



YOUTH IN CRISIS

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS YOUTH SERVED BY COVENANT HOUSE NEW YORK

COVENANT HOUSE INSTITUTE
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CENTER FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STUDIES



Columbia University
MAILMAN SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Youth in Crisis

This report is the first in an ongoing series of reports on the characteristics, needs, and outcomes of homeless youth served by Covenant House. This series is produced by the Covenant House Institute in partnership with the Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

We are thankful for the support of Dr. Carol Caton, Director of the Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies at Columbia University, Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences (in Psychiatry) and a Research Scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Dr. Howard Andrews, Director of the Data Coordinating Center (DCC) at New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Co-director of the Research Information Services Consortium (RISC) at the New York Presbyterian Medical Center.



Since 1972, **Covenant House** has been providing residential and comprehensive support services to homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. Throughout its diverse network of 21 program sites in Canada, Latin America, and United States, Covenant House assists 70,000 youth each year.

Covenant House Institute is the research and leadership development arm of Covenant House. The Institute's purpose is to advance research and leadership development in the social service sector working with homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth. To learn more about the Covenant House Institute, visit <http://www.covenanthouse.org>.



The Columbia Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies (CHPS) is a multidisciplinary effort to research homelessness and develop ways to prevent chronic homelessness among people with severe mental illness who comprise about 25 percent of homeless adults 18 and older. The Center involves collaborators from the New York State Psychiatric Institute, the Mailman School of Public Health, and many other departments and schools at Columbia University.

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INTRODUCTION

The current economic crisis has brought a new level of urgency to the issue of youth homelessness. Recent reports suggest an alarming rise in numbers with estimates of over 2 million homeless youth in the United States annually and a 25% increase in students identified as homeless (National Alliance to End Youth Homelessness, 2009; Duffield & Lovell, 2008).

There is widespread agreement that in order to effectively address the crisis facing homeless youth, an investment must be made in obtaining better information about the characteristics and needs of this population (Toro, P. A., Dworsky, A., & Fowler, P. J. , 2007; Wychoff, L., Cooney, S. M., Djakovic, D. K., & McClanahan, W. S. , 2008). Collaborative efforts between community-based organizations and research institutions play a vital role in this undertaking because they can greatly facilitate collection of relevant and current information (Pew Partnership for Civic Change, 2003).

Covenant House, the largest provider of services to homeless and at-risk youth in the Americas, established the Covenant House Institute in July 2008 to advance research on homeless youth through research partnerships. This report describes findings from the Institute's first study conducted in partnership with the Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies at Columbia University.

The primary purpose of this investigation was to provide an overview of the characteristics of homeless youth accessing the Covenant House New York (CHNY) Crisis Shelter. Our ability to describe youth characteristics and experiences is the first step towards systematically identifying important trends and risk factors for homelessness.

Key Findings

The analysis revealed four key findings regarding youth entering the CHNY Crisis Shelter.

- **Experience of Violence.** A large proportion of the youth reported histories of violence with 47% reporting physical discipline, 37% physical abuse, 19% sexual abuse, 19% being beaten with an object, and 41% witnessing violence in the home.
- **History of Foster Care and Institutional Placement.** Findings indicate not only that a large number of youth had a history of foster care or other institutional placement (35%), but also that they experienced multiple placements (average of 3 placements) and remained in care for a lengthy period of time (average of 4 years).
- **Unemployment.** The vast majority of youth (78%) entered the shelter unemployed. Of those who were employed, 77% made \$8.00/hour or less. Almost half (41%) had worked "off the books."

- **Low Educational Attainment.** The majority of youth lacked a high school diploma or GED (68%) and was not currently enrolled in school (77%), thus, making it greatly more challenging to obtain a job with a living wage.

The findings present a portrait of youth disconnected from the world of work and education and with intense histories of violence and negative family and institutional interactions. This report helps to define priority areas for future research, program development, and advocacy. Based on these findings, we recommend focusing further investigations on: (1) the dynamics of family environment, relationships, and events; (2) the impact of institutional experiences, particularly foster care placement; and (3) effective strategies for connecting youth to the world of work and education. We recommend advocacy efforts targeting: (1) foster care youth who are becoming homeless in early adulthood; (2) underfunding of housing and supportive services for homeless youth; and (3) the problem of escalating youth unemployment.

STUDY

The study included 444 youth (between ages of 18 and 21) who entered the CHNY Crisis Shelter for the first time between October 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008. The Crisis Shelter provides emergency housing for minors and youth between the ages of 18 and 21. There are four emergency shelter units: minors (24 beds), older female (average 54 beds), older male (average 54 beds), and mothers with children (48 beds). As part of this program, all clients receive emergency services, shelter, case management, and referrals to on- and offsite supportive services.

Method

Sample. The daily shelter census report generated by the Crisis Shelter staff was used to identify youth who entered the shelter for the first time during the specified time period. Minors were not included in the sample.

Instrument. Information on youth characteristics was obtained from preliminary psychosocial assessments conducted by resident advisors with Bachelor degrees. The psychosocial assessment was based on an instrument developed for Covenant House by the Menninger Institute. Data are collected in 9 sections: identifying information, admission, current family and social supports, family background and past personal history, school and work, health and mental health, drug and alcohol assessment, legal issues, and immigration status and issues. The assessment typically takes 1 to 1.5 hours to complete. Answers are completed on a paper form which is placed in the residential client file.

Limitations. The sample was limited to youth whose psychosocial assessment was completed. In addition to the 444 youth whose information was analyzed for this study, 241 eligible youth were excluded from the study because their psychosocial assessments were not available. We found that 68% of youth with missing psychosocial assessments resided in the shelter for 3 days or less and 90% were in the shelter for less than a week. Thus, resident advisors did not have adequate time to complete the assessment. Analysis of the gender and ethnicity of excluded youth indicated that they

were not significantly different on these characteristics from youth included in the study. Analysis of age indicated that excluded youth tended toward the older end of the age range of 18 to 21 years old.

CHARACTERISTICS OF COVENANT HOUSE NEW YORK YOUTH

Findings from the assessment are described below. Supplementary data tables are provided in Appendix 1.

Demographics. A diverse group of youth accessed the Crisis Shelter. Youth tended toward the younger end of the eligible age range with a majority 18 and 19 years old. The majority of youth were black with a notable percentage Hispanic. Thirteen percent (13%) of youth identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. A majority of youth was female (64%). Such a high percentage of females is attributable to the fact that in addition to male and female programs, CHNY has a sizeable mother with children program.

Prior Housing. Youth resided in a variety of housing situations prior to shelter entry. The most common living situation was with family or friends (70%). The vast majority of youth were from New York City (81%).

Reasons for Shelter Entry. The most common reason youth gave for coming to CHNY was “not getting along with a family member” (17%). Other reasons included overcrowded living situations (8%), verbal arguments (6%), physical altercations or abuse (6%), and eviction (4%). And while many other reasons were noted (i.e., pregnancy, sexual preference, abuse < 10%), the majority of youth (65%) responded under an “other” category, suggesting that reasons for shelter entry can be complex and that this is an area for further investigation.

Identification and Documentation Issues. One of the greatest needs of youth at intake was identification and documentation. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of youth did not have a birth certificate, 29% did not have a social security card, and 57% did not have Medicaid. Of the 9% of youth who were not U.S. citizens, 58% were legal residents, 6% had a work permit, 14% were undocumented, and 19% were “other” (e.g., refugees, seeking political asylum, etc.).

Legal Issues. A significant proportion of the youth have been involved with the criminal justice system: 46% have been arrested, 15% have been convicted, 15% have outstanding court dates, and 4% were currently on probation or parole. Twenty-five percent (25%) of youth also reported that family members had legal problems.

Foster Care and Other Institutional Placement. Thirty-five per cent (35%) of youth reported being in foster care or another institutional setting, such as a group home, residential school, or treatment center, at some point in their lives. The average age of first placement was 9 years old. Placement

frequency ranged from 1 to 18 placements, with an average of 3 placements. Placement duration varied from less than one month to 18 years, with an average of 4 years.

Violence, Abuse, and Loss. Many youth reported prior experiences of violence. Forty-one percent (41%) reported witnessing acts of violence in their homes, while even more (47%) reported being disciplined physically. Approximately 37% reported physical abuse with 19% being beaten with an object, 19% reported sexual abuse, and 7% reported being raped. Meanwhile, twenty-six percent (26%) reported being in a physical fight where they hurt someone, with 5% reporting injuring someone with a weapon.

Many youth (31%) also have had someone close to them pass away. Twenty-six per cent (26%) reported a death of someone close to them by illness or disease, while 15% reported someone close to them had been murdered.

Health and Mental Health. At time of intake, all youth are referred for a full physical exam. Thirty-eight percent (38%) require treatment for some kind of ailment, the most frequent being asthma (13%).

Few youth indicated that they had been officially diagnosed with mental illness, although 36% reported having received counseling and 21% reported taking medication to help with feelings and behaviors. While only 7% of youth reported receiving a diagnosis of depression, many more youth reported relevant symptoms of depression. Slightly more than half (54%) reported feeling down, depressed, or hopeless, and 57% reported being tired or having little energy. Just under half (48%) reported difficulty sleeping, 39% reported poor appetite or overeating, and 42% reported feeling bad about themselves. Also of possible relevance, is that 26% of youth reported having at least one family member with a mental health issue.

Substance Abuse. Self-reported regular substance use was somewhat lower than expected, but numbers may reflect report bias associated with obtaining information on this topic. Of the 20% of youth who report using marijuana on a regular basis, 25% report using on a daily basis. Eight percent (8%) reported being in an inpatient drug treatment program at some point. Not surprisingly, the overwhelming majority reported that they do not use other recreational drugs, including inhalants, heroin, ecstasy, crystal meth, hallucinogens, and other drugs. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of youth reported using alcohol on a regular basis. Given the challenges of collecting data in this area, it would be beneficial in a subsequent report to compare this information with other assessment data from health clinic and, possibly, information obtained by an external researcher.

Family history of drug use was notably high. Thirty-six percent (36%) of youth indicated that someone in their family used drugs regularly. While 5% of youth report that at least one person in their family uses alcohol on a regular basis, more than twice as many youth reported that at least one person in their family uses marijuana regularly, and 9% reported that at least one family member uses crack or cocaine regularly. Family substance use and its association with other aspects of the family dynamic could be a fruitful area of further investigation.

Employment. Youth are in need of sustained employment providing a “living wage.” Among youth seeking shelter, 78% were unemployed. Of youth who were working, approximately 77% made \$8.00/hour or less. Twenty-nine percent (29%) have participated in a job training program, through which 33% successfully gained employment. About 41% of youth reported having an “off-the-books” job at some point.

Education. Findings also indicate that youth are in need of education services. Thirty-two percent (32%) have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent (22% HSD, 10% GED) with 21% reporting enrollment in special education at some point. At time of intake, 22% were enrolled in school.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings from this study indicate that homeless youth accessing CHNY have intense histories of violence and negative family and institutional interactions and are disconnected from the worlds of work and education. The results suggest that there are multiple, interacting factors which contribute to becoming and remaining homeless. The immediate challenge for agencies serving homeless youth is twofold: to provide programs that effectively address the urgent needs of this population and to advocate on local, state, and national levels for actions which end this crisis of youth homelessness.

The Covenant House Institute was established to promote the application of research to program development and advocacy. Based on the key findings from this study conducted in partnership with the Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies at Columbia University, we recommend the following areas for further investigation and focused programmatic and advocacy efforts.

Research Recommendations

- 1. Investigate dynamics of family environment, relationships, and events.** The results regarding youth’s experience of violence are striking and their relationship to youth homelessness needs to be better understood. While many environmental reasons (i.e., family conflict, abuse, finances) were cited as reasons that youth left to come to CHNY, an overwhelming 65% reported reasons that were not included in our survey, suggesting an area for further development. Our study suggests that there are multiple factors that may play out over time rather than a single factor that precipitates homelessness.
- 2. Evaluate impact of institutional experiences, particularly foster care placement.** Findings indicate that youth had lengthy and involved histories of negative institutional experiences, including 35% being placed in foster care or other institutional settings and 47% having been arrested. While homelessness prevention research on former foster care youth and juvenile offenders has become a priority of some researchers on youth, Covenant House and other

homeless youth-serving organizations must facilitate longitudinal work in this area, particularly with regard to the impact and effectiveness of shelter programs (Toro et al., 2007). We need to understand better the paths from foster care to homelessness and the particular challenges presented in engaging and achieving positive outcomes with youth with histories of negative social service experiences.

3. **Identify effective strategies for connecting youth to world of work and education.** Unemployment and lack of educational attainment present pivotal challenges to youth seeking long-term stable housing and self sufficiency (Edelman, Holzer, & Offner, 2006). Our study revealed that 79% of youth were unemployed, and 68% lacked a high school diploma or GED with 62% neither in school nor working. Clearly, there is an immediate need to advocate for greater resources for disconnected youth. There is also a pressing need to understand better which program interventions that address youth employment and education are effective and why. A longitudinal investigation of Covenant House's Rights of Passage Transitional Living Program, a residential program focused on achieving self sufficiency through employment, would provide an excellent opportunity to deepen understanding of how best to assist youth.

Policy Recommendation

Provide adequate funding for housing and supportive services for homeless youth. This report documents some of the trauma and myriad challenges faced by homeless youth. This winter Covenant House New York has seen a 33% increase in the number of homeless youth living in the shelter from last year. This surge comes at a time when the resources for homeless youth are being threatened. To develop the resources and skills necessary to transition to self sufficiency, homeless youth require stable housing with comprehensive support services. These services are vital to stemming a cycle of potentially long-term and chronic homelessness. For this reason, we recommend:

- Support Mayor Bloomberg's opposition to Governor Patterson's proposed statutory changes which would drastically reduce funding of services to homeless youth. The Governor's current proposal consolidates mandated and non-mandated homeless youth services into a Youth Programs Block Grant with a \$28 million reduction in overall appropriated funding. If successful, the impact of this effort on Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) services will be devastating. Mayor Bloomberg understands the state cannot cut its way out of this fiscal crisis without jeopardizing the safety of youth and we fully concur.

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DATA TABLES

Demographics

Table 1: Age

| N = 444 | Age | Percentage |
|---------|-----|------------|
| | 18 | 39% |
| | 19 | 35% |
| | 20 | 25% |
| | 21 | 1% |

Table 2: Ethnicity

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Black | 56% |
| | Hispanic | 27% |
| | White | 7% |
| | Other | 10% |

Table 3: Gender

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|-------------|------------|
| | Female | 62% |
| | Male | 37% |
| | Transgender | 1% |

Table 4: Sexual Orientation

| N = 418 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|--------------|------------|
| | Heterosexual | 86% |
| | Bisexual | 6% |
| | Lesbian/Gay | 7% |
| | Refused | 1% |

Prior Housing

Table 5: Where did you stay immediately before coming into the Crisis Center?

| N = 440 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | Biological Parent(s) | 24% |
| | Foster Parent(s) | 1% |
| | Sibling | 4% |
| | Extended Family Member | 13% |
| | Friend | 22% |
| | Group Home/Foster Care Agency | 1% |
| | Girlfriend/Boyfriend | 6% |
| | Another Shelter | 12% |
| | Streets | 4% |
| | Other | 13% |

Reasons for Shelter Entry

Table 6: Why did you come to Covenant House? (Multiple Responses Allowed)

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|---|------------|
| | Did not get along with family member | 17% |
| | Did not follow household rules | 1% |
| | Verbal argument | 6% |
| | Physical altercation | 3% |
| | Emotional abuse | 1% |
| | Sexual abuse | 1% |
| | Physical abuse | 3% |
| | Person living with passed away | 1% |
| | Person living with went to jail | 0% |
| | Cannot afford to return to family because they live outside | 1% |
| | Cannot afford rent | 8% |
| | Overcrowded living situation | 1% |
| | Evicted | 4% |
| | Pregnant | 2% |
| | Sexual preference | 1% |
| | Other | 65% |

Identification and Documentation Issues

Table 7: Needs Birth Certificate

| N = 400 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 38% |
| | No | 62% |

Table 8: Needs Social Security Card

| N = 414 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 29% |
| | No | 71% |

Table 9: Needs Medicaid

| N = 357 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 57% |
| | No | 43% |

Table 10: U.S. Citizenship Status

| N = 442 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 91% |
| | No | 9% |

Table 11: If not a citizen, what is your immigration status?

| N = 36 | Categories | Percentage |
|--------|--|------------|
| | Legal resident/Permanent resident/Green card holder | 58% |
| | Work permit | 6% |
| | Undocumented – Entered U.S. without visa or permit | 14% |
| | Undocumented – Entered U.S. with visa or permit, but has expired | 3% |
| | Other | 19% |

Legal Issues

Table 12: Have you ever been arrested?

| N = 439 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 46% |
| | No | 54% |

Table 13: Have you ever been convicted?

| N = 435 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 15% |
| | No | 85% |

Table 14: Do you have any outstanding court dates?

| N = 440 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 15% |
| | No | 85% |

Table 15: Are you currently on probation or parole?

| N = 440 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 4% |
| | No | 96% |

Table 16: Did anyone in your family have problems with the law?

| N = 437 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 25% |
| | No | 75% |

Foster Care and Institutional Placement

Table 17: Were you ever placed out of the home in foster care/group home/residential school/treatment center?

| N = 438 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 35% |
| | No | 64% |

Table 18: How old were you when you were placed (years)?

| N = 151 | Categories (years old) | Percentage |
|---------|------------------------|------------|
| | 0 | 11% |
| | 1-4 | 10% |
| | 5-12 | 46% |
| | 13-18 | 20% |

Table 19: How long were you in placement?

| N = 135 | Categories (years old) | Percentage |
|---------|------------------------|------------|
| | Less than 1 year | 21% |
| | 1-3 | 33% |
| | 3-5 | 15% |
| | 5-7 | 6% |
| | 7-9 | 7% |
| | 9-11 | 5% |
| | 11-13 | 4% |
| | 13-15 | 5% |
| | 15-17 | 1% |
| | 17+ | 1% |

Table 20: How many different placements did you have?

| N = 139 | Number of Placements | Percentage |
|---------|----------------------|------------|
| | 1 | 51% |
| | 2 | 18% |
| | 3 | 12% |
| | 4 | 4% |
| | 5 | 5% |
| | 6 | 1% |
| | 7 | 2% |
| | 8+ | 6% |

Violence, Abuse, and Loss

Table 21: Did you ever witness violence in your home?

| N = 443 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 40% |
| | No | 60% |

Table 22: Never physically abused by an adult

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 62% |
| | No | 38% |

Table 23: Beaten with a belt, iron cord, extension cord, etc by an adult

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 19% |
| | No | 81% |

Table 24: Slapped, punched, kicked, pushed, shoved, etc by an adult

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 18% |
| | No | 82% |

Table 25: Were you ever sexually abused?

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 19% |
| | No | 81% |

Table 26: Were you ever raped?

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 6% |
| | No | 94% |

Table 27: Were you ever molested?

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 10% |
| | No | 90% |

Table 28: Were you removed from your home because of the physical and/or sexual abuse?

| N = 434 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 11% |
| | No | 89% |

Table 29: Did anyone close to you, either a family member or friend, pass away?

| N = 440 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 31% |
| | No | 69% |

Table 30: Person died of illness/disease

| N = 440 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 26% |
| | No | 74% |

Table 31: Person murdered

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 15% |
| | No | 85% |

Table 32: Discipline was physical (hit, punched, slapped, spanked, etc.)

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 47% |
| | No | 53% |

Table 33: Has never been in a fight where he/she hurt someone

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 67% |
| | No | 33% |

Table 34: Was in a physical fight where he/she hurt someone (no weapon)

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 26% |
| | No | 74% |

Table 35: Discipline was physical (hit, punched, slapped, spanked, etc.)

| N = 444 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 47% |
| | No | 53% |

Table 36: Other fight where he/she hurt someone

| N = 443 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 1% |
| | No | 99% |

Table 37: Injured someone with a weapon

| N = 443 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 5% |
| | No | 95% |

Health and Mental Health

Table 38: Needs treatment now for asthma

| N = 443 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 13% |
| | No | 87% |

Table 39: Has no medical conditions for which needs treatment

| N = 443 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 62% |
| | No | 38% |

Table 40: Needs treatment now for other condition

| N = 443 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 21% |
| | No | 79% |

Table 41: What about mental health issues – have you ever had counseling for your feelings or behavior?

| N = 439 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 36% |
| | No | 64% |

Table 42: No diagnosis made by counseling

| N = 443 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 1% |
| | No | 99% |

Table 43: Have you ever taken medication to help with your feelings or behaviors?

| N = 440 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 21% |
| | No | 79% |

Table 44: Major depressive disorder diagnosed

| N = 443 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 7% |
| | No | 93% |

Table 45: Have you ever been hospitalized because of your feelings or behaviors?

| N = 440 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 17% |
| | No | 83% |

Table 46: Depression Scale

| | | Not at all | Several Days | More than half the days | Nearly every day |
|-------|--|------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| N=444 | Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you had little interest of pleasure in doing things? | 54% | 23% | 12% | 11% |
| N=435 | Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you been feeling down, depressed or hopeless? | 46% | 30% | 16% | 8% |
| N=436 | Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you had trouble falling asleep or staying asleep or sleeping too much? | 52% | 21% | 14% | 13% |
| N=437 | Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you been feeling tired or having little energy? | 43% | 30% | 17% | 10% |
| N=431 | Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you had a poor appetite or overeating? | 61% | 20% | 12% | 7% |
| N=437 | Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you been feeling bad about yourself? | 58% | 22% | 1% | 9% |
| N=437 | Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you had trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching television? | 74% | 14% | 7% | 5% |
| N=437 | Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you had trouble moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed? | 84% | 10% | 4% | 2% |
| N=437 | Over the past 2 weeks, how often have you had thoughts that you would be better off dead or of hurting yourself? | 86% | 7% | 4% | 3% |

Table 47: No one in the family has mental health issues

| N = 443 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 74% |
| | No | 26% |

Substance Abuse

Table 48: How often do you use marijuana?

| N = 424 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Not at all | 83% |
| | Once or twice a month | 5% |
| | 3-4 times a month | 1% |
| | Once or twice a week | 4% |
| | 3-4 times a week | 2% |
| | Every day | 5% |

Table 49: How often do you use alcohol?

| N = 400 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Not at all | 79% |
| | Once or twice a month | 12% |
| | 3-4 times a month | 4% |
| | Once or twice a week | 3% |
| | 3-4 times a week | 1% |
| | Every day | 1% |

Table 50: No one in family used drugs regularly

| N = 442 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 64% |
| | No | 36% |

Table 51: Never in a drug treatment program

| N = 442 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 89% |
| | No | 11% |

Table 52: In an inpatient drug treatment program

| N = 442 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 8% |
| | No | 92% |

Table 53: In an outpatient drug treatment program

| N = 442 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 2% |
| | No | 98% |

Table 54: Family member(s) used alcohol regularly

| N = 442 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 5% |
| | No | 95% |

Table 55: Family member(s) used marijuana regularly

| N = 442 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 13% |
| | No | 87% |

Table 56: Family member(s) used cocaine/crack regularly

| N = 442 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 9% |
| | No | 91% |

Employment

Table 57: Are you employed now?

| N = 442 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 22% |
| | No | 78% |

Table 58: What is your weekly salary?

| N = 26 | Categories | Percentage |
|--------|------------------------------|------------|
| | < minimum wage (< \$7.15/hr) | 19% |
| | \$7.15 - \$8.00 per hour | 58% |
| | \$8.01 - \$10.00 per hour | 15% |
| | More than \$10.00 per hour | 8% |

Table 59: Have you ever been in a job training program?

| N = 440 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 29% |
| | No | 71% |

Table 60: Did you ever get a job through a job training program?

| N = 129 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 33% |
| | No | 67% |

Table 61: Have you ever had a job “off the books” where you receive a paycheck or pay envelope?

| N = 438 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 41% |
| | No | 59% |

Education

Table 62: Do you have a high school diploma?

| N = 438 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------|
| | Yes, from a regular high school | 22% |
| | Yes, has a GED | 10% |
| | No | 68% |

Table 63: Were you ever in Special Education?

| N = 441 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 21% |
| | No | 79% |

Table 64: Are you enrolled in school now?

| N = 438 | Categories | Percentage |
|---------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | 23% |
| | No | 77% |

Table 65: Cross-tabulation: Are you enrolled in school now? / Are you employed now?

| N = 437 | | Are you enrolled in school now? | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| | Categories | Yes | No |
| Are you employed now? | Yes | 7% | 15% |
| | No | 16% | 62% |