

# **A SNAPSHOT OF HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PHOENIX**

**PHOENIX HEALTH CARE  
FOR THE  
HOMELESS COALITION'S  
1996 SURVEY DATA**

(Sponsored by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
and the Arizona Department of Economic Security)

report by  
Ryan M. Johnson  
with assistance from  
Mary Jo Waits

Morrison Institute for Public Policy  
Arizona State University, School of Public Affairs

January 1997

The authors would like to acknowledge the contributions of several people whose input helped shape this report. Gloria Hurtado and Terry Cook of the City of Phoenix Human Services Department provided much assistance and helped guide this report to its completion. Vic Hudenko of the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Carol Kratz of the Maricopa Association of Governments, Lori Mulholland of the Morrison Institute, and Louisa Stark of Community Housing Partnership all critically reviewed the data and the final manuscript and provided many comments which improved the report's clarity.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*He's a single white male in his thirties with a high school education or better. It is the first time he's ever been homeless, and he wants to get off the streets. He's homeless because of a lost job, and it's likely that he's been on the street for only a short time, perhaps a month or less. He did not move here from another state, and he has never been in a mental institution. He is not HIV positive.*

*He is the average homeless person in downtown Phoenix in 1996.*

This report brings together the results of a survey of 1100 homeless people living in and around downtown Phoenix in 1996 with the results of a similar survey conducted in 1983. In addition to the significant changes seen in the downtown area since 1983, the homeless population has changed as well. Among the report's major findings:

- **MORE ARE WOMEN.** The proportion of women in the survey is more than double that of 1983, from about 13 percent then to about 28 percent in 1996. Males still dominate the overall population, however, constituting more than two-thirds.
- **MORE ARE MINORITIES.** Compared to 1983, the percentage of blacks in the survey doubled to more than 18 percent in 1996. At the same time, whites decreased from 61 percent to less than 50 percent in 1996.
- **MOST HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION OR BETTER.** The proportion of survey respondents with a high school diploma/GED or better has gone up by more than 10 percent since 1983. Greater than 60 percent in 1996 reported a high school education or better, compared to about 49 percent in 1983.
- **FEWER ARE UNDER 30, MORE ARE IN THEIR 30s AND 40s.** About 60 percent of respondents reported being in either their thirties or forties, up from 44 percent in 1983. About 20 percent indicated an age younger than 30, a 10 percent decrease from the 1983 survey.

### Results of Survey of 340 Homeless Persons

In addition to the results of these general demographic questions asked of 1100 respondents, 340 of the 1100 were asked more detailed questions about their personal and family history, the patterns of their homelessness, their health, and their drug and alcohol use. Most of the 340 individuals who responded to the longer survey were housed in either emergency or transitional homeless shelters.

The results of this longer survey begin to paint a more detailed -- although perhaps less reliable -- picture of the homeless population living in shelters in downtown Phoenix. Since 1983, this population has changed in the following ways:

- **FEWER HAVE BEEN IN ALCOHOL TREATMENT, BUT MORE HAVE BEEN IN**

**DRUG TREATMENT.** About 22 percent reported receiving inpatient treatment for problems with alcohol in 1996, compared to nearly 50 percent in 1983 who reported some type of previous alcohol treatment. On the other hand, more in 1996 said they had previously been in drug treatment (18% vs. 11% in 1983).

- **MORE HAVE RECEIVED INPATIENT TREATMENT FOR MENTAL PROBLEMS.** In 1996, nearly a quarter said they had previously received inpatient mental or emotional treatment. In 1983, about 17 percent indicated institutionalization for mental or emotional problems.
- **MOST DID NOT MIGRATE TO ARIZONA AFTER BECOMING HOMELESS.** Greater than 80 percent of respondents in the 1996 survey reported the state in which they became homeless was Arizona.

In addition to these questions duplicated from the 1983 survey, a number of questions were added for 1996. Among the findings from the new questions:

- **MANY ARE WORKING, BUT FEW EARN MUCH INCOME.** More than 40 percent overall reported income during the previous month from a job or day labor. However, about a third of all respondents -- working or not -- said their income was less than \$100 during the previous 30 days. Eighty persons reported zero income.
- **MORE THAN HALF HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR HIV.** Roughly 57 percent reported being tested for the virus which causes AIDS. A total of 15 persons out of 180 (about 8 percent of those tested) said they had tested HIV positive.
- **MALES AND FEMALES HAVE DIFFERENT REASONS FOR THEIR HOMELESSNESS.** While most males attributed their homelessness to a lost job, most women said an eviction, a financial crisis, or domestic violence was the main reason they were on the street.
- **MORE WOMEN THAN MEN HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS WITH THEM.** Seventy percent of female respondents said they had family members with them (i.e., a child or children, relatives), while 20 percent of males reported similarly. Overall, a divorced or separated woman was four times more likely to have family members with her than a divorced or separated man.

In addition to providing a snapshot of the homeless population in Phoenix, the data and comparative information presented in this report also reveal the complex and intractable nature of the homeless problem in general.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the early 1980s, the number of people living without shelter in America's large metropolitan areas was growing into one of the nation's most prominent issues. Like most U.S. cities of its size, Phoenix was not immune to the burgeoning issue of homelessness. Indeed, some speculated that the region was perhaps more attractive to the destitute because of its mild winter climate.

In an effort to get a handle on the homeless issue locally, the Phoenix South Community Mental Health Center undertook a study in 1983 which sought for the first time to "understand, describe, and plan for the homeless of Phoenix."<sup>1</sup> Published in June of 1983, the report found:

- the vast majority of Phoenix' homeless population (nearly 90 percent) was male;
- whites constituted more than 60 percent of the homeless;
- two-thirds of the population was alone, without a spouse or children;
- more than half said they were on the street due to unemployment; and,
- three-fifths had arrived in Phoenix during the previous six months (perhaps confirming the attraction of the area's "mild winter climate").

Twelve years later, in 1996, with the homeless issue still prominent in Phoenix, a new consortium of governments and non-profit organizations initiated an update of the 1983 study with a new survey of the downtown Phoenix homeless population.

### Goals of the 1996 Study

Three primary goals were established for the new survey to be administered in 1996. They were to:

- obtain a demographic profile of the homeless population in Phoenix so as to identify any important changes or trends in the population since the 1983 survey;
- determine the status and utilization of various homeless health, dental, and mental health services; and,
- derive baseline information to assist in the development of a regional strategic plan for Maricopa County's homeless population.

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<sup>1</sup> Phoenix South Community Mental Health Center, *The Homeless of Phoenix: Who are They? and What Should be Done?*, report prepared for the Consortium for the Homeless, June 1983, p. I.

This report contains the results of roughly 1,100 demographic surveys and 340 personal history questionnaires designed to achieve these three goals. Where possible and relevant, side-by-side comparisons of the 1996 data and the 1983 survey data are presented to identify changes and trends in demographics, usage of homeless services, and drug and alcohol history among the population.

There are also several differences between the 1983 report and this one. The final section of the 1983 study contained a “Clinical Assessment” which attempted to categorize respondents as either ‘employable’ or ‘non-employable’ based on answers to several key questions (mental health history, drug use, etc.) Because of the speculative nature of such an assessment, this report does not attempt to categorize the respondents similarly. Also different from the 1983 study, this report does not contain a list or discussion of homeless assistance programs operating in the region.

## **M**ETHODOLOGY

### **Questionnaire Development**

Two survey questionnaires were developed for the 1996 project. The first, a seven-item “short form” (consisting of basic demographic questions such as gender, ethnicity, date of birth, and level of education) was developed and administered to roughly 1100 individuals. The second questionnaire, consisting of 52-items (the same seven basic demographic questions, plus inquiries about personal and family history, income, health, and alcohol/drug use) was administered to approximately 340 of the larger pool of 1100 individuals. Thus, 1100 people answered the seven-item “short form” questionnaire, and 340 of the 1100 went on to complete the 52-item “long form.”

The questionnaires were developed cooperatively among staff from the City of Phoenix Human Services Planning Section and Community Services Division, the Maricopa Association of Governments, the Phoenix Health Care for the Homeless Coalition, the Arizona Department of Economic Security, and the Phoenix Consortium to End Homelessness. All of the 1996 survey questions were either duplicated from the 1983 Phoenix survey, were written newly by staff, or were developed in concept based on questions from a 1995 demographic study of Chicago’s homeless population.

Both questionnaires were tested during a one-night site visit to the Winter Overflow Shelter program in December 1995.

The Morrison Institute for Public Policy was not involved with the development of the survey, writing of the survey questions, or administration of the questionnaires.

### **Data Collection**

Surveys were administered through personal one-on-one interviews to heads of families and individuals located in and around the homeless shelters near downtown Phoenix (including food lines, the street, and transitional program centers). Interviews were conducted between January and June 1996. The Salt River bottom area between 7th Avenue and 7th Streets was also targeted during a two-day period of survey administration.

It was the intent of the Coalition to administer the “short form” survey to as many homeless persons as possible -- without duplication -- during the six-month period. Selection to participate in a “short form” interview was based solely on a willingness to answer the questions.

The majority of those responding to the long survey were persons housed at either emergency or transitional shelters. As with the short form, participation was based upon willingness to answer questions. However, as an incentive to complete the long form, prospective respondents were offered a 10 minute phone card or a baseball cap.

Approximately fifty different people administered the questionnaires. Undergraduate and graduate students in the Anthropology Department at Arizona State University, staff from the City of Phoenix, students from the University of Phoenix, and staff from several area homeless service and assistance agencies conducted the interviews.

### **Data Entry, Analysis, and Reliability**

Data entry and analysis were carried out at Arizona State University under the direction of an experienced survey researcher who supervised both entry and processing. Individuals trained in data entry and data processing entered the data.

The data entry program SPSS Data Entry II was used for this project. The program enforces rules for allowed values and required answers, automatically performs skip operations and allows for “blind” data verification. Twenty percent of the surveys were re-entered to ensure data reliability.

## **M**ETHODOLOGICAL SHORTCOMINGS AND CAVEATS

In an ideal survey research situation, questions are clearly worded, interviewers read the questions exactly as written, and respondents understand the questions and provide complete and honest answers. Thus, in a situation with more than 50 different interviewers and a population in which some persons have a history of mental illness and drug abuse, circumstances for survey research are less than ideal. These and the following other methodological shortcomings should be noted and kept in mind while reviewing the data:

- *representativeness of sample.* Although more than 1100 people were interviewed for the short form survey, it is difficult to determine how



representative this sample is of the larger homeless population in the region. According to the U.S. Special Census, 3,558 people in the City of Phoenix were “without housing” in 1995 (total of 6,542 in all of Maricopa County). Thus, 1100 respondents represents roughly 30 percent of the 1995 Census count of homeless in Phoenix. However, because a large number of interviews were conducted in transitional shelters among people “transitioning” out of homelessness (i.e., they had a job, an income, and perhaps even a temporary residence), it is difficult to determine whether the population that was interviewed is truly generalizable to the region’s entire homeless population.

- *wording of questions and respondent misinterpretation.* Responses to several questions indicated that some inquiries were either poorly or unclearly worded, or respondents simply did not understand what was being asked. It was apparent, for instance, that many interviewees either did not or could not differentiate between “inpatient” and “outpatient” drug and alcohol treatment.
- *lucidity of interviewees.* Obtaining reliable survey responses from homeless persons is complicated by many factors, including the mental state of many who are on the street. Indeed, as the survey indicates, drug and alcohol abuse and mental illness are fairly common among the population. Some interviewees even reported drug or alcohol use within the previous couple of hours.
- *social desirability bias.* In some instances, survey researchers attribute skewed or improbable results to a “social desirability bias” -- a problem inherent in a question’s wording or subject matter. For example, queries about issues which are socially undesirable (e.g., domestic abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, alcohol/drug abuse) are commonly under reported in public surveys. Results for several of the questions in the 1996 Phoenix homeless survey -- for example, the seemingly low number reporting previous drug use -- indicate that some respondents may have not answered in a completely truthful manner.
- *survey administration and coding.* The use of 50 different interviewers in the administration of the surveys is problematic not only because of the obvious individual differences in administration of the questions, but also because of different individual coding practices. In some instances, inconsistency in survey coding was evident. For example, some interviewers diligently marked “8” for “refused” or “9” for “unknown,” while others simply left the space blank. Further, some interviews were conducted in Spanish via “on-the-spot” translation because the original instrument did not have a Spanish version.

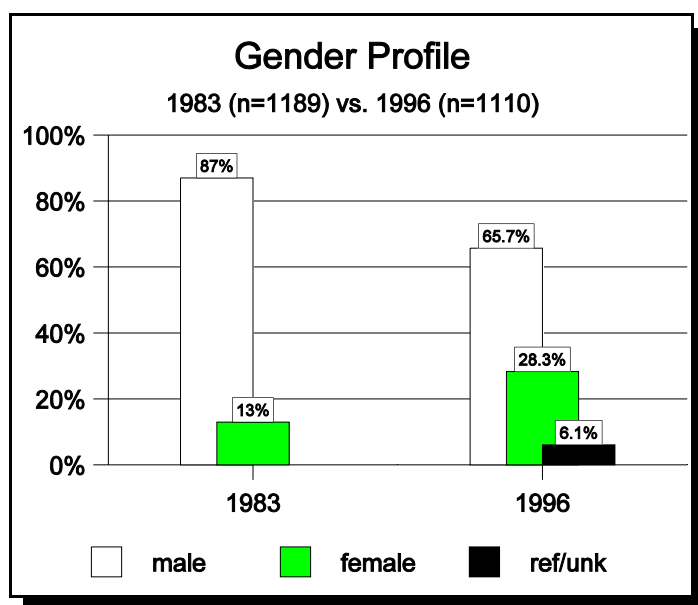
Despite these shortcomings, the data presented here begin to paint a picture of many of the homeless people living in downtown Phoenix during the first six months of 1996. As such, it can and should be used as a point of departure to discuss the plight of homeless people in Phoenix, and the problems they face.

# I. SURVEY OF 1100 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PHOENIX

## A. Demographics

## RESULTS IN BRIEF

- **LARGE INCREASE IN FEMALES.** Although males still constituted nearly two-thirds of all surveys in 1996, they declined by roughly 22 percent since 1983. The number of women in the 1996 survey represents an increase of more than 15 percent.
- **GROWTH AMONG THOSE IN THEIR 30s and 40s.** Overall, more than three-fourths of all 1996 respondents reported an age between 20 and 49, and less than one-quarter were over 50 or under 20 years old. The 30-39 and 40-49 age categories saw the largest growth over the 1983 study.
- **DECLINE IN WHITES, INCREASE IN BLACKS.** Although nearly half of all respondents in the 1996 survey were white, the percentage of whites is down from 61 percent in 1983. As a percentage, the number of blacks in the survey has doubled.
- **HOMELESS BUT NOT NECESSARILY UNEDUCATED.** Greater than 60 percent of all respondents reported a high school education or better; only about eight percent indicated that the highest level of education completed was grammar school.



### ■ GENDER

#### 1996 survey data

Males constituted nearly two-thirds (65.7%) of the 1110 persons surveyed in 1996, while females accounted for just under 30 percent (28.3%). Roughly six percent did not answer the question or refused to be identified.

#### 1983 vs. 1996

The table to the left shows a gender disparity between the 1983 and 1996 surveys. In the 1983 study, nearly nine out of ten survey

participants were men; in 1996, the number of males interviewed dropped by 22 percent, while the number of women increased by more than 15 percent.

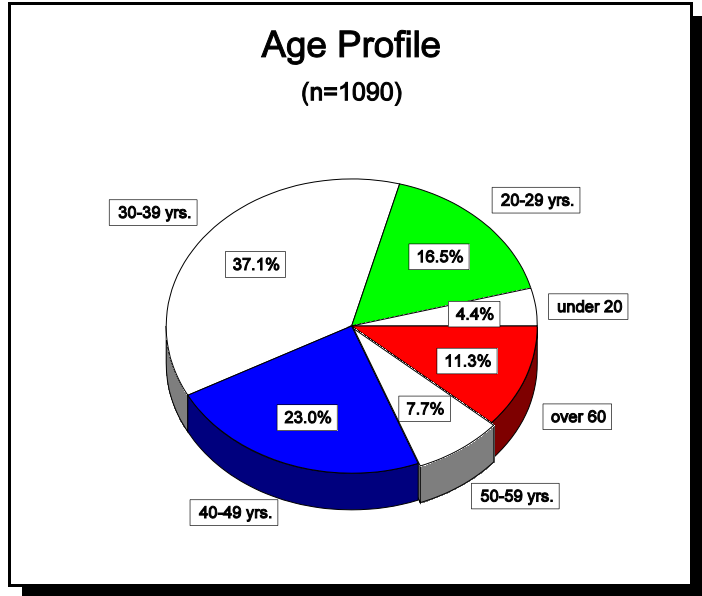
■ AGE

**1996 survey data**

The age profile pie to the right depicts the somewhat even distribution of ages that were surveyed in 1996. The largest age group captured was 30-39. Those aged 40-49 made up the second largest group, and persons in their twenties were third most common.

Persons on the extremes of the age spectrum were the least represented in the survey: “under 20” made up only 4.4 percent, while “over 60” constituted just over 11 percent.

Overall, more than three-fourths of all respondents (76.6 percent) reported an age between 20 and 49, and less than one-quarter were over 50 or under 20 years old.

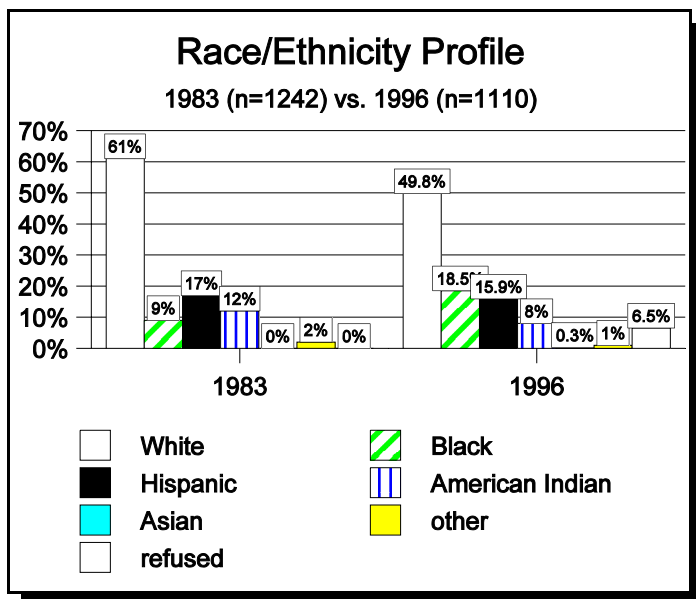


Comparative Age Profiles		
	1983 (n=1193)	1996 (n=1090)
under 20 years old	3%	4.4%
20-29 years	27%	16.5%
30-39 years	26%	37.1%
40-49 years	18%	23.0%
50-59 years	17%	7.7%
over 60 years old	9%	11.3%
total	100%	100%

**1983 vs. 1996**

In contrast to the 1996 survey, the largest age group captured in 1983 was persons between the age of 20-29 (27% versus 16.5% in 1996). Persons over 50 were also represented in higher proportion in 1983 than in 1996 (28% then versus 19% in 1996).

The table to the left shows that much of the shift between 1983 and 1996 was to the middle (ages 30-39 and 40-49). In 1983, those two categories contained about 44 percent of the survey population, while the same two age groups made up about 60 percent of those surveyed in 1996.



## ■ RACE/ETHNICITY

### 1996 survey data

Nearly half (49.8%) of the 1110 respondents in the 1996 survey reported their race as White. The second largest group was Black at 18.5 percent, followed by persons of Hispanic ethnicity (15.9%). To compare, the 1995 Special Census of the City of Phoenix' total population recorded 73 percent White, 5 percent Black, and 26 percent Hispanic.

### 1983 vs. 1996

Perhaps the most obvious difference between 1983 and 1996 studies (contrasted in the table above) is the decline in the percentage of Whites, from 61 percent in 1983 to less than 50 percent in 1996. At the same time, an almost parallel increase in the number of Blacks is evident (9% in 1983 to 18.5% in 1996). The number of American Indians in the survey decreased slightly; Hispanic decreased by about one percent.

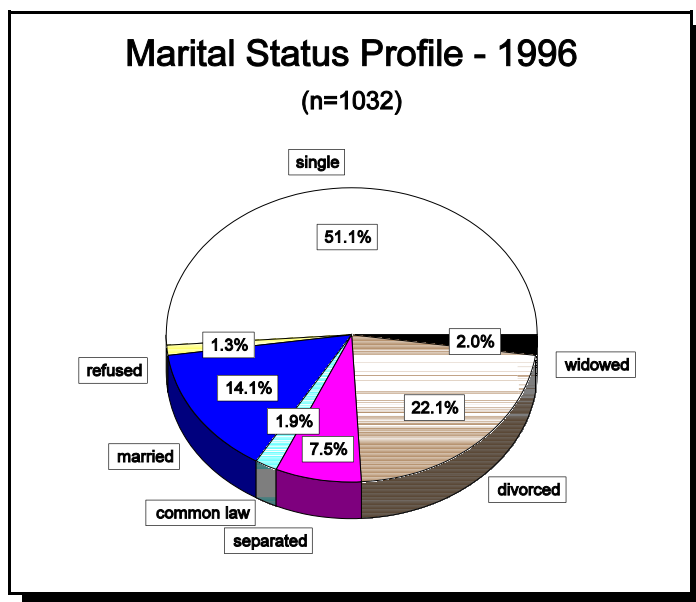
## ■ MARITAL STATUS

### 1996 survey data

Greater than 50 percent of all respondents (51.1%) indicated that they were single and had never been married. Roughly 30 percent said they had either been divorced or separated, and 16 percent reported that they were currently married or common-law married.

### 1983 vs. 1996

The marital status of those surveyed in 1996 differs little from 1993. In 1983, roughly 46 percent indicated they were single, never married (versus 51% in 1996), and 37 percent said that they were separated or divorced (versus 30% in 1996).

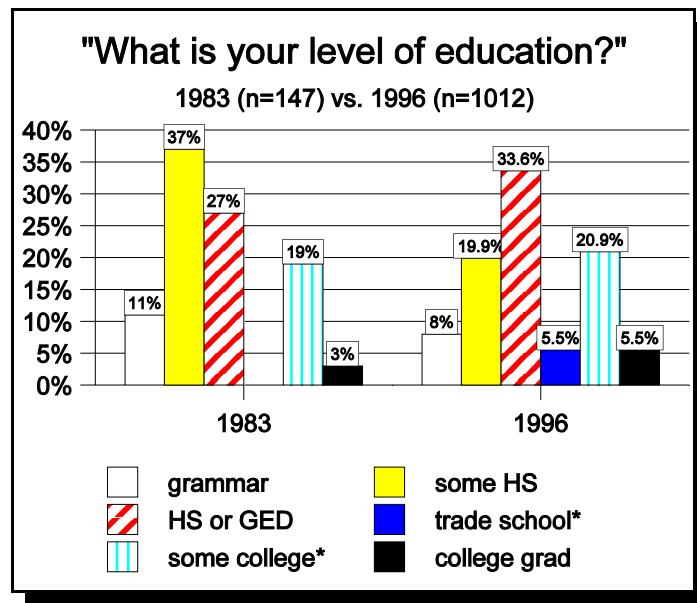


**SPECIAL ANALYSIS:  
Gender + Marital Status**

**1996 survey data**

A cross tabulation of the 1032 responses to the marital status question by gender reveals several disparities between males and females. Men were far more likely to report that they were single and never married (57.4% versus 36.3% female). The corollary to this, of course, is that females outnumbered males in both the married/common law and divorced/separated categories. The gender disparity is particularly notable in the separated/divorced category, where more than 37 percent of females placed themselves. Only about 26 percent of males did likewise.

Gender + Marital Status			
	male (n=726)	fem (n=306)	total (n=1032)
single 51.2%	57.4%		36.3%
married or common law	13.5	21.8	16.0
separated or divorced	26.2	37.6	29.6
widowed	2.2	1.6	2.0
refused/unknown	0.7	2.6	1.3
total	100%	100%	100%



**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

**1996 survey data**

Greater than 60 percent of all respondents reported a high school education or better: thirty-three percent said they had a high school diploma or GED; 21 percent indicated some college; six percent said they were college graduates; and about one percent said they had done post-graduate work.

**1983 vs. 1996**

Compared to 1983, the educational attainment of those surveyed has increased slightly. Although the percentages of those indicating “grammar school only” or “some high school” both dipped, those reporting “high school diploma/GED” showed an increase from 27 percent to roughly 34 percent.

(\*Note: the 1983 survey combined the categories “trade school” and “some college.” The table above collapses those responses into the “some college” category in the 1983 graphic).

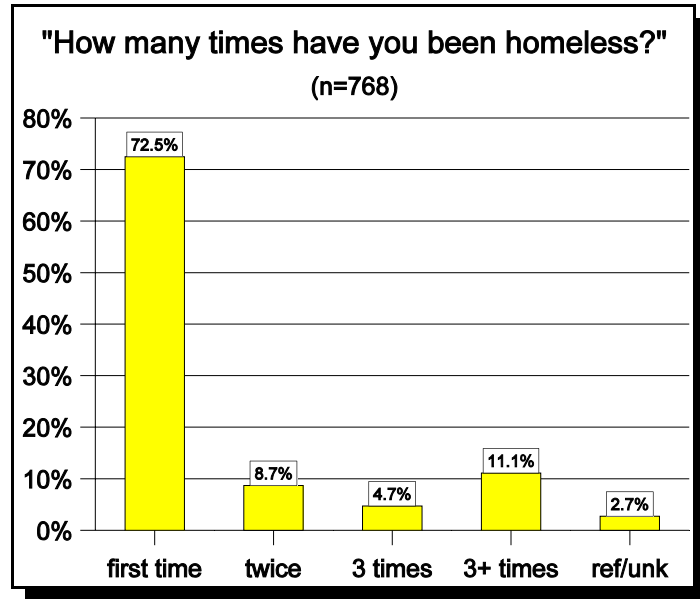
**SPECIAL ANALYSIS:  
Gender + Educational Attainment**

**1996 survey data**

A cross tabulation of gender and educational attainment reveals few differences between the genders. Among the notable differences, more females than males reported having greater than a grammar school education (9.6% only grammar school for men versus 5.3% for women).

Women also reported higher percentages in both the “high school graduate/GED” and “some college” categories. Although no females indicated post-graduate work, a total of nine males did.

Gender + Educational Attainment		
	male (n=712)	female (n=300)
grammar school	9.6	5.3
some high school	20.5	20.3
hs grad or GED	34.8	36.3
trade school	4.9	7.7
some college	20.5	24.0
college grad	6.3	5.3
post grad	1.3	0
other	2.1	1.0
total	100%	100%



**■ TIMES HOMELESS**

**1996 survey data**

Nearly three-fourths of those interviewed in 1996 (72.5%) indicated that they were homeless for the first and only time. The second most common response was “more than 3 times” (11.1%).

**1983 vs. 1996**

In 1983, 65 percent of respondents reported they had never been homeless before (versus 72.5% in 1996). In addition, a larger percentage of respondents in 1983 said they had been homeless 3 or more times previously (23% versus 11.1% in 1996).

**REASONS FOR COMING TO THE PHOENIX AREA**

**1996 survey data**

The perception of a good job market (28.7%) was indicated as the most important reason for homeless persons to migrate to the Phoenix area. The presence of family members was also a strong lure to migrate to the area.

**1983 vs. 1996**

A similar question asked in the 1983 survey yielded a somewhat different response. Although “job” was also mentioned most often by those asked in 1983 (34%), all other reasons after “job” registered only in the single-digits: 9 percent mentioned “weather,” and 8 percent said “family.”

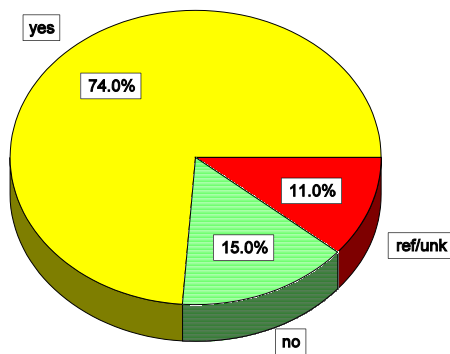
**“Why did you come to the Phoenix area?”**  
(indicate all that apply)  
(n=769)

1. job market	28.7%
2. family	24.5%
3. weather/health	20.6%
4. native of area	14.9%
5. liked the area	11.4%
6. stranded	5.8%
7. homeless services	3.2%
8. other	2.0%

(total adds to more than 100% because respondents could answer more than one reason)

**“Do you stay in Phoenix all year?”**

(n=769)



**HOMELESS IN PHOENIX AREA YEAR ROUND**

**1996 survey data**

Nearly three out of four respondents (74%) indicated that they stay in the Phoenix area on a year-round basis.

**1983 vs. 1996**

In 1983, 56 percent reported staying in Phoenix all year; 44 percent said that they migrated during the year.

**HOMELESSNESS (n=792)**

**DESIRE TO END**

When asked “Do you want to end your homelessness?” about 96 percent of all respondents answered in the affirmative (95.8% male, 97.4% female). When a similar question was asked in 1983, “Do you want to get off the streets?” a slightly lower 91 percent of respondents said “yes.”

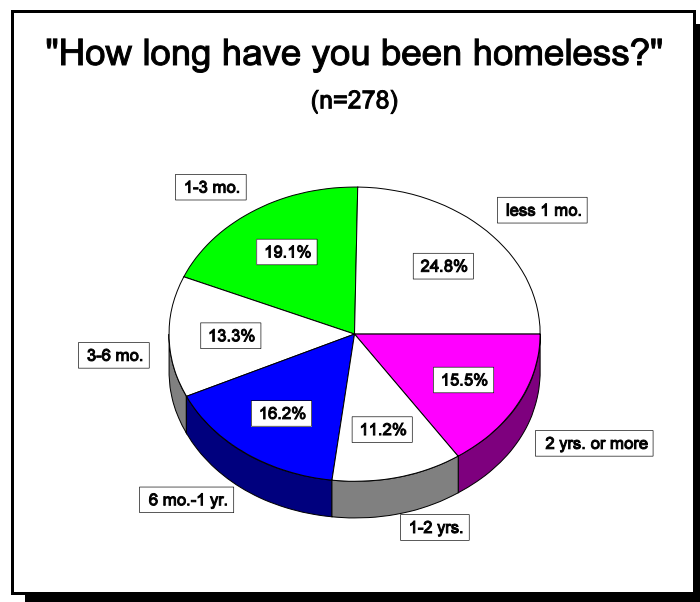


## II. SURVEY OF 340 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PHOENIX

### A. Patterns of Homelessness

## RESULTS IN BRIEF

- **MALES AND NON-MINORITIES REPORT LONGER DURATIONS ON THE STREET.** Far more frequently than females, males reported a duration of homelessness of more than 2 years. In addition, a higher percentage of non-minorities than minorities indicated they had been homeless longer than 1 year.
- **MOST REPORT GETTING FOOD AND A BED FROM SHELTERS.** The highest percentage of respondents indicated that they receive their food from food lines, through the use of food stamps, or from shelters. About half of all respondents said they had slept in a shelter the night before. It should be noted, however, that most of the surveys were conducted in or near a homeless shelter.
- **FEW HAVE MIGRATED TO ARIZONA.** More than eighty percent reported that the state in which they became homeless was Arizona. In response to a slightly different question in 1983, three-fifths said they had arrived in the Phoenix area within the previous six months.



### ■ DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

#### 1996 survey data

The single largest response to the question, "how long have you been homeless," was "less than one month" at roughly 24 percent; second was "one to three months" at about 19 percent.

Although these relatively short durations registered strongly, the other end of the spectrum was also well represented. The two longest periods ("1-2 years," and "2 years or more") accounted for more than 26

percent of all respondents.

#### 1983 vs. 1996

In 1983, 31 percent indicated they had been homeless for "less than 30 days" (versus 24.2% in 1996), 11 percent said their homelessness had been from "3 to 6 months" (versus 13.3% in 1996), 9 percent reported "1-2 years" of homelessness (versus 11.2% in 1996), and 18 percent indicated "more than 24 months" (versus 15.5% in 1996).

**SPECIAL ANALYSIS:  
Gender and Race/Ethnicity +  
Duration of Homelessness**

**1996 survey data**

A cross tabulation of the gender and duration of homelessness questions reveals that males far more frequently reported a duration of homelessness of more than 2 years (22.2% versus 3.1% for females). Females, on the other hand, significantly outnumbered males in the “6 month to 1 year” and “1 to 2 years” categories (combined 41% for females versus combined 20% for males).

An examination of minority/non-minority status and duration of homelessness reveals that a higher percentage of non-minorities have been homeless longer than 1 year (29.9% vs. 21.7%)

Gender or Race/Ethnicity + Duration of Homelessness			
	<b>male</b>	<b>female</b>	
	(n=180)	(n=98)	
less than 1 mo.	26.1	22.4	
1-3 months	16.1	24.5	
3-6 months	15.6	9.2	
6 mo. - 1 yr.	10.6	26.5	
1 yr. - 2 yrs.	9.4	14.3	
more than 2 yrs.	22.2	3.1	
total	100%	100%	
	<b>minority</b>		
	(n=180)	(n=98)	
less than 1 mo.	24.0	24.4	
1-3 months	23.3	17.7	
3-6 months	13.2	12.8	
6 mo. - 1 yr.	17.8	15.2	
1 yr. - 2 yrs.	9.3	12.8	
more than 2 yrs.	12.4	17.1	
total	100%	100%	

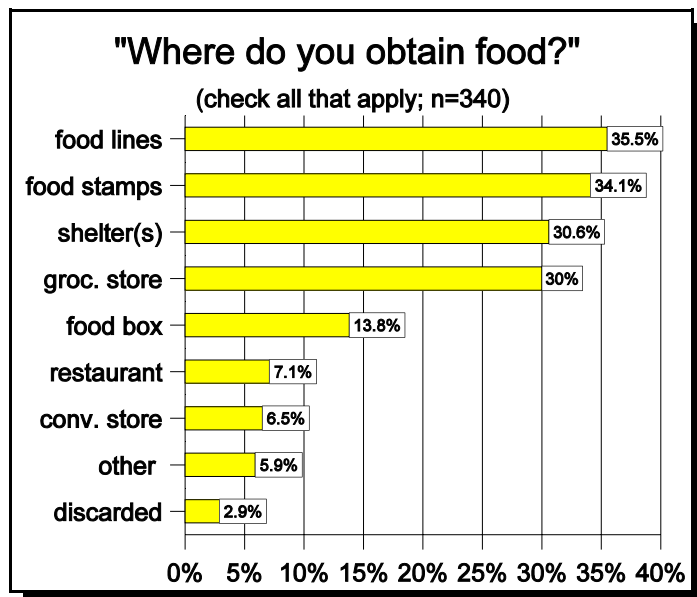
■ **SOURCES OF FOOD**

**1996 survey data**

The highest percentage of respondents indicated that they receive their food from food lines (35.5%), through the use of food stamps (34.1%), or from shelters (30.6%). Less than three percent reported “discarded” food as a source of nourishment.

**1983 vs. 1996**

Forty-five percent of all respondents in the 1983 survey mentioned “meal lines” as a source of food, followed by four percent who said they used “food stamps,” and another four percent who

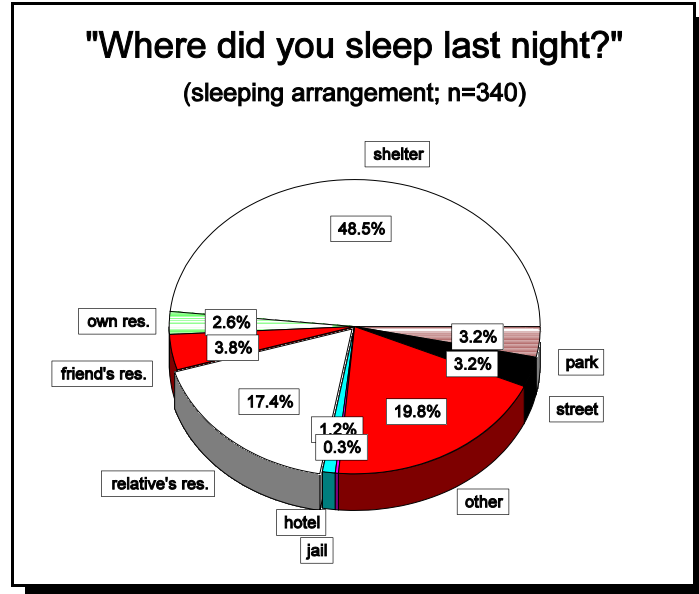


indicated they “purchased” food.

## ■ SLEEPING ARRANGEMENT PREVIOUS NIGHT

### 1996 survey data

Nearly half of all respondents interviewed (48.6%) said they had slept in a shelter the night before while combined, nearly a quarter reported that they had slept at either a relative’s residence (17.4%), a friend’s residence (3.8%), or their own residence (2.6%). Persons who reported sleeping at their “own” residence the previous night most likely were in a homeless transition program and/or were sleeping in transitional housing.



Roughly 6 percent said they had slept either in a park or on the street the previous night.

### 1983 vs. 1996

Answers to a similar question in 1983 (“Where are you sleeping?”) yielded somewhat different answers. Thirty-eight percent in 1983 said that they were sleeping either on the street or “sometimes in a hotel and sometimes on the street,” 17 percent reported that they were sleeping “near the Salvation Army/Camp,” and roughly 14 percent indicated that they were sleeping in shelters.

## ■ STATE OF ORIGINAL HOMELESSNESS

### 1996 survey data

Roughly eight out of ten respondents (80.3%) reported that the state in which they became homeless was Arizona. Although a total of twenty states were mentioned, only three states generated more than one percent: California,

**"In which state did you become homeless?"**  
(n=340)

1. Arizona	80.3%
2. California	5.3%
3. Nevada	1.2%
4. New York	1.2%

\*16 other states mentioned by less than 1% of respondents.

Nevada, and New York.

## II. SURVEY OF 340 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PHOENIX

### B. Personal History

## RESULTS IN BRIEF

- **MALES AND FEMALES GIVE DIFFERENT REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS.** Males ranked a “lost job” as the most common reason for their being on the street; “eviction” was the most common reason reported by females. Problems with both drug and alcohol use were also ranked high among men, while “domestic violence” was mentioned far more frequently by women.
  
- **A JOB AND HOUSING ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS.** A “job” and “housing” finished first and second respectively among the needs of individuals to end their homelessness. “Education/GED” and “access to a shower” were mentioned least often.
  
- **CONVICTED MISDEMEANOR CRIMINALS ARE UP SLIGHTLY, FELONS UP MORE.** Roughly 41 percent in 1996 reported having had at least one misdemeanor conviction (versus about 39% in 1983), and about 21 percent indicated that they had been convicted of at least one felony (versus about 9 percent in 1983).
  
- **ABOUT ONE-QUARTER IN THE SURVEY HAD BEEN IN THE MILITARY.** Slightly more than one in every four persons interviewed indicated military experience, with service in the Army being the most commonly reported.

### ■ PRIMARY REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS

#### 1996 survey data

The four most frequently cited reasons for homelessness were all related to income: “lost job” (17.2%); “financial crisis” (15.8%); “eviction” (11.0%); and “lack of income” (10.3%). “Drug use” was mentioned fifth most frequently, at eight percent.

#### 1983 vs. 1996

In response to a similar question in the 1983 survey, “How did you get on the street?”, 53 percent reported that “unemployment” was the primary reason for their being on the street. “Alcohol” and “personal upheaval” were also common responses in 1983.

**“What is the (main) reason you became homeless?”**  
(n=269)

1. lost job	17.2%
2. financial crisis	15.8%
3. eviction	11.0%
4. lack of income	10.3%
5. drug use	8.4%
6. underemployment	7.9%
7. mental health	7.0%
8. alcohol use	6.2%
9. major illness	5.5%
10. domestic violence	5.0%
11. abandonment	2.7%
12. ran away	1.4%
13. lost benefits	1.6%
total	100%

Gender + Reason for Homelessness (n=269)				
MALE			FEMALE	
%	rank		rank	%
21.3%	1	lost job	5	10.2%
16.9	2	financial crisis	2	13.9
7.9	6	eviction	1	16.2
9.8	3.5	lack of income	4	11.1
9.8	3.5	drug use	8	6.0
8.5	5	underempl.	7	6.9
6.8	8	mental health	6	7.4
7.4	7	alcohol use	10	4.2
6.6	9	major illness	11	3.7
0.8	12.5	dom. violence	3	12.0
1.1	11	abandonment	9	5.5
0.8	12.5	ran away	12	2.3
2.2	10	lost benefits	13	0.5

**SPECIAL ANALYSIS:  
Gender + Reason for Homelessness**

**1996 survey data**

Disaggregating responses to the question “What is the (main) reason you became homeless?” by gender reveals several disparities between male and female respondents. For example, males ranked a “lost job” as the most common reason for their homelessness, “eviction” was the most common reason reported by females. While problems with both drug and alcohol use were also ranked high among men, “domestic violence” was mentioned far more frequently by women (12.0% versus less than one percent by men). Spousal abuse and domestic

violence was indicated third most frequently by women, while it tied for twelfth among men.

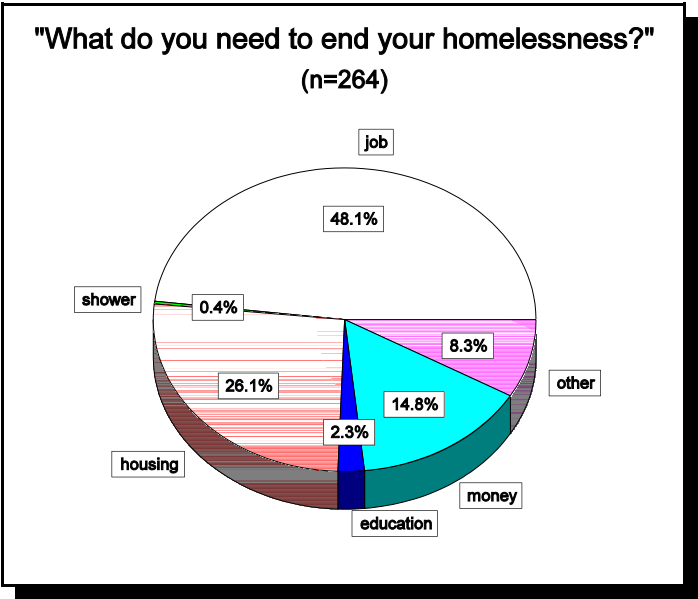
**■ PERSONAL NEED TO END HOMELESSNESS**

**1996 survey data**

A “job” (48.1%) and “housing” (26.1%) finished first and second respectively among the needs individuals expressed to end their homelessness. “Education/GED” and the “access to a shower” were mentioned least often.

**1983 vs. 1996**

In 1983, the question “What do you need in order to get off the street?” was asked to 123 persons. Similar to 1996 responses, 54 percent said “job” (#1 rank), 12 percent said “shelter” (#2 rank), and another 12 percent said “money” (tied #2 rank).





**SPECIAL ANALYSIS:  
GENDER + PERSONAL NEED TO END  
HOMELESSNESS**

**1996 survey data**

More than half of all males indicated the primary thing they needed to end their homeless situation was a "job" (54.9%) Females, however, ranked "housing" a higher priority at 39 percent. Overall, however, roughly three-quarters of all respondents said either "job" or "housing."

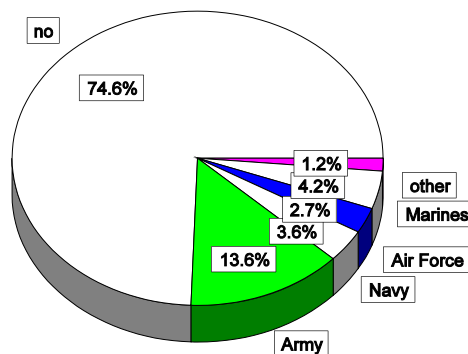
Among the 12 percent of "other" responses by males were a number who said the ability to "get a drivers license back" would get them off the street. Several others mentioned "more assistance with disability" and "mobility" as the key to obtaining employment.

**Gender +  
Personal Need to End Homelessness  
(n=264)**

	<b>males</b>	<b>females</b>
job	54.9%	37%
housing	18.3%	39%
money	14.0%	16%
education/GED	0.6%	5%
access to shower	0	1%
other	12.2%	2%
total	100%	100%

**"Have you ever served in the military?"**

(n=330)



**■ MILITARY SERVICE**

**1996 survey data**

Slightly more than one in every four persons interviewed (25.4%) indicated military experience, with service in the Army being the most common. This one-in-four figure is lower than the statistic recently published by the International Union of Gospel Missions, which found that about one in every three homeless men seeking refuge at a shelter in America is a military veteran (*Arizona Republic*, 1996).

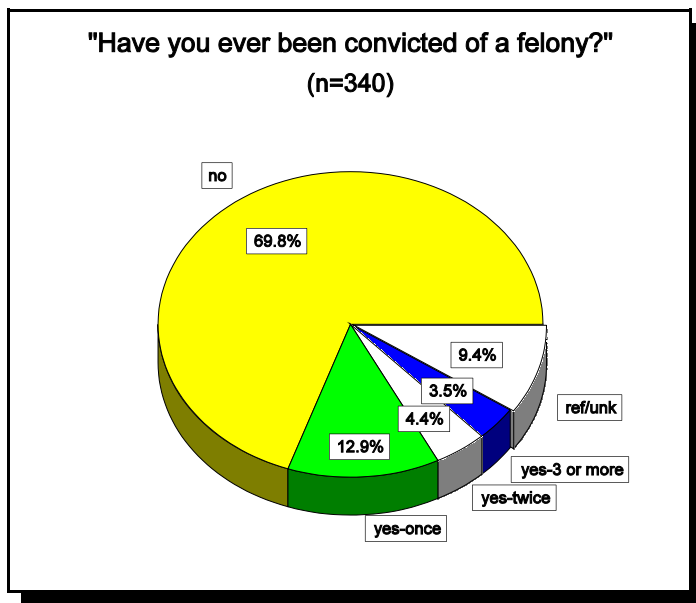
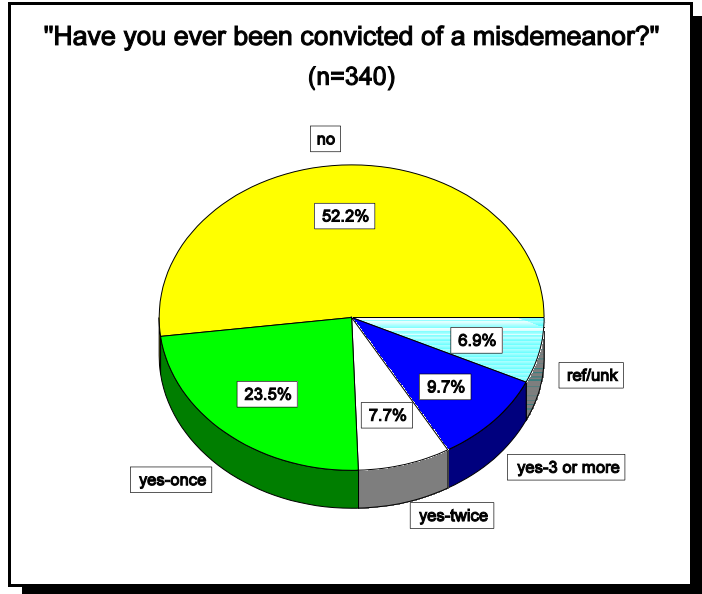
■ MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION

1996 survey data

Greater than half of the 340 respondents (52.2%) reported they had never been convicted of a misdemeanor (a minor offense such as petty theft or loitering). Thus, excluding the 6.9 percent who refused or did not answer the question, roughly 41 percent reporting having at least one misdemeanor conviction previously.

1983 vs. 1996

In the 1983 survey, respondents were asked a slightly different question: "What type of trouble have you experienced with the law?" Thirty-six percent (versus 41.3% in 1996) reported "misdemeanor," and an additional 3 percent said both "misdemeanor and felony."



■ FELONY CONVICTION

1996 survey data

In addition to -- or perhaps partially or wholly including -- the roughly 41 percent who acknowledged a misdemeanor conviction, about 21 percent (n=70) indicated in a separate question that they had been convicted of at least one felony (a major crime such as murder or arson).

1983 vs. 1996

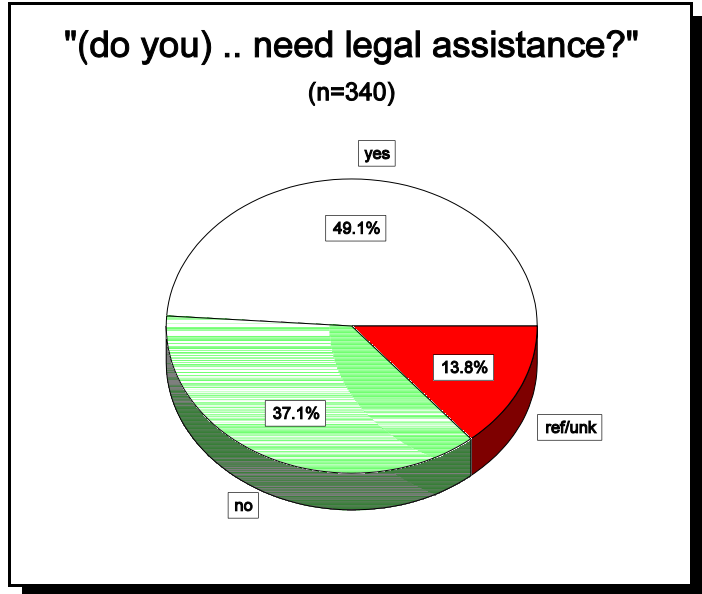
In the 1983 survey, respondents were asked "What type of trouble have you experienced with the law?" Six percent (versus 20.8% in 1996) reported "felony," while an additional three percent reported both "misdemeanor and felony."

## ■ PERCEIVED NEED FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE

### 1996 survey data

There is a strong perception among those interviewed that legal assistance is required to help resolve currently outstanding problems.

Nearly half (49.1%) said they need legal aid to deal with an issue or issues they currently face. Among the most common needs cited were: help with resolving criminal charges and divorce, “assistance in getting benefits,” and “paying bills.”



## II. SURVEY OF 340 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PHOENIX

### C. Family Status

## RESULTS IN BRIEF

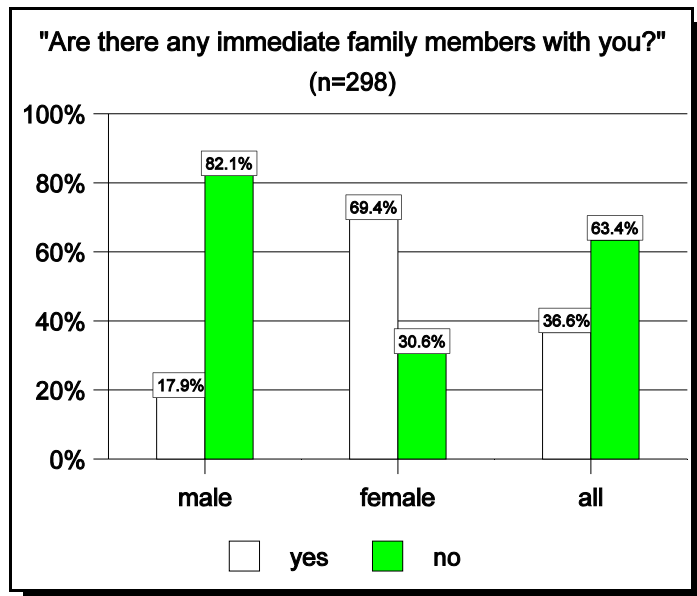
- **FEMALES ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO HAVE FAMILY WITH THEM.** Nearly 70 percent of females said they had family with them (i.e., spouse, child or children, relative or relatives), while fewer than 20 percent of males answered similarly. Divorced or separated women were four times more likely to have family with them than divorced or separated men.
- **AMONG THOSE WITH FAMILY, CHILDREN ARE MOST FREQUENTLY PRESENT.** Among 132 persons who reported that they had family with them, about two-thirds said they were accompanied by one or more children.

### ■ WITH OR WITHOUT FAMILY

#### 1996 survey data

Overall, 63 percent of 298 respondents indicated they had immediate family with them (i.e., spouse, child or children, relative or relatives), while roughly 37 percent said they were alone.

Comparing answers by gender, however, yields a notable disparity. Nearly 70 percent of females said they had family with them, while fewer than 20 percent of males answered similarly.



#### 1983 vs. 1996

In 1983, 34 percent of all respondents indicated they had family with them.

**Gender + Marital Status  
+ With/Without Family**  
(n=298)

	male	female
<u>with family</u>		
single	3.6	5.0%
married	4.0	8.3%
divorced	2.6	11.1%
widowed/unk	1.0	0.7%
total	11.4%	25.1%
<u>without family</u>		
single	31.2	6.4%
married	2.7	0.3%
divorced	15.8	4.0%
widowed/unk	2.7	0.3%
total	52.5%	11.0%

\*in this table "married" also includes "common law" and "divorced" also includes "separated"

**SPECIAL ANALYSIS:  
Gender + Marital Status + With or  
Without Family**

**1996 survey data**

When disaggregated three ways (gender + marital status + with/without family), the largest cluster in the survey is single males without any family present (31.2%), followed by divorced or separated males without family present (15.8%).

Notably third, however, is divorced or separated females with family at just over 11 percent. Divorced or separated women were four times more likely to have family with them than divorced or separated men.

■ **WITH OR WITHOUT SPOUSE**

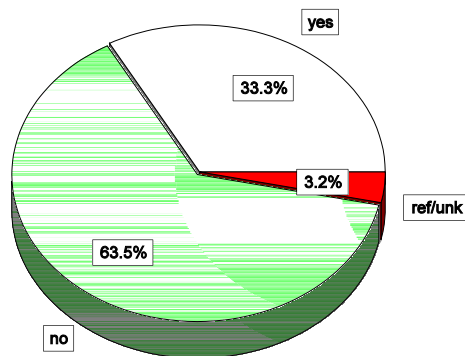
**1996 survey data**

As a follow-up to respondents who had indicated they had immediate family with them, the survey sought to determine which family members were present.

Thirty-three percent reported that they had their spouse with them, while roughly 64 percent said their spouse was not with them, and three percent refused or did not answer the question.

**"Is your spouse with you?"**

(n=126)

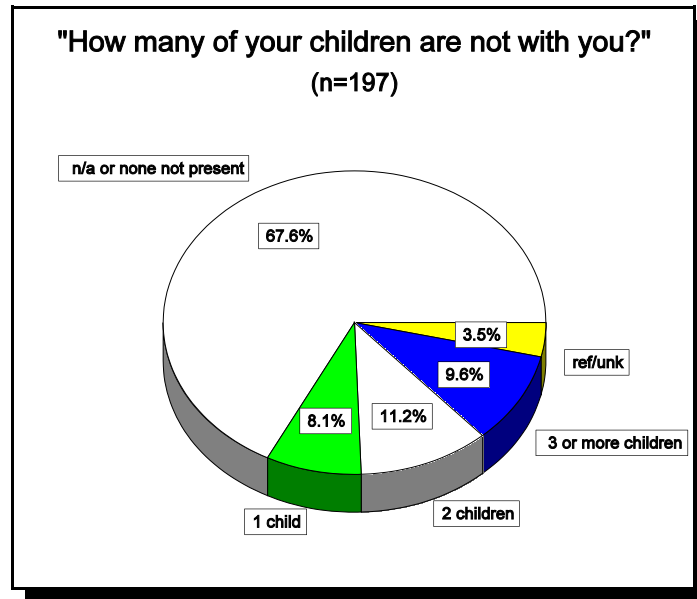
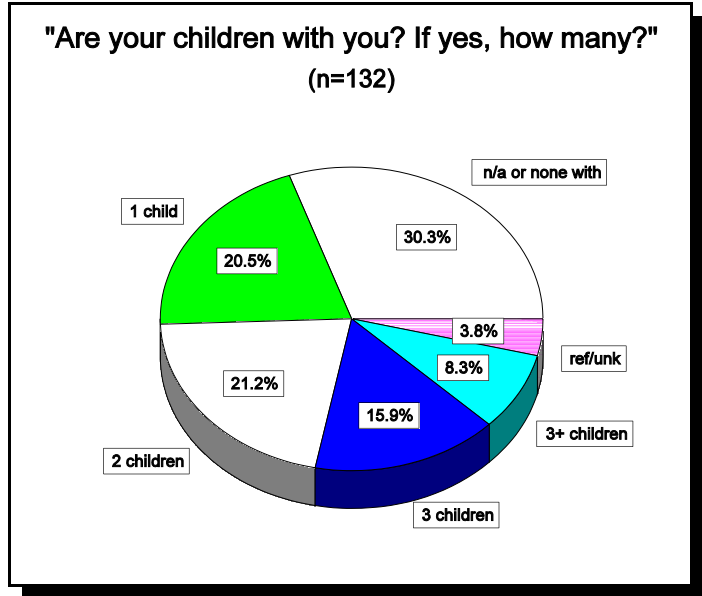


**■ WITH OR WITHOUT CHILDREN AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN**

**1996 survey data**

Roughly two-thirds of the respondents who answered “yes” to the question about whether they had immediate family present also reported they had one or more children with them (65.9%).

Among those who indicated a child or children present, the most common response was two children (21.2%). About 30 percent said that they either had no children, or did not have their children with them.



**■ CHILDREN NOT PRESENT**

**1996 survey data**

Less than thirty percent of those who reported having family with them also indicated that they had children who were *not* with them currently (28.9%).

Eleven percent said that they had two children not with them, roughly ten percent said they had three or more children not with them, and about eight percent reported one child not with them.

Sixty-seven percent indicated they either had no children, or had all their children with them.

## II. SURVEY OF 340 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PHOENIX

### D. Income and Employment



## RESULTS IN BRIEF

- **FEMALES REPORT EMPLOYMENT MORE OFTEN THAN MALES.** Nearly half of all females -- and about 37 percent of all respondents -- reported a “job” as their primary source of income during the previous month. When the additional roughly seven percent who indicated “day labor” are added in, the percentage of respondents earning income from work climbs above 40 percent overall.
  
- **MANY REPORT LESS THAN \$100 INCOME DURING PREVIOUS MONTH.** Roughly one-third of all respondents reported an income of less than \$100 during the previous 30 days. Eighty respondents reported no income.
  
- **MOST FEMALES REPORT HIGHER INCOME THAN MALES.** Among all males in the survey, the most commonly reported income during the previous month was less than \$100; for females it was greater than \$1,000. The apparently high amount of monthly income for females might be attributed to their “transitioning” out of homelessness via a transition program.

**Primary Source of Income - Previous 30 Days**  
(n=196)

	PERCENT		
	all	male	female
job	37.2%	29.5%	47.7%
other	13.8	10.7	17.9
SSI	9.7	13.4	4.8
\$ from family	6.6	7.1	5.6
day labor	6.6	9.8	2.4
donate blood	5.6	7.1	3.6
SSDI	5.6	7.1	3.6
\$ from friends 4.1	4.5	3.6	
Social Security	3.1	1.8	4.8
workman's comp	1.5	2.7	0.0
sell Grapevine	1.5	1.8	1.2
recycling	1.0	0.9	1.2
“will work for food”	1.0	0.9	1.2
unempl. insurance	1.0	1.8	0.0
trade, swap things	0.5	0.9	0.0
handouts/panhandle	0.5	0.0	1.2
sell View Point	0.5	0.0	1.2
<b>total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

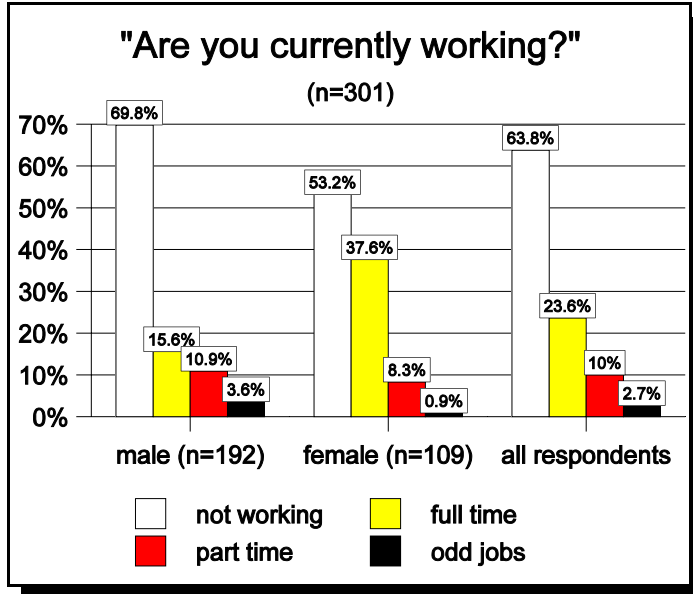
### ■ PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME IN PREVIOUS 30 DAYS

#### 1996 survey data

Nearly half of all females, and 37 percent of all respondents, reported a “job” as their primary source of income during the previous month. When the additional roughly seven percent who indicated “day labor” are added in, the percentage of respondents earning income from work climbs above 40 percent overall. These seemingly high numbers may be at least partially attributed to a number of respondents being in “transitional” programs which require participants to hold a job.

Only small percentages of respondents reported gaining their primary income from some of the more highly visible activities of homeless people such as selling the Grapevine newspaper,

recycling (or can collecting), soliciting handouts/ panhandling, or advertising “will work for food.”



## ■ WORKING / NOT WORKING

### What the 1996 survey reveals

Roughly 64 percent of all respondents said they were not currently working. Although 70 percent of males were not working, the figure was about 53 percent among females. About 45 percent of females reported either full or part time work, and about 27 percent of males responded similarly.

In response to a question about how the respondent supported him/herself in 1983, three percent reported working a "regular job," one percent said "part-time job" and 35 percent said "occasional job."

one percent said "part-time job" and 35 percent said "occasional job."

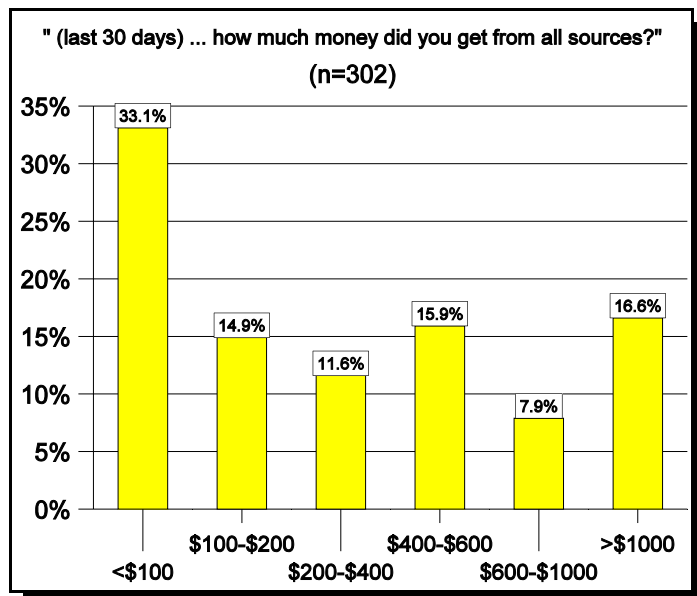
## ■ AMOUNT OF INCOME IN PREVIOUS 30 DAYS

### 1996 survey data

Roughly one-third of all respondents reported an income of less than \$100 during the previous 30 days (33.1%). Eighty respondents (26.4% of 302) reported no income.

After "less than \$100," the second most common response for income was an amount greater than \$1,000 (n=50).

No similar question was asked in the 1983 study.

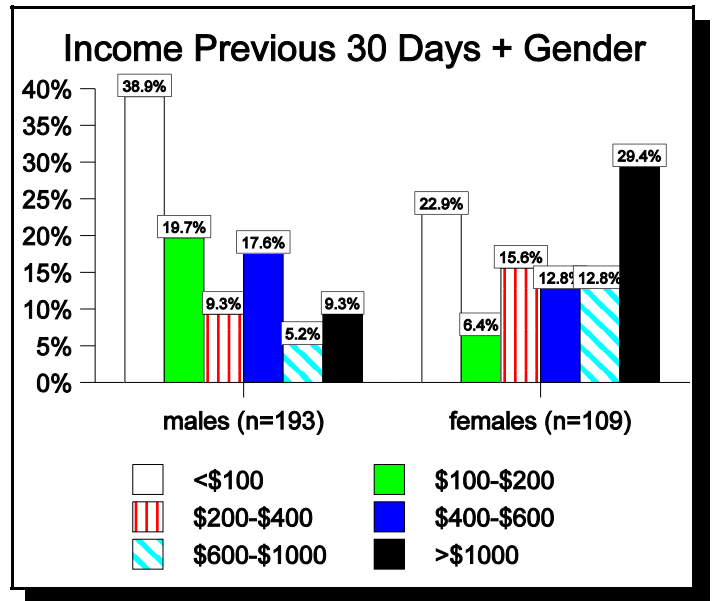


**SPECIAL ANALYSIS:  
AMOUNT OF INCOME IN PREVIOUS 30  
DAYS + GENDER**

**1996 survey data**

The table to the right indicates that females generally reported higher incomes than males in the survey. For males, the most commonly reported income was less than \$100 (38.9%); for females it was greater than \$1,000 (29.4%).

By a two-to-one margin, more females than males reported income in the \$600-\$1,000 range (12.8% versus 5.2% for males). In addition, more than three times as many females reported an income in excess of \$1,000 during the previous 30 days (29.4% versus 9.3% for males). On the low end of the scale, nearly 40 percent of males said they had received less than \$100 during the previous month, while only about 23 percent of females indicated an income of less than \$100.



**■ GENERAL ASSISTANCE  
RECIPIENTS AND APPLICANTS**

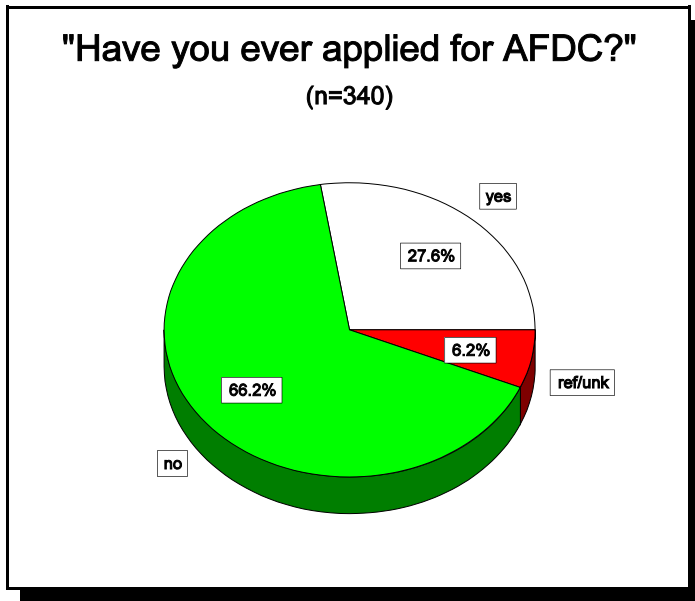
**1996 survey data**

Twelve percent of those asked indicated that they had received General Assistance (GA) money during the previous 30 days. In a follow-up question, 30 percent reported that they had applied for General Assistance support at some previous point in their lives.

**1983 vs. 1996**

In response to a 1983 question about how the respondent supported him or herself, 20 percent reported income from “public assistance (i.e., welfare, SSI, GA, etc.).”

A. “Over the last 30 days, have you received money from General Assistance?” (n=340)	
yes	12.2%
no	84.7%
refused/unk	3.2%
B. “If no, have you ever applied for GA?” (n=320)	
yes	30.0%
no	60.3%
refused/unk	10.5%



■ **AFDC APPLICANTS**

**1996 survey data**

Twenty-seven percent of all respondents indicated they had previously applied for support from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

Unlike the General Assistance question, interviewees were not asked whether or not they were currently receiving AFDC funds.

**1983 vs. 1996**

In response to a question about how the respondent supported him or herself in 1983, 20 percent reported income from “public assistance (i.e., welfare, SSI, GA, etc.).”

## II. SURVEY OF 340 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PHOENIX

### E. Health and Behavioral Health

## RESULTS IN BRIEF

- **DEPRESSION VERY COMMON, ONE-QUARTER HAVE THOUGHT OF SUICIDE.** Almost half acknowledged a period of “serious depression” in their life and an almost equally-high percentage reported that they had experienced “anxiety or tension.” Twenty-four percent had “serious thoughts of suicide,” and about 20 percent acknowledged attempting suicide.
  
- **UP FROM ‘83, ABOUT A QUARTER HAVE RECEIVED INPATIENT TREATMENT FOR MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS.** Overall, about 24 percent reported being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems, with little difference between male and female respondents. In 1983, only about 17 percent reported institutionalization.
  
- **MORE THAN HALF HAVE BEEN HIV/AIDS TESTED, FEW ARE POSITIVE.** Roughly 57 percent acknowledged they had received an HIV test, and greater than 90 percent said they had gone back for the results of the test. Among those, a total of 15 persons (8.3% of those who got results) acknowledged that they had tested positive.

### ■ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFILE

#### 1996 survey data

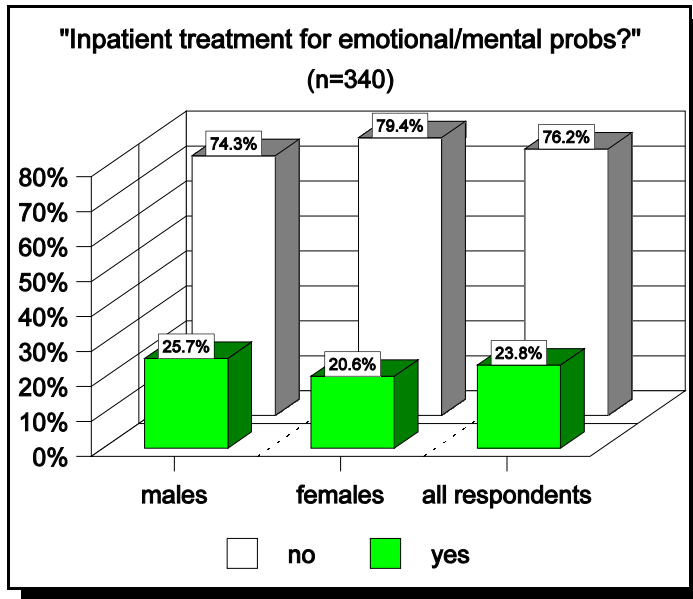
When asked about whether they had experienced a series of mental and emotional maladies, almost half (49.4%) acknowledged a period of “serious depression” in their life. An almost equally-high percentage (48.8%) reported that they had experienced “anxiety or tension.” Twenty-four percent said they had “serious thoughts of suicide,” and about 20 percent acknowledged attempting suicide. Twenty-two percent reported having been on medication for psychological and emotional problems.

#### 1983 vs. 1996

On one 1983 question concerning the type of medication being taken, 11 out of 36 respondents (31%) said they should be taking medicine for “mental problems/nerves.”

**“Have you ever had a period in your life  
(not a result of drug/alcohol use)  
when you experienced ...”**  
(n=340)

	PERCENT		
	yes	no	
<b>ref/unk</b>			
serious depression	49.4	45.6	4.7
anxiety or tension	48.8	46.2	5.0
trouble understanding, concentrating, or remembering	27.9	67.1	5.0
serious thoughts of suicide	24.1	70.6	5.0
taken prescribed medication for psych/emotional probs	22.6	70.0	6.8
trouble controlling violent behavior	20.6	73.8	5.6
attempted suicide	19.7	75.0	5.0
hallucinations	10.9	83.2	5.9



**TREATMENT FOR EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL PROBLEMS**

**1996 survey data**

Overall, about 24 percent reported being hospitalized for emotional or mental problems, with little difference between male and female respondents.

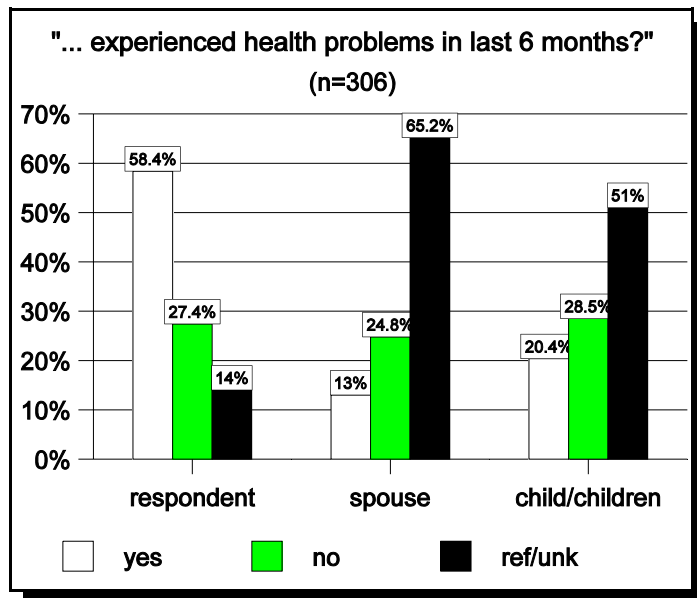
**1983 vs. 1996**

The 1983 question, "Have you ever been in a mental institution?" yielded a slightly lower 17 percent "yes" response.

**HEALTH PROBLEMS IN PREVIOUS 6 MONTHS**

**What the 1996 survey reveals**

Fifty-eight percent of those answering the questionnaire indicated a personal health problem in the previous six months, while only 13 percent said their spouse had a problem recently. Twenty percent said their child had experienced a health problem in the previous six months. The large "refused/unknown" figures in the spouse and child/children columns reflect the high number of respondents who reported that they are not with their spouse and/or child. Thus, they replied, "unknown."



**1983 vs. 1996**

In 1983, respondents rated their personal health as follows: 26 percent said "excellent," 47 percent "good," 20 percent said "fair," 5 percent "poor," and 2 percent said "terrible" (overall, only 27 percent in 1983 rated their personal health anything less than "good").

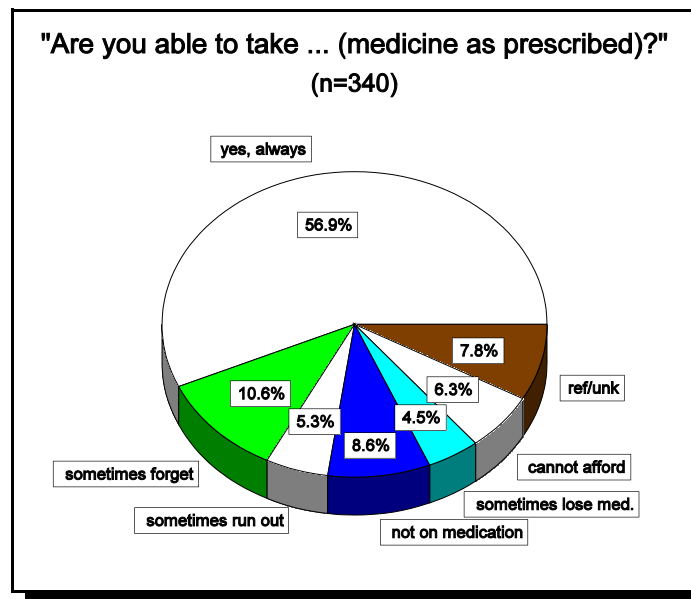
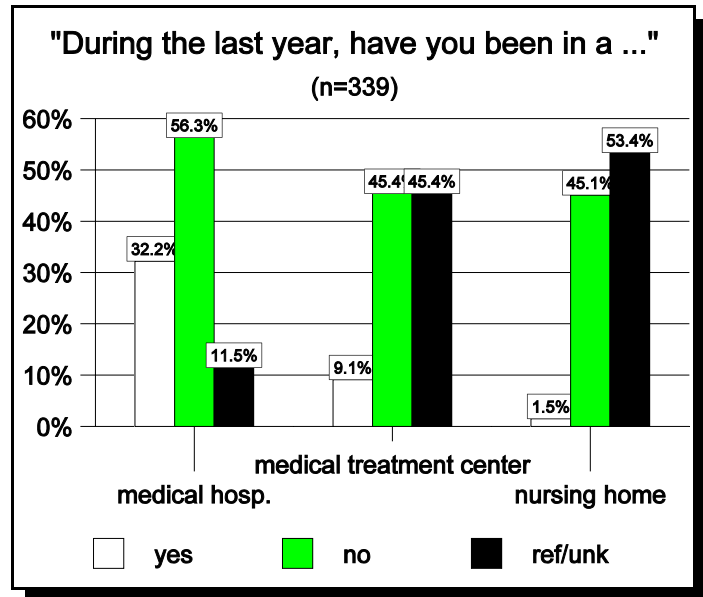
## ■ MEDICAL TREATMENT IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

### 1996 survey data

Nearly one-third (32.2%) of all respondents reported being in a medical hospital during the previous 12 months. About 9 percent said they had been in a “medical treatment center,” less than two percent indicated “nursing home.”

### 1983 vs. 1996

In 1983, 26 percent reported being hospitalized during the previous 12 months, and an additional 5 percent said that a family member had been hospitalized during the previous year.



they cannot afford their prescribed medicine.

## ■ DILIGENCE ABOUT TAKING PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS

### 1996 survey data

In response to the question, “Are you able to take any medicines that have been prescribed for you as directed by your doctor?” 57 percent replied, “yes, always.”

Thus, excluding those who are either not on medication or who refused to answer, roughly 26 percent of respondents reported not taking prescribed medications regularly and consistently. Of those, about six percent said that



■ HIV/AIDS

1996 survey data

When asked whether they had ever been tested for the HIV virus or AIDS, roughly 57 percent acknowledged they had received a blood test. Of those who reported they had been tested, greater than 90 percent (92.8%) said they had gone back for the results of the test.

Among the 180 persons who obtained the results to their test, 15 persons (8.3% of those who went back for results) acknowledged that they had tested positive. Twelve of the 15 who tested positive reported that they were currently receiving medical care for the disease; the other three respondents declined to answer.

Regarding HIV/AIDS...

A. "Have you been tested for HIV/AIDS?" (n=340)

yes*	57.1%	(n=194)
no	37.9%	(n=129)
ref/unk	5.0%	(n=17)

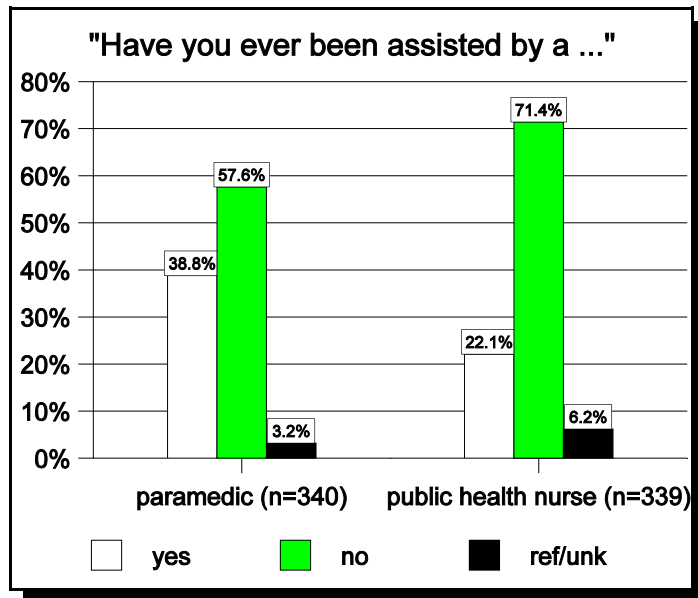
\*92.8% (n=180) of those who said they had been tested reported that they also gone back for test results

B. "(If you went back for the results) ... did you test positive?" (n=180)

yes	8.3%	(n=15)
no	83.3%	(n=150)
ref/unk	8.3%	(n=15)

C. "If positive, are you getting medical care?"

yes	n=12
ref/unk	n=3



■ USE OF PARAMEDICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

1996 survey data

More than seven out of ten respondents reported they had previously been assisted by a public health nurse (71.4%). Just under 39 percent said they had been helped by paramedics.

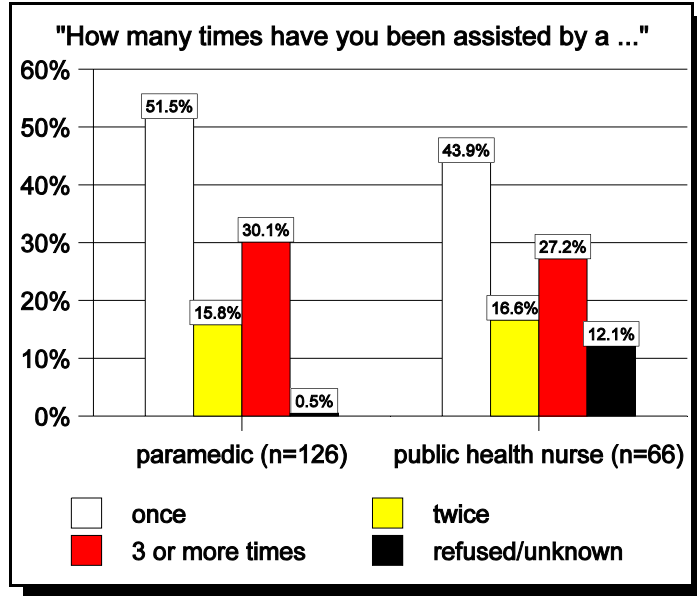
No similar question was asked in 1983.

**■ FREQUENCY OF USE OF PARAMEDICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES**

**1996 survey data**

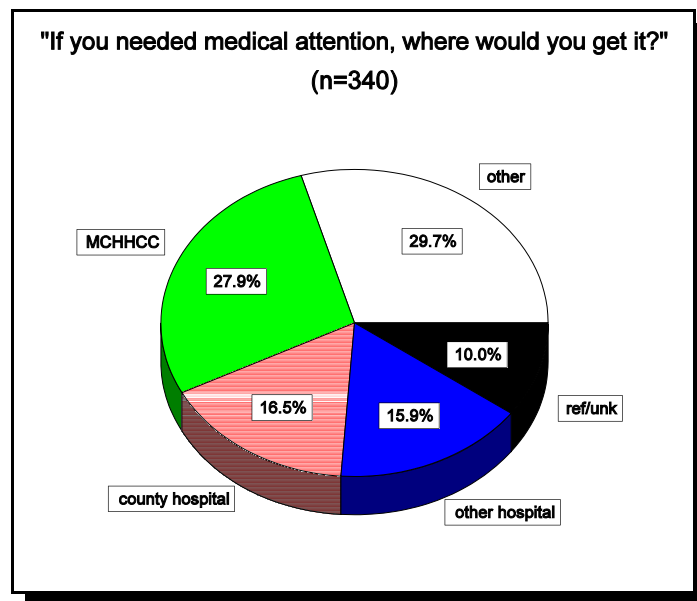
Among those who had used paramedics or a public health nurse, most reported seeking their assistance only once (51.5% and 43.9%, respectively).

No similar question was asked in 1983.



**■ INABILITY TO GET MEDICAL ATTENTION (n=339)**

About 20 percent of all respondents (19.9%) said “yes” -- there had been a time during the previous 12 months that they needed medical care but could not get it. In response to a follow-up about why they could not get medical care, common responses included: “didn’t know where to go”; “didn’t have money,” and “didn’t want to go.”



**■ WHERE TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION**

When asked, “If you needed medical attention, where would you get it?” roughly 30 percent said “other” with VA hospital being frequently mentioned.

About 27 percent replied Maricopa County Homeless Health Care Clinic, roughly 17 percent said “county hospital”; and about 16 percent said “other hospital.” Nine percent refused or did not answer.

## ■ MADISON STREET CLINIC AND MARICOPA COUNTY DENTAL CLINIC

### 1996 survey data

Familiarity with the Madison Street clinic was high among all respondents: roughly 82 percent reported having been there previously. Among those who received treatment at the clinic, about three-quarters (74.5%) said they were either “very” or “moderately” satisfied with the treatment they received. Only six percent were “very” dissatisfied.

Fewer respondents indicated familiarity with the Maricopa County Dental Clinic; only 8.8 percent said they had ever been to the clinic. Among the relatively small number who had received treatment there, however, satisfaction ratings were also high. Roughly two-thirds reported “very” or “moderate” satisfaction with the service received.

No similar questions were asked in the 1983 survey.

A. “Have you ever been to the clinic on Madison Street?” (n=340)

yes	81.5%
no	16.0%
ref/unk	5.6%

B. “If yes (and you received treatment there) how satisfied were you?” (n=114)

very satisfied	57.0%
moderately sat.	17.5%
somewhat dissat.	9.6%
very dissatisfied	6.1%
ref/unk	8.7%

C. “Have you ever been to the Maricopa County Dental Clinic?” (n=340)

yes	8.8%
no	84.4%
refused/unknown	6.8%

D. “If yes, (and you received treatment there) how satisfied were you?” (n=31)

very satisfied	n=15
moderately sat.	n=5
somewhat dissat.	n=5
very dissatisfied	n=4
refused/unknown	n=2

## II. SURVEY OF 340 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PHOENIX

### F. Alcohol / Drug Use and Treatment

## RESULTS IN BRIEF

- **FEWER IN ALCOHOL TREATMENT.** Seventy-eight percent reported never receiving inpatient (hospitalized) treatment for problems with alcohol. In 1983, nearly 50 percent of all respondents said they had been in alcohol treatment of some kind.
- **MORE IN DRUG TREATMENT.** Eighteen percent acknowledged receiving inpatient (hospitalized) drug treatment. In 1983, only 11 percent said they had ever been in a drug program of any kind.
- **MARIJUANA, STIMULANTS, AND COCAINE RANK AT TOP.** Roughly 58 percent reported using marijuana at least once in their lives. Stimulants (including methamphetamine) was second most commonly reported drug. About one-quarter said they had previously used cocaine or crack.
- **MALES AND NON-MINORITIES REPORTED MORE DRUG USE.** Males were more than twice as likely as females to have used at least one drug during the previous year. Non-minorities were twelve percent more likely than minorities to have used at least one illegal drug during the previous 12 months.

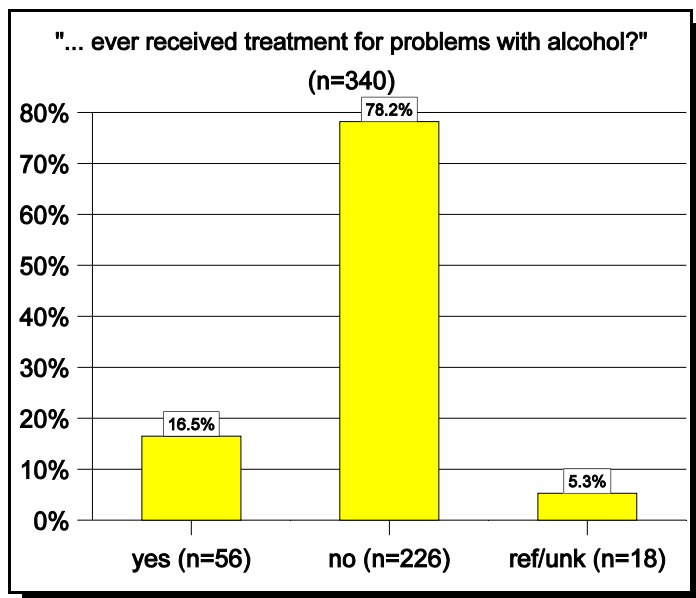
### ■ INPATIENT (HOSPITALIZED) TREATMENT FOR ALCOHOL

#### 1996 survey data

Seventy-eight percent of survey respondents indicated they had never received inpatient (hospitalized) treatment for problems with alcohol. Roughly 17 percent acknowledged that they had been hospitalized for alcohol dependency.

#### 1983 vs. 1996

Although this question was not specifically asked in 1983, other alcohol treatment questions were asked (see “Currently in Alcohol Treatment” below).



**■ CURRENTLY IN ALCOHOL TREATMENT**

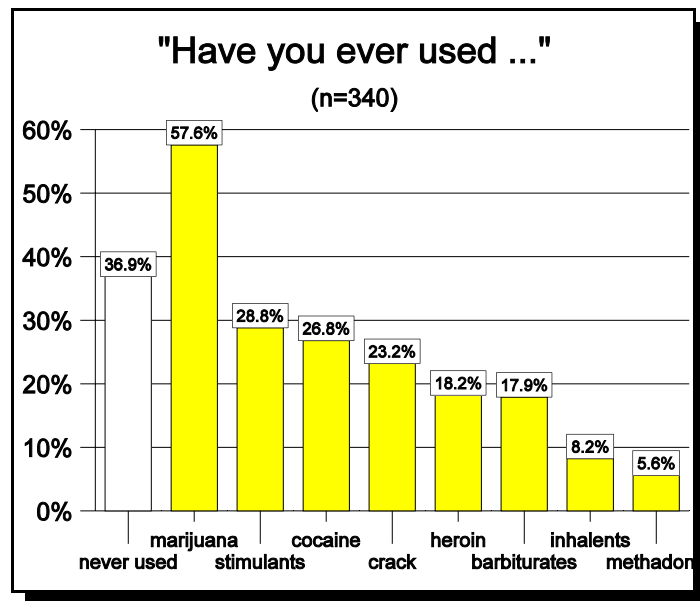
**1996 survey data**

About eight percent of 340 respondents said they are currently in alcohol treatment. In follow-up question regarding alcohol treatment, roughly 11 percent said they had previously been to the Local Alcohol Reception Center (LARC).

**1983 vs. 1996**

In response to the 1983 question: "Have you used LARC?" 21 percent of all respondents said "yes." When combined with the 28 percent in 1983 who said they had used "another alcohol" program, the total who reported some form of alcohol treatment was close to 50 percent.

Regarding Alcohol Treatment ...	
A. "Are you now in a treatment program?" (n=340)	
yes	8.2%
no	84.1%
ref/unk	7.7%
B. "Have you ever been to the LARC Local Alcohol Reception Center?" (n=340)	
yes	10.6%
no	84.1%
ref/unk	5.3%



**■ DRUG USAGE**

**1996 survey data**

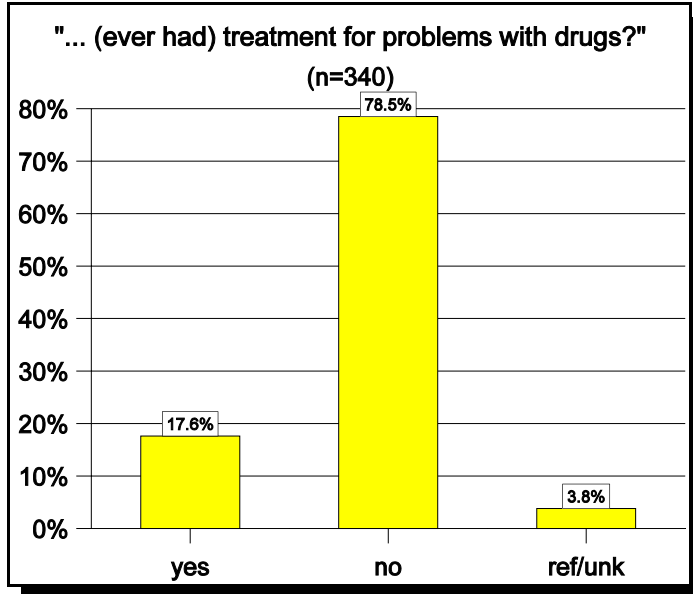
While 37 percent said they had never used any drugs, roughly 58 percent reported using marijuana at least once previously. The second most commonly-reported drug was "stimulants" (28.8%). About a quarter said they had used either cocaine or crack. Several reviewers of this data (including police officers) have opined that these numbers may be artificially low because many respondents were in transitional programs where drug use is strictly forbidden and can be

cause for dismissal from the program.

**1983 vs. 1996**

In 1983, 4 percent reported "daily" or "regular" drug use, and 18 percent said they used

drugs “occasionally.”



## ■ INPATIENT (HOSPITALIZED) TREATMENT FOR DRUG USE

### 1996 survey data

Seventy-eight percent of 340 respondents said they had never been hospitalized for drug use, while 18 percent acknowledged inpatient drug treatment.

### 1983 vs. 1996

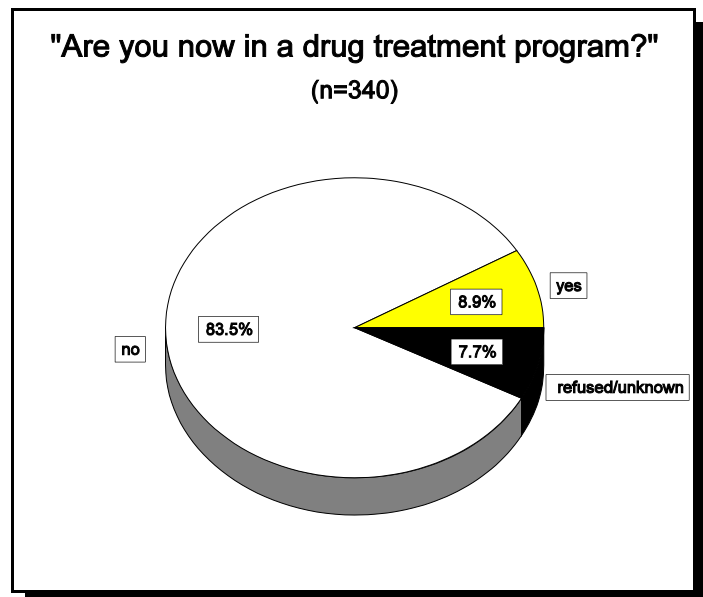
In response to the 1983 survey question, “have you ever used a drug program?” 11 percent of respondents answered “yes.”

## ■ CURRENTLY IN DRUG TREATMENT

### 1996 survey data

Nine percent (n=30) of 340 respondents indicated they were currently in a drug treatment program; roughly 83 percent said they were not.

No similar question was asked in 1983.



**SPECIAL ANALYSIS:  
Drug Usage in Previous 12 months +  
Gender + Minority/Non-Minority**

**1996 survey data**

Among all respondents who reported drug use ever, about 36 percent indicated they had used drugs during the previous 12 months. Disaggregated by gender, males were more than twice as likely as females to have used at least one drug during the previous year (43.0% for males versus 21.8% for females).

Non-minorities were twelve percent more likely than minorities to have used at least one illegal drug during the previous 12 months (37.0% for non-minorities vs. 29.0% for minorities).

Drug usage in previous 12 months ...		
<u>all respondents</u> (n=317)		
no drug use in past yr.		64.4%
1 or more drugs in past yr.		35.6%
total		100%
<u>by gender</u> (n=317)		
	<b>male</b>	<b>female</b>
no drug use in past yr.	57.0%	78.2%
1 or more drugs in past yr.	43.0%	21.8%
total	100%	100%
<u>by minority/non-minority</u> (n=305)		
	<b>minority</b>	<b>non</b>
no drug use in past yr.	71.0%	63.0%
1 or more drugs in past yr.	29.0%	37.0%
total	100%	100%



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