

# 2007

## SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESS CENSUS AND SURVEY



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# Introduction

During the period of January 30-31, 2007, Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC), in conjunction with Applied Survey Research (ASR), conducted the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Count. ASR is a non-profit social research firm based in Watsonville, California, with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and research.

Due to the large size of Clark County, it was necessary to conduct the enumeration over a period of two days. On January 30<sup>th</sup> the areas outlying the City of Las Vegas were enumerated, and the following morning the City of Las Vegas was enumerated.

The data presented in this report will provide baseline to support County and Statewide efforts to mitigate and end homelessness and provide invaluable data regarding the number and characteristics of homeless persons in Southern Nevada.

The census and survey data presented within this report will further profile the characteristics, likely causes and contributing factors to homelessness in Clark County. This data will support evaluation of current strategies, as well as the development of new approaches by SNRPC and all of its members as they address homelessness within their communities. Additionally, this data is considered vital to the development of the countywide 10-year plan to end homelessness. The experience gained by Clark County in managing the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Count has provided a foundation upon which future enumerations will be designed and conducted.

## Project Purpose and Goals

In 2001, the United States government adopted a national goal to end homelessness in ten years.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the U.S. Congress required that governments receiving federal funds under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act must conduct regular point-in-time counts of their homeless populations. For these reasons, and most importantly, because the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC), desires more accurate and useful data, the County undertook this homeless census and survey.

The 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Project Committee identified several important project goals:

- To increase public awareness of homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the homeless
- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds
- Review potential population differences in the winter and summer homeless populations
- Better understand panhandling in Clark County and the relationship to panhandling

The results of this research will assist service providers, policy makers, funding sources, and local, state, and federal governments to better understand and plan for the needs of the homeless population by examining current statistics in various geographical contexts. It is hoped that the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey will help policy makers and service providers more effectively develop services and programs to serve the County's homeless population.

The data presented in this report provide an updated view of the homeless in Southern Nevada. The results of this report are intended to:

- Inform the SNRPC as it addresses remedies for homelessness
- Suggest additional research questions
- Provide a methodology to be replicated and possibly refined in future studies

The census and survey data will help the SNRPC to further understand likely causes and contributing factors of homelessness, and thereby, develop the best possible strategies to address remedies and mitigating efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> The White House Domestic Policy Council, *New Freedom Initiative: A Progress Report*, Chapter 3, 2004.

# Executive Summary

## The Number of Homeless Persons in Southern Nevada

The 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Count was performed by using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-recommended practices for counting homeless persons. This comprehensive study included a field enumeration, field surveys, and telephone surveys.

The overall homeless population of the Clark County Continuum of Care (CoC) enumerated in the point-in-time count is 11,417 people. Of those people, 3,747 homeless people were enumerated on streets within the 346 tracts and 3,826 unsheltered homeless people found during the General Population (aka “Hidden Homeless”) telephone survey. An additional 3,844 sheltered homeless people were counted in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or domestic violence shelters, including an estimated 1,521 people who were using Clark County Rental Assistance. For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of an unsheltered homeless person was used: someone who is either living on the streets, or in a vehicle, encampment, abandoned building, garage, or any other place not normally used or meant for human habitation. An additional 105 homeless people were housed in jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities, but do not meet HUD’s homeless definition for the point-in-time count.

**Figure 1: 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Enumeration<sup>1</sup>**

Census Components	Findings
Street Enumeration	3,747
Shelter Enumeration	3,844
Hidden Homeless Estimate	3,826
<b>Total Count</b>	<b>11,417</b>

<sup>1</sup>The 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census number does not include people in Rehabilitation facilities, Hospitals, or Jails.

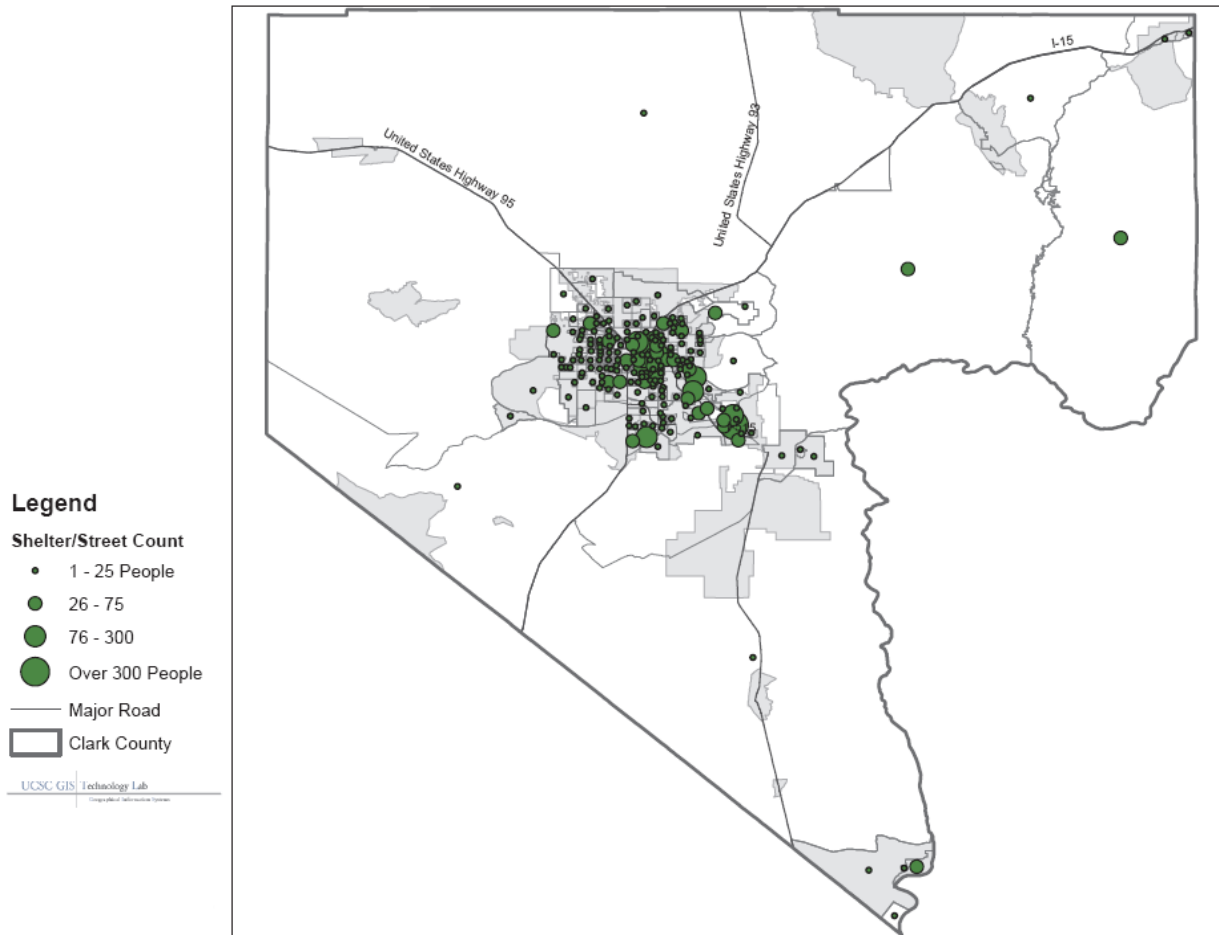
Using the above major data components and the results of 1,378 homeless surveys, ASR generated detailed demographic and lifestyle profiles of homeless people in Southern Nevada. The 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey, for example, yielded data regarding the frequency and length of homeless episodes, which was used to calculate an annual estimate of the number of people who experience homelessness in a year.

ASR used a HUD-recommended formula, which produced an annual estimate of 50,656 persons who were homeless some time during 2006. Based on the 2005 American Community Survey population profile, this annual estimate of homelessness represents approximately 3.0% of Clark County’s total population of 1,691,213 people.<sup>2</sup> These findings are similar to results seen in other areas. The California Research Bureau

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey.

estimates the number of people who experience homelessness over the course of a year in California to be between one and two million people, or approximately 3% of the general population.<sup>3</sup>

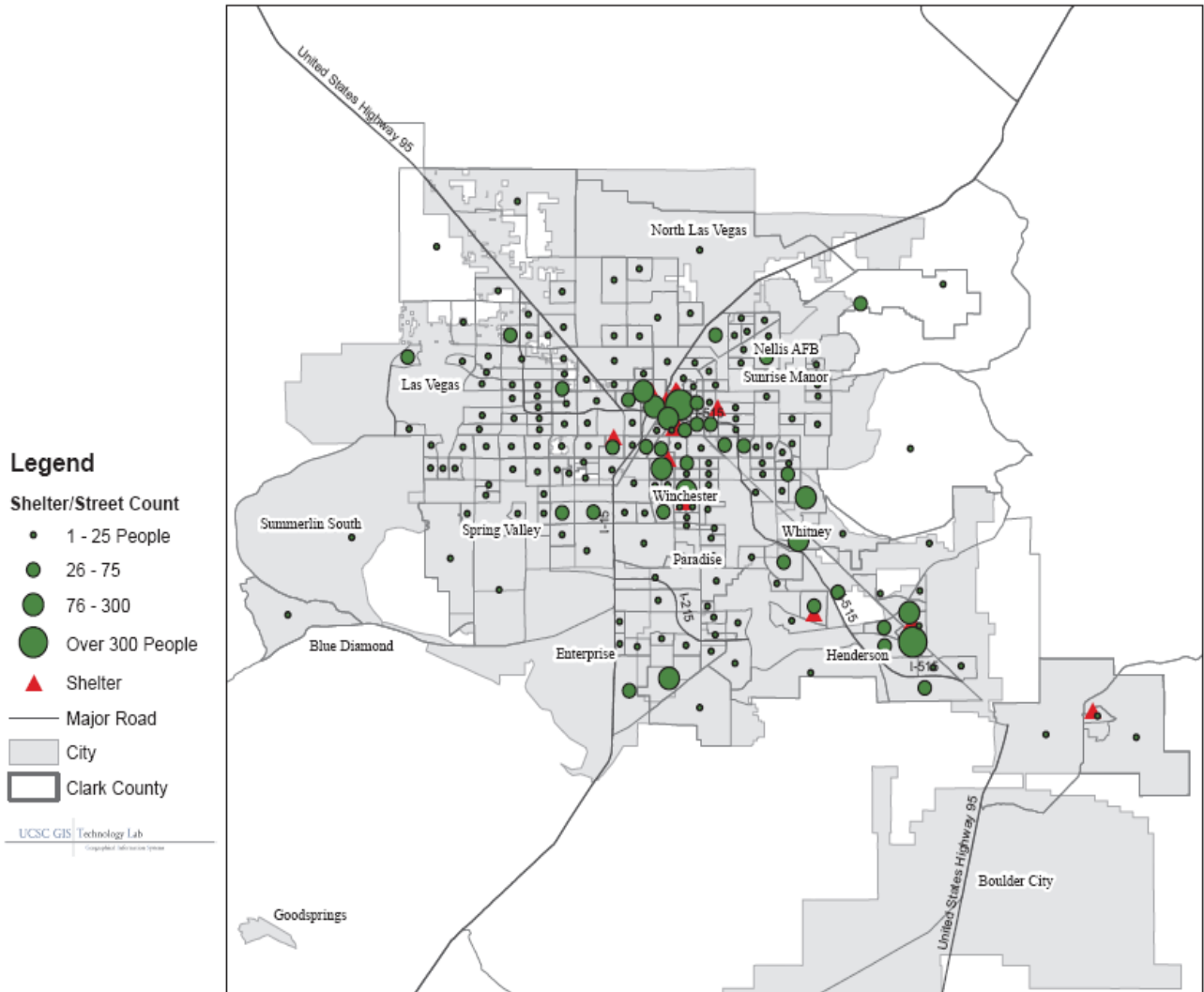
**Figure 2: Homeless Population Density by Census Tract for All of Clark County<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>Please note that people receiving Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance and those people counted in the General Population Telephone survey are not included in the map.

<sup>3</sup> Foster, Lisa K., and Snowdon, Patricia, *Addressing Long-Term Homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing*, California Research Bureau, August 2003.

Figure 3: Homeless Population Density by Census Tract for Clark County Metro Area<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Please note that people receiving Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance and those people counted in the General Population Telephone survey are not included in the map.

## A Profile of Homelessness

Of the 11,417 homeless people identified in the 2007 point-in-time count, 34% were in shelter facilities and 66% were unsheltered. This highlights the importance of combined street-based and shelter-based enumerations, versus only shelter-centered enumeration efforts.



The following is an overview of the profile of homelessness based on the survey results:

- Nearly 27% of survey respondents had been homeless for a year or more.
- Approximately 7% of all survey respondents (sheltered and unsheltered) had children under the age of 18 living with them.
- Demographically, the homeless population was diverse, though African-Americans were significantly over-represented at 33% of the homeless population, while comprising under 9% of the general population.<sup>4</sup>
- 56% of all respondents were between 31-50 years old. The two largest age groups were 31-40 years old (23%) and 41-50 years old (33%).

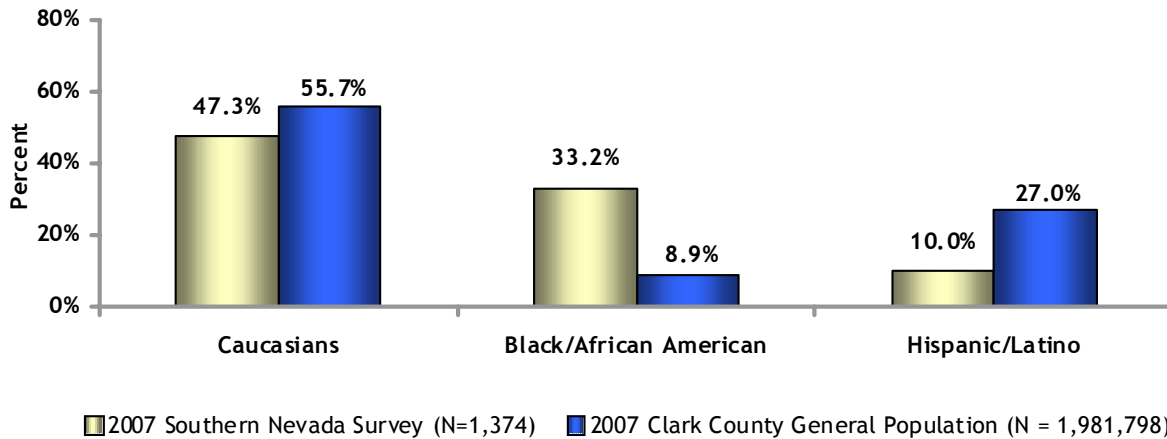
According to the Nevada State Demographer<sup>5</sup>, Caucasians comprise 56% of the total population of Clark County, Hispanics/Latinos comprise 27%, and Black/African Americans comprise 9% of the total population. Therefore, Caucasians (47%) are slightly under-represented in the survey population as compared to the general population of Clark County, while Hispanics/Latinos are more greatly under-represented and Black/African Americans are significantly over-represented in comparison.

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<sup>4</sup> Nevada State Demographer, *Age Sex Race and Hispanic Origin Estimates from 2000 to 2005 and Projections from 2006 to 2026 for Nevada and Its Counties*, 2006.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

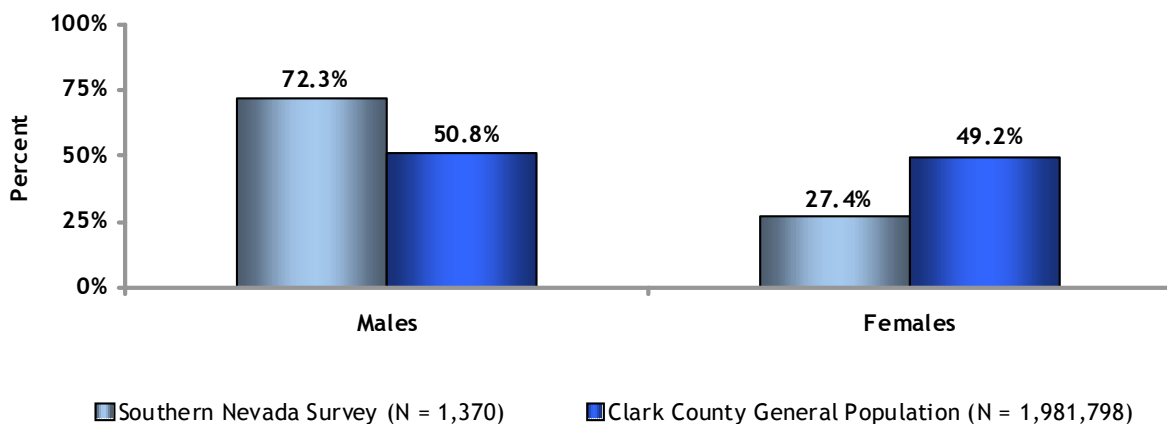
**Figure 4: Respondents by Ethnicity (Top 3 ethnicities)**



Clark County General Population data source: Nevada State Demographer, *Age Sex Race and Hispanic Origin Estimates from 2000 to 2005 and Projections from 2006 to 2026 for Nevada and Its Counties*, 2006.

In the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey approximately 72% of homeless respondents were male, and 27% were female. Males were over-represented in the survey population compared to the general male population of Clark County of 51%. Females, making up 27% of the survey population, were under-represented when compared to the County population estimates of 49% female. A survey conducted in Long Beach, California in 2004 yielded similar gender results (66% male, 34% female).<sup>6</sup>

**Figure 5: Respondents by Gender**



Note: Percentages for the Southern Nevada Survey do not total 100% because 0.3% of respondents identifying as Transgender were not included

Clark County General Population data source: Nevada State Demographer, *Age Sex Race and Hispanic Origin Estimates from 2000 to 2005 and Projections from 2006 to 2026 for Nevada and Its Counties*, 2006.

<sup>6</sup> The Institute for Urban Research and Development, *The City of Long Beach 2004 Homeless Assessment*, 2005.

## Chronically Homeless

A profile of the chronically homeless was obtained from the data gathered from the homeless survey. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines a chronically homeless person as:

*An unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been:*

1. *Continually homeless for one year or more; or*
2. *Has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.*

It should be noted that “a disabling condition” includes physical, mental and developmental disabilities, as well as alcoholism, drug addiction, depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), HIV/AIDS, or a chronic health condition. Of the 1,378 homeless survey respondents, approximately 21% (291 respondents) can be considered chronically homeless. Similar findings were reported in the 2007 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, which compiled data from 2005 HUD applications of all the Continuums of Care. That report found that 23% of all homeless people are chronically homeless.<sup>7</sup>

All qualitative data about homelessness in this report was derived from direct surveys of a sample of homeless persons. As with all surveys of this nature, results are potentially biased by memory recall issues, though our review of the data does not indicate this was a significant issue. Additionally, for critical profile interest areas such the prevalence of disabling conditions, the research design relied on self-described and self-defined responses. This is an approved method in homeless qualitative profiling due to the limitations in connecting homeless persons to their clinical profiles.

## The Daily Condition of Homeless Persons – Survey Results

### Frequency of Homelessness

- When asked how many times they had been homeless in the last 12 months, nearly 62% of homeless survey respondents indicated they had homeless only one time during that period.
- Almost 17% of homeless survey respondents had been homeless six or more times in the past 3 years.

### Length of Homelessness

- When asked how long they have been homeless since they last lived in permanent housing, approximately 73% percent of all respondents had been homeless for less than one year.
- 9% of respondents indicated they had been homeless for more than three years.

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<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, *The Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*, 2007.

### Usual Sleeping Arrangements

- While 32% of survey respondents indicated their usual nighttime sleeping arrangement was outdoors or in an encampment, just over 43% indicated they usually spent the night in transitional housing, or emergency or other types of shelters.
- Just over 8% reported their usual sleeping arrangements were in a backyard storage structure, abandoned building, unconverted garage, attic or basement, or another place in a house not normally used for sleeping.
- Nearly 6% slept in a hotel or motel room.
- Approximately 5% of respondents usually stayed in a vehicle.
- 3% reported that their usual sleeping arrangement was in an encampment.

### Education

- Just over 26% of respondents had not received a high school diploma or GED.
- 43% of all survey respondents had received their high school diploma or equivalent.
- Nearly 21% had some college education, but had not received a degree.
- Approximately 8% had received an Associate's, Bachelor's, or higher degree.

### Unemployment

- Approximately 85% of the homeless were unemployed at the time of the survey.
- The two leading causes of unemployment were having no permanent address (25%) and a lack of transportation (24%).

### Accessing Government Assistance

- Over 37% of survey respondents indicated they received no government assistance through Food Stamps, WIC, TANF, SSI/SSDI, Medicaid/Medicare, Social Security, Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance or Veteran's Benefits.
- Of the 63% of respondents who receive some kind of government assistance, the most common benefit respondents was accessed was Food Stamps (73%).
- Of those respondents not receiving government assistance, 29% did not think they were eligible to receive assistance.

### Children and Families

- Just over 3% of all survey respondents reported living with their children, while an additional 1% indicated they were living with their spouse or partner *and* children.

- Approximately 3% of respondents indicated they had children in foster care.
- More than 11% of respondents lived with other family or friends.

### **Domestic Violence**

- Approximately 13% of female respondents reported they were currently experiencing domestic violence.
- Just over 4% of male respondents indicated they were experiencing domestic violence at the time of the survey.

### **Veterans**

- Approximately 25% of adult survey respondents reported they had served in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Just over 70% of those respondents indicated they had received an honorable discharge.

### **Disabling Conditions**

- Overall, approximately 50% of survey respondents indicated they were experiencing a disabling condition. For the purposes of this survey, a disabling condition was identified as a physical disability, developmental disability, mental illness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, alcohol or drug use, HIV/AIDS, or chronic health problems.
- More than 24% indicated they were experiencing a physical disability.
- Approximately 25% of respondents reported they were experiencing alcohol abuse, and 24% of respondents indicated they were experiencing drug abuse. Of all respondents, nearly 15% were experiencing *both* alcohol and drug abuse at the time of the survey.
- More than 16% of respondents were experiencing mental illness, while approximately 35% were experiencing depression and 10% were experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Please note that depression by itself was not considered criteria for the respondent to be considered “severely mentally ill” (as reported in the SuperNOFA Exhibit One subpopulations) despite the seriousness of this condition. Severely mentally ill was defined by the respondent claim of mental illness or having experienced PTSD.

### **Gambling Problem**

- Nearly 21% of respondents reported that they were experiencing a gambling problem at the time of the survey.

### **Panhandling**

- Approximately 19% of respondents indicated that they panhandle.
- 61% of those respondents reported making \$100 or less in a typical month.

## Legal Issues

- Approximately 32% of respondents reported that they had spent at least one night in jail or prison in the last year.
- Nearly 9% of respondents were on probation or parole at the time of the survey, and 9% stated they were on probation or parole at the time they most recently became homeless.

## The Primary Reasons for Becoming Homeless

Just as we must rely on self-definitions of disabling conditions, we rely on self-perceptions as to the causes of homelessness. While we have found most survey respondents to be very candid and self-aware, it is difficult to determine, for example, if job loss was caused substance abuse or was a consequence of it. The data speaks for itself and is consistent with other communities.

Overall, survey respondents most frequently cited loss of job or unemployment as the primary event or condition that led to their current episode of homelessness; this cause was named by approximately 35% of respondents. Other common causes of homelessness were alcohol or drug use (17%), a gambling problem (6%), and family or domestic violence (5%). Nearly 13% of respondents indicated there were other primary reasons for their homelessness that were not listed on the survey.

**Figure 6: Primary Reasons for Homelessness**

Reason	% of Total
Lost job (unemployment)	35.1%
Alcohol or drug use	17.1%
Gambling Problem	5.5%
Family / domestic violence	4.7%
Argument / Family or friend asked you to leave	4.5%
Illness or medical problem	3.5%
Divorced or separated	2.9%
Incarceration	2.9%
Mental health issues	2.7%
Landlord raised rent	2.3%
Landlord sold / stopped renting / re-used property	2.2%
Hospitalization / treatment program	0.9%
Hurricane Katrina	0.7%
Got too old for foster care	0.2%
Natural disaster / fire / flood	0.2%
Other reasons	12.7%

N = 1,358

## Summary

The 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey revealed a diverse population with many different needs. The homeless survey showed that the typical homeless person was living in Clark County at the time they became homeless, had been homeless for less than one year, and received some form of government assistance (most notably, Food Stamps), though the survey does not indicate the level of services they may be eligible for. Demographically-speaking, African-Americans are significantly over-represented in the survey. Overall, the homeless population in Southern Nevada has had shorter



episodes of homelessness than other communities.

Additionally, 50% of respondents indicated they had some disabling condition with 24% experiencing some form of physical disability. Veterans represent 25% of the homeless population and anecdotal information suggests this may be increasing.

The point-in-time street and shelter census identified 11,417 homeless people in Southern Nevada, including those people estimated to be homeless from the General Population Survey of “hidden homeless”. This count, however, should be considered conservative since it is well known that even with the most thorough methodology, many homeless individuals stay in locations where they cannot be found.

Key causes of homelessness included economic factors such as job loss or unemployment. Approximately 35% of homeless respondents reported a lost job as the primary reason they became homeless. Eighty-five percent (85%) of survey respondents stated that they were currently unemployed. More than 17% of survey respondents reported that the primary cause of their homelessness was due to an alcohol or drug issue. Approximately 32% of all homeless respondents were experiencing alcohol or drug abuse, again highlighting the critical importance of social services.

## Homeless Census Findings

To accurately enumerate Clark County’s homeless population, a point-in-time census was conducted of:

1. Unsheltered homeless people, including those found on streets, in vehicles, in makeshift shelters (such as tents), and encampments;
2. Sheltered homeless people occupying emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence shelters, and those using vouchers to stay in motels or hotels.

Additionally, a general population survey of 1,000 randomly selected households throughout Clark County was also implemented in an effort to discover homeless persons who would not have been identified by the above methods (otherwise known as the “hidden homeless”). These people were classified as unsheltered due to the fact that they do not utilize emergency shelter or transitional housing facilities for their nighttime accommodations.

In this study, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD’s) definition of homelessness – taken from Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I, §10302(a) of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations based on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act – was used. The definition is:

- (1) *An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and*
- (2) *An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:*
  - a) *A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), or*
  - b) *An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or*
  - c) *A public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.*

The following text and tables illustrate the unsheltered and sheltered homeless census findings that were reported by Clark County to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the Exhibit I section of the 2007 Continuum of Care (CoC) funding application. This definition is generally considered conservative by homeless advocates and service provider standards. While excluded population figures were collected, they are not reported in the final homeless numbers. Certain homeless persons were excluded from this report, including:

- Unsheltered homeless who were “doubled-up” in their family’s or friend’s home;
- Sheltered homeless in jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities;
- Homeless youth who were living in rehabilitation facilities or hospitals as a result of their parent’s illness.

This definition, as listed in §11302(c), also specifically excludes those persons who are detained or incarcerated pursuant to an Act of Congress or a State law. As a result, many people who may be

perceived as homeless by service providers and the general public are not included in data presented in this report.

Other people absent from this report include homeless persons living in highly inaccessible places such as abandoned buildings, areas where safety issues prevented enumerators from entering, and remote desert areas. Finally, some specific groups – such as youths, families, and the migrant homeless – who tend not to be as visible among the general homeless population, are challenging to enumerate and were likely undercounted. Though challenging, we have tried to minimize any undercount or misrepresentation. Where we believe the enumeration and methodology may have resulted in an undercount or overcount, we have so stated.

## The Unsheltered Homeless – Numbers and Characteristics

The point-in-time street count was conducted on January 30<sup>th</sup> from approximately 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. for the area outside of metropolitan Las Vegas (including Henderson), and on January 31<sup>st</sup> from approximately 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. in the metropolitan area of Las Vegas. Census enumerators canvassed all 346 U.S. Census Tracts of Clark County over the two-day period. Shelters and institutions in the County reported their occupancies for the night their areas were enumerated. Additionally, because unaccompanied youth tend not to co-mingle with the adult homeless population, special youth enumeration teams consisting of homeless youth and formerly homeless youth enumerated unaccompanied homeless youth. Youth teams, supervised by youth outreach coordinators, enumerated known youth areas at different times of the day, with special attention paid to avoiding duplication. They found considerably more unaccompanied homeless youth than were found in the general street census effort, therefore the research team felt there was little worry of duplication. The youth enumerated by these special teams were assigned tract locations post-facto and were integrated into the jurisdictional breakdowns.



There were 3,747 persons counted within the 346 tracts during the point-in-time street census. In addition, 3,844 persons were counted in the point-in-time shelter and institutional census. The general population telephone or “hidden homeless” survey generated projected results of an additional 3,826 unsheltered homeless people (1,913 adult individuals, 1,913 family members). However, the age and gender of the people in families is not reported due to limitations in statistical projections in a low incidence occurrence such as homelessness. The total for the street count was 7,573 homeless persons. For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of an unsheltered homeless person was used: someone who is either living on the streets, or in a vehicle, encampment, abandoned building, garage, or any other place not normally used for or meant for human habitation.

**Figure 7: Subpopulations of Unsheltered Homeless People**

Homeless Individuals Enumerated on the Street				
Individual Male	Individual Female	Undetermined Gender	Individual Youth	Subtotal
1,736	376	183	152	2,447

Homeless Families Enumerated on the Street					
# of Family Units	Males	Females	Undetermined Gender	Youth	Subtotal
10	9	10	0	22	41

Unsheltered People in Vehicles or Camps Enumerated on the Street				
# of People in Cars	# of People in Vans/RVs	# of People in Encampments	# of People Reported by Park Rangers	Total
159	325	762	13	1,259

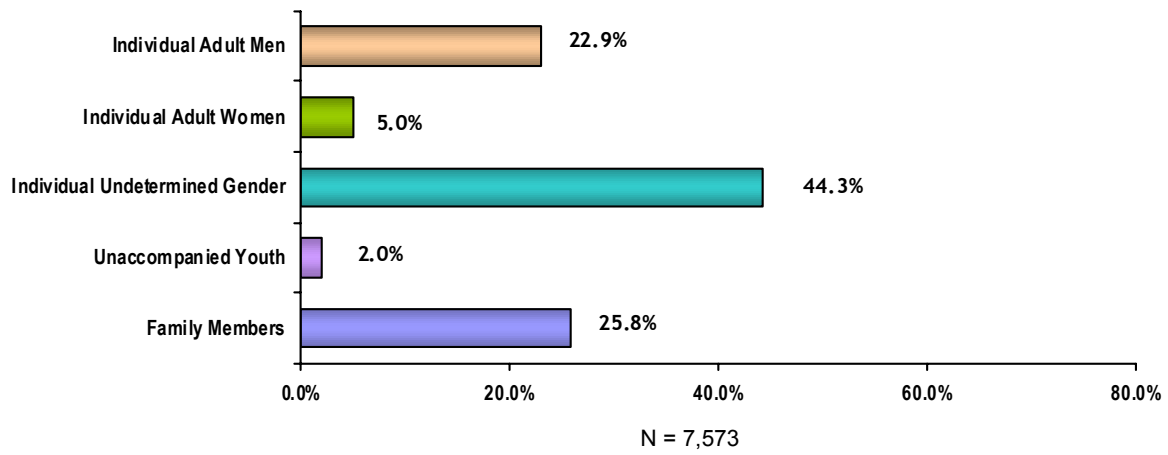
Unsheltered Homeless People from the General Population Telephone Survey			
# of Families	People in Families	Individuals	Total
638	1,913	1,913	3,826

Total of Unsheltered Individuals and Families					
Individual Men	Individual Women	Individual Undetermined Gender	Individual Youth	People in Families	Total
1,736	376	3,355	152	1,954	7,573

The following graph illustrates the distribution of the projected demographics from the street count point-in-time estimate and the homeless survey:

- 23% of all unsheltered homeless were individual males.
- 5% were individual females.
- 2% were individual youth.
- 44% were individuals of undetermined gender.
- 26% of the estimated unsheltered homeless population belonged to families.

**Figure 8: Total of All Unsheltered People by Gender, Adult or Youth, and Family Status**



## Number of Sheltered Homeless People

### Shelter Count Results

The number of homeless persons occupying emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence shelters, and institutional housing were enumerated in conjunction with the street count. While the number of people in rehabilitation facilities, hospitals and jails is reported below, HUD does not include them in the point-in-time enumeration summary reported in the SuperNOFA Exhibit One application.

A total of 3,844 people were counted in the point-in-time shelter census (excluding those people found in rehabilitation facilities, hospitals, and jails.) The following tables are a breakdown of the point-in-time shelter count by gender and family status.

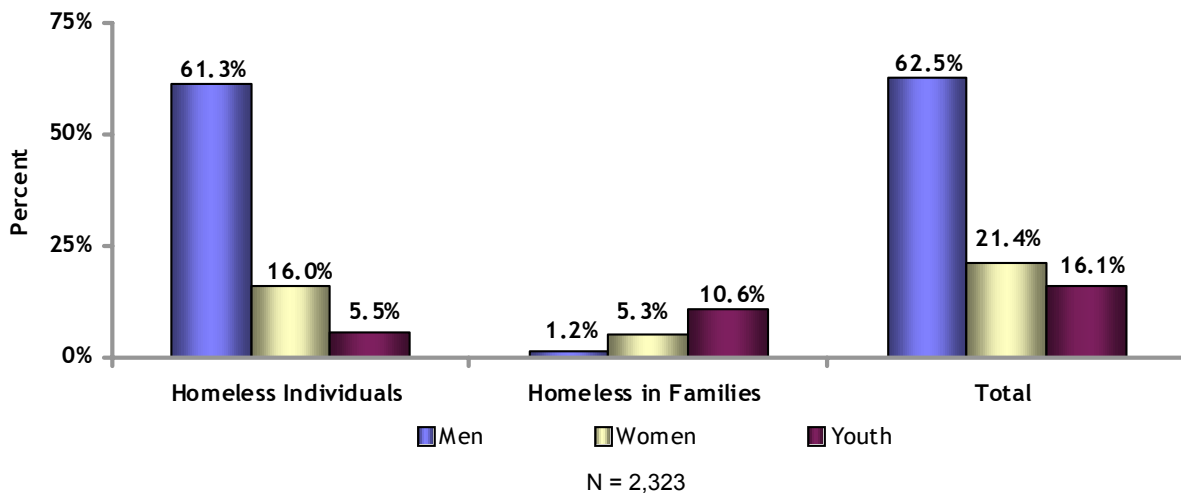
**Figure 9: Point-in-Time Sheltered Occupancy, by Gender and Individual or Family Status**

	Homeless Individuals					Homeless Families					Total
	Single Male	Single Female	Undetermined Gender <sup>1</sup>	Single Youth	Subtotal	Male in Family	Female in Family	Youth in Family	Undetermined Gender & Age in Family <sup>2</sup>	Subtotal	
<b>Total</b>	1,424	372	978	128	<b>2,902</b>	29	124	246	543	<b>942</b>	<b>3,844</b>

<sup>1</sup>Individuals of Undetermined Gender are from Clark County Rental Assistance and their gender is unknown.

<sup>2</sup>People of Undetermined Gender and Age in Families is an estimate based on the number of family households receiving Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance; therefore their gender and age are unknown.

**Figure 10: Sheltered Census by Gender and Individual or Family Status<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>Percentages reported excluding Individuals of Undetermined Gender and people of Undetermined Gender and Age in Families representing approximately 1521 additional persons.

Note: Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

The following tables further illustrate the results of the shelter count by the type of shelter facility. The numbers in the tables below are subsets of the 3,844 total sheltered homeless.

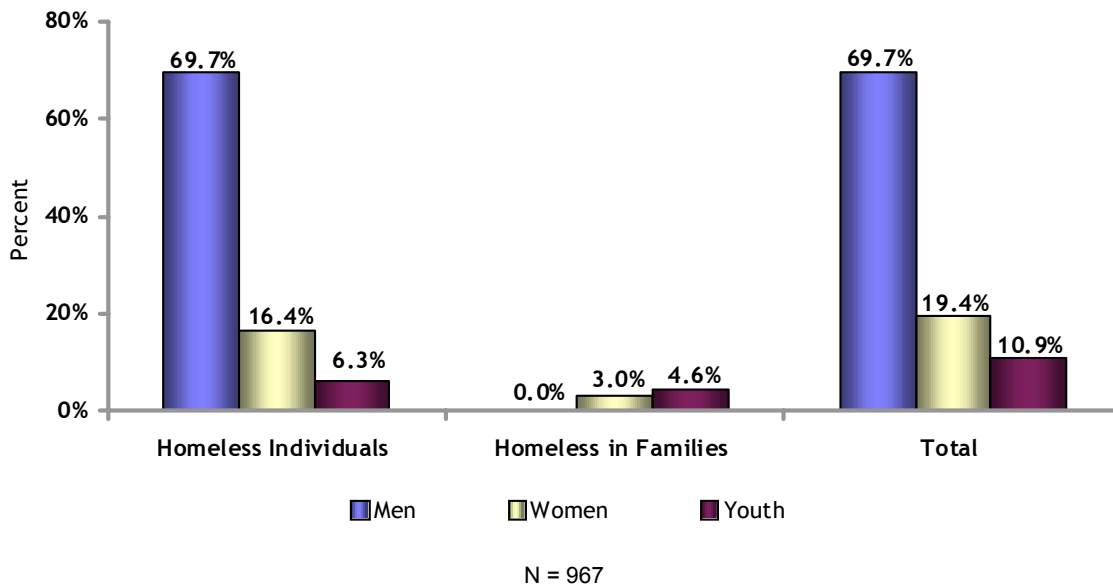
## Emergency Shelter Results

As shown in the following table, a total of 967 people were housed in emergency shelters during the point-in-time enumeration. The majority (93%) of those counted in emergency shelters were individuals, while approximately 8% were in families. Nearly 70% of people in emergency shelters were single men.

**Figure 11: Number of Homeless Persons Counted in Reporting Emergency Shelters**

	Homeless Individuals				Homeless Families			Total	
	Single Male	Single Female	Single Youth	Sub total	Male in Family	Female in Family	Youth in Family		
<b>Total</b>	674	159	61	894	0	29	44	73	967

**Figure 12: Emergency Shelter Occupancy, by Gender and Individual or Family Status**



Note: Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## Transitional Housing Results

A total of 2,868 homeless persons were housed in transitional housing facilities, including households receiving Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance. While the number of individuals receiving Rental Assistance is known, the gender of these individuals is unknown. Additionally, the number of households with families that are receiving Rental Assistance is known, however the number of people in those households is an estimate based on the average household size in Clark County. Therefore, the gender and ages of these people are unknown.

The majority of those counted in transitional housing facilities were individuals (70%) as compared to people in families (30%). Excluding persons of undetermined gender, single males accounted for nearly 55% of the total transitional housing population, while single females comprised approximately 16% of the transitional housing population. People in families that use Rental Assistance accounted for 19% of the people in transitional housing. The greatest number of people reported in families (where the age is known) was youth under 18 years old, making up 15% of the transitional housing population.

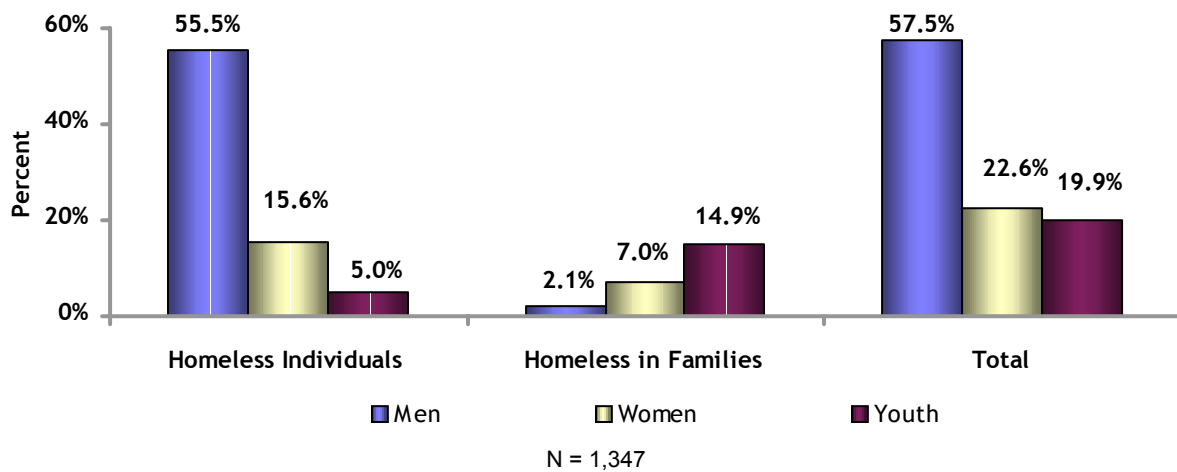
**Figure 13: Number of Homeless Persons Counted in Reporting Transitional Housing Units**

	Homeless Individuals					Homeless Families					Total
	Single Male	Single Female	Undetermined Gender <sup>1</sup>	Single Youth	Subtotal	Male in Family	Female in Family	Youth in Family	Undetermined Gender & Age in Family <sup>2</sup>	Subtotal	
<b>Total</b>	747	210	978	67	2,002	28	94	201	543	866	2,868

<sup>1</sup>Individuals of Undetermined Gender are from Clark County Rental Assistance and their gender is unknown.

<sup>2</sup>People of Undetermined Gender and Age in Families is an estimate based on the number of family households receiving Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance; therefore their gender and age are unknown.

**Figure 14: Transitional Housing Occupancy, by Gender and Individual or Family Status<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>Percentage reported excluding Individuals of Undetermined Gender and people of Undetermined Gender and Age in Families.

Note: Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

### Voucher Program Results

Programs reported 9 people who stayed at hotels or motels using emergency shelter vouchers on the night of the census. Of those people, nearly 67% were single individuals.

**Figure 15: Number of Homeless Persons Counted in Reporting Voucher Programs**

	Homeless Individuals				Homeless Families				Total
	Single Male	Single Female	Single Youth	Sub total	Male in Family	Female in Family	Youth in Family	Sub total	
<b>Total</b>	3	3	0	6	1	1	1	3	9

### Rehabilitation Facilities Results

A total of 88 homeless persons were counted in alcohol or drug rehabilitation facilities. All of those counted in rehabilitation facilities were individuals, and no people in families were reported. Individual men represented the largest segment of the homeless rehabilitation population, accounting for 60% of people counted in this type of facility. Additionally, individual youth represented approximately 39% of homeless people in rehabilitation.

**Figure 16: Number of Homeless People Occupying Rehabilitation Facilities**

	Homeless individuals				Homeless families				Total
	Single Male	Single Female	Single Youth	Sub total	Male in Family	Female in Family	Single Youth	Sub total	
<b>Total</b>	53	1	34	88	0	0	0	0	88

### Hospitals and Jails Results

On the night of the census, no homeless people were counted in any Clark County hospital. However, many hospitals stated that they do not keep detailed records as to which patients are homeless, which may help account for the lack of homeless people reported in staying in hospitals. There were 47 homeless men and 10 homeless women counted in Clark County jails.

## Total of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homeless

The total number of homeless (unsheltered and sheltered) in Clark County was 11,471, excluding rehabilitation facilities, and jails. With these other facilities included the total number of homeless people increases to 11,522. The following tables illustrate the total by setting (unsheltered versus type of shelter) and family status, by street versus shelter occupancy, and by demographic distribution.

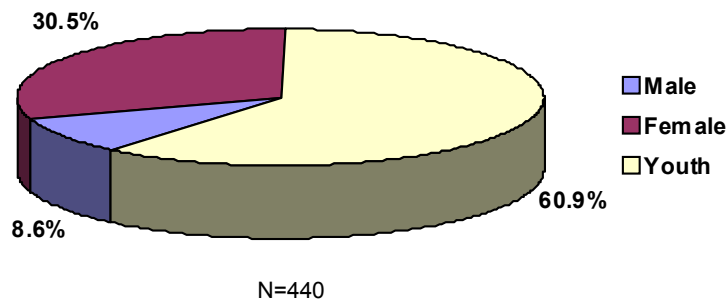
The percentage of unsheltered homeless in Southern Nevada is higher than the national average reported in the AHAR by all Continuums of Care in 2005. The AHAR found that in 2005, 45% of homeless people reported in the point-in-time count were unsheltered, compared to 66% in the 2007 Southern Nevada point-in-time count. Additionally, the percentage of individual people is higher in the 2007 Southern Nevada Census, at 75% compared to 52% reported in the AHAR.<sup>8</sup>

**Figure 17: Homeless Census Population Total by Setting and Family Status (excluding Hospitals, Rehabilitation Facilities and Jails)**

Setting	Individuals	People in Families	Total People	Percent of Total
Unsheltered	5,619	1,954	7,573	66.3%
In emergency shelter facilities	894	73	967	8.5%
In transitional housing facilities	2,002	866	2,868	25.1%
On vouchers	6	3	9	0.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,521</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>11,417</b>	<b>-----</b>
<b>% of Totals</b>	<b>74.6%</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The graph below illustrates the demographic distribution for the homeless families identified during the street and shelter counts.

**Figure 18: Demographic Distribution of Family Members (Unsheltered and Shelter Count)<sup>1</sup>**

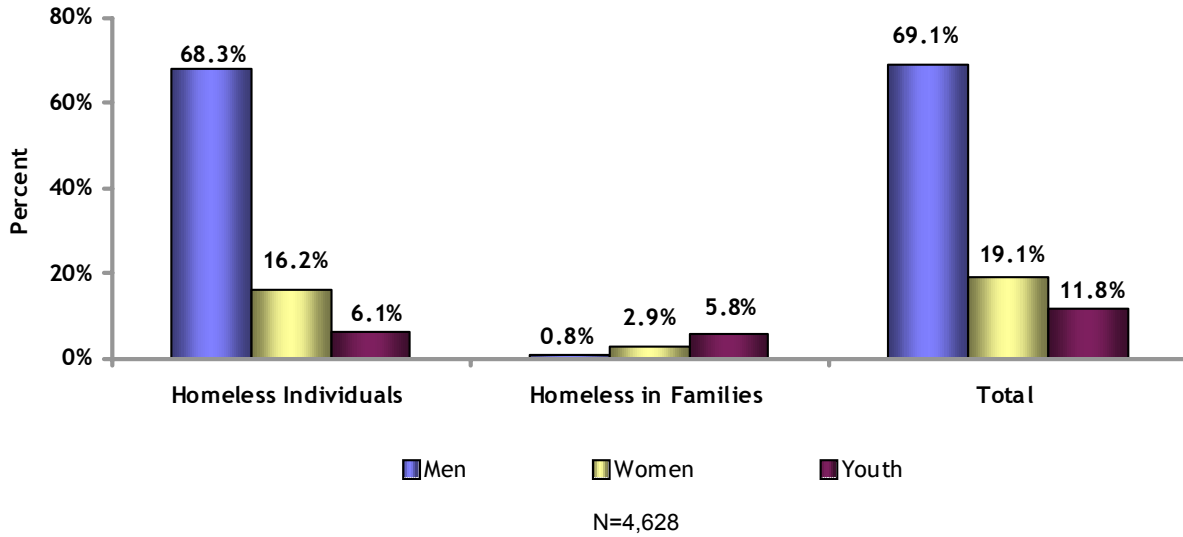


<sup>1</sup>Percentages reported excluding homeless persons of undetermined gender, including people from the General Population Survey and families receiving Clark County Rental Assistance.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, *The Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*, 2007.

The following graph illustrates the demographic distribution of all people identified during the shelter count as well as the estimated unsheltered point-in-time count.

**Figure 19: Demographic Distribution of Homeless Street and Shelter Count Data<sup>1</sup>**



Note: Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup>Percentages reported excluding homeless persons of undetermined gender, including people from the General Population Survey and all people receiving Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance.

The majority of homeless persons, excluding those persons of undetermined gender, enumerated during the census in Southern Nevada were male (69%). Approximately 19% of the homeless in Southern Nevada were female, and approximately 12% were youth under the age of 18. Of people in families, youth make up the majority, representing 61% of people in families.

## Countywide Annual Estimation

A point-in-time (PIT) homeless enumeration has an inherent bias of not capturing homeless persons who experience short episodes of homelessness during other times of the year. More people experience homelessness annually than can be counted at any given point in time. In any year, people will cycle in and out of homelessness. For example, someone may be homeless between February and May, and another person may become homeless between October and December. Counting only the homeless person found in a December census could under-represent the experience of the homeless person in the February to May timeline.

Therefore, based on the survey responses of the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey, ASR used the annualization formula detailed by the Corporation for Supportive Housing to calculate an annual estimate of the number of homeless people in Clark County over the course of a year. This approach is the HUD-approved method for calculating the annual estimate of homeless people based on the Point-in-Time count. The following is an explanation of the annualization calculation.

Three factors were used to determine the annual estimate<sup>9</sup>:

- A = The Point-in-Time count of currently homeless people (found in the street and shelter count)
- B = The number of currently homeless people who became homeless within the last 7 days; and
- C = The proportion of currently homeless people who have experienced a previous homeless episode within the past 12 months.

The equation for calculating the annual estimate:  $A + [(B*51)*(1-C)] = \text{Annual estimate}$

For Clark County:  $11,417 + [(1233.036*51)*(1 - 0.376024)] = 50,655.64 \approx 50,656$  people

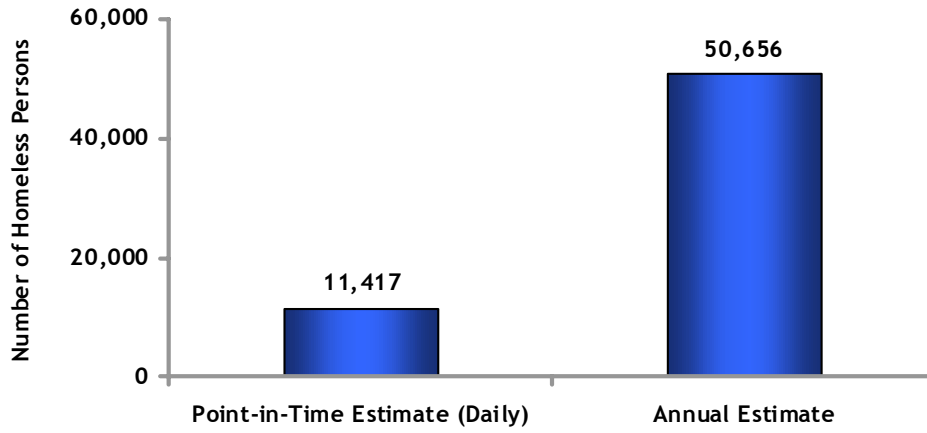
Based on the 2005 American Community Survey population profile, this annual estimate of homelessness represents approximately 3.0% of Clark County's total population of 1,691,213 people.<sup>10</sup> According to a 2002 study done by the National Coalition for the Homeless, approximately 3.5 million people, or about 1% of the U.S. general population, experience homelessness in a given year.

The PIT to annual multiplier for Clark County is therefore 4.44, which is relatively higher other communities in the Western States. This is probably due, in part, to the greater prevalence of homeless persons with relatively shorter episodes of homelessness. The less long-term homeless there are in a population, the greater the annual multiplier.

<sup>9</sup> Burt, Martha and Wilkins, Carol. *Estimating the Need: Projecting from Point-in-Time to Annual Estimates of the Number of Homeless People in a Community and Using this Information to Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing*. Corporation for Supportive Housing. March 2005.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey.

Figure 20: Point-in-Time and Annual Estimate of Homelessness in Clark County



# Homeless Survey Findings

The following section provides an overview of the findings generated from the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Approximately 1,378 surveys were administered during early February 2007. Approximately 1% of these surveys were conducted in Spanish. Missing values have been intentionally omitted from the survey results, and all survey results display valid percentages only. *Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not necessarily equal the total number of surveys.* A detailed explanation of the methodology used for the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey can be found on page 77 of this report. A copy of the survey instrument, as well as a complete list of survey questions and responses, can be found in Appendices II and IV, respectively. This survey is a separate component from the general population telephone survey.



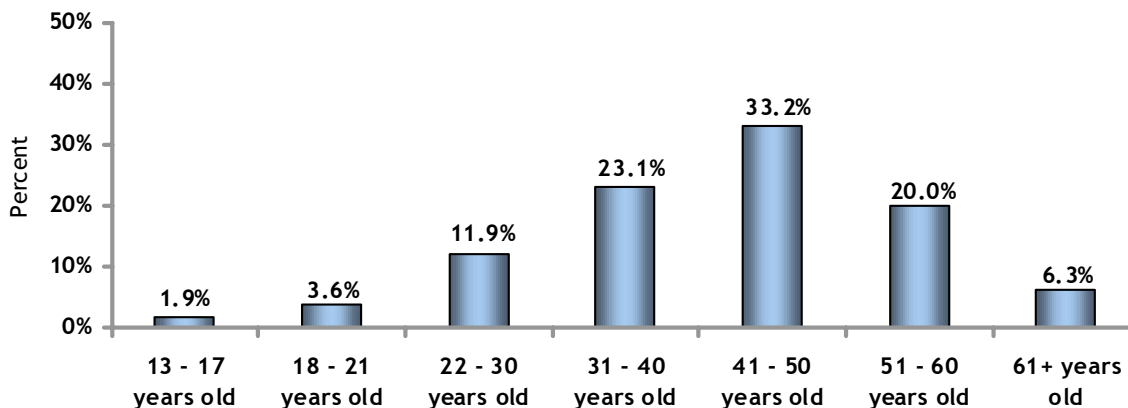
## Demographics

In order to measure the diversity of homeless residents in Clark County, respondents were asked to answer several demographic questions pertaining to their age, gender, ethnicity, and military service.

### Age

- 33% of survey respondents were between 41 and 50 years of age.
- The second largest age segment was 31-40 years of age (23%).
- 20% were between the ages of 51 and 60.
- 12% of respondents were between 22 and 30 years old.

**Figure 21: Survey Respondents by Age**



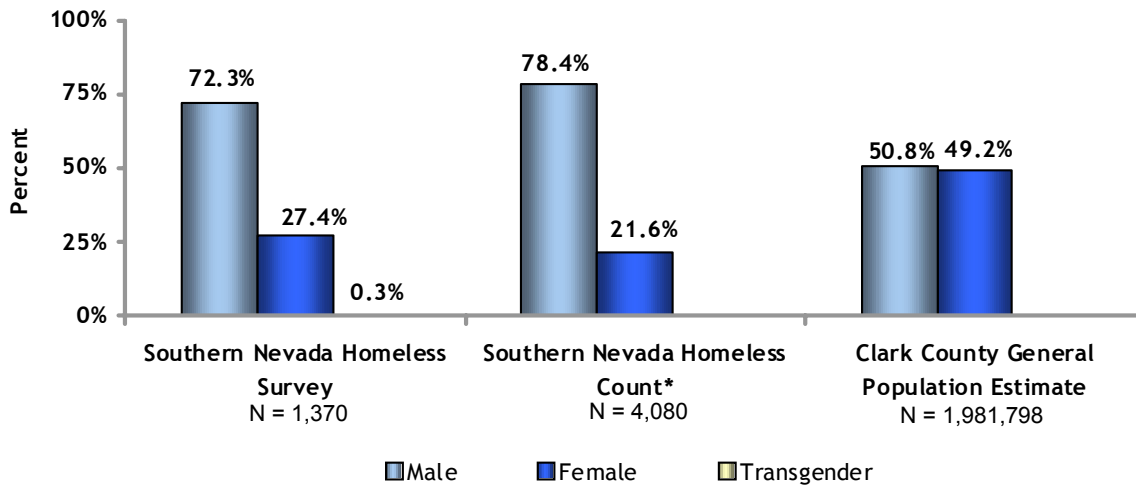
N = 1,349

## Gender

The distribution of gender in the study areas is shown in the following figure, along with general population data for Clark County from the Nevada State Demographer.

- Male respondents accounted for 72% of the total survey population.
- Males were under-represented in the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey population compared to the Southern Nevada Homeless Count results.

**Figure 22: Gender of Homeless Survey Respondents**



Clark County General Population data source: Nevada State Demographer, *Age Sex Race and Hispanic Origin Estimates from 2000 to 2005 and Projections from 2006 to 2026 for Nevada and Its Counties, 2006*.

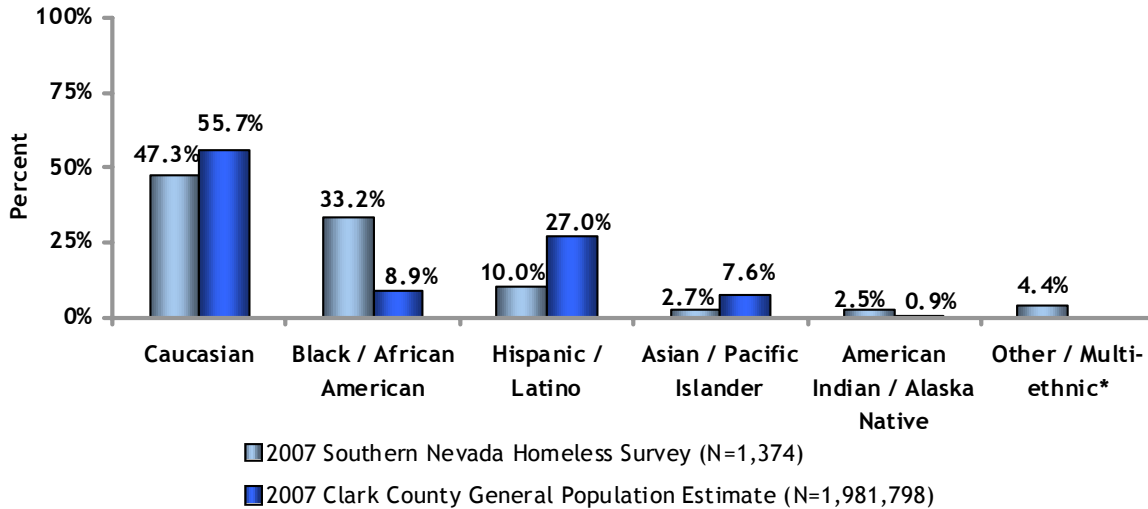
Note: The number of males, females, and transgender persons for the homeless census includes individual males, females, and transgender persons, as well as those in families.

Note: The percentages for the Southern Nevada Homeless Count for “Adult Male,” “Adult Female,” and “Transgender” do not include homeless youth (both unaccompanied and in families), people from the General Population Survey, and those receiving Clark County Rental Assistance because their gender was not captured during the enumeration.

### Ethnicity

- 47% were Caucasian.
- 33% of homeless survey respondents identified their racial/ethnic group as African American.
- 10% were of Hispanic or Latino decent.
- 3% were Asian / Pacific Islander.

**Figure 23: Ethnicity of Homeless Survey Respondents**



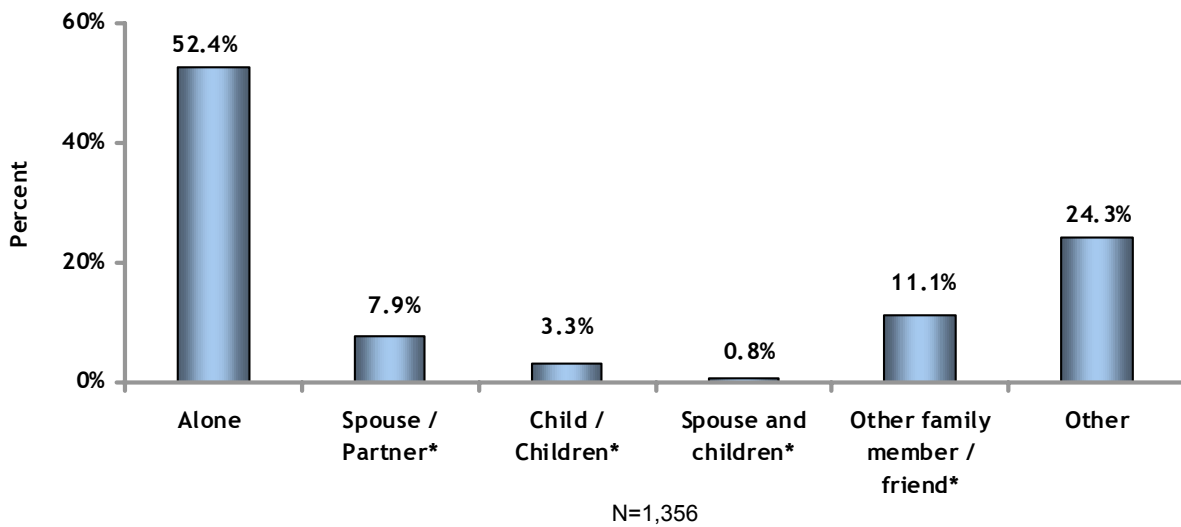
Clark County General Population data source: Nevada State Demographer, *Age Sex Race and Hispanic Origin Estimates from 2000 to 2005 and Projections from 2006 to 2026 for Nevada and Its Counties*, 2006.

\*Nevada State Demographer does not report Other / Multi-Ethnic as a category.

## Living Status

- 52% of respondents indicated they were living alone at the time of the survey.
- 3% were living with their child or children.
- 8% were living with their spouse or significant other.
- Less than 1% were living with their spouse or significant other *and* children.
- 11% of respondents indicated they were living with a family member (other than a spouse or children) or a friend.
- Approximately 24% of respondents indicated that they were living with “other” people. For this survey, the term “other” refers to people who are not friends or family members of the respondent.
- Additionally, 1% of all respondents were unaccompanied youth.

**Figure 24: With Whom Do Respondents Live?<sup>1</sup>**

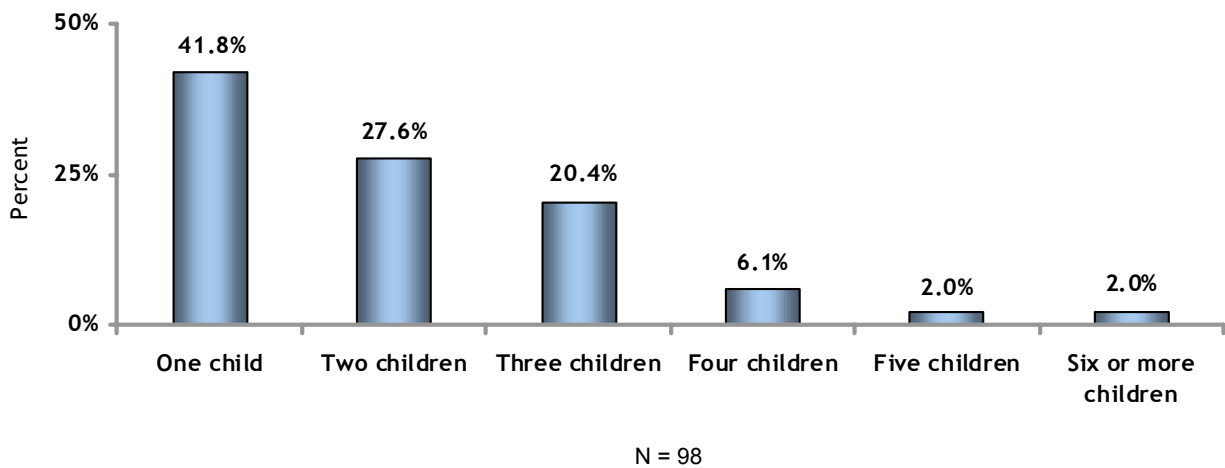


<sup>1</sup>These response options may include respondents who also live with “other family / friends” or “other” in addition to the above-described living situations.

### Homeless Families With Children

- Out of 1,361 respondents, 98 indicated they were currently living with children under the age of 18. These respondents reported that they were living with at least 201 children (this is the cumulative number of children among the 98 respondents).
- Almost 31% of respondents with children under 18 years of age indicated having three or more children living with them.
- Additionally, 10% of respondents had children age 18 years or older living with them.

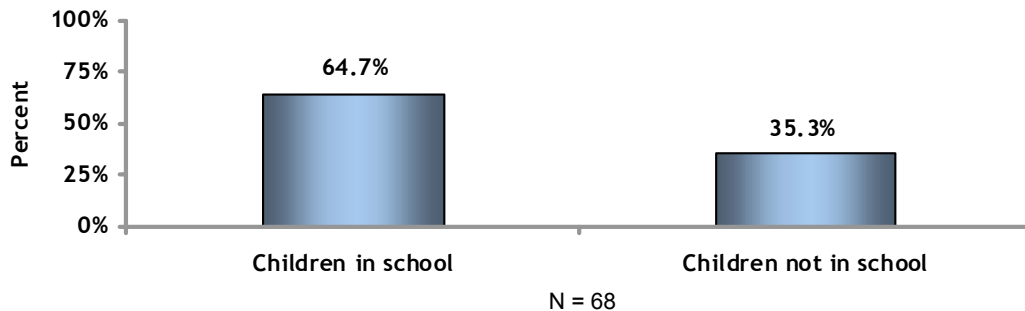
**Figure 25: Respondents With Children Under 18 Years Old Living With Them by Number of Children**



### Child Education

- 65% of respondents with school-aged children indicated their children were attending school.
- 35% stated their children were not attending school.

**Figure 26: Child Education Status**

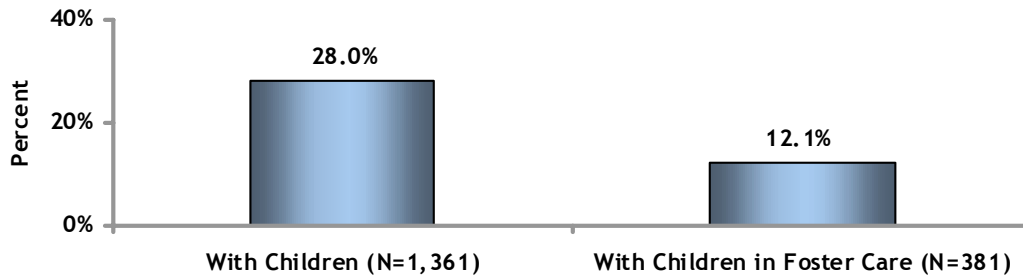


Note: Percentages include only those respondents who had children living with them who were old enough to attend school.

### Children in Foster Care

- Of the 28% respondents who indicated they had children, regardless of whether the child lived with them, 12% reported they had one or more child in foster care.

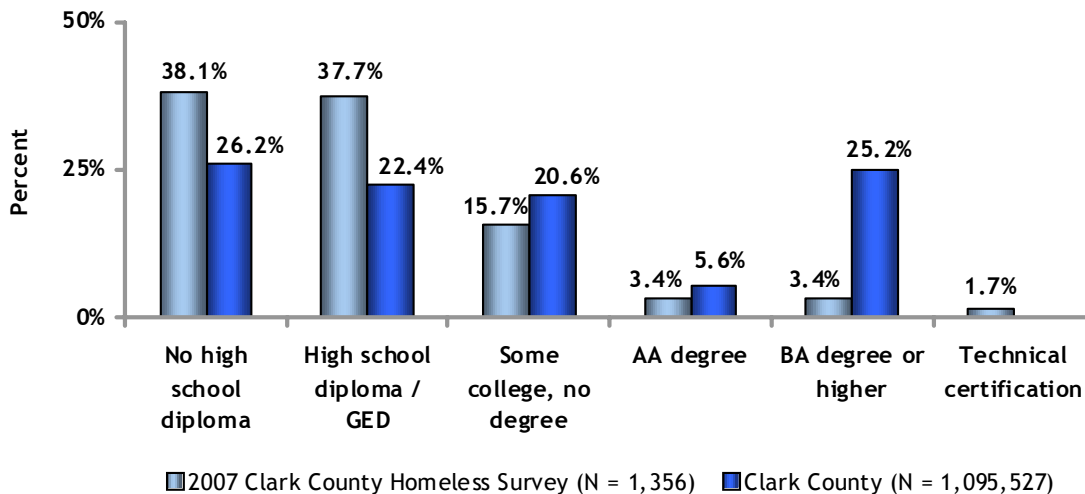
**Figure 27: Respondents with Children and with Children in Foster Care**



### Educational Attainment

- 26% of survey respondents indicated they did not have a high school degree or GED.
- 43% of respondents had a high school diploma or GED.
- 21% of those interviewed had some college education but have not received a degree.
- 8% had an Associate’s, Bachelor’s, or higher degree.
- 2% had received a technical certification.

**Figure 28: Highest Level of Education Attained**



Clark County data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey Summary Tables, 2005. The universe for this data set is Clark County residents 25 years or older.

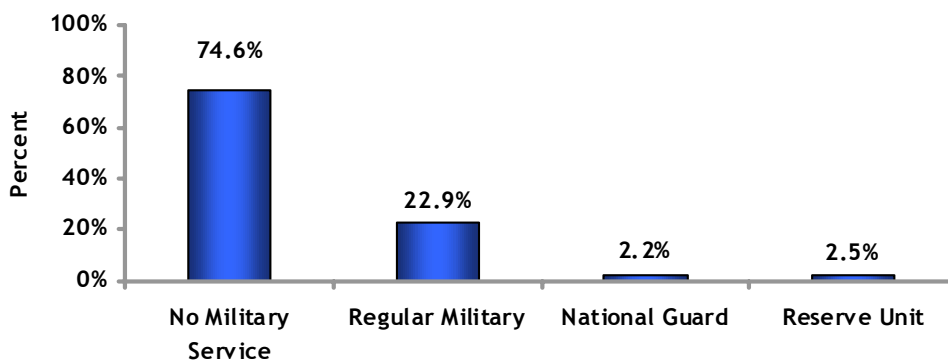
Note: 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey universe for this data set is all respondents regardless of age.

Note: Clark County American Community Survey data not available for “Technical Certification.”

## Military Service

- Most adult homeless respondents (75%) had never served in any branch of the military.
- 23% indicated that they had served in the regular military (Army, Navy, Marines, or Air Force).
- 2% had served in the National Guard.
- 3% had been enlisted in the Military Reserve.
- Of *sheltered* adult survey respondents, 27% reported that they were veterans, compared to the AHAR results that found 18% of sheltered homeless adults reported by Continuums of Care in 2005 were veterans.<sup>11</sup>

**Figure 29: Military Service of Homeless Survey Respondents**



Multiple response question with 1,302 respondents offering 1,393 responses.

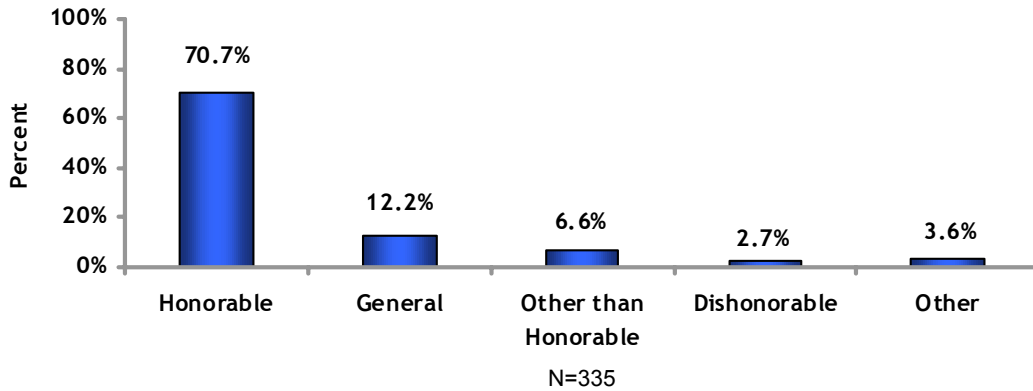
Note: The responses for “Regular Military,” “National Guard,” and “Reserve Unit” are not mutually exclusive.

## Discharge Status of Veterans

- Of the respondents who reported serving in the Armed Forces, most (71%) had received Honorable discharges.
- 12% indicated that they had received a General discharge.
- 7% had received an Other than Honorable discharge.
- 3% reported having received a Dishonorable discharge.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, *The Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*, 2007.

**Figure 30: Discharge Status of Homeless Survey Respondents Who Served in the Armed Forces**

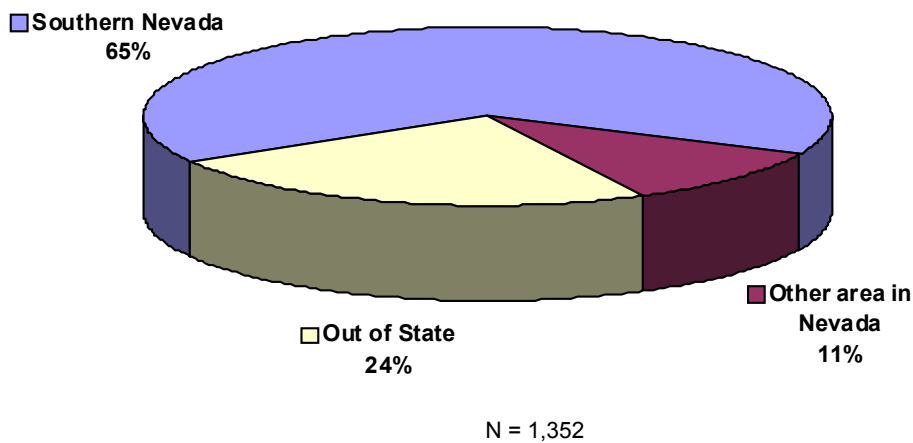


Note: Percentages do not total 100% due to 4.2% of respondents who did not know their discharge status.

### Southern Nevada Residency

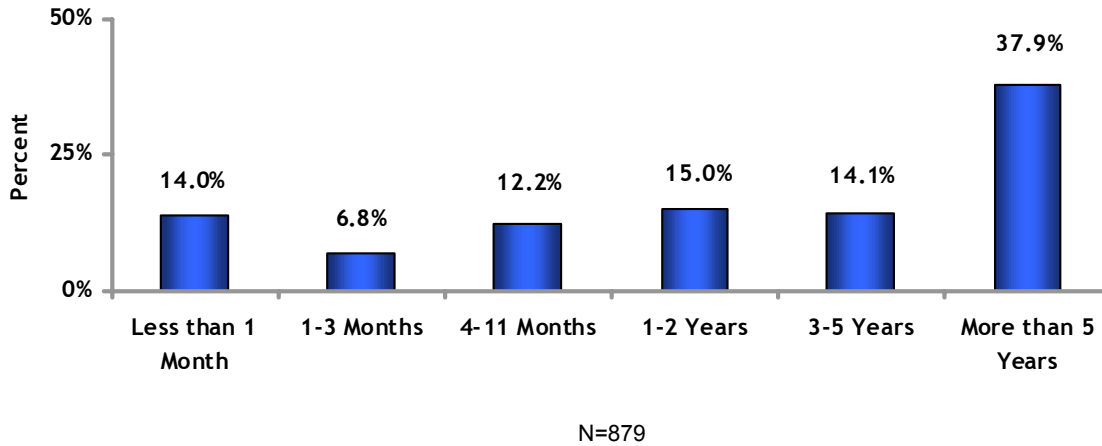
- 65% of survey respondents indicated they had been living in Southern Nevada at the time they became homeless.
- 11% of respondents stated they were living in Nevada, but outside of Southern Nevada, when they became homeless.
- 24% indicated they were living somewhere in the United States, but outside of Nevada, when they became homeless.
- This response indicates that the majority of homelessness originates in Southern Nevada.

**Figure 31: Residency of Homeless Survey Respondents Before Current Episode of Homelessness**



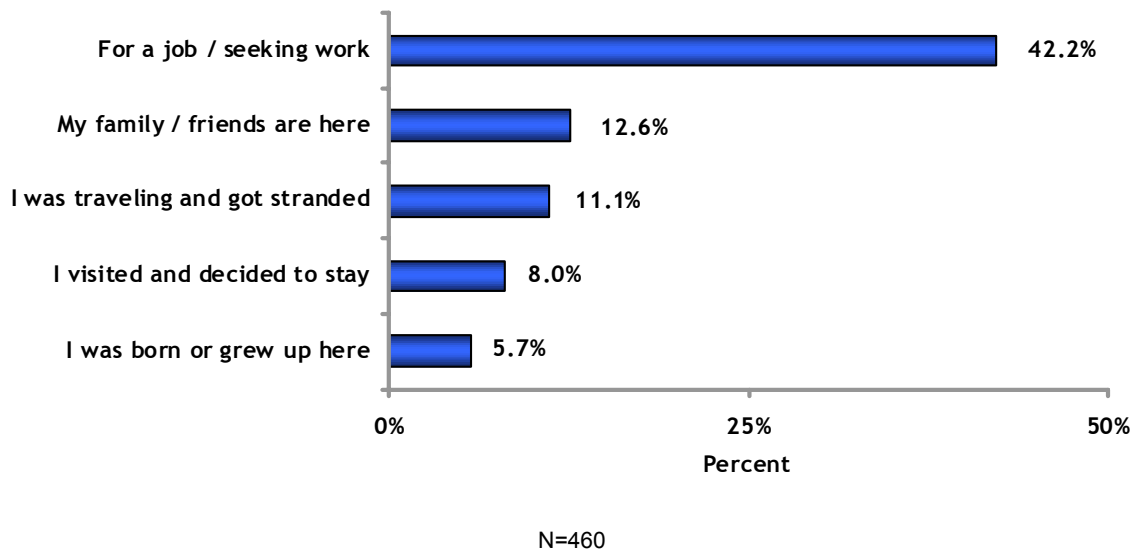
- Of the 65% of survey respondents indicated they had been living in Southern Nevada at the time they became homeless, the majority of respondents (52%) had been living in Southern Nevada for 3 or more years before they became homeless.
- 15% stated they were living in Southern Nevada, for one to two years before they became homeless.
- 33% indicated they lived in Southern Nevada for a less than a year before they became homeless.

**Figure 32: Length of Time Lived in Southern Nevada Before Becoming Homeless**



- Of the 35% of survey respondents who indicated they had been living outside Southern Nevada at the time they became homeless, approximately 42% reported coming to Southern Nevada for a job or because they were seeking work.
- 13% stated they came because their family or friends were in Southern Nevada.
- 11% indicated they were traveling in Southern Nevada and got stranded.

**Figure 33: Reasons Respondents from Outside Southern Nevada Came to the Area (Top 5 Responses)**



## Profiles of Homelessness

Profiles of homelessness vary greatly among respondents. While many respondents were experiencing homelessness for the first time, or had been homeless for just a few months, others had been homeless repeatedly or for extended periods of time. Characteristics such as usual nighttime sleeping arrangements, the use of government assistance or treatment programs, and causes for homelessness differed from respondent to respondent.

### Chronic Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines chronic homelessness as:

*An unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been:*

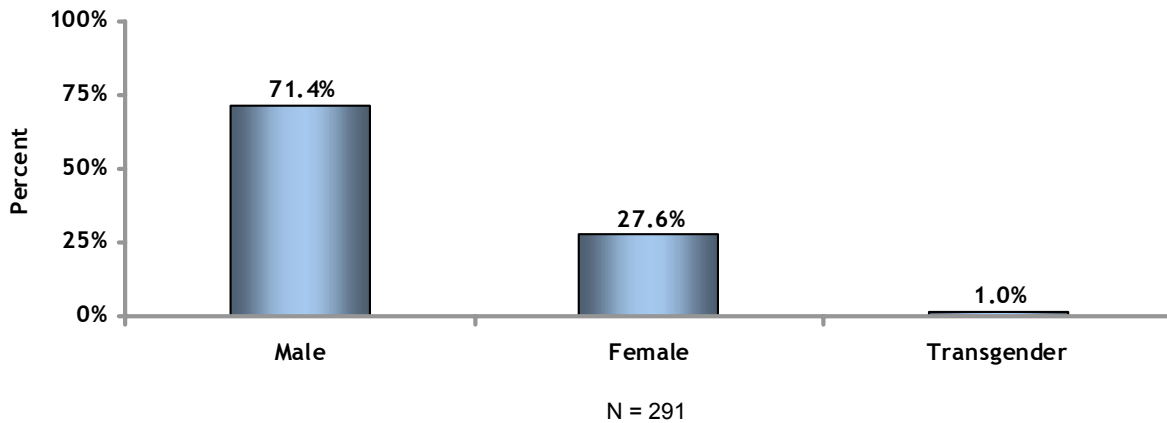
- a. Continually homeless for one year or more, or*
- b. Has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.*

For the purposes of this study, a “disabling condition” can be defined as a physical or mental disability (such as mental illness or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), depression, alcohol or drug addiction, HIV/AIDS, chronic health conditions or a developmental disability. Of the 1,378 homeless persons interviewed, approximately 21% (291 respondents) can be considered chronically homeless using the above criteria.

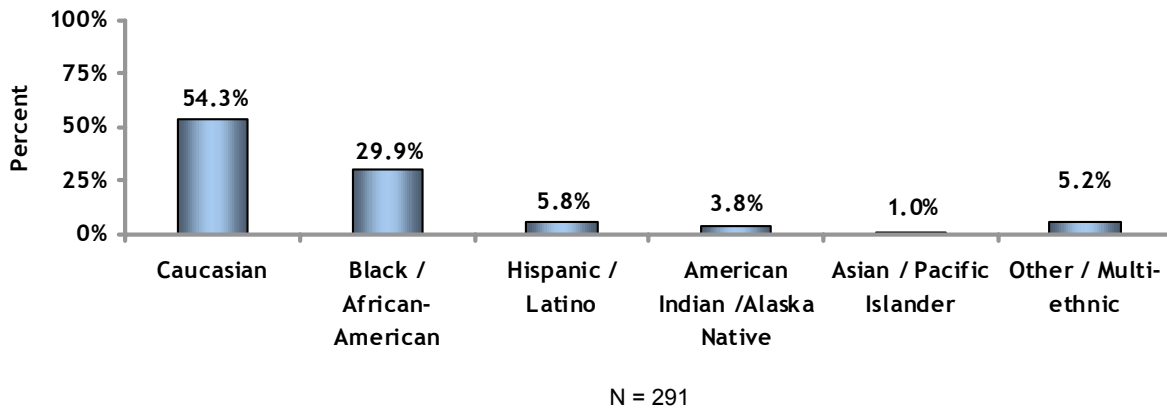
The chronically homeless survey results were then used to project approximately how many people are chronically homeless in Southern Nevada at a given point in time. It is estimated that on any given night, Southern Nevada has a chronically homeless population of approximately 1,518 persons. It should be noted that this figure is derived from the population of homeless persons who are eligible to be considered chronically homeless by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, therefore the chronic homeless population includes only those homeless persons who are individuals, unsheltered or in emergency shelters and does not include those in transitional housing, jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities, or anyone in a family.

The following charts offer a brief profile of the chronically homeless population in Southern Nevada.

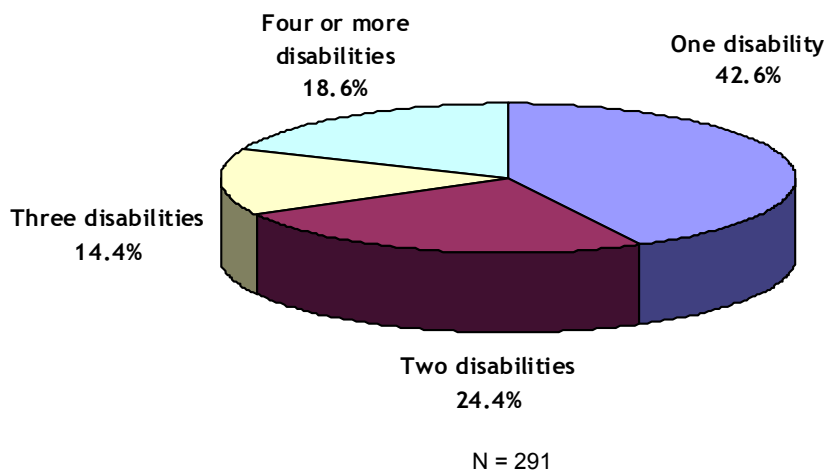
**Figure 34: Chronically Homeless Population by Gender**



**Figure 35: Chronically Homeless Population by Ethnicity**

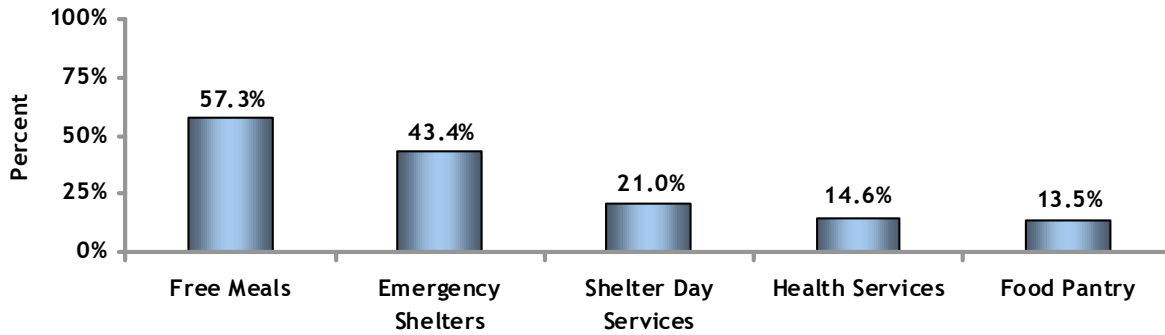


**Figure 36: Number of Co-occurring Disabling Conditions Among Chronically Homeless**



Note: Disabilities include physical or mental disabilities, depression, alcohol use, drug use, developmental disability and chronic health conditions.

**Figure 37: Services / Assistance Used by the Chronically Homeless (Top 5 Responses)**



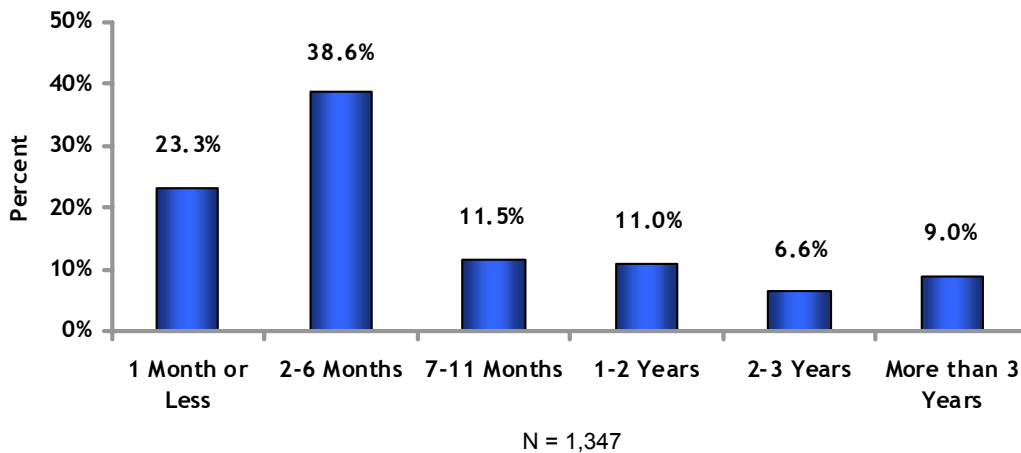
Multiple response question with 291 respondents offering 267 responses.

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

### Length of Homelessness

- The majority of respondents (73%) had been homeless for less than one year.
- National estimates indicate that 54% of the homeless population had been homeless for less than one year.<sup>12</sup>
- 39% of respondents indicated that they had been homeless for between two and six months.
- 11% had been homeless for one to two years.
- 16% had been homeless for two years or more (as compared to 30% nationwide that were homeless for more than 2 years).<sup>13</sup>

**Figure 38: Length of Homelessness Since Last Permanent Housing Situation**



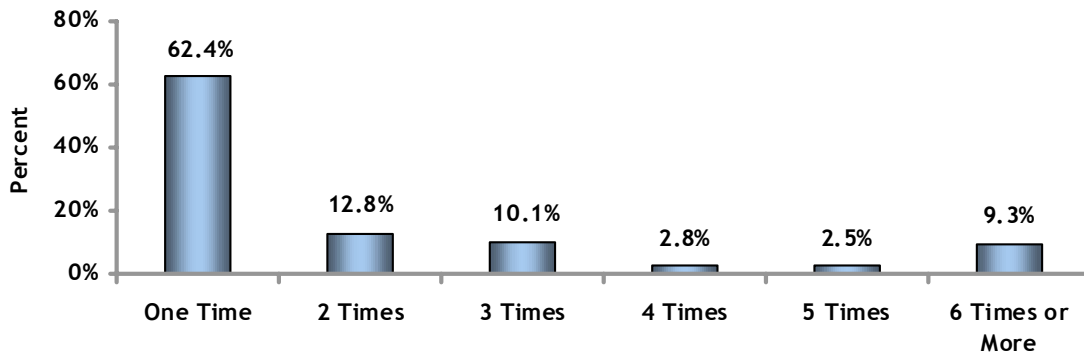
<sup>12</sup> The Urban Institute, *Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve, Findings of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients: Summary Report*, Department of Housing and Urban Development, December 1999.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

### Recurrence of Homelessness

- 62% of respondents indicated that they had been homeless only once (their current period of homelessness) in the past 12 months.
- 13% of respondents indicated that this was their second episode of homelessness in the past twelve months, while 10% stated that this episode of homelessness was their third in the past year.
- 15% had been homeless four or more times in the past year, including 9% who had been homeless six or more times in the past 12 months.

**Figure 39: Number of Times Homeless in Past 12 Months (Including Present Episode)**



N = 1,343

## Usual Nighttime Accommodations

Homeless respondents lived in a wide variety of locations:

- Most respondents (43%) were living in an emergency shelter or temporary housing (including transitional housing or another type of shelter).
- 29% of respondents were living outdoors, on the street or in parks.
- 6% were living in a motel or hotel (Note: Respondents were self-defined as homeless and asked where they “usually” spent their nights).
- 5% of respondents reported living in some type of vehicle.
- 3% of respondents lived in an encampment.
- Another 6% indicated they were living in another situation that was not listed as a survey response.



**Figure 40: Current Living Situation**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Outdoors / streets / parks	391	28.8%
Emergency Shelter	305	22.5%
Transitional Housing	189	13.9%
Other Shelter	87	6.4%
Motel / hotel	77	5.7%
Place in a house not normally used for sleeping	44	3.2%
Encampment	39	2.9%
Abandoned building	35	2.6%
Automobile	32	2.4%
Backyard or storage structure	21	1.5%
Camper	17	1.3%
Public facilities (train station, bus depot, transit center)	16	1.2%
Unconverted garage / attic / basement	13	1.0%
Van	11	0.8%
Other	81	6.0%

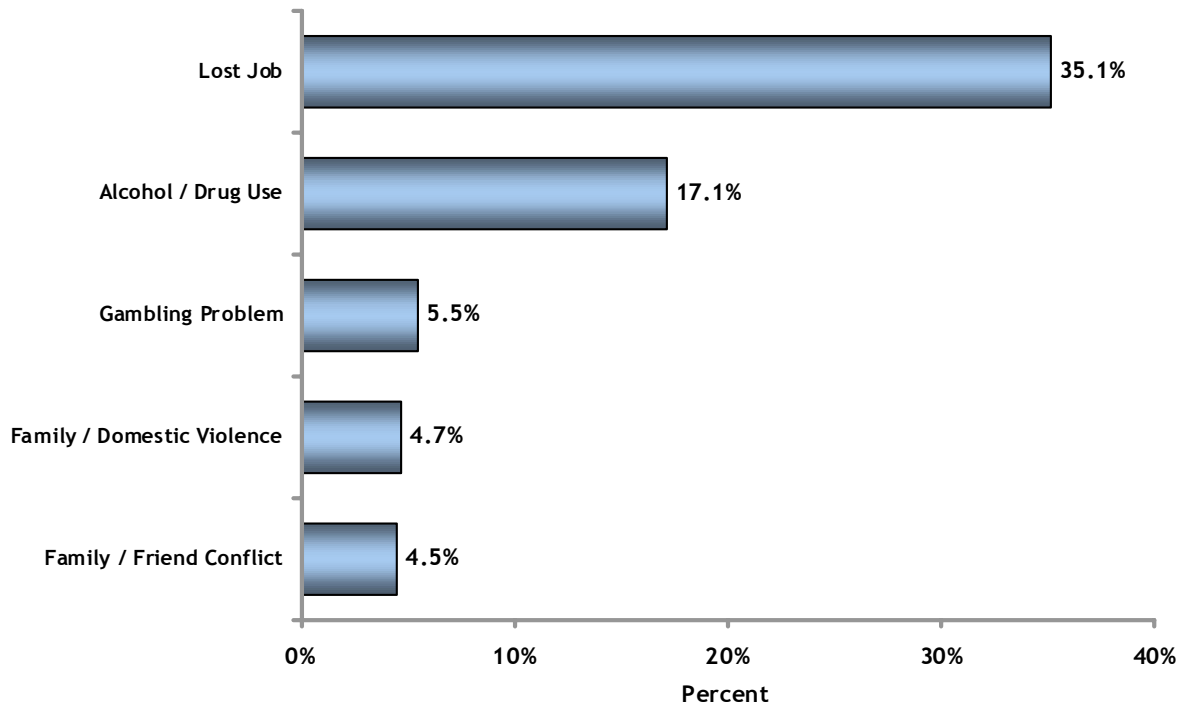
N = 1,358

## Primary Causes of Homelessness

Survey respondents were asked to determine what they thought was the primary event or condition that led to their homelessness:

- 35% of respondents indicated the loss of their job was the primary cause of their homelessness.
- 17% cited alcohol or drug use.
- 6% reported that their homelessness was due to a gambling problem.
- 5% indicated family or domestic violence.
- Another 5% cited having a conflict with a family member or friend as the cause of their homelessness.
- 13% indicated their primary cause of homelessness was another response not listed on the survey.

**Figure 41: Primary Event or Condition That Led to Current Episode of Homelessness (Top 5 responses)**

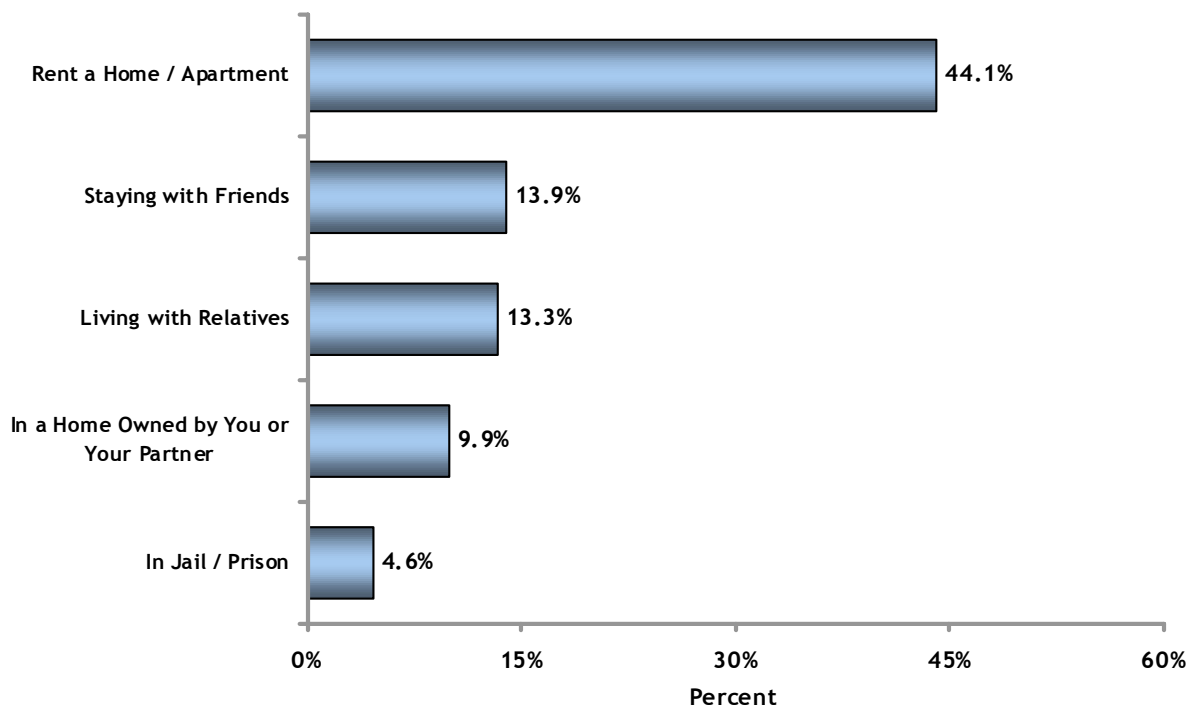


N = 1,358

### Previous Living Arrangements

- Most (44%) homeless respondents indicated they were renting a home or apartment prior to becoming homeless.
- 14% indicated they were staying with friends.
- 13% stated they were living with relatives.
- 10% indicated they lived in a home they or their partner owned.
- 5% of respondents said they were in jail or prison before becoming homeless.

**Figure 42: Living Arrangements Immediately Prior to Becoming Homeless This Past Time (Top 5 responses)**



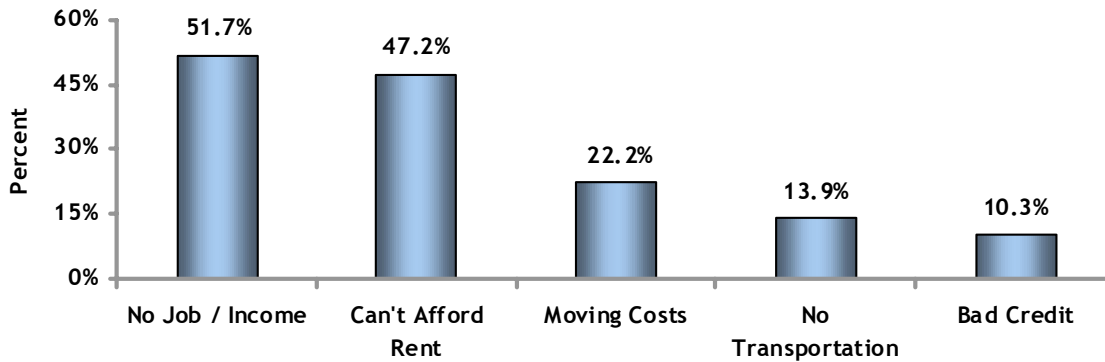
N=1,358

## Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

Besides understanding why a person became homeless, we must also understand what the difficulties are to re-securing permanent housing. When respondents were asked what factor or factors they thought were preventing them from securing permanent housing, the absence of financial resources was the biggest obstacle to securing permanent housing.

- 52% cited unemployment or no income as a major obstacle to securing housing.
- 47% indicated that they simply could not afford the monthly rent payments.
- 22% said they had no money for moving expenses.
- 14% cited a lack of transportation.
- 10% indicated that bad credit was preventing them from getting a permanent housing situation.

**Figure 43: Reasons for not Living in Permanent Housing (Top 5 responses)**



Multiple response question with 1,353 respondents offering 2,427 responses.

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

- Nationally, insufficient income is cited the primary factor (30%) for not exiting homelessness, while lack of employment (24%), a lack of suitable housing (11%), or addiction to alcohol and/or drugs (9%) were also leading obstacles to exiting homelessness among the nation's homeless population.<sup>14</sup>

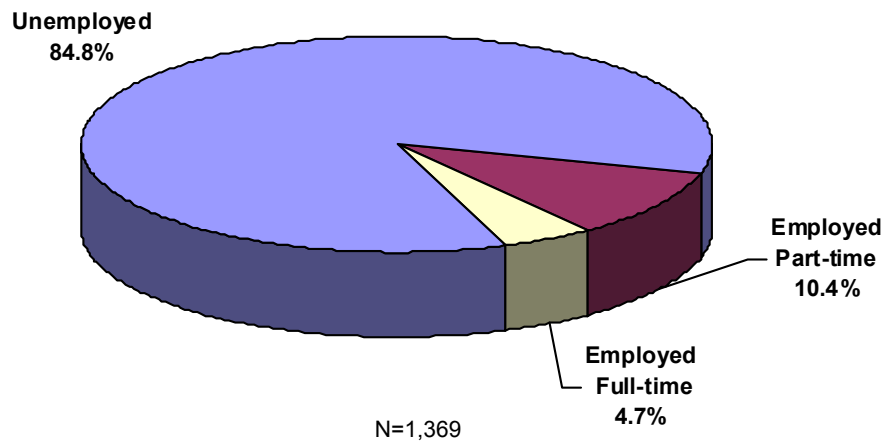
<sup>14</sup> The Urban Institute, *Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve, Findings of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients: Summary Report*, Department of Housing and Urban Development, December 1999.

## Employment Status

Loss of employment or unemployment was cited as the most common cause of homelessness, contributing to the homelessness of over 35% of respondents. Therefore, it is not surprising that reported levels of unemployment among respondents were high:

- An overwhelming majority of respondents (85%) indicated that they were not currently employed at the time of the survey.
- 15% were employed either full or part-time.

**Figure 44: Employment Status**

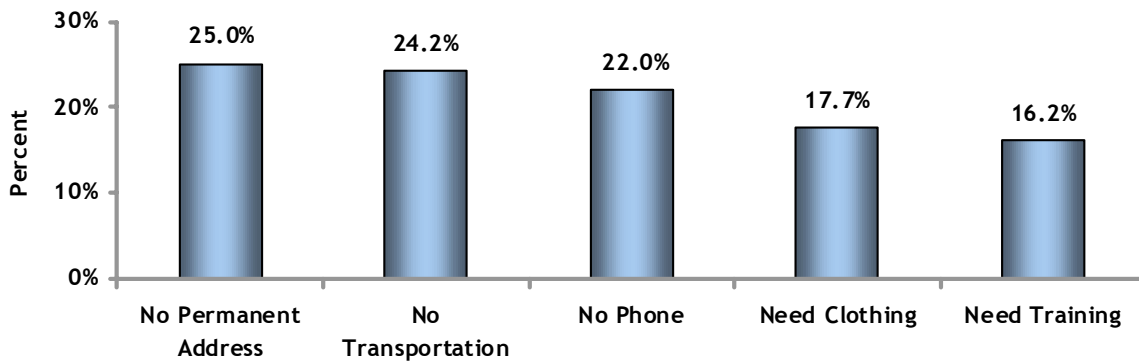


## Barriers to Employment

Of those unemployed:

- 25% cited a having no permanent address a barrier to employment.
- 24% reported not having transportation.
- 22% indicated not having a phone was a barrier.
- 18% cited the need for clothing.
- 16% indicated the need for training was preventing them from securing employment.

**Figure 45: Causes of Unemployment (Top 5 responses)**



Multiple response question with 1,151 respondents offering 2,605 responses.

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

## Accessing of Government Assistance and Homeless Programs

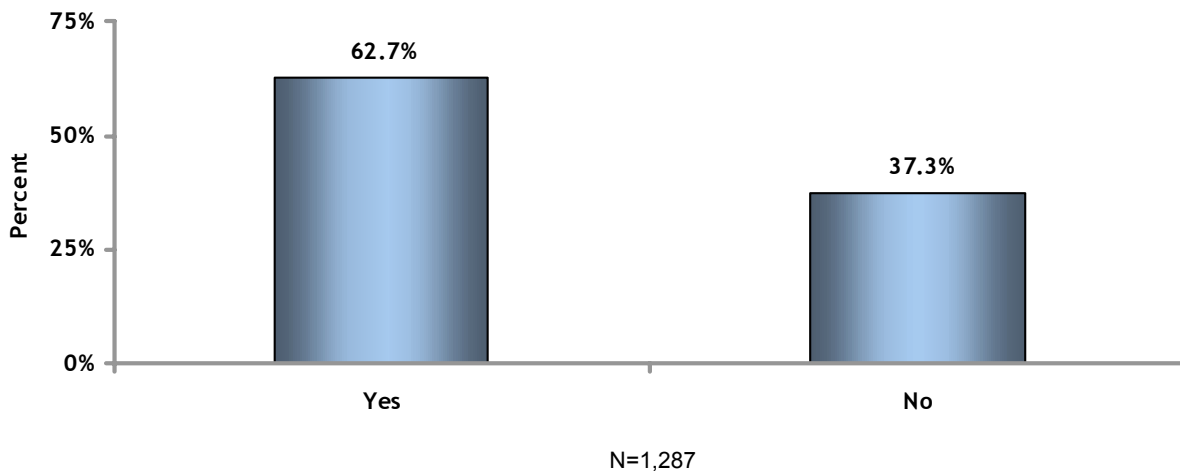
Government assistance and homeless programs work to enable the homeless community to obtain income and services. Many homeless people do not apply for these programs, or do not feel they qualify for aid.

### Government Assistance

Survey respondents were asked if they were receiving any type of government assistance at the time of the survey. Government programs include Food Stamps, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), WIC, Medicaid, Medicare, VA Disability Compensation, and other Veteran's benefits.

- 63% of respondents reported receiving government assistance, while 37% reported not receiving assistance.

**Figure 46: Respondents Receiving Government Assistance**

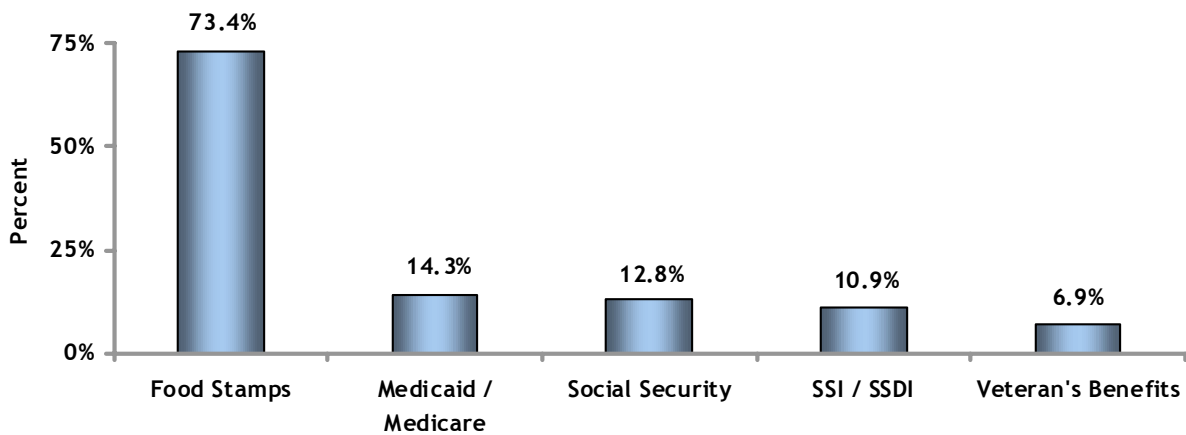


## Types of Governmental Assistance

Survey respondents were asked which types of government assistance they receive.

- 73% of respondents receiving aid reported receiving Food Stamps.
- 14% are receiving Medicaid or Medicare benefits.
- 13% receive Social Security.
- 11% are receiving SSI or SSDI.
- 7% receive Veteran's Benefits.

**Figure 47: Respondents Receiving Government Assistance by Type of Assistance (Top 5 Responses)**



Multiple response question with 807 respondents offering 1,128 responses.

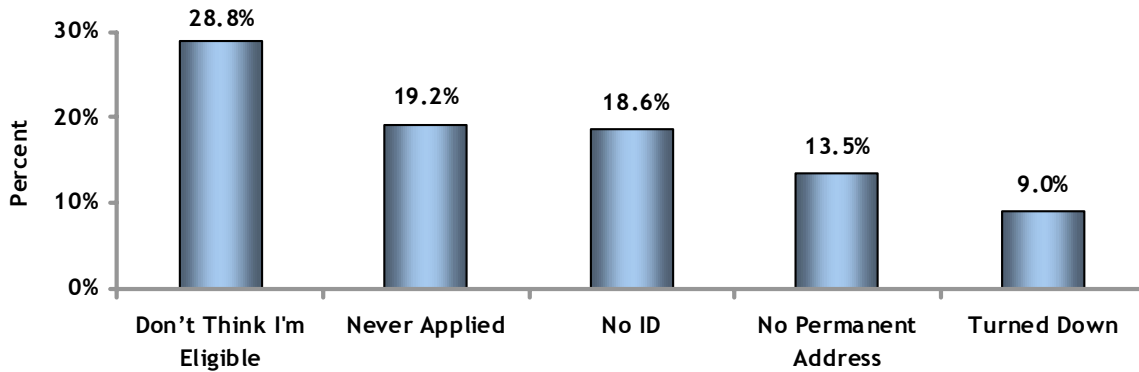
Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

## Reasons for Not Receiving Government Assistance

Respondents who were not receiving any type of government assistance were asked why they were not receiving aid. Their answers included:

- 29% do not think they are eligible for any assistance.
- 19% of respondents indicated they never applied for any type of program.
- 19% said they have no identification.
- 14% cited the lack of a permanent address.
- 9% indicated that they were turned down for assistance.
- 7% indicated they are not receiving aid, but are planning to apply soon.
- 6% were waiting for their application to be approved.

**Figure 48: Reasons for not Receiving Government Assistance (Top 5 responses)**



Multiple response question with 532 respondents offering 778 responses.

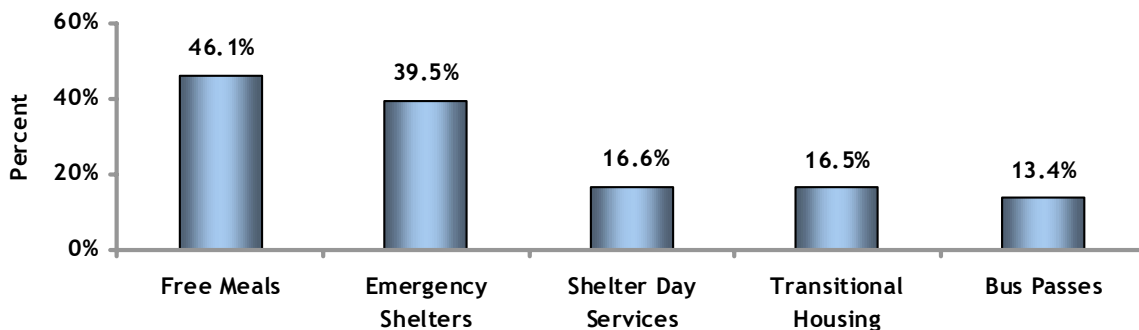
Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

### Services and Programs

Homeless survey respondents were asked if they were receiving or participating in any types of services or programs such as free meals, emergency shelters, bus passes, job training, day shelter services, legal assistance, health services, mental health services and alcohol or drug counseling. Of those using services and programs:

- 46% indicated they receive free meals.
- 40% use emergency shelters.
- 17% use shelter day services.
- 17% of respondents use transitional housing.
- 17% of respondents utilize the bus passes.

**Figure 49: Respondents Using Services or Programs by Type (Top 5 responses)**



Multiple response question with 1,355 respondents offering 2,810 responses.

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

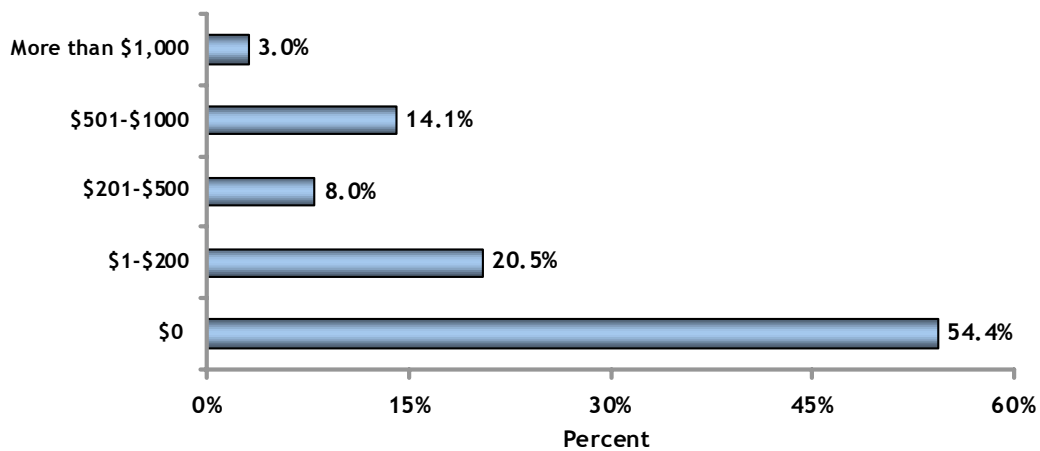
## Sources of Income

As shown previously, a lack of income – whether from the loss of a job, being unable to find a job, or from a multitude of other sources – has a great impact on homeless people in Southern Nevada. While some respondents were able to earn income from employment, others were receiving income from sources such as public assistance, disability benefits, or panhandling. However, many respondents were receiving little to no income from either government or private sources.

### Income from Government Sources

- 54% of all respondents indicated that they are receiving no money from government sources.
- 21% of respondents said they were receiving between \$1 and \$200.
- 8% were receiving between \$201 and \$500.
- 17% of respondents received over \$500 per month from government sources, including over 3% receiving more than \$1,000 per month.

**Figure 50: Total (gross) Monthly Income from all Government Sources**



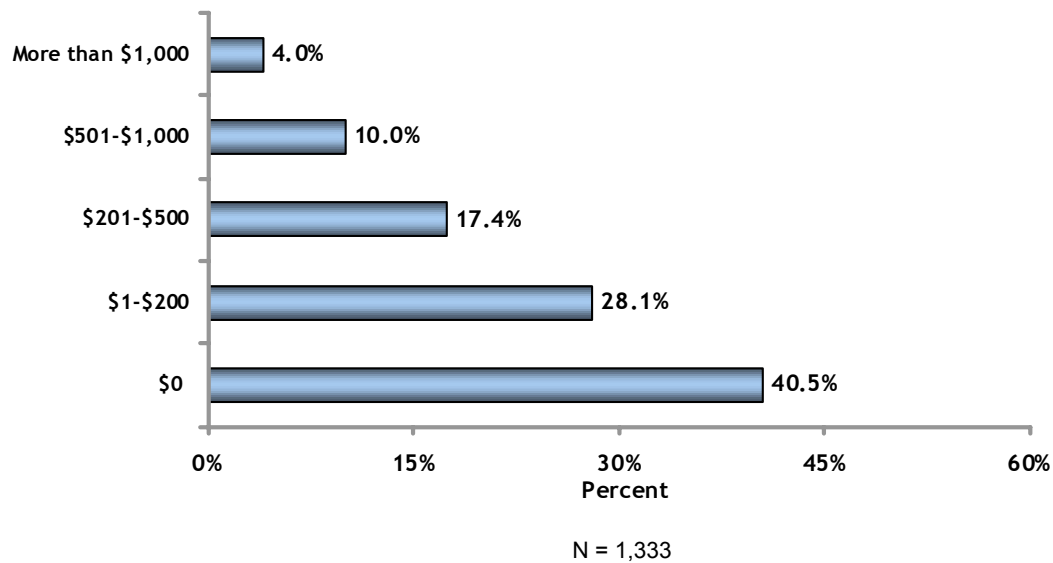
N = 1,341

## Income from Private Sources

In addition to income from government sources, some respondents were receiving income from other sources including employment, panhandling, or recycling. Respondents were asked how much money they receive per month from all sources other than government assistance:

- 41% of the respondents were receiving no income from other sources.
- 28% received between \$1 to \$200.
- 14% received more than \$500 from other sources in the last month, including 4% receiving more than \$1,000 per month.

**Figure 51: Total (gross) Monthly Income from all Other Sources**



The 2007 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Federal Poverty Level for one person is approximately \$851 per month.<sup>15</sup> Income from government sources is excluded from this calculation because the HHS Federal Poverty Levels do not consider non-cash government benefits (such as food stamps or housing subsidies) as income when determining the poverty levels for each fiscal year.

However, the local self-sufficiency standard is a more realistic measure of the true cost of living. The self-sufficiency standard is a measure of income adequacy that calculates how much income working adults need to meet their family's basic needs without subsidies.<sup>16</sup> While the FPL for one person is approximately \$851 per month, the self-sufficiency standard for a single person in Clark County is \$1,528 per month.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Federal Register*, Vol. 72, No. 15, 2007 HHS Poverty Guidelines January 24, 2007, pp. 3147-3148.

<sup>16</sup> Pearce, Diana and Brooks, Jennifer, *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Nevada 2002*, National Economic Development and Law Center, p. 1.

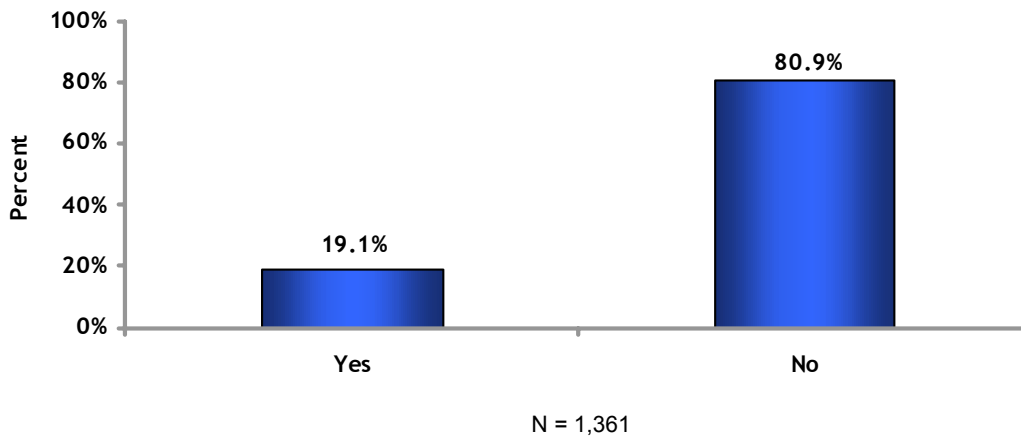
<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, p. 8.

## Panhandling

Respondents were asked if they ever panhandle, or ask people for spare change. And if so, how often do they panhandle and how much money they make in a typical month

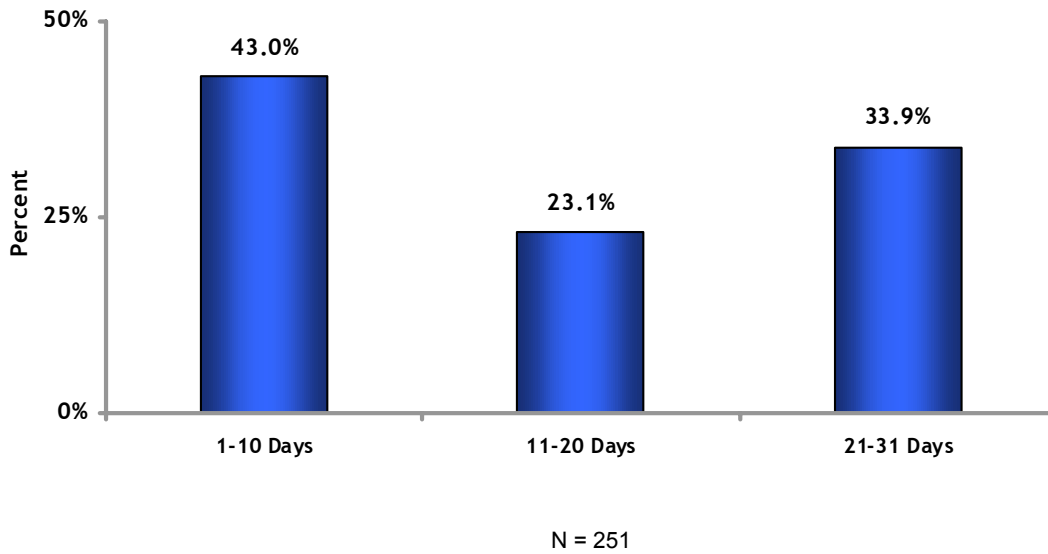
- Nearly 81% of respondents indicated that they do not panhandle.
- 19% stated that they do panhandle.

**Figure 52: Percentage of Respondents Who Indicated They Panhandle**



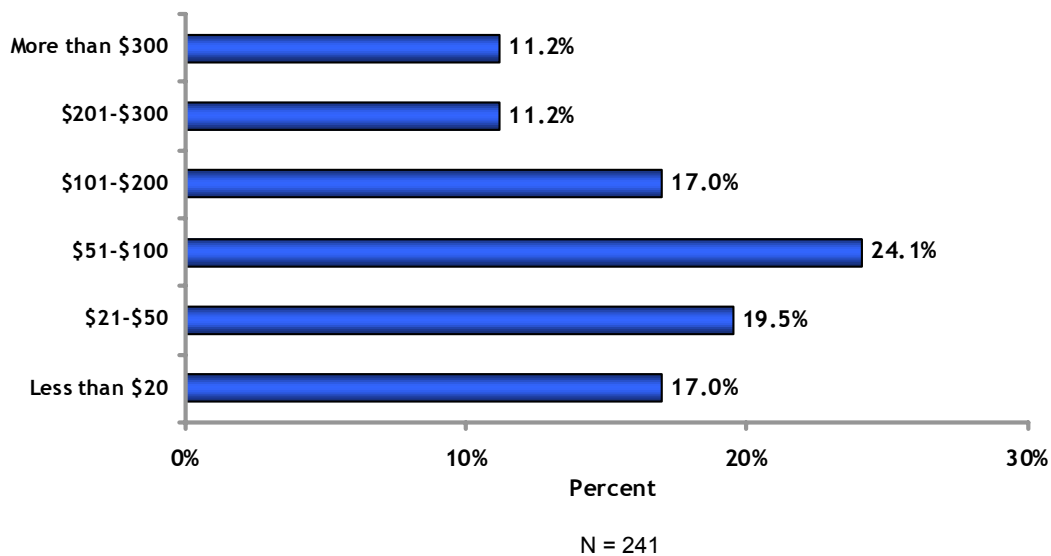
- Of the 19% of respondents who indicated they panhandle, 43% reported panhandling 10 days or less a month.
- 23% stated that they panhandle 11 to 20 days a month.
- 34% of respondents who panhandle report doing so 21 or more days a month.

**Figure 53: Number of Days a Month Respondents Panhandle**



- Of the 19% of respondents who indicated they panhandle, over 60% reported making \$100 or less in a typical month.
- Nearly 28% of respondent indicated making between \$101 to \$300.
- 11% reported making more than \$300 in a typical month.

**Figure 54: Typical Monthly Income From Panhandling**

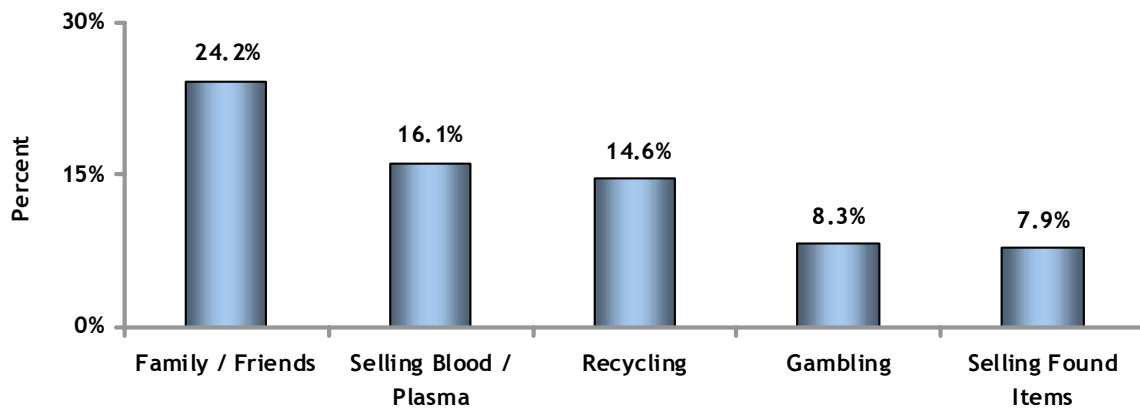


## Other Sources of Income

Respondents were asked about their other sources of private income besides panhandling.

- 24% indicated they receive income from family or friends.
- 16% sell blood or plasma.
- 15% report getting income from recycling.
- 8% of respondents cite gambling as a source of income.
- 8% indicate that they sell found items.
- 48% of respondents reported having another source of income not listed on the survey.

**Figure 55: Other Sources of Income (Top 5 responses)**



Multiple response question with 1,150 respondents offering 1,445 responses.

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

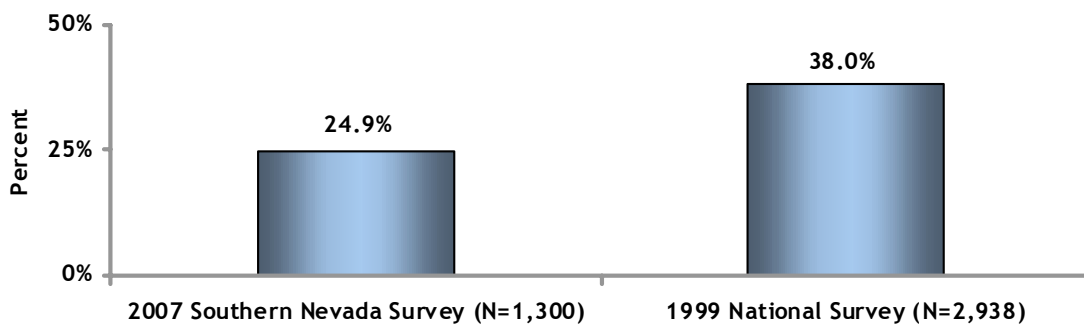
## Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Substance use (alcohol or drugs) was the second-most cited cause of homelessness among the homeless survey population in Southern Nevada. Furthermore, many of the homeless respondents said they were experiencing alcohol or drug abuse at the time the survey was administered. Please note that the responses from the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey regarding alcohol and drug use are not mutually exclusive.

### Alcohol Abuse

- 25% of homeless respondents indicated they were experiencing alcohol abuse at the time of the survey.
- In the national survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1999, 38% of the homeless population reported having experienced alcohol problems within the last month.<sup>18</sup>

**Figure 56: Percentage of Respondents Who Indicated They Were Currently Experiencing Alcohol Abuse<sup>1</sup>**



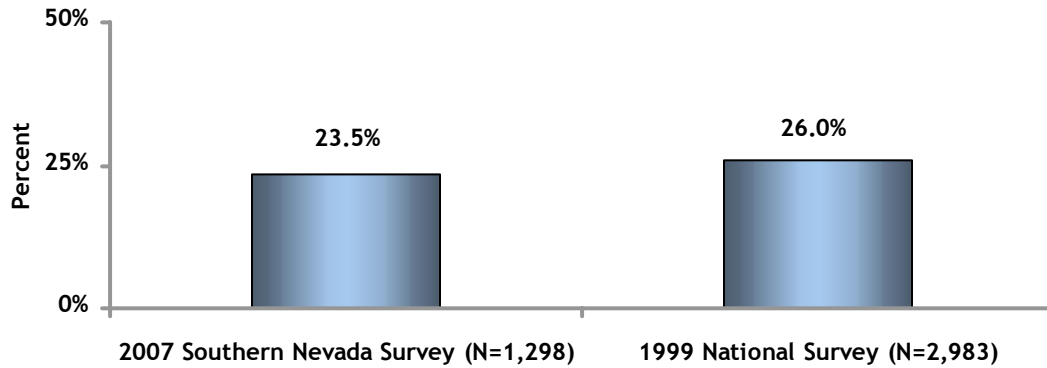
<sup>1</sup> The Southern Nevada Homeless Survey asked respondents about alcohol use at the time of the survey while the national survey asked respondents about alcohol problems in the past month.

<sup>18</sup> The Urban Institute, *Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve, Findings of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients: Summary Report*, Department of Housing and Urban Development, December 1999.

## Drug Abuse

- 24% of survey respondents stated they were experiencing drug use at the time of the survey.
- In the 1999 national survey, 26% of the homeless population reported having drug problems during the last month.

**Figure 57: Percentage of Respondents Who Indicated They Were Currently Experiencing Drug Abuse<sup>1</sup>**

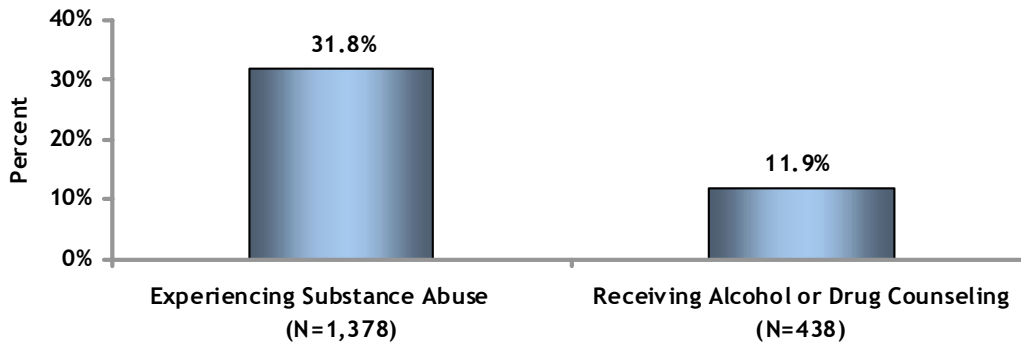


<sup>1</sup>The Southern Nevada Homeless Survey asked respondents about drug use at the time of the survey while the national survey asked respondents about drug problems in the past month.

## Recovery

- Nearly 32 % of survey respondents indicated they were currently experiencing substance abuse. Of those respondents, 12% are currently receiving alcohol or drug counseling.

**Figure 58: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Experiencing Substance Abuse and Were Currently Receiving Drug or Alcohol Counseling**

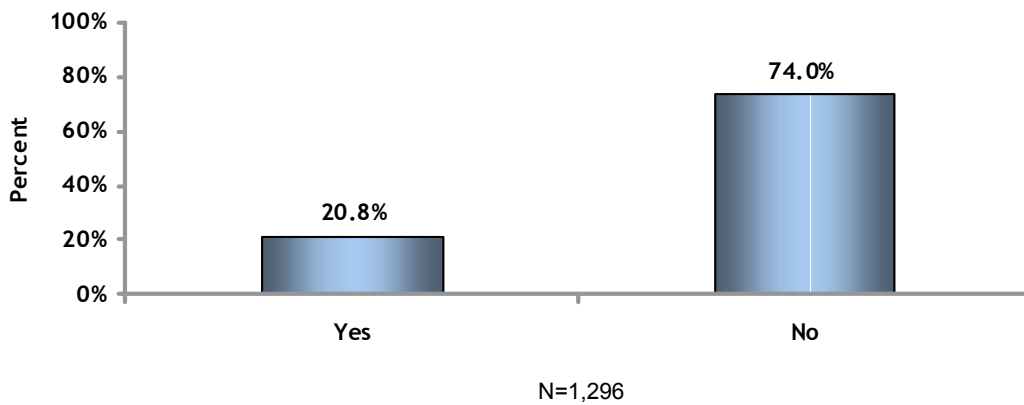


## Gambling Problem

Gambling problems were the third-most cited cause of homelessness among the homeless survey population in Southern Nevada.

- Nearly 21% of survey respondents indicated they were currently experiencing a gambling problem.
- 74% of respondents said they were not currently experiencing a gambling problem.

**Figure 59: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Experiencing a Gambling Problem**



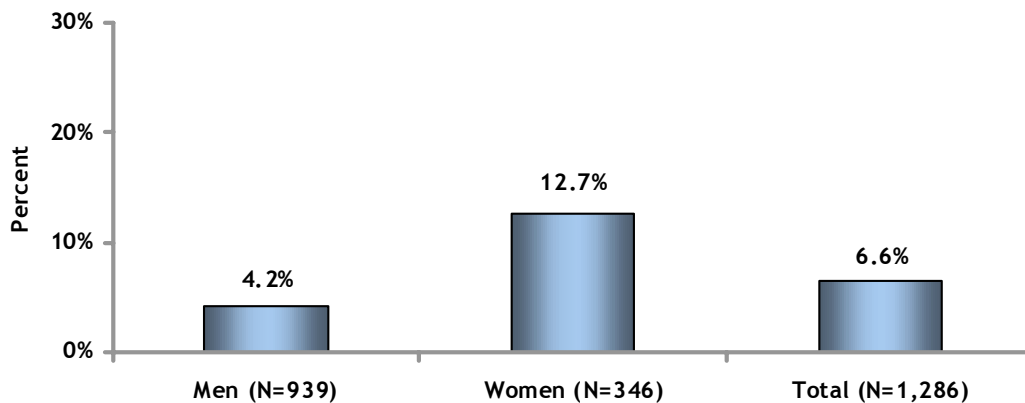
Note: Responses will not total 100% due to 5.2% of respondents who declined to state a response to the question.

## Domestic Violence

Homeless survey respondents were asked if they were experiencing domestic violence:

- 7% of all respondents indicated experiencing domestic violence at the time of the survey.
- 13% of female respondents stated they were experiencing domestic violence.
- 4% of males indicated experiencing domestic violence.
- National statistics show that nearly one out of every three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.<sup>19</sup>

**Figure 60: Respondents Experiencing Domestic Violence by Gender<sup>1</sup>**

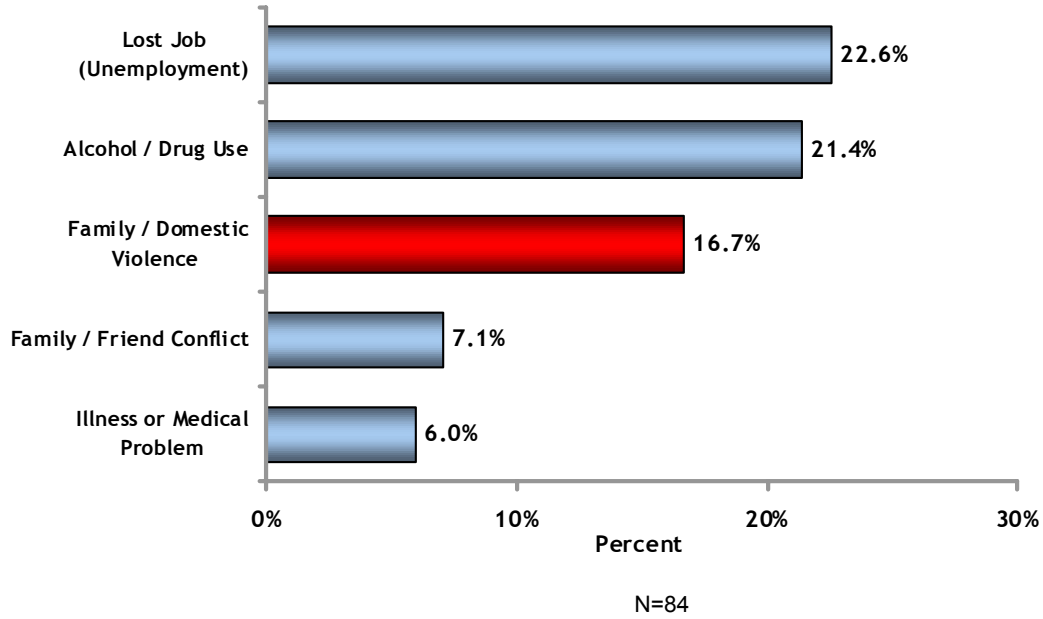


<sup>1</sup>Two of four transgender respondents that reported experiencing Domestic Violence or Abuse were not reported separately in the graph, but are included in the total percentage.

<sup>19</sup> American Psychological Association, *Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family* (1996), p. 10, as cited in Domestic Violence Statistics, District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, retrieved on July 21, 2005 from <http://www.dccadv.org/statistics.htm>.

- Of the respondents who indicated they were experiencing domestic violence, approximately 17% indicated that domestic violence was the primary reason for their homelessness.

**Figure 61: Respondents Who Were Experiencing Domestic Violence and Their Primary Reason for Homelessness (Top 5 responses)**



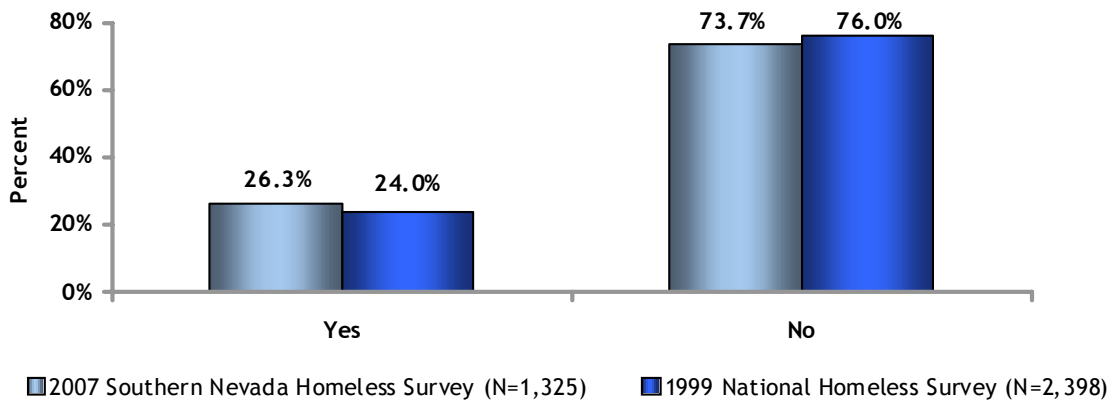
## Medical Care and Health Conditions

Access to health care is vital to general well being. While many Southern Nevada residents struggle with the high costs of health care, homeless residents are particularly vulnerable to many unique challenges regarding their health.

### Access to Medical Care

- Over 26% of homeless respondents stated that since they became homeless they have needed medical care but have been unable to receive it.
- Similarly, 24% of the national homeless population needed to see a doctor or a nurse in a given year but were unable to do so.<sup>20</sup>

**Figure 62: Respondents Who Needed Medical Care Since Becoming Homeless but Have Been Unable to Receive It**

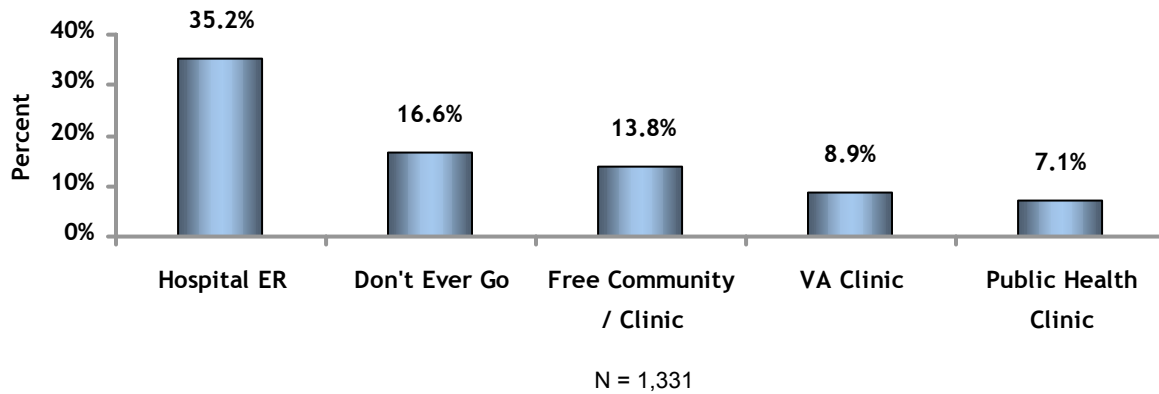


<sup>20</sup> The Urban Institute, *Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve, Findings of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients: Summary Report*, Department of Housing and Urban Development, December 1999.

Respondents were asked where they usually go when they need medical attention:

- Respondents most commonly reported going to a hospital emergency room (35%).
- 17% indicated that they did not go anywhere to receive medical help.
- 9% of respondents indicated they received medical attention at a Veteran’s Affairs clinic.
- 7% visit a public health clinic.
- 8% stated they go to another place not listed on the survey.

**Figure 63: Usual Source of Medical Attention (Top 5 responses)**

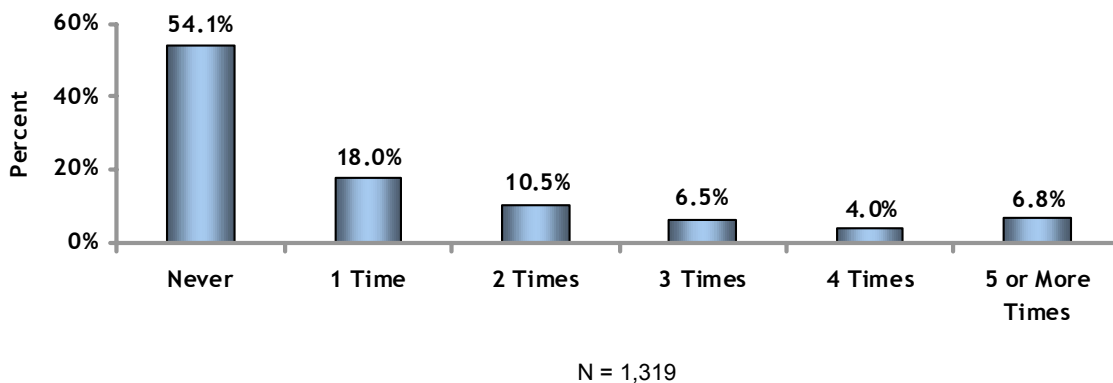


### Visits to the Emergency Room

Respondents were asked how many times in the past year they had visited the emergency room (ER) for any type of treatment:

- Overall, 54% of respondents have not been to the ER for treatment in the past year.
- 18% of respondents had received ER treatment only once in the past year.
- 11% visited the ER twice.
- 7% had used the ER for treatment five or more times within the past year.

**Figure 64: Use of the Emergency Room for Any Type of Medical Treatment in the Past 12 Months**

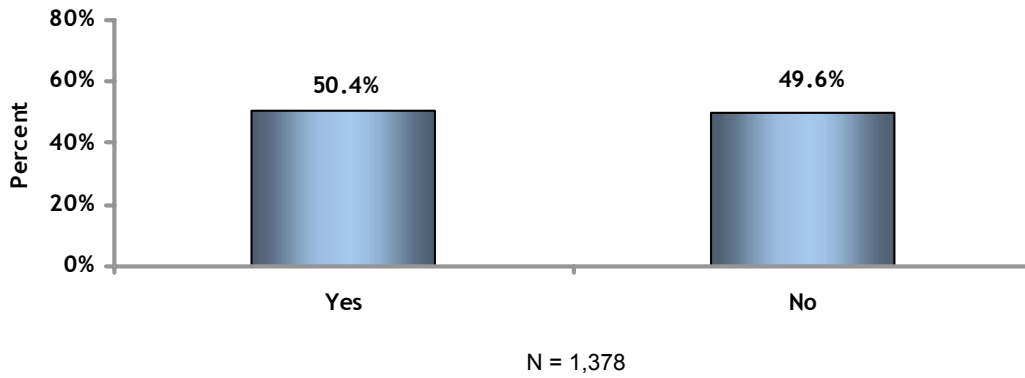


### Disabling Conditions and Their Effect

Homeless survey respondents were asked to self-report whether they had any type of disability. A respondent’s self-definition of a disability might be different than the definitions of disabling conditions that HUD uses to define chronic homelessness.

- 50% of the survey population indicated they have some type of disability.

**Figure 65: Respondents Who Have a Disability**

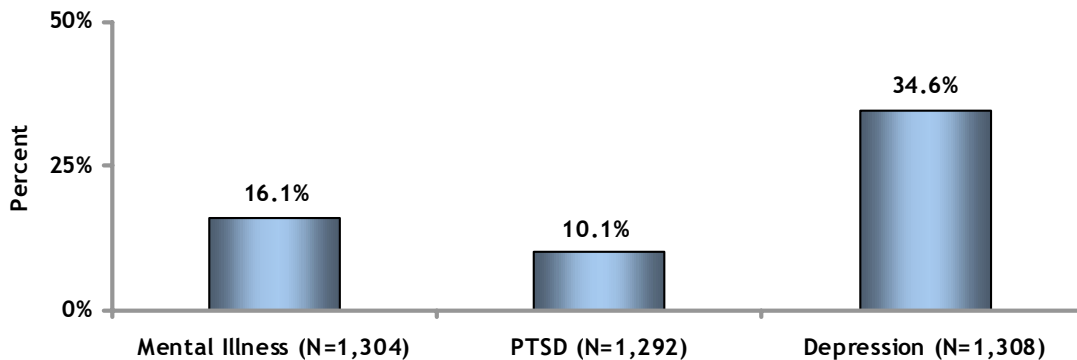


## Mental Health

It is commonly believed that many homeless residents experience poor mental health or depression. Therefore, survey respondents were asked about their mental health including mental illness, depression and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of a traumatic event. A traumatic event is a life-threatening event such as military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or physical or sexual assault in adulthood or childhood.<sup>21</sup>

- 16% of survey respondents reported experiencing mental illness at the time of the survey.
- 10% reported currently experiencing PTSD.
- 35% of respondents indicated they were suffering from depression.

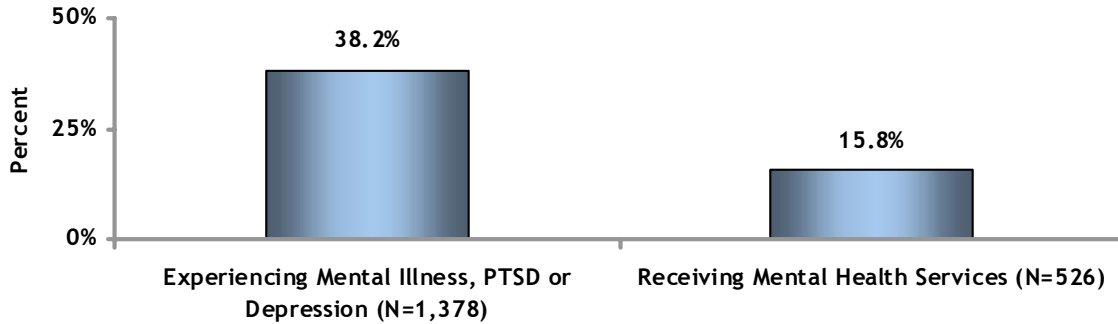
**Figure 66: Respondents Who Were Currently Experiencing Mental Illness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Depression**



<sup>21</sup> National Center for PTSD Fact Sheet retrieved on April 11, 2007 from [http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/ncdocs/fact\\_shts/fs\\_what\\_is\\_ptsd.html](http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/ncdocs/fact_shts/fs_what_is_ptsd.html).

- Overall, 38% of respondents were experiencing a mental health issue at the time of the survey.
- Of those respondents, 16% were receiving mental health services.

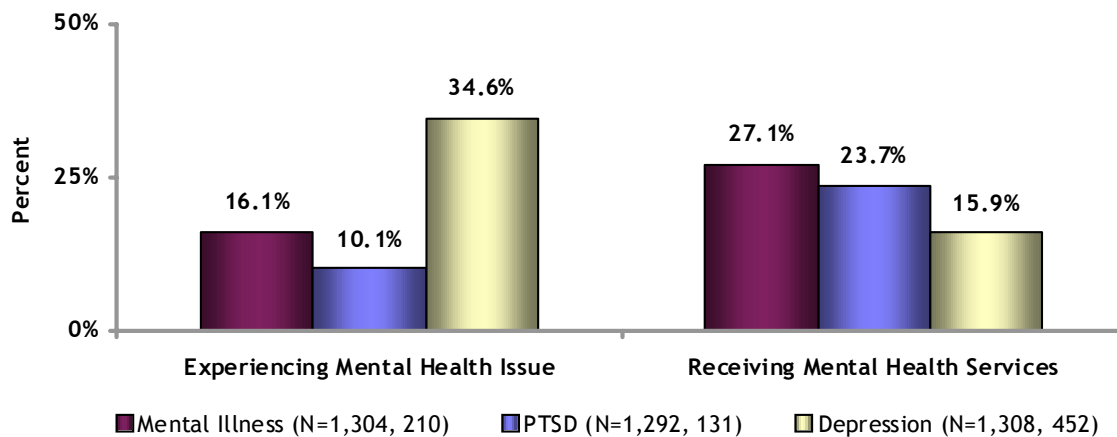
**Figure 67: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Currently Using Mental Health Services if Experiencing Mental Illness, PTSD or Depression<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>Indicates the number of respondents who were experiencing one or more of these conditions.

- Of the 16% of survey respondents reported experiencing mental illness at the time of the survey, 27% were using mental health services.
- 24% of respondents who reported experiencing PTSD were using mental health services.
- 16% of respondents who indicated experiencing depression were receiving mental health services.

**Figure 68: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Currently Using Mental Health Services if Experiencing Mental Health Issue by Condition**

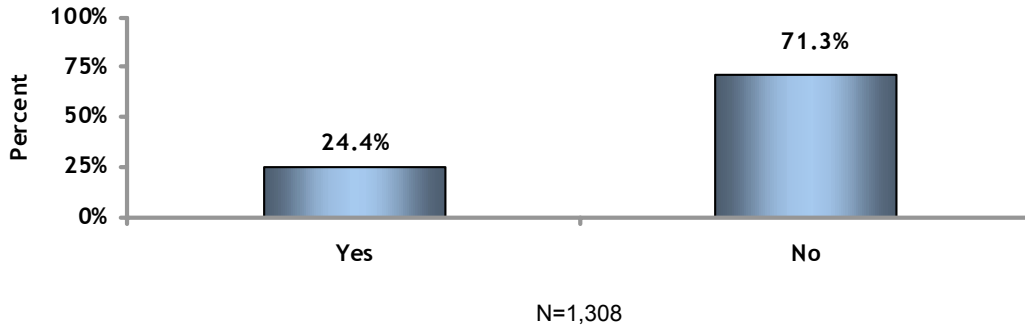


### Physical Disability

Respondents were asked if they were experiencing a physical disability at the time of the survey.

- 24% of respondents indicated experiencing a physical disability at the time of the survey.

**Figure 69: Respondents Experiencing a Physical Disability**



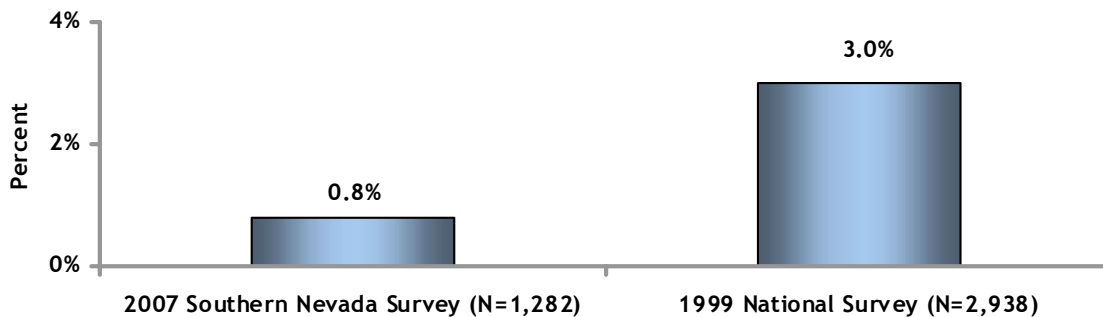
Note: Responses do not total 100% due to 4.3% of respondents declining to state a response.

### HIV and AIDS

Homeless survey respondents were asked if they were experiencing HIV, AIDS, or any related illnesses.

- Nearly 1% of the survey population stated they were experiencing HIV or AIDS or related illnesses, compared to 3% of 1999 National Survey respondents.
- Over 17% of respondents declined to state an answer to this question.

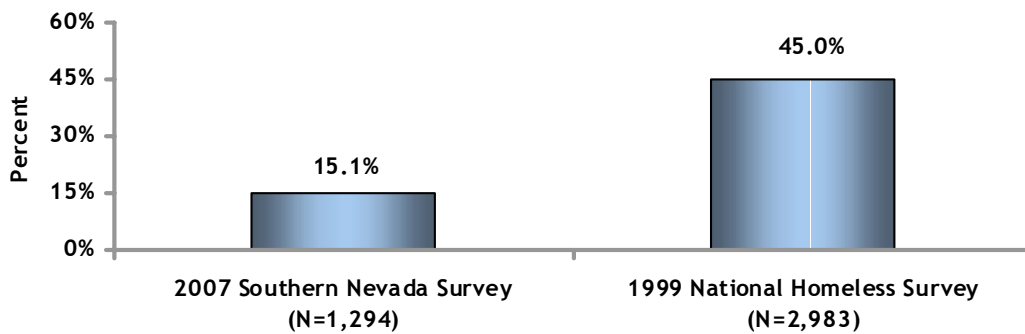
**Figure 70: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Currently Experiencing HIV / AIDS or Related Diseases**



### Chronic Health Conditions

- 15% of homeless survey respondents indicated they were experiencing chronic health conditions at the time of the survey.
- In the 1999 national homeless survey, 45% of the survey population indicated they were experiencing chronic health conditions.<sup>22</sup>

**Figure 71: Percentage of Respondents Who Are Experiencing Chronic Health Conditions**

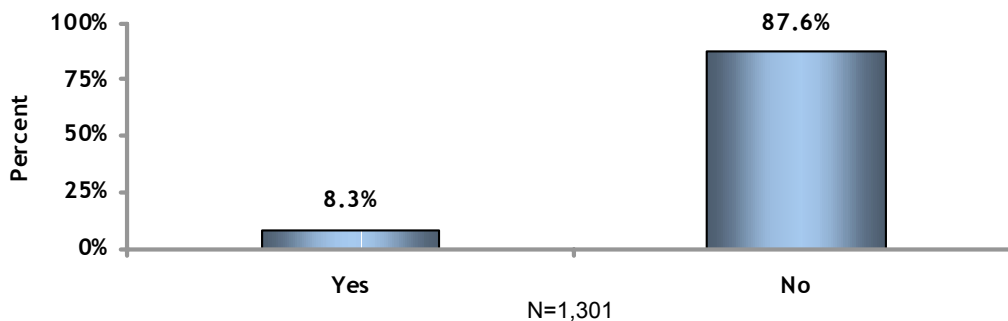


### Developmental Disability

A developmental disability is a chronic condition that significantly limits a person’s ability to speak, hear, walk, learn or perform fundamental tasks.

- 8% of respondents report having a developmental disability.

**Figure 72: Percentage of Respondents Currently Experiencing a Developmental Disability<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>Percents for 2007 do not total 100% due to 4.1% of respondents who declined to state.

<sup>22</sup> The Urban Institute, *Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve, Findings of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients: Summary Report*, Department of Housing and Urban Development, December 1999.

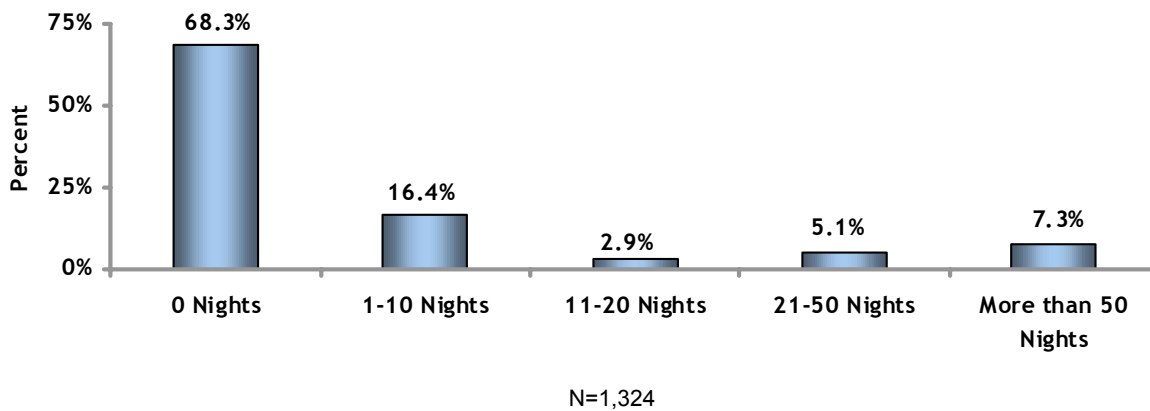
## Legal Issues

### Nights in Jail or Prison

Respondents were asked how many nights they had spent in jail or prison in the last year.

- Approximately 32% of homeless respondents stated that they had spent at least one night in jail or prison in the last year.
- 19% of respondents reported spending between 1 and 20 nights in jail or prison.
- 12% spent more than 20 nights incarcerated in the last year.

**Figure 73: Percentage of Respondents that Spent Nights in Jail or Prison in the Last 12 Months**

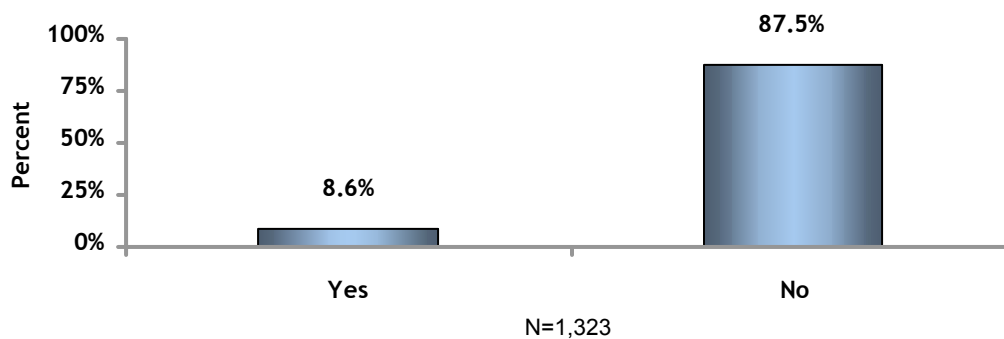


### Currently on Probation or Parole

Respondents were asked if they were currently on probation or parole.

- Approximately 9% of respondents reported currently being on probation or parole.

**Figure 74: Percentage of Respondents Currently on Probation or Parole<sup>1</sup>**



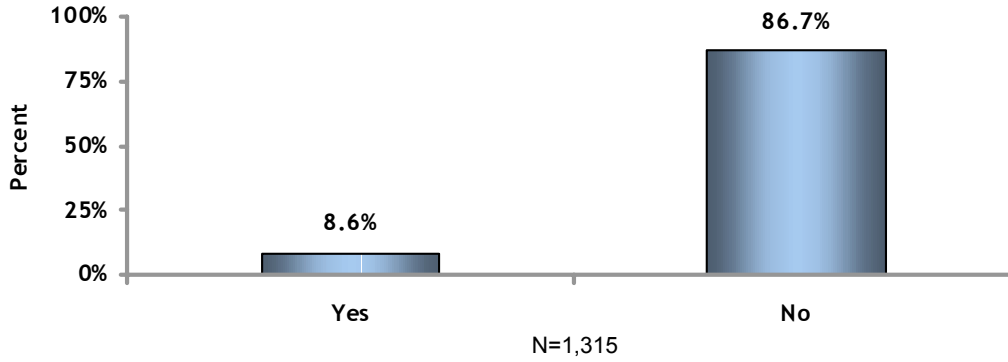
<sup>1</sup>Percents for 2007 do not total 100% due to 3.9% of respondents who declined to state.

### On Probation or Parole When Became Homeless

Respondents were asked if they were on probation or parole at the time they most recently became homeless.

- 9% of respondents reported being on probation or parole when they became homeless this last time.

**Figure 75: Percentage of Respondents Who Were on Probation or Parole When They Became Homeless<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>Percents for 2007 do not total 100% due to 4.7% of respondents who declined to state.

## Summary for the Continuum of Care Application

The purpose of the following summaries is to provide local jurisdictions with consolidated information to facilitate the completion of the application for Continuum of Care (CoC) funds. The following summaries are based directly upon the results discussed in the body of the report. Please note that the information on the sheltered homeless populations and subpopulations contained in the tables below reflects only those people counted in emergency shelters and transitional housing. Under the HUD definition of homelessness, those housed in jails, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, or who are living “doubled-up” in a house do not qualify as homeless.

### Homeless Population

The following table details the results of the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey. The results are broken down by sheltered versus unsheltered status.

<b><i>Part 1: Homeless Population</i></b>	<b><i>Sheltered</i></b>		<b><i>Unsheltered</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
	<b><i>Emergency</i></b>	<b><i>Transitional</i></b>		
1. Number of Households <i>with</i> Dependent Children	30	255	648	<b>933</b>
1a. Total Number of Persons in Households <i>with</i> Dependent Children	76	866	1,954	<b>2,896</b>
2. Number of Households <i>without</i> Dependent Children <sup>1</sup>	869	1,976	5,344	<b>8,189</b>
2a. Total Number of Persons in Households <i>without</i> Dependent Children	900	2,002	5,619	<b>8,521</b>
<b>Total (lines 1a + 2a)</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>2,868</b>	<b>7,573</b>	<b>11,417</b>

<sup>1</sup>Number of Households without dependent children is an estimate based on survey results.

### Homeless Subpopulations

The following table further breaks down the census data into subpopulations. These data are based on both the homeless census and data from the homeless survey. The results in the below chart are estimates, calculated by applying the survey results to the census population.

<b><i>Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations</i></b>	<b><i>Sheltered</i></b>	<b><i>Unsheltered</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
1. Chronically Homeless <sup>1</sup>	174	1,309	<b>1,483</b>
2. Severely Mentally Ill	888	1,363	<b>2,251</b>
3. Chronic Substance Abuse	697	2,473	<b>3,170</b>
4. Veterans	835	1,486	<b>2,321</b>
5. Persons with HIV/AIDS	19	76	<b>95</b>
6. Victims of Domestic Violence	215	545	<b>760</b>
7. Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18 years of age)	128	152	<b>280</b>

<sup>1</sup> “Sheltered” Chronically Homeless Subpopulations include persons in emergency shelter only.

# Homeless Census and Survey Methodology

## Overview

The purpose of the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey was to produce an estimate of the number of people in Clark County who experience homelessness. The results of the street count were combined with the results from the general population telephone survey and the shelter and institution count to produce the total number of homeless people in Clark County. A more detailed description of the methodology used for the homeless count follows.

## Components of the Homeless Count Method

The census methodology had three components:

- The Street Count – an enumeration of unsheltered homeless people.
- The Shelter and Institution Count – an enumeration of sheltered homeless people.
- The General Population Telephone Survey – telephone survey of randomly selected Clark County residents.

## Street Count Methodology

### Definition

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of an unsheltered homeless person was used: someone who is either living on the streets, or in a vehicle, encampment, abandoned building, garage, or any other place not normally used or meant for human habitation.

### Research Design

The Clark County covers approximately 8,000 square miles. The logistics for conducting a point-in-time street count of homeless people in a county this large required the enumeration to take place over a two-day period. The unsheltered and sheltered homeless counts were coordinated to occur within the same time period in order to minimize the potential effect of duplicate counting. The purpose of the street count was to conduct an enumeration of unsheltered homeless people over a specific measure of time.

### Volunteer and Worker Recruitment

An enumeration effort of this magnitude can only be successful with the assistance of those who possess an intimate knowledge of the activities and locations of homeless people. Therefore, the recruitment and training of homeless people to work as enumerators was an essential part of the street count methodology. A homeless census cannot be successful without the assistance of these individuals. Previous research has

shown that homeless people, teamed with staff members from homeless service agencies, can be part of a productive and reliable work force.

To work for the street count, prospective enumerators were required to attend one 2-hour information and training session. Seventeen training sessions were held at multiple locations throughout Clark County in the week prior to the street count. Information and training sessions were attended primarily by homeless people, staff from homeless service agencies, and staff from the City of Las Vegas and Clark County. The techniques and methods used to identify and enumerate unsheltered homeless people were reviewed during these training sessions.

Homeless persons who completed the required training session were paid \$20.00 on their first morning of work for the street count. On each morning of the street count, homeless workers were also paid \$10.00 per hour, and were reimbursed for any expenses (mainly for transportation costs) they incurred during the hours they worked. Upwards of 300 homeless people, homeless service providers, city and county workers, and community volunteers were recruited and trained.

## Street Count Teams

On the mornings of the census, two-person teams were created to enumerate the selected areas of the County for the street count. A team was ideally comprised of one volunteer and one homeless person who had attended a training and information session. Given the expertise each team member brought to working in the field, the “volunteer/homeless worker” teamwork concept was especially beneficial for the street count.

Street count teams were provided with census tract maps of their assigned areas, census tally sheets, a recap of the census training documents and techniques, and other supplies. Prior to deployment, volunteers and workers were provided with a brief review of how not to disturb homeless people or anyone else encountered during the street census. Over the two-day census period, all 346 census tracts were enumerated.



## Safety Precautions

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Precautions were taken to prepare a safe environment in all deployment centers. Law enforcement districts were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. No official reports were received in regards to unsafe or at-risk situations occurring during the street count in any area of the County.

## Street Count Deployment

Since it was necessary to conduct the enumeration over a period of two days, January 30-31, 2007, Clark County was divided into two areas. Due to the mostly rural nature of the area outside Las Vegas, it was decided that those parts should be enumerated in the morning hours between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Performing the street count during this time provided enumerators with the benefit of daylight from the sunrise. The City of Las Vegas was enumerated between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. This early morning enumeration was selected in order to avoid shelter count duplication and to increase the visibility of the street homeless.

Volunteers and Clark County Social Services staff used personal or agency vehicles to transport homeless workers and volunteers to and from assigned census tracts (although some homeless workers did provide their own transportation). All accessible streets, roads, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traveled by foot, bike, or car. Homeless persons were counted and tallied according to these observed categories:

Individuals:	Family Members:	Notations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Male</li> <li>• Adult Female</li> <li>• Youth (under age 18)</li> <li>• Undetermined gender</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Male</li> <li>• Adult Female</li> <li>• Youth (under age 18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles (cars, vans, RV's, campers, etc.)</li> <li>• Encampments</li> <li>• People in parks reported by park ranger</li> </ul>

Homeless enumerators were also instructed to include themselves on their tally sheets for the street count. However, they were only instructed to do so if they were not going to be counted during a shelter or institutional census.

Upon their return, teams turned in their census tally forms and were debriefed by the deployment captains. Observational comments and the integrity of the enumeration effort were reviewed and assessed. This review was primarily done to check for double-counting (i.e. counting a family as family members and individuals) and to verify that every accessible road within the assigned area was enumerated.

No direct contact with enumerated homeless people was made during the census enumeration. To avoid potential duplication of unsheltered and sheltered homeless, it was imperative to enumerate in a narrow timeframe when sheltered and unsheltered homeless do not co-mingle. Administering the survey in conjunction with the census would have increased the likelihood of duplication between the street and sheltered homeless, and therefore jeopardize the accuracy of the census. Thus, observation-only enumeration strategies were employed.

Additionally, because unaccompanied youth tend to be difficult to enumerate since they do not co-mingle with the adult homeless population, special youth enumeration teams consisting of homeless youth and formerly homeless youth were formed to enumerate unaccompanied homeless youth. They originated from two homeless youth programs and each were given general geographic boundaries to follow instead of census tract maps. These teams counted at different times of the day when homeless youth are most likely to be visible. They enumerated unaccompanied homeless youth under age 18 and 18-22 year old homeless adults who associate in the same circles. The teams kept track of the location of the homeless youth by recording the nearest intersection to where youth were found.

Although any homeless enumeration is vulnerable to an undercount, all of the people, vehicles or encampments tallied during the point-in-time street count were visually observed by enumerators. By reporting only what was observed, ASR and Clark County Social Services are highly confident that the street count results are as accurate and as valid as possible. There are no means to ensure that those enumerated were actually members of the homeless population. However, when potential enumerators were polled during the training sessions, most trainees indicated they would have no difficulty in telling the difference between an unsheltered homeless person and a member of the general public.

## Shelter and Institution Count

### Goal

The goal of the shelter and institution (S&I) count was to gain an accurate count of the number of persons that are homeless that are being temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across Clark County. This data is vital to gaining an accurate overall count of the homeless population and understanding where homeless persons receive shelter.

### Data Collection

The basic approach was to identify and contact as many agencies as possible that temporarily house homeless people and request that those agencies send ASR a count of the number of homeless persons housed in their programs on the appropriate nights of the count, in conjunction with the street count. The support and participation from a broad range of agencies, both public and private, was needed to complete the shelter and institution count. These agencies include:

- Shelters (emergency and transitional),
- Jails/police departments,
- Drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities,
- Hospitals, and
- Agencies that house homeless people in voucher hotels and other agencies.

These institution types were included in the count because they are most likely to temporarily house persons who are homeless.

The S&I count began by first identifying and collecting contact information for all agencies in the county that provide temporary shelter to homeless people from Clark County Social Services. These agencies include: shelters, jails, drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities, hospitals, veterans administration programs and agencies that voucher homeless people to hotels. Shelter facilities reported their occupancies for the night prior to the census to Applied Survey Research.

## General Population Telephone Survey

In an effort to locate the “hidden” homeless of Southern Nevada, ASR conducted a telephone survey of the general population of Clark County between April 4, 2007 and April 17, 2007. This type of supplemental survey is one of few ever conducted as part of a homeless enumeration. Many service providers and researchers have speculated that there is a large number of “hidden” homeless in Clark County who self-define as homeless but do not live in shelters or on the streets. These persons live on private property but in locations that would not be considered “double-ups” as defined by HUD such as tents, cars/vans, unconverted garages, storage sheds, etc. The general population phone survey was a 10-15 minute survey designed to determine if there were people staying in the household who would otherwise be homeless.

This survey yielded valuable information about Clark County’s “hidden” homeless. A household member was asked a series of questions about individuals and families who were living on the property on a “temporary” basis. A total of 1,000 households responded with 35 households indicating that homeless persons did in fact live on their property. Of these 35 households, only 4 households passed our stringent filters that ruled out “double-ups” (based on sleeping location) or immediate family members of the householder. Using information about the relationship of the homeless persons to the head-of-household and about where the homeless persons were living on the property, the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness was applied to determine if these individuals could be officially counted as homeless. HUD specifically excludes people who “double-up” with friends or family (i.e. two families living under the same roof) from their Exhibit I CoC funding application, and the research team attempted to be faithful and conservative in our estimates of this definition. Immediate family members and individuals were excluded from our projection as was anyone living inside the physical house in a bedroom, family room, living room, dining room or den. These 4 households represent a total of 6 homeless persons, one 3-person family and 3 individuals.

Using these “filters,” a projection of “hidden” homeless individuals and homeless families meeting our conservative definitions was possible. Using the 2005 U.S. Census American Community Survey, it was determined that Clark County has approximately 637,740 households. The findings from the general population survey sample were projected to the County level based on the number of households in the sample area. Due to the fact that the general population survey sample size was 1,000 people, we were able to use the results of the telephone survey to create a rate per 1,000 people for each response, and then estimate that response for the entire County. The phone survey revealed an additional 3,826 homeless persons (1,913 individuals, 1,913 family members), who represented the “hidden” homeless. The people identified during the general population phone survey were designated as unsheltered people for practical purposes, as they were not utilizing Clark County shelter facilities (emergency shelters, transitional housing, etc.). Therefore, the results of the general population survey were then added to the unsheltered count.

The Southern Nevada homeless general population telephone survey is considered to be a scientific and reliable sample of the county’s general population though the results could change due to sample bias. It is unknown how representative our respondent sample was of the general Clark County population as we

did not capture demographic data from the respondent. However, the results of the random telephone survey would be considered to have a 95% confidence level with a +/- 3.1% confidence interval if our sample was considered to have no significant bias. To achieve a +/- 5% confidence interval, we would have only had to interview 384 households instead of the 1,000 households we did contact.

The sample contained 8,882 household phone numbers, with each number being contacted several times. We know there is potential bias in the fact that some households do not have land lines. Other households may have more than one voice line, and therefore could have a greater likelihood of being selected. Keeping in mind these considerations, we feel that the estimates are sound, and the results are important for the profile of Clark County homelessness. However, due to the low incidence rate of homelessness in our target sample, results should be used cautiously to estimate the hidden homeless population.

Sampling bias is an important issue to consider, and there were no known biases in the scientific statistical sample that was used. This sample drawn was a stratified, weighted random digit dial (RDD) sample. There is precedence for this type of study in the famous 1995 study, "Lifetime and 5 Year Prevalence of Homelessness in the United States" (Link, et al 1995, *American Journal of Public Health*) and Cousineau in his 2001 study in Los Angeles County, "Comparing Adults in Los Angeles County Who Have and Have Not Been Homeless" (Cousineau, 2001, *Journal of Community Psychology*).

The response rate for the survey was just under 33%, which by random telephone survey standards where 30% response rates are common, is acceptable. It does, however mean that the non-responders could potentially be significantly different from those who did respond. Due to the general nature of telephone surveying, the natural suspicion from many respondents, and the potential code violation aspects of housing a homeless person in a non-standard location, our research team feels the survey results are valid, conservative, and can be generalized. The estimates reported here are more likely undercount of this phenomenon than an overestimate.

## Homeless Census Challenges and Assumptions

### Challenges

There are many challenges in any homeless enumeration, especially when implemented in a community as diverse and large as Southern Nevada. While homeless populations are usually concentrated around city emergency shelters and homeless service facilities, homeless individuals and families can also be found in suburbs, commercial districts, and outlying county areas that are not easily accessible by enumerators.

Homeless populations include numerous subsets such as:

- Chronically homeless persons who may or may not access social, health, or shelter services;
- Persons living in vehicles who relocate every few days;
- Persons who have children and therefore stay “under the radar” for fear of having to turn their children over to Child Protective Services;
- Homeless youth, who tend to keep themselves less visible than homeless adults;
- Homeless people who live in isolated rural areas; and
- Homeless people who sleep in unfit structures.

### Census Undercount

Due to a variety of reasons, homeless persons generally do not want to be seen, and make concentrated efforts to avoid detection. What we do know is that regardless of how successful our outreach effort is, we will undercount the homeless population, especially hard-to-reach subpopulations such as unaccompanied youth and families.

In this non-intrusive, point-in-time, visual homeless enumeration, it should be noted that the methods employed, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers and currently or previously homeless census enumerators, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. Many factors may contribute to missed opportunities, for example:

- Homeless individuals often occupy abandoned buildings and other structures unfit for human habitation.
- Homeless youth who are suspected to keep a distance from the general homeless population, for their own safety.
- Likewise, homeless families with children will more likely seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the street, in vehicles, or makeshift shelters.
- It can be difficult to identify homeless persons who may be sleeping in vans, cars, or recreational vehicles.

By counting the minimum number of homeless persons on the street at a given time, the homeless census methodology is conservative and therefore most likely results in an undercount of homeless with immigration issues, some of the working homeless, families, and street youth. This conservative approach

is necessary to preserve the integrity of the data collected. It is noteworthy that, even though the census is most likely to be an undercount of the homeless population, the methodology employed, coupled with the homeless survey data to inform the acknowledged undercount, is the most comprehensive approach available. The addition of the general population telephone survey adds more depth and accuracy to our census, due to the fact that homeless people discovered in the telephone survey would not normally be discovered during a typical street or shelter enumeration.

## Assumptions of Annual Estimation

The calculations used to project an annual estimate of homelessness are based on two very important assumptions.

1. The information gathered in the homeless survey is indicative of responses that would have been given at any other time during the year and is representative of the general diversity of the study area's homeless population.
2. The point-in-time census count is reasonably indicative of a count that would have been obtained at any other time during the year.

Service providers have supported these assumptions by indicating that the demand for services stayed relatively consistent over time. Additionally, the gross number of homeless accessing services does not fluctuate to a great degree, although the proportion of sheltered versus unsheltered homeless does vary with the seasons.

Estimates of the number of people who experience homelessness in a given year are important for planning purposes and HUD reporting requirements. Because many homeless experiences are relatively short-term (less than a year), it is important to account for this phenomenon when determining the annual demand for homeless services.

Given the size of the survey sample (1,378), the statistical reliability of the projections, the undercount inherent in any homeless census, as well as the use of a HUD-approved turnover rate calculation, the Project Committee and Applied Survey Research has determined that this methodology was the most complete and accurate of all available approaches.

## Survey Methodology

### Planning and Implementation

The 1,378-person survey of homeless persons was conducted in order to yield quantitative and qualitative data about the homeless community in Southern Nevada. This data was used for the Super Notification of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) Continuum of Care application and is important for future homeless program development and planning. The survey elicited information such as gender, family status, military service, length and recurrence of homelessness, usual nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services both current and in the future. Survey findings also provide a baseline for future homeless studies.



Surveys were conducted by homeless workers and service provider volunteers who were trained by Applied Survey Research. Training sessions led potential interviewers through a detailed and lengthy orientation that included project background information and detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Because of confidentiality and privacy issues, service providers typically conducted the surveys administered in shelters. No self-administered surveys were accepted to maintain a standardized and consistent protocol.

Homeless workers were compensated at a rate of \$5.00 per each completed survey. Further, it was determined that survey data would be more easily collected if an incentive gift was offered to survey respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. A \$5.00 face value pre-paid phone card was selected as an incentive to participate in the survey. These cards were easy to obtain and distribute, were thought to have wide appeal, and could be provided within the project budget. This approach enabled surveys to be done at anytime during the day. The gift proved to be a great incentive and was widely accepted among survey respondents.

### Survey Sampling

Developing a truly random sample of homeless survey respondents is challenging. An important consideration is that there is not enough information about this population to develop a random sampling strategy that effectively represents the target demographics and subpopulations' diversity. Applied Survey Research considered a randomized "every third or fourth encounter" survey approach, but felt that it would be too challenging to administer with our homeless peer interview methodology, especially in a community with a large homeless population such as Southern Nevada. Instead, ASR selected a quota

sampling approach. Quota sampling is a non-random sampling method in which the study sample is selected with an effort made to insure a certain distribution of demographic variables.

Strategic attempts were made to reach individuals of various subset groups such as homeless youth, minority ethnic groups, military veterans, domestic violence victims, and families. Because random sampling was not employed, the extent to which the survey respondents compare to, or differ from, the homeless population in general is unknown.

Trained homeless interviewers administered surveys to the “street” homeless. These workers were used as interviewers because they were familiar with the conditions and challenges of homeless persons, and they would therefore be more likely to obtain survey question responses from the homeless respondents. Additionally, homeless and formerly homeless youth were trained to administer surveys to other homeless youth. Interviewers were asked to inquire if the homeless person had already taken the survey, and if not, if they were willing to do so, knowing there was a “thank you” gift at the completion of the survey. Workers were also asked to remain unbiased at all times, make no assumptions or prompts, and ask all questions, but allow respondents to skip any question they did not feel comfortable answering.

Surveys were also administered in shelters and residential program facilities. Typically, trained program staff conducted those surveys. The same survey was used in both shelter and street environments. Approximately 57% of all valid surveys were completed by unsheltered homeless, and the remaining 43% were completed by the sheltered homeless.

## Data Collection

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that these responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any one individual.

Overall, the interviewers experienced excellent cooperation from respondents. This was likely influenced by the fact that nearly all of the street interviewers were homeless workers who had previously been, or are now, fellow members of the homeless community. Another reason for interview cooperation may have been the gift of the pre-paid phone card, which was given to respondents upon the completion of the interview.

## Data Analysis

In order to avoid potential duplication of respondents, the survey requested respondents’ initials and date of birth, so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents’ anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate potential duplicates. This process examined respondents’ date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey. It was determined that 50 surveys were duplicates. This left 1,378 valid surveys for analysis.

## Survey Challenges and Limitations

The Southern Nevada Homeless Survey does not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. However, based on a point-in-time estimate of approximately 11,417 homeless persons, the 1,378 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 5% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Clark County. However, these confidences cannot be accurately applied to the survey findings because the survey was not randomly administered.

Due to methodological challenges related to randomly surveying homeless individuals throughout Southern Nevada, surveys were collected in a non-random manner. While random sampling is preferential in survey collection, using a non-random sampling strategy is often necessary because of the population being studied. Characteristics of the homeless community are inherently difficult to define, mostly due to the fact that the aspects of homelessness – such as demographics, income, family structure, and other such characteristics – differ from community to community, and therefore remain largely unknown. Without valid and reliable data about the homeless population of Clark County, a random sampling method could not be implemented. Even with this sampling limitation, however, this survey provides much information about many aspects of homelessness in Southern Nevada.

In self reporting survey research, as was conducted by this survey, there is always some room for misrepresentation. Since there is no mechanism to separate truth from fiction in survey responses, it is important to make every effort to elicit the most truthful responses from interviewees. Using a peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow the respondents to be more candid with their answers, and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. It should be noted that the responses provided for this survey are consistent based on reviews by service providers who:

- Selected reliable interviewers who had attended a training and received a training completion certificate, and
- Reviewed the surveys and ensured quality responses.

Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted, and the interviewer was not compensated.

## Conclusion and Upcoming Research

The 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey provides valid and useful data regarding the homeless community in Clark County's Continuum of Care (CoC). However, though HUD mandates the count be done in the last week of January, this period of time may not be best suited to visually observing the unsheltered homeless in Southern Nevada due to the desert climate. A winter count is normally conducted because it is believed that more homeless people would come in off of the streets and access shelter services; however, that may not be the case in Southern Nevada. Therefore, ASR and Clark County Social Services will conduct an abbreviated summer enumeration of homeless people in Southern Nevada to investigate the effect the seasons in a desert climate have on the homeless population. This is currently scheduled for July 31, 2007.

Additionally, ASR and Clark County Social Services are in the midst of an extended study on panhandling in Southern Nevada. Part of the General Population Survey involved asking respondents about their attitudes toward panhandling and their donations to panhandlers. Further research, including surveys with panhandlers, will take place in the near future. Both of these data collection efforts will be integrated into the data about panhandling by homeless survey respondents presented in this report.

The 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey was performed by using HUD-recommended practices for counting the homeless population. Future enumeration efforts will naturally benefit from the body of work completed in this report. Datasets that were developed for the first time will only have to be updated and further refined.

It is hoped that this report, and the findings contained within, will be useful to the planning bodies of SNRPC and Clark County Social Services. It is also hoped that this report will be disseminated to other jurisdictions and educational research institutions in order to gain feedback on the methodologies used and results obtained for the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey. By sharing and evaluating this enumeration effort and its results, the homeless support network in Clark County will be able to produce constructive and innovative solutions to a problem that obviously affects many people in this region.



# Appendix I: Census Instrument

2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Street Count

## Street Count Tally Sheet

Map #: \_\_\_\_\_

Deployment Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Deployment Location Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Tally INDIVIDUALS ONLY in top columns.			
# of Individual Men	# of Individual Women	# Undetermined Gender	# of Individual Youth under 18
IIIII IIIII IIIII IIII IIII IIIII IIIII IIIII IIIII IIIII IIIII IIIII IIIII IIIII	IIIII IIIII IIIII IIII IIII IIIII IIIII IIIII	IIIII IIIII IIIII	IIII IIII

Tally FAMILIES ONLY in lower columns. If more than 8 families, use back of sheet.			
Family Units	# of Men	# of Women	Youth under 18 years old
Family 1			
Family 2			
Family 3			
Family 4			
Family 5			
Family 6			
Family 7			
Family 8			

When the Number of People are Unknown, Tally # of VEHICLES AND ENCAMPMENTS ONLY here	
# of cars with sleeping occupants	IIIIII IIIII IIIII
# of Vans or RVs with electrical or water connections	III IIII
# of Encampments with people	IIII IIII
# of Persons reported by Park Ranger	24

# Appendix II: Survey Instrument

5797005632

2007 SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESS COUNT

(Office use)

REFUSALS \_\_\_\_\_

Interview Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewer's (Your) Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Neighborhood or city:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Respondent's Initials:** First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

**(Interviewer: Read question & answers to the respondent)**

Shade Circles Like This--> ●

Not Like This--> ⊗

**1 What is your birth date?**

Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

(Office use) (Office use) (Office use)

**2. Which racial / ethnic group do you identify with the most? (Shade only 1)**

White/Caucasian  American Indian/Alaskan Native

Black/African American  Asian

Hispanic/Latino  Pacific Islander

Other/Multi-ethnic

**3. How do you identify yourself?**

Male  Female  Transgender

**4. Have you ever served in the United States Armed Forces?**

Yes (Continue with question 4a)

No (Skip to question 5)

**4a. Did you serve in the regular military or in a National Guard or military reserve unit? (Shade all that apply)**

Regular Military  National Guard  Reserve

**4b. What is your discharge status?**

Honorable  Other than Honorable  Other

General  Dishonorable  Don't know

**5. Do you live alone without family, partner, or friends?**

Yes (Skip to question 6)

No (Ask question 5a)

**5a. Do you live with: (Shade all that apply)**

Spouse or partner  Other family member(s)

Child/children  Friend(s)

Parent or legal guardian  Other

**6. Where do you usually stay at night? (Shade only 1)**

Outdoors/streets/parks  A place in a house not normally used for sleeping (kitchen, living room, etc.)

Unconverted Garage/attic/basement  Emergency shelter

Backyard or storage structure  Public facilities (train station, bus depot, transit center, etc.)

Abandoned building  Motel/trotel

Automobile  Transitional housing

Van  Other shelter

Camper  Other

Encampment

How many people, including yourself, usually stay there? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people live there? \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Is this the first time you have been homeless?**

Yes (Skip to question 8)

No (Continue with question 7a)

**7a. In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time? (Shade only 1)**

One time  3 times  5 times

2 times  4 times  6 times  More than 6 times

**7b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time? (Shade only 1)**

One time  3 times  5 times

2 times  4 times  6 times  More than 6 times

**8. How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent housing situation? (Shade only 1)**

7 days or less  4 months  8 months  12 months

8-30 days  5 months  9 months  1-2 years

2 months  6 months  10 months  2-3 years

3 months  7 months  11 months  More than 3 years

**9. Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless? (Shade only 1)**

Southern Nevada (Continue with question 9a)

Other area in Nevada, but outside of S. Nevada (Skip to 9b)

Out of State (Skip to question 9b)

**9a. How long had you lived in Southern Nevada before becoming homeless? (Shade only 1)**

7 days or less  4 - 6 months  3 - 5 years

8- 30 days  7 - 11 months  6 - 10 years

1 - 3 months  1 - 2 years  More than 10 years

**(Please Skip to question 10)**

**9b. What was the primary reason you came to Southern Nevada? (Shade only 1)**

For a job / seeking work  To access VA services and/or VA clinic

I was born or grew up here  To access homeless services

My family and/or friends are here  I was forced out of my previous community

I was traveling and got stranded  I am just passing through

I visited and decided to stay  Other

Weather / climate  Other

**10. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you: (Shade only 1)**

Living in a home owned by you or your partner  In jail or prison

Renting a home or apartment  In a hospital

Staying with friends  In a mental health facility

Living with relatives  In a substance abuse treatment program

Living in subsidized housing  In foster care

Other

**11. What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness? (Please choose the main reason. Shade only 1)**

Lost job  Family/ domestic violence

Landlord sold/ stopped renting or re-used property  Incarceration

Landlord raised rent  Got too old for foster care

Alcohol or drug use  Divorced or separated

Gambling problem  Hurricane Katrina

Illness or medical problem  Other natural disaster/ fire/ flood

Mental health issues  For being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender

Argument/family or friend asked you to leave  Other

Hospitalization/treatment program  Don't Know/ decline to state

**12. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing? (Shade all that apply)**

Can't afford rent  No transportation

No job / no income  Bad credit

No money for moving costs (security deposit, first and/or last month rent)  Eviction record

No housing available  Criminal record

Other  Don't want to

**13. Are you currently using any of the following services/ assistance? (Shade all that apply)**

Emergency shelter  Shelter day services

Transitional housing  Legal assistance

Free meals  Health services

Food pantry  Mental health services

Bus passes  Other

Job training  Not using any services

Alcohol / Drug counseling

7026005639 (Office use)

**14. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance? (Shade all that apply)**

Food Stamps     SSI (Supplemental Security Income) / SSDI  
 Medi-Caid / Medi-Care     TANF  
 Veteran's Benefits     VA Disability Compensation  
 WIC     Other governmental assistance  
 Social Security (State disability benefits, workers compensation, unemployment, etc.)  
 Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance

(If yes to any of these, go to 15)

I am not currently receiving any of these (Ask 14a)

**14a. If you are not receiving any government assistance, why not? (Shade all that apply)**

Don't think I'm eligible     I have applied for one or more of these services, and I am currently waiting for approval  
 Have no ID     Don't know where to go  
 No permanent address     Turned down  
 No transportation     Will apply soon  
 Never applied     Don't need government assistance  
 Benefits were cut off     Immigration issues     Paper work too difficult  
 I am afraid my children will be taken away from me     Other

**15. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all Government benefits? (County, State, Federal monies) (Shade only 1)**

Zero     \$301 - \$400     \$701 - \$800  
 \$1 - \$100     \$401 - \$500     \$801 - \$900  
 \$101 - \$200     \$501 - \$600     \$901 - \$1000  
 \$201 - \$300     \$601 - \$700     Over \$1000

**16. Are you currently employed? (Shade only 1)**

No, unemployed (Continue with 16a)  
 Yes, part time (Skip to question 17)  
 Yes, full time (Skip to question 17)

**16a. What is keeping you from getting employment? (Shade all that apply)**

Need education     No permanent address  
 Need training     No transportation  
 Need clothing     No tools for trade  
 No shower facilities     No work permit (No S.S. #)  
 No phone     No photo identification  
 Health problems     Don't want to work  
 Disabled     No jobs  
 Alcohol /drug issue     Retired  
 Criminal record     Spouse/partner doesn't want me to work  
 No child care     Other

**17. Do you panhandle, or ask people for money or spare change?**

Yes (Continue with question 17a)  
 No (Skip to question 18)

**17a. How many days a month do you panhandle?**

\_\_\_\_\_ days (Office use)

**17b. In a typical month, how much money do you make from panhandling (in dollars)?**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Office use)

**18. What are your other sources of income? (Shade all that apply)**

Family / friends     Selling other found items  
 Pension     Selling blood / plasma  
 Child support     Gambling  
 Recycling     Sex work  
 Other

**19. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all non-Government sources? (Job, panhandling, recycling, etc.)**

Zero     \$301 - \$400     \$701 - \$800  
 \$1 - \$100     \$401 - \$500     \$801 - \$900  
 \$101 - \$200     \$501 - \$600     \$901 - \$1000  
 \$201 - \$300     \$601 - \$700     Over \$1000

**20. Do you have any children, living with you or not?**

Yes (Ask question 20a)  
 No (Skip to question 21)

**20a. Do you have any children: (Shade all that apply)**

	1	2	3	4	5	6+
<input type="radio"/> 18 or over living with you	How many?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> In foster care	How many?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Under 18 living with you	How many?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are they in school?  Yes  No  No, my kids are under 6

**21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?**

Yes  No

**22. Where do you usually get medical care? (Shade only 1)**

Hospital emergency room     Private doctor  
 Urgent care clinic     Friends / family  
 Public health clinic     Don't ever go  
 Veterans Affairs Clinic     Other  
 Free clinic/community clinic

**22a. How many times in the last 12 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?**

\_\_\_\_\_ times (Office use)

**23. How many nights, if any, have you spent in jail or prison during the last 12 months?**

\_\_\_\_\_ nights (Office use)

**24. Are you currently on probation or parole?**

Yes  No  Declined to state

**24a. Were you on probation or parole at the time you most recently became homeless?**

Yes  No  Declined to state

**25. Are you currently experiencing any of the following:**

**25a. Physical disability**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25b. Mental illness**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25c. Depression**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25d. Alcohol abuse**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25e. Drug abuse**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25f. Gambling problem**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25g. Domestic/partner violence or abuse**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25h. Chronic health problems**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25i. AIDS/HIV related illness**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25j. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**     Yes  No  Declined to state  
**25k. Developmental disability** (A chronic condition that significantly limits a person's ability to speak, hear, see, walk, learn, or perform fundamental tasks)     Yes  No  Declined to state

**26. Were you ever in foster care? (Before your 18th birthday, were you ever removed from your home by the state, county, or court and sent to live with people other than your mother or father?)**

Yes  No

**27. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

Less than 6th Grade     AA degree  
 Less than high school diploma     BA degree or above  
 High school diploma/GED     Technical Certificate  
 Some college, no degree

**28. In which language was the interview conducted:**

English  Spanish

## Appendix III: General Population Telephone Survey Instrument

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm calling on behalf of the 2007 Southern Nevada Homeless Count project. I'm calling today to ask a few questions about housing and homeless issues in the county. Your responses are strictly confidential and we have no way of identifying you by name or location as this information is not noted. Will you take 5-8 minutes to complete a very important survey about homelessness?

**IF YES** -> All of your answers are confidential and will only be reported as part of a group response. If there are any questions you would prefer not to answer, we will skip over it, OK?

**IF NO** -> When would be a better time to contact you?

***If asked: The survey can take 5 to 8 minutes. The survey is being conducted for the Southern Nevada Homeless Count project by an independent research firm.***

**If more information is wanted, have the respondent call Kelly Pleskunas, Applied Survey Research 877-728-4545.**

**CATI set-up S1. (CATI: ask only if respondent appears to be Spanish speaking)** Would you prefer to be interviewed in Spanish?

- (01) Yes **(continue with Spanish version)**
- (02) No **(skip to question Q1)**

Q1. Is there anyone staying at this address on a temporary basis who might be considered homeless? And by homeless, I mean someone who lacks a regular and adequate nighttime residence of their own due to lack of money or other means of support.

- (01) Yes **(Ask QOtherHH)**
- (02) No **(Ask QOtherHH)**
- (03) Don't know **(Don't read) (Ask QOtherHH)**
- (04) No response / refused **(Don't read) (Ask QOtherHH)**

QOtherHH. Do you know any other households in Clark County that have someone staying there on a temporary basis who might be considered homeless?

- (01) Yes **(Ask QOtherHHa)**
- (02) No **(If Q1(01) is selected, go to Q2. If Q1(02) (03) or (04) is selected, skip to QPan1.)**
- (03) Don't know **(If Q1(01) is selected, go to Q2. If Q1(02) (03) or (04) is selected, skip to Qpan1.)**
- (04) No response / refused **(If Q1(01) is selected, go to Q2. If Q1(02) (03) or (04) is selected, skip to Qpan1.)**

QOtherHHa. How many?

- # of households **(Enter 98 for Don't know. Enter 99 for No Response / Refused)**

**(Q2. CATI set-up: "Now I will ask you about the people staying at your address.")**

Q2. How many people staying at this address might be considered homeless?

- # of people

QF2. How many family units are represented among those people? A Family Unit is considered a person or couple with at least one child under the age of 18 living with them OR a couple without children.

- # of family units

**("You told me there are [insert answer from QF2] family units staying at this address that might be considered homeless.) I will ask you about each family unit separately.")**

QF2A. Please tell me the number of adult men, the number of adult women, and the number of youth (under age 18) in the \_\_\_\_\_ family unit? **(Add "first", "second", "third", etc., to blank space as necessary.)**

- # of Adult Men **(Go to Q4Prompt)**
- # of Adult Women **(Go to Q4Prompt)**
- # of Youth under age 18 **(Go to Q4Prompt)**

**(If there are other individuals in addition to family members, read “You told me there [is/are] \_\_\_ other [person/people] staying at this address that might be considered homeless. Now I will ask you about [them/each of them separately].”)**

**(If there are no families, read “You told me there are [insert answer from Q2] people staying at this address that might be considered homeless. I am going to ask you about each of these people individually.”)**

Q3. Is the \_\_\_\_\_ person an adult male, an adult female, or a youth under age 18? **(Add “first,” “second,” “third”, etc., to blank space as necessary.)**

- (01) Adult Male **(Skip to Q4)**
- (02) Adult Female **(Skip to Q4)**
- (03) Youth **(Skip to question QC3 and skip QC3 Prompt)**

**Ask questions QC3, QCSch, and QCScha for youth only. If more than one youth, read, “Now I’ll ask about the youth.” If QF2A (03) ≥ 2, read “Now I’ll ask about the [“first”, “second”, “third”, etc.] youth.”)**

QC3. How old is he or she?

- (01) 5 years old or younger **(Ask Q4)**
- (02) 6 – 12 years old **(Ask QCSch)**
- (03) 13 – 17 years old **(Ask QCSch)**
- (04) Don’t know **(Don’t read)(Ask Q4)**
- (05) No response / refused **(Don’t read)(Ask Q4)**

QCSch. Is he or she in school?

- (01) Yes **(Ask QCScha)**
- (02) No **(Ask Q4)**
- (03) Don’t know **(Don’t read)(Ask Q4)**
- (04) No response / refused **(Don’t read)(Ask Q4)**

QCScha. Does the School District consider this youth homeless?

- (01) Yes **(Ask Q4)**
- (02) No **(Ask Q4)**
- (03) Don't know **(Don't read) (Ask Q4)**
- (04) No response / refused **(Don't read) (Ask Q4)**

Q4. Please tell me the relationship of this person to the owner, leaseholder, or primary renter of this property.

- (01) Family member **(Ask Q4a)**
- (02) Friend
- (03) Other Non-Family Member

Q4a. What is that relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

Q5. Could you tell me where on the property they usually sleep? I will read you a list of choices. **(CATI note: Please read all response options.)**

- (01) Garage
- (02) Attic
- (03) Basement
- (04) Other area in the main house **(Skip to Q5a)**
- (05) Outdoor porch
- (06) Vehicle / camper or van parked on property
- (07) Tent / shed or other outside location
- (08) Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- (09) Don't know **(Don't read)**
- (10) No response **(Don't read)**

Q5a. Which area is that? I will read you a list of choices.

- (01) Bedroom
- (02) Family room / Living room / den
- (03) Dining room / Kitchen
- (04) Other area in the main house
- (05) Laundry room or other inside storage area
- (06) Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- (07) Don't know **(Don't read)**
- (08) No response **(Don't read)**

Q6. How long has this \_\_\_\_\_ **[CATI set-up: insert "person" or "family"]** been staying at this location?

- (01) Less than 1 month
- (02) 1 – 3 Months
- (03) 4 -6 Months
- (04) 7 – 12 Months
- (05) More than 1 year
- (06) Don't know **(Don't read) (Ask Q7)**
- (07) No response **(Don't read) (Ask Q7)**

Q7. Is this \_\_\_\_\_ **[CATI set-up: insert "person" or "family"]** on a waiting list for a subsidized housing program? In other words, have they applied for subsidized housing, but have yet to receive it? I will read you a list. Please select all programs that apply. **(CATI set-up: Please read all choices.**

**Respondent can choose multiple responses from (01) – (04).)**

- (01) Yes, Section 8 Housing **(Ask Q8)**
- (02) Yes, Subsidized Housing (low income unit)**(Ask Q8)**
- (03) No Data
- (04) Yes, a Transitional Housing Program **(Ask Q8)**
- (05) No **(Ask Q8)**
- (06) Don't know **(Don't read)(Ask Q8)**
- (07) No response / refused **(Don't read)(Ask Q8)**

Q8. Is this \_\_\_\_\_ [CATI set-up: insert "person" or "family"] being forced to leave your household within the next 7 days?

- (01) Yes (Ask Q8a)
- (02) No (See CATI set-up below)
- (03) Don't know (Don't read) (See CATI set-up below)
- (04) No response / refused (Don't read) (See CATI set-up below)

Q8a. Has this \_\_\_\_\_ [CATI set-up: insert "person" or "family" as in previous question] identified a new place to live?

- (01) Yes (See CATI set-up below)
- (02) No (Ask to Q8b)
- (03) Don't know (Don't read) (See CATI set-up below)
- (04) No response / refused (Don't read) (See CATI set-up below)

**(If there are additional people to be asked about, return to beginning, otherwise skip to Q9.)**

Q8b. Does this \_\_\_\_\_ [CATI set-up: insert "person" or "family" as in previous question] have the resources and support networks necessary to get new housing?

- (01) Yes (See CATI set-up below)
- (02) No (See CATI set-up below)
- (03) Don't know (Don't read) (See CATI set-up below)
- (04) No response / refused (Don't read) (See CATI set-up below)

**(If there are additional people to be asked about, return to beginning, otherwise skip to Q9.)**

**(“Now I am going to ask you a few questions about the housing unit at this address.”)**

Q9. Is the housing unit at this address a house, townhouse/condominium, apartment, or something else?

- (01) House
- (02) Townhouse / condominium
- (03) Apartment
- (04) Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- (04) Don't know **(Don't read)**
- (05) No response / refused **(Don't read)**

Q9a. Have there been any major improvements made to the \_\_\_\_\_? **(Insert “garage,” “attic,” or “basement” as necessary.)**

- (01) Yes
- (02) No
- (03) Don't know **(Don't read)(Ask Q10)**
- (04) No response / refused **(Don't read)(Ask Q10)**

Q10. Is this a rental property or owner occupied?

- (01) Rental **(continue to Q10a)**
- (02) Owner occupied **(skip to Q11)**
- (03) Don't know **(Don't read) (skip to Q11)**
- (04) No response / refused **(Don't read) (skip to Q11)**

Q10a. Is your rent subsidized, meaning is it partially paid for by the government?

- (01) Yes **(continue to Q10b)**
- (02) No **(skip to Q11)**
- (03) Don't know **(Don't read) (skip to Q11)**
- (04) No response / refused **(Don't read) (skip to Q11)**

Q10b. What type of subsidized rent is it? **(Read list)**

- (01) Section 8 **(Ask Q11)**
- (02) Subsidized housing (low income unit) **(Ask Q11)**
- (03) Don't know **(Don't read)(Ask Q11)**
- (04) No response **(Don't read)(Ask Q11)**

**(Read "Other than the people we already talked about who might be considered homeless" if necessary.)**

Q11. \_\_\_\_\_ are you or anyone else at this address being forced to leave the place they are living within the next 7 days?

- (01) Yes **(Ask Q11a)**
- (02) No **(Ask Q12)**
- (03) Don't know **(Don't read)(Ask Q12)**
- (04) No response / refused **(Don't read)(Ask Q12)**

**(Read "Other than the people we already talked about who might be considered homeless" if necessary.)**

Q11a. \_\_\_\_\_ how many people must leave within the next 7 days?

- # of people **(Ask Q11b)(CATI set-up: Enter 98 for Don't Know. Enter 99 for No response / refused and skip to Q12.)**

Q11b. How many of those people have NOT identified a new place to live?

- # of people **(If Q11b(01) ≥ 1, ask Q11c. If Q11b(01) = 0, skip to Q12.)**

Q11c. How many of those people without a new place to live DO NOT have the resources and support networks needed to get new housing?

- # of people **(Ask Q12)**

Q12. Has your housing or the housing of anyone else staying at this address been condemned, Red-Tagged, or cited by housing officials and is now considered unfit for human habitation?

- (01) Yes **(Ask Q12a)**
- (02) No **(Skip to QPan1.)**
- (03) Don't know **(Don't read) (Skip to QPan1.)**
- (04) No response / refused **(Don't read) (Skip to QPan1.)**

Q12a. How many people are being forced to leave their housing because it has been condemned, Red-Tagged, or cited?

- # of people **(CATI set-up: Enter 98 for Don't Know. Enter 99 for No response / refused.(Skip to QPan1.)**

Q13. Could you please tell me your nearest major cross streets and zip code? **If asked or objected to, add: "This data is used for mapping and cannot be tied back to your household."**

Street 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Street 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**(CATI set-up: End Survey, read "Thank you for taking part in this very important survey!")**

## Appendix IV: Overall Survey Results

### 1. Age

Response	Frequency	Percent
13-17 years	25	1.9%
18-21 years	49	3.6%
22-30 years	160	11.9%
31-40 years	312	23.1%
41-50 years	448	33.2%
51-60 years	270	20.0%
More than 60 years	85	6.3%
Total	1,349	100.0%

### 2. Which racial / ethnic group do you identify with the most?

Response	Frequency	Percent
White/Caucasian	650	47.3%
Black/African American	456	33.2%
Hispanic/Latino	137	10.0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	34	2.5%
Asian	25	1.8%
Pacific Islander	12	0.9%
Other/Multi-ethnic	60	4.4%
Total	1,374	100.0%

### 3. How do you identify yourself?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Male	991	72.3%
Female	375	27.4%
Transgender	4	0.3%
Total	1,370	100.0%

### 4. Have you ever served in the United States Armed Forces? (Adult respondents only)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	343	25.4%
No	1,010	74.6%
Total	1,353	100.0%

**4a. Did you serve in the regular military or in a National Guard or military reserve unit? (Total sample)**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Regular Military	298	22.9%
National Guard	28	2.2%
Reserve	33	2.5%

Multiple response question with 1,302 respondents offering 359 responses.

**4b. What is your discharge status?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Honorable	237	70.7%
General	41	12.2%
Other than Honorable	22	6.6%
Dishonorable	9	2.7%
Other	12	3.6%
Don't know	14	4.2%
Total	335	100.0%

**5. Do you live alone without family, partner, or friends?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	695	51.0%
No	667	49.0%
Total	1,362	100.0%

**5a. Do you live with:**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Spouse or partner	119	18.4%
Child/children	58	9.0%
Parent or legal guardian	19	2.9%
Other family member(s)	34	5.3%
Friend(s)	130	20.2%
Other	339	52.6%

Multiple response question with 645 respondents offering 699 responses.

**6. Where do you usually stay at night?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Outdoors/streets/parks	391	28.8%
Emergency shelter	305	22.5%
Transitional housing	189	13.9%
Other shelter	87	6.4%
Motel/hotel	77	5.7%
A place in a house not normally used for sleeping (kitchen, living room, etc.)	44	3.2%
Encampment	39	2.9%
Abandoned building	35	2.6%
Automobile	32	2.4%
Backyard or storage structure	21	1.5%
Camper	17	1.3%
Public facilities (train station, bus depot, transit center, etc.)	16	1.2%
Unconverted Garage/attic/basement	13	1.0%
Van	11	0.8%
Other	81	6.0%
Total	1,358	100.0%

**7. Is this the first time you have been homeless?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	702	51.6%
No	658	48.4%
Total	1,360	100.0%

**7a. In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time? (Total sample)**

Response	Frequency	Percent
One time	838	62.4%
2 times	172	12.8%
3 times	136	10.1%
4 times	37	2.8%
5 times	34	2.5%
6 times	22	1.6%
More than 6 times	104	7.7%
Total	1,343	100.0%

**7b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?  
(Total sample)**

Response	Frequency	Percent
One time	686	51.2%
2 times	160	11.9%
3 times	148	11.0%
4 times	61	4.5%
5 times	65	4.8%
6 times	43	3.2%
More than 6 times	178	13.3%
Total	1,341	100.0%

**8. How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent housing situation?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	145	10.8%
8 -30 days	168	12.5%
2 months	158	11.7%
3 months	123	9.1%
4 months	100	7.4%
5 months	56	4.2%
6 months	83	6.2%
7 months	45	3.3%
8 months	35	2.6%
9 months	31	2.3%
10 months	29	2.2%
11 months	15	1.1%
12 months	57	4.2%
1-2 years	92	6.8%
2-3 years	89	6.6%
More than 3 years	121	9.0%
Total	1,347	100.0%

**9. Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Southern Nevada	881	65.2%
Other area in Nevada, but outside of S. Nevada	144	10.7%
Out of State	327	24.2%
Total	1,352	100.0%

**9a. How long had you lived in Southern Nevada before becoming homeless?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	68	7.7%
8- 30 days	55	6.3%
1 - 3 months	60	6.8%
4 - 6 months	74	8.4%
7 - 11 months	33	3.8%
1 - 2 years	132	15.0%
3 - 5 years	124	14.1%
6 - 10 years	82	9.3%
More than 10 years	251	28.6%
Total	879	100.0%

**9b. What was the primary reason you came to Southern Nevada?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
For a job/seeking work	194	42.2%
My family and/or friends are here	58	12.6%
I was traveling and got stranded	51	11.1%
I visited and decided to stay	37	8.0%
I was born or grew up here	26	5.7%
Weather/climate	18	3.9%
I am just passing through	14	3.0%
I was forced out of my previous community	10	2.2%
To access homeless services	8	1.7%
To access VA services and/or VA clinic	5	1.1%
Other	39	8.5%
Total	460	100.0%

**10. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you:**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Renting a home or apartment	599	44.1%
Staying with friends	189	13.9%
Living with relatives	181	13.3%
Living in a home owned by you or your partner	134	9.9%
In jail or prison	63	4.6%
Living in subsidized housing	26	1.9%
In a substance abuse treatment program	21	1.5%
In a hospital	12	0.9%
In a mental health facility	9	0.7%
In foster care	3	0.2%
Other	121	8.9%
Total	1,358	100.0%

**11. What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Lost job	476	35.1%
Alcohol or drug use	232	17.1%
Gambling problem	75	5.5%
Family/domestic violence	64	4.7%
Argument/family or friend asked you to leave	61	4.5%
Illness or medical problem	48	3.5%
Incarceration	40	2.9%
Divorced or separated	39	2.9%
Mental health issues	37	2.7%
Landlord raised rent	31	2.3%
Landlord sold/stopped renting or re-used property	30	2.2%
Hospitalization/treatment program	12	0.9%
Hurricane Katrina	9	0.7%
Got too old for foster care	3	0.2%
Other natural disaster/fire/flood	3	0.2%
Other	172	12.7%
Don't know/decline to state	26	1.9%
Total	1,358	100.0%

**12. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
No job/no income	700	51.7%
Can't afford rent	638	47.2%
No money for moving costs	301	22.2%
No transportation	188	13.9%
Bad credit	140	10.3%
Criminal record	69	5.1%
No housing available	68	5.0%
Eviction record	66	4.9%
Don't want to	32	2.4%
Other	225	16.6%

Multiple response question with 1,353 respondents offering 2,427 responses.

**13. Are you currently using any of the following services/ assistance?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Free meals	624	46.1%
Emergency shelter	535	39.5%
Shelter day services	225	16.6%
Transitional housing	223	16.5%
Bus passes	181	13.4%
Food pantry	165	12.2%
Health services	142	10.5%
Alcohol/drug counseling	107	7.9%
Mental health services	102	7.5%
Job training	84	6.2%
Legal assistance	61	4.5%
Other	123	9.1%
Not using any services	238	17.6%

Multiple response question with 1,355 respondents offering 2,810 responses.

**14. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance? (Total sample)**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Food Stamps	592	46.0%
Medi-Caid/Medi-Care	115	8.9%
Veteran's Benefits	56	4.4%
SSI (Supplemental Security Income)/SSDI	88	6.8%
TANF	35	2.7%
I am not currently receiving any of these	480	37.3%
WIC	35	2.7%
VA Disability Compensation	25	1.9%
Social Security	103	8.0%
Other governmental assistance	35	2.7%
Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance	44	3.4%
I am not currently receiving any of these	480	37.3%

Multiple response question with 1,287 respondents offering 1,608 responses.

**14. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance? (Sample without those not receiving benefits)**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Food Stamps	592	73.4%
Medi-Caid/Medi-Care	115	14.3%
Social Security	103	12.8%
SSI (Supplemental Security Income)/SSDI	88	10.9%
Veteran's Benefits	56	6.9%
Clark County Social Services Rental Assistance	44	5.5%
TANF	35	4.3%
WIC	35	4.3%
VA Disability Compensation	25	3.1%
Other governmental assistance	35	4.3%

Multiple response question with 807 respondents offering 1,128 responses.

**14a. If you are not receiving any government assistance, why not?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Don't think I'm eligible	153	28.8%
Never applied	102	19.2%
Have no ID	99	18.6%
No permanent address	72	13.5%
Turned down	48	9.0%
Will apply soon	38	7.1%
No transportation	37	7.0%
Don't know where to go	36	6.8%
I have applied for one or more of	34	6.4%
Don't need government assistance	33	6.2%
Benefits were cut off	27	5.1%
Paper work too difficult	13	2.4%
Immigration issues	10	1.9%
I am afraid my children will	1	0.2%
Other	75	14.1%

Multiple response question with 532 respondents offering 778 responses.

**15. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all Government benefits?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	730	54.4%
\$1 - \$100	43	3.2%
\$101 - \$200	232	17.3%
\$201 - \$300	43	3.2%
\$301 - \$400	31	2.3%
\$401 - \$500	34	2.5%
\$501 - \$600	55	4.1%
\$601 - \$700	60	4.5%
\$701 - \$800	28	2.1%
\$801 - \$900	28	2.1%
\$901 - \$1000	17	1.3%
Over \$1000	40	3.0%
Total	1,341	100.0%

**16. Are you currently employed?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
No, unemployed	1,161	84.8%
Yes, part time	143	10.4%
Yes, full time	65	4.7%
Total	1,369	100.0%

**16a. What is keeping you from getting employment?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
No permanent address	288	25.0%
No transportation	278	24.2%
No phone	253	22.0%
Need clothing	204	17.7%
Need training	187	16.2%
Alcohol/drug issue	151	13.1%
No photo identification	133	11.6%
Need education	120	10.4%
Disabled	116	10.1%
Health problems	113	9.8%
No jobs	100	8.7%
No shower facilities	92	8.0%
Criminal record	86	7.5%
No tools for trade	82	7.1%
Don't want to work	60	5.2%
No work permit (No S.S. #)	57	5.0%
Retired	31	2.7%
No child care	17	1.5%
Spouse/partner doesn't want me to work	9	0.8%
Other	228	19.8%

Multiple response question with 1,151 respondents offering 2,605 responses.

**17. Do you panhandle, or ask people for money or spare change?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	260	19.1%
No	1,101	80.9%
Total	1,361	100.0%

**17a. How many days a month do you panhandle?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
1 - 10 days	108	43.0%
11 - 20 days	58	23.1%
21 - 31 days	85	33.9%
Total	251	100.0%

**17b. In a typical month, how much money do you make from panhandling (in dollars)?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than \$20	41	17.0%
\$21 - \$50	47	19.5%
\$51 - \$100	58	24.1%
\$101 - \$200	41	17.0%
\$201 - \$300	27	11.2%
More than \$300	27	11.2%
Total	241	100.0%

**18. What are your other sources of income?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Family/friends	278	24.2%
Selling blood/plasma	185	16.1%
Recycling	168	14.6%
Gambling	95	8.3%
Selling other found items	91	7.9%
Sex work	43	3.7%
Pension	28	2.4%
Child support	10	0.9%
Other	547	47.6%

Multiple response question with 1,150 respondents offering 1,445 responses.

**19. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all non-Government sources?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	540	40.5%
\$1 - \$100	234	17.6%
\$101 - \$200	140	10.5%
\$201 - \$300	107	8.0%
\$301 - \$400	87	6.5%
\$401 - \$500	39	2.9%
\$501 - \$600	43	3.2%
\$601 - \$700	35	2.6%
\$701 - \$800	24	1.8%
\$801 - \$900	18	1.4%
\$901 - \$1000	13	1.0%
Over \$1000	53	4.0%
Total	1,333	100.0%

**20. Do you have any children, living with you or not?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	381	28.0%
No	980	72.0%
Total	1,361	100.0%

**20a. Do you have any children who are:**

Response	Frequency	Percent
18 or over living with you	134	54.3%
In foster care	46	18.6%
Under 18 living with you	102	41.3%

Multiple response question with 247 respondents offering 282 responses.

**20a1. How many children do you have 18 years old or over living with you?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
One child	55	42.6%
Two children	30	23.3%
Three children	18	14.0%
Four children	14	10.9%
Five children	3	2.3%
Six or more children	9	7.0%
Total	129	100.0%

**20a2. How many children do you have in foster care?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
One child	11	26.2%
Two children	15	35.7%
Three children	11	26.2%
Four children	4	9.5%
Six or more children	1	2.4%
Total	42	100.0%

**20a3. How many children do you have under 18 living with you?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
One child	41	41.8%
Two children	27	27.6%
Three children	20	20.4%
Four children	6	6.1%
Five children	2	2.0%
Six or more children	2	2.0%
Total	98	100.0%

**20aa. Are your children under 18 and living with you in school?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	44	54.3%
No	24	29.6%
No, my kids are under 6	13	16.0%
Total	81	100.0%

**21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	349	26.3%
No	976	73.7%
Total	1,325	100.0%

**22. Where do you usually get medical care?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hospital emergency room	469	35.2%
Urgent care clinic	77	5.8%
Public health clinic	94	7.1%
Veterans Affairs Clinic	119	8.9%
Free clinic/community clinic	184	13.8%
Private doctor	49	3.7%
Friends/family	9	0.7%
Don't ever go	221	16.6%
Other	109	8.2%
Total	1,331	100.0%

**22a. How many times in the last 12 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	713	54.1%
1 time	238	18.0%
2 times	139	10.5%
3 times	86	6.5%
4 times	53	4.0%
5 times	28	2.1%
More than 5 times	62	4.7%
Total	1,319	100.0%

**23. How many nights, if any, have you spent in jail or prison during the last 12 months?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero nights	904	68.3%
1 - 5 nights	143	10.8%
6 - 10 nights	74	5.6%
11 - 20 nights	39	2.9%
21 - 50 nights	67	5.1%
More than 50 nights	97	7.3%
Total	1,324	100.0%

**24. Are you currently on probation or parole?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	114	8.6%
No	1,157	87.5%
Declined to state	52	3.9%
Total	1,323	100.0%

**24a. Were you on probation or parole at the time you most recently became homeless?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	113	8.6%
No	1,140	86.7%
Declined to state	62	4.7%
Total	1,315	100.0%

**25. Are you currently experiencing any of the following:**

Response	Yes	No	Declined to state
25a. Physical disability	319	933	56
	24.4%	71.3%	4.3%
25b. Mental illness	210	1,026	68
	16.1%	78.7%	5.2%
25c. Depression	452	789	67
	34.6%	60.3%	5.1%
25d. Alcohol abuse	324	909	67
	24.9%	69.9%	5.2%
25e. Drug abuse	305	927	66
	23.5%	71.4%	5.1%
25f. Gambling problem	270	959	67
	20.8%	74.0%	5.2%
25g. Domestic/partner violence or abuse	85	1,136	70
	6.6%	88.0%	5.4%
25h. Chronic health problems	196	1,039	59
	15.1%	80.3%	4.6%
25i. AIDS/HIV related illness	10	1,050	222
	0.8%	81.9%	17.3%
25j. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	131	1,096	65
	10.1%	84.8%	5.0%
25k. Developmental disability	108	1,140	53
	8.3%	87.6%	4.1%

**26. Were you ever in foster care?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	162	12.1%
No	1,181	87.9%
Total	1,343	100.0%

**27. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 6th grade	48	3.5%
Less than high school diploma	310	22.9%
High school diploma/GED	583	43.0%
Some college, no degree	284	20.9%
AA degree	59	4.4%
BA degree or above	45	3.3%
Technical Certificate	27	2.0%
Total	1,356	100.0%

**28. In which language was the interview conducted:**

Response	Frequency	Percent
English	1,336	98.7%
Spanish	18	1.3%
Total	1,354	100.0%

## Appendix V: Definitions and Abbreviations

**Chronic Homelessness** is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as "an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years."

**Disability**, for the purposes of this study, is defined as physical or mental illness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), developmental disability, alcohol or drug abuse, depression, HIV/AIDS, or chronic health problems.

**Emergency shelter** is the provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility, or through the use of motel vouchers. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 30 days or less. Domestic violence shelters are considered emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for victims and their children.

**Family member** refers to either an adult with a child, or a child who is accompanied by an adult.

**Family unit** is either an adult couple or a single adult with a child present.

**Homeless Persons**, according to the Stewart B. McKinney Act of 1987, are people who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and have a primary nighttime residence that is either a public or private shelter, an institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private location that is not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

**HUD** – United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Individual** refers to an unaccompanied adult or child.

**Sheltered persons** are those homeless who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs operated by the Clark County Continuum of Care.

**SuperNOFA** – Super Notification of Funding Availability.

**Transitional housing** facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. It is housing in which homeless persons may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Supportive services – which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination – may be provided by the organization managing the housing, or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

**Unsheltered persons** are those homeless who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation. Generally, those not utilizing Clark County operated emergency or transitional housing shelters are considered unsheltered.