Governor Ducey’s
Arizona Human Trafficking Council

Full Council Meeting
April 9, 2019
YOUTH EXPERIENCES SURVEY
2018 · YEAR 5

Exploring the Human Trafficking Experiences of Homeless Young Adults in Arizona
This study was funded by The McCain Institute for International Leadership, UMOM New Day Centers, and the Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research.
Acknowledgements

A special thank you to the agencies that took place in the 2018 Youth Experiences Survey data collection.
Purpose

- To explore the life experiences of homeless young adults, ages 18-25, in the State of Arizona.

- To explore the vulnerabilities that place this population at risk for sex and labor trafficking.
**DEFINITIONS**

**SEX TRAFFICKING**

A situation in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

*(TVPA, 2000)*
DEFINITIONS

LABOR TRAFFICKING

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

(TVPA, 2000)
**Definitions**

**Homeless Young Adults**

- 18-25 years of age.
- Chronically or intermittently homeless.
- Living in transitional shelter or temporary situations such as "couch surfing", living in hotels, abandoned houses or other unsafe/unstable housing situations.

Sources: (National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, 2014; Wood et al., 2003)
10-day data collection period in July 2018.

Anonymous paper-and-pencil surveys completed by participants of 4 agencies.

Participants received $5 gift card for participation and a local resource list.
179 homeless young adults responded

43% from Tucson

57% from Phoenix
**Participants**

- **Average Age**: 20.8 years
- **Gender**:
  - 50.8% Male
  - 41.3% Female
  - 7.3% Other Gender
From Arizona and 19 other states
Findings
N = 179

16.3 Years
Average age of first homelessness experience

63.7%
Raised in AZ
(n = 114)

83.8%
Lived in AZ more than 1 year
(n = 150)
Findings
N = 179

Housing Situation

- 26.3% Transitional housing
- 25.7% Streets
- 18.4% Shelter
- 16.8% Couch surfing
- 1.7% Hotel
Findings
N = 179

Drug Use
57% Reported drug use (n = 102)

13.9% Reported addiction to drugs (n = 24)
10.6% Reported addiction to alcohol (n = 19)

Average age of 1st drug use was 14.8 years old.
53.6% reported self-harming behavior (n=96)
Mental Health Challenges

68.7% reported a current mental health diagnosis (n = 123)
53.6% reported more than 1 mental health diagnosis (n = 93)
35.8% reported history of suicide attempts (n = 64)
**Mental Health Challenges**

Most commonly reported diagnoses included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Reported Mental Health Diagnoses</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADD/ADHD</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bipolar Disorder</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Traumatic Stress Disorder</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medical Challenges

54.2% reported a current medical challenge (n = 97)

66.5% enrolled in AZ Health Care Cost Containment System (n = 119)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical Challenges</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor vision</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings
N = 179

Negative Life Experiences

- Run away from home
  n = 85, 47.5%

- Emotional abuse by parent/guardian
  n = 81, 45.3%

- Bullied by school peers
  n = 79, 44.1%

- Foster care/group home
  n = 73, 40.8%

- Academic difficulty
  n = 69, 38.5%

- Harassment by peers
  n = 68, 38%

- Negative contact with law enforcement
  n = 66, 36.9%

- Dating violence
  n = 63, 35.2%

- Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System
  n = 58, 32.4%

- Expelled from school
  n = 58, 32.4%

- Physical abuse by parent/guardian
  n = 57, 31.8%

- Sexually abused as a child (12-under)
  n = 44, 24.6%

- Special education classes
  n = 42, 23.5%

- Sexually abused as a teenager (13-17)
  n = 38, 21.2%

- Residential treatment
  n = 37, 20.7%

- Gang affiliation
  n = 29, 16.2%

- Worked in adult entertainment industry
  n = 14, 7.8%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abuse</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>51.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Neglect</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>47.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Neglect</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Dysfunction</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorce/Separation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>54.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>26.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse in Household</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Illness in Household</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>36.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarcerated Person in Household</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

The number of ACEs reported ranged from 0 to 10 (M = 4, SD = 3.36)

44.7% experienced between 0 to 3 ACEs (n = 80)

51.4% experienced 4 or more ACEs (n = 92)
62 (34.6%) participants reported a sex trafficking experience

as indicated by an affirmative answer to the following questions
Sex Trafficking Inclusion Criteria

1. Have you ever been compelled, forced, or coerced to perform a sexual act, including sexual intercourse, oral or anal contact for: money, food, clothing, drugs, protection, or a place to stay?

2. Do you currently have a person who encourages/pressures/forces you to exchange sexual acts for money, drugs, food, a place to stay, clothing or protection?

3. In the past, has anyone encouraged/pressured/forced you to exchange sexual acts for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?
Sex Trafficked Homeless Young Adults

(n = 62)

Average age of 1st sex trafficking victimization:

17.1 years

29% reported being sex trafficked before age 18

(n = 18)
Findings
N = 179

Sex Trafficked Homeless Young Adults
(n = 62)

29 Female
(39.2% of total female sample)

29 Male
(31.9% of total male sample)

4 Other Gender
(30.8% of total male sample)
Findings
N = 179

Sex Trafficked Homeless Young Adults
(n = 62)

51.6%
identified as LGBTQ (n = 32)
54 (87.1%) reported having a sex trafficker at some point in their experience.

8 (12.9%) reported that they are currently being sex trafficked.
The use of technology for the purpose of sex trafficking was identified by half of the sex trafficked group (n = 31).
Findings
N = 179

Sex Trafficked vs Non-Sex Trafficked Comparison

2.5x more likely to report 4 or more ACEs
2x more likely to identify as LGBTQ
3x more likely to report a drug addiction
4x more likely to report an alcohol addiction
**Findings**  
*N = 179*

**Sex Trafficked vs Non-Sex Trafficked Comparison**

- **3x** more likely to report self-harming behaviors
- **6x** more likely to be kicked out of home due to substance use
- **4x** more likely to report experiencing dating violence
- **4x** more likely to report sexual abuse before age 18