

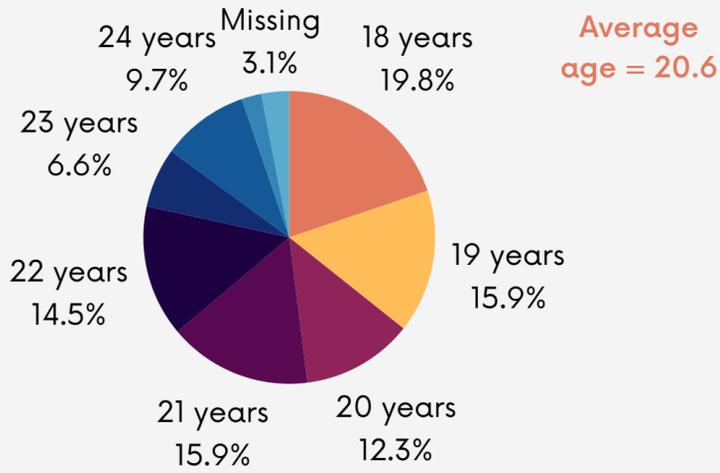
April 2024

2024 YOUTH EXPERIENCES SURVEY REPORT

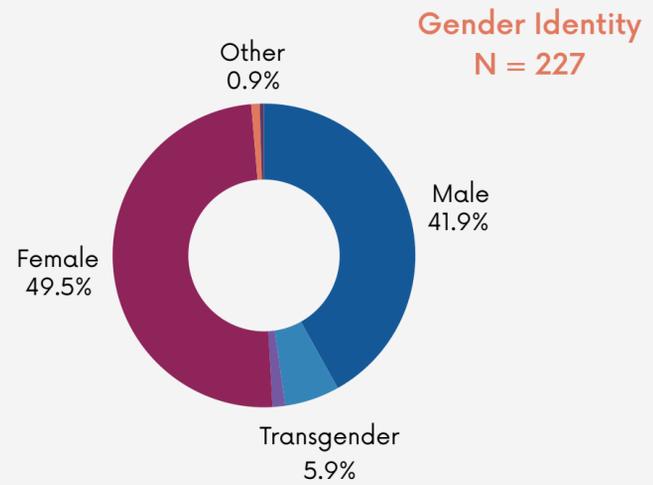
DEMOGRAPHICS

N = 227

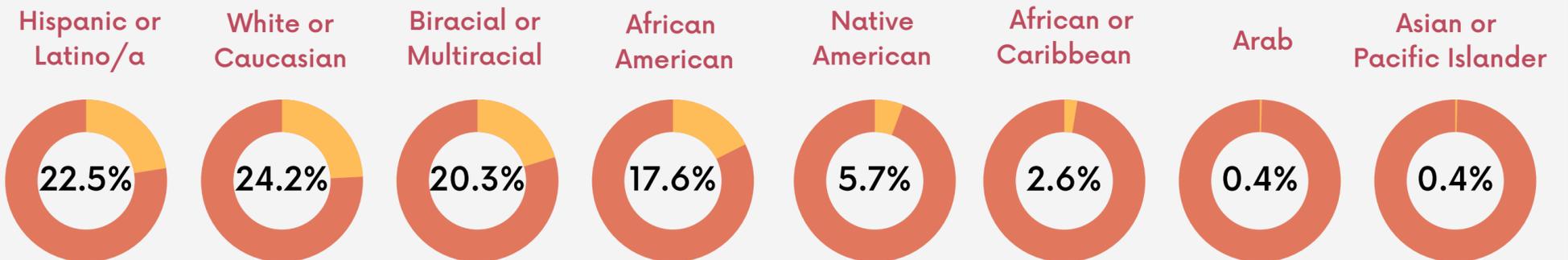
All the participants of the 2024 YES survey were between the ages of 18 and 25 years of age.



The participants identified as either male, female, transgender, genderqueer or other.



The following is an illustration of the racial identities of the participants (N = 227) with 14 missing.



SHELTER AND HOUSING

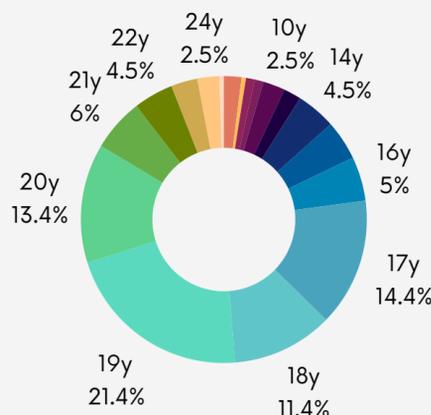
Respondents described a variety of current housing and shelter accommodations

| Current Housing Arrangement | N |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Couch-surfing | 42 |
| Hotel | 3 |
| Shelter | 97 |
| My own place (transitional) | 43 |
| My own place (paid by self) | 19 |
| On street | 13 |
| Other | 6 |
| Missing | 4 |

Over half of the respondents (n = 158) reported being kicked out of their home (N = 227).

Almost all (n = 220) of the respondents experienced homelessness in their life. Their first experience occurred between the ages of 6 and 25.

Average age of first homeless experience = 16.9



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The sexual orientations identified were heterosexual, bisexual, asexual, pansexual, lesbian, gay, or other.

Almost half of the participants (46.7%) identified as LGBTQIA. The rest (53.3%) identified as heterosexual.

EDUCATION

Almost half of the respondents (42.3%) reported that they had dropped out of school at one point in time.

The reasons for dropping out included homelessness (57.3%), moving around a lot (51%) academic difficulty (21.1%).

REFERENCES

Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (2023). Youth Experiences Survey (YES) Study: Exploring the Human Trafficking Experiences of Homeless Young Adults in Arizona, Year Eleven.

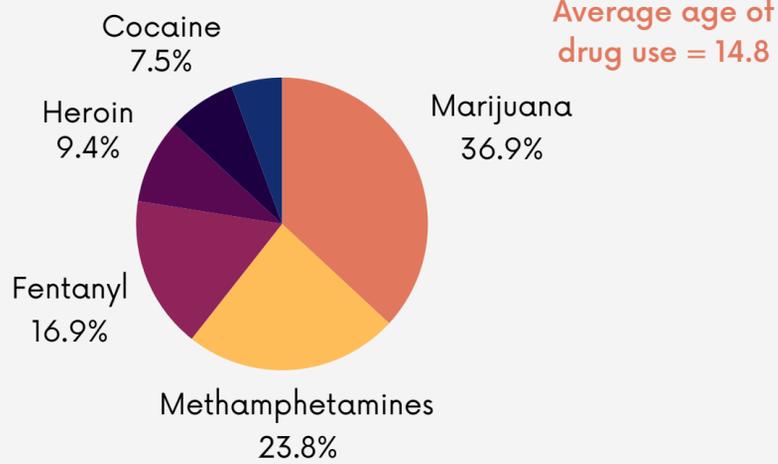
Agencies: Our Family Services - Tucson, YMCA Downtown Lincoln, Native American Connections (Homebase & Surprise), Homeless Youth Connection - Maricopa, OneNTen, Arizona Youth Partnership, Dream Center - Phoenix, & UMOM.

2024 YOUTH EXPERIENCES SURVEY REPORT

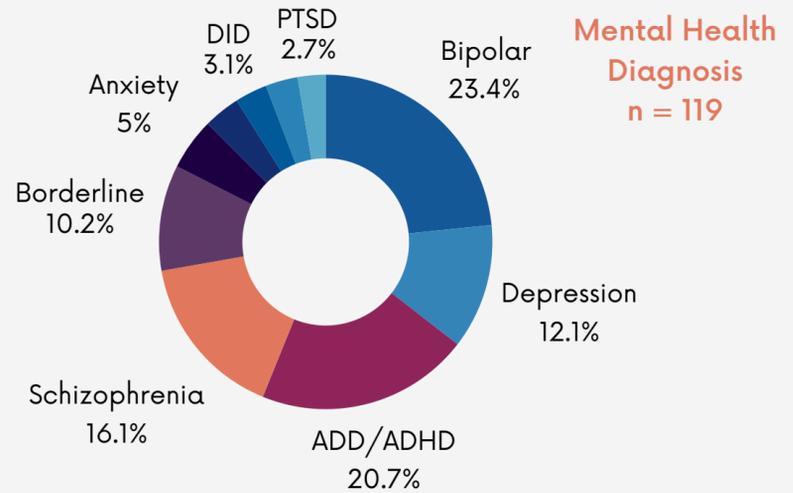
CHALLENGES

N = 227

Drug use was reported by nearly half of the respondents (46.7%) with the first experience ranging from 6 years to 21 years old.

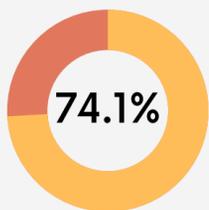


A mental health diagnosis was reported by over half of the participants (52.4%). The identified diagnoses are included below.

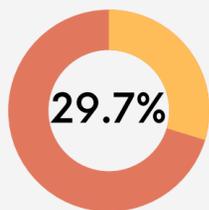


Being rejected by family and kicked out of the house was reported by over two-thirds of the respondents (69.6%). The age of being kicked out ranged from 9 years to 22 years old, with the average of 16.5 years old. The reasons for being kicked out:

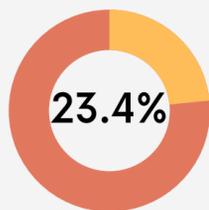
Family Conflict



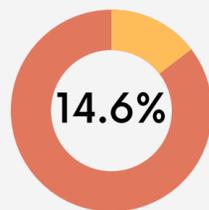
Family Poverty



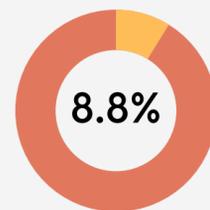
Substance Use



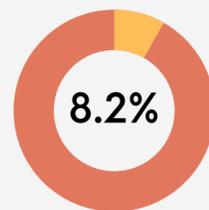
Sexual Orientation



Gender Identity



Other



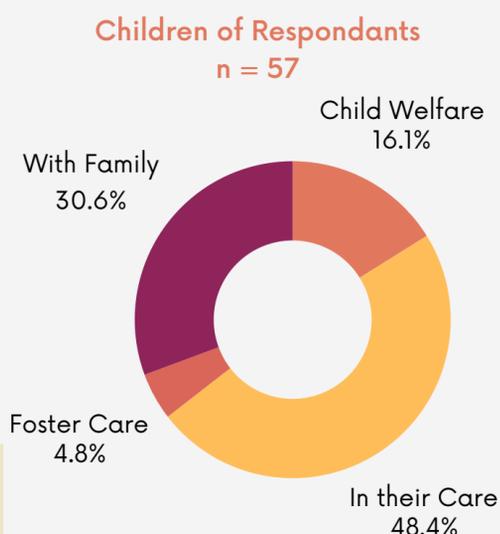
WORK AND FAMILY

Respondents described a variety of activities to earn money to live.

| Current Activity | N |
|-----------------------|----|
| Steady Job | 86 |
| Day laborer | 57 |
| Selling my own things | 52 |
| Side jobs for cash | 46 |
| Selling stolen things | 19 |
| Panhandeling | 24 |
| Other | 20 |
| Selling drugs | 16 |
| Door to door sales | 11 |
| Pickpocket | 7 |

Other types of work included call center, creating and selling art and music online, delivery driver, and Only Fans.

The participants reported they had children (25.1%) or if they were currently pregnant (6.2%). Those with children reported the current living situation below.



ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

The majority of participants (81.1%) reported experiencing at least one ACE in their lifetime.

Over half of participants (63%) reported experiencing 4 or more adverse childhood experiences in their lifetime.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES

Almost half of the participants (45.4%) observed their parent hit or beat another parent.

Being hit, kicked, or physically assaulted by a romantic partner was reported by a third of respondents (35.7%).

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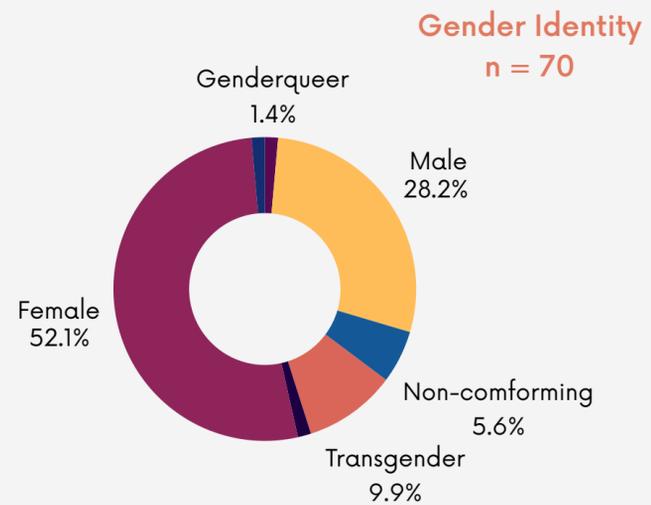
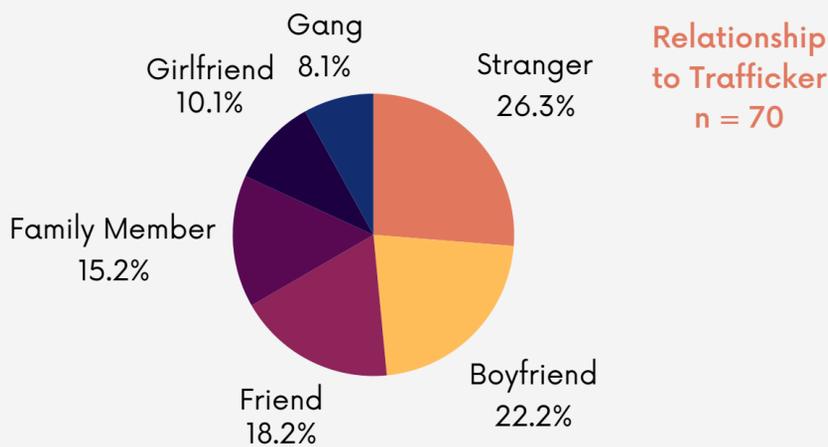
2024 YOUTH EXPERIENCES SURVEY REPORT

DEMOGRAPHICS: SEX TRAFFICKED N= 70

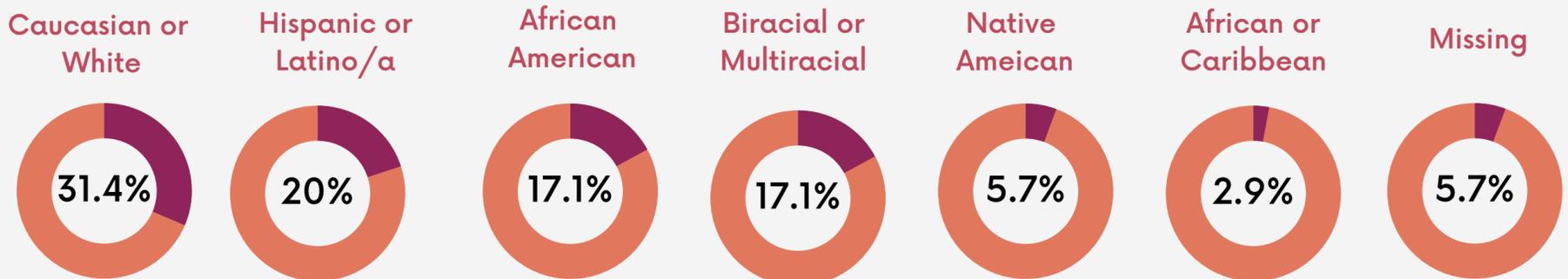
Sex trafficking was reported by 70 respondents of the total YES survey (N = 227). The average age of their first sex trafficking experience was 15.6 years old. The age ranged from 4 years to 22 years old.

The sex trafficked participants identified as either male, female, transgender, non-conforming, genderqueer or other.

Sex Trafficked participants identified their relationship with their traffickers illustrated below.



The following is an illustration of the racial identities of the sex trafficked participants (n= 70) with 4 missing.

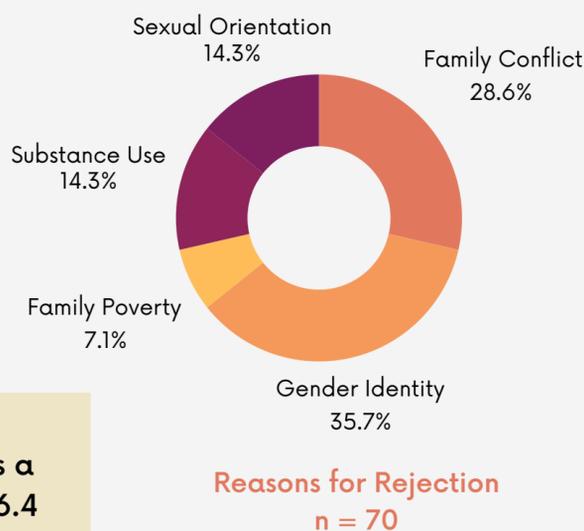


SHELTER AND HOUSING

Respondents described a variety of current housing and shelter accommodations (n = 70).

Majority of the respondents (91.4%) reported being previously kicked out of their home. The average age of rejection was 16. Below are the reasons for rejection.

| Current Housing Arrangement | N | % |
|-----------------------------|----|-------|
| Shelter | 21 | 30% |
| Transitional Housing | 15 | 21.4% |
| Couch-surfing | 14 | 20% |
| Housing (with assistance) | 8 | 11.4% |
| On the street | 13 | 5.7% |
| Hotel | 1 | 1.4% |
| Other | 1 | 1.4% |



More than half (55.7%) of the sex trafficked participants first experienced homelessness as a child. The average age of homelessness was 16.4 years old.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Sex trafficked participants experienced an average of 6 ACEs.

Over half of participants (n = 57) reported experiencing 4 or more adverse childhood experiences in their lifetime.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES

Almost half of the participants (62.9%) observed their parent hit or beat another parent.

Being hit, kicked, or physically assaulted by a romantic partner was reported by over half of respondents (68.6%).

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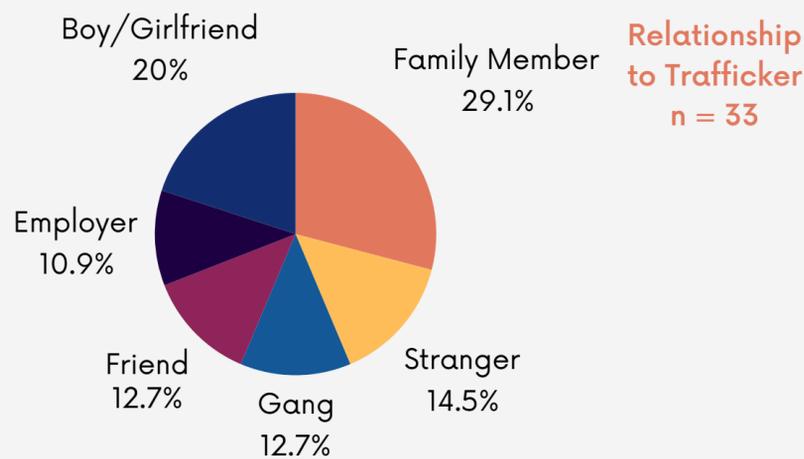
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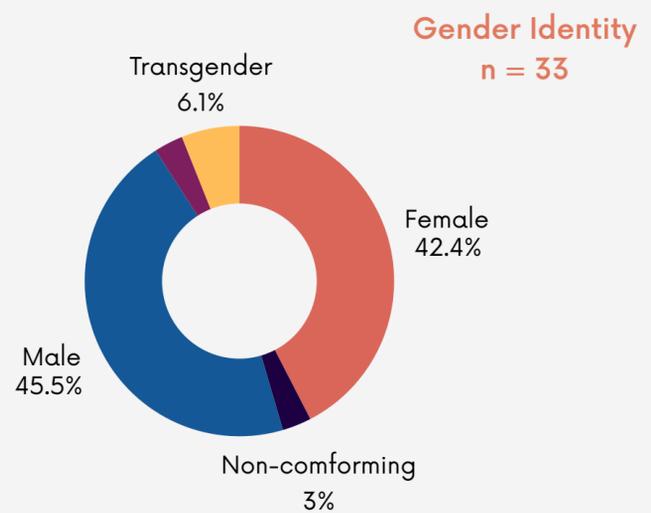
DEMOGRAPHICS: LABOR TRAFFICKED N= 33

Labor trafficking was reported by 33 respondents of the total YES survey (N = 227). The average age of their first labor trafficking experience was 15.7 years old. The age ranged from 8 years to 22 years old.

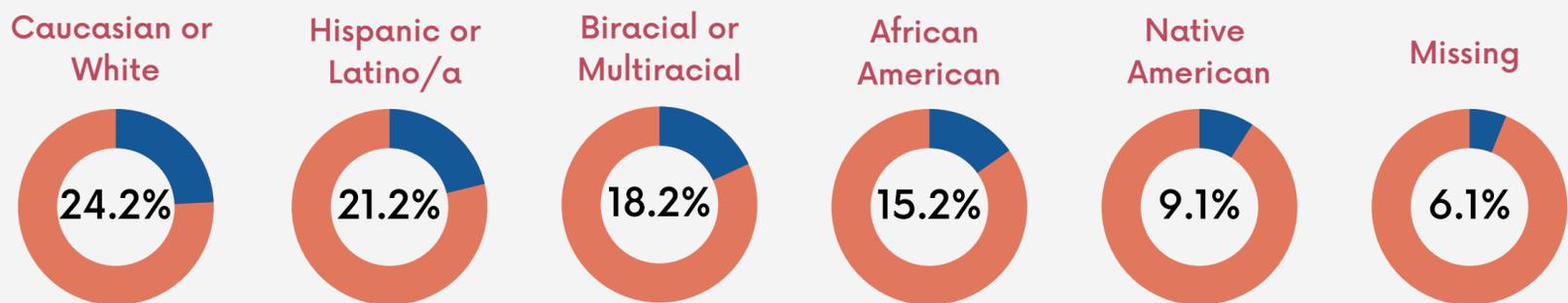
Labor Trafficked participants identified their relationship with their traffickers illustrated below.



The labor trafficked participants identified as either male, female, transgender, non-conforming, or other.



The following is an illustration of the racial identities of the labor trafficked participants (n= 33) with 2 missing.

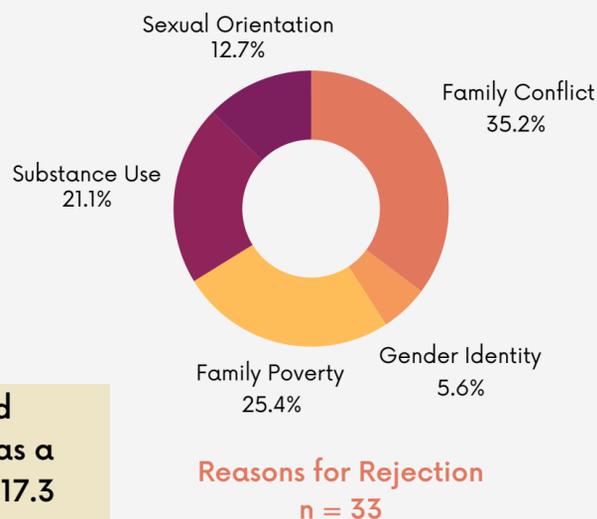


SHELTER AND HOUSING

Respondents described a variety of current housing and shelter accommodations (n = 33).

| Current Housing Arrangement | N | % |
|-----------------------------|----|-------|
| Shelter | 11 | 33% |
| Couch-surfing | 6 | 18.2% |
| Housing (with assistance) | 6 | 18.2% |
| On the street | 5 | 15.2% |
| Traditional housing | 4 | 12.1% |
| Hotel | 1 | 3% |

Majority of the respondents (93.9%) reported being previously kicked out of their home. The average age of rejection was 16. Below are the reasons:



More than half (51.5%) of the labor trafficked participants first experienced homelessness as a child. The average age of homelessness was 17.3 years old.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Labor trafficked participants experienced an average of 7 ACEs. The majority reported experiencing more than one (93.1%).

Over half of participants (78.8%) reported experiencing 4 or more adverse childhood experiences in their lifetime.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES

Over half of the participants (54.5%) observed their parent hit or beat another parent.

Being hit, kicked, or physically assaulted by a romantic partner was reported by over half of respondents (63.6%).

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2024 YOUTH EXPERIENCES SURVEY REPORT

ACES

155 out of 227 (68.3%) participants answered yes to the question:

"Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you or act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?"

142 of the 227 (62.6%) participants answered yes to the question:

"Did you often or very often feel that no one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special or your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other? at least one ACE in their lifetime."

141 out of 227 (62.1%) participants answered yes to the question:

"Were your parents ever separated or divorced?"

125 out of 227 (55.1%) participants answered yes to the question:

"Did a parent in the household have a drug or alcohol problem?"

105 out of 227 (46.3%) participants answered yes to the question:

"Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?"

69 out of 227 (30.4%) answered yes to the question:

"Did a household member go to prison?"

57 out of 227 (25.1%) answered yes to the question:

"Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way or attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?"

IMPLICATIONS

Ongoing needs for homeless young adults in the state of Arizona:

- Youth focused safe channels for reporting exploitation & technology based outreach tools
- More access to low-barrier transitional housing
- Targeted services for high-risk groups, such as LGBTQIA+ youth
- Accessible trauma informed mental health care

With regard to sex trafficking and labor exploitation:

- Social serving agencies must be equipped to screen for the presence of these forms of exploitation and their staff must be trauma-informed and trained in culturally responsive practices
- Maintain drop-in centers, mobile resource units, and consistent street outreach as essential services
- Social services, schools, healthcare systems, law enforcement, and housing providers must work together to build collaborations and support victims of exploitation
- Additional funding opportunities from local and state government should be made available to specifically target service provision for this population.

Homelessness as a Child

- Recognize that many unsheltered young adults experienced homelessness and significant trauma prior to adulthood
- Prioritize early intervention for school-aged children facing poverty, abuse, or academic difficulties as part of homelessness and exploitation prevention efforts.
- Implement prevention programs that include school-based intervention, housing instability screenings, and family stabilization services.
- Support continued research to understand childhood pathways into homelessness and exploitation and to identify key intervention points that can shift long-term outcomes.

REFERENCES

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