press release to area media agencies announcing the street and shelter census and appealing for volunteers. A total of 123 volunteers were recruited for the November 17th street and shelter census of homeless youth in Clark County.

Count team volunteers were required to attend a one-hour training session prior to the night of the census. Six training sessions were held in the weeks prior to the homeless youth census in order to mitigate volunteer scheduling conflicts. Staff from Strategic Solutions and WestCare facilitated the training sessions. At the training sessions, volunteers were briefed as to the details and scope of the project. The session also included training as to appropriate behaviors on the night of the count and a briefing on how to identify homeless youth on the street. Safety was a major focus of the training sessions. The homeless youth street count relied on visual observations and indicators of youth homelessness. Count team volunteers were extensively trained to use their best judgment in terms of identifying homeless youth on the streets during the night of the census. Volunteers were also instructed to pay special attention to parks, schools, washes and waste bins behind stores and restaurants. Additionally, volunteers were trained to identify visual indicators of youth homelessness, including inappropriate clothing for

weather conditions, carrying belongings in bags, backpacks, or carts, dirty or ill-fitting shoes/clothing, walking at an unusually slow pace, and sleeping in public places.

A final training session was held on Thursday, November 10, 2005, for individuals who volunteered to be count team leaders. The team-leader training session involved a more detailed description of the project, and expectations as delineated on an official "team leader" responsibility sheet. At the team leader training session, coordinators introduced team leaders to a sample version of the census maps that would be used on the night of count.

On the night of November 17, 2005 volunteers were deployed from one of four distribution centers. Each distribution center was located within a quadrant of the valley (Southeast: Paradise Community Center; Northeast: Hollywood Recreation Center; Northwest: Mount Crest Neighborhood Services Center; Southwest: Desert Breeze Community Center). Researchers at each deployment center gave count teams their final instructions prior to leaving the distribution centers at 7PM. Volunteers were given flashlights donated by Wal-Mart Stores, an enumeration sheet and a Rand McNally area (RMA) map. They were also given cellular phone numbers for research coordinators in the event there were any questions or emergencies. The earliest count team returned at approximately 10PM, the latest team checked in at approximately 2AM. There were no serious incidents reported on the night of the count and all teams returned safely from their assigned areas.

Point-in Time Count Coverage & Logistics

Count team volunteers were broken into groups of two and three members for safety and collaborative purposes. Teams were assigned to Rand McNally Areas (RMAs) or portions of RMAs. RMAs are mapped grids which divide the county into three and a half (North-South) by four and a half mile (East-west) blocks. RMAs that had very few streets, or that were sparsely populated, were incorporated with the maps of adjoining RMAs. Most of the 57 teams of volunteers remained within the Las Vegas metropolitan area. Teams were also deployed to Moapa Valley/Overton, Boulder City, Laughlin, Needles and Sandy Valley to ensure coverage of the entire county. The outlying areas consisted of multiple RMAs but because of their sparse population and distance from distribution centers, only one team was sent to each of these areas. Thus, the entirety of Clark County was covered during the November 17, 2005, homeless youth census. Since the entirety of the county was covered, this phase of the count was not subject to a randomized sampling method.

In order to gain a complete point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless youth, area service providers were also asked to report the number of homeless youth in their care. Research coordinators reached out to organizations that specifically serve homeless and youth populations in addition to hospitals, social organizations, rehabilitation facilities, emergency service providers, law enforcement agencies, and detention facilities that were asked to report homeless youth in their care on the night of the census. Participation by potential providers was elicited through a series of telephone calls. Those who agreed to participate were faxed institutional enumeration sheets to

supplement the findings of the street count and received follow up phone calls for data collection purposes.

The initial November 17, 2005 census was followed by a count of randomly selected RMAs on Thursday, February 16, 2006. The purpose of the randomly selected recount was to test the validity of the findings derived from the original street census. A stratified sample of RMAs was selected at random using data categories from the original count. A total of eleven RMAs were selected at random in accordance with the following parameters: four from areas that had no homeless youth identified in them during the night of the homeless youth census, three from areas that had one to three homeless youth during the initial census, and three from areas that had four or more homeless youth during the initial census. Nine of the randomly recounted RMAs were in the Las Vegas metropolitan area, and one team was sent to Sandy Valley.

Re-count volunteers were primarily drawn from those who had participated in the original point-in-time homeless youth census. Those volunteers who had not previously participated were paired with experienced individuals for the recount and asked to attend a training session prior to the night of the count. An organizational/disbursement meeting occurred at 6PM on February 16, 2006 and volunteers deployed by 7PM. Volunteers checked in between the hours of 10PM and 2AM.

The census and recount were scheduled for Thursday nights rather than weekends to minimize miscounting youth who were simply out late. Both counts started at 7PM in order to facilitate the working schedules of most of the volunteers while observing homeless youth during their primary movement hours. Service providers indicated that

many homeless youth seek shelter or security of some kind in the later evening hours
such as within fenced areas and on building rooftops.

-HOMELESS YOUTH STUDY: ENUMERATION ANALYSIS & FINDINGS -

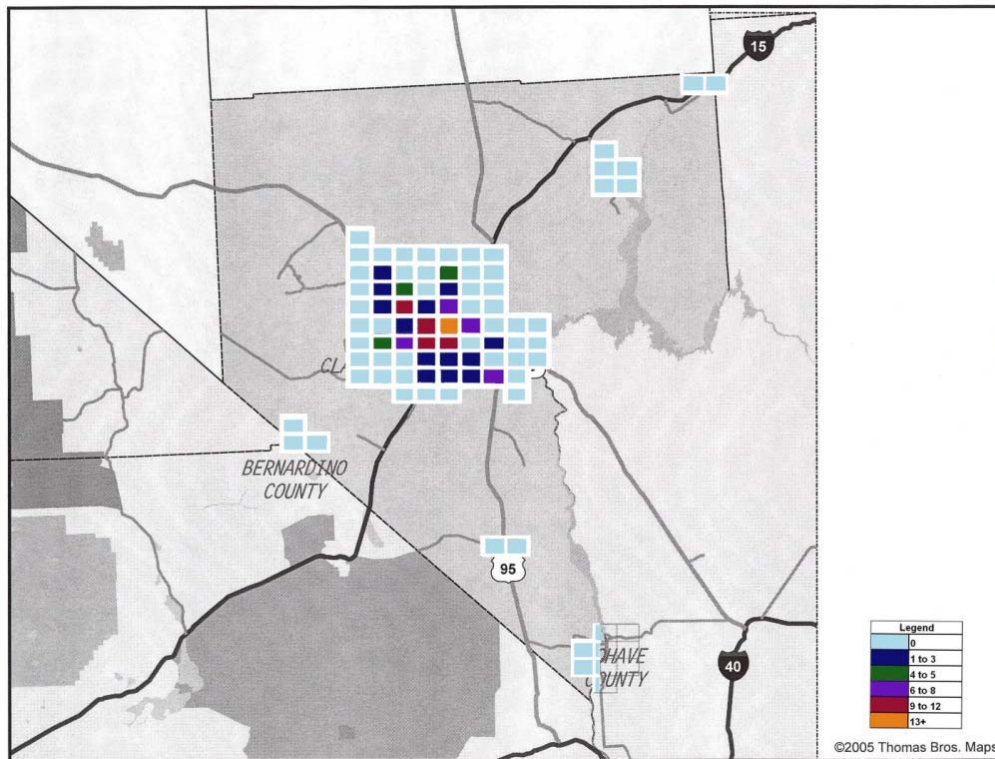
Section IV: Enumeration Analysis & Findings:

Point-in-time street and shelter count data were compiled during the days following each count. Hard count numbers were tallied to combine the street and shelter count. Researchers used independent sample t-tests to measure statistical significance between the frequencies of homeless youth observed during the initial point-in-time census count and the follow-up count of randomly selected RMAs.

On November 17, 2005, a total of 128 unsheltered homeless youth were spotted around Clark County. All of the homeless youth were spotted in the Las Vegas metropolitan area. No homeless youth were found in outlying areas such as Boulder City or Moapa Valley/Overton. The areas with the highest concentration of homeless youth were those in the central Las Vegas area. RMA 895 (which is centered at the intersection of Sahara Ave and Nellis Blvd.) had the highest count of homeless youth, with a total of eighteen reported in this area. The RMAs surrounding 895 also had high numbers of homeless youth.

No homeless youth were spotted in 43 the Las Vegas metropolitan area's RMAs (including those added to adjoining RMAs). Thirteen RMAs contained one to three homeless youth, four or five homeless youth were found in three RMAs, four RMAs had six to eight homeless youth, four had nine to twelve homeless youth, and one contained more than twelve homeless youth.

Figure 1

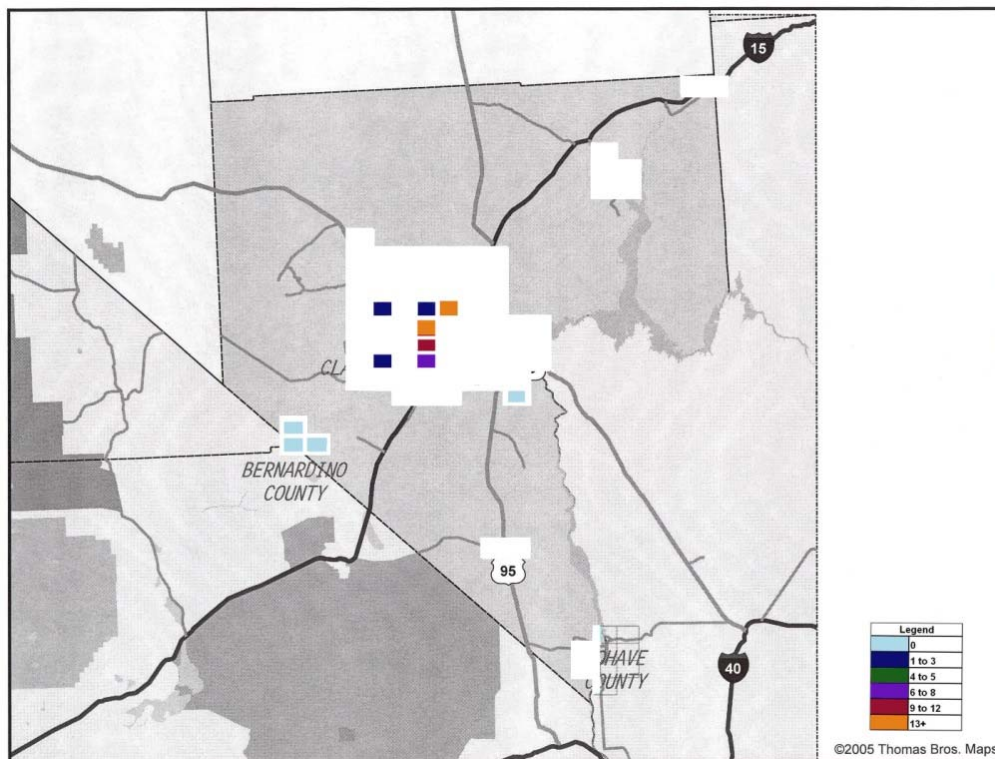


The initial point-in-time census findings were corroborated by a follow-up recount of randomly selected RMA's on February 16, 2006. A total of 56 homeless youth were spotted during the randomly selected RMA follow-up count. Eighteen homeless youth were spotted in RMA 894 (immediately adjacent 895). Sandy Valley and one RMA (1015) in the Las Vegas metropolitan area contained no homeless youth. One homeless youth was spotted in each of three other RMAs. Totals three, eight, eleven, and thirteen homeless youth were spotted in one RMA each.

In order to verify the presence or absence of a statistically significant difference in the mean number of homeless youth per RMA between the two counts, research coordinators performed independent sample t-tests. The mean of the November 17, 2005 census of 38 RMAs was 3.4 homeless youth per RMA with a standard deviation of 4.495. The targeted count of 11 RMAs yielded a figure of 5.09 homeless youth per RMA, with a

standard deviation of 6.467. Researchers conducted independent sample t-tests on these results to validate the findings. This method, based on means, standard deviations and RMA counts, confirmed that the difference in means was not statistically significant. Thus, though the mean of the randomly selected RMA re-count account appears at first glance to be higher, statistical analysis indicated with 99.9% confidence, that the two means are not significantly different.

Figure 2



On the night of the original point-in-time census (November 17, 2005), staff conducted a simultaneous shelter count. Staff disseminated Shelter Count Enumeration Sheets (SCES) to service providers that were known to provide services to homeless youth or were suspected to provide such services. Out of a list of approximately 100 providers that received an SCES, 41 responded. Of the 41 respondents, only 11 had

homeless ages 12 to 20 in their custody on the night of November 17, 2005. When the enumeration forms were tallied, a total of 57 homeless youth between the ages of 12 to 20 were in the custody of shelters throughout Clark County. Of the 57, 26 were accompanied by an adult while 31 were unaccompanied. It is important to note that some shelters returned data for homeless youth who were outside of the age range of 12-20. Of the 41 shelters, six of those returned enumeration forms that indicated they sheltered homeless children under the age of 12. A total of 119 homeless children under the age of 12 were reported by shelters throughout Clark County. Of those 119 homeless children, all of them were accompanied by an adult. Consequently, this amounted to a total of 176 homeless youth (both ages 12-20 (57) and under 12 years old (119)) that were reported by shelters within Clark County.

The remaining service providers were unable to provide data for a variety of different reasons. Beyond the 11 shelters that reported the presence of homeless youth on the night of November 17, 2005, fifteen provide services to homeless youth on some level but did not have any to report for that night. Of the remaining 15 providers, 13 do not serve and/or provide services to homeless youth at all, another provider indirectly serves homeless youth (only provides funding and/or supplies to other non-profits), and the final provider serves only children in foster care or in need of transitional housing (Child Haven). While it is relevant to include information furnished by Child Haven, it is important to disclaim that children in foster care are not classified as homeless. Instead, children at Child Haven are designated as “emergency shelter” status (i.e. they have primary homes, but are taken into custody due to neglect and/or abuse) or “unstable

living” (i.e. children transitioning into or out of foster care). With this in mind, Child Haven reported 294 children who were either in foster care or are classified as runaways.

This estimate was a point-in-time measure, one intended to take a snapshot of visible homeless youth in Clark County on a given night. Estimating a yearly figure of visible homeless youth is more difficult to ascertain. The duration that one is homeless fluctuates—one might experience episodic homelessness for one month, but not for another, one may be homeless for three months while another for only six months. Similar to previous homeless enumeration techniques (ASR, 2005), a turnover rate was estimated in the context of data exclusive to this study. The length of episodic homelessness is necessary to determine a defensible and reliable turnover rate. Using a system that employed by ASR, youth that experience homelessness for an entire calendar year are assigned a turnover value of 1 whereas the ratio of youth that experience homelessness for one month are assigned a turnover value of 12. Therefore, if all homeless youth had been homeless for over an entire calendar year, the turnover rate would be 1, meaning that the number of the point-in-time street and shelter census would equal the yearly figure (1*count number). If all youth were homeless for only a month, then that would indicate the total annual estimate of homeless youth in a calendar year would be 12 times the street and shelter census figure.

Given that the duration of homelessness varies from youth to youth, an annual turnover rate can be difficult to obtain. In order to calculate the turnover rate, information from the in-depth homelessness youth survey was used to calculate the annual turnover estimation. The homeless survey contained a variable that was intended to ascertain the length of time the youth had been away from their parent/legal guardian.

Respondents who did not provide an answer for this particular variable (2) were disqualified from the turnover estimation. If an individual is homeless for only the month of April, and another is homeless from June-August, then at a point-in-time count there will only be one homeless person counted, while for the year there were actually two. The following table summarizes the calculation of a turnover rate based on findings from our homeless youth survey (discussed in section five of this report):

Figure 3: Calculation of Clark County Homeless Youth Turnover Rate (Based on Survey Results)

Length of Homelessness	Percentage of Respondents	Minimum Turnover Rate	Average Turnover Rate
1 month or less	25.0%	12	3.0
2-4 months	22.9%	3	.69
5-7 months	10.4%	1.7	.18
8-10 months	2.1%	1.2	.03
11 months or more	39.6%	1	.40
Total	100.0		Weighted Average = 4.3

*Length of homelessness percentage calculated from survey response. Minimum turnover rate calculated through conservative estimation (ex: 1 month=12 turnovers in a month, 2-4 months estimated at 4/12, 11 months or more rounded up to one year). Average turnover rate calculated as the product of the percentage in the context of minimum turnover weight.

Using this turnover rate, the estimate for visible homeless youth as derived from the point-in-time street census for the year is 550 (128 * 4.3). This only gives an estimate of homeless youth that are visible. In order to gauge the total number of homeless youth, other sources of homeless youth must be identified.

The enumeration technique of this study relied on a point-in-time street and shelter census and an applicable measure of estimation for homeless youth using homeless services for the night. This street and shelter count approach gives an indication of visible homeless youth. In order to ascertain a relevant gauge of all homeless youth, the street count estimate should accompany estimates of the incidence of

homeless youth by qualifying for additional environmental considerations. During the course of our research, other such sources of homeless youth emerged that often go unaccounted for yet still must be considered.

The act of sleeping at a friend or acquaintances home without a parent or guardian is an unstable living arrangement commonly referred to as “couch surfing”. While not living on the street or in a shelter, the reliance on a network of people other than a parent or legal guardian qualifies a youth as homeless. The incidence of couch surfing is difficult to estimate given that couch surfing youth are not visible from a street count and may have no need to access homeless service providers and/or shelters. An estimate of couch surfing can also be derived from our homeless youth survey. One survey question asked where the youth had spent most nights during the past 30 days. Respondents who answered “at a friend’s house” were identified as episodic couch surfers. If our sample is not appreciably dissimilar to all homeless youth in Clark County, then one could generalize this figure to ascertain an estimate of homeless youth that are couch surfing and therefore not physically visible on the street or within a shelter. Of only those children that reported having spent most of their last month at a friend’s house, 33% were still enrolled in school. The Clark County School District’s *2005-2006 Education for Homeless Children & Youth Program Data Collection* report found that the number of unaccompanied homeless youth (of at least middle school age or higher) in their tracking of all 3,541 homeless youth was 73 (2.1%) . Given that there were 73 unaccompanied homeless youth found within the Clark County School District and within the age range permitted by our operational definition, we can reasonably expect, based on survey findings, that 73 represents 33% of all homeless youth staying in friends

and non-legal guardian housing (couch-surfing). This construct produces an estimate of 221 ($73/.33= 221$). As such, we could reasonably estimate there to be a total of 221 “couch surfing” homeless youth at any given time in Clark County.

Juvenile corrections facilities are another institutional environment where homeless youth can be found. While not all youth in detention are homeless, many experienced episodic homelessness immediately preceding institutionalization. Identifying homeless youth is typically performed through contact with a parent or legal guardian. If a legal guardian can be reached and will claim responsibility for the juvenile, then the child is not referred to social services for homelessness. However, it is possible that a child is on such terms with a legal guardian but is not using them as a primary residence. It is also equally conceivable that a child in juvenile detention has demonstrated “at risk” behavior that may, over time, lead to homelessness. According to the *Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services 2004 Statistical Report*, the average daily population of Clark County Juvenile Corrections is 237. It is not possible at this time to estimate the proportion of those that are at risk for being homeless or are homeless but still on good terms with their legal guardian. The Spring Mountain Youth Camp is a detention facility for juvenile offenders. Although a judge must seek the consent of a youth’s parent or legal guardian to issue a Spring Mountain Youth Camp sentence to juvenile offender, this requirement does not necessarily indicate that the youth is living with or was even in contact with their parent or legal guardian prior to institutionalization. In working with management at the Spring Mountain Youth Camp, we identified 14 youth that did not live with their legal guardian, or who were described as having unstable living situations prior to institutionalization. Of these 14 youth, 9

qualified according the operational definition established for this study (9% of all detainees). If this is ratio is taken as not dissimilar to the entire juvenile corrections population, then that would indicate that on any given day there are approximately 22 homeless youth in institutions of juvenile rehabilitation (9% of 237). This is likely to be a conservative estimate since Spring Mountain Youth Camp presence implies parent or legal guardian consent, and thus, an implied level of involvement than might typically characterize a youth’s experience during the institutionalization/rehabilitation process.

Annual Turnover Estimation:

Factoring in these three sources of homeless youth with the point-in-time census of visible homeless youth gives a total of 128 (street count) + 12 (shelter count) + 221 (couch surfers) + 22 (juvenile corrections) = a total 383 unaccompanied homeless youth from ages 12-20 on any given day in Clark County, Nevada. When the turnover weight is applied to the total, a yearly estimation of 1647 (383 * 4.3) unaccompanied homeless youth emerges.

Figure 4: Table of Point-in-Time Census and Yearly Estimate of Homeless Youth (ages 12/20)

Source	Point Count	Turnover	Yearly Estimate
Street Count	128	4.3	550
Shelter Count	12	4.3	52
Couch Surfing	221	4.3	950
Correctional Facility	22	4.3	95
Total = 383			Total = 1647

To summarize, an estimation of homeless youth requires certain assumptions. Our point-in-time street census of Clark County on a single night yielded 128 visible

homeless youth. This is assumed to represent the total count of unaccompanied, visible street youth in Clark County on any given night and is most likely an undercount. A shelter count recorded 12 unaccompanied homeless youth 18-20 during the same night. Other sources of homeless youth were identified and estimates were derived for homeless youth in juvenile correction facilities and those who are believed to be couch-surfing. These estimates were derived from conservative estimates as well as data gathered during the homeless youth survey conducted by our agency. Additionally, a turnover rate was determined to estimate yearly figures. The point-in-time street census of homeless youth was relatively low, 128. That indicates that 128 individuals identified as homeless youth were visible on the night of the census. However, given that homeless youth are subject to police questioning, and are not legally permitted to be living on the streets or without the company of a parent or guardian, 128 visibly homeless youth may be interpreted as a rather formidable figure from. Additionally, when other sources of unaccompanied homeless youth ages 12-20 are factored in, the point-in-time figure climbs to 383 on any given day. The turnover rate was derived to estimate a yearly figure by weighing the influence of episodic homelessness among youth in Clark County.

This figure should be interpreted in the context of certain caveats. The turnover rate was derived from estimates of length of time away from parents or legal guardians and was intended to be a measure of length of time spent homeless. This turnover rate was estimated from a convenience sample of 50 youth identified as homeless and accessing a runaway/homeless youth shelter. The percentages of length of time of being homeless were then applied as weights and a modifier of 4.3 was given to account for the fluctuation of homelessness during a typical calendar year. Therefore, for any point-in-

time estimate attained, 4.3 can be multiplied by it to estimate the yearly count of youth homeless. This was done to attain the yearly estimate of **1647** unaccompanied homeless youth ages 12-20 within Clark County.

-HOMELESS YOUTH STUDY: SURVEY OF HOMELESS YOUTH

Section V: Survey of Homeless Youth

Participants:

Fifty homeless youth ages 12-20 participated during the face-to-face interview phase of the Clark County Homeless Study. The operational definition of homeless youth included those individuals living apart from their parents or legal guardian in a friend or acquaintances house (couch surfing), in a runaway/homeless youth shelter, or unsheltered (living on the streets, in parks, vehicles, or other public places). Each survey participant was asked to sign an informed-consent release (Appendix VI) verifying they understood why they were being interviewed, and that they had the right to refuse participation outright or at any point during the interview. Each participant received a \$25 gift card to Target for participation. The primary method of recruitment was referral and contact with local homeless youth service providers. Many agencies assisted with the recruitment of homeless youth to participate in the study. These included (but are not limited to) the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, and Westcare. Homeless youth not accessing services were also sought to participate in the homeless youth survey. Couch surfers, those youth living with friends or other non-guardians, may not be accessing services and shelters designed specifically for homeless youth but may still be found at other agencies. For instance, our firm procured homeless youth interviews at Shade Tree women's shelter, Andre Agassi Boys & Girls Club, and Spring Mountain Youth Camp. Beyond agency help, street search recruitment was also implemented. On several occasions researchers

explored likely street locations for homeless youth. These included certain areas of Downtown Las Vegas and central locations such as the Maryland Pkwy. Corridor. Furthermore, research coordinators physically walking under secluded bridges and within washes, and visiting parks, soup kitchens, and various homeless encampments. The street searches did not yield participants for the homeless youth survey, but did lead to many referrals.

Before discussion of the homeless youth findings are reviewed, it is important to include certain important circumstantial considerations among participants. The Spring Mountain Youth Camp, is technically a juvenile correctional facility. The treatment center was contacted for assistance in recruitment of any youth at their facility who were identified as homeless, based on our study operational definition, prior to sentencing. Given that the camp is a detention facility, it could be argued that in the context of the very near term, these youth are no longer homeless. However, that is not to say that these youth will not transition back into their previous unstable living situation following release.

Homeless Youth Survey Findings:

The macro objectives of the homeless youth survey include but were not limited to:

- Identify salient trends in terms of behavioral disposition among unaccompanied homeless youth ages 12-20.
- Determine the level of awareness and utilization of existing homeless youth programs and services.

Demographics:

Demographic variables revealed important information about the age, ethnicity, and gender of survey respondents. The age cohorts were evenly distributed with the most common being 15 to 17 years old (52%). Of the sample, 74% were male while 26% were female. In terms of race, 36% were African American, 28% were Caucasian, and 20% were Hispanic. The remainder of respondents identified themselves as Asian/Pacific Islander or of “mixed” ethnicity.

An over-representation of African-Americans in terms of proportion to county population is evidenced by the demographic profile of the survey sample. Most of the participants, 54%, had lived in Clark County more than 6 years. Conversely, 16% had been in Clark County less than one year. Only one homeless youth was identified as having had children and she was recruited through the Shade Tree women’s shelter.

In terms of education, approximately 40% were still enrolled in school, and 6% of participants had already finished high school. Trends in terms of the highest grade level completed mirrored age, and the 9th grade appeared to be a critical cut off period (24% of respondents had finished up to 9th grade). One participant had only finished the sixth grade despite being 19 years old. 78% of participants wanted to finish high school, of which 52% indicated they hoped to attend college. Only 21% of participants stated they were not interested in educational services, and 54% had tried to get help with their education since experiencing homelessness.

The different shelters and services that survey respondents had accessed were also measured. Considering that the majority of recruitment occurred at service providers, it is not surprising that many of the participants had spend most of the nights during the

past thirty days at a shelter (32%). Other popular locations were at a friend's house (30%) and in a family member's house (14%). Approximately 6% reported having spent the majority of their nights during the past thirty days on the street or outdoors. This is not to suggest that there are few homeless youth living on the street, but that those that had lived on the street in the last 30 days in our study were few. In terms of foster care, roughly half (48%) of respondents had been in foster care at some point. In terms of length of time away from legal guardians, 38% reported that they'd been away from their parent or legal guardian for 11 months or more and 24% reported being apart for 1 month or less.

When asked for the reasons they are not with their parent or legal guardian, 27% reported physical abuse, 2% reported sexual abuse, and 4% reported mental abuse as the primary reason. Approximately one of every five respondents (22%) reported that they had been kicked out.

Questions measuring criminal behavior revealed that almost half (50%) had committed a crime and 1/3 (32%) had been the victim of a crime while experiencing homelessness. Of the total sample, 38% had committed a crime for food or shelter. Over half (55%) had been in juvenile detention or jail and 37% had at some point felt harassed by the police. When asked about how they had been harassed by police, participants responded with answers that included being stopped for no discernable reason, and being displaced from make-shift living quarters such as abandoned housing without receiving a recommendation as to where they could or should go for shelter.

Health behavior assessments revealed that 32% smoke cigarettes (30% on a daily basis) and 28% drink alcohol (4% on a daily basis). Most had tried marijuana- 74%, and

34% reported using it regularly. Additional illicit drug use included speed/methamphetamine (24% had tried it and 6% use it regularly), and prescription pain killers/pills (34% had tried and 8% use it regularly). 12% of respondents indicated they had been drugged without their consent, all males. Most of the participants, 68%, were sexually active and 85% of this group indicated they practice safe sex. 15% of respondents indicated they had performed sex favors for food or shelter and 18% reported having had sex for money. 12% reported having been forced to have sex, half of whom reported the forcible sex occurred while homeless. In terms of medical conditions, 32% reported having ADD/ADHD, 8% had been diagnosed with some form of sexually transmitted disease (STD) while 20% reported having never been tested for a sexually transmitted disease. Approximately one of every three (34%) reported suffering from some form of depression.

Service Assessment:

The purpose of the following questions were to identify which services homeless youth believe Clark County needs, which services they would use if available, and which existing services they had already accessed. As evidenced by our research, homeless youth are not able to easily access medical service. 60% had not visited a doctor or dentist since being homeless and 40% had no known form of health insurance. 44% reported having needed health care services at some point while homeless and not being able to get it. Reasons for not being able to access health care services included not having identification, not being able to afford care, and fear of being reported to the authorities for not being with their parent or legal guardian.

Participants were given a list of services and asked if they thought homeless youth would benefit from the enhancement and expansion of certain services in Clark County. Over 70% of participants reported Clark County needed a place or outdoor area where youth in similar circumstances are welcome, school health clinics, reliable transportation, mental health clinics, family counseling, health and dental clinics, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers, affordable housing, food and clothing banks, job training and job placement programs, homeless service centers, transitional housing, and emergency shelter. Participants were also asked which of the same services they would personally use if they were available. Over 70% of participants reported they would use reliable transportation, health and dental clinics, and job training and job placements if available.

Questions were also asked to assess the participant's familiarity with local service agencies. Although it may be a function of sampling parameters, Westcare was familiar to 92% of participants, with 58% of the total sample having used them. Also, the Center for Independent Living was familiar to 70% of participants, with 36% having been there at some point. Child Haven was familiar to 92% of participants with a total 46% having been at the facility at some point. Finally, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth was familiar to 46% of participants, with approximately 30% having been there at some point. Agencies that were less known to homeless youth surveyed were: St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Catholic Social Services, Street Teens, Straight from the Streets, Huntridge Teen Clinic, I have a Dream Foundation, and HELP of Southern Nevada. In each of these cases, more than 60% of participants reported having never heard of the agency.

-HOMELESS YOUTH STUDY: CONCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS

Section VI: Conclusions & Limitations

The point-in-time street and shelter census yielded an annual estimation of 1647 unique episodes of unaccompanied homeless youth ages 12-20. However, it's important to mention that a component of this figure relies upon only those homeless youth that were visible on the street at the time of the census. Given that homeless youth will be detained if they are found to be living on the streets unaccompanied, this reduces the likelihood that they will be in highly visible areas during inopportune times of the day. The visibility factor, coupled with the well documented phenomenon that homeless youth and homeless adults do not often congregate or cohabitate together, demonstrates that our point-in time street census count is most likely an undercount. If the night of the count was not unlike a typical night in Clark County, then on any given night one will observe approximately 128 homeless youth our community's streets, despite the desire to remain hidden.

Assessment of the homeless youth survey data revealed that a critical window in terms of preventing episodic and long term homelessness among youth exists between the ages of 15 and 17. Additionally, sexual violence is committed against both male and female homeless youth. In terms of services desired, the overwhelming response was for health and dental care, job training and job placement, education assistance, and reliable transportation.

This report not only documents the current situation of youth homelessness within Clark County, Nevada, but also identifies future areas of research that will be crucial for assessing and building upon service provision. During the course of the research the following issues were identified as in need of further study: raising awareness of homeless youth services within the African-American and Hispanic communities, identifying methods of increased cooperation among service providers, and identifying enhanced methods of communication and information sharing among homeless youth, homeless youth service providers, and local government agencies.

Tertiary discussion with service providers revealed many suggestions for improvement of service implementation in the context of homelessness youth. Questioning was informal and open-ended. Service providers were asked for their input on methods of improving cooperation among service agencies as well as methods of reaching at-risk youth. The suggestions focused primarily on two areas for improvement-funding reform and greater emphasis on committed collaboration among agencies. Funding issues did not focus on increasing funding so much as reducing competition among agencies as well as improving consistency of funding. Funding through endowment was recommended because it would allow for improved financial security and less competition between agencies. A greater emphasis on communication among agencies was also suggested. As evidenced by the homeless youth survey, youth homelessness is clearly associated with certain social implications in terms of sexual behavior, experimentation with illicit drugs, and less than ideal family systems. This reality mandates increased collaboration among all community based service providers, including those focused on preventing the spread of communicable diseases, those

focused on alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs, and those focused on continuing education. Additionally, comprehensive communication with local law enforcement agencies is also recommended. According to homeless youth survey respondents, many reported that law enforcement personnel had stopped them but did not recommend or provide any guidance with regard to programs and services available in the community.

Study Limitations

This endeavor is subject to certain logistical limitations. The homeless youth population is wholly understudied because this population is difficult to identify and access. Many homeless youth are often able to better blend in with the general population than are homeless adults. Homeless youth tend to appear physically older than they are due to hard living conditions or for security purposes. Point-in-time census count volunteers were educated as to these limitations and were asked to use their best judgment and rely on team member consensus to derive the most accurate assessment of youth's homelessness.

Similarly, homeless youth can be very difficult to spot because they seek shelter in places that are difficult to access. Service providers advised that many homeless youth spend their nights on rooftops, particularly in the flight path of McCarran International airport where police helicopters are not permitted to fly. Previous enumeration studies of homeless adults have used police helicopters to detect heat signatures from individuals on roof-tops. This method however, could not be employed, because the presence of body heat does not give any clues to the age of the subject. Homeless youth also seek shelter in abandoned buildings, washes, and other areas that were not easily visible to count team volunteers. Though volunteer teams were asked to look as best they could into these

places, they were also asked not to compromise their safety in any way. Therefore, it is possible many places where homeless youth might have been found were not accessed.

Another limitation to the interpretation of this study is inherent to point-in-time approach. The initial point-in-time census and randomly selected RMA recount were conducted during the late evening and overnight hours on two nights. This gives a brief snapshot of the visible homeless youth population. A series of counts over time will shed additional light on the estimation of the overall incidence of unsheltered, unaccompanied homeless youth.

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Appendix I: Night-of-Count Shelter Enumeration Sheet

**Homeless Youth Count 2005
Shelter Count Sheet**

The purpose of our homeless youth count is to gather substantive data to assist in both short-term and long-term planning for homeless services and policies in Clark County. Furthermore, it is the intention of the researchers to generate quality data that will enlighten policy discussions & empower all agencies and groups to effectively develop services and programs to serve homeless youth.

The task before you tonight is an important and challenging assignment. Homeless youth are an often overlooked and difficult to identify population within any community. As part of our enumeration efforts, we have asked institutions and organizations who may have homeless youth in their care to participate in our "sheltered count." The sheltered count will be conducted in tandem with our "street count" on November 17, 2005.

You are in possession of this enumeration sheet because you may have homeless youth in your care on the night of November 17, 2005. Homeless youth, for the purposes of the street and shelter count, are youth up to but not exceeding eighteen years of age. Please take careful consideration and make every possible effort to appoint a staff member at your establishment with the task of counting homeless youth in your care on Thursday, November 17. Please fill out the information below, if applicable, and one of our staff members will contact your organization to retrieve the information.

Date: November 17th, 2005

Organization: _____ **Contact individual:** _____
Contact Phone: _____

Number of Homeless Youth in your care tonight: _____

Number of homeless youth in your care who are:

Accompanied by a parent or legal guardian: _____

Unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian: _____

Ages 12 or younger: _____

Ages 12>20: _____

We attest that we have thoroughly arrived at a count of homeless youth in our care on the night of November 17th, 2005. We also attest that we have read and understand this disclaimer form.

Signature: _____ Printed name: _____

*Please contact the following individuals if you should have any questions or points for clarification on the night of the count:

Jason Gray: 702.497.8585
Amanda Dean: 702.596.6396

Appendix II: Point-in-Time Census Count by RMA

Team	Count	RMA	ZIP	Cross Street 1	Cross Street 2
1 & 2	2	802/803			
3	5	804/805			
4 & 5	3	832	89129	Alexander	Lone Mountain
6	0	833			
7	4	833	89032	Simmons	Ann
8 & 9	0	834			
10	1	835			
11	0	862			
12	2	862	89138	Snow	Trail Vista
13	3	863			
14	3	863	89107	Avalon Ave.	Lakes Dr.
14	3	863	89106	Rancho/Lake Mead (Texas Station)	Vegas/Jones
14	2	863	89108	Jones/Lake Mead	Jones/Smoke Ranch
15	1	864	89032	Gilday	Bennett
16	12	864			
17	1	865	89101	Bonanza/Pecos	
17	1	865	89030	Lake Mead/Lamb	
17	2	865	89115	Cheyenne/Lamb	Las Vegas Blvd./Pecos
18	2	865			
19	0	892			
20	0	892			
21	1	893	89145	Ducharme	Buffalo
22	0	893			
23	1	894	89102	Industrial/Sahara	
24	4	894			
25	3	895	89122	Boulder Hwy/Indios	
25	1	895	89121	Sahara/Nellis	
25	8	895	89104	St. Louis/Fremont	
25	2	895	89101	Stewart/Galveston	
25	2	895	89104	Nellis/Charleston	
26	2	895	89142	Sahara/LV Wash	
27	0	922			
28	1	923	89113	Rotella	Ragona
28	1	923	89147	Flamingo	Rainbow
28	1	923	89147	Flamingo	Torrey Pines
28	1	923	89147	Flamingo	Jones
29	2	923	89118	Reno	Lindell
30	0	924			
31	6	924	89154	UNLV/Maryland/Tropicana	
31	4	924	89109	Flamingo/Maryland	
31	1	924	89120	Tropicana/Eastern	
32	3	925	89121	Tropicana/Pecos (2)	Flamingo/Pecos (1)

33	1	925	89122	Flamingo	Boulder Highway
33	2	925	89122	Nellis	Tropicana
33	2	925	89122	Nellis	Boulder Highway
33	2	925	89122	Tropicana	Azuza
34	0	926			
35	1	926/927	89015	Race Track/Boulder Hwy	
36	0	951/952			
37	0	953			
38	2	954	89123	Las Vegas	Pebble
39	1	954	89123	Windmill	Duck Creek Wash
40	0	955			
41	1	955			
42	1	956	89012	View Point/Ridge Way	
43	0	982/983			
44	0	984			
45	0	985			
46	1	985	89052	Horizon Ridge	
47	0	985/1015			
48	3	986	89015	Horizon Dr./Greenway (Ocallaghan Park)	Patti Ann Woods/Greenway
48	2	987	89015	Boulder Hwy./Magic	
48	5	987	89015	River Mountain Park/Maple Springs	Colt/Magic
49	1	804	89031	Centennial Parkway	Commerce
50	0	Laughlin/Searchlight			
51	0	Overton RMA			
52	0	Mesquite			
53	0	1068/1098/1099			
54	2	922	89148	Tropicana	Fort Apache
54	2	922	89148	Fort Apache	Peace
54	1	922	89148	Patrick Lane	Fort Apache
55**				**TEAM WAS CONSOLIDATED**	
56	0	956			
57	0	983			
58	0	952/953			
59	3	894	89101	10th/Fremont	
59	2	894	89101	7th/Las Vegas Academy	
59	1	894	89101	Fremont/14th	
59	1	894	89101	Bruce/Stewart	
Total	128				

Appendix III: Point-in-Time Shelter Count

Shelter/Institution	A 12 to 20	UA 12 to 20	A Under 12	UA Under 12
A Lift Up	0	0	0	0
After School All-Stars	0	0	0	0
BEST Coalition	0	0	0	0
Big Brothers Big Sisters**				
Boys & Girls Clubs of Henderson**				
CC Juvenile Justice Services	0	0	0	0
CC Health District**				
Center for Creative Therapeutic Arts	0	0	0	0
Center for Ind. Living	0	12	0	0
Child Haven***				
City Mission LV	0	0	0	0
Comm. Counseling Center**				
Cornerstone Counseling	0	0	0	0
DA Family Court**				
DA Victims Witness Center**				
Family Child Treatment	0	0	0	0
Family Promise	1	0	5	0
Family to Family Connection**				
Girls & Boys Town	0	0	0	0
Global Comm. HS	1	0	0	0
Health Insight	0	0	0	0
Helping Hands of VV**				
LV Recovery Center**				
LV Rescue Mission	6	0	12	0
NPHY	0	10	0	0
NTC**				
NV Child Seekers**				
NV Health Centers	0	0	0	0
Olive Crest	0	0	0	0
Positively Kids	0	0	0	0
Rape Crisis Center**				
Safe House	1	0	11	0
Salvation Army	3	0	18	0
So. NV Educ. Center*				
St. Jude's Ranch	0	0	0	0
Street Teens	0	5	0	0
Sunrise ER**				
The Key Foundation	0	0	0	0
The Shade Tree	14	0	66	0
WestCare	0	2	7	0
WestCare/Nicole	0	2	0	0
Totals	26	31	119	0
Grand Total	176			

Key:

*Provider does not directly provide services to homeless youth.

**Provider does not serve and/or does not provide services to homeless youth.

***Provider serves and provides services to homeless youth, but provider does not have a standardized definition of homelessness. Child Haven had **294** children who were designated as "emergency shelter" status (i.e. they have primary homes, but were taken into custody due to neglect and/or abuse) or "unstable living" (i.e. children transitioning in to or out of foster care).

Appendix IV: Interview Data Frequency Tables

A. Demographic Variables:

1. Age

Age	Frequency	Percent
12 years old	3	6.0
13 years old	4	8.0
14 years old	1	2.0
15 years old	6	12.0
16 years old	10	20.0
17 years old	9	18.0
18 years old	7	14.0
19 years old	7	14.0
20 years old	3	6.0
Total	50	100.0

*Mean=16.48 years old.

1a. Age Cohorts

Age Cohorts:	Frequency	Percent
12-14 years old	7	14.0
15-17 years old	26	52.0
18-20 years old	17	34.0
Total	50	100.0

2. Respondent Gender

Gender:	Frequency	Percent
Male	37	74.0
Female	13	26.0
Total	50	100.0

3. What race are you?

Race:	Frequency	Percent
White/Caucasian	14	28.0
Black/African American	18	36.0
Hispanic/Latin American	10	20.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	2.0

Mixed Race	7	14.0
Total	50	100.0

4. When is the last time you were enrolled in school?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
Currently Enrolled	20	40.0
0-2 Months	4	8.0
3-6 Months	5	10.0
7 Months-1 Year	10	20.0
13 Months-2 Years	1	2.0
More than 2 years	7	14.0
Graduated HS	3	6.0
Total	50	100.0

5. When is the last time you went to school?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
Currently Going	15	30.0
0-2 Months	8	16.0
3-6 Months	6	12.0
7 Months-1 Year	11	22.0
13 Months-2 Years	2	4.0
More than 2 years	6	12.0
Graduated HS	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

6. What is the highest grade you have completed?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
4th grade	1	2.0
6th grade	5	10.0
7th grade	3	6.0
8th grade	7	14.0
9th grade	12	24.0
10th grade	7	14.0
11th grade	9	18.0
12th grade	6	12.0

	Total	50	100.0
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*Mean=9.28

7. Do you plan to keep going/go back to school?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes, I want to finish high school	13	26.0
	Yes, I want to finish high school and go to college	26	52.0
	Yes, I have finished high school and plan to go to college	7	14.0
	No	3	6.0
	DK/No answer	1	2.0
	Total	50	100.0

8. Have you gotten or tried to get help with your education while on the streets?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes, Now	24	48.0
	Yes, Previously	3	6.0
	No	21	42.0
	DK/No answer	2	4.0
	Total	50	100.0

9. Would you be interested in educational services?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	32	64.0
	No	9	18.0
	DK/No answer	9	18.0
	Total	50	100.0

10. Do you have children?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	1	2.0
	No	47	94.0
	DK/No answer	2	4.0
	Total	50	100.0

B. Residential History

12. Where were you born? (City and State or Country)

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
	1	2.0
Alberq., NM	1	2.0
Atlanta, GA	1	2.0
Cedar City, UT	1	2.0
Chicago, IL	1	2.0
Clover City, CA	1	2.0
Dayton, OH	1	2.0
Defiance, OH	1	2.0
Fontana, CA	1	2.0
Hemet, CA	1	2.0
Honolulu, HI	1	2.0
Jacksonville, FL	1	2.0
Kent, WA	1	2.0
Los Angeles, CA	1	2.0
La Havana, Cuba	1	2.0
Lancaster, CA	1	2.0
Las Vegas, NV	13	26.0
Long Beach, CA	3	6.0
Lussock, TX	1	2.0
McAllen, TX	1	2.0
Missoula, MT	1	2.0
Oxnard, CA	1	2.0
Palms, CA	1	2.0
Phoenix, AZ	1	2.0
Portland, OR	1	2.0
San Francisco, CA	1	2.0
San Jose, CA	1	2.0
St Paul, MN	1	2.0
Stockton, CA	1	2.0
Tacoma, WA	2	4.0
Tampa, FL	1	2.0
Tucson, AZ	1	2.0
Vernon, CT	1	2.0
West Covina, CA	1	2.0
Wisconsin Rapids, WI	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

13. Where do your parents live? (City, State or Country)

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
Blackfoot, CO	1	2.0
Chicago, IL	1	2.0
Henderson, NV	3	6.0
Lancaster, CA	1	2.0
Las Vegas, NV	31	62.0
McAllen, TX	1	2.0
New Orleans, LA	1	2.0
Seattle, WA	2	4.0
St Paul, MN	1	2.0
Trinidad, Honduras	1	2.0
DK/No answer	7	14.0
Total	50	100.0

14. How long have you been in Clark County (Las Vegas)?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
Less than one year	8	16.0
1 to 3 years	7	14.0
4 to 6 years	8	16.0
More than six years	27	54.0
Total	50	100.0

15. Where did you spend last night?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
On the street/outdoors	2	4.0
In a shelter	30	60.0
In a friend's house	9	18.0
In a family member's house	1	2.0
Car/van	1	2.0
Transitional housing	7	14.0
Total	50	100.0

16. Where have you slept/spent the most nights in the past 30 days?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
On the street/outdoors	3	6.0
In a shelter	18	36.0
In a hotel/motel	2	4.0
In a friend's house	15	30.0
In a family member's house	7	14.0
Transitional housing	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

17. How many different places have you slept in the last month? (30 days)

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
1	20	40.0
2	12	24.0
3	9	18.0
4	3	6.0
5	1	2.0
6	1	2.0
10	3	6.0
12	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

*Mean=2.72

18. Have you ever been or are you currently in foster care?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
Yes	24	48.0
No	26	52.0
Total	50	100.0

19. How do you feel about foster care?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
It's ok	8	33.3
I don't like it much	3	12.5
I don't like it at all	10	41.7
DK/No answer	3	12.5

	Total	24	100.0
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*Asked only of those respondents who answered "yes" to Q_18.

20. How long have you been away from your parents/legal guardians?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	1 month or less	12	24.0
	2-4 months	11	22.0
	5-7 months	5	10.0
	8-10 months	1	2.0
	11 months or more	19	38.0
	DK/No answer	2	4.0
	Total	50	100.0

21. Why did you leave your parents/legal guardians?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Physical abuse	13	26.0
	Sexual abuse	1	2.0
	Mental abuse	2	4.0
	Kicked out	11	22.0
	Wanted to make it on my own	11	22.0
	Seeking thrills	1	2.0
	Other (specify)	9	18.0
	DK/No answer	2	4.0
	Total	50	100.0

22. Why did you leave your parents/legal guardians? ("Other" specified):

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Drug problems	1	11.1
	Family became homeless	1	11.1
	Kidnapped by grandma	1	11.1
	Left foster care	1	11.1
	Parents unable to care for me	5	55.6
	Total	9	100.0

C. Health & Wellness

23. Have you been to a doctor or dentist while on the street?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
Yes	20	40.0
No	30	60.0
Total	50	100.0

24. Do you currently have health insurance coverage?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
Yes	28	56.0
No	20	40.0
DK/No Answer	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

25. Has there been a time since you've been on the street that you needed health care, dental care, or medications and could not get it?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
Yes	22	44.0
No	28	56.0
Total	50	100.0

26. Why didn't you get the care you needed?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
No money	6	27.3
No medical insurance	4	18.2
No transportation	4	18.2
Never tried	5	22.7
Didn't know where to go	3	13.6
Total	22	100.0

*Asked only of respondents who answered "yes" to Q_25.

27. Have you been denied medical services that you needed?

Answer:	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	12.0
No	43	86.0
No answer	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

28. What reason were you given for being denied services?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Couldn't pay	2	33.3
	Needed parent's permission for treatment	2	33.3
	No identification	1	16.7
	Other (not specified)	1	16.7
	Total	6	100.0

*Asked only of respondents who answered "yes" to Q_27.

29. Do you smoke cigarettes?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes, Daily	15	30.0
	Yes, Occasionally	1	2.0
	No, but I have tried smoking	23	46.0
	No, never tried smoking	11	22.0
	Total	50	100.0

30. Do you drink alcohol?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes, Daily	2	4.0
	Yes, Occasionally	12	24.0
	No, but I have tried alcohol	28	56.0
	No, never tried alcohol	8	16.0
	Total	50	100.0

31. What is your experience with the following drugs?

	Use Regularly		Have Tried		Never Tried		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Marijuana	17	34.0	20	40.0	13	26.0	50	100.0
Speed	3	6.0	9	18.0	38	76.0	50	100.0
Cocaine	1	2.0	8	16.0	41	82.0	50	100.0
Crack	0	0.0	7	14.0	43	86.0	50	100.0
Acid/LSD	0	0.0	5	10.0	45	90.0	50	100.0
Heroin (Injection)	0	0.0	3	6.0	47	94.0	50	100.0
Heroin (Other)	0	0.0	2	4.0	48	96.0	50	100.0
Prescription Pills	4	8.0	13	26.0	33	66.0	50	100.0
Inhalants	1	2.0	3	6.0	46	92.0	50	100.0
Ecstasy	2	4.0	9	18.0	39	78.0	50	100.0

32. Have you ever been drugged without your consent? (e.g. date rape drugs)

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	6	12.0
	No	44	88.0
	Total	50	100.0

33. Are you currently sexually active?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	34	68.0
	No	15	30.0
	DK/No Answer	1	2.0
	Total	50	100.0

34. Do you practice safe sex? (Use condoms)

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	29	85.3
	No	5	14.7
	Total	34	100.0

*Asked only of participants who answered "yes" to Q_33

35. Do you have multiple partners? (as opposed to one steady/regular partner)

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	15	44.1
	No	19	55.9
	Total	34	100.0

*Asked only of participants who answered "yes" to Q_33

36. Have you ever had sex for food or shelter?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	5	14.7
	No	29	85.3
	Total	34	100.0

*Asked only of participants who answered "yes" to Q_33

37. Have you ever had sex for money?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	6	17.6
	No	28	82.4
	Total	34	100.0

*Asked only of participants who answered "yes" to Q_33

38. When is the last time you were tested for STDs? (Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Herpes)

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Within the past month	4	11.4
	1-6 months ago	11	31.4
	6 months to 1 year ago	7	20.0
	More than a year ago	5	14.3
	Never	7	20.0
	Total	34	100.0

*Asked only of participants who answered "yes" to Q_33

39. When is the last time you were tested for HIV?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Within the past month	3	8.6
	1 to 6 months ago`	12	34.3
	6 months to a year ago	5	14.3
	More than a year ago	4	11.4
	Never	10	28.6
	Total	34	100.0

*Asked only of participants who answered "yes" to Q_33

40. Have you ever been forced to have sex?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	6	12.0
	No	44	88.0
	Total	50	100.0

41. Did that happen before of after you were on the streets?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Before	2	33.3
	After	3	50.0
	Both	1	16.7
	Total	6	100.0

*Asked only of participants who answered “yes” to Q_40

42. What is your sexual preference?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Heterosexual (a boy who likes girls or a girl who likes boys)	43	86.0
	Homosexual (a boy who like boys or a girl who likes girls)	3	6.0
	bisexual (a boy or a girl who likes both boys and girls)	4	8.0
	Total	50	100.0

43. Have you ever been diagnosed with any of the following conditions?

	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
ADD/ADHD	16	32.0	34	68.0	50	100.0
Tuberculosis	0	0.0	50	100.0	50	100.0
HIV/AIDS	0	0.0	50	100.0	50	100.0
Hepatitis (Any Type)	0	0.0	50	100.0	50	100.0
Sexually Transmitted Disease	4	8.0	46	92.0	50	100.0
Diabetes	0	0.0	50	100.0	50	100.0
Asthma	15	30.0	35	70.0	50	100.0
Heart Problems	3	6.0	47	94.0	50	100.0
High Blood Pressure	0	0.0	50	100.0	50	100.0
Cancer (of Any Type)	0	0.0	50	100.0	50	100.0
Pneumonia and/or Influenza	2	4.0	48	96.0	50	100.0
Alcoholism/Drug Abuse	12	24.0	38	76.0	50	100.0
Learning Disability	10	20.0	40	80.0	50	100.0
Depression	17	34.0	33	66.0	50	100.0
Other Mental Illness	8	16.0	42	84.0	50	100.0

44. Have you ever been diagnosed with any of the following conditions? (Answers given for “other” response)

	Answer:	Frequency	Percent
	Anger issues	1	12.5
	Anxiety Disorder	2	25.0
	Attachment reactive disorder a	1	12.5
	Autism	1	12.5
	Bipolar	2	25.0
	Body dysmorphic Disorder	1	12.5
	Total	8	100.0

45. On average, how many meals do you have per day?

	Answer:	Frequency	Percent
	0 meals	1	2.0
	1 meal	10	20.0
	2 meals	9	18.0
	3 meals	28	56.0
	More than 3 meals	2	4.0
	Total	50	100.0

Legal and Safety Issues

46. Have you been the victim of a crime while on the street?

	Answer:	Frequency	Percent
	Yes	16	32.0
	No	34	68.0
	Total	50	100.0

46 a. What crimes?

	Answer:	Frequency	Percent
	Assault	5	31.25
	Destruction of property	1	6.25
	Rape	1	6.25
	Robbery	7	43.75
	Robbery & Assault	1	6.25
	Crime not specified	1	6.25
	Total	16	100.0

*Asked only of participants who answered “yes” to Q_46

47. Have you done anything that might be considered a crime while on the streets?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	25	50.0
	No	25	50.0
	Total	50	100.0

48. Have you committed a crime for food or shelter while on the streets?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	19	38.0
	No	30	60.0
	DK/No Answer	1	2.0
	Total	50	100.0

49. Have you felt harassed by police while on the street?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	18	36.0
	No	31	62.0
	DK/No Answer	1	2.0
	Total	50	100.0

49 a. How have you been harassed by the police while on the street?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Assaulted by police during arrest	1	5.5
	Attempted rape by police	1	5.5
	Kicked out of abandoned building	1	5.5
	Police brutality	5	27.8
	Racial slurs	2	11.1
	Random stopping	5	27.8
	DK/No answer	3	16.7
	Total	18	100.0

*Asked only of participants who answered "yes" to Q_49

50. Have you ever been placed in juvenile detention or jail?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	27	55.1
	No	22	44.9
	Total	49	100.0

51. Are you currently, or have you ever been part of a street gang?

Answer:		Frequency	Percent
	Yes, currently involved	6	12.0
	Yes, previously	5	10.0
	No, but I've been approached by members of a gang about join	8	16.0
	No, but I associate with gang members	17	34.0
	No, and I've never been approached	14	28.0
	Total	50	100.0

D. Service Access

52. Which community services have helped you in the past?

	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Medical Services	17	34.0	33	66.0	50	100.0
Housing Assistance	31	62.0	19	38.0	50	100.0
Shelter	31	62.0	19	38.0	50	100.0
Soup Kitchens	12	24.0	38	76.0	50	100.0
Legal Services	6	12.0	43	88.0	50	100.0
Job Training/Job Placement	18	36.0	31	62.0	50	100.0

53. In your opinion, which type of services does Clark County need?

	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Emergency Shelter	42	87.5	6	12.5	48	100.0
Transitional Housing	36	75.0	12	25.0	48	100.0
Homeless Service Centers	45	93.8	3	6.3	48	100.0
Job Training/Job Placement	43	89.6	5	10.4	48	100.0
Food and Clothing Banks	43	89.6	5	10.4	48	100.0
Affordable Housing	37	77.1	11	22.9	48	100.0
Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation	40	83.3	8	16.7	48	100.0
Mental Health Services	37	77.1	11	22.9	48	100.0
Health and Dental Clinics	44	91.7	4	8.3	48	100.0
Family Counseling	35	72.9	13	27.1	48	100.0
Reliable Transportation	40	83.3	8	16.7	48	100.0

Place/Outdoor Area Where Youth Are Welcome	39	81.3	9	18.8	48	100.0
School Health Clinic	38	79.2	10	20.8	48	100.0

*Two of the respondents did not complete this portion of the survey; as a result, the totals for this question are calculated out of 48 total respondents

54. Which of the following community services would you use if they were available to you?

	Yes		No		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Emergency Shelter	31	63.3	18	36.7	49	100.0
Transitional Housing	24	49.0	25	51.0	49	100.0
Homeless Service Centers	28	57.1	21	42.9	49	100.0
Job Training/Job Placement	36	73.5	13	26.5	49	100.0
Food and Clothing Banks	26	53.1	23	46.9	49	100.0
Affordable Housing	25	51.0	24	49.0	49	100.0
Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation	21	42.9	28	57.1	49	100.0
Mental Health Services	19	38.8	30	61.2	49	100.0
Health and Dental Clinics	38	77.6	11	22.4	49	100.0
Family Counseling	27	55.1	22	44.9	49	100.0
Reliable Transportation	38	77.6	11	22.4	49	100.0
Place/Outdoor Area Where Youth Are Welcome	32	65.3	17	34.7	49	100.0
School Health Clinic	25	51.0	24	49.0	49	100.0

55. Which of the following agencies do you know about or have you used?

	Have Used		Haven't Used		Never Heard Of		Turned Away		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
NPHY	14	28.0	9	18.0	27	54.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
WestCare	29	58.0	17	34.0	4	8.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
St. Jude's Ranch	0	0.0	18	36.0	32	64.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Boys & Girls Town	12	24.0	25	50.0	13	26.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
CFIL	18	36.0	17	34.0	14	28.0	1	2.0	50	100.0
Catholic Social Services	4	8.0	10	20.0	36	72.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Street Teens	3	6.0	15	30.0	32	64.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Straight from the Streets	0	0.0	7	14.0	43	86.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Child Haven	23	46.0	23	46.0	4	8.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Safe Place	11	22.0	23	46.0	16	32.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Safe Nest	2	4.0	23	46.0	25	50.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Huntridge Teen Clinic	2	4.0	10	20.0	38	76.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Planned Parenthood	4	8.0	22	44.0	24	48.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Big Brothers Big Sisters	5	10.0	30	60.0	15	30.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Boys & Girls Club	20	40.0	26	52.0	4	8.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
YMCA	15	30.0	26	52.0	9	18.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
I Have A Dream Foundation	0	0.0	14	28.0	36	72.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
HELP of So. Nevada	1	2.0	10	20.0	39	78.0	0	0.0	50	100.0
Spring Mountain Treatment Center	15	30.0	21	42.0	14	28.0	0	0.0	50	100.0

Appendix V: Homeless Youth Interview Instrument

**Homeless Youth Survey
Clark County, NV 2005
Strategic Solutions**

Hello, my name is _____ with the Clark County Homeless Youth Coalition. We are working with the non-profit provider's of Clark County to serve you better. We are interested in knowing the problems that you encounter on a daily basis and your thoughts about existing services and programs available to you. You are being asked to participate because you have been identified as a homeless youth in Clark County, Nevada.

As explained to you in the consent form, we will not tell anyone your name and your answers will remain confidential. We're going to ask for your initials on this form, but not your name, so that when we share our findings, no one will know which answers are yours.

Your participation is completely up to you. All we're going to do is ask you some questions. Some of the questions are personal, if at any point you feel uncomfortable answering a question, you may skip it or end the interview. The survey should take about 30 minutes of your time. At this point or at any point from now on we you can refuse to take the survey.

The end results of this survey will be to help meet the needs of homeless kids in Clark County. They might also be used to help researchers all over the country to help researchers and decision makers all over the country understand the problem of youth homelessness better.

Do you understand the things I've just said? Can I answer any questions about what's going to happen for you? Please initial below to indicate that you understand what's going to happen.

Respondent's Initials _____

Interviewer 1 _____ **Interviewer 2** _____

Respondent Date of Birth _____

Date of Interview _____

Location: On the Street **Service Provider:** _____

Questionnaire:

Q_1: Respondent gender:

- A) Male B) Female C) Transgendered

Q_2: Interviewer gender

- A) Male B) Female

Q_3: Language

- A) English B) Spanish C) Other (specify)

A) Demographics

Q_4: What race are you? (Select one)

- A) White/Caucasian
B) Black/African American
C) Hispanic/Latin American
D) Alaska Native/Native American
E) Asian/Pacific Islander
F) Other _____
G) No answer

Q_5: When is the last time you were enrolled in school?

- A) Currently Enrolled
B) 1-2 Months
C) 3-6 months
D) 7 months to 1 Year
E) 13 months-2 Years
F) More than 2 Years
G) Don't Know
H) No Answer

Q_6: When is the last time you actually went to school?

- A) Currently going
B) 1-2 Months
C) 3-6 months
D) 7 months to 1 Year
E) 13 months-2 Years
F) More than 2 Years
G) Don't Know
H) No Answer

Q_7: What is the highest grade you have completed? _____

Q_8: Do you plan to keep going/go back to school?

- A) Yes, I want to finish High school
- B) Yes, I want to finish high school and go to college
- C) Yes, I have finished high school and I want to go to college
- D) No
- E) Don't Know
- F) No Answer

Q_9: Have you gotten or tried to get help with your education while on the streets?

- A) Yes, now Which agency? _____
- B) Yes, in the past Which agency? _____
- C) No
- D) No Answer

Q_10. Would you be interested in educational services?

- A) Yes
- B) No
- E) Don't Know
- F) No Answer

Q_11: Do you have any children?

- A) Yes Ages? _____
- B) No (Skip to Q_12)
- C) Don't Know
- D) No answer

Q_12: Who do (does) your children (child) live with?

- | | Child1 | Child2 | Child3 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| A) With me | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| B) With their other parent | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| C) With a family member | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| D) Child Haven | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| E) With the state | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| F) Don't Know | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| G) Other | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| H) No Answer | _____ | _____ | _____ |

B) Residential History

Q_13: Where were you born? City: _____ State: _____
___Don't know ___ No Answer

Q_14: Where do your parents live? City _____ State: _____
___Don't know ___ No Answer

Q_15: How long have you been in Clark County (Las Vegas)?

- A) Less than 1 year
- B) 1-3 years
- C) 4-6 years
- D) More than 6 years
- E) Don't Know
- F) No Answer

Q_16: Where did you sleep/spend last night?

- A) On the street/outdoors
- B) On a roof
- C) In a shelter Name _____
- D) In a hotel/motel Name _____
- E) In a friend's house
- F) In a family member's house
- G) Car/van
- H) Abandoned building
- I) Your own residence
- J) Transitional housing
- K) Other _____
- L) No answer

Q_17: Where have you slept/spent the most nights in the past month (30 days)?

- A) On the street/outdoors
- B) On a roof
- C) In a shelter Name _____
- D) In a hotel/motel Name _____
- E) In a friend's house
- F) In a family member's house
- G) car/van
- H) Abandoned building
- I) Your own residence
- J) Transitional housing
- K) Other _____
- L) No answer

Q_18: How many different places have you slept in the last month (30 days)?

_____ No answer

Q_19: Have you ever been or are you currently in foster care?

- A) Yes
- B) No (Skip to Q_20)
- C) No answer

Q_20: How do you feel about foster care?

- A) I like it a lot.

- B) It's OK.
- C) I don't like it much.
- D) I don't like it at all.
- E) I don't know.
- F) No answer

Q_21: How long have you been away from you parents/legal guardians?

- A) Still live with parents/legal guardians
- B) 1 month or less
- C) 2-4 months
- D) 5-7 months
- E) 8-10 months
- F) 11 months or more
- G) Don't Know
- H) No answer

Q_22: Why did you leave your parents/legal guardian? [DO NOT READ RESPONSE CHOICES]

- A) Physical Abuse
- B) Sexual Abuse
- C) Mental Abuse
- D) Kicked Out
- E) Wanted to Make it on My Own
- F) Seeking Thrills
- G) Other _____
- H) Don't Know
- I) No Answer

Notes: _____

C) Health (Remind interviewee that all answers remain anonymous)

Q_23: Have you been to a doctor or dentist while on the street?

- A) Yes
- B) No (Skip to Q_24)
- C) No answer

Q_24: Where did you receive this medical treatment?

- A) Emergency room Which? _____
- B) Hospital Which? _____
- C) Public health clinic (e.g. Huntridge)
- D) Doctor's office

- E) Out of town clinic
- F) Friends/family
- G) Other _____
- H) DK/No answer

Q_25: Do you currently have health insurance coverage?

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) No answer

Q_26: Has there been a time since you've been on the street that you needed health care, dental care or medications/medicine and could not get it?

- A) Yes
- B) No (Skip to Q_16)
- C) No answer

Q_27: Why didn't you get the care you needed? (Select One)

- A) No money
- B) No medical insurance
- C) No transportation
- D) Never tried
- E) Don't know where to go

Q_28: Have you been denied medical services that you needed while on the streets?

- A) Yes
- B) No (skip to q_29)
- C) No Answer

Q_29: What reason were you given for being denied services?

- A) Couldn't pay
- B) Needed parent's permission for treatment
- C) No identification
- D) Other: _____
- E) Don't Know
- F) No Answer

Q_30: Do you smoke cigarettes?

- A) Yes, daily
How many each day? _____
- B) Yes, Sometimes
How many each month? _____
- C) No, but I have tried smoking

- D) No, never tried smoking
- E) No answer

Q_31: Do you drink alcohol?

- A) Yes, daily
How many drinks each day? _____
- B) Yes, sometimes
How many each month? _____
- C) No, but I have tried drinking alcohol
- D) No, never tried alcohol
- E) No answer

Q_32: What is your experience with the following drugs? (* please indicate other drugs)

	Use Regularly	Have tried	Never Tried	Don't Know	No Answer
Marijuana					
Speed					
Cocaine					
Crack					
Acid/LSD					
Mushrooms					
Heroin (Injected)					
Heroin (Other)					
Pills					
Inhalants					
Ecstasy/E/X					
*					
*					
*					

Q_33: Have you ever been drugged without your consent (ex date rape drugs?)

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Don't Know
- D) No Answer

Q_34: Are you currently sexually active?

- A) Yes
- B) No (skip to q_41)
- C) No answer

Q_35: Do you practice safe sex? (Use Condoms)

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Don't know
- D) No answer

Q_36: Do you have multiple partners? (Instead of just one steady partner)

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Don't know
- D) No answer

Q_37: Have you ever had sex for food or shelter?

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Don't Know
- D) No answer

Q_38: Have you ever had sex for money?

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Don't Know
- D) No answer

Q_39: When is the last time you were tested for STDs (Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, herpes)?

- A) within the past month
- B) 1-6 months ago
- C) 6 months to 1 year ago
- D) More than a year ago
- E) Never

Q_40: When is the last time you were tested for HIV?

- F) within the past month
- G) 1-6 months ago
- H) 6 months to 1 year ago
- I) More than a year ago
- J) Never

Q_41: Have you ever been forced to have sex?

- A) Yes
- B) No (Skip to Q_39)
- C) Don't Know
- D) No answer

Q_41: Did that happen before or after you were on the streets?

- A) Before
- B) After
- C) Both
- D) Don't Know
- E) No Answer

Q_42: What is your sexual preference?

- A) Heterosexual (a boy who like girls or a girl who likes boys)
- B) Homosexual (a boy who likes boys or a girl who likes girls)
- C) Bisexual (a boy or girl who likes both boys and girls)
- D) Don't Know
- E) No Answer

Q_43: Have you ever had (been diagnosed with) any of the following conditions? (Select all that apply)

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|----|------------|
| A) ADD/ADHD | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| B) Tuberculosis | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| C) HIV/AIDS | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| D) Hepatitis (any type) | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| E) Sexually transmitted disease | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| F) Diabetes | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| G) Asthma | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| H) Heart problems | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| I) High blood pressure | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| J) Cancer (any type) | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| K) Pneumonia and influenza | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| L) Alcoholism/Drug Abuse | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| M) Learning disability | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| N) Depression | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| O) Other mental illness | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| P) Other _____ | | | |

Q_44: On average, how many meals do you have per day?

- A) 0 meals
- B) 1 meal
- C) 2 meals
- D) 3 meals
- E) More than 3 meals
- F) No answer

- C) Shelter Yes No Where? _____
- D) Soup Kitchens Yes No Where? _____
- E) Legal Services Yes No Where? _____
- f) Job Training/Job Placement Yes No Where? _____

Q_52: In your opinion, which type(s) of services does Clark County/Las Vegas valley need? (Check all that apply)

- A) Emergency shelter
- B) Transitional housing
- C) Homeless service centers
- D) Job training and job placement programs
- E) Food and clothing banks
- F) Affordable housing
- G) Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs/Detox
- H) Mental health services
- I) Health and dental clinics
- J) Family counseling
- K) Reliable transportation
- L) Place or outdoor areas where youth are welcome
- M) School health clinic
- N) Other _____

Q_53: Which of the following community services would you use if they were available to you?

- A) Emergency shelter
- B) Transitional housing
- C) Homeless service centers
- D) Job training and job placement programs
- E) Food and clothing banks
- F) Affordable housing
- G) Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs/Detox
- H) Mental health services
- I) Health and dental clinics
- J) Family counseling
- K) Reliable transportation
- L) Place or outdoor areas where youth are welcome
- M) School health clinic
- N) Other _____

Q_54: Which agencies do you know about or have you used?

- A) Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- B) Westcare
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away

- C) St Judes Ranch for Children
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- D) Boys and Girls Town
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- E) Center for Independent Living
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- F) Catholic Social Services
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- G) Street Teens
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- H) Straight from the Streets
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- I) Child Haven
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- K) Safe Place
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- L) Safe Nest
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- M) Huntridge Teen Clinic
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- N) Planned Parenthood
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- O) Big Brothers Big Sisters
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- P) Boys and Girls Club
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- Q) YMCA
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- R) I have a Dream Foundation
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- S) HELP of Southern Nevada
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away
- T) Spring Mountain Treatment Center
Have used Haven't used Never Heard of Turned Away

What are your goals?

What do you see in your future?

What do services do you need/want to help you meet your goals or reach the future you envision?

What else do you want us to know?

###

Appendix VI: Homeless Youth Interview Informed Consent Release

INFORMED CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

-Homeless Youth Study-Youth Interviews-

Hello, my name is _____ with the Clark County Homeless Youth Coalition. We're working with the service providers of Clark County to serve you better. We're interested in knowing more about the problems you encounter on a daily basis and your thoughts about services and programs available to you. You are being asked to participate because you have been identified as a homeless youth in Clark County, Nevada.

I want you to know that we will not tell anyone your name and your answers will remain confidential, meaning nobody will know how you personally answered these questions. We're going to ask you to sign and date this document to show that you understand why we're asking these questions and that you have agreed to participate.

Your participation is completely up to you. Some of the questions are personal so if at any point you feel uncomfortable answering a question, you may skip it or end the interview altogether. The survey should take about 30 minutes of your time. At this point or at any point moving forward, you can refuse to take the survey.

The end results of this survey will be used to help meet the needs of homeless youth in Clark County. They might also be used to help researchers and decision makers better understand youth homelessness.

Signing your name at the bottom means that you agree to be to participate in this study. You and the administrators of this facility will be given a copy of this form after you have signed it. Only researchers will have access to the questionnaire that contains your answers to our questions.

Print your name

Date

Sign your name