



Seeds for Change Consulting, LLC
Survey of Homeless People in Austin, Texas
Fall 2009
in preparation for
The National Symposium on Homelessness
Where is HOME and How Do We Get There?

St. Edward's University
March 17, 2010

Report of Survey Findings
March 10, 2010

Our Report

In March 2009, Alan Graham, President of Mobile Loaves & Fishes approached Stacy Ehrlich and Kori Gough of Seeds for Change Consulting, LLC. His vision was a landmark, multi-faceted project that would begin with a careful study of the inspirational book: Beyond Homelessness, followed by a unique survey of Austin's homeless population, and finally the culmination at a national symposium of community leaders, philanthropists and service providers. Words and phrases from that first inspirational meeting included: transparency, direct feedback from our street constituents, cooperative groups, social transformation, knowledgeable expertise, it is not about shelter – it is about home.

A year later, we are on the eve of the symposium and have months of hard work behind us. Through more than 200 one-on-one interviews, this document is the culmination of careful, analytical study of our local homeless population. Beyond a census – a count of persons, the survey aimed at understanding this group of unique individuals – not only who they are, but what they want, need and believe. Possibly most importantly, we also asked questions about hopes and dreams.

Interviews were conducted by volunteers, resulting in hundreds of individual surveys. In broad strokes, surveyors found that the vast majority of homeless are middle-age men who are unemployed and not receiving financial assistance of any kind from family or government.

A handful of the findings include:

- The vast majority of homeless have been unemployed for less than two years, suggesting that not all homeless people are chronically unemployed;
- A slight majority of respondents has no criminal record; the rest have criminal records mostly related to drugs and theft; and, the vast majority of those with records are not on parole suggesting that crimes were committed many years ago;
- The majority completed high school or received GEDs and are functionally literate, but an insignificant number have post-graduate work demonstrating a correlation between lack of education and homelessness;
- Most cited lack of permanent employment as the greatest obstacle to finding housing; and
- Every person interviewed was receiving food, housing and/or clothing assistance from local agencies.

One characteristic almost every respondent shared was their desire to get off the streets, develop new skills, find employment, and live in permanent housing.

Seeds for Change Consulting partnered with St. Edward's University, specifically with a group of Communication students who served admirably as project interns. While the project was conceptualized by Mobile Loaves & Fishes, the survey creation and collection processes were objectively developed and gathered.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy W. Ehrlich, CFRE
Principal
Seeds for Change Consulting, LLC
March 10, 2010

Definition of Homelessness:

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development and as defined in the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, a person is homeless who:

- lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; and
- has a primary night-time residency that is:
 - a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
 - an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
 - a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

This includes families that sleep in cars, children and teens who find their way to shelters, and single adults who sleep on the streets, in bus stations, and store fronts. It also includes those who are at risk of losing their housing because they are being evicted from their residence or they are being discharged from institutions, such as hospitals or prison, and have nowhere else to go (*The National Alliance to End Homelessness*).

Nationally, over the course of a year, between 2.5 and 3.5 million people will live either on streets or in an emergency shelter. Over 5 million low-income households have serious housing problems due to high housing costs, substandard housing conditions, or both. Within 2 to 4 years of exiting foster care, 25% of foster children experience homelessness. Only 20% of homeless families report receiving help finding housing (*The National Alliance to End Homelessness*).

Furthermore, a widely accepted definition of the chronically homeless is “an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness over the last three years (*Austin/Travis County Corporation for Supportive Housing Texas Re-Entry Initiative – 2010 Final Report*). Nationally, the chronically homeless make up approximately 18 percent of the homeless population (*The National Alliance to End Homelessness*).

Survey Methodology:

From August to November 2009, Seeds for Change Consulting canvassed the Austin metroplex in an effort to interview a statistically valid sample of the area’s homeless population. Interviews were conducted by Seeds for Change consultants, St. Edward’s University interns, Mobile Loaves & Fishes volunteers, and community volunteers. The survey was conducted via personal, one on one interviews, with the interviewer asking a series of multiple response and open ended questions and then recording the answers on a written form.

Interviewees chose to participate voluntarily. Approximately 75% of interviewees received a small token of compensation for their participation – a pair of socks, a bus pass, or a \$5 gift card to McDonald’s. Interviews were conducted in English only. Participants were initially screened with two qualifying questions to confirm that they were, in their own minds, actually homeless. To enforce the honor system and in an attempt to prevent duplicate interviews of the same people, we also asked if they had taken the survey before. Those who responded yes were denied a second interview.

Survey data was then entered into SurveyMonkey.com and analyzed. Some open ended answers were “forced” into multiple choice answers to allow for more thorough analysis (e.g., “How old are you?” was an open ended question; however, during data entry, we grouped ages into decades).

The report was peer reviewed and also reviewed by a St. Edward’s University faculty member.

Research and Supporting Documentation:

While our survey asked traditional demographic questions, we did not have preconceived notions about the profile of the population we were interviewing. The goal of the survey was also to ask non-traditional questions in order to create an accurate picture of this population, their needs, attitudes about service providers, lifestyles, and expectations of various solutions.

For the most part, our demographic findings were similar to several local, regional, and national surveys conducted by various entities over the last five years. Specifically, we looked at the following survey reports and documents (most of which can be found online at www.seedsforchangeconsulting.com/surveyfiles).

- Austin/Travis County Corporation for Supportive Housing Texas Re-Entry Initiative – Final Report (2010)
- Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement (2009)
- Ending Community Homelessness (ECHO) Coalition – Voices of Homeless Persons (2008)
- Front Steps, Inc. - City of Austin Social Services Contract – Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Quarterly Program Performance Report
- Front Steps, Inc. – Supplemental Quarterly Report Fiscal Year 2008-2009
- Houston/Harris County 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness Report (2005)
- Mobile Loaves and Fishes: An Atlas of Needs and Related Services in Austin, TX (2009)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness Fact Sheet for High School Students (2008)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness: Definitions of Housing First, and Homelessness 101
- National Alliance to End Homelessness: Ten Year Plan and Organizational Change: Adopting a Housing First Approach
- National Alliance to End Homelessness: A New Vision: What is in Community Plans to End Homelessness (2006)
- The Salvation Army Canada: A Report on the Perspectives of Service Delivery in Salvation Army Shelters (2008)
- U.S. Census Statistics for Austin, TX (2000, updated with 2006 estimates)
- U.S. Conference of Mayors 2008 Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness

SECTION 1: Initial Qualifying Questions

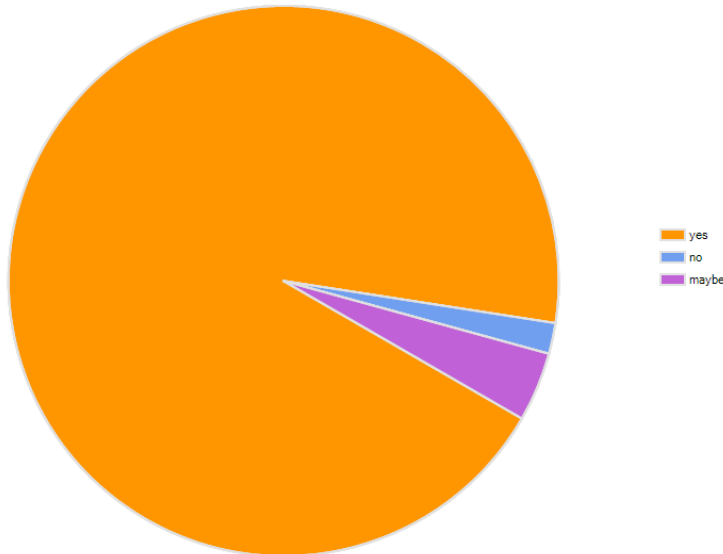
1. Have you taken this survey already (this summer/fall)?

When asked a yes or no question, 221 people answered no. These people were allowed to complete an interview. Anyone answering yes was excused from participating.

2. Do you consider yourself homeless?

When asked about being homeless, out of the three choices (yes, no, maybe), 94.1% (208 people) answered “yes,” 1.8% (4) answered “no,” and 4.1% (9) answered “maybe.” Individuals who answered “maybe” included that they were “not sure” or they were “on the verge” of becoming homeless. After further investigation, it was determined that, in fact, all 221 people met the minimum threshold of “homeless” and were thus able to continue to participate in the survey.

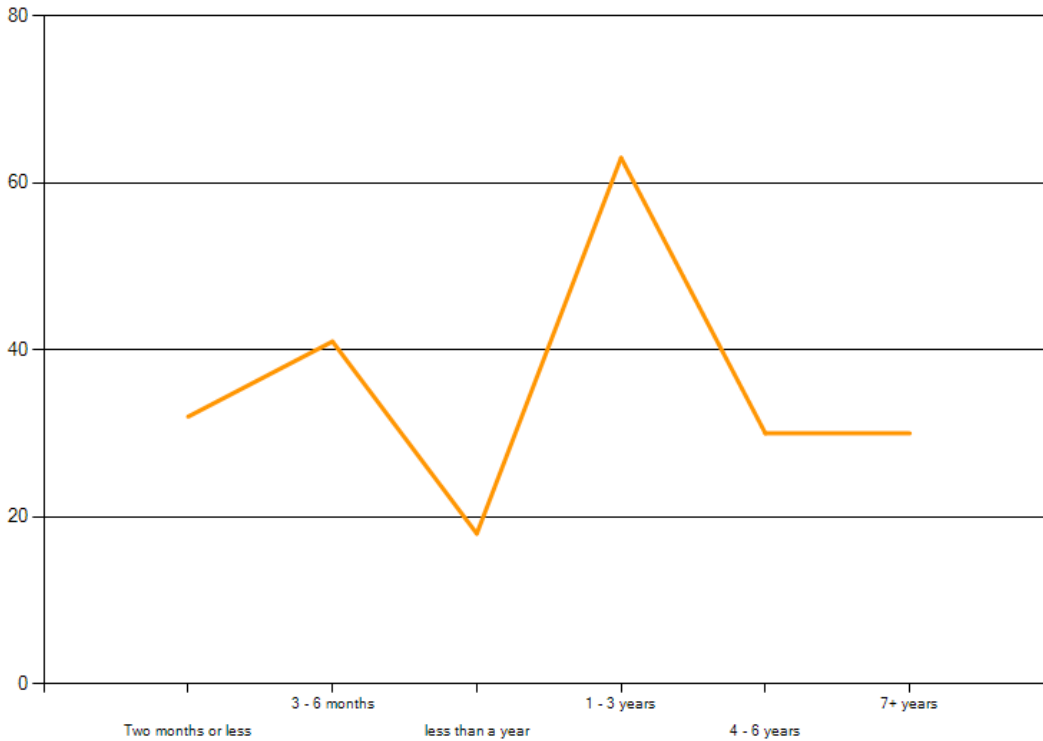
Do you consider yourself homeless?



3. How long have you been homeless?

The majority of the 221 participants answered that they have been homeless for 1-3 years (28.5%, 63 people). This was followed by 18.6% (41 people) saying they have been on the streets for 3-6 months. Those who have been homeless for 4-6 years and 7 plus years were equally divided between 60 participants. 14.5% (32 people) have been on the streets for 2 months or less, 8.1% (18 people) have been out less than a year, and 3.2% (7 people) said “other.” Those who answered “other” were asked to specify, of which 1 out of the 7 specified that they were “currently staying with friends at MLF RV Community.”

How long have you been homeless?



The lack of a traditional bell curve makes us pause and think about the potential reasons and implications of the spikes and valleys. Furthermore, the number of participants classified as “severely and chronically homeless” at 4 years or more is very disturbing. More than a quarter of the interview pool meets this dire characteristic.

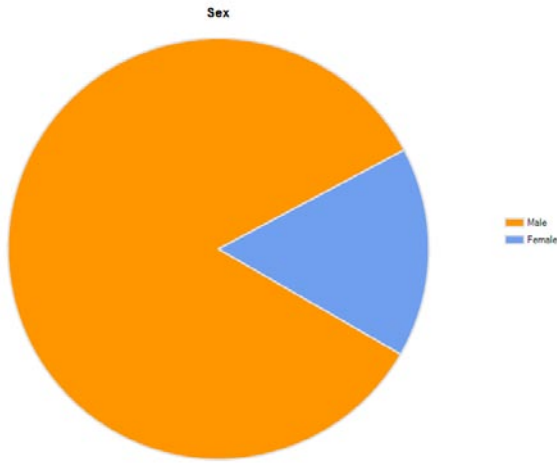
SECTION 2: Demographics

1. Name

The first question in this section asked for the person’s name. This was asked out of (1) respect and (2) to provide a single marker for potential duplicate interviews. Surveys were scanned for duplicate names and then studied to verify answers were different enough to confidently assume participants had, in fact, been different people.

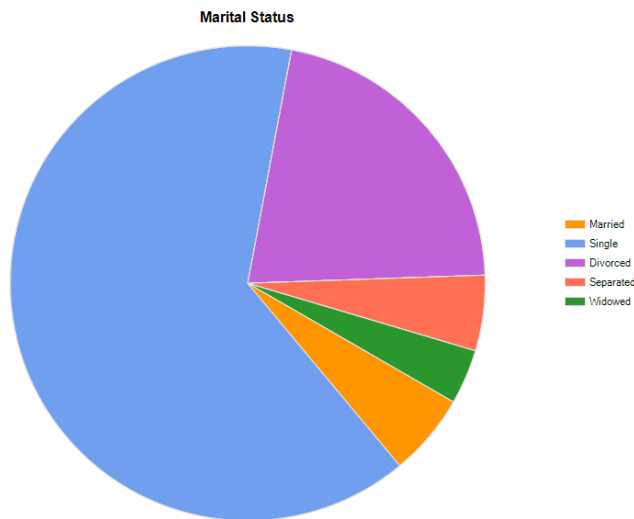
2. Sex

Men filled out the majority of the surveys at 83.9% (182), leaving 16.1% (35) to be female. Four people chose to skip the question. However, the predominately male population within the homeless population mirrors other similar censuses and surveys around the country. The Houston/Harris County survey of 2005 showed that 81% of people surveyed were male. The findings of the Ending Community Homeless Coalition (ECHO) Voices Report from 2008 also showed a disproportionate majority of males to females: 80% to 20%. And while no longer completely relevant (as we await the new 2010 U.S. Census), the 2006 population estimate for Austin, TX was 709,000, and the 2000 U.S. Census had approximately 51% of those as male. We can definitively conclude that the homeless population is predominately male compared to “mainstream” populations and that across Texas, 4 out of every 5 homeless people are men.



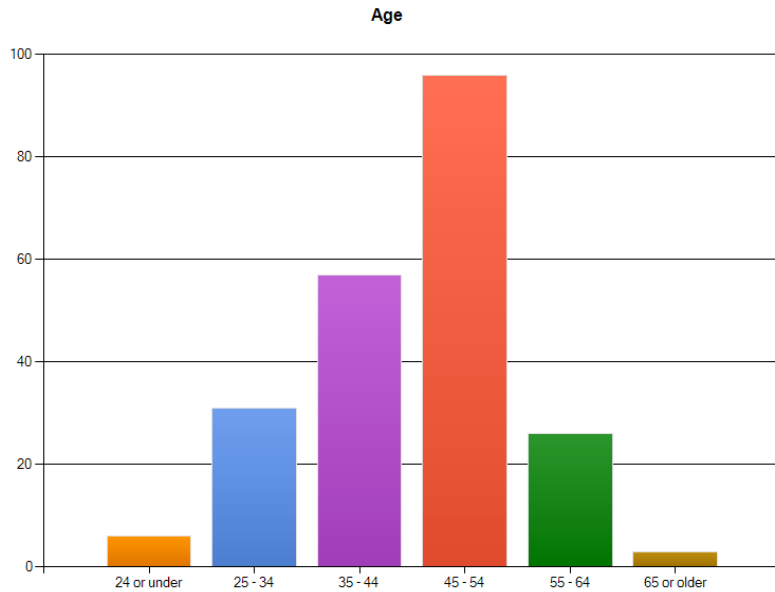
3. Marital Status

The majority of the participants were single – 64% (137 people). The rest were divorced 21.5% (46), married 5.6% (12), separated 5.1% (11), or widowed 3.7%, (8). One person responded “other” with their specification indicating that they had, were in the process of, or were going to get an “annulment.” Seven participants did not respond to this question. It should be noted that this distribution does not mirror traditional, “mainstream” demographics for marital status. The interview population has a significantly higher single rate and higher divorced rate than mainstream populations.



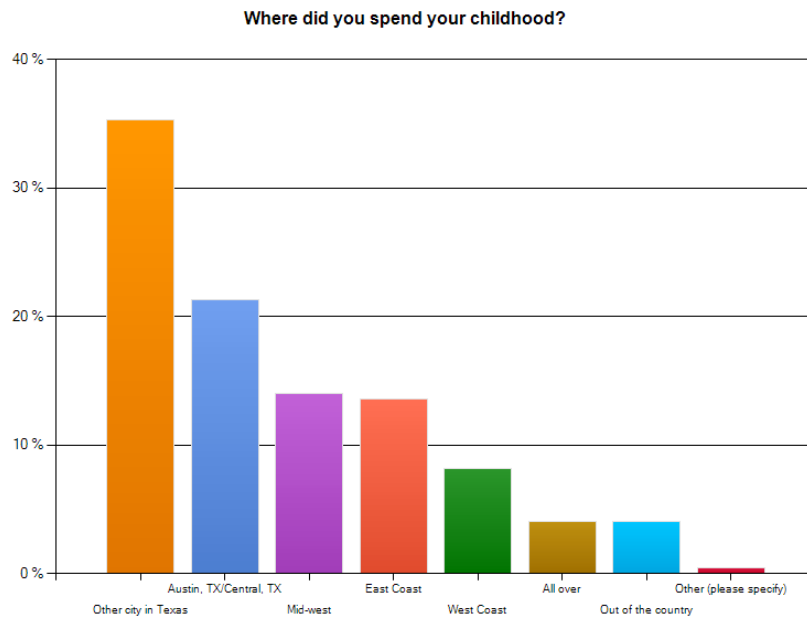
4. Age

The majority of the participants were between the ages of 45 and 54 (43.8%, 96). Twenty-six percent (57) were between 35 and 44 years old. About 17% fell under 34 years old, with 6 participants being under 24 years old. Twelve percent (26) were between 55 and 64 years old, and three were over 65 years old. Two skipped the question. Our findings are similar to the Houston/Harris County survey of 2005 in which the average age was 42 years old. In addition, the Austin census survey from 2007 conducted by ECHO found 60% of their survey respondents were between 40 and 54 years of age (Voice of Homeless Persons, September 2008).



5. Where did you spend your childhood?

Forty-seven participants (21.3%) spent their childhood in Austin/Central, TX. Seventy-eight (35.3%) answered “other cities in Texas.” More than half considered themselves Native Texans. Everyone was able to answer this question.



6. If the answer to #5 was NOT Austin/Central Texas, please indicate how long you have been in Austin.

More than a third answered “more than 5 years” with 37%, 57 participants. Twenty-seven (17.5%) answered, “3-5 years.” The remaining responses, nearly half at 45%, indicated a residency of fewer than three years.

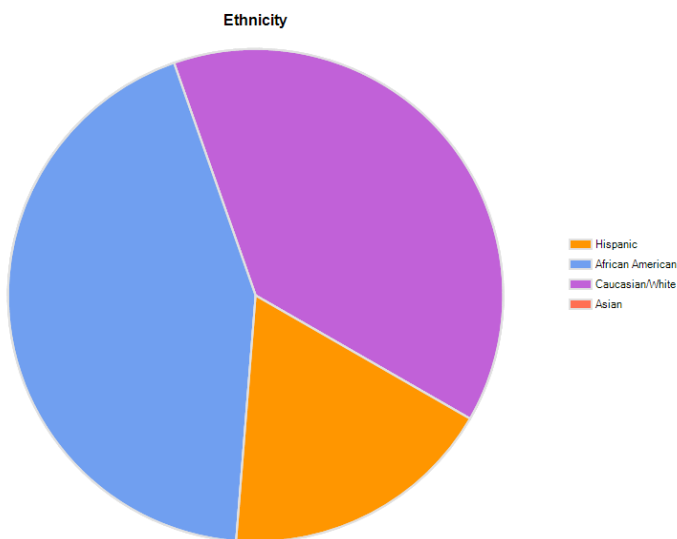
The findings of questions 5 & 6 are in direct opposition of the “urban legends” that claim that individuals migrate to Austin because access to social services is strong or because the weather is better than other parts of the country. The majority of our respondents are Native Texans or have lived in Texas for five years or more. If you consider the collective group of people who grew up here and have lived in Texas for more than a year, that number jumps to 72% of all survey participants.

7. Ethnicity

Ninety-two of the participants were African American (43.4%), followed by 82 being Caucasian/White (38.7%) and 38 being Hispanic (17.9%). Nine did not answer this question. In the option of “other,” six of eight people listed “Native American.” Our demographics of survey participants do not mirror other city and service provider ethnicity demographics.

Specifically, in 2004 and in Houston/Harris County it was determined that 65% of their homeless population was African American with an average age of 42. However, the 2000 US Census put Austin’s African American population (mainstream) at 10%. While we recognize a pre- and post-Katrina shift in overall demographic figures, it is difficult to imagine such a significant variance between mainstream ethnic statistics and the homeless population at large.

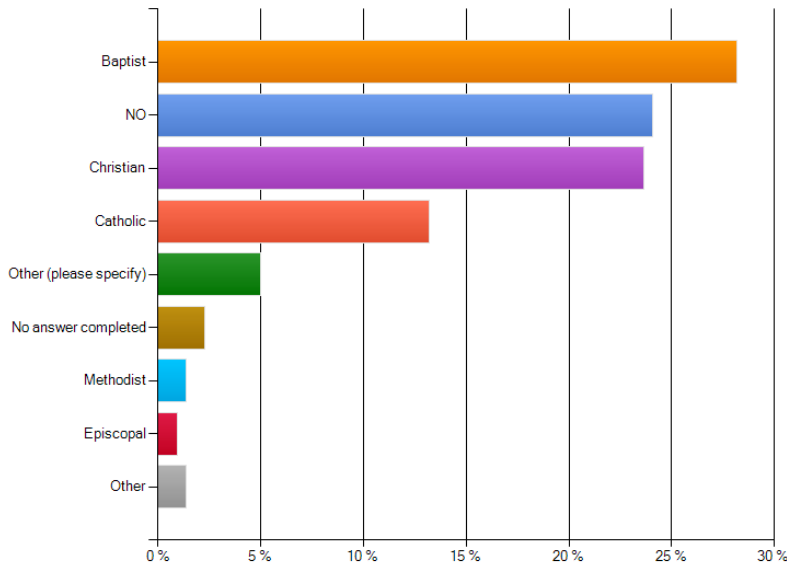
Finally, in an interview with Helen Varty, Executive Director of Front Steps – an Austin non-profit organization focused on serving and sheltering homeless people, she estimates the Front Steps client population on a daily basis is approximately 15-20% African American men.



8. Do you associate yourself with a certain religion? If so which one?

The most common answer was Baptist, with 28.2% (62 participants), followed closely by Christian (23.6%) and NO with 24.1%. 13.2% (29) answered Catholic. No one answered Jewish. In the “other” category, the most popular response was “atheist.” A total of 68% of respondents gave an answer that implied they associated themselves with a “Christian” faith.

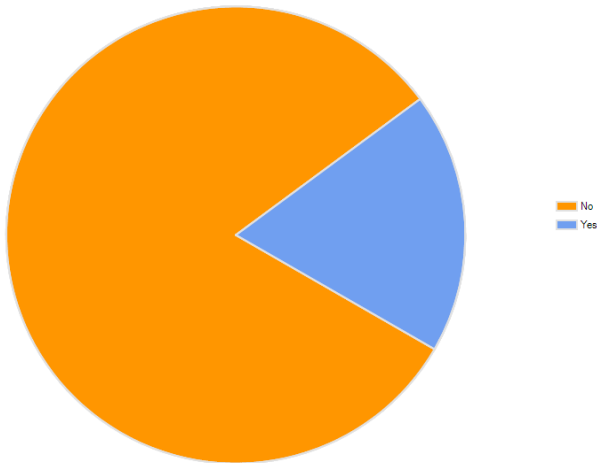
Do you associate yourself with a certain religion? If so which one?



9. Are you a military veteran?

81.5% answered no, and 18.5% answered yes. Ten people skipped this question. While this statistic begins to mirror other findings, it is in opposition to the urban legend that many homeless are veterans. Based on 2009 U.S. Census estimates, the percent of veterans to the general adult population is about 10%. Our participants nearly doubled that representation.

Are you a military veteran?

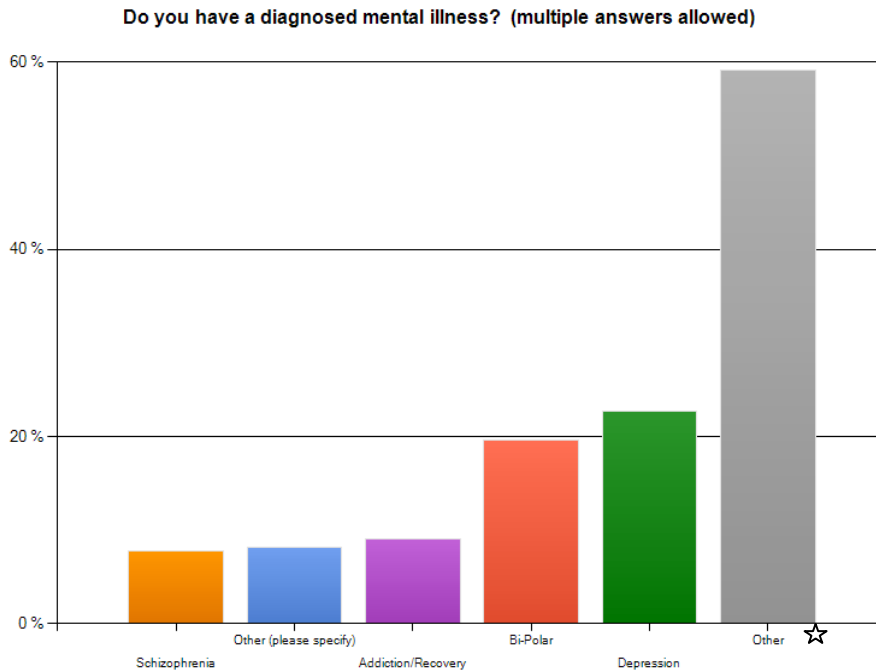


9a. If you answered yes, you are a military veteran, where you honorably discharged?

Of the 39 people who were veterans, the vast majority were honorably discharged. Specifically, 31 of 39, or 80%, left the military honorably.

10. Do you have a diagnosed mental illness? (multiple answers allowed)

The majority said no with 59.1% (130 people). Depression (50 people) and Bi-Polar (43 people) followed. For those who answered “other,” the most common specifications were “PTSD” and “anxiety.”

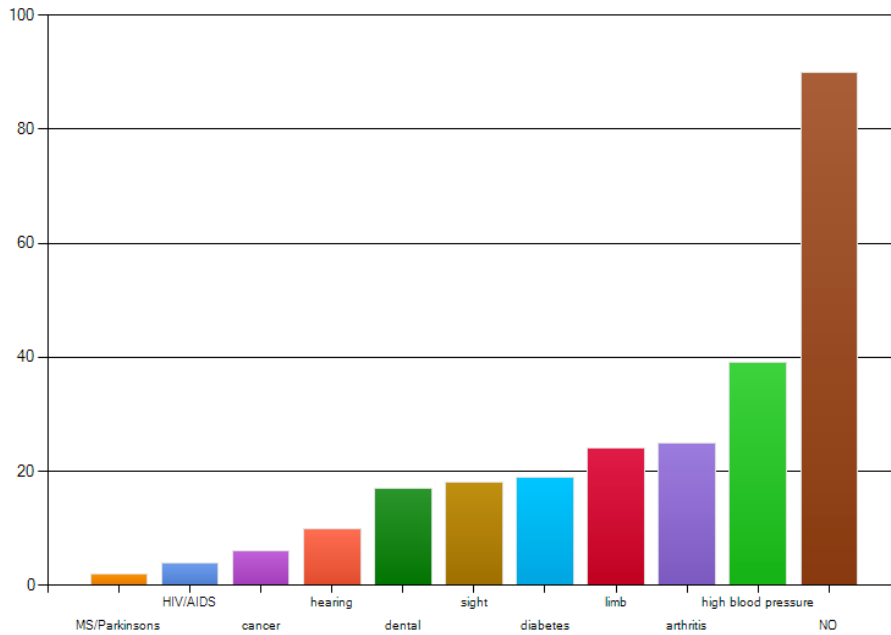


☆ Please note – in this chart, “other” includes 8% of respondents who listed a choice not given and all “no mental illness” responses.

11. Do you have a physical ailment?

Nearly half of people answered no to this question at 46.9%. The most common physical ailment among the people surveyed was high blood pressure at 20.3% and limb at 12.5%. Dental, diabetes, and sight were next most common at 8.9%, 9.9%, and 9.4%, respectively. Forty-four people answered “other.” These ailments included Hepatitis C, pancreatic issues, sciatica, ulcers, epilepsy, nerve damage, asthma, seizures, sleep apnea, back problems, and heart conditions. Of these, the most common was epilepsy/seizures, Hepatitis C, and asthma. It is also interesting to note that there were two responses that appear as though the question was not taken seriously. One included a brown recluse spider bite. The bite itself can be cured, but depending on the severity of the bite, it could lead to an ailment of a limb, so this is a plausible answer. The other response read “been in hospital but never diagnosed - “they gave up on me.”

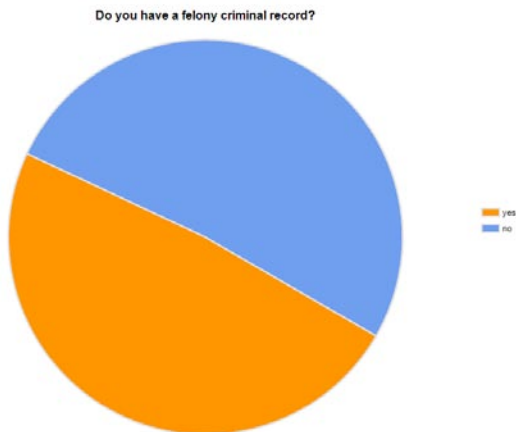
Do you have a physical ailment? (multiple answers allowed)



The next few questions deal with felony records and parole status. According to the Austin/Travis County Corporation for Supportive Housing Texas Re-Entry Initiative, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDJC) released 3,084 inmates who were originally convicted in Travis County in the fiscal year 2008. The Travis County jail releases an additional 60,000 individuals back to the community each year. Of these releases, approximately 15% have been professionally diagnosed with mental illness. Sixty-one percent of Travis County’s homeless population reported having been in jail or prison. Furthermore, the report cites a 2005 study done by The Urban Institute that reports a staggering 85% of Texas prisoners preparing for release did not have a job lined up (*2010 Final Report*). Our questions relate directly to the issue of prison (not jail) and felony criminal records.

12. Do you have a felony criminal record?

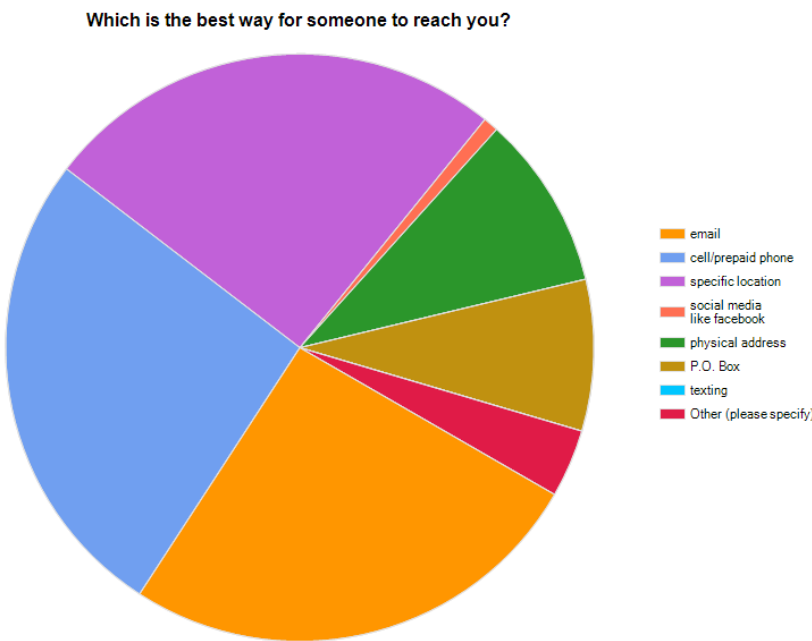
A slight majority of the population surveyed answered that they did not have a felony record (51.4%, 112 respondents). However, 48.6% (106 respondents) did have a felony record.



12a. Approximately halfway through the surveying, the survey creators decided to add a question about the **nature of the felony crime** for those who had a criminal record. Of the 68 people who answered the question, over 80% said they had convictions related to drugs (abuse, possession, DWI/DUI, or intent to sell), burglary, or violence (aggravated assault, family violence). The other roughly 20% cited financial crimes (hot checks, forgery, and credit card fraud).

12b. Of the 106 with a felony record, only 8 people were **currently on parole** at the time they were interviewed.

13. The final demographics question specifically dealt with communication: **Which is the best way to reach you?** Results were wide-spread with no single majority answer. Approximately 30% chose one of the top three answers: email, cell phone, specific location. While seemingly ambiguous, this matter is specifically complicated by the fact that there is no one “best” way to reach the entirety of the homeless population. Service providers, government agencies, and other community members interested in maintaining contact with the homeless need to adjust communication methods to best meet them, versus creating cookie cutter, standard methods that may or may not be effective.



SECTION 3: Personal

One of the goals of the survey was to get to know the respondents on a more personal level, hoping in the end to piece together not just another statistical report but, rather, a story of every person interviewed. And once past the initial introductory and the demographic questions determining that the respondent was, in fact, homeless, the survey questions become more personalized and intimate. In section three, we ask the respondent to reflect on life without a home – including concerns, advantages, challenges, fears, etc. – in order to begin to gain a better understanding of the person before us. And while this section may give very little quantitative insight into the homelessness problem in Austin, it is no less important. It is here that we begin to humanize the issue of homelessness by exploring the feelings, thoughts, and emotions of the respondents, grasping, at minimum, a thumbnail of their trials and tribulations.

1. What is your biggest concern or fear about living on the street?

This question directly addresses the challenges that people face living life on the streets. In addition, it provides a glimpse into some of the fears and uncertainties of the homeless lifestyle. The most obvious and overwhelming response, at 34.1%, was that people subjected to living a homeless lifestyle live in utter trepidation and fear of “Personal safety/Bodily harm.” It would come as no surprise that a large percentage of the respondents, when asked this question, feared for their life as the lack of adequate shelter often means sleeping in strange places with perhaps even stranger people, unprotected from not only the elements but also attack from another human being. Consequently, the homeless lifestyle not only brings about a loss in the sense of security but, more so, a loss of normalcy, with statements such as “the unexpected” and “instability” being used to describe life on the streets when respondents were asked this question. Thus the unfortunate truth is that the very things that one could conjure up about the homeless lifestyle ring true, as drugs, disease, and death are a pestilence in the lives of every homeless person on the streets today.

A disproportionate number of respondents, at 22.7%, selected “other” in order to portray their homelessness plight. While the replies given were vast and varied, it is sufficient to say that there are no clean or pretty pictures about being homeless. A great majority of respondents in this category pointed to drugs and alcohol as underlying causes for concern when living life on the streets, and whether by direct personal involvement or not, the harsh truth is that these are two inescapable elements of homelessness. Many of the respondents simply stated “drugs” when asked the question of their main fear or concern, while still others were more elaborative in their responses, stating that “staying clean,” “doing drugs,” and the “lure of alcohol and drugs, can’t get clean” were compelling fears or concerns, further supporting the confounding and corresponding link between homelessness and drugs and/or alcohol.

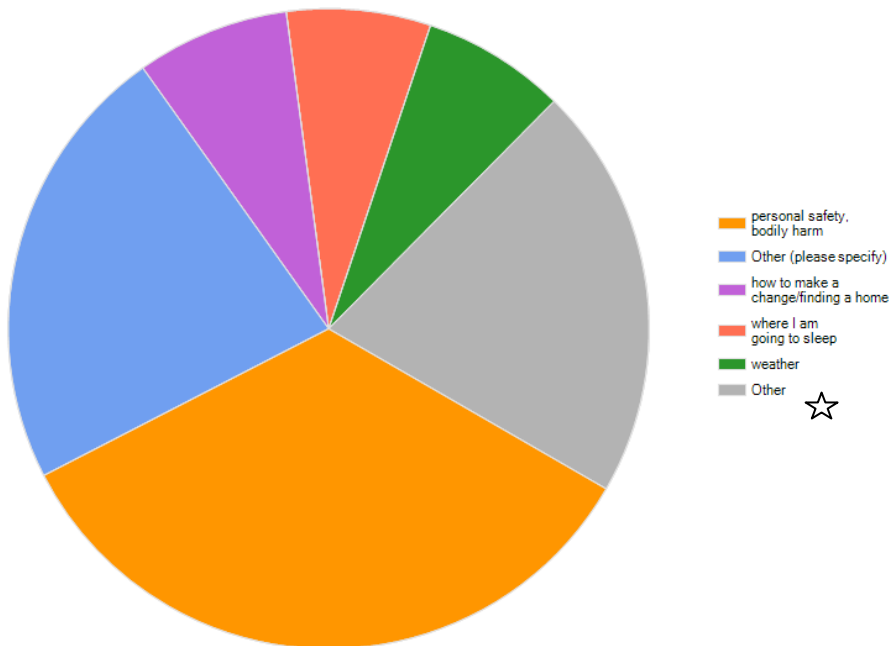
Another prevalent response to this question came from respondents’ concern for their physical and mental well-being as the life of the streets often subjects those who live within it to cruelties that wear on the mind, body, and soul. Consequently, a significant number of respondents in this category listed health care, or rather the lack thereof, as their primary fear or concern. The responses regarding health and homelessness – including “illness,” “health and environment...dehydration,” “health,” “diabetic,” “inaccessible/inappropriate medical care,” “disease...,” and “germs” – make it clear that life on the streets is unsanitary, unhealthy, and may ultimately prove deadly. Furthermore, the psychological toll that such a life takes on people is equally as endemic and, as we will further expanded on in question three of this section, we find the homeless population is rife with depression, bi-polar disorder, and other (psychological) disorders that all too often are either the result of – or further exacerbated due to – the loneliness and solitude that comes with living life on the streets: “what to do with himself all day,” “...used to it, tired of it,” “all alone...,” “loneliness,” “losing my mind.”

It must be noted that a number of respondents in this category stated that they had “no fear” of living on the streets and in many cases simply stated “none” as their response to this question. It may be inferred that this response was more a non-admittance of fear than a message that there are no problems with life on the street. Moreover, it would come rather difficult for many of the chronic homeless to admit fear of living life on the streets (i.e., preserve street image of tough, not weak, and do anything to survive). And as we will see in question three of this section when we ask “What is the greatest challenge you face as a homeless person today?,” while there is no fear of the streets, there most certainly are challenges; another fine example of the old adage “it’s not what you ask it’s how you ask it.” Still, there were some who stated “all needs are taken care of” and “none, I enjoy it” as responses to their fears or concerns to life on the streets.

There are yet other profound nuances within the data that should not be overlooked as question one delineates the primary uncertainties from the lesser ones. It should be noted, therefore, that very few

respondents in this category listed hunger as a fear or concern. This is a testament to all the organizations and their volunteers that work so hard to make certain that the homeless are fed; being homeless should not mean going hungry. It should also be noted that among the other less salient responses related to the fears of the homeless individuals interviewed, only 5.9% listed “Getting Robbed/Losing Property” as a main concern, and the data points to the fact that the primary concern of “Personal safety/Bodily harm” is more directly attributed to drugs/alcohol and the lack of adequate health care, than to a fear of violent crime. Also, in this question we find that only 3.2% of the respondents listed the police as a reason to fear being homeless, proving that the often contentious relationship between the Austin Police Department and the Austin homeless population may finally be on the mend.

What is your biggest concern or fear about living on the street?



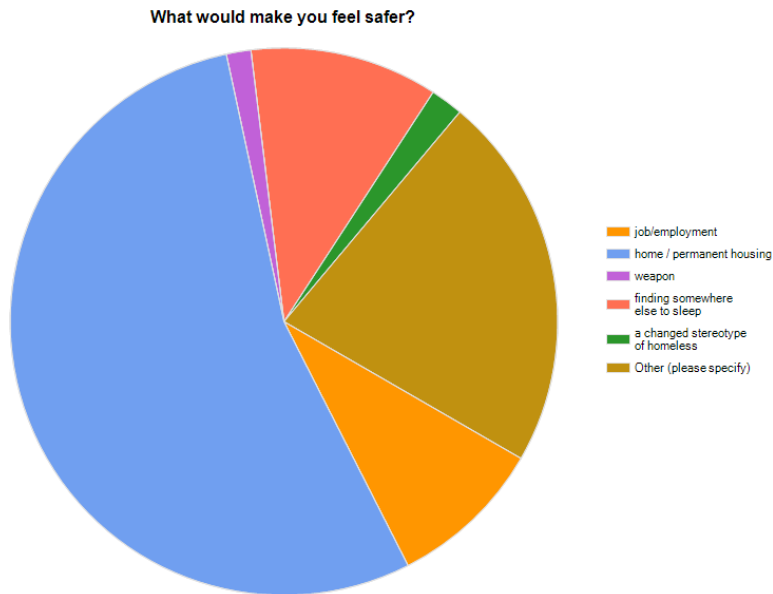
☆ It should be noted that the “Other” category includes finding/keeping a job, the police, “not sure” responses and several comments of “none/nothing.”

2. What would make you feel safer?

Question two asks the respondents to help provide answers or solutions to the problems presented. Here we ask the respondent to tell us more about what would help make them safer and more secure. In another obvious and overwhelming response, over half of the respondents – 54.1% listed “Home/Permanent Housing” while 11.1% simply listed “Finding Somewhere to Sleep” – listed housing and shelter as the primary, and perhaps the only, true means of providing the homeless with a sense of safety, security, and stability. *“The only way to solve the homeless problem in Austin is with homes.” - Alan Graham*

It should be noted that the second highest category selected was “other,” and with 22.2% of the respondents choosing this as their primary answer, we once again see the human side to the issue. Among the most popular of answers given by the homeless respondents who were asked what would make them feel safer was a strong belief in God, religion, and/or spirituality – including a “Closer connection with God,” a “belief in Jesus Christ,” “God makes me feel safe,” “Jesus,” a “Faith in God,” a “solid/spiritual life,” and “being around Christian people.”

Very few of the respondents, at 1.4%, listed “Weapon” as a means of finding safety. Again, this points to the reality that is homelessness, as safety and security cannot be realized without the stability that comes with permanent housing. A gun or knife is no match for a cold wet night or the highly probable drug/alcohol addiction that invariably may come with life on the streets.



3. What is the greatest challenge you face as a homeless person today?

While question three might seem more of a redo of question one, the truth is that when we replaced “fear and concern” with the word “challenge,” the respondents were much more open and elaborated on the matters and issues associated with living a day-to-day homeless life. The data presented in question three left no question as to the primary challenge facing Austin’s homeless population: in a word, survival. The majority of respondents interviewed, at 62.7% (approximately 136 of the 217 interviewees who answered this question), stated that among the prevailing issue was lack of employment and/or financial stability, thereby causing the inability for an individual to meet his or her most basic of needs – food, clothing, shelter, etc. More narrowly segmenting the data shows that the largest segment of respondents, at approximately 33.6% (73 of the 217), stated that the lack of employment opportunities held precedence over all other matters including basic and aforementioned (survival) necessities, which 29% (approximately 63 of the 217) gave as their most leading challenge.

In what may be another testament to the hard work of the many organizations and individuals that struggle to uphold and maintain Austin’s social safety net, one could infer from the data that lack of employment held precedence over basic needs, because the most basic of needs are being met (of course, other than housing). There seems to be accessible, if only temporary, shelter in times of dire need. Likewise, one would not need to search far to find availability, even if limited, to the most essential of human needs such as clothes, food, and water as organizations like Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF), Caritas, Austin Baptist Chapel, and the Salvation Army work to make food a secondary concern. It could be further extrapolated from the data that there is a direct correlation between unemployment and homelessness, and given the opportunity, the majority of the individuals would want to work; again, provided that there was any opportunity out there.

Further investigation of the data shows that there were (two) other predominant concerns that respondents of this question had regarding their current (homeless) situation. As correlated with other data from previous questions, healthcare and drugs/alcohol were also cited as major challenges

associated with the homeless lifestyle. Approximately 12% (26 of the 217) of the respondents of this question provided that access to affordable health care, for both physical and mental ailments, was a main concern. Another 7% (15 of the 217) stated that drugs/alcohol and fear of police/jail were among the most pressing challenges facing the homeless population in Austin. The remaining 20% (43 of the 217) were resigned to an “other” category, which included responses such as lack of transportation, “discrimination,” lack of accessibility/availability to basic services, “being white,” “carrying around my possessions,” etc.

4. Are there any advantages of being on the street?

Question four of this personal section sought to ask the one question that perhaps we have all considered asking at one point in time or another but could not summon the personal wherewithal to ask: “Are there any advantages of being on the street?” Well, to make a long survey question short, the resounding answer was NO. Of the 219 respondents who answered this question, 73.1% stated there was no advantage to living on the street. This data should dispel any Hollywood scripted romanticized account of the homeless lifestyle, and as we have already read first hand from the respondents themselves, it is filled with drunks, drugs, and decay. There is nothing pretty about it and most would want to escape it in any way they could if provided the opportunity.

This majority (73.1%), however, does not account for all the respondents, and the fact remains there is a prevailing minority, at 27.4%, that believes there are some advantages to being homeless. Those who answered YES gave a list of different reasons to support their beliefs. But when one comes to consider just a few of the stressors big and small – including bills, kids, traffic, gas prices, etc. – that we all face on a daily basis, a life void of any real obligations or responsibilities somehow doesn’t sound all that unappealing. The curiosity of wanting to know what it would be like to not have all the mundane tasks and labors that become the grind of our daily lives is something we may have all contemplated at one point.

It would come as no surprise, therefore, that the preponderance of respondents who answered YES to this question stated in one way, shape, or form that the advantage(s) to living life homeless was, in a word, “freedom.” This freedom comes in many forms and means different things to different individuals but in the end was simply freedom from the chore of life.

“No responsibility” ... “No bills” ... “Don't have to pay rent” ... “Freedom, but it comes with hardships” ... “Not taxed, no child support” ... “No routine, do whatever you want” ... “Freedom to be irresponsible” ... “If you want to live carefree” ... “Not having anyone question you” ...

What's more, there was another group that we categorized as “Why work?” because of the answers and attitudes related to their homeless situation. While it is no secret that the homeless life is one of desperation and despondency, many are content with the minimal needs that society’s safety-net provides, FREE. Indeed, many of the respondents admitted that life on the streets allows for one to live without having to work.

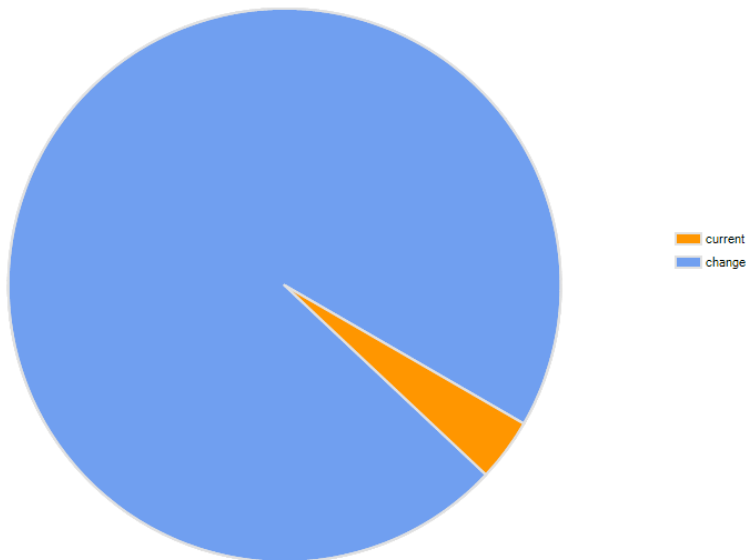
“No rent, free food” ... “Medical” ... “a lot of people helping him” ... “You have people helping you” ... “Soup Kitchen, agencies” ... “expedited services, free medications” ... “food truck” ... “people help” ... “It's free” ...

Let the data not be misconstrued, however, as the truth remains that the majority of the homeless interviewed find NO advantage to living on the street. Furthermore, it may be inferred that the respondents who answered YES may have done so in an effort to provide a candid – which is what was requested – response to the question, as we have discussed living on the streets can easily come to be justified. Moreover, it is once again another example of the social support provided by the community giving people the basic needs to live and bear life homeless.

5. Do you want to continue your current lifestyle or are you trying to change your situation?

Question five should be viewed as undeniable substantiation that the homeless do want to change their current situation. Despite stereotypical notions to the contrary that often portray the homeless as perhaps enjoying or wanting to maintain their current lifestyles, 96.3% or 210 of 218 respondents listed that they wanted to make a [positive] change in their lives. The issue then becomes one of opportunity, or lack thereof, as the individuals who seek change may not come to find it (i.e., no jobs or housing).

Do you want to continue your current lifestyle or are you trying to change your situation?

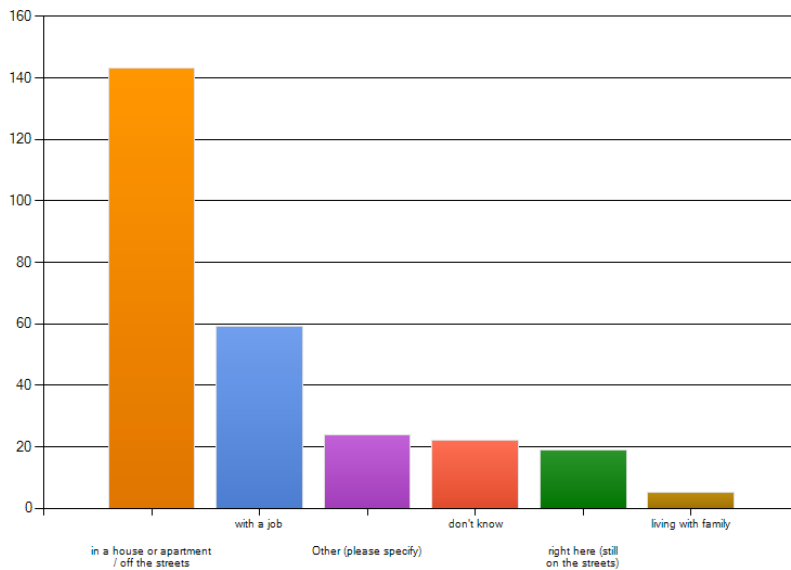


6. Where do you picture yourself in the next 6 to 12 months?

In question six, we expand on question five by asking people where they envision themselves within the next year, noting that a clear majority want to change their current lifestyle. We wanted to ask what that “change” would look like. Although the respondents were allowed to give multiple answers, we discovered that, not surprisingly, the two main factors that people believe are associated with the “change” needed to end their homeless lifestyle is a home and a job. A robust response of over 90% of a combined majority – 65.3% listed “In a House or Apartment/Off the Streets” while 26.9% listed “With a Job” – noted that having both would seemingly be the end to life on the streets. This clear majority proves that the homeless want change and know what it takes to get there. But the lack of opportunities in affordable housing and/or employment presents homeless individuals with very real challenges to making any change possible.

As a result, another majority can be found by categorizing those who have been defeated one too many times and find no hope in changing their current lifestyles. This defeatist mentality can be seen in the data, which shows nearly 20% of respondents either “Did not Know” (10%) where life would take them in a year, or believed that life would remain unchanged and they would “Still be on the Streets” (8.7%). Additionally, many who responded under the “other” category (11%) also gave insight into the hopelessness that is being homeless by offering fatalistic responses including “can't change...,” “Only God knows,” “either not homeless or dead,” and “In heaven.” The inequitable opportunities that today's homeless populations face may ultimately mean the death of not just a dream but a person.

Where do you picture yourself in the next 6 to 12 months? (multiple answers are allowed)



7. Describe to me a recent experience where you were really happy.

In keeping with the focus on the human element of homelessness, respondents were asked to recollect a recent time in which they “were really happy.” Just as questions one and three asked the respondents to provide information on the concerns, fears, and (over-all) challenges, the goal of this statement was to invoke an introspective response related to a positive moment in the lives of the respondents. The data provided by the respondents was informative, but reads more like a list of commentaries rather than actual answers to the statement. In the end, this may have worked best, because it allowed respondents to offer qualitatively rich information about a component of the homeless lifestyle we rarely hear about – happiness. It has long been known that the resiliency of the human psyche drives the individual to survive, and even thrive, in the harshest of environments, and as was evident in some of the statements provided by respondents, no matter the hard reality of life on the streets, happiness can be found.

In fact, of the 208 (utilizable) entries, the great majority can be deemed positive. More than half of all respondents, at 57% (118 of the 208), stated that they were happy “everyday” and/or “happy to be alive”; 12% (25 of the 208) of the respondents stated that they were happy on daily basis. Moreover, within this number we found the primary cause for happiness among respondents was to be at a place with friends and family – a home. Indeed, whether a boyfriend or a girlfriend, a son or daughter, a mother or father, a caseworker, the church, or another homeless colleague, the need for intimate companionship with other human beings is essential to the survival of the individual. As a result, 45% (118 of the 208) of all respondents commented and/or mentioned their relationships with another person or persons as what ultimately brought about feelings of happiness. Based on the data provided, it may be inferred that the respondents have managed to find happiness despite the perils that come with life on the streets. The importance and need for social interaction with and among the homeless, therefore, cannot be over emphasized.

Although it may go without stating, another source of happiness among the interviewees was found in either having money and/or the ability to earn money through employment. While the financial stability that comes with employment and, consequently, money offers a common source of happiness among all, it is sufficient to say that – as the old adage fittingly proclaims – “money isn’t everything.” This could not ring any more true than in this particular case where, interestingly enough, only 11.5%

(approximately 24 of the 208) of respondents deemed financial and/or material comfort as a root cause of happiness.

The results, however, were not all positive, with another 12% (approximately 25 of the 208) of the respondents interviewed stating that there was little to no recollection of the last time they were truly happy. It should be noted that this number is identical to the number of respondents who stated they were happy daily or on a regular basis. Perhaps this may be nothing more than the human persona, with optimists and pessimists each having their reasons for being. Many in this category gave unenthusiastic views of the world and (homeless) life, making statements such as “don’t think I’ve ever been happy,” “no reason to be happy,” or simply “never” when asked about recent happiness.

Lastly, we once again sorted miscellaneous responses in an “other” category. This category accounted for all data that did not fit the statement asked with respect to respondents providing a **recent** experience in which they were really happy. And from the mundane to the obscure, respondents gave insight to an event or events that triggered reminiscences of happiness including: “as a child,” “went to a UT game,” “happy that I was approved for credit at Radio Shack,” and “saw God three years ago.” A robust 18.75% (approximately 39 of the 208) of all respondents were placed in this (“other”) category. Although many of these events did not occur recently, they still invoked a profound sense of happiness from the individuals who made the statements, and a good majority came from individuals remembering the day they became sober or for others the day they got out of jail. Perhaps one the most memorable replies came from a gentleman who said the last time he went “fishing years back” was the last time he remembered being happy. This simple, yet insightful statement encapsulates just how much the homeless yearn for a sense of normalcy in their lives.

8. What do you miss most about your life before homelessness?

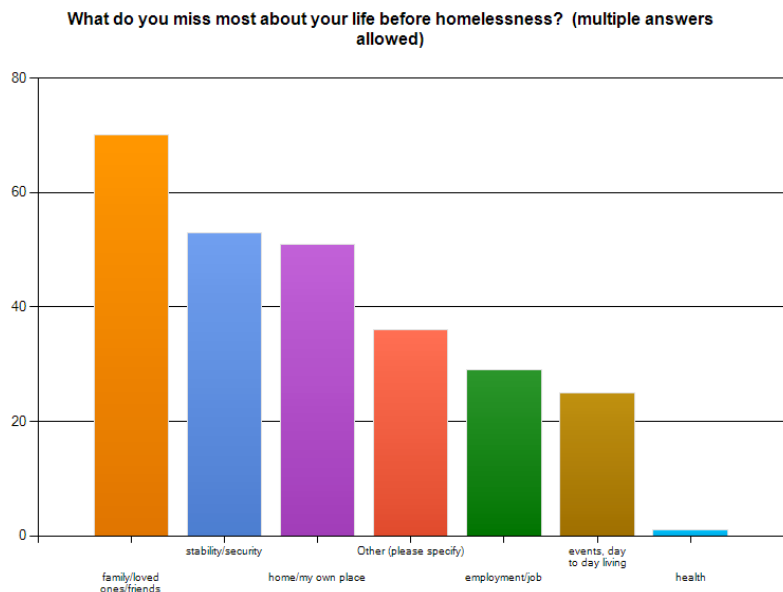
(Multiple answers allowed)

Being homeless is about so much more than the loss of a bricks and mortar shelter. More, it means that somewhere a family disbanded, somewhere friends parted ways, and somewhere someone loss their sense of safety and security in the loss of a home. It is this loss in normalcy that holds to be one of the more difficult issues that comes with living life homeless. The loss of our friends and family, in essence, is a loss of self. Who are we if not but small slivers of each and every person we invite into our lives, intentionally or not? A home, as extensions of ourselves, has the little bits and pieces of our personas. And whether it is the knick knacks on the mantle, the old guitar by the door, or the rusty lamp that was given by an old friend, when it goes, so too goes the individual identity. Thus, many homeless still perceive themselves as such (homeless) even after they are presented with housing. The old adage, which states one must “make a house a home,” rings especially true in this instance, and is an earnest issue that the homeless have to deal on a daily basis, and for which no temporary shelter can replace.

In an effort to understand what a “home” would look like, we asked the interviewees a question that sought to look beyond their current plight. Question eight of this section (“What do you miss most about your life before homelessness?”) delves into the past in an effort to create a better future. The long-term solution is going to be to create permanent housing facilities that will bring back a semblance of everyday life. Among the most interesting facts deduced from the data was that there was no one clear and concise answer about what most respondents missed before becoming homeless. This perhaps should have been expected if one considers that there is no one thing that makes a home something more than shelter. A home is a made-up of a combination of things. Home is about the people and the smells and memories. Home is a place that keeps you safe from the elements and secure from the outside world. It is place endowed with comfort and rest, helping to bridge work and personal life. Additionally, a home is where people identify with you, as only the most trusted and endeared are allowed in. A home, not a shelter, provides all this and more and is best summated in one word – a home provides you and me, and every person around us, normalcy.

While there was no one leading answer, question eight did confirm that the most salient of things that make a “home” are universal in scope as the 212 respondents who answered this question related through the data. The top three answers for question eight were “family/loved ones/friends” (33%), “stability/security” (25.0%), and “home/my own place” (24.1%). These numbers, however, only paint a general picture of the issue. In an interesting aside many of the respondents provided personalized answers to the question. It was these answers and their nuances that further reiterate the need that every human has for normalcy. It is the simple things that make a home, including:

“being happy” ... “cooking (multiple times)” ... “television (multiple times)” ... “Being with a woman” ... “[being with] women” ... “self esteem” ... “Happiness” ... “Vehicle” ...



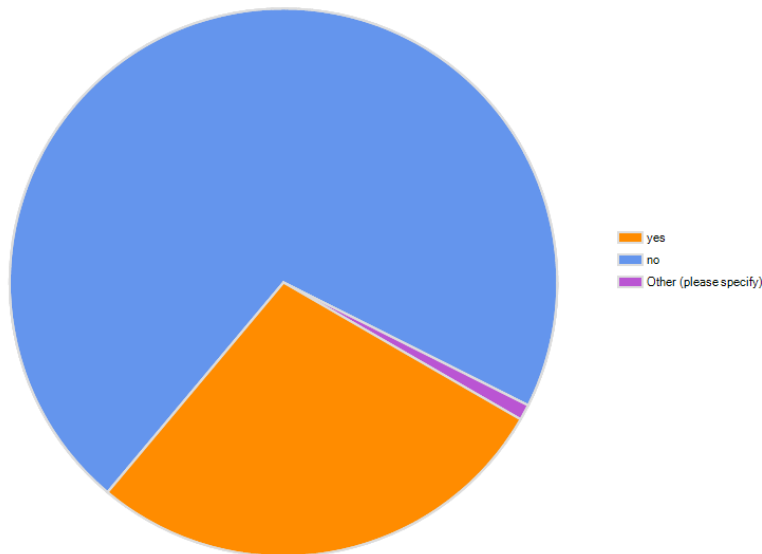
9. On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you feel about the police?

10. Are you afraid of going to jail/prison?

In question eight, we came to discover some of the basic essential elements of a home including family, safety/security, and shelter. A home provides a sense of normalcy and identity, allowing individuals to establish the stability needed to build a life. The latter (identity), however, cannot readily be found within the homeless community. Life on the streets inherently necessitates that people keep to themselves lest they expose any weaknesses and avoid falling victim to streets that run rampant with drugs and crime. The harsh reality of life on the streets would make strangers of us all.

The role of law enforcement and the police is, therefore, especially critical even as the relationship between the homeless and police has been less than amicable. The loss of home and security makes the role of the police within the homeless community essential to maintain, as they are their only source of protection and safety. As such, question nine sought to determine the perceived relationship between the homeless and the police. While it may be understood that relations could be better, the data points to the fact that on average most homeless feel ambivalent about the law enforcement, as 23.1% of the 216 respondents interviewed believed the police are neither good nor bad but, rather, are there to perform a duty “to serve and protect.” Additionally, there were a roughly equal number of respondents who stated that they held a high opinion of the police (22.2%) to those who responded negatively or held a low opinion (28.2%).

Are you afraid of going to jail/prison?



Among some of the concerns associated with the low opinion of police are issues that are well-known throughout the homeless community, such as harassment due to loitering and/or panhandling. What's more, the pervasiveness of drugs and alcohol on the streets means that crime cannot be too far away. As a result, many homeless individuals understand that there is a very real need for police presence on the streets. Even those who may not be living the lives of model citizens recognize that the police are perhaps a necessary evil in their world. In fact, as a second part of the question, when asked if they feared going to jail, the overwhelming majority of the homeless responded NO (71.3% of 216 respondents).

11. What is the one thing you wish people would know about you?

The purpose of section three was to present to the world personal slivers of existence for each of the 200(+) respondents with question eleven asking what may well be the most intimate of all questions asked within this survey: **“What is the one thing you wish people knew about you?”** This survey was meant to be more than just another head count, with question eleven embodying the purpose by providing each respondent the opportunity to let the world know a little more about them; more than just their vital statistics. Above all, this question was meant to invoke an introspective reply that would give a voice to each and every individual surveyed with robust qualitative data.

While there were the expected anomalous answers, there was a clear majority that was communicated by way of the data. There was a concise message from the Austin homeless community. This message reads more like a Declaration, an assertion of the basic human rights – including dignity, deference, impartiality, and equal opportunity – endowed to all by a creator. The message was clear, with two-thirds (65.8%, 129 of the 196) of respondents stating that they simply wanted to be treated with respect and to let the world know that they were good people. The respondents wanted people to know there was a human element to the homeless issue, and there are individual stories behind the nameless faces that we see every day on our street corners, park benches, and alley ways.

What is the one thing you wish people would know about you?

“Don’t judge me” I am an **“Easy-going guy”** **“Trying hard”** ... **“That I am a poet, musician, and**

song writer” and “I’m really a good and helpful person” ... “I’m smart and talented” and “I’m a hard worker” because “Not all homeless people are druggies; not lazy; we panhandle for food not drugs” ... “I am human, homeless are people too” and “My heart, I have a good heart” ... “I’m a cool dude” and “that I play chess” ... Also, “poetry” and “I’m pretty smart I’m not a scary, mean person” who “Likes coke - ice cold” and hates “Stereotypes of homeless people ” ... “Stop the stigmatism of homelessness” “I’m not a bum” “I am a good person, don’t turn up your nose” ... “I was a king” but now “Need a chance” and “Know that I’m a Christian” ... “That he has emotions; sometimes he wants to scream and say he needs help” but “Even though he’s homeless, he’s not hopeless - he has Jesus.”

SECTION 4: Education

- 1. What is the highest grade in school you finished?**
- 2. Would you be interested in a skills training program, or furthering your education?**
- 5. Are you functionally literate (can you read a menu, street signs, newspaper?)**

The majority of respondents, 71.3% of the 219 individuals surveyed, stated that they had no more than a high school or high school equivalency education (GED). While the educational deficiencies among the homeless are stark, they only appear to get worse once we begin to further break down the numbers. Of the nearly two-thirds that stated they had no more than a high school education, the majority, 28.8% of the total 219 surveyed (majority of the majority), admitted to not finishing high school at all. Another 14.2% stated they had only a GED or other type of high school equivalency education.

The very few highlights found were either negligible or unique when compared to the total numbers, with only 5% of the survey respondents stating they had a bachelor’s degree and (indeed) one individual who stated having a “Master’s degree from Baylor University.” Another highlight in the survey is found in question five of this section – “Are you functionally literate (can you read a menu, street signs, newspaper?)” – and gives insight into the minimal educational abilities of the homeless population, as 93.5% of the 216 respondents claim to be functionally literate. There is resounding evidence, however, within this and other surveys, that there is a direct correlation between homelessness and inadequate education. In short, they are (either) indistinguishably and/or directly related – social issues associated with both include malnutrition, poverty, alcohol/drug-abuse, and physical and/or psychological maladies, premature death, etc.

According to the U.S. Census numbers for Austin, TX in 2000, 83% of the general population were high school graduates with more than 40% having a bachelor’s degree or higher. While our interviewees mirrored these statistics, they did track to a lesser degree and this difference is a key indicator of not only their current plight but potentially of their future successes in creating a sustainable lifestyle.

As we read in section three of the survey, most respondents value the responsibility and obligation of working to earn a living. The problem, as we assessed, was not the will to work but the lack of work according to the respondents surveyed; put simply, there are no jobs. This, however, may present itself to be only half of the equation. While it is true that in these tough economic times jobs are scarce, employment opportunities are being created. The (new) employment being created – such as the health and green-energy sectors that are experiencing robust growth – is, however, for the few and well educated. The full (ugly) truth, therefore, is that there are no jobs for the inadequately educated. Expanding on the issue, the problem is further compounded when one includes that the average age of the homeless individual is between 45 and 54; according to this survey, 43.8% of all respondents questioned chose this category. One can discern that the homeless population is not only poorly educated but, more so, obsolescently educated as the majority that dropped out of high

school have not had any formal education since the 70's-80's. This information is important, because we can better determine the best educational route to proceed in an effort to bring relief to what the homeless perceive to be the main issue – no jobs.

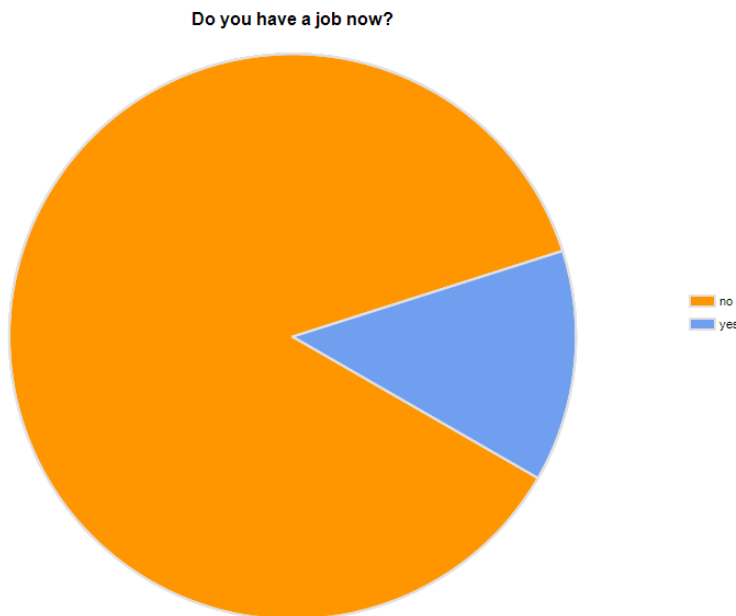
So while the education inadequacies facing the homeless population presents a severe societal issue, it is one that can be resolved. In fact, question two in this section of the survey – “Would you be interested in a skills training program, or furthering your education?” – relays exactly just how true this may be as a resounding 80% of the respondents who answered this question replied “YES.” This, combined with earlier data that points to the fact that the homeless have the want and the will to work, should put to rest any notion that the homeless have given up on life and the world. On the contrary, the world has given up on the homeless, denying them the basic human right of education and employment. The eradication of homelessness lies in the ability for the homeless to be self-sustaining members of society. Which, proven by the data, is exactly what the homeless desire to become.

One person’s comment regarding the training plight speaks volumes of the enormity of the task at hand. During one interview, a well spoken man described his joy at being offered and accepting free training classes at a local technical school. He said his greatest and most stressful challenge was finding daily bus fare to make it to and from the school. He had already missed days of classes because of a lack of funds to pay for transportation.

SECTION 5: Employment

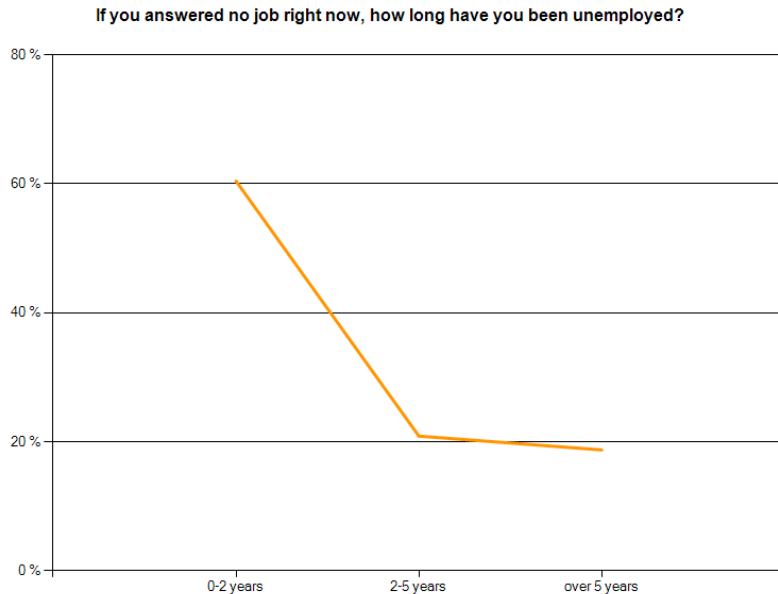
1. Do you have a job now?

A strong 86% (190 of 221 surveyed) of interviewees responded no, and the other small 14% (29 of 221 surveyed) responded yes. This clearly shows the majority of the Austin homeless population is unemployed. Many link the reason for homelessness to unemployment, and this is indicated by the survey results. The Salvation Army homeless survey conducted in Canada in 2005 indicated similar results of 72% unemployed and 18% employed. The two surveys show strong correlations between homelessness and unemployment.



2. If you answered no job right now, how long have you been unemployed?

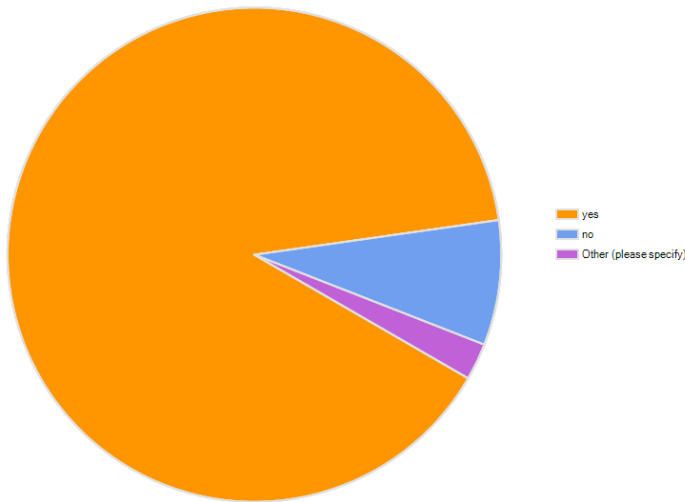
The heaviest response came from the answer choice 0-2 years, 60% (113 of 187 surveyed). The second most was 2-5 years, 21% (39 of 187 surveyed), and the lowest percent was from the over 5 years range, 19% (35 of 187 surveyed). The results of this response prove that the majority of homeless people have not been without a job for too long; not every homeless person is chronically unemployed. America's unemployment rate exceeded 10% in 2009, so it would be logical to link the economic hardships to the large number of recently unemployed homeless people (Bureau of Labor Statistics).



3. Do you want a job?

A vast 89% (186 of 208 interviewed) said yes, only 8% (17 of 208) said no, and 2% (5 of 208) said other. In the "other" responses, many responded so because of their health and disabilities. As for the 89% wanting a job, this statistic even further disproves the widespread belief that homeless people want to be on the streets and do not wish to have the responsibilities of a job. In the United States Conference of Mayors Hunger and Homelessness Survey conducted across 25 U.S. cities in December of 2008, homeless people were asked what the top three things needed to combat homelessness were. More or better employment opportunities accounted for 68% of the responses. This is a clear indication that not only in Austin, but all across America, homeless people do want employment but feel there are limited resources for them to obtain a job. Very few choose to be homeless, but even more desire employment and an escape from this life.

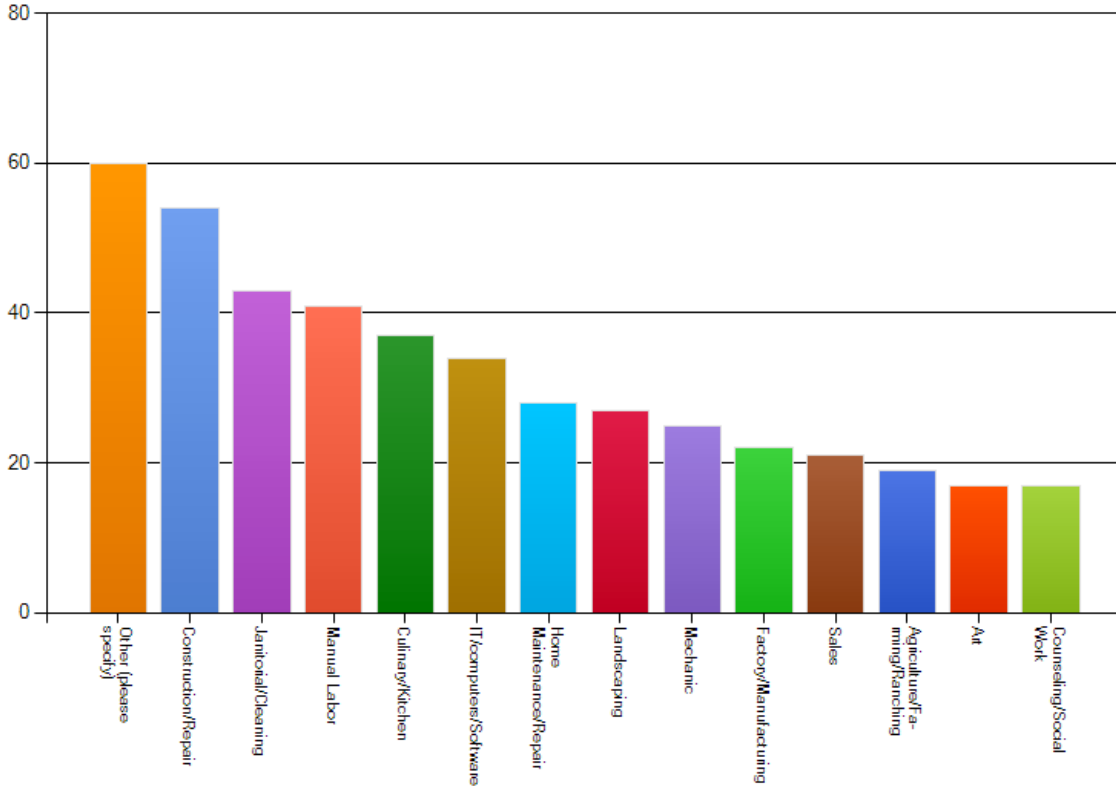
Do you want a job?



4. What kind of job? (multiple questions allowed)

The most responses came from the “other” response, 31% (60 of 194 surveyed). Within these responses, most said “anything” or “whatever I can get.” Once again, this disproves the widespread belief that homeless people do not want to work. Many are willing to work in any kind of job that will help them survive and eventually get them off the streets. The next highest response was in the construction/repair field, 28%. Janitorial/cleaning came in third with 22%. This gives insight to what kinds of jobs the homeless people of Austin have had before or have enough skill to do. Since the types of jobs desired are low skill, once again there is insight into where the majority of the people have come from – minimal education and low income.

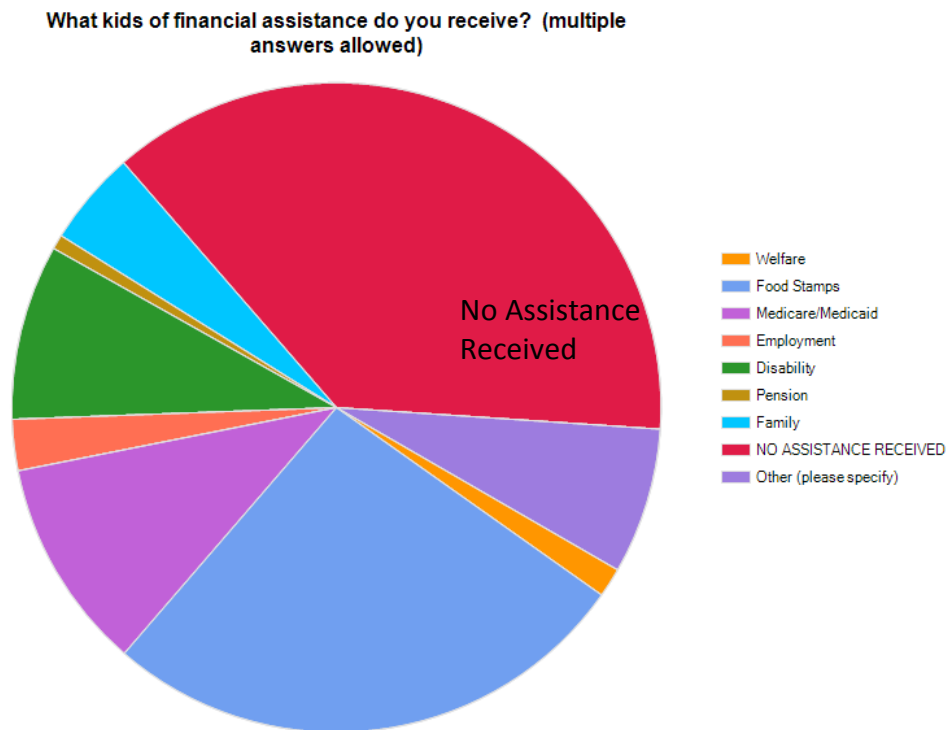
What kind of job? (multiple questions allowed)



SECTION 6: Finance

1. What kinds of financial assistance do you receive? (multiple answers allowed)

No assistance received was the largest response with 47% (103 of 218), food stamps was second with 34% (73 of 218), and Medicare/Medicaid was third with 13% (29 of 218). It is evident that the Austin homeless population is struggling to get government assistance. Food stamps are most likely the easiest to receive, considering a third of the homeless population is able to get access. However, when comparing these results to the Salvation Army survey in Canada, their homeless population response to this similar question had welfare accounting for 37% of their assistance/income. There seems to be an issue with ease of access for the homeless people in Austin compared to the homeless in Canada.



2. Do you have a checking or savings account?

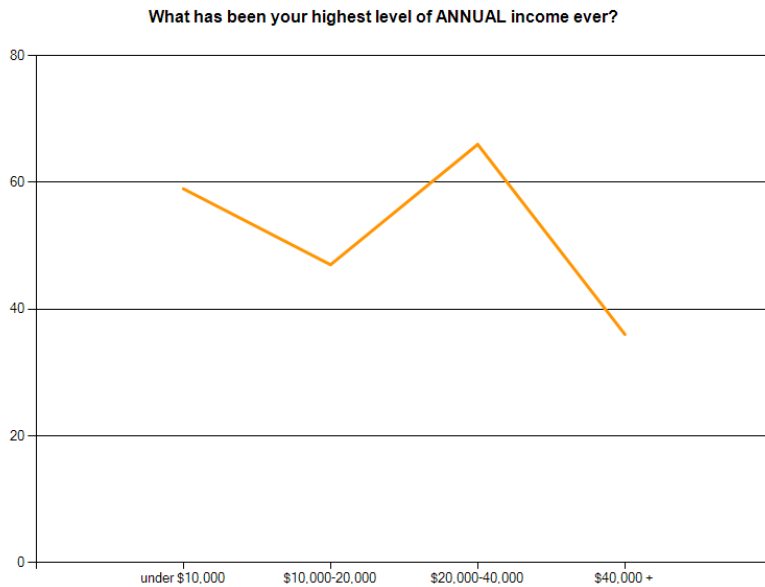
Of the 216 that responded to this question, 174 (81%) responded no. If 86% of the surveyed homeless population is unemployed, it's very likely they would not have a current checking/savings account. The responsibility of maintaining a bank account is far beyond the capabilities for some of these individuals. If trying to eat on a daily basis is hard enough, managing a bank account seems unlikely. Overdraft fees alone could send these people into serious debt. However, 19% (42 of 216 surveyed) responded yes, which means some unemployed homeless people are managing a bank account. This could lead to the conclusion that they are newly homeless and are being forced to the streets because of job loss or recent crisis.

3. What has been your highest level of ANNUAL income ever?

According to the 2000 U.S. Census numbers for Austin, the median household income was \$42,000, and the per capita income was just over \$24,000. Texas trended slightly lower.

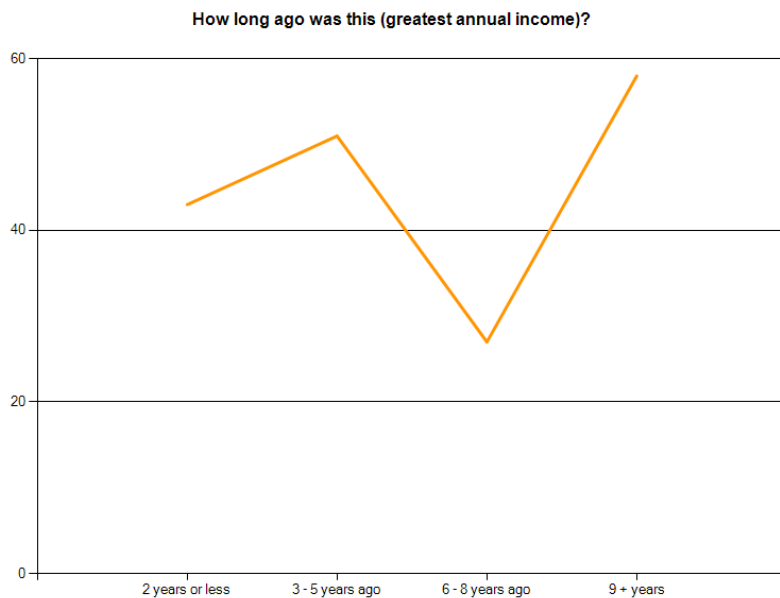
The majority of the respondents said \$20,000-\$40,000 (31%). The next largest response was \$10,000 and under, 28%. Those who responded \$20,000-\$40,000 had a livable life before homelessness.

Though this income range (\$20,000-\$40,000) isn't much, it is conceivably enough to get by. Whether it was flipping hamburgers or a full time janitorial job, they were making money. However, the jobs that give about \$20,000-\$40,000 a year typically have a high turnover rate, and with a declining economy, it is very likely these employees would be the first to be cut.



4. How long ago was this (greatest annual income)?

Many said 9+ years, 30% (58 of 185 surveyed). However, 2 years or less and 3-5 years totaled 51% (94 of 185). So half had somewhat recently been making livable wages, while one third could be considered chronically homeless, because it has been 9+ years since they had their highest income. The Mayors survey reported that on average, of the 25 cities studied, there has been a 12% increase in homelessness. This study and other local and national findings support the past 3 questions by reinforcing that the economic instability has led to more recent layoffs and, thus, an increase in newly homeless people.



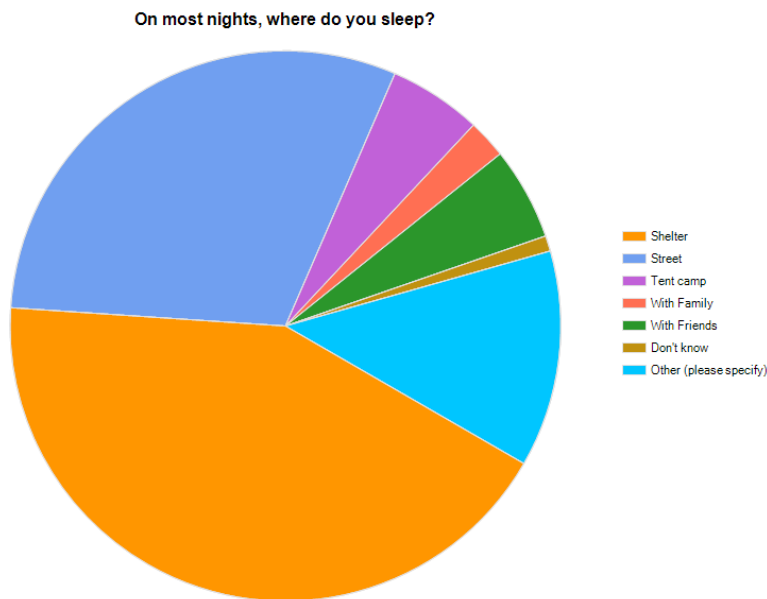
5. Do you owe people or institutions money?

A majority percentage of 62% said no. So, two thirds of Austin's homeless population is not on the streets to escape debts or run from unpaid loans like many would assume when considering this question. Clearly there are other factors influencing the result of homelessness.

SECTION 7: Housing

1. On most nights where do you sleep?

The greatest number of our respondents, 43%, stayed in a shelter. This sheds some positive light on the efforts of homeless organizations and shelters across Austin. However, it also can be seen as negative because straight statistical math shows about 650 beds for 4,000+ people. Thus fewer than 20% of the Austin homeless population is able to sleep in a sheltered environment. A whopping 30% of people responded saying they sleep on the streets. A large percentage of respondents being in shelters overnight supports the results in the U.S. Conference of Mayors Hunger and Homelessness Survey. On an average night in the 23 reporting cities, nearly 35% of people interviewed stay in overnight emergency shelters (33,848 out of 97,557 total people; options included living on the streets, emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing).



2. In the last six months, have you attempted to find permanent housing?

There are many programs out there for affordable housing provided by homeless organizations and the government. A little over half said yes, 54%, and the other 46% said no. This is a combination of both difficulty to qualify for these housing options and general knowledge of what's out there. Half seem to know what's available, but struggle to get into a permanent housing situation. These results could indicate a need for easier qualifications or more programs to help people get the right medical, mental, and physical treatments needed in order to qualify. The homeless population needs abundant and affordable options for housing in order to get off the streets and get on with their lives.

This question was followed up by another one to those who answered “yes,” they had attempted to find permanent housing. We asked people to describe that process and its successes and failures. While we recognize that we were talking to a vast majority of people who had in fact, failed to find housing, their comments are still very telling of a complicated and confusing process that limits access to the most needy.

Comments included: **“I am on the waiting list” ... “HUD turned me down due to my record” ... “takes too long” ... “city housing was a failure” ... “trying to get into a detox program first” ... “they say I don’t qualify” ... “frustrating, on waiting list” ... “I need a job first” ... “on waiting list, have been skipped over.”**

3. Do you want a permanent house?

As we would have anticipated, a statistically remarkable 94% (206 of 219 surveyed) responded “yes.” This further proves that these people do not want to be in this situation. Homelessness is not a lifestyle anyone would generally choose. The last question of the survey expands upon this question, asking what a home would look like to them. A home to them is basic; most responded with “just a roof and four walls.” And in reviewing the expanded answers for those who answered they did not want a permanent house, most had pessimistic views on either their financial situation (“ don’t have enough money to keep one” ... “no money”) or they have little faith in the system. Only three people said something to the effect that they were “used to lifestyle” of being homeless.

4. What housing options do you know of?

Almost half of the respondents did not know of any housing options. The majority of the other half knew of Housing Authority, Section 8, and the remaining respondents knew of assistance through a service agency or of other housing options not listed. Specifically 24.4% (53 of 217 people) knew of Housing Authority, Section 8; 10.6% (23 of 217 people) knew of assistance through a service agency (ARCH, Salvation Army, Caritas, etc.); 47% (102 of 217 people) did not know of any housing options; and 18% (39 of 217 people) listed other services they knew of. These statistics somewhat support the 2007 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR), which states that almost half of “homeless persons were staying in an emergency shelter.” However, there is still a large percentage of those surveyed that did not know of any housing options, which implies that housing services are not making themselves as well known as they should.

5. Which Austin agency would you trust to operate a well-run permanent housing facility?

More than half of the respondents did not know of any agencies, while the remaining respondents listed service agencies. Specifically, 61% (124 of 202 people) did not know of any agencies, and 39% (78 of 202 people) listed service agencies such as MLF, Caritas, ARCH, Salvation Army, Section 8, Angel House, Austin Housing Authority, etc. 19 people skipped this question. This question relates back to question number four, seeing that an exceptionally large number of those surveyed were not familiar with any trustworthy agencies.

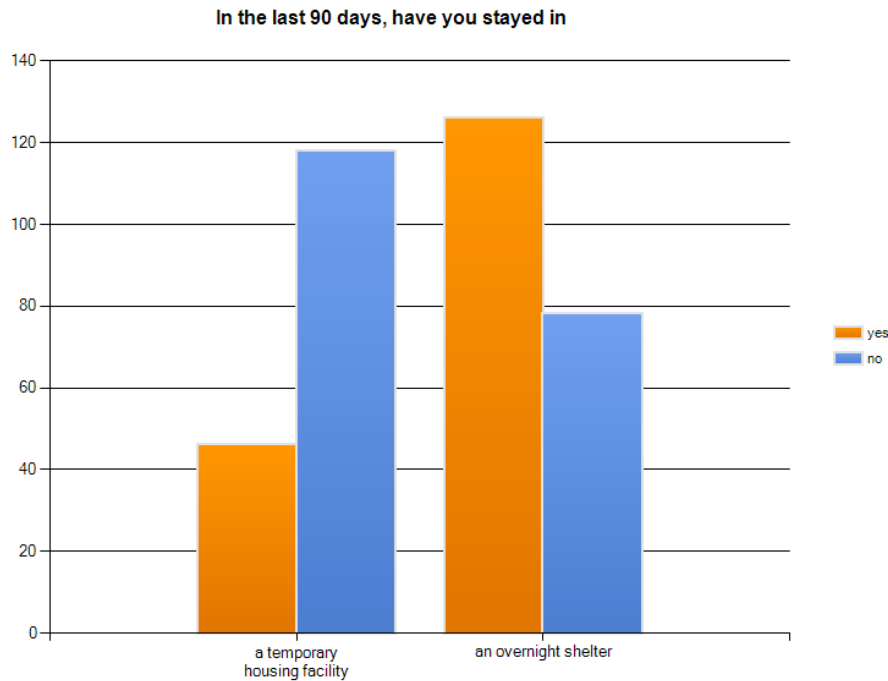
6. How much could you afford for permanent housing?

A little over half of the respondents said they could afford anywhere from \$50 to over \$400 per month, and about a third of the respondents could not afford anything. The remaining respondents proactively stated they would need a job first. Specifically, 14% (30 of 215 people) said they would need a job first; 33% (70 of 215 people) said they could afford nothing; 4% (9 of 215 people) could afford \$50-\$100 per month; 6.5% (14 of 215 people) could afford \$101-\$250 per month; 16.3% (35 of 215 people) could afford \$251-\$400 per month; 24% (52 of 215 people) could afford \$401 or more per month; and 2.3% (5 of 215 people) answered “other.” According to the 2007 AHAR, unemployment could be due to the weak economy, causing people to become homeless and not able to afford housing. If we can help homeless persons with job search/employment, they would be more likely to find permanent housing.

SECTION 8: Service Providers

1. In the last 90 days have you stayed in a temporary housing facility? An overnight shelter?

The vast majority of respondents did not stay in a temporary housing facility. More than half of the respondents stayed at an overnight facility. Specifically, 28% (46 of 164 people) stayed in a temporary housing facility while the remaining 72% (118 of 164 people) did not; 61.8% (126 of 204 people) stayed at an overnight shelter while the remaining 38% (78 of 204 people) did not.



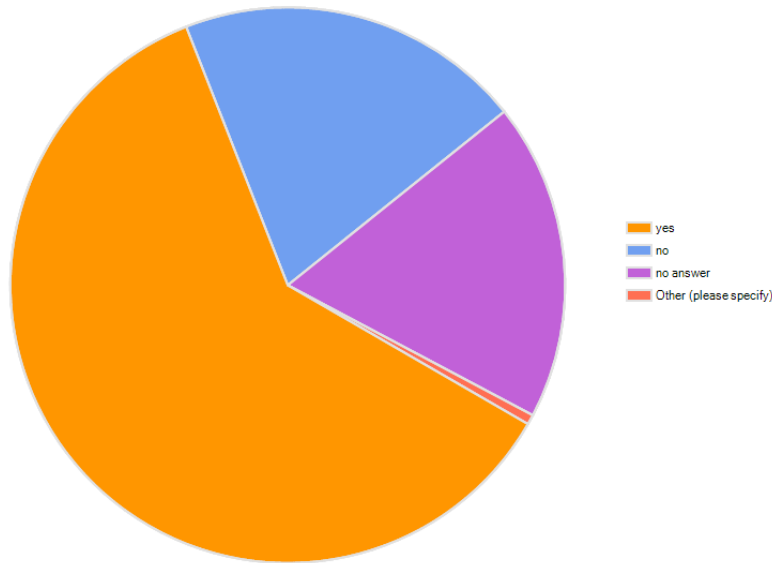
2. Describe the temporary facility and/or overnight shelter.

Most of the people who stayed at a temporary facility just named the facility, while others described the facility as either “nice” and “okay,” or not good at all. Those who stayed at a shelter similarly described which shelter they stayed at, with their answers ranging from “livable” and “clean” to “filthy” and “chaotic.”

2a. Were your immediate needs met?

The majority of the respondents answered positively, while the remainder either answered negatively or had no answer. Specifically, 61% (105 of 173 people) answered YES; 20% (35 of 173 people) answered NO; 18% (32 of 173 people) had no answer; and 0.6% (1 person) answered “some.” Potentially notable: 48 people skipped this question.

Were your immediate needs met?



3. How do you feel about the people/organizations that help you?

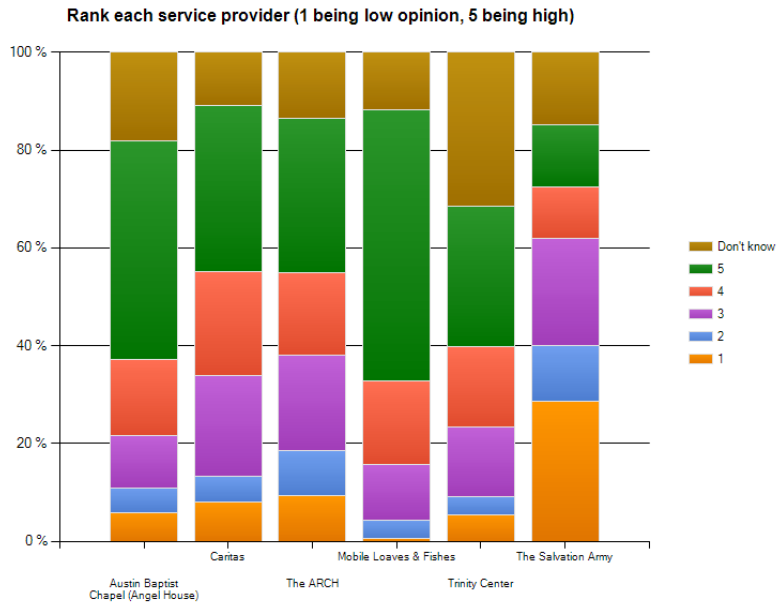
Of the 203 people who answered this question, most of them had positive feedback. Most respondents said that the people/organizations that help them are genuinely good people with helpful attitudes, and some even said they are a “blessing.” On the other hand, there were some negative comments, such as that they are not trustworthy and they don’t truly want to help, and also that they could be more impacting.

4. Do you ever receive food from Mobile Loaves & Fishes food runs (trucks)?

A great majority of people have received food from MLF (85%, 181 of 213 people). Most of those people had positive experiences with MLF food runs, but some people said that it is too crowded or that there needs to be more vegetarian choices.

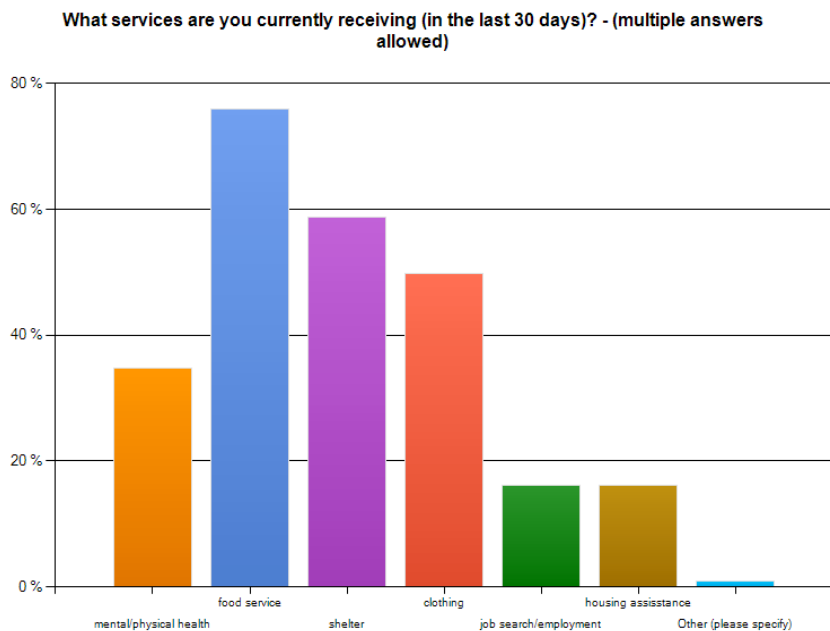
5. Which service provider is most reliable?

The respondents were asked to rank each service provider on a scale of 1-5 based on their own opinions of them. Mobile Loaves & Fishes received the highest ranking, followed by Austin Baptist Chapel (Angel House), Caritas, and The ARCH. The Salvation Army received the lowest ranking, and the Trinity Center was the least known service provider. Specifically, 44.6% (91 of 204 people) of those who ranked the Angel House gave it a 5; 34% (71 of 210 people) of those who ranked Caritas gave it a 5; 31.6% (68 of 215 people) of those who ranked The ARCH gave it a 5; 56% (114 of 205 people) of those who ranked MLF gave it a 5; 32% (65 of 206 people) of those who ranked Trinity Center did not know enough to rank them; 29% (60 of 210 people) of those who ranked the Salvation Army gave it a 1.



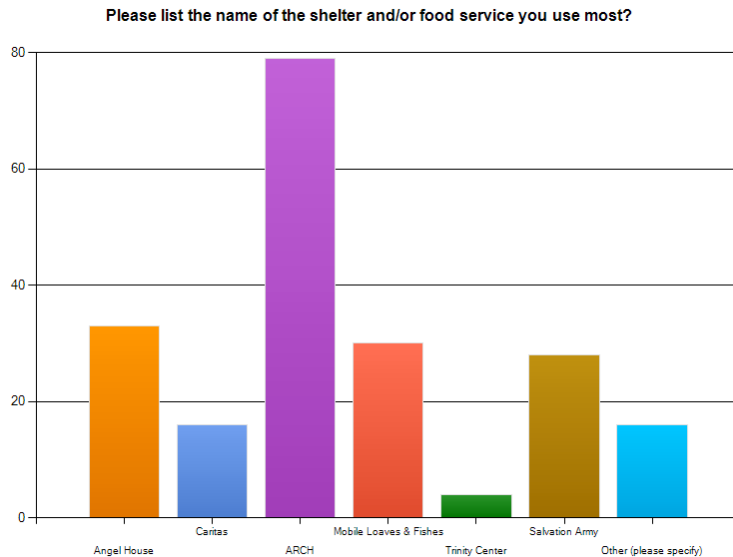
6. What services are you currently receiving (in the last 30 days)?

The largest answer was food service, followed by shelter, clothing, mental/physical health, and job search/employment and housing assistance; others listed some service agencies. Specifically, 35% of 69 people were receiving mental/physical health services; 76% of 151 people were receiving food services; 59% of 117 people were receiving shelter; 50% of 99 people were receiving clothing; 16% of 32 people were receiving job search/employment services as well as housing assistance. Apparently mental/physical health was not the highest priority for most of those surveyed, but according to a 2008 Salvation Army Homelessness Study, “an alarmingly high rate of homeless men faces a number of serious health problems.” The study also reported that bad health could be the main cause of homelessness for some.



7. Please list the name of the shelter and/or food service you use most?

Over a third of the respondents listed the ARCH, while the others listed several other service agencies. Specifically, 16% (33 of 206 people) listed Angel House; 8% (16 of 206 people) listed Caritas; 38% (79 of 206 people) listed the ARCH; 15% (30 of 206 people) listed MLF; 2% (4 of 206 people) listed Trinity Center; 14% (28 of 206 people) listed Salvation Army; and 8% (16 of 206 people) listed other shelters, such as churches or friends' houses.



8. Name one person in charge (the boss) of a homeless service agency.

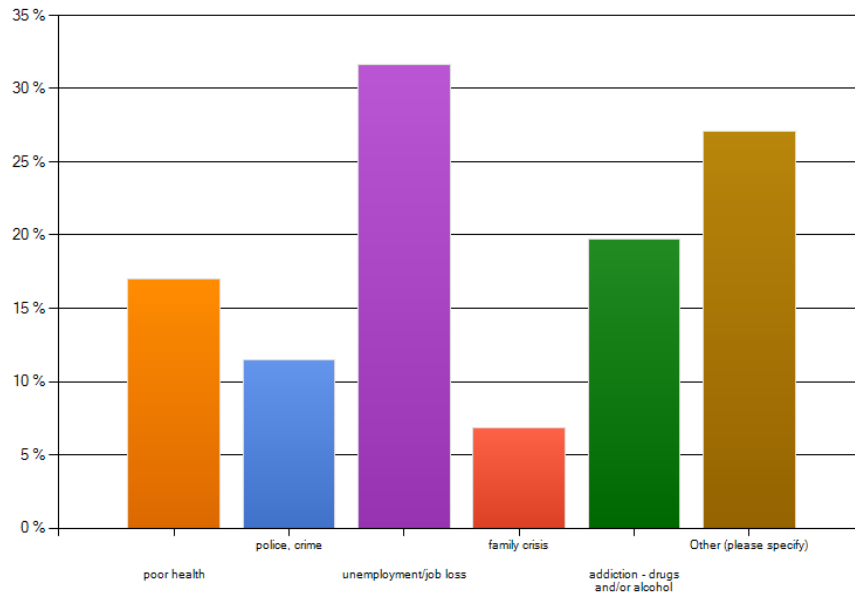
When asked if they could name an actual boss (person in charge) of a service agency (from memory – no list of names was given), most could not or gave no answer. Most of the people who did name an actual person named a case worker or manager. Of those who named an actual boss, most named Alan Graham of Mobile Loaves & Fishes and many named Helen Varty of ARCH. The single most named person was ARCH’s caseworker/manager, Robert.

SECTION 10: Family

1. What do you think was the main cause of your current situation of homelessness?

Nearly a third (31%, 69 of 218 responses) identified job loss/unemployment as the main cause. “Other” responses (about 27% of responses) included the economy, making bad choices, Hurricane Katrina, domestic abuse, and moving/traveling.

What do you think was the main cause of your current situation of homelessness? (multiple answers allowed, although not ideal)



2. Do you have a family support structure?

A telling and depressing two thirds (63%) answered no to this question. Those who did not have a family support structure were asked a follow-up question about other support structures. Approximately half named a friend or two while the other half answered that they have no support structure at all.

3. When was the last time you spoke to an immediate family member?

Given the pessimistic picture given by question two, it was heartening to find that a true majority (54%) of respondents answered that they had spoken to family that week. Only 15% of people had gone for 3 years or more without speaking to a family member.

A subsequent question was asked of everyone – who did you speak to last? Moms won this one hands down with siblings and children coming in a close second. Fathers, grandparents, and cousins completed the picture.

4. Have you ever been a part of the foster care system?

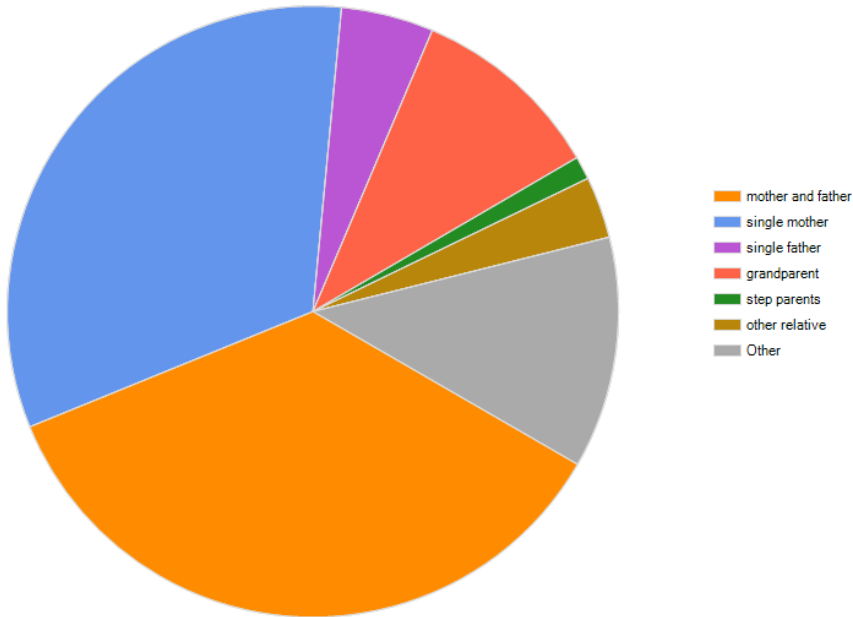
National studies including Child Protective Services show that anywhere from 25% to 40% of foster care children become at least temporarily homeless within their first 4 years of aging out at 18. At first glance, this survey's findings positively contradict those studies. Ninety percent (192 of 214 people) answered negatively to the question.

However, upon further investigation we studied the age–foster care relationship and realized that our particular set of survey participants are too old (averaging 45 to 54 years old) to have been a part of a relatively modern foster care system which was established in the last 20 – 30 years.

5. Who raised you?

While nearly 40% (87 of 220) answered a “traditional” family of mother and father, a total of 82% (179 of 220) were raised by at least one biological parent – be that a single mother, single father, or both mother and father.

Who raised you? (multiple answers allowed... please select "mother and father" for parents).



FINAL QUESTION

Today, what would a home look like to you?

Potentially one of the most telling parts of the entire survey, respondents were both practical and fanciful, humble and dreamers. Many people did not describe a physical space (white picket fence with a big yard) but, rather, gave us images of the people inside (relatives, loved ones) or emotions conjured up by the question (peace at last, a safe haven). It is remarkable to read.

1. with Mom and sister down South, TX

2. place to feel safe

3. 1-2 bedroom house with garage

4. safe haven

5. peace at last

6. White picket fence and a big front yard

7. small one bedroom with upstairs

8. Everything

9. Garden and Nice Roof

10. roof and a door

11. PLACE TO REST

12. California
13. Bedroom; kitchen; living-room; locking door
14. warm place
15. LOFT
16. SECURE; NICE
17. Anywhere there is peace.
18. Apartment with plants, crock pot, garden, gold fish, kitchen to cook; quiet and peaceful; warm.
19. Family around with love
20. comfort
21. anywhere to stay-Apt, efficiency, anything
22. Nice little brick house on one acre, get my dog back.
23. 4 or 3 bedroom house- has a 4 bedroom house in LA that his wife lives in.
24. clean, comfortable room
25. safe feeling; home to depend on; independence
26. bed with roof over it; doesn't care what it looks like
27. one in Westlake
28. log cabin, house in the woods; peaceful
29. good, positive, encouraging, moral environment
30. mansion
31. MARVELOUS
32. couch, chairs, TV and place to cook
33. mansion
34. A peaceful neighborhood in California
35. paradise
36. living, dining, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom-efficiency would work just as well, or apt.
37. Nice and clean, hardwood floors, TV screen, country kitchen, 3 bedrooms.
38. 4 walls, window, clean, safe from elements, big, small, apartments, hotels.

39. happy
40. roof, job, shower, sink, door
41. nice, couch, tv, pictures, carpets, a good part of town
42. Once I get in there and look around, I'll respond spontaneously, but definitely clean.
43. a dream
44. Plants on a windowsill, big bathtub
45. apartment
46. fenced yard; somewhere he sets the rules
47. her own place with her own things
48. a roof
49. roof overhead with windows
50. my own space with my own rules
51. somewhere comfortable and private
52. dismal
53. Place of comfort and love
54. place to set up a studio and make money
55. a home
56. Anything with a roof
57. Paradise
58. some place with 4 walls and a bedroom
59. All I would need is a roof
60. 4 bdr/2 bath/hardwood floors/2 story/small yard
61. APARTMENT
62. Basement with Christmas lights, 3 bedrooms, beautiful kitchen with fireplace, tv, pool and jacuzzi
63. ARCH
64. a relaxing and calm atmosphere
65. four walls and a roof

66. town home or condo
67. house with a porch
68. like the sky on a beautiful day
69. apartment down south
70. castle
71. An apartment
72. 1-bedroom apartment
73. In Austin on a river where I can fish with a job, family
74. tv, stereo, couch, table, kitchen table, fridge, pantry, linoleum floor, tub
75. 3 acre farm
76. natural
77. Some place habitable
78. peace, happiness, unity, prayer
79. Just a roof over my head
80. bedroom, kitchen, living room
81. old house; home of 8 years
82. a dream
83. nice, warm
84. not too big, sofa, tv, bed
85. a place to watch a game
86. Big and warm
87. Two bedroom, kitchen, living room, front & back yard, garage
88. Four bedrooms with everything.
89. tough question
90. exciting
91. Beautiful
92. castle
93. House

94. It would look great
95. fridge, bath, bed
96. in the country--a home
97. Heaven
98. 2-bedroom/2-bathroom condo
99. apple decor, garden, water, rocking chair
100. Some place safe, come and go as you please, eat when you want to eat
101. House with 3 bedrooms and 2 car garage
102. House with a nice yard
103. community, family
104. A dream
105. a house; anything would look like a palace
106. heaven, 4 bdr, 4 bath
107. nice and comfortable
108. A place to shower and eat
109. normal home
110. Bed and a TV
111. Heaven
112. Porch, garage, back yard
113. Everything nice
114. Stability
115. Paradise
116. Four walls, a door, and a bathroom.
117. Amarillo
118. Kitchen in it
119. something with a roof
120. Anywhere you find love and are loved in
121. Better than the streets

122. yard, garden, kitchen
123. paradise
124. House with bed and A/C
125. home with father, mother and kids
126. low income housing
127. Not much of a dreamer, would be fantastic
128. home
129. Bed, bath, kitchen and furnace
130. Very nice, a dream
131. beautiful with all my stuff
132. One room apartment to go to at night
133. place of my own with my own responsibilities
134. In a nice neighborhood, yard, kids, wife, plants, out in the country, and a dog.
135. A house of my own, able to take care of my needs
136. Apartment
137. A place with me in it
138. lovely
139. paradise
140. four walls and a roof
141. farm house
142. four walls, some privacy
143. great, fabulous
144. a place that is safe and mine with my things
145. A place with love
146. Great
147. a safe haven
148. a blessing
149. white picket fence, rose garden

150. really big, quiet, me and my son; food, fireplace
151. bedroom, living room, dining, kitchen
152. apartment
153. a dream
154. beautiful, large 2 master bdrs, big house, 20K
155. something secure and blessed
156. small house in the country
157. 2 bedroom apartment in south
158. regular house
159. anything besides woods
160. 4 walls and a locked door
161. something he owns, under his name, pays rent
162. little white house and picket fence with a yard to mow and a job to support it and a wife to enjoy it with
163. place, peace
164. food, fridge, fireplace, TV, garden, freedom of schedule
165. bed, kitchen, bathroom
166. clean, wife and kids
167. 1 room
168. Indoors, carpet, lazy boy, xbox. An apartment or house someday.
169. efficiency apt
170. 2 floors; 2-5 bedrooms
171. shows big smile: thought keeps him going everyday
172. nice living room; 2 bedroom, nothing fancy; something to call home
173. food, bedroom, something with a key and lights; water and gas
174. 2-car garage and a dog
175. a castle
176. decorated, doors and windows

-
- 177.** basic, one story
-
- 178.** Be good
-
- 179.** Heaven
-
- 180.** Anything to call my own
-
- 181.** A place where I had a key
-
- 182.** It would take so much pressure off me
-
- 183.** with a good home
-
- 184.** Possibly buy grandparents home
-
- 185.** Peaceful
-
- 186.** Good, lovely, happy place
-
- 187.** lovely
-
- 188.** Group Home
-
- 189.** walls, roof, bed, appliances, a/c, utilities on, pet
-
- 190.** Castle on a hill
-
- 191.** A comfortable roof over my head
-
- 192.** Roof, doors, peace
-
- 193.** A castle
-
- 194.** Front porch, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, living room, fridge, tv, coffee maker, stove, fridge
-
- 195.** A miracle
-
- 196.** comfortable
-
- 197.** A palace
-
- 198.** White picket fence next to a lake
-
- 199.** kids, family
-
- 200.** beautiful, church
-
- 201.** he could breathe again, feed himself, etc.
-
- 202.** paradise, efficiency
-
- 203.** Flat screen tv and a couch
-

204. apartment, house, condo, trailer with utilities

205. a house on a piece of my own property

206. trailer, apartment, or house

207. Lovely

208. Beautiful

209. pleasant, area that has a lot of work

210. nice, comfortable

###

APPENDICES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. List of collaborating parties
2. Survey questionnaire
3. Open ended replies for various questions
4. www.surveymonkey.com results

List of Collaborative Parties

Lead Organizers

Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Seeds for Change Consulting
St. Edward's University Interns

Survey Tool Creators

Alan Graham
Andy Patlan
Ben Sabin
Carly Murrell
Charlie Fern
Elyse Longoria
Kori Gough
Stacy Ehrlich

Survey Site Agencies

All Saints' Episcopal Church
Angel House
ARCH/Front Steps
Church Under the Bridge/
Mission Possible
City of Austin
First United Methodist Church
Salvation Army
Trinity Center

Survey Volunteer Groups

Austin Waldorf High School
First United Methodist Church
Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Seeds for Change Consulting
St. Andrew's Episcopal High School
St. Edward's University
St. John Newman Catholic Church

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Authors of Beyond Homelessness – the original inspiration for the project

Brian J. Walsh
Steven Bouma – Prediger

Public Relations

Casey Communications
Seeds for Change Consulting
St. Edward's University
St. Edward's University Interns

Printer

Quantum

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Interviewer
Email
Date
Location

Date Entered
Initials

Have you taken this survey already this summer? YES NO

Do you consider yourself homeless? YES NO Maybe (_____)

How long? _____

IF NO, END SURVEY

Brief Description to match survey to photo: (hair, shirt)

NO PHOTO

I. Demographic

1. Name _____ (optional)

2. Male or Female

3. Marital Status

Married

Single

Divorced

Separated

Widowed

4. Age _____

5. Where did you spend your childhood? _____ (City, State)

6. Where have you spent most of your last 5 years? _____

If answer is not Austin, how long have you been in Austin? _____

7. Ethnicity

Hispanic

African American

Caucasian/White

Asian

Other _____

8. Do you associate yourself with a certain religion? If so which one? _____

9. Are you a military veteran? YES NO

If yes, where you honorably discharged? YES NO

10. Do you have a diagnosed mental illness? YES NO

Bi-polar

Schizophrenia

Depression

Addiction / Recovery

Other _____

11. Do you have a physical ailment? YES NO
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Limb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dental | <input type="checkbox"/> MS/Parkinson's |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
12. Do you have a felony criminal record?
 YES nature of crime(s) _____ NO
 If yes, are you currently on parole? _____
13. Which is the best way for someone to reach you?
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Address |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cell/Prepaid Phone | <input type="checkbox"/> P.O. Box |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific location | <input type="checkbox"/> Texting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media like Facebook | |

PERSONAL

1. What is your biggest concern or fear about living on the street?

2. What would make you feel safer?

3. What is the greatest challenge you face as a homeless person today?

4. Are there any advantages of being on the street? YES NO If so, what are they?

5. Do you want to continue your current lifestyle or are you trying to change your situation? (circle)
6. Where do you picture yourself in the next 6 to 12 months?

7. Describe to me a recent experience where you were really happy.

8. What do you miss most about your life **before** homelessness?

9. On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you feel about the police? (1 being low opinion, 5 being high)
 1 2 3 4 5 _____
10. Are you afraid of going to jail/prison? YES NO

11. What is the one thing you wish people would know about you?

II. Education/Skills

1. What is the highest grade in school you finished? _____

2. Would you be interested in a skills training program or furthering your education? YES NO

3. What job skills do you possess? _____

3 a . If you could learn another skill, what would it be? _____

4. Are you functionally literate? (can you read a menu, street signs, newspaper?) YES NO

5. Have you ever had a valid Driver's License? YES NO

Do you have one now? YES NO If no, do you have a government ID or passport? YES NO

III. Employment

a) Do you have a job now? YES Part Time / Full Time No

b) If not, how long have you been unemployed?

0-2 years 2-5 years over 5 years

c) Do you want a job? YES NO

d) What kind of job?

Art

Construction/Repair

Culinary/Kitchen

Home Maintenance/Repair

IT/Computers/Software

Manual Labor

Mechanic

Sales

Agriculture/Farming/Ranching

Counseling/Social Work

Factory/Manufacturing

Janitorial/Cleaning

Landscaping

Other _____

IV. Finances:

1. What kinds of financial assistance do you receive?

Welfare

Food Stamps

Medicare/Medicaid

Employment

Disability

Pension

Family

Others Sources _____

No Assistance Received

4. Do you ever receive food from Mobile Loaves & Fishes food runs (trucks)? YES NO
If yes, describe your experience(s).

5. Which service provider is most reliable? 5 a) Rank Each 1 being low opinion, 5 being high

<input type="checkbox"/> Austin Baptist Chapel (Angel House)	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Caritas	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> The ARCH	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Loaves & Fishes	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Trinity Center	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/> The Salvation Army	1	2	3	4	5

6. What services are you currently receiving (in the last 30 days)?

- Mental/ Physical Health
- Food Service
- Shelter
- Clothing
- Job Search/Employment
- Housing Assistance

7. Please list the name of the shelter and/or food service you use most? _____

a) Why do you use them? _____

8. Name one person in charge (the boss) of a homeless service agency.

VII. Family

1. What do you think was the main cause of your current situation of homelessness?

2. Do you have a family support structure? YES NO

i. If no, any other support? _____

3. When was the last time you spoke to an immediate family member? _____
(who)

- This week
- This Year
- Last year

Over 3 years ago

4. Have you ever been a part of the foster care system? YES NO

5. Who raised you? _____

VIII. Other

Today, what would a home look like to you?

Open Ended Responses

Demographics

Names of Individual Participants

Larry Hunter	Tim Patterson	Herbert Patrick Blont
Corliss Dorsey	Jan Clagrett	Donny Birch
James McFarlin	Troy Graves	Wallace Ring
Kevin	Derrick	Linda
Koretha	Marty	Manuel Alcozer
Jorge Salas	Hamilton	Rick
Randy	McCampbell	Brian Acuna
Jason Davis	Tony	Marvin
Todd	Robert Foster	Victor
Steve Devin	Gregory	Terry Wayne Turner
Jesse Rodriguez	James Jamison	Manuel Herrera
William Johnson	Ben	Raeley Dixon
Hudson Blanks	Mimi McCarthy	Bridgette
Johnny Rivera	Ricardo Macias	Gabriel
Don	Robin	Jennifer Lewis
Mark	MiMi	Flora Bryant
Sammy	James	Jim
Theo Ree	Gaynell Swinnie	Arnette
Raymund Griffin	Fred	Greg Caballero
Junior Barnett	Samuel	Kim
Paul Challenge	Juan	George
William	Charles	Malcolm
Jerry Freeman	Tony	Sundara
John	Carlton	Robert Carter
Theo Jackson	Billy William	Stacie
James Fox	Paul	Mike Perriera
Terry	Eric	Stanley
Terry	Christopher King	George Winn, Jr.
Chris	James	Oswaldo Chavez
Tony	West Black	Robert Guttierrez
Judy	Ronnie	Evelyn Ann Griffith
Linda H.	GLEN	Jack Johnson
Juan	Isaac	Sterling Roe
Emanuel Casso	Larry	Jeffrey
Edward Medina	Robert Hagen	James Jameson
George	Jeff	Jeffrey Vestal
Tom W.	Mike	James Parker
Darrell	Irene Ockelberry	James
Riso	Felicia	Daniel Artis
Donald	Melanie	Gary Bostick
Hudson	Dustin	William
	Danny Harvey	

Victor Perez
Andre
Juan
Daniel
William Johnson
Christina
Krystal
Tim Dunn
Kurt Taube
Reginald Montague
Amos
Floyd
Jim
"Touy" (sp?) Brian
Shawn
Jesse Ortiz
Carl Meche
Kim Perkins
Ian
Sylvestor
Hudson
Lee Harimon
Terrell Reed
Youlanda
Burnett Malone
D. M.
James White
Larry Wendel

Abraham Hernandez
Pete
Joe
David Watson
Joshua Torres
Lawerence T
Ricky Bunton
Garry McDowell
Wiley Otto
Lucille
Nathaniel Cooke
Jimmy Caples
Keith
Charles
Gene
Mathew Keele
Jesse Ortiz
Raymond Griffin
Robert Keller
Rich Carlton
Robert
Steve
Charles
Dianna
Jim Fox
Larry
Rico
Lee Wacker

Chapman
Aiyanna
Pete
Joe K.
Cory C.
Kevin Davis
Michael Shannon
Ronald Johnson
Hilton Joseph
Mark
Debra Hook-Bogy
Rodney
Tony
India
Janet
Geraldo
Will
Gilbert
Elena Hernandez
Albert
Gabriel L.
Richard
Donald West
Alex Deleon
Frederick
John Hill

Do you have a mental illness?

Other:

ADHD
anxiety
anxiety
did not specify
Dementia
Heroin
Mental Retardation
Multiple Personality, PTSD
paranoia, type A, suicidal
post traumatic stress disorder
psychosis
psychotic
PTS
PTSD
PTSD
PTSD
Seizures
seizures

Do you have a physical illness?

Other:

7 Ulcers	Hep B & C
anemic	Hep C
Asthma	Hep C
Asthma	Hep C
Asthma	HEP-C
asthma	HEPATITIS C
Asthma	hepatitis, COPD
Asthma, back problems	Hyper-tension; hepatitis-C
Asthma, COPD on lower spine	Migraines
back problems	nerve damage
been in hospital but never diagnosed - "they gave up on me"	nervousness
blind; Hep C	Osteomyelitis
Bone tumors	pacemaker
brain injury at birth	Pancreatic Issues
brown recluse spider bite	scoliosis-bad back
COPD	SCIATICA
epilepsy	Seizures
epilepsy	seizures
Epilepsy	Seizures
heart	sleep apnea
heart disease	stomach and anemia
heart failure	TMJ; bleeding kidney

PERSONAL

What is your biggest concern or fear about living on the street?

Other

all alone, boyfriend in jail	No fear; loner lines; concern that there are many others
all needs are taken care of	No fears
being stereotyped	no home, no family
Clothing	none
Diabetic	none
disease, hunger, age	none
Doing drugs	none
drugs	None
drugs	none
germs, health	none
getting too used to it	none - "you must conquer it"
health	none, I enjoy it
health	none-can defend herself
health	Nothing
health	nothing
health and environment; dehydration	nothing
Hunger	nothing - used to it, tired of it
Illness	not able to take care of 7 year old son who is with grandmother
inaccessible/inappropriate medical care	other homeless people
Instability	Other homeless people, selfish people
Loneliness	people don't care, hungry
loneliness	staying clean
losing my mind	the unexpected
lure of alcohol and drugs, can't get clean	what to do with himself all day
No fear	
no fear	
No fear	

What would make you feel safer?

Other:

"lock up the crazy people"	Don't know
a bodyguard	Faith in God
a place for women besides Salvation Army	family
alcohol	feels safe here
Army training makes me feel safe	feels safe now
Being able to get into shelters	feels safe now
being around Christian people	God makes me feel safe
belief in Jesus Christ	Having a doctor
Closer connection with God	Having family support
Dealing with it	he feels safe
doesn't matter	if police were more understanding
	independence

Jesus
less police harassment
medical assistance, SSI benefits
more police
More police
my boyfriend
No safe place in the world
no safety concerns
not getting harassed
Not sure
Nothing
nothing

nothing
nothing
Program to educate homeless people
Security and more guards
Security guards
solid/spiritual life
some disability income
stability
staying in shelter
stick with people I know
Winning the lottery

What is the greatest challenge you face as a homeless person today?

addiction
Afraid I might hurt someone
all of it
attaining stability
basic necessities - food, shelter, etc.
bathroom
being able to pay rent
Being accepted under circumstances
being around different people
being homeless
being homeless
Being white
Carrying around my possessions
carrying belongings place to place
clothes
Dealing with different people everyday
Depression
detoxing
Diabetes
disability
drugs, marital relationship, job, housing
employment
employment
employment
Everything, homelessness in general
eye issues
facing other homeless people
Financial resources
Finding a job
finding a job
finding a job
finding a job
finding a job and getting cleaned up for the interview

finding a job and place to live
Finding a job that I can last at.
Finding a job with a felony charge
Finding a job, no one wants to hire homeless people
finding a job; discrimination against homeless people
Finding a place to sleep
Finding affordable housing
Finding employment
finding employment
finding employment
finding food
finding food and job
Finding help
finding job
finding job
finding job despite physical ailments; no assistance
finding place to stay
finding someone who'll rent to someone with 5 kids
finding somewhere safe to sleep
Finding the right resources-too many resources its a maze
Finding Work
finding work
finding work
finding work
finding work
finding work
finding work
food
Get off the street
Getting a job / Project RIO
getting a job
getting a job
getting a job
getting a job

getting a job
getting a job
getting a job
getting a job
getting a job, especially in these times
getting a job, no home address
getting a place to live to start again
getting arrested
getting assistance as homeless, blind person
getting back on my feet
getting clothes
getting employment
getting food
getting help
Getting medical help
getting my assets up, services
Getting off the street
Getting paperwork to get a job (ID's etc)
Getting through each day safely
getting to my appointments
Getting work
getting work
Going to hospital with brother
harassment
having to face myself everyday
Health
health
health
health, then employment
heat, not being able to sit down
housing
housing
housing, jobs, women's housing
hygiene, food, storing his property
Inadequate medical care
jail
job
job
job
job, especially with felony
job, healthcare
Just coping with everything day-to-day
keeping a job
keeping appointments
lack of hope
Lack of Money
lack of self-esteem
learning to figure it out
Life

living on streets, no clean bed
Long hours; finding a place to stay
loneliness
Looking for work
losing property
making it everyday
Making it from day to day
mobility
Money, housing, food
money, work
My depression
n/a
needs a steady job
no answer
no food, no home
no having a place to live
no home; a place to go at end of day
no housing, need to sleep inside
no money
no money, no good food
no phone
none
none, get money for food, like everyone's company
Not being able to get a job because of physical and
mental ailments
Not having a weapon to defend myself
not having ID, getting job, bouncing back
not knowing what is going to happen tomorrow
Nothing
nowhere to stay
Open-Ended Response
other people
other people
overcoming discouragement
place to sleep
police
police
police and finding a place to sleep every night
Police giving campus tickets
proper motivation
Qualifying for housing
Racism an lack of faith in people
remaining sane
responsibility
safety
Searching for work day to day
shelter
SLEEP
Sleeping on the street

stay warm	transition to full time work
Staying alive	transportation
staying alive	true friends
Staying clean	trying to find a flight
staying clean	Trying to eat
staying clean and doing laundry	Trying to find a job
staying clean and health needs	Trying to find a job
Staying clean, falling back into the wrong crowd	Trying to find food
staying focused on positive things, staying clean and sober	trying to get a job
staying off drugs and alcohol	trying to get along
Staying out of jail	trying to get benefits for disability
staying warm	trying to get disability
steady work	trying to get out of the situation
stress of being homeless	trying to get SS disability
stuck in a rut	trying to keep my sanity, trying not to make bad decisions end up in jail.
survival	unemployment
survival	Unemployment
survival	Unemployment
survival, food, shelter	Unemployment
surviving	Unemployment
surviving	Unemployment
surviving day to day	Unemployment
surviving, eating	Unemployment, being able to get medication
surviving, existing, interacting with people	weather and staying hydrated
Taking care of child	who I am
talk to others	witnessing other homeless individuals worse off
The type of environment I live in	work
the unexpected	
To stay motivated and hopeful	

Are there advantages of being on the street? If yes, what are they?

a lot of people helping him	Freedom to be irresponsible
can get free things	freedom, but it comes with hardships
cheaper	if you want to live carefree
Closer to God	interaction with variety of different personalities
don't have to deal with people	Isolation
don't have to follow rules	it varies
don't have to pay rent	it's free
don't have to work	Know where to get drugs
expedited services, free medications	knowledge and freedom
food truck	learning experience to never do it again
free	Medical
Freedom	mobility - free to move
freedom	never would have been accepted into the Chavanist
freedom	community
Freedom	nice people who are helping me
freedom and protection	No bills

No bills
no bills
no bills
No bills
No bills
no bills, no responsibility
no living expenses or bills
no rent
no rent
No rent, free food
no responsibility
no routine, do whatever you want
no rules/regulations, freedom
No, responsibilities.
not having anyone question you

not taxed, no child support
Obama's money for homeless is not here on the streets of Austin
people help him out with employment or money
people who help
see things that you would not otherwise see; get to
be more in touch with yourself
sense of freedom
Soup Kitchen, agencies
TB
witness and lift up the name of Jesus
You have people helping you
you learn a lot

Where do you picture yourself in the next 6 to 12 months?

Other:

Alive and well	out of Austin
back in California	place where diabetes can be monitored
can't change, bad back keeps me from getting a job, by the time you get a health appt. your MAP card	the time you get a health appt. your MAP card
has expired	rebuilding relationships
car	receiving SS; continuing sign language
either not homeless or dead	school
happy	sober, serving the Lord
hope not here	still here at the Arch
In Heaven	Still in Austin
In school	with a car
motel	working as a soldier for Christ
Not Homeless	writing her book
Only God knows	

Describe to me a recent experience where you were really happy.

"when I met my Gail" (wife?)
2 kids in Dallas; 26 and 27 years
2 weeks ago - a job
2-3 years ago living with mother and going to school in Dallas
3 years ago, Xmas in Sacramento
4 years ago - mom was still alive
5 years ago with good job and family
54th birthday
A few days ago, went to apply for food stamps. He was approved!
a good day job
all the time
as a child
At a doctor's office
Ate a nice chicken dinner
aunt's wedding
Award for writing at Trinity
Back in St. Louis with friends an family
been awhile
been awhile
Being able to help somebody else
Being around good friends
Being sober
being with family
Being with family
Birth of child
bought car two weeks ago
brotherhood
can't really remember
Can't remember
can't remember
can't remember
can't remember one
Can't remember.
can't think of anything
Can't think of one
Childhood with Grandfather
children for adoption/graduation
Christmas
church
Church under the bridge
coming here today
coming to Arch today
coming to the stand down
Contacted family
couple of days ago - she was "with someone"
Don't know; good all the time.
don't remember any

Don't think I have ever been happy
Enrolling in Capital Ideas
every morning
everyday
everyday
Every day I just wake up, nothing to experience
every day, speaking to mom
family event
family time
Fishing
Found an old girlfriend on facebook
Found money on the street
Found some work at a friend's house
full time job in KY
getting a job
getting a paycheck to go out
Getting out of prison although misses security
Got a jacket
Got disability
Got some cash from family
got to see grandkids
grandson turned 11
Had a job
had a job, car and place to live
Hanging out with friends
happy at the hospital with a room and tv
happy childhood; memories put smile on his face
happy every day, especially if he doesn't have seizures
happy for his son's friend who received a new car
Happy in Waco but had to get away from family
happy right now
happy still alive - shoes and clothes
happy that I was approved for credit at Radio Shack
happy to hear that my ex girlfriend wants to see him
hard to remember
having money
he got some good news
he hasn't been
hearing from my family
helping a deaf girl get an MLF bag
Helping friends
helping friends; giving advice
human kindness, simple acts
I can't remember
I found out I might have a job
In 2006 ran a flea market, had my life together
in jail and God got me out
in the mornings when able to be inside a building
Irish family gave out ice cold coke

it's been a long time
It's been a while but ...met a guy from Milwaukee and having great conversation
it's been awhile
January 2006 when I got out of prison
job interview
July 24, 2008, marriage
Just being with my wife
kids yesterday with sister in law (ages 11, 8, 6 and 3)
knowing people still love me, feeling useful
last Thanksgiving when his daughter came by
last year
little acts of kindness
Living w/ my sister 6 months ago
Living with ex-girlfriend
making jewelry for people
Meeting my nephew
memories with my girlfriend
met a girl
Met a guy I knew from another program
met a man
met a person 2 mos ago; personal level/connection
Met a real friend last summer in Kansans
moved into an apartment
moved into my place
No reason to be happy

no recent experience
none
none
not sure
Nothing
nothing recent
one year when I got off the streets
past Christmas in Flagstaff, AZ
Prayer meeting today at the ARCH
receiving notice of hearing for SS disability
recovery house for outside fun activities
reunited with a friend
right now
right now
Saw father this week
Saw God 3 years ago
Seeing a friend
Seeing brother
Seeing daughters
seeing grand baby
seeing mom
Seeing others happy

Sept my kid called
September9- Enrolled at ITT
Sexual relations
sharing with other homeless
she she was found eligible for an apt in July
sitting by river yesterday
Someone threw me a surprise party
Son was born 2008
Spending time with girlfriend and her daughter
st year that I moved back to Austin w/ my daughter
started talking to my family again
Talking to a social worker makes me happy; a real person
talking to daughter
talking to my 12-year-old son's mom
talking to my family
talking to son on computer
the day I got out of prison
The day I stopped drinking
this morning
today
today - his birthday
waking up everyday
waking up, breathing air makes him happy
watching a football game
went to a UT game, unexpectedly got a ticket
when alone with girlfriend
when he got out of jail
when he was a D.J.
when he was happily married
when he was released from prison
When I found out my boyfriend hadn't left me, he is in jail
When I got my glasses and to see the doctor.
when I got my job
when I got to see my boyfriend
When I had a job
When I had housing
When I had my own place
when I met my boyfriend
when I sing
when I wake up
When I was accepted to ITT
when I was living with my sister
when I was married
When I was with my boyfriend
When I was working
When in jail, they threw out the case and let me go
when living at home
when mom was alive
when I had my own place

With a girlfriend 2 months ago
 With girlfriend
 with girlfriend in recovery center
 With husband eating bbq.
 with kids in July 08
 with my children
 with my kids
 Went to church under the bridge
 worked the last 3 1/2 days for someone he goes to church with
 Working
 working about 3 months ago
 working and married, 10-15 years ago
 yesterday - spiritual brother and sister picked him up and bought him pants and shoes
 yesterday with girlfriend
 Yesterday, being able to go to the grocery store

What do you miss most about your life *before* homelessness?

Other:

being happy	no regrets
Being with a woman	nothing
car	nothing
COOKING	nothing
cooking	Nothing
cooking	Nothing
different life	nothing
Don't know	nothing, had to grow up quick was abused as child
everything	Other (please specify)
everything	peace
feeling independent	relationship with church
freedom	self esteem
freedom	Television
Happiness	television
independence	travelling
joy	Vehicle
limited to what you can do on the street	want to start over
Material things	Women
missing out on many things	

What is the one thing you wish people would know about you?

"I care"
 "I'm a cool dude"
 "my heart, I have a good heart"
 "that I don't bite"
 "That I love Jesus!"

"we're human beings too"
[I'm} a good guy, outgoing, easy-going, happy-go-lucky
a million things, my intelligence
about to get paid
attitude towards life - "life is a test until you reach the hereafter"
Be prepared to hear the truth
better person on the inside
care
could care less about general public but want possible employers to know my skills
could help out others
doesn't care
doesn't want people to know about him
Don't care what other people think of me.
Don't judge me
Don't know
Don't know
don't know
Easiest Guy in Austin
easy going guy
easygoing
easy-going guy
even though he's homeless, he's not hopeless - he has Jesus
Everyone knows everything about me, I am a good person
everyone's one paycheck away from being homeless; we're not all crackheads
friendly person
generous person
genuinely kind person
good heart
good job skills; 25 yrs experience doing construction and certified welding
good person
good person
good person
good person at heart
good person hanging around wrong people
good person...honest
good person; hard worker
good personality
good with electronics
good, honest person who cares for others
good-hearted
hard worker
hard worker
has 4 sons (age 19-32 years of age)
has God in life and wants to change the situation he's in
he has a lot of love and concern for others
he has love and care for others
he is a good person
He is really trying to help himself
he tries so hard

he wasn't always like this
he's honest
how nice he is
I always try to do good
I am a Christian and very educated; don't get it twisted.
I am a good person
I am a good person, don't turn up your nose
I am a happy person
I am a hard worker
I am a human being
I am honest, just trying to make my way through life
I am human, homeless are people too
I am just a human trying to survive
I am not here by choice
I don't know
I have a college education
I have a good heart
I have a good personality; helpful, social
I have a kind heart and am caring
I like to travel
I love Jesus Christ
I love to sing and make people happy
I try to be a decent person. I'm not volatile or a trouble maker
I want my kids back and want a home
I was a king.
I'm a compassionate person.
I'm a friendly person
I'm a good, trustworthy person
I'm a good guy and I'm friendly.
I'm a good person
I'm a good person
I'm a good person
I'm a good person
I'm a good person
I'm a good person
I'm a good person
I'm a good person who has made some bad decisions and one day I will have a normal life and I love my daughter.
I'm a good person, I'll help anyone if they would just give me a chance.
I'm a great singer
I'm a happy person
I'm a hard worker
I'm a hard worker
I'm a hard worker
I'm a helpful person
I'm a kind, considerate person
I'm a likeable person
I'm a nice person
I'm a people person
I'm a person who loves life and people

I'm a spiritual person that doesn't get it twisted
I'm a very nice person
I'm an artist
I'm an easy person
I'm an individual
I'm compassionate
I'm considerate
I'm hard working and honest
I'm honest
I'm honest, hard worker would be a great employee
I'm just a great/good looking guy
I'm kind and harmless
I'm loving, caring, and giving
I'm nice
I'm not a bum
I'm not a scary, mean person
I'm not as aggressive as I used to be
I'm pretty smart
I'm really a good and helpful person
I'm smart and talented
I'm very respectful
I'm walking with Jesus
inner self
just a good person
kind hearted, sweet
kind, good-hearted
Know that I'm a Christian
likes coke - ice cold
make a difference
my heart; how good I am with people
My viewpoints
N/A
Need a chance
Need employment
no one wants to be homeless
not a bad person
not all criminals are bad people
Not all homeless people are druggies, not lazy, we panhandle for food not drugs
Not arrogant, I'm older brother
Not as bad as I act
Nothing
nothing
nothing
nothing
nothing
open and honest, unique experience, keep up to develop view-point
people shouldn't be rude, not a horrible person
poetry
quiet person

real person
remembered as a good person, wants a chance with God
Resources I can use and I won't abuse it
she's caring
she's granddaughter of civil rights activist (LBJ); she's angered by the things she sees on the street
Sometimes he wants to be left alone
stereotypes of homeless people don't fit my life
Stop the stigmatism of homelessness
that he has emotions; sometimes he wants to scream and say he needs help
that he is a good person
that he is God fearing
That homeless people are people too. They do what they can to survive.
That I am a good person
That I am a good person
that I am a hard worker
That I am a poet, musician, and song writer
That I am honest and respectful
That I can be trusted
That I can work.
that I care
that I care
That I care about others.
that I care to have a life, be somebody
that I play chess
That I'm a Christian
that I'm a good guy
That I'm an honest guy.
That I'm honest, good person and hard worker
that I'm trying
That when I speak I am telling the truth and am sincere
trustworthy
trying hard
trying to be good person; do not rob or steal
unbelievable person
Used to be pretty honest but not anymore
very good person and loves kids
very private person; nice
wants to walk
We are people too, I'm a good person
What a good person I am
what I've been through
Who I am.
Who I really am

Education: If you could learn another skill, what would it be?

A/C	computer trade, welding
A/C	computers
A/C Repair	Computers
A/C tech	computers
AC technician	computers
ac/refrigerator repair	computers
accounting	computers
accounting	computers
accounting, biz mgt	computers
air conditioning	computers
air conditioning and heating	computers
ANY	computers
Any	computers
Anything	computers
anything legal	computers
Auto CAD	computers
auto mechanic	computers
auto mechanic and computer skills	computers
automotive	computers
barber license	computers
barber, cosmetology	computers
better tattooing	computers
brick mason	computers
bus driver	computers
business	computers
business	computers
business course	Computers
CAD	computers
carpentry	computers
Carpeting	Computers
CDL	Computers
Chauffeur, butler	computers
Clerical work	Computers
clerical, have to have a sit down job	computers
Commercial truck driving	Computers
communication	Computers
comp skills	computers
computer	Computers
computer analyst	computers, business
Computer graphics	Computers, engineering, electronics
computer programming	computers/short hand
computer programming	construction
Computer Skills	construction
computer skills	computers
computer tech	Counseling
computer tech	CPA

crane operator	Medical
creative writing, computers	medical
different language	medicine
doesn't know	Medicine
don't know	mental, electronics
don't know	more A/C
don't know	more cooking; plumbing
drawing and architecture	music
driving a truck	Music
electric	Music
electric, body work	N/A
electrician	N/A
electrician	no interest
electrician, AC/Heating	None
electronics	nothing
Everything	nothing
film	Nurse
finishing what he started	Nursing
foreman	nursing and computer programming
French	office skills
Game programming	office work
gunsmith, nursing	Paralegal
heating and AVC	Pipe fitting
heavy equipment	pipng, welding
heavy equipment operator	Real Estate
helping people	Real Estate
helping somebody	REALTOR
home maintenance	Sailing
HVAC	sales
increase skills in those he already possesses	sign language
industrial	so many, management
Industrial side of electrical work	social work
inside work	Social work
interpreting sign language	social work
Janitorial work	Social worker
language	social worker
lawyer	Something that pays well
learn how to make video games, computer programmer, something	something to do with kids
characters	tile installation
like working with kids	Truck Driver
Machine Operator	truck driver
martial arts	truck driver
math	truck driver
mechanic	Truck driving
mechanic	Truck driving
mechanic	truck driving
med billing and coding	truck driving
medial recip	truck driving
medical	Truck driving

truck driving
Trucking
Typing
typing
upgrade office/ acct.
Video game programmer
Volunteering

waiting tables
welder
Welding
welding
wood work
Xray Tech
X-ray technician

Employment: What kind of job would you like?

Other (please specify)

AC repair
Admin.
animals
any
any areas listed above
any job!
Anything
Anything
anything
anything
anything
anything
anything
anything
anything he can get
Anything that would help me
Book keeping
bus driver
car detailing
Car washing
carpentry
clerical
clerical, was working at IRS as
clerk
copy shop work
cosmetology
design work
electrical
electrician
Electricians helper
Game Programmer

Hospitality
HVAC
jeweler
key role in financial services
Law
management
mechanical engineer
medical
music engineering
non labor
not reading holds me back
nursing
office, clerical
Oil rig, engineering.
restaurant
screen printer
security
something not physical
teaching
telemarketing
Temp
truck driver
Truck driver
truck driver
Truck driving
trucking
viable toner cartridges
with kids
working with animals
X-ray technician

Finances: What kinds of financial assistance do you receive?

Other (please specify)

\$100 per week from project	SS
RIO	SS
donating blood; plasma	SSI
MAP	SSI
MAP	SSI
MAP CARD	SSI
MAP CARD	SSI
Map card	SSI
MAP card	Veteran Assistance
MAP card	Waiting for Navy Pension
MHMR	

Housing: On most nights, where do you sleep?

Other (please specify)

anywhere	Lutheran Church, camp out with permission
anywhere	MEHLS Hotel
anywhere	motel
behind church	move around a lot due to crime downtown
car	parking lot
Church	temp apt
Church	Texan Motel
church	Texan Motel
church house on 10th and Guadalupe	trailer
Church steps	varies
every day is different	warehouse
History(?) Center	weekly rate motel
house	Wherever I can
In my car	wherever I can

Housing What housing options do you know of?

Other (please specify)

"lots"	family, friends, shelter
"police"	Front Steps
ACCESS	Garden Terrace, etc.
Apartment finder online	Garden Terrace
Apartment or to buy a house	Garden Terrace
case management	Garden Terrace
Craig's List, foreclosure	govt
did not say the names	govt
fair market housing (because of criminal record)	Hurough V.A.; looks like it will work; several
family	apartments

Local Apartment Finder
mobile home, apartments
Motel off of 35, apartments, low rent properties
My House and The Terrace
No there are a bunch, just don't want to stay here
On the list for a HOW trailer
only what case manager says
program with govt. for homeless people with jobs
public housing on IH 35
room rentals from ads

shelters
Sobriety House
South Austin Marketplace
TBRA
The apartment I [recently] found.
VA
VA, HUD
Various apartments/room rentals
weekly housing
What is in Elgin paper

Services: Describe the temporary facility and/or overnight shelter.

Facility

ARCH
ARCH
arch
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
arch - clean
ARCH Case Management Program
Arch, excellent program if you mind your
Arch, met some good guys, don't want to say anything
negative
ARCH-good
Camp
Caritas
Christian men's home - spiritual
girlfriend; safe and nice
halfway house
have to look for a job, and come back clean
Hospital

jail, ARCH -okay
mat and blanket
nice
Nice
rehab center in San Antonio
rude awakening
safeplace apts-terrible, don't like talking about it
Sal Army; clean, old
Sal Army-nice
Sally - favoritism is an issue
Salvation Army
Salvation Army
salvation army
Sober House
some friends house
South Austin Market Place-Ben White
therapeutic community, halfway house with +150 people
They do the best they can with all kinds of people and issues.
VA in Temple, TX (rehab)
women and men
worked well

Shelter

1 night
a lot of crackheads
afraid of shelters; uncle was killed at ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
Arch
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH

Arch
Arch
ARCH
Arch
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
ARCH
Arch
ARCH
ARCH

ARCH	Crowded
ARCH	Crowded
ARCH	Crowded, cold, uncomfortable
ARCH	crowded, long lines
ARCH	depressing
ARCH	don't like them
ARCH	dormitory style; lots of rules
ARCH	Facilities are wonderful
ARCH	filthy bathrooms, floors, showers
ARCH	Good
ARCH	good service
ARCH	greatest place
ARCH	like prison but was the ARCH
ARCH	livable
ARCH - chaotic, functional	n/a
ARCH - clean/safe	nasty, dirty
arch - crowded, inefficient, long lines	Nice
ARCH - just slept there	Nice place
ARCH - place to stay	no complaints
ARCH - provide good service, good showers, clean and safe	Not good
ARCH - rent is right	ok
ARCH and Salvation Army	ok
ARCH, alright	place to sleep, some people are nasty
ARCH, beds and mats	room with bunk beds, lottery system
ARCH, bunks with locker	Sal Army
ARCH, comfortable	Sal Army; not the Hilton but safe and off the streets
ARCH, good accommodations, chefs cook healthy meals	Sal Army-alright, don't want to be there permanently
Arch, great place	Sal Army-glad it's there
ARCH, it was like being in a comedy show	Sal Army-like a dorm
ARCH, livable	Sal. Army
ARCH, nice	Sal. Army, tolerable-open bay sleeping
ARCH, nice	Sal. Army-hell, drugs, not a safe place
Arch, over crowded	Sal. Army-iffy
ARCH, Salvation Army	Sally
ARCH, too crowded and loud	Sally/Arch
ARCH, very poor	Salvation Army
ARCH, very uncomfortable	Salvation Army
ARCH; good people, know me	Salvation Army
ARCH-average	Salvation Army
ARCH-dorm, showers, mats to lay on	SALVATION ARMY
ARCH-good	Salvation Army
ARCH-it's okay	Salvation Army
ARCH-nice	Salvation Army
ARCH-not good; too crowded	Salvation Army for 4 days, full of nasty women
Bad place	Salvation Army was bad
classes, case manager, job assistance	sucks and crowded
clean	too crowded, people trying to hustle
Crowded	Too long of a wait, usually can't get in
	too many nuts

Too many people too loud
VA in Temple, TX (rehab)

well-run, organized, helpful

Services: How do you feel about the people/organizations that help you?

Open ended response

75% approval rating

a blessing

a blessing

A+

Alan Graham is the only real help I've received

All of them are wonderful

all right

alright

appreciate the help

appreciate, some are honorable

appreciates it

appreciative

appreciative

Appreciative

Average

Bad place

Believe in their support

Better in Austin than in Ft. Worth

church's help; grateful

could be more impacting

counselor is great

demeaning, frustrating, circular

depends if its genuine

depends; Alan=yes, Salvation Army=no

do the best they can. I am thankful they are there

Do their best

doing their best but may take advantage

Doing their best with limited resources

don't do much help - interested in paycheck

Don't like the ARCH on the weekends

don't like the shelters

don't really understand enough about us, you should come and live this way

don't think they truly want to help

Feel good about them

feel good, positive about it

feel great, need more of them

fine, good

fine, they're helpful, good people

food banks

Good

Good

Good

good

good
Good
good
good
Good
GOOD
Good
Good
good
good
good
good
good
good
good
Good
good
good
good
Good
Good
Good
good
Good
good
good
good
good
good
good
good
good
good
good
good
good - can't complain
good job
good people
good service
good, caseworkers trying to help
good, doing their job
good, nice people
good, thankful, grateful
good, they really try, 3 caseworkers are all very helpful
good, they're polite and very helpful, they put up with a lot of crap
Good; superb
grateful they exist
GREAT
great
great
great
Great
great and appreciative

great people
Great people
great to work with
great!
great, do want to help people survive and give them food and clothing
great, helpful
great, they are doing good job
Grateful
Happy
happy with them
he feels like he owes them
highly
I feel real good
I have to find help
I think they're awesome and I appreciate them.
iffy
is comfortable with Alan
it is a blessing
it is nice that the volunteers do that
it is what it is
just know Alan G.
kind people
kind, considerate, generous
like them, especially church under the bridge
lots of run around
Love it
majority are on a power kick and belittle them
May God bless them
Most are pretty good
Most are really good, [but] some people don't understand what we go through.
N/A
need more options, more programs
never had a great job
no trust
not good; process is slow; need more help getting checks and funding more quickly
not many out there
not too good - could be better
Ok. But stressed out not easy job.
okay
okay
okay, slow process
overall good, but sometimes they seem overwhelmed by the numbers they have to help
overall high opinion
People and churches are great, organizations are not that great
People don't help
possible positive opinion, most care and help
Pretty good
pretty good
pretty good

Pretty good about the ones who actually try to understand and help out.
pretty good it's set-up for self-help, you have to help yourself
pretty good, wouldn't survive without them
Raw deal from some, some are good
Real good
real good, like Alan Graham
Real good; good attitude (they want to help)
Real nice
really good
Really nice people
some are good
Some are okay, some suck
Some are very nice, some aren't
some good, some don't care
some good, some make false promises
some have hearts for the people, leadership
Some help more than others
Sometimes good
Sometimes they don't do their homework.
so-so
so-so, some very nice people; some rude
staff is pretty good
super
They are very helpful
Thankful
the money they get does not really make it to the homeless
there for you if you want
They are doing a good thing
they are doing their best
they are doing their best
They are good
they are good people
they are great
They are trying
they are trying to do the right thing
They are very helpful
they are voluntarily helping and they do a good job
they do a good job, if we didn't have that help what would we do?
they do good for the community
They do what they can
They do what they can--not great
They do what they say
they forget that I'm a person too
They have a poor attitude and don't listen to me
they show a good example
They're alright
they're alright, impersonal
They're doing the best they can
They're nice people

They're okay, don't really pay attention
very appreciative
very good
very good
Very good
very good
Very good
very good people
Very good, for the most part most are genuine
Very pleased
very thankful
we need more people
with ARCH you have a 10:00 curfew and then you can't come back for 2 weeks

Services Describe your experience with MLF truck runs...

3-4 times a week, they are a blessing
all the time
alright; son liked it
Awesome
awesome; good people
basically good
Can get pretty chaotic, but the drivers and team are very nice
can't complain
caring, concerned, patient, and friendly - great experience
chaotic
crowd is vicious, but food is great
Crowded, disorderly
Crowds are big
does it all the time; volunteers on truck sometimes
does not like standing in line and feels badly taking a handout.
Don't know where to start, they were so helpful.
Don't like being part of the Bum Rush...can't handle it, hate the Bum Rush behavior
Don't like MLF, food isn't very nutritious
every day; nice; food is sustainable
Everyday
Excellent
Excellent
excellent
excellent
excellent
excellent, nothing else like it-amazing
exciting, grab and take
Fighting up stream to get the food.
Fine
fresh food, as a diabetic - too much sugar
friendly, try to help, but get rushed

fun, good, nice people
get some food
God bless their hearts
Goes to Wooldridge Park, suggest they get 2 trucks there to accomodate the large crowd
GOOD
Good
good
good
Good
GOOD
good
good
good
good
good
good
Good
Good
good
Good
Good
good
Good
Good
good
good
good
good experience
good experience
good experience; beats Sal Army
good food
Good food clothes; organization & fair
good food, may have bad people
good help
good organization
good organization
good people
good people
good people
good people
good people
good people
good people but too crowded
good people, great experience
Good people, help a lot of people
Good, but can never get clothing because others rush in and get everything
good, friendly
good, nice people
good, snack food at night
great
Great
great

great
great
Great
great
Great Experience
Great food and people
great people
great people, appreciate it
Had to rush to the truck, very crowded
happy to get it
have to be quick - first come, first served
he knows Alan
helpful
helpful
helpful, enjoy receiving socks
Hits the spot
I felt blessed, happy
If yes, describe your experience(s)
I'm grateful, it's pleasant, especially when I'm hungry!
Like it, never had a bad experience
like the food; help fellows like himself
lines are long but great group!
long lines, but otherwise good
long lines, don't know for sure when they will come
lots of pushing a shoving, crowded
LOVE THEM
Love them, they come through, lots of food.
more of them and more consistency
need a balanced diet
Need to be better organized, bullies rush to front of line
Nice
nice people
nice people
not a good experience b/c of the homeless
Not very orderly
nothing bad to say
O.K., but every rushes to food trucks
okay
okay, blessing, bring food
okay, but too crowded
once in a while
once in awhile I see at ARCH
outstanding with volunteers but hard with people,
overjoyed
People are eager to help
People storm the trucks
people they serve are what make it a negative experience
really good
Really great

Respectful and nice people
satisfied
saw this morning for first time
sometimes crowded, but doesn't have a problem with them
Splendid and satisfying
Sunday, under bridge; love clean socks
sweet volunteers, very helpful and good food
thankful
The truck that goes to the library should have a better line process - 2 lines or 2 trucks might help
they are good
They are nice
too busy
Too busy when they come by the ARCH, would rather starve than crowd around like everyone else
Too crowded, never make it to the front of the line
too many people, clients are rude
too many people, too crazy
try to avoid it because there are too many people, chaotic, no order to it
very bad, no vegetarian choices, lack of choices day to day
very crowded when I can actually catch a truck
very crowded, good work
very generous
Very good, very nice people
Very helpful, kind
very nice, hard boiled eggs
very pleasing
Very popular
when at ARCH- too crowded, most is gone by the time I get there, people take extra sandwiches and
sell them
worked out well

Services: As a follow up to which agency do you use most, we asked why do you use them? These were the collective responses – not tied to the agency they named.

all together
always know where they're at
am a client
ARCH is close, but Trinity makes extra effort
Arch is the hangover, can use phone, internet, do laundry.
availability
availability
availability
availability
availability, proximity
Available food
availability
Baptist, super kitchen

been there long time, only women's shelter
beneficial for spiritual needs to have relationship with Jesus
Best food
better food; convenience
better food; convenience; good timing
Can't afford to live without their help
case management program
case mgmt.
clean environment
close
close and good food
Close by
close proximity
close to home
Closest
Comfortable at ARCH
consistent
Convenience
Convenience
convenience
convenience
convenience
Convenience
Convenience
Convenience
convenience
Convenience
Convenience
convenience
convenience and friendly
convenient
convenient
convenient
convenient
Convenient
convenient
convenient
convenient
convenient and helpful
cooler, shorter lines
decent food
dependable, respectful, make it possible to get food
dependable; halfway decent meal
don't want to live under bridge
ease of use
easy
easy
Easy
Easy access

Easy access
easy access
Easy access
easy access
Easy access for me, good showers, breakfast
Accessible
excellent, better than the rest
familiar
food
food
food
Food an housing in one
food and housing
Food and shelter available
food, convenience
for clothes and lunches
for food
for food
going there for so long
Good food
Good food
good food
good food
good food variety
good food,
good food, courteous
Good match
Good meals
good people
good service, tasty food
great people
has nothing else
have a caseworker here who I trust, he gives good advice
hope-faith-love (mental assistance)
hungry
I don't have a place to live
I just do
I was on case mgmt. with them, really helpful
I'm a client
I'm homeless
I'm homeless
immediately took him in
It's one of the better ones
just an agency
Know Matt, he drives the truck
laid back
laundry facilities, easiest shelter option
Like the ARCH programs an case management
Little bit of Independence

location
locations
longer term shelter
mailing address
medical help
Medical Services
meets needs most of the time
More to offer: clothes, bus pass
Most laid back
most reliable/convenience
Most resources
much easier, nicer people
My brother lives close by
NEED
Need a place to sleep
Need to eat
needs help
no B.S., straight business
no money
no other choice
no other place
not on CTW list
okay here
only one I can get into
Only one I can get into
only ones I have access to, central
Only place I can get in
open everyday
Open-Ended Response
Place to sleep
programs
programs, hot meals
proximity
reliable
reliable
Reliable
Resources
respectful
respectful
Saves me money
services/shelter
shelter
shelter
shelter, no other choice
stayed as long as they would let her
the ones I know
there all day
they are there, full service
they bring food, water, clothing, blankets - everything you

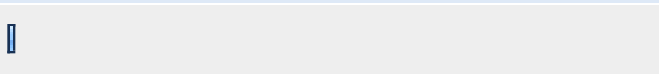
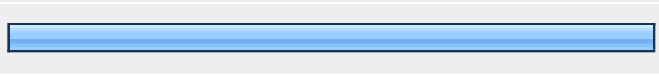
need
they come to her
They feed every night and it's a good place to sleep.
they help with ID's, medical, shelter
They really try to help
They're helpful
They're reliable
They're there
To eat
To eat
to get food
to get food
to sleep
transportation
treat him with respect
trustworthy, Christian
trying to get medical problems solved
Vet beds available if you follow directions
wash clothes and shower
Why do you use them?
wider variety, dependable
word of the month; available
you can sit down all day

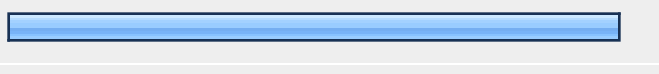
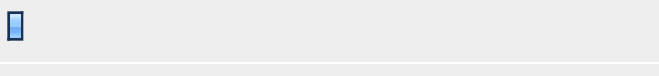
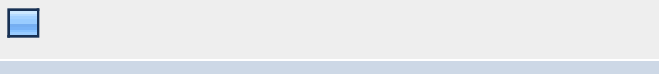
Family: What do you think is the main reason for your homelessness?
Other

"bad women"
anger issues
ashamed to go home
authority issues - doesn't like people telling him what to do
bad choices
bad choices
bad choices
boyfriend, isolation
choices and consequences; ...stolen cell phone with wallet
depression
Depression
divorce payments
domestic abuse
down on luck
Dropped out of school
economy
economy
enemies
Finances
financial stress

foreclosed on house
his choice
Hurricane Katrina
Hurricane Katrina
husband got locked up
in accident with someone with no insurance
Independent but lack responsibility
irresponsible
Katrina
leaving husband
Life skills
lost ID, bad marriage
moved
moved
moving
Moving to Austin from California
my race
neglect/abuse
not having ID he needs; DPS said he needs 3; lady didn't like his SS#
Not knowing the laws of God
parents divorced - helped mom out for 13 years
personal
personal, bad situations
poor finances
poor judgment
pride, would not ask for help
psychological issues, fear of success
relocation, economy, bad marriage
Sexuality
sick of dealing with landlords
Someone knocked over my trailer in LaGrange and put it in the
dumpster
spousal abuse
Stolen mechanic tools and economy
stress
Taking advantage of people
traveling
Unkept promises
wanted to start somewhere new
wife's incarceration

MLF Homeless Survey 2009


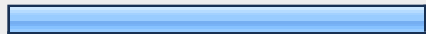
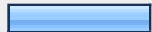


1. Have you taken this survey already (this summer/fall)?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		0.5%	1
no		99.5%	220
		answered question	221
		skipped question	0


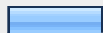
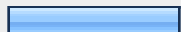
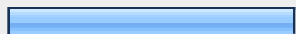


2. Do you consider yourself homeless?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		94.1%	208
no		1.8%	4
maybe		4.1%	9
		answered question	221
		skipped question	0

3. How long have you been homeless?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Two months or less		14.5%	32
3 - 6 months		18.6%	41
less than a year		8.1%	18
1 - 3 years		28.5%	63
4 - 6 years		13.6%	30
7+ years		13.6%	30
Other (please specify)		3.2%	7
		answered question	221
		skipped question	0

4. Name		
		Response Count
		205
		answered question
		205
		skipped question
		16

5. Sex			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Male		83.9%	182
Female		16.1%	35
		answered question	217
		skipped question	4

6. Marital Status			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Married		5.6%	12
Single		64.0%	137
Divorced		21.5%	46
Separated		5.1%	11
Widowed		3.7%	8
		Other (please specify)	1
		<i>answered question</i>	214
		<i>skipped question</i>	7

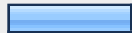
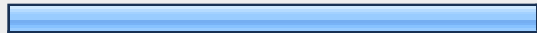
7. Age			
		Response Percent	Response Count
24 or under		2.7%	6
25 - 34		14.2%	31
35 - 44		26.0%	57
45 - 54		43.8%	96
55 - 64		11.9%	26
65 or older		1.4%	3
		<i>answered question</i>	219
		<i>skipped question</i>	2

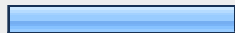
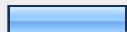
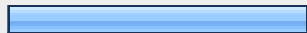

8. Where did you spend your childhood?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Austin, TX/Central, TX		21.3%	47
Other city in Texas		35.3%	78
West Coast		8.1%	18
East Coast		13.6%	30
Mid-west		14.0%	31
All over		4.1%	9
Out of the country		4.1%	9
Other (please specify)		0.5%	1
		<i>answered question</i>	221
		<i>skipped question</i>	0

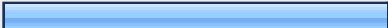
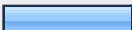




9. If the answer to #5 was NOT Austin/Central Texas, please indicate how long you have been in Austin:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
3 months or less		16.9%	26
3 - 6 months		5.8%	9
6 - 12 months		9.1%	14
1 - 2 years		13.6%	21
3 - 5 years		17.5%	27
more than 5 years		37.0%	57
Other (please specify)		0.0%	0
		<i>answered question</i>	154
		<i>skipped question</i>	67

10. Ethnicity			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Hispanic		17.9%	38
African American		43.4%	92
Caucasian/White		38.7%	82
Asian		0.0%	0
		Other (please specify)	8
		answered question	212
		skipped question	9

11. Do you associate yourself with a certain religion? If so which one?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
NO		24.1%	53
Christian		23.6%	52
Baptist		28.2%	62
Catholic		13.2%	29
Episcopal		0.9%	2
Presbyterian		0.9%	2
Methodist		1.4%	3
Muslim		0.5%	1
Jewish		0.0%	0
No answer completed		2.3%	5
Other (please specify)		5.0%	11
		answered question	220
		skipped question	1

12. Are you a military veteran?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		18.5%	39
No		81.5%	172
		<i>answered question</i>	211
		<i>skipped question</i>	10

13. If you answered yes, you are a military veteran, where you honorably discharged?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		34.8%	31
no		18.0%	16
no answer		46.1%	41
Other (please specify)		1.1%	1
		<i>answered question</i>	89
		<i>skipped question</i>	132

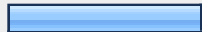
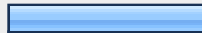
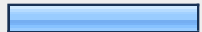




14. Do you have a diagnosed mental illness? (multiple answers allowed)			Response Percent	Response Count
NO			59.1%	130
Bi-Polar			19.5%	43
Schizophrenia			7.7%	17
Depression			22.7%	50
Addiction/Recovery			9.1%	20
Other (please specify)			8.2%	18
		answered question		220
		skipped question		1










15. Do you have a physical ailment? (multiple answers allowed)			Response Percent	Response Count
NO			46.9%	90
arthritis			13.0%	25
cancer			3.1%	6
dental			8.9%	17
diabetes			9.9%	19
hearing			5.2%	10
high blood pressure			20.3%	39
HIV/AIDS			2.1%	4
limb			12.5%	24
MS/Parkinsons			1.0%	2
sight			9.4%	18
		Other (please specify)		44
		answered question		192
		skipped question		29

16. Do you have a felony criminal record?			Response Percent	Response Count
yes			48.6%	106
no			51.4%	112
		answered question		218
		skipped question		3

17. If yes to felony record, please indicate the nature of your crime.		
		Response Count
		68
	<i>answered question</i>	68
	<i>skipped question</i>	153

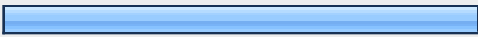

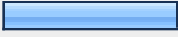
18. If yes to felony record, are you currently on parole?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		6.9%	8
no		56.9%	66
no answer		36.2%	42
	<i>answered question</i>		116
	<i>skipped question</i>		105


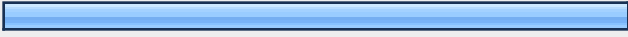
19. Which is the best way for someone to reach you?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
email		29.4%	62
cell/prepaid phone		29.9%	63
specific location		28.9%	61
social media like facebook		0.9%	2
physical address		10.9%	23
P.O. Box		9.5%	20
texting		0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		4.3%	9
		answered question	211
		skipped question	10







20. What is your biggest concern or fear about living on the street?			Response Percent	Response Count
personal safety, bodily harm			34.1%	75
being robbed, losing property			5.9%	13
where I am going to sleep			7.3%	16
police			3.2%	7
how to make a change/finding a home			7.7%	17
finding/keeping a job			6.8%	15
weather			7.3%	16
not sure			5.0%	11
Other (please specify)			22.7%	50
			answered question	220
			skipped question	1

21. What would make you feel safer?			Response Percent	Response Count
job/employment			9.2%	19
home / permanent housing			54.1%	112
weapon			1.4%	3
finding somewhere else to sleep			11.1%	23
a changed stereotype of homeless			1.9%	4
Other (please specify)			22.2%	46
			answered question	207
			skipped question	14

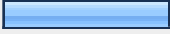
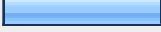




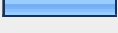
22. What is the greatest challenge you face as a homeless person today?		
		Response Count
		217
<i>answered question</i>		217
<i>skipped question</i>		4

23. Are there any advantages of being on the street?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		73.1%	160
Yes		27.4%	60
If so, what are they?		26.5%	58
<i>answered question</i>			219
<i>skipped question</i>			2

24. Do you want to continue your current lifestyle or are you trying to change your situation?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
current		3.7%	8
change		96.3%	210
<i>answered question</i>			218
<i>skipped question</i>			3

25. Where do you picture yourself in the next 6 to 12 months? (multiple answers are allowed)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
in a house or apartment / off the streets		65.3%	143
with a job		26.9%	59
living with family		2.3%	5
right here (still on the streets)		8.7%	19
don't know		10.0%	22
Other (please specify)		11.0%	24
		answered question	219
		skipped question	2

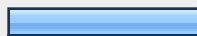

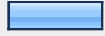
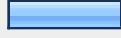






26. Describe to me a recent experience where you were really happy.		
		Response Count
		208
		answered question
		208
		skipped question
		13

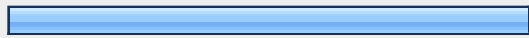


27. What do you miss most about your life before homelessness? (multiple answers allowed)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
stability/security		25.0%	53
home/my own place		24.1%	51
family/loved ones/friends		33.0%	70
employment/job		13.7%	29
health		0.5%	1
events, day to day living		11.8%	25
Other (please specify)		17.0%	36
		answered question	212
		skipped question	9

28. On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you feel about the police?							
	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Average	Response Count
Police	28.2% (61)	11.1% (24)	23.1% (50)	15.3% (33)	22.2% (48)	2.92	216
Other (please specify)							11
answered question							216
skipped question							5

29. Are you afraid of going to jail/prison?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		27.8%	60
no		71.3%	154
Other (please specify)		0.9%	2
answered question			216
skipped question			5

30. What is the one thing you wish people would know about you?		
		Response Count
		196
answered question		196
skipped question		25

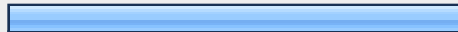
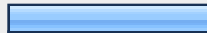
31. What is the highest grade in school you finished?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
less than 12th grade (no high school diploma)		28.8%	63
High School Diploma		28.3%	62
GED		14.2%	31
Some college		16.9%	37
Some vocational school		1.4%	3
Vocational school diploma/license/certification		1.4%	3
Associate's degree (2 year degree)		1.4%	3
Bachelor's degree		5.0%	11
Some graduate school or higher		0.5%	1
Other (please specify)		2.3%	5
		answered question	219
		skipped question	2

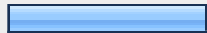

32. Would you be interested in a skills training program, or furthering your education?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		80.2%	174
no		18.9%	41
Other (please specify)		0.9%	2
		answered question	217
		skipped question	4




33. What job skills do you currently possess?		
		Response Count
		219
	<i>answered question</i>	219
	<i>skipped question</i>	2

34. If you could learn another skill, what would it be?		
		Response Count
		203
	<i>answered question</i>	203
	<i>skipped question</i>	18




35. Are you functionally literate (can you read a menu, street signs, newspaper?)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		93.5%	202
no		5.1%	11
Other (please specify)		1.4%	3
	<i>answered question</i>		216
	<i>skipped question</i>		5



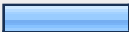
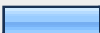
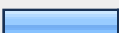
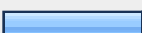





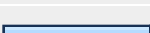

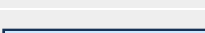
36. Have you ever had a valid driver's license?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		69.4%	152
no		30.6%	67
<i>answered question</i>			219
<i>skipped question</i>			2


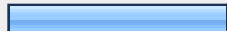







37. Do you have a Driver's License NOW?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		30.2%	64
no		69.8%	148
If no, do you have a government issued ID or passport?			93
<i>answered question</i>			212
<i>skipped question</i>			9


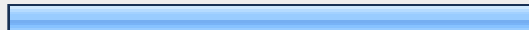
38. Do you have a job now?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
no		86.0%	190
yes		13.1%	29
If yes, is it full time or part time?		11.3%	25
<i>answered question</i>			221
<i>skipped question</i>			0

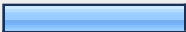
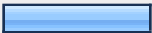
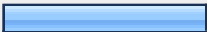
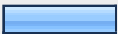

39. If you answered no job right now, how long have you been unemployed?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
0-2 years		60.4%	113
2-5 years		20.9%	39
over 5 years		18.7%	35
		<i>answered question</i>	187
		<i>skipped question</i>	34

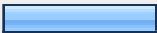
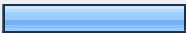
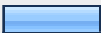
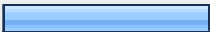

40. Do you want a job?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		89.4%	186
no		8.2%	17
Other (please specify)		2.4%	5
		<i>answered question</i>	208
		<i>skipped question</i>	13

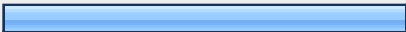
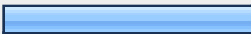

41. What kind of job? (multiple questions allowed)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Art		8.8%	17
Construction/Repair		27.8%	54
Culinary/Kitchen		19.1%	37
Home Maintenance/Repair		14.4%	28
IT/computers/Software		17.5%	34
Manual Labor		21.1%	41
Mechanic		12.9%	25
Sales		10.8%	21
Agriculture/Farming/Ranching		9.8%	19
Counseling/Social Work		8.8%	17
Factory/Manufacturing		11.3%	22
Janitorial/Cleaning		22.2%	43
Landscaping		13.9%	27
Other (please specify)		30.9%	60
		<i>answered question</i>	194
		<i>skipped question</i>	27




42. What kinds of financial assistance do you receive? (multiple answers allowed)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Welfare		1.8%	4
Food Stamps		33.5%	73
Medicare/Medicaid		13.3%	29
Employment		3.2%	7
Disability		11.0%	24
Pension		0.9%	2
Family		6.0%	13
NO ASSISTANCE RECEIVED		47.2%	103
Other (please specify)		9.2%	20
		answered question	218
		skipped question	3

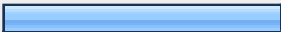
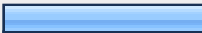





43. Do you have a checking or savings account?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		19.4%	42
no		80.6%	174
Other (please specify)		0.0%	0
		answered question	216
		skipped question	5

44. What has been your highest level of ANNUAL income ever?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
under \$10,000		27.8%	59
\$10,000-20,000		22.2%	47
\$20,000-40,000		31.1%	66
\$40,000 +		17.0%	36
Other (please specify)		1.9%	4
		answered question	212
		skipped question	9

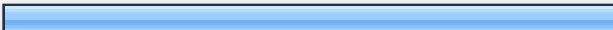


45. How long ago was this (greatest annual income)?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
2 years or less		23.2%	43
3 - 5 years ago		27.6%	51
6 - 8 years ago		14.6%	27
9 + years		31.4%	58
Other (please specify)		3.2%	6
		answered question	185
		skipped question	36




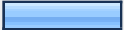
46. Do you owe people or institutions money?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		62.0%	137
Yes		38.0%	84
If yes, how much? (whole numbers) \$		0.5%	1
		answered question	221
		skipped question	0

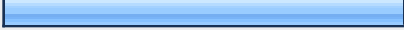
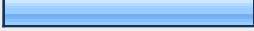
47. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		95.9%	212
Yes		3.6%	8
If yes, when? (year)		2.3%	5
		answered question	221
		skipped question	0

48. On most nights, where do you sleep?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Shelter		42.7%	94
Street		30.5%	67
Tent camp		5.5%	12
With Family		2.3%	5
With Friends		5.5%	12
Don't know		0.9%	2
Other (please specify)		12.7%	28
		answered question	220
		skipped question	1

49. In the last six months, have you attempted to find permanent housing?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		46.4%	102
Yes		21.4%	47
If yes, please describe that process, success and failures.		32.3%	71
		answered question	220
		skipped question	1

50. Do you want a permanent house?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		94.1%	206
No		1.4%	3
If no, why not?		4.6%	10
<i>answered question</i>			219
<i>skipped question</i>			2

51. What housing options do you know of?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Housing Authority, Section 8		24.4%	53
Assistance through a service agency (ARCH, Salvation Army, Caritas, etc.)		10.6%	23
None		47.0%	102
Other (please specify)		18.0%	39
<i>answered question</i>			217
<i>skipped question</i>			4

52. Which Austin agency would you trust to operate a well-run permanent housing facility?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Don't know.		61.4%	124
Other (please specify)		38.6%	78
<i>answered question</i>			202
<i>skipped question</i>			19

53. How much could you afford for permanent housing?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Need a job first.		14.0%	30
Nothing.		32.6%	70
\$50 - \$100 a month		4.2%	9
\$101 - \$250 a month		6.5%	14
\$251 - \$400 a month		16.3%	35
\$401 + a month		24.2%	52
Other (please specify)		2.3%	5
answered question			215
skipped question			6

54. In the last 90 days, have you stayed in			
	yes	no	Response Count
a temporary housing facility	28.0% (46)	72.0% (118)	164
an overnight shelter	61.8% (126)	38.2% (78)	204
answered question			212
skipped question			9

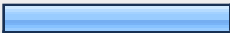
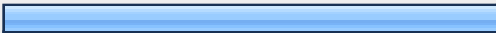
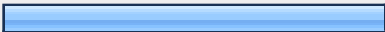
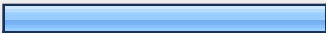
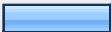
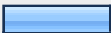

55. Describe the temporary facility and/or overnight shelter.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Facility		28.1%	41
Shelter		83.6%	122
answered question			146
skipped question			75








56. Were your immediate needs met?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		60.7%	105
no		20.2%	35
no answer		18.5%	32
Other (please specify)		0.6%	1
answered question			173
skipped question			48

57. How do you feel about the people/organizations that help you?			Response Count
			203
answered question			203
skipped question			18

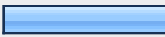

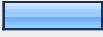
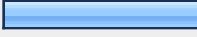
58. Do you ever receive food from Mobile Loaves & Fishes food runs (trucks)?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		12.7%	27
Yes		85.0%	181
If yes, describe your experience (s)		73.2%	156
answered question			213
skipped question			8

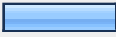



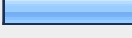
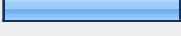
59. Rank each service provider (1 being low opinion, 5 being high)							
	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know	Response Count
Austin Baptist Chapel (Angel House)	5.9% (12)	4.9% (10)	10.8% (22)	15.7% (32)	44.6% (91)	18.1% (37)	204
Caritas	8.1% (17)	5.2% (11)	20.5% (43)	21.4% (45)	33.8% (71)	11.0% (23)	210
The ARCH	9.3% (20)	9.3% (20)	19.5% (42)	16.7% (36)	31.6% (68)	13.5% (29)	215
Mobile Loaves & Fishes	0.5% (1)	3.9% (8)	11.2% (23)	17.1% (35)	55.6% (114)	11.7% (24)	205
Trinity Center	5.3% (11)	3.9% (8)	14.1% (29)	16.5% (34)	28.6% (59)	31.6% (65)	206
The Salvation Army	28.6% (60)	11.4% (24)	21.9% (46)	10.5% (22)	12.9% (27)	14.8% (31)	210
Additional Comments							5
answered question							220
skipped question							1

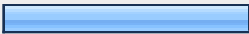


60. What services are you currently receiving (in the last 30 days)? - (multiple answers allowed)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
mental/physical health		34.7%	69
food service		75.9%	151
shelter		58.8%	117
clothing		49.7%	99
job search/employment		16.1%	32
housing assistance		16.1%	32
Other (please specify)		1.0%	2
		answered question	199
		skipped question	22





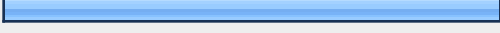
61. Please list the name of the shelter and/or food service you use most?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Angel House		16.0%	33
Caritas		7.8%	16
ARCH		38.3%	79
Mobile Loaves & Fishes		14.6%	30
Trinity Center		1.9%	4
Salvation Army		13.6%	28
Other (please specify)		7.8%	16
		answered question	206
		skipped question	15


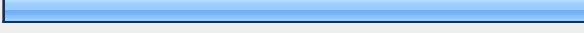

62. Why do you use them?		
		Response Count
		181
		answered question 181
		skipped question 40










63. Name one person in charge (the boss) of a homeless service agency.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Don't know.		24.8%	51
No answer.		30.6%	63
Named a staff member.		15.0%	31
Boss Name		29.6%	61
		answered question	206
		skipped question	15

64. What do you think was the main cause of your current situation of homelessness? (multiple answers allowed, although not ideal)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
poor health		17.0%	37
police, crime		11.5%	25
unemployment/job loss		31.7%	69
family crisis		6.9%	15
addiction - drugs and/or alcohol		19.7%	43
Other (please specify)		27.1%	59
		answered question	218
		skipped question	3

65. Do you have a family support structure?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		37.7%	83
No		62.7%	138
If no, any other support?		20.5%	45
<i>answered question</i>			220
<i>skipped question</i>			1

66. When was the last time you spoke to an immediate family member?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
this week		54.0%	115
this year		23.9%	51
last year		6.6%	14
over 3 years ago		14.6%	31
Who?		76.5%	163
<i>answered question</i>			213
<i>skipped question</i>			8

67. Have you ever been a part of the foster care system?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		9.8%	21
No		89.7%	192
No answer		0.5%	1
<i>answered question</i>			214
<i>skipped question</i>			7

68. Who raised you? (multiple answers allowed... please select "mother and father" for parents).			Response Percent	Response Count
mother and father			39.5%	87
single mother			36.4%	80
single father			5.5%	12
grandparent			11.4%	25
step parents			1.4%	3
other relative			3.6%	8
no one			2.7%	6
no answer			3.2%	7
Other (please specify)			7.7%	17
	answered question			220
	skipped question			1

69. Today, what would a home look like to you?			Response Count
			210
	answered question		210
	skipped question		11