

YOUTH EXPERIENCES SURVEY

2018 • YEAR 5

Exploring
the Human Trafficking
Experiences of Homeless
Young Adults in Arizona

2018 Youth Experiences Survey
Year Five

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2018 Youth Experiences Survey: Exploring the Sex Trafficking Experiences of Homeless Young Adults in Arizona, Year Five.

The Youth Experiences Survey (YES) is a study of the experiences of homeless young adults in Arizona that has been conducted for the past five years, from 2014 to 2018. The YES study focuses on how the life experiences of Arizona's homeless young adults increases their risk for experiencing human trafficking. The study was conducted in partnership with four agencies from Phoenix and Tucson that provide direct services to homeless persons: Native American Connections, UMOM, one.n.ten of Phoenix, and Our Family Services of Tucson. The findings from the YES study has provided insight about the challenges and needs of Arizona's homeless young adults to better target needed services as well as the first of its kind knowledge of the scope of the sex and labor exploitation of this population in Arizona.

Identifying sex and labor trafficking among homeless young adults is confounded by access issues which make this population difficult to study- issues such as that they are transient, are difficult to find, and are involved in fewer social service and medical service agencies than other homeless youth due to their status as adults. This study targeted homeless young adults in multiple settings including transitional housing, drop-in centers, and on the streets of Tucson and Phoenix.

A seven-page paper survey was distributed to homeless young adults over two weeks in July 2014, July 2015, August 2016, August 2017, and July 2018 by staff from the above mentioned homeless young adult serving partner agencies. This report includes the findings from all of the participants including details about their homelessness experiences, substance use, mental and medical health history, family challenges, as well as risk and protective factors. The sex trafficking and labor exploitation experiences of the participants are also discussed, and a comparison of the trafficked versus non-trafficked participants is provided. Finally, notable trends over the five-year YES data collection are highlighted. Finally, future research and targeted service provision recommendations are discussed.

Brief Summary of Findings

Status of Homeless Young Adults in Arizona in the 2018 Youth Experiences Survey (N = 179)

Participant Profile

- 179 participants responded to the Youth Experiences Survey in 2018.
- The average age of the 179 homeless young adult participants was 20.8 years old.
- Males represented 50.8% of the participants, followed by females at 41.3%, transgender at 3.9% and other (genderqueer, two-spirit, non-conforming) at 3.4%.

- Participants identified as heterosexual (45.8%) and LGBTQ (39.7%).
- 63.7% of the participants were raised in the state of Arizona, and the others were from 19 other states.

Housing and Homelessness

- The average age of the participants' first homelessness experience was 16.3 years of age.
- The participants reported experiencing an average of four periods of homelessness during their lifetimes.
- Participants reported currently living in: a transitional housing program (26.3%), on the streets (25.7%), in a shelter (18.4%), couch surfing (16.8%), in their own place paid by themselves (6.7%) or in a hotel (1.7%).

Challenges and Risk Factors

- Drug use was reported by over half of the sample (n = 102, 57%), with the most frequently used drugs reported including marijuana (n = 60, 33.5%) and methamphetamines (n = 47, 26.3%).
- Over half (n = 96, 53.6%) of the participants reported engaging in self-harm behaviors (cutting, risk taking, burning themselves, etc).
- A suicide attempt was reported by one of every three (n = 64, 35.8%) participants.
- A majority (n = 123, 68.7%) of the participants reported a current mental health diagnosis and over half (n = 93, 53.6%) reported having more than one mental health diagnosis.
- The most common mental health diagnoses reported by participants included anxiety (n = 89, 49.7%) and depression (n = 78, 43.6%).
- Over half (n = 97, 54.2%) of the participants reported experiencing a current medical problem. The most common medical problems reported included poor vision (n = 45, 25.1%) and asthma (n = 44, 24.6%).
- 38% (n = 68) of the participants reported being kicked out of their homes by their families.
- Almost half (n = 85, 47.5%) of participants reported running away from home.
- Almost half (n = 81, 45.3%) of participants reported experiencing emotional childhood abuse.
- About one in every three (n = 54, 30.2%) participants reported experiencing sexual abuse before the age of eighteen.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Participants had an average of four ACEs.
- 44.7% (n = 80) of participants had experienced between zero and three ACEs.
- Over half (n = 92, 51.4%) of participants had experienced four or more ACEs.

Status of Homeless Young Adult Victims of Human Trafficking in Arizona

Of the 179 homeless young adult participants, 62 (34.6%) reported experiencing sex trafficking exploitation and 55 (30.7%) reported experiencing labor exploitation. At least one form of human trafficking (either sex or labor) was reported by 80 (44.7%) participants and 37 (20.7%) participants reported experiencing both sex and labor exploitation.

Sex Trafficking Findings (n = 62)

- 62 (34.6%) of the total sample (N = 179) reported experiencing sex trafficking exploitation.
- 39.2% (n= 29) of the female participants self-reported that they had experienced sex trafficking.
- 31.9% (n = 29) of the male participants self-reported that they had experienced sex trafficking.
- The average age of first sex trafficking experience was 17.1 years old with 29% (n= 18) reporting that they were sex trafficked before the age of 18.
- 87.1% (n = 54) of the participants who reported being sex trafficked reported that they had at some point had a sex trafficker, with 12.9% (n = 8) of the participants reporting the current presence of a sex trafficker.
- The most common reasons identified by the 58 participants that reported sex trafficking victimization were for a place to stay (54.8%), money (46.8%), and for food (27.4%).

Comparing sex trafficked and non-sex trafficked young adults

- When comparing the sex trafficked homeless young adult participants with the non-sex trafficked homeless young adult participants using an odds ratio test, the sex trafficked group was found to be:
 - Two times more likely to report being LGBTQ.
 - Three times more likely to report a drug addiction.
 - Four times more likely to report an alcohol addiction.
 - Three times more likely to report engaging in self-harming behaviors.
 - Six times more likely to be kicked out by their family due to substance use.
 - Four times more likely to report experiencing dating violence.
 - Four times more likely to report experiencing sexual abuse before the age of 18.
 - Eight times more like to report experiencing labor exploitation.

Labor Exploitation Findings (n = 55)

- 55 (30.7%) of the participants (N = 179) reported experiencing labor exploitation.
- One out of every four (n = 19, 25.7%) female participants reported experiencing labor exploitation.
- Over one out of every three (n = 31, 34.1%) male participants reported experiencing labor exploitation.

- The average age of first labor exploitation experience was 17.3 years old with 25.5% (n = 14) reporting that they were exploited for labor before the age of 18.
- 81.8% (n= 45) of the participants who reported being exploited for labor reported that they had at some point had a labor exploiter, with 1.8% (n = 1) of the participants reporting the current presence of a labor exploiter.
- The most common reasons identified by the 55 participants that reported labor exploitation were for money (47.3%), a place to stay (36.4%), and for food (23.6%).
- The most common sectors that participants reported experiencing labor exploitation included: drug selling (n = 11, 20%), hotels (n = 10, 18.2%), petty theft (n = 7, 12.7%), and restaurants (n = 5, 9.1%).
- When comparing the labor exploited homeless young adult participants with the non-labor exploited homeless young adult participants using an odds ratio test, the labor exploited group was found to be:
 - Three times more likely to report a drug addiction.
 - Three times more likely to report an alcohol addiction.
 - Three times more likely to report engaging in self-harming behavior.
 - Three times more likely to report drinking alcohol excessively as a form of self-harm.
 - Six times more likely to report engaging in sex with strangers.
 - Five times more likely to report engaging in risk taking behaviors.
 - Four times more likely to report body modification as a form of self-harm.
 - Three times more likely to report bingeing/vomiting behavior as a form of self-harm.
 - Three times more likely to report a suicide attempt.
 - Three times more likely to report a current mental health diagnosis.
 - Three times more likely to report having more than one mental health diagnosis.
 - Four times more likely to report experiencing chronic pain.
 - Four times more likely to report experiencing dating violence.
 - Four times more likely to report experiencing sexual abuse before the age of 18.
 - Three times more likely to report experiencing physical neglect before the age of 18.
 - Three times more likely to report negative contact with law enforcement.
 - Three times more likely to report having worked in the adult entertainment industry.
 - Three times more likely to report emotional childhood abuse.
 - Three times more likely to report harassment by peers.
 - Eight times more likely to report experiencing sex trafficking exploitation.

Key Findings

The average age of first homelessness for the 179 homeless young adult participants in this study was 16 years old. Homelessness was part of a set of risks for sex and labor exploitation experienced by the participants. Many were minors with limited options for employment and avoiding contact with child welfare services or any systems (medical, mental health, law enforcement) thus creating even more risks. Homeless young adults who have experienced sex and labor exploitation are at increased risk among their peers to have serious drug and alcohol problems, have experienced abusive childhoods, particularly sexual abuse histories, been in abusive dating relationships, and were more likely to have serious mental health challenges including a history of suicide attempts, depression, anxiety, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Due to the broad spectrum of challenges faced by sex trafficked and labor exploited homeless young adults, targeted programming and interventions are recommended.

Brief Conclusion

The experiences of homeless young adults in Arizona continue to be complex and multi-faceted with the necessity to address the resulting problems or challenges with innovation, creativity, and partnerships within each community. Sex trafficked and labor exploited homeless young adults may appear to have some of the most complex needs among homeless young adults. Screening for sex trafficking and labor exploitation/trafficking can assist programs in identifying victims and providing intensive and purposefully designed housing and therapeutic interventions addressing a wide array of issues that the victims face. The results of the 2018 YES survey call on Arizona's community to develop a comprehensive approach to screen for both labor and sex trafficking among homeless and runaway young people and to develop community protocols that outline services standards. Additional state and community based funding is necessary to assist providers in maintaining services that meet the complex needs of our homeless youth and young adults.

Full Report

2018 Youth Experiences Survey: Exploring the Sex Trafficking Experiences of Homeless Young Adults in Arizona, Year Five.

Introduction

Past research on homelessness tended to focus on runaway and homeless youth (RHY) or adults experiencing homelessness with little attention on young adults. Homelessness of young adults in the vulnerable age between childhood and adulthood (18-25) has become better understood through recent research by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (2012), the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (2015) and the Family and Youth Services Bureau (2016). Homeless young adults can be defined to include persons from age 18 to 25 years “who have dropped out of school, are without regular employment, live in precarious conditions and often have little social support from their families or communities” (Haley et al. p. 526). Risk factors identified in the literature for young adult homelessness including transitioning from foster care to adulthood, substance abuse, family conflict, and history of childhood maltreatment (Dworsky, Napolitano, & Courtney, 2013). Previous research also highlighted the disproportionate number of homeless youth who identified as LGBTQ, and cited the heightened risk of homeless LGBTQ youth for human trafficking (Martinez & Kelle, 2013; National Coalition for the Homeless, 2017).

Human trafficking is defined as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for sexual or labor services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery” (U.S. Dept. of State, 2000, p. 7). Over the past 20 years, attention and awareness on the issue of human trafficking, particularly sex trafficking, has greatly increased. With this awareness, empirical data has been developed to shed light on what human trafficking in the United States looks like. However, many questions remain about the true prevalence and impact of this social injustice in our society. It is unclear how many children and adults have been victimized by either sex trafficking or labor trafficking. This is due to the illicit nature of this crime and the difficulty identifying victims as a result of many elements, including social stigma, distrust of public service providers, citizenship status, and control of the trafficker. However, studies have found that high numbers of young people experiencing homelessness in the United States have been exploited due to their heightened vulnerability and lack of basic needs (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2018).

The connection between experiencing homelessness and exchanging sex for subsistence needs is not new. The term “survival sex” has been used to describe this exchange of sex for the receipt of basic needs (Greene, Ennett, & Ringwalt, 1999), and has been a topic of inquiry in research for over thirty years (Yates, MacKenzie, Pennbridge, & Cohen, 1988). As awareness about the issue of sex trafficking has increased, a shift in perspective about survival sex has

begun, and the coercive elements of this exchange are emphasized in empirical study. Being homeless has been found to be a risk factor for commercial sexual exploitation (Hudson & Nandy, 2012). In a study of 185 homeless young people ages 18-23, Covenant House (2013) found that nearly 23% of their sample reported some experience of human trafficking. The researchers found that survival sex “frequently turned into coercive and violent trafficking experiences” (Covenant House, 2013, p. 6). According to a study conducted by Dank et al, (2015), youths’ engagement with survival sex may change over time; i.e., a youth may be recruited by a trafficker but later independently trade sex; or a youth may independently sell sex until she meets someone who begins exploiting her. Research estimates that traffickers may approach homeless young people within 48 hours of being on the street (Jordan, Patel, & Rapp, 2013).

As more knowledge of the unique vulnerability of homeless populations to sexual trafficking increases, so too does inquiry about labor trafficking. Researchers studying child labor trafficking in the United States have cited the vulnerabilities that create homelessness make homeless youth easy prey for labor traffickers (Kaufka Walts, 2017). Labor traffickers are aware of homeless youths’ need for food, shelter, and protection, and use this to exploit the youth (Gibbs, Hardison Walters, Lutnick, Miller, & Kulckman, 2015). Door-to-door sales and begging rings have been found to be common ways that homeless youth are exploited (National Network for Youth, 2015). Another study found homeless youth forced into drug selling and other dangerous labor situations (Murphy, Taylor, & Bolden, 2015). The National Human Trafficking Resource Center received 602 calls for labor trafficking in the United States in 2018, with the top labor trafficking venues being domestic work, traveling sales crews, agriculture, restaurant/food service, and begging rings (<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>).

While sex trafficking has specific acts and behaviors defining it, labor trafficking, is more loosely defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA, 2000). This has resulted in labor trafficking cases being difficult to pinpoint and prosecute. Arizona Revised Statutes Title 13 Criminal Code provides two statutes on forced labor: Unlawfully obtaining labor or services (ARS § 13-1306), and Trafficking of persons for forced labor or services (ARS § 13-1308). However, both statutes are very similar and lack a strong distinction as to what constitutes labor trafficking, or what is needed to prove force, fraud, or coercion. Furthermore, the methodology of the study, an anonymous paper-and-pencil survey, prevented researchers from asking in-depth questions about the participants labor exploitation experiences to clearly support meeting the criterion of the TVPA. It is for these reasons that the authors of this study made the decision to use the term “labor exploitation”, rather than “labor trafficking” when describing the participants experiences.

The purpose of this ongoing study is to explore the experiences reported by homeless young adults in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona and to explore the prevalence of sex trafficking and labor exploitation among the participants. This study will also compare the life experiences

and treatment needs of sex trafficked and non-sex trafficked homeless young adults from around Arizona and labor exploited and non-labor exploited homeless young adults. The findings from this 2018 study will be compared to the 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 studies to examine trends over time regarding sex trafficking and labor exploitation. Implications for practice and recommendations will be addressed.

Research Questions

The purpose of this study is to understand the scope and complexity of sex trafficking and labor exploitation among homeless young adults in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Homeless young adults were surveyed by staff at four agencies about their life experiences including sex trafficking victimization and labor exploitation.

The specific research questions are:

1. What are the experiences of homeless young adults in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona related to place of origin, use of drugs and alcohol, mental and physical diagnoses, family connectedness, reasons for homelessness, experiences of trauma, and risk (childhood maltreatment, school problems, being bullied, history of foster care placement) and protective factors (said no to drugs when offered, able to stand up for themselves, practicing safe sex, being part of a club or organization, having supportive friends/family, knowing area resources)?
2. Are sex trafficked homeless young adults different from non-sex trafficked homeless young adults on demographics, family connectedness, sexual orientation, medical and mental health issues, high risk behaviors, school and social issues, child abuse experiences, drug and alcohol use/abuse and risk and protective factors?
3. Are labor exploited homeless young adults different from non-labor exploited homeless young adults on demographics, family connectedness, sexual orientation, medical and mental health issues, high risk behaviors, school and social issues, child abuse experiences, drug and alcohol use/abuse and risk and protective factors?

Within the sex trafficked homeless young adults:

1. What were the most common reasons the sex trafficking victims identified as how they were sex trafficked (money, food, clothes, drugs, protection, a place to stay)?
2. How prevalent was the use of technology in their sex trafficking experience?
3. What is a profile of a sex trafficked homeless young adult from Phoenix/Tucson, Arizona?
4. What are the adverse childhood experiences of participants who experienced sex trafficking?

Within the labor exploited homeless young adults:

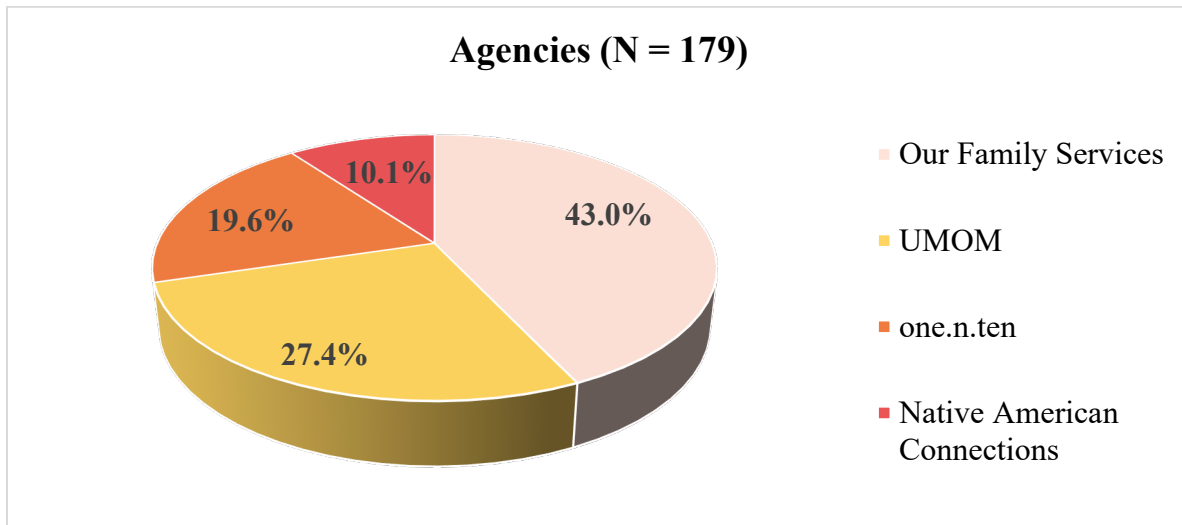
1. What were the most common reasons the labor exploited victims identified as how they were exploited for labor (money, food, clothes, drugs, protection, a place to stay)?

2. How prevalent was the use of technology in their labor exploitation?
3. What is a profile of a labor exploited homeless young adult from Phoenix/Tucson, Arizona?
4. What are the adverse childhood experiences of participants who experienced labor exploitation?

METHOD

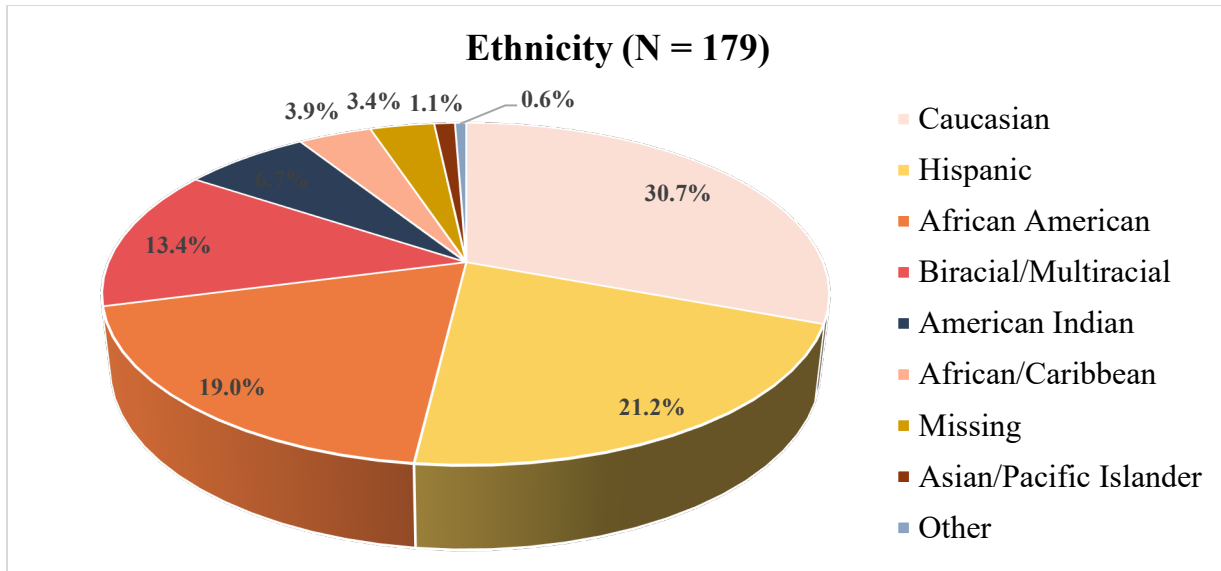
Participants

In 2018, during a two-week period in July, 179 homeless young adults from the greater Phoenix, Arizona area and from Tucson, Arizona completed the Youth Experiences Survey. Participants were from four agencies serving homeless young adults including UMOM (Phoenix, Arizona), Our Family Services (Tucson, Arizona), One•n•ten (Phoenix, Arizona), and Native American Connections (Phoenix, Arizona). Our Family Services had 77 (43%) participants; UMOM had 49 (27.4%) participants; One•n•ten had 35 (19.6%) participants; and Native American Connections had 18 (10.1%) participants.



Participants completed the survey at resource centers (n = 35, 19.6%), housing facilities (n = 32, 17.9%), during street outreach (n = 40, 22.3%), and at the UMOM New Day Center (n = 6, 3.4%).

Participants identified as male (n = 91, 50.8%), female (n = 74, 41.3%), transgender (n = 7, 3.9%), non-conforming (n = 4, 2.2%), genderqueer (n = 1, 0.6%), two-spirit (n = 1, 0.6%) and one (0.6%) participant did not disclose their gender identity. The participants ranged in age from 18 to 25 years old (M = 20.8, SD = 2.20). Participants reported their ethnicity to be Caucasian (n = 55, 30.7%), Hispanic (n = 38, 21.2%), African American (n = 34, 19%), Biracial/Multiracial (n = 24, 13.4%), American Indian (n = 12, 6.7%), African/Caribbean (n = 7, 3.9%), Asian/Pacific Islander (n = 2, 1.1%), other (n = 1, 0.6%), and six (3.4%) participants did not report their ethnicity.



Participants identified their sexual orientation as heterosexual (n = 82, 45.8%) and LGBTQ (n = 71, 39.7%), and twenty-six (14.5%) participants did not disclose sexual orientation. The participants who identified as LGBTQ reported the following sexual orientation:

Sexual Orientation (N = 179)	n	%
Bisexual	31	17.3%
Asexual	14	7.8%
Gay	10	5.6%
Other	7	3.9%
Pansexual	5	2.8%
Lesbian	4	2.2%

Instrument

The Youth Experiences Survey is a 77-item, seven-page paper-and-pencil survey with questions regarding demographics and personal history (place of origin, living situation, drug and alcohol use, a health history, self-harm, suicide attempts, mental health diagnoses/treatment, medical issues/treatment, and pregnancy). A family history section of the survey included questions about how participants define their family, how they feel about their connectedness and supportiveness of their families, reasons for being kicked out of their home, and if they had witnessed domestic violence in their home. A life experiences section included questions about how participants make money and if they have experienced sex trafficking and/or labor exploitation.

If participants reported a sex trafficking or labor exploitation experience, the survey directed them to questions about the presence of a trafficker and what technology was used in the trafficking situation.

Sex trafficking was identified if the participants answered yes to any of the following questions:

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?

Labor exploitation was identified if the participants answered yes to any of the following questions:

1. Have you ever been tricked or forced into doing any kind of work that you did not want to do for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?
2. Have you ever been promised work where the work or payment ended up being different than what you expected?
3. Has someone you worked for ever controlled the money you earned, or kept the money you earned in exchange for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?
4. Do you currently have a person you work for who controls the money you earn, or keeps money you earn in exchange for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?

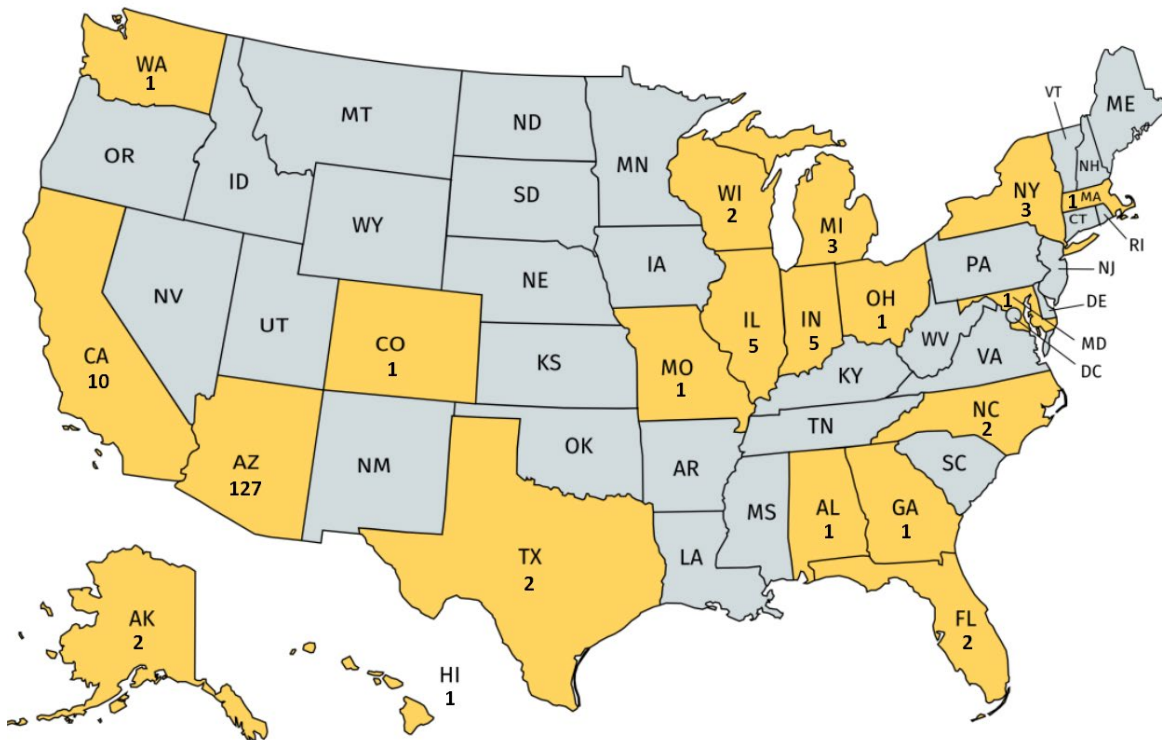
Life experience questions included a range of possible experiences, such as out-of-home placements, history of running away, interactions with the Juvenile Justice System, negative school/peer experiences, history of abuse, dating violence, work in the adult entertainment industry, and gang involvement. Participants were also asked about protective factors such as steady employment, being a part of a club or organization, enrollment in a school or technical program, volunteering in the community, having a supportive, loving family or group of friends, having a healthy, safe and permanent place to live, practicing safe sex, having a trusting/good relationship with law enforcement, feeling secure or safe standing up for/protecting self, and awareness of community resources.

A new addition to the 2018 Youth Experiences Survey included questions from the Adverse Childhood Experiences study (ACE). The ACE study examined exposure to different abuse (psychological, physical, and sexual) and household dysfunction (substance abuse, mental illness, divorce/separation, domestic violence, and criminal behavior) categories and the relationship to disease and early death in adulthood (Felitti, Anda, Nordenberg, Williamson, Spitz, Edwards, & Marks, 1998). Findings from this seminal study included that over half (52%)

of the sample of 9,508 participants experienced at least one category of adverse childhood experience, and 6.2% reported four or more exposures. Additional findings determined that persons experiencing four or more ACEs were twelve times more likely to attempt suicide, and as the number of childhood exposures increased, so did the prevalence and risk of alcoholism, illicit drug use, having 50 or more sexual partners, and history of sexually transmitted infections (Felitti, Anda, Nordenberg, Williamson, Spitz, Edwards, & Marks, 1998). Subsequent studies determined that a high ACEs score may predict early initiation of alcohol use (Rothman, Edwards, Heeren, & Hingson, 2008), increased adolescent prescription drug use (Forster, Gower, Borowsky, & McMorris, 2017), increased likelihood of early initiation into illicit drugs (Dube, Felitti, Dong, Chapman, Giles, & Anda, 2003), increased risk of attempted suicide (Dube, Anda, Felitti, Chapman, Williamson, & Giles, 2001; Merrick, Ports, Ford, Afifi, Gershoff, & Grogan-Kaylor, 2017), increased high-risk sexual behaviors (Hillis, Anda, Felitti, & Marchbanks, 2001), increased risk for long-term physical health problems (Monnat & Chandler, 2015), increased likelihood of poor dental health (Bright, Alford, Hinojosa, Knapp, & Fernandez-Baca, 2015), and a strong likelihood of future homelessness (Roos, Mota, Afifi, Katz, Distasio, & Sareen, 2013).

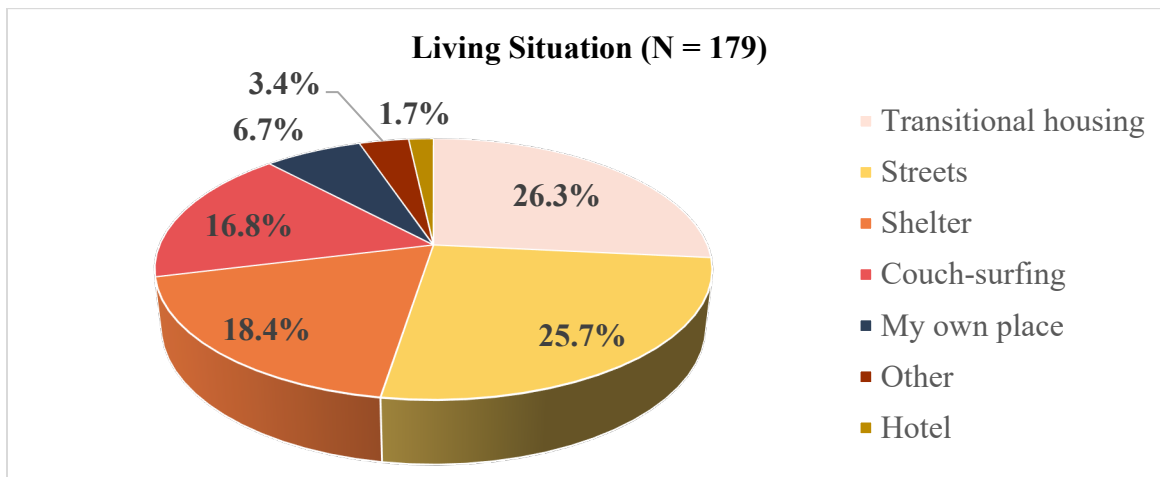
FINDINGS

The 179 homeless young adult participants reported that they were from Arizona and 19 other states in the United States. Over half (n = 114, 63.7%) of the participants reported that they were raised in the state of Arizona. The majority of the participants (n = 150, 83.8%) had lived in Arizona for more than a year with 13.4% (n = 24) living in Arizona for less than a year.



Housing

The homeless young adult participants reported that their first homeless experience was between the ages of three and twenty-three years ($M = 16.3$, $SD = 3.70$). The total number of times participants' reported experiencing homelessness ranged from one time to thirty times ($M = 4.3$, $SD = 3.81$). Participants reported their living situations as: living in a transitional housing program ($n = 47$, 26.3%), living on the streets ($n = 46$, 25.7%), living in a shelter ($n = 33$, 18.4%), couch surfing ($n = 30$, 16.8%), living in their own place, paid by self ($n = 12$, 6.7%), other living situation ($n = 6$, 3.4%), or living in a hotel ($n = 3$, 1.7%).



Drug Use

Drug use was reported by 57% ($n = 102$) of the homeless young adult participants. The age of first drug use ranged from seven to twenty years ($M = 14.8$, $SD = 2.86$). Twenty-four (13.9%) participants believed they had an addiction to drugs, and 10.6% ($n = 19$) reported an addiction to alcohol. Participants reported drug use frequency as daily ($n = 18$, 10.1%), weekly ($n = 22$, 12.3%), monthly ($n = 9$, 5%) and not currently using ($n = 108$, 60.3%). Similarly, participants reported alcohol use frequency as daily ($n = 6$, 3.4%), weekly ($n = 21$, 11.7%), monthly ($n = 29$, 16.2%), and not currently using ($n = 110$, 61.5%).

The types of drugs used by the participants varied and some participants identified using multiple drug types.

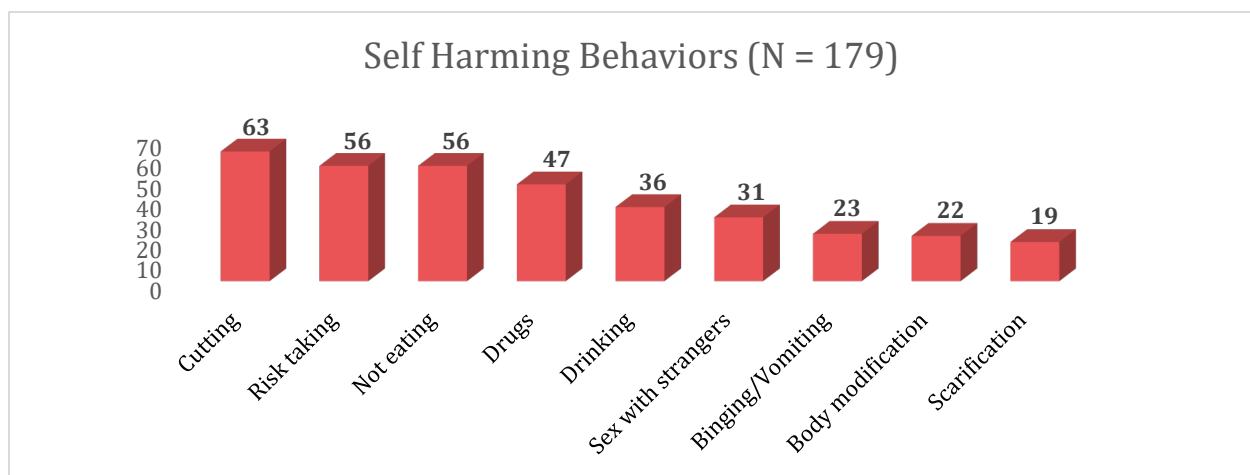
Drug Type (N = 179)	n	%
Marijuana	60	33.5%
Methamphetamines	47	26.3%
Heroin	21	11.7%
Crack/Cocaine	13	7.3%

Pills	8	4.5%
Spice	4	2.2%
Acid	4	2.2%
Ecstasy	4	2.2%
Gamma Hydroxybutyrate Rohypnol	3	1.7%
Percocet/Percodan	3	1.7%
MDA	3	1.7%
Opiates/OxyContin	2	1.1%
All drugs	2	1.1%
Special K/Ketamine	2	1.1%
PCP	2	1.1%

Participants were asked a direct questions regarding if they had ever used methamphetamines and/or heroin. Twenty-eight (15.6%) participants reported heroin use, and fifty-two (29.1%) participants reported methamphetamine use.

Self-Harm Behaviors

Over half (n= 96, 53.6%) of the homeless young adult participants reported that they participated in some form of self-harming behavior including: cutting (n = 63, 35.2%), drinking alcohol excessively (n = 36, 20.1%), drug use (n = 47, 26.3%), having sex with strangers (n = 31, 17.3%), risk taking behaviors (n = 56, 31.3%), not eating for long periods (n = 56, 31.3%), body modification (defined as altering or modifying the human anatomy or physical appearance for self-expression, shock value or aesthetics (Featherstone, 1999) (n = 22, 12.3%), scarification (n = 19, 10.6%), and bingeing/vomiting (n = 23, 12.8%). Other self-reported self-harm behaviors included: “burning” and “biting skin off until I bleed”.



A suicide attempt was reported by sixty-four (35.8%) of the homeless young adult participants. Participants reported their last suicide attempt was within the past week (n = 3, 1.7%), month (n = 4, 2.2%), six months (n = 11, 6.1%), year (n = 9, 5%), and over one year (n = 33, 18.4%).

Mental Health Issues

A current mental health diagnosis was reported by more than two thirds (n = 123, 68.7%) of the homeless young adult participants, with 96 (53.6%) participants reporting more than one mental health issues/diagnoses.

Types of Mental Disorders Reported (N =179)	#	%
Anxiety	89	49.7%
Depression	78	43.6%
ADD/ADHD	64	35.8%
Bipolar disorder	58	32.4%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	34	19%
Borderline Personality Disorder	13	7.3%
Antisocial Personality Disorder	11	6.1%
Schizophrenia	9	5%
Oppositional Defiant Disorder	9	5%
Autism	3	1.7%
Dissociative Identity Disorder	3	1.7%
Asperger's	2	1.1%

Forty-six percent (n =84) reported that they had received treatment for their reported mental health disorders.

Medical Issues

The majority (n = 119, 66.5%) of the participants reported they had health insurance through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. A current medical problem was reported by ninety-seven (54.2%) of the participants. Medical problems included the following: asthma, dental problems, vision problems, chronic pain, sexually transmitted infections, open wounds, skin problems and broken bones.

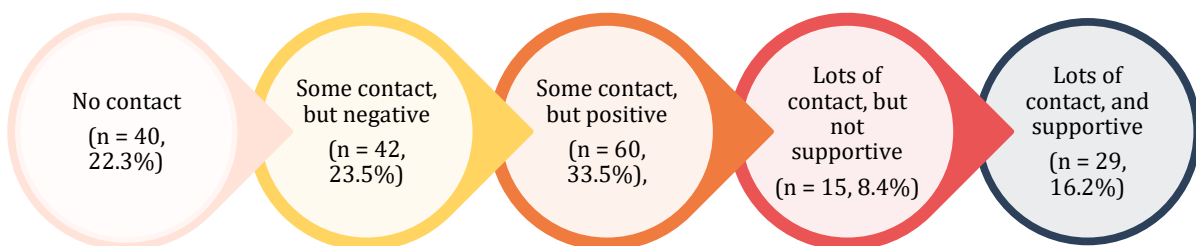
Medical Issues Reported (N = 179)	#	%
Poor vision	45	25.1%
Asthma	44	24.6%
Chronic Pain	23	12.8%
Dental	21	11.7%
Skin problems	13	7.3%
Broken bones	8	4.5%
Sexually transmitted infections	2	1.1%
Open wounds	1	0.6%

Other self-reported medical conditions included “fibromyalgia/joint pain”, “no toes on left foot”, and a “TBI” (Traumatic Brain Injury). Less than a quarter (n = 42, 23.5%) of the participants reported that they were receiving medical treatment for their current medical problem. Thirty-three (18.4%) participants reported having used the Crews’n Healthmobile from Phoenix Children’s Hospital.

A current pregnancy was reported by fourteen (7.8%) participants. Almost one-third (n = 57, 31.8%) of the participants reported that they had children. The number of children ranged from 1 to 4 ($M = 1.7, SD = .74$). Participants reported child custody or living arrangements as: Department of Child Safety (DCS) custody (n = 9, 5%), living in my care (n = 22, 12.3%), living in foster care (n = 9, 5%), living with family (n = 15, 8.4%), or other (n = 11, 6.1%).

Family Connection

The homeless young adult participants reported that their relationships with their families and their level of connectedness with their families varied. Family contact was described as: no contact (n = 40, 22.3%), some contact, but negative (n = 42, 23.5%), some contact, but positive (n = 60, 33.5%), lots of contact, but not supportive (n = 15, 8.4%), and lots of contact, and supportive (n = 29, 16.2%).



In response to a question about the possible reasons for the participants' level of contact with their families, fifty-six (31.3%) reported their family lives too far away, thirty-five (19.6%) reported that their home with their family was not a safe environment for them, and sixty-eight (38%) reported that they were kicked out by their families. The more than a third of the participants who reported being kicked out of their homes reported the reasons as: because of family conflict/fighting with parents (n = 58, 32.4%), their family could not provide for their needs (poverty) (n = 30, 16.8%), the participant was using drugs/substances (n = 17, 9.5%), the family did not approve of their sexual orientation (n = 13, 7.3%), and their family did not approve of their gender identity (n = 10, 5.6%).

Witnessing domestic violence in the home was reported by seventy-two (40.2%) participants. Participants reported witnessing both their father hit their mother (n = 63, 35.2%), and their mother hit their father (n = 44, 24.6%). Participants reported being abused in domestic violence relationship (n = 72, 40.2%), and being the abuser in a domestic violence relationship (n = 44, 24.6%).

Economics of Homeless Young Adults

The participants identified a variety of ways that they earned money which included: having a steady job, working day labor, selling drugs, selling stolen things, selling their own belongings, working side jobs for cash, door to door sales, panhandling, pick pocketing, and sex trading.

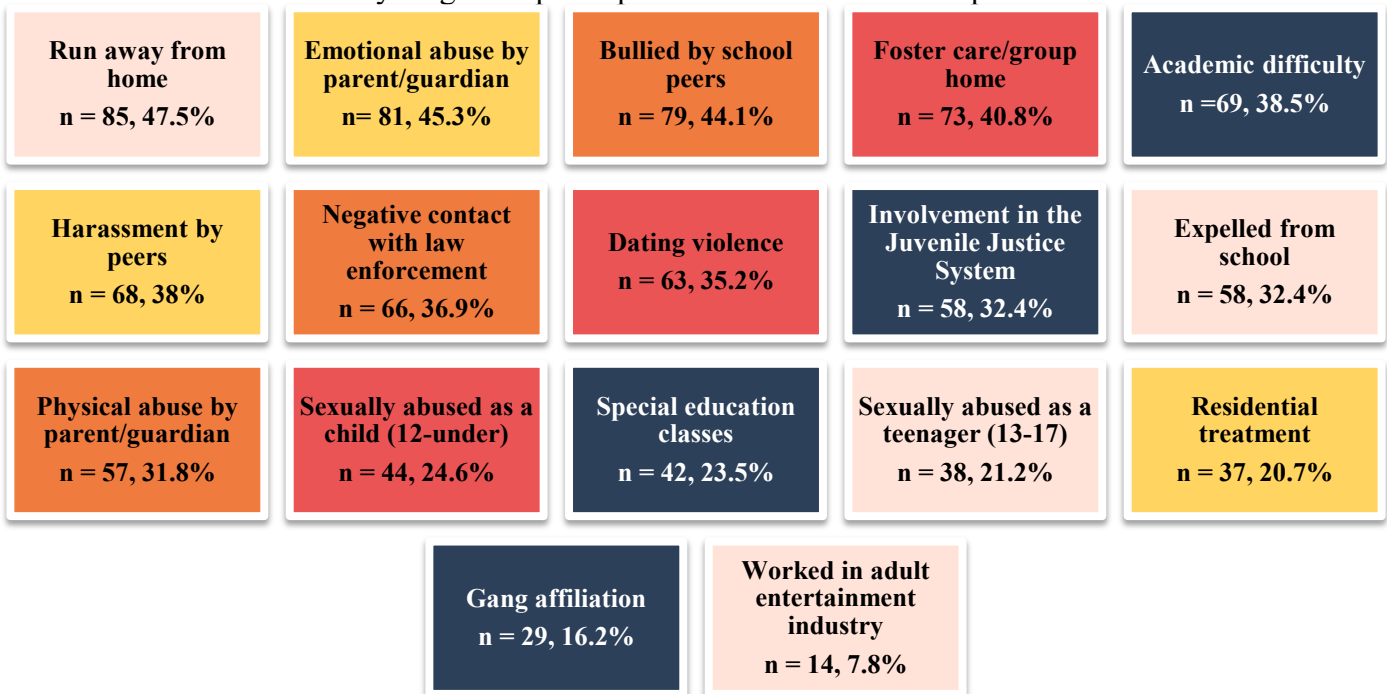
How the Participants make money to live	#	%
Side jobs for cash	55	30.7%
Steady job	54	30.2%
Selling their own belongings	40	22.3%
Day labor	28	15.6%
Panhandling	27	15.1%
Selling stolen things	22	12.3%
Other	18	10.1%
Selling drugs	11	6.1%
Sex trading	11	6.1%
Pick pocketing	9	5%
Door to door sales	3	1.7%

Participants who selected “other” wrote in tasks such as: Busking (street performances for gratuities), babysitting, family financial support, government assistance, Goodwill program that pays a stipend, and temp agency.

Life Experiences

The participants completed a checklist of life experiences including the school issues, experiences in out of home custody, childhood maltreatment including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse (both as a child and as a teen), problems with peers (gang membership, bullying and harassment), relationship issues (dating violence), treatment programming, and involvement with law enforcement and the juvenile justice system.

The homeless young adult participants identified their life experiences as:



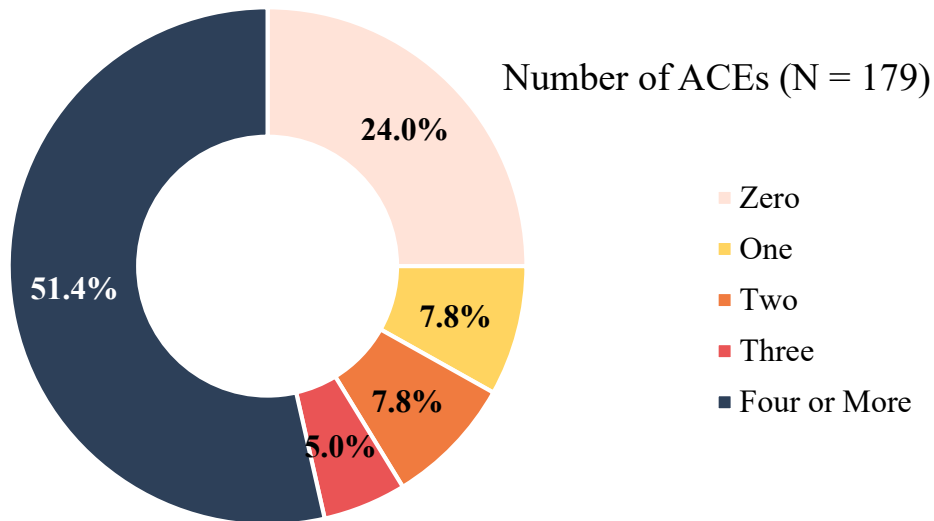
A total of fifty-four (30.2%) of the homeless young adult participants reported that they had been sexually abused before the age of 18.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Ten questions were asked that represented different abuse (psychological, physical, and sexual) and household dysfunction (substance abuse, mental illness, divorce/separation, domestic violence, and criminal behavior) categories. The physical abuse category was represented in two questions as physical abuse and physical neglect. The psychological abuse category was represented in two questions as emotional abuse and emotional neglect. The questions on adverse childhood experiences included:

Prior to your 18th birthday:	
Question	Adverse Childhood Experience
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?	Emotional Abuse
Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often push, grab, slap, or throw something at you or ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?	Physical Abuse
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?	Sexual Abuse
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?	Emotional Neglect
Did you often or very often feel that you didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you or your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?	Physical Neglect
Were your parents ever separated or divorced?	Divorce/Separation
Was your mother or stepmother often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her or sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard or ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?	Domestic Violence
Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?	Substance Abuse in the Household
Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?	Mental Illness in the Household
Did a household member go to prison?	Incarcerated Household Member

The number of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) reported ranged from zero to ten ($M = 4$, $SD = 3.36$). Forty-three (24%) participants reported experiencing no ACEs, fourteen (7.8%) participants reported experiencing one ACE, fourteen (7.8%) participants reported experiencing two ACEs, nine (5%) participants reported experiencing three ACEs, and ninety-two (51.4%) participants reported experiencing four or more ACEs.



Within the abuse category, ninety-two (51.4%) participants reported experiencing emotional abuse, eighty-five (47.5%) reported emotional neglect, seventy-four (41.3%) reported physical abuse, fifty-five (30.7%) reported physical neglect, and forty-nine (27.4%) reported sexual abuse. Within the household dysfunction category, ninety-eight (54.7%) participants reported a parent divorce or separation, forty-eight (26.8%) reported witnessing domestic violence against their mother figure, eighty-one (45.3%) reported having substance abuse within the household, sixty-six (36.9%) reported having mental illness within the household, and fifty-one (28.5%) reported someone in their household being incarcerated.

Positive Life Experiences

Positive life experiences of the homeless young adult participants were reported as follows:



Sex Trafficking Experiences of Homeless Young Adults (n = 62)

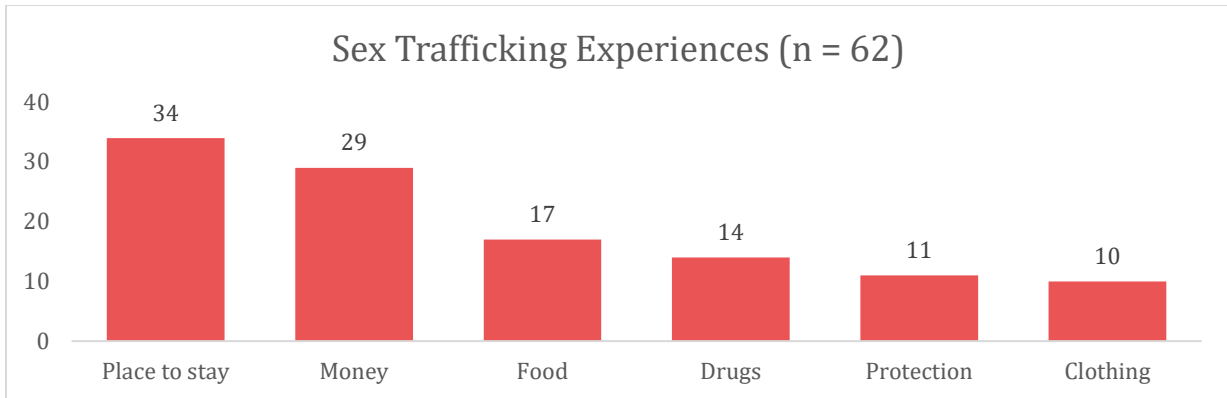
Sixty-two (34.6%) of the homeless young adult participants reported they had been sex trafficked by answering affirmatively to any of the following questions:

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?

The participants who reported a sex trafficking experience ranged in age from eighteen to twenty-five years old ($M = 21.3$, $SD = 2.13$). The age of first being sex trafficked was reported by 38 (61.3%) of the 62 participants who reported being sex trafficked. The age of first sex trafficking victimization ranged from eleven to twenty-four years old ($M = 17.1$, $SD = 2.92$). Eighteen (29%) participants reported that they were sex trafficked before they were age 18.

Twenty-nine (46.8%) female homeless young adult participants reported that they were a sex trafficking victim. This is 39.2% of the total number of female homeless young adult participants. Twenty-nine (46.8%) male homeless young adults reported that they experienced sex trafficking, which is 31.9% of the total number of male homeless young adult participants. Three (4.8%) participants who reported a sex trafficking experience identified as non-conforming, and one (1.6%) participant who reported a sex trafficking experience identified as transgender. Regarding sexual orientation of the sex trafficked group (n = 62), fifty-five reported their sexual orientation. Twenty-three (37.1%) participants identified as heterosexual and 32 (51.6%) participants identified as LGBTQ.

Sixty-two participants reported that they had experienced a commercial exchange of sex by means of force, fraud, or coercion in exchange for items of value, such as a place to stay (n = 34, 54.8%), money (n = 29, 46.8%), food (n = 17, 27.4%), drugs (n = 14, 22.6%), protection (n = 11, 17.7%), and clothing (n = 10, 16.1%).



Having a sex trafficker was reported by 54 (87.1%) of the participants that identified as being a victim of sex trafficking. Those who reported having a sex trafficker answered affirmatively to the one of the following questions:

1. Do you currently have a person who encourages/pressures/ forces you to exchange sexual acts for money, drugs, a place to stay, clothing or protection?
2. In the past, has anyone encouraged/pressured/ forced you to exchange sexual acts for money, drugs, a place to stay, clothing or protection?

Eight (12.9%) of the 62 participants who reported a sex trafficking experience identified that they were currently being sex trafficked by a person who encourages/pressures/forces them to exchange sexual acts for money, drugs, protection, a place to stay, clothing or protection. Twelve (19.4%) participants reported that they had felt afraid to leave or quit the sex trafficking situation due to fear of violence or other threats of harm to self and to family. The sex trafficked participants also reported their relationship with the sex trafficker was; a friend (n = 21, 33.9%), boyfriend (n = 15, 24.2%), girlfriend (n = 3, 4.8%), parent/guardian (n = 4, 6.5%), gang member (n = 4, 6.5%), other family member (n = 1, 1.6%), or other (n = 10, 16.1%). Some participants who reported “other” wrote in responses, such as: “someone helping me out”, “friend’s father”, “some random guy”, “stranger” and “stranger online”.

The use of technology for the purpose of the sex trafficking was identified by 31 (50%) of the 62 homeless young adult participants who reported having been sex trafficked. The participants responded affirmatively to the following survey question:

1. Were any of the following technological devices or means used to recruit you to trade sex, to keep you in the sex trading situation, or used as a tool in the sex trading situation?

Types of technology used in the sex trafficking situations (n=62)	#	%
Smart phone	20	32.3%
Facebook	14	22.6%
Dating websites	8	12.9%
Craigslist.com	7	11.3%
Pornographic pictures	7	11.3%
Backpage.com	6	9.7%
Instagram	5	8.1%
Bitcoin	2	3.2%
Twitter	1	1.6%
Tumblr	1	1.6%
Paypal	1	1.6%

The names of the dating websites used to recruit, keep them in, or as a tool in the sex trafficking situation that were written in by the participants included Grindr and Mocospace. Participants reported that technology was used in their sex trafficking situation in a number of ways, including: to recruit into a sex trafficking situation (n = 12, 19.4%), as a tool in the sex trafficking situation (n = 13, 21%), to keep the participant in the sex trafficking situation (n = 11, 17.7%), and to help the participant get out of a sex trafficking situation (n = 7, 11.3%).

Comparing the Sex Trafficked Group with the Non-Sex Trafficked Group

To compare the sex trafficked and the non-sex trafficked group, chi square and t-test analysis were used. There were no significant differences between the two groups regarding age at the time of the survey, age of first homelessness, or age of first drug use. There were no significant differences found regarding in gender between the two groups.

Significant findings included Participants who indicated their sexual orientation was in the category of gay, lesbian, pansexual, asexual, bisexual or other, were significantly more likely to have reported they were a sex trafficking victim when compared to those who reported heterosexual as their sexual orientation ($X^2 (1, N = 147) = 5.03, p < .025$).

Participants who experienced sex trafficking victimization were significantly more likely to report having a drug addiction ($X^2 (1, N = 163) = 6.66, p < .010$) or an alcohol addiction ($X^2 (1, N = 165) = 9.12, p < .003$).

Demographics and Addiction	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non sex trafficked group (n =117)
Sexual orientation		
Heterosexual	23 (37.1%)	56 (47.9%)
LGBTQ*	32 (51.6%)	36 (30.7%)
Drug addiction*	14 (22.6%)	9 (7.7%)
Alcohol addiction**	13 (20.9%)	6 (5.1%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Self-Harm and Risk Taking Behaviors

Self-harming behaviors were significantly more likely to have been reported by the sex trafficked group when compared to the non-sex trafficked group ($X^2 (1, N = 167) = 12.85, p < .000$). The sex trafficked homeless group were also more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report that they were drinking alcohol excessively ($X^2 (1, N = 159) = 9.47, p < .002$) and using drugs ($X^2 (1, N = 159) = 8.78, p < .003$).

Risk taking behaviors ($X^2 (1, N = 159) = 12.42, p < .000$) was significantly more likely to have been reported by the sex trafficked participants than the non-sex trafficked participants. Binging/vomiting ($X^2 (1, N = 159) = 8.64, p < .003$) behavior was significantly more likely to have been reported by the sex trafficked group than the non-sex trafficked group. Engaging in body modification behavior (purposeful scarring) ($X^2 (1, N = 159) = 4.96, p < .026$) was significantly more likely to be reported by the sex trafficked group when compared to the non-sex trafficked group.

Self-Harming and Risk Taking Behaviors	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =117)
Self-harming behaviors**	46 (74.2%)	48 (41%)
Risk taking behaviors**	31 (50%)	24 (20.5%)
Drug use**	26 (41.9%)	21 (17.9%)
Drinking alcohol excessively**	21 (33.9%)	14 (11.9%)
Binging/Vomiting**	15 (24.2%)	8 (6.8%)
Body modification*	13 (20.9%)	9 (7.7%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Mental Health Issues

Suicide attempts were significantly more likely to have been reported by the sex trafficked homeless young adults when compared to the non-sex trafficked group ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 8.62, p < .003$). The sex trafficked participants were also more likely to have a current

mental health issue/diagnosis than the non-sex trafficked group ($X^2 (1, N = 167) = 5.82, p < .016$). The sex trafficked group was also significantly more likely to report having more than one mental health diagnosis compared to the non-sex trafficked group ($X^2 (1, N = 163) = 6.49, p < .011$). The sex trafficked group were more likely to report being diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder ($X^2 (1, N = 163) = 9.04, p < .003$), and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder ($X^2 (1, N = 163) = 5.35, p < .021$).

Mental Health Issues	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =117)
Mental health issue/diagnosis*	50 (80.6%)	66 (56.4%)
More than one diagnosis reported*	42 (67.7%)	51 (43.6%)
Suicide attempts**	32 (51.6%)	31 (26.5%)
Bipolar disorder**	29 (46.8%)	26 (22.2%)
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*	17 (27.4%)	14 (11.9%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Medical Problems and Services

The sex trafficked group was significantly more likely to report having a current medical issue than the non-sex trafficked group ($X^2 (1, N = 168) = 7.29, p < .007$). Specifically, the sex trafficked group were significantly more likely to report having asthma ($X^2 (1, N = 155) = 4.96, p < .026$).

Medical Challenges	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =117)
Having a medical issue**	42 (67.7%)	49 (41.9%)
Asthma*	20 (32.2%)	20 (17.1%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Family Connection and Support

The two groups did not differ regarding the number of children they have and were similar in the locations of their children.

The sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report that their family home was not a safe environment ($X^2 (1, N = 161) = 4.53, p < .033$). Although not significant, 41.9% of the sex trafficked homeless young adult participants reported that they had been kicked out by their family, compared to 34.2% of the non-sex trafficked group. The sex trafficked group was significantly more likely to report being kicked out of their homes due to their substance use ($X^2 (1, N = 158) = 11.52, p < .001$).

Reasons for family disconnection and lack of support:	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =117)
They kicked me out	26 (41.9%)	40 (34.2%)
Not a safe environment*	18 (29%)	16 (13.7%)
Reasons for being kicked out:		
I was using substances (drugs and alcohol)**	13 (20.9%)	4 (3.4%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

The sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report being abused in a domestic violence relationship ($X^2 (1, N = 167) = 12.94, p < .000$), and being the abuser in a domestic violence relationship ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 14.05, p < .000$).

Experience of Domestic Violence	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =117)
Abused in a domestic violence relationship**	37 (59.7%)	34 (29.1%)
Abuser in a domestic violence relationship**	26 (41.9%)	17 (14.5%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

How Participants Earn Money

The sex trafficked homeless young adult participants were significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report working side jobs for cash ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 4.10, p < .043$).

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Of the ten ACEs surveyed, the sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to have experienced at least one adverse childhood experience ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 11.18, p < .001$). The non-sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the sex trafficked group to report experiencing between zero to three ACEs ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 8.47, p < .004$). The sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report experiencing four or more ACEs ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 8.47, p < .004$).

Regarding type of adverse childhood experiences, the sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report experiencing sexual abuse before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 15.06, p < .000$), emotional neglect before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 4.38, p < .036$), physical neglect before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 6.75, p < .009$), parents' divorce/separation before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 164) =$

8.62, $p < .003$), substance use in the home before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 8.59, p < .003$), and mental illness in the home before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 9.41, p < .002$).

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Overview	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =117)
At least one ACE**	54 (87.1%)	68 (58.1%)
Presence of 0-3 ACEs**	20 (32.3%)	59 (50.4%)
Presence of 4 or more ACEs**	41 (66.1%)	46 (39.3%)
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), by Type		
Parent divorce/separation**	43 (69.4%)	50 (42.7%)
Emotional neglect*	37 (59.7%)	46 (39.3%)
Substance use in the home**	37 (59.7%)	39 (33.3%)
Mental illness in the home**	32 (51.6%)	30 (25.6%)
Sexual abuse**	29 (46.8%)	20 (17.1%)
Physical neglect**	27 (43.5%)	26 (22.2%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Negative Life Experiences

Regarding negative life experiences, the sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report experiencing dating violence ($X^2 (1, N = 160) = 15.14, p < .000$) and having negative contact with law enforcement ($X^2 (1, N = 160) = 6.86, p < .009$). With regard to childhood abuse, the sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report a history of emotional abuse by a parent/guardian ($X^2 (1, N = 160) = 9.48, p < .002$), and sexual abuse (molested or raped) between the ages of thirteen to seventeen ($X^2 (1, N = 160) = 6.60, p < .010$). Regarding negative peer relations and educational challenges, the sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report harassment by peers ($X^2 (1, N = 160) = 7.28, p < .007$).

Negative Life Experiences	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =117)
Emotional abuse by parent/guardian**	38 (61.3%)	41 (35%)
Dating violence**	34 (54.8%)	28 (23.9%)
Harassment by peers**	32 (51.6%)	34 (29.1%)
Negative contact with law enforcement**	31 (50%)	33 (28.2%)

Sexual abuse as adolescent (13-17)*	20 (32.2%)	17 (14.5%)
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*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Labor Exploitation Experiences of Homeless Young Adults (n = 55)

For questions regarding labor exploitation in the Youth Experiences Survey, the term “work” was first defined as,

“Anything you have done where you or someone else received something of value, such as money, food, clothing, a place to stay, protection, drugs or gifts in exchange for your work or efforts. “Work” could mean working in a store or restaurant, but it could also mean shoplifting, running drugs, or anything where your efforts were exchanged for something of value. Aside from a typical employer, someone you worked for could include a family member, a friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or anyone you lived with or were in a relationship with” (Covenant House, 2013).

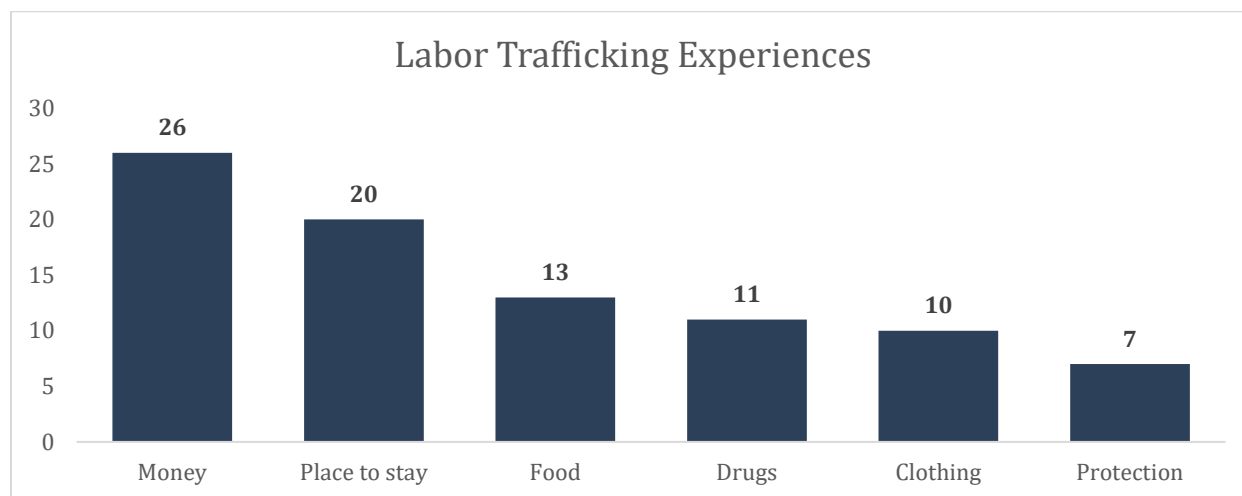
Fifty-five (30.7%) participants reported they had been labor exploited by answering affirmatively to one or more of the following questions:

1. Have you ever been tricked or forced into doing any kind of work that you did not want to do?
2. Have you ever been promised work where the work or payment ended up being different than what you expected?
3. Has someone you worked for ever controlled the money you earned, or kept the money you earned in exchange for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?

The participants who reported labor exploitation ranged in age from eighteen to twenty-five years old ($M = 21.2$, $SD = 2.13$). The age of first labor exploitation was reported by 31 (56.3%) of the 55 participants who reported experiencing labor exploitation. The age of first labor exploitation ranged from eleven to twenty-four years old ($M = 17.3$, $SD = 3.32$). Fourteen (25.5%) participants reported that they were exploited for labor before the age of 18.

Nineteen (34.5%) female homeless young adults reported that they were exploited for labor. This is 25.7% of the total number of female homeless young adult participants in this study. Thirty-one (56.4%) male homeless young adults reported that they were exploited for labor, which is 34.1% of the total number of male homeless young adult participants. Of the thirteen individuals who identified as non-binary (transgender, genderqueer, non-conforming, or two-spirit), five (38.5%) reported that they were exploited for labor. Regarding sexual orientation of the labor exploited group (n = 55), forty-seven reported their sexual orientation. Twenty-four (43.6%) participants identified as heterosexual and twenty-three (41.8%) participants identified as LGBTQ.

Fifty-five participants reported an exchange of work by means of force, fraud, or coercion in exchange for items of value, such as money (n = 26, 47.3%), a place to stay (n = 20, 36.4%), food (n = 13, 23.6%), drugs (n = 11, 20%), clothing (n = 10, 18.2%), and protection (n = 7, 12.7%).



Forty-four (80%) participants responded affirmatively to the question “Have you ever been tricked or forced into doing any kind of work that you did not want to do?”. Participants were given the opportunity to provide a narrative of their experience. Responses included:

If you have ever been tricked or forced in to doing any kind of work that you did not want to do, please explain:
“Friends asking me to do things for them and threatening me if I don’t (kill me, beat me, etc.)”
“Got trafficked at the age of 15”
“I needed a job. Even if I wasn’t happy I would still have a roof and food.”
“I was lied to”
“I was told I would be doing secretary job, turned into ‘chat modeling’. My nana said I couldn’t live there.”
“_____ forced me to work without pay with the promise of money.”
“Made to sell food stamps, give up food stamps, steal beer, food, clothes, makeup.”
“My boyfriend made me sell drugs to people at school.”
“Prostituting, trafficking drugs, used as a decoy.”
“Shoplifting, hiding illegal drugs, running drugs, smuggling across the border.”
“Was told I would be paid more.”

Thirty-five (63.6%) participants reported experiencing fraud regarding a work situation. Fraud was defined on the survey as being promised work where the work or payment ended up being different than expected. Those who responded affirmatively to experiencing fraud were given the opportunity to provide a narrative of their experience. Responses included:

Have you ever been promised work where the work or payment ended up being different than what you expected? If so, please explain:
“ _____ did not pay me the correct amount they said I’d be paid.”
“ _____ promised \$14 an hour.”
“Didn’t get paid as much as they said I would.”
“Done physical labor and received no pay.”
“I had to sell and provide drugs in order to have a place to stay.”
“ _____ forced me to work.”

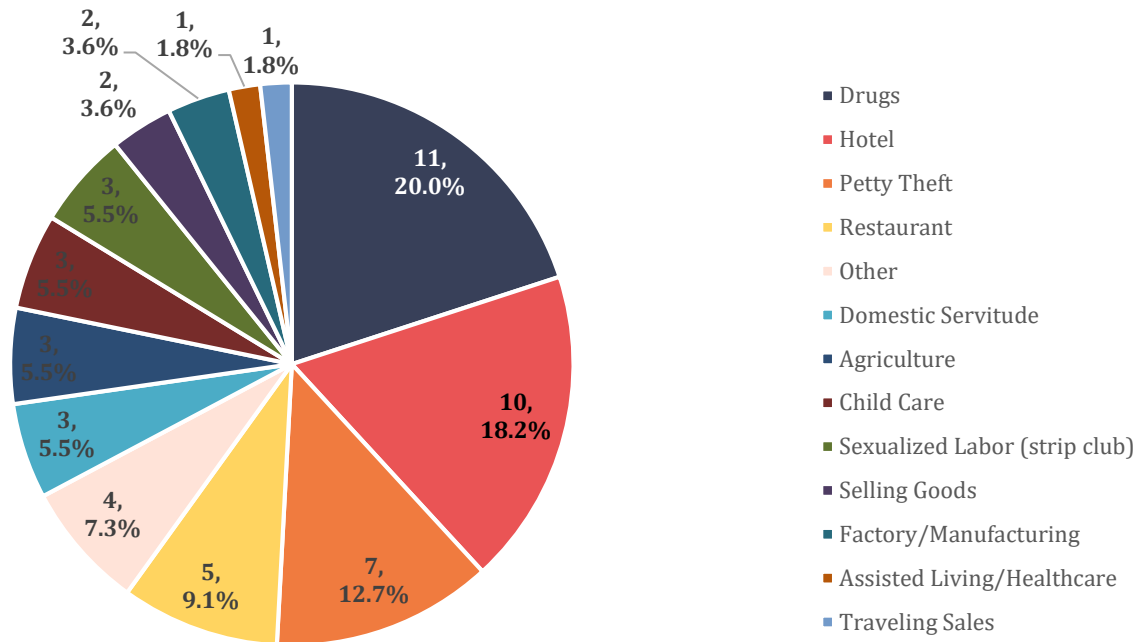
Having a labor exploiter was reported by 45 (81.8%) of the participants that identified as being a victim of labor exploitation. The 81.8% who reported having a labor exploiter answered affirmatively to the one of the following questions:

1. Has someone you worked for ever controlled the money you earned, or kept money you earned?
2. Do you currently have a person you work for who controls the money you earn, or keeps money you earn?

One (1.8%) of the 44 participants who reported labor exploitation identified they were currently being exploited for labor by a person who controls the money s/he earns, or keeps money s/he earns. Fourteen (25.5%) participants reported that they had felt afraid to leave or quit the labor exploitation situation due to fear of violence or other threats of harm to self and to family. Participants identified the type of relationship with the labor exploiter as: a boyfriend (n = 6, 10.9%), a girlfriend (n = 2, 3.6%), a friend (n = 14, 25.5%), a gang (n = 2, 3.6%), a parent/guardian (n = 7, 12.7%), other family member (n = 2, 3.6%), and other (n = 4, 7.3%). Those who selected “other” were given the opportunity to provide a narrative. Responses included: “mom’s ex-boyfriend”, “stranger”, and “stranger online”.

Participants who identified as having experienced labor exploitation were asked to report in which labor sector the exploitation was experienced. Twenty-seven (49.1%) participants responded to this question and the largest two sectors were drugs sales (n = 11, 20%) and hotel work (n = 10, 18.2%). The labor sectors reported included:

In which labor sectors did you experience labor trafficking?



Comparing the Labor Exploited Group with the Non-Labor Exploited Group

To compare the labor exploited and the non-labor exploited group, chi square and t-test analysis were used. There were no significant differences between the two groups regarding age at the time of the survey, age of first homelessness or age at first drug use. There were also no significant differences between the two groups regarding gender identity or sexual orientation.

The labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report having a drug addiction ($X^2 (1, N = 173) = 7.26, p < .007$), and having an alcohol addiction ($X^2 (1, N = 175) = 7.30, p < .007$).

Substance use	Labor exploited group (n = 55)	Non labor exploited group (n = 124)
Drug addiction**	13 (23.6%)	11 (8.9%)
Alcohol addiction*	11 (20%)	8 (6.5%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Self-Harm and Risk Taking Behaviors

The labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report a history of self-harming behavior ($X^2 (1, N = 177) = 12.32, p < .000$). The labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report

drinking alcohol excessively ($X^2 (1, N = 169) = 10.40, p <.001$), using substances ($X^2 (1, N = 169) = 7.86, p <.005$), engaging in sex with strangers ($X^2 (1, N = 169) = 20.29, p <.000$), engaging in risk taking behavior ($X^2 (1, N = 169) = 20.44, p <.000$), not eating for long periods of time ($X^2 (1, N = 169) = 7.57, p <.006$), body modification ($X^2 (1, N = 169) = 9.52, p <.002$), and bingeing/vomiting food ($X^2 (1, N = 169) = 8.29, p <.004$).

Self-Harming and Risk Taking Behaviors	Labor exploited group (n =55)	Non-labor exploited group (n =124)
Self-harming behaviors**	40 (72.7%)	56 (45.2%)
Not eating for long periods**	25 (45.5%)	31 (25%)
Risk taking behaviors**	30 (54.5%)	26 (21%)
Drug use**	22 (40%)	25 (20.2%)
Drinking alcohol excessively**	19 (34.5%)	17 (13.7%)
Sex with strangers**	20 (36.4%)	11 (8.9%)
Bingeing/vomiting**	13 (23.6%)	10 (8.1%)
Body modification**	13 (23.6%)	9 (7.3%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Mental Health Issues

Suicide attempts were significantly more likely to have been reported by the labor exploited group when compared to the non-labor exploited group ($X^2 (1, N = 176) = 14.91, p <.000$). The labor exploited group was more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report a current mental health issue/diagnosis ($X^2 (1, N = 178) = 9.39, p <.002$).

The labor exploited group was also significantly more likely to report having more than one mental health diagnosis compared to the non-labor exploited group ($X^2 (1, N = 172) = 9.81, p <.002$). The labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report being diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder ($X^2 (1, N = 172) = 8.06, p <.005$), Depression ($X^2 (1, N = 172) = 5.34, p <.021$), and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder ($X^2 (1, N = 172) = 5.25, p < .022$).

Mental Health Issues	Labor exploited group (n =55)	Non-labor exploited group (n =124)
Mental health issue/diagnosis**	46 (83.6%)	77 (62.1%)
More than one diagnosis reported**	39 (70.9%)	57 (46%)
Depression*	31 (56.4%)	47 (37.9%)
Suicide attempts**	31 (56.4%)	33 (26.6%)

Bipolar disorder**	26 (47.3%)	32 (25.8%)
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*	16 (29.1%)	18 (14.5%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Medical Problems and Services

The labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report experiencing a medical issue ($X^2 (1, N = 178) = 3.86, p < .050$). The labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report chronic pain ($X^2 (1, N = 166) = 9.36, p < .002$).

Medical Problems	Labor exploited group (n =55)	Non-labor exploited group (n =124)
Current medical problem*	36 (65.5%)	61 (49.2%)
Chronic pain**	13 (23.6%)	10 (8.1%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

The two groups did not differ regarding the number of children they have and were similar in the locations of their children.

Family Connection and Support

Although not significant, 47.3% of the labor exploited homeless young adult participants reported that they had been kicked out by their family, compared to 33.9% of the non-labor exploited group. The labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report being kicked out because of their use of substances ($X^2 (1, N = 164) = 3.95, p < .047$), and family conflict ($X^2 (1, N = 164) = 9.13, p < .003$).

Family Connection and Support	Labor exploited group (n =55)	Non-labor exploited group (n =124)
Family conflict*	27 (49.1%)	31 (25%)
Participant was using substances*	9 (16.4%)	8 (6.5%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

The labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report being abused in a domestic violence relationship ($X^2 (1, N = 173) = 14.72, p < .000$), and being the abuser in a domestic violence relationship ($X^2 (1, N = 173) = 14.96, p < .000$).

Experience of Domestic Violence	Labor exploited group (n =55)	Non-labor exploited group (n =124)
Abused in a domestic violence relationship**	34 (61.8%)	38 (30.6%)
Abuser in a domestic violence relationship**	24 (43.6%)	20 (16.1%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

How Participants Earn Money

There were no significant differences between the labor exploited group and the non-labor exploited group with regard to how money was earned.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Of the ten ACEs surveyed, the non-labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the labor exploited group to report experiencing between zero to three ACEs ($X^2 (1, N = 179) = 4.59, p < .032$). The labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report experiencing four or more ACEs ($X^2 (1, N = 179) = 6.28, p < .012$).

Regarding type of adverse childhood experiences, the labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report experiencing sexual abuse before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 173) = 15.19, p < .000$), emotional neglect before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 173) = 6.01, p < .014$), physical neglect before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 173) = 12.00, p < .001$), substance use in the home before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 174) = 6.67, p < .010$), and mental illness in the home before the age of eighteen ($X^2 (1, N = 174) = 6.45, p < .011$).

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Overview	Labor exploited group (n = 55)	Non-labor exploited group (n = 124)
Presence of 0-3 ACEs*	18 (32.7%)	62 (50%)
Presence of 4 or more ACEs**	36 (65.5%)	56 (45.2%)
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), by Type		
Emotional neglect*	34 (61.8%)	51 (41.1%)
Substance use in the home*	33 (60%)	48 (38.7%)
Mental illness in the home*	28 (50.9%)	38 (30.6%)
Physical neglect**	27 (49.1%)	28 (22.6%)
Sexual abuse**	26 (47.3%)	23 (18.5%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

Negative Life Experiences

Regarding negative life experiences, the labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report experiencing dating violence (X^2 (1, N = 166) = 15.09, $p < .000$), having negative contact with law enforcement (X^2 (1, N = 166) = 12.47, $p < .000$), and having worked in the adult entertainment industry (X^2 (1, N = 166) = 4.74, $p < .030$). With regard to childhood abuse, the labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report a history of emotional abuse by a parent/guardian (X^2 (1, N = 166) = 12.66, $p < .000$), sexual abuse (molested or raped) as a child age twelve or younger (X^2 (1, N = 166) = 7.49, $p < .006$), and sexual abuse (molested or raped) between the ages of thirteen to seventeen (X^2 (1, N = 166) = 7.99, $p < .005$). Regarding negative peer relations and educational challenges, the labor exploited group was significantly more likely than the non-labor exploited group to report harassment by peers (X^2 (1, N = 166) = 10.89, $p < .001$).

Negative Life Experiences	Labor exploited group (n =55)	Non-labor exploited group (n =124)
Emotional abuse by parent/guardian**	36 (65.5%)	45 (36.3%)
Dating violence**	31 (56.4%)	32 (25.8%)
Harassment by peers**	31 (56.4%)	37 (29.8%)
Negative contact with law enforcement**	31 (56.4%)	35 (28.2%)
Sexual abuse as a child (12-under)**	21 (38.2%)	23 (18.5%)
Sexual abuse as adolescent (13-17)**	19 (34.5%)	19 (15.3%)
Worked in the adult entertainment industry*	8 (14.5%)	6 (4.8%)

*Significance at a $p < .05$ level. **Significance at a $p < .01$ level.

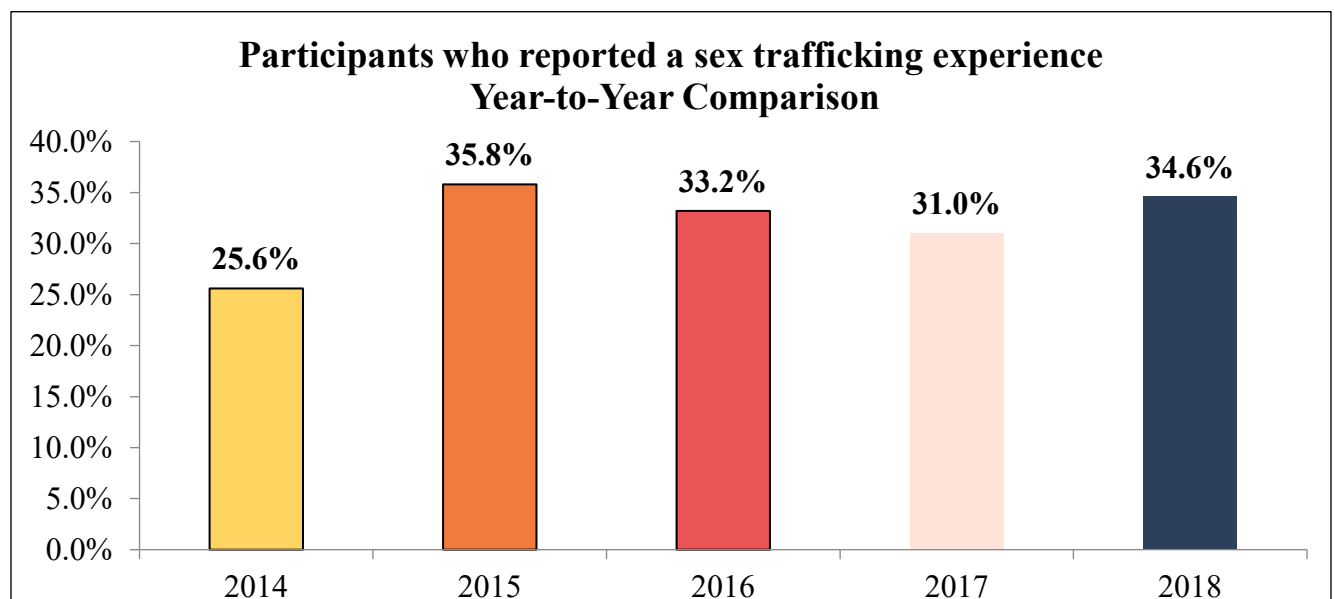
Comparing Findings from the YES 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

The YES study has been completed for the past five years following the same format and methodology. The number of participants has slowly decreased over the years while the engagement of the partnering agencies continues to be strong. We do not know if this is an indicator that there are fewer homeless young adults in Arizona to survey, that they are becoming more difficult to access, or some other unknown reason.

Year	# of Participants
2014	246
2015	215

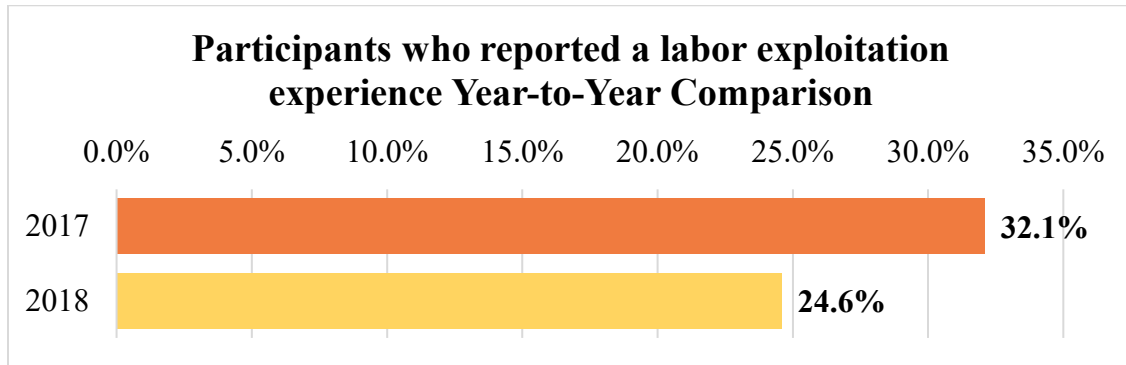
2016	199
2017	187
2018	179

Due to the transient nature of this population and the anonymity of the participants, duplication from year to year was not considered or included in the interpretation of the findings. Additions to the 2015 Youth Experiences Survey included questions about participant origins, such as hometown and how long the participant has resided in Arizona, what types of medical services the participant utilizes, and if the participant has children or is currently pregnant. New questions addressing family history and connectedness, spirituality, how the participant makes money, and how technology was used in a sex trafficking situation were also added to the 2015 Youth Experiences Survey. New questions were added to the 2016 YES included requesting their hometown zip code, and reasons for being kicked out of their homes (if they were kicked out). The 2017 Youth Experiences Survey included added questions about labor exploitation. The 2018 survey added the Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire.



In 2014, one in four (n = 63, 25.6%) homeless young adult participants self-reported that they had experienced a sex trafficking situation. The 2015 participants demonstrate an increase in the number of reported sex trafficking experiences by homeless young adults, with over one in three (77, 35.8%) participants self-reporting a sex trafficking experience. The 2016 YES participants reported that one in every three (n = 66, 33.2%) participants had experienced sex trafficking. The 2017 YES study found that 58 (31%) participants had reported experiencing sex trafficking. Finally, the 2018 YES study found that 62 (34.6%) participants reported a sex trafficking experience. Between 2014 and 2018, the participating agencies provided extensive

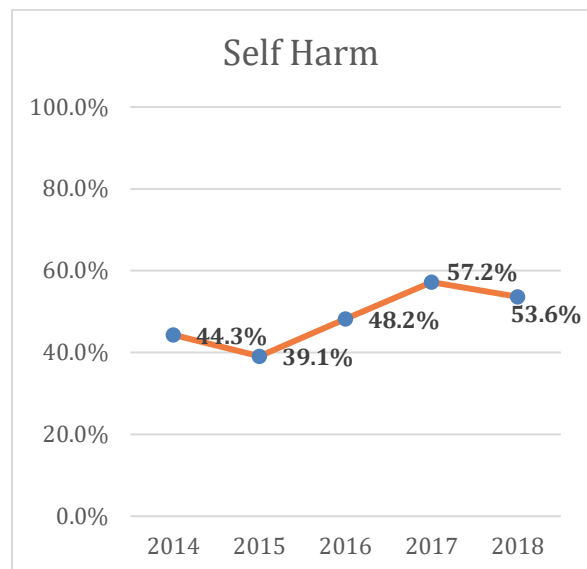
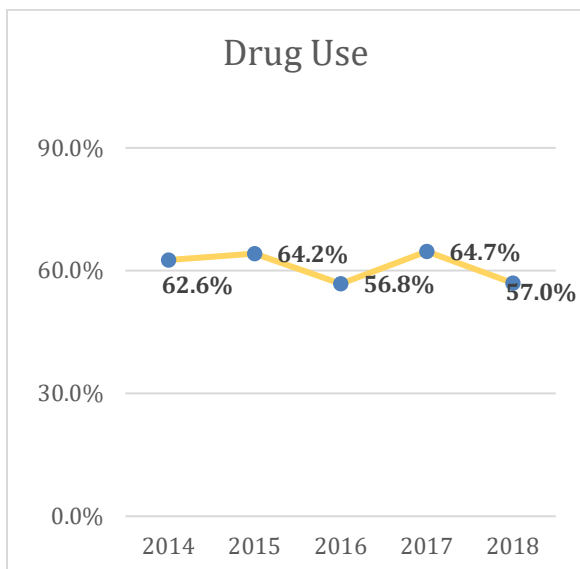
training about sex and labor trafficking to their staff. The number of participants who have reported experiencing sex trafficking over the five-year YES study has remained relatively stable.

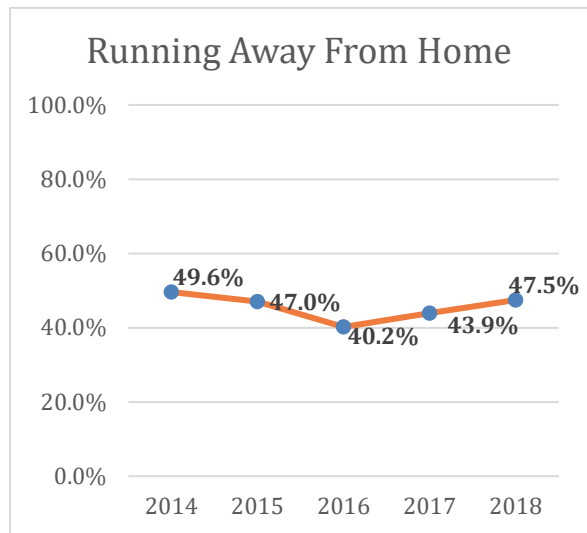
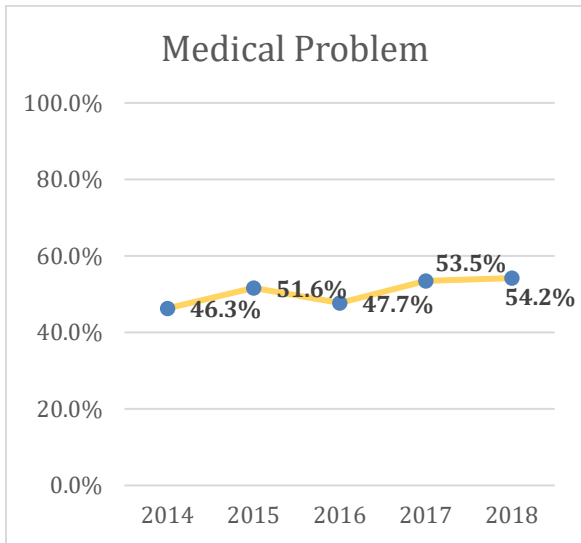
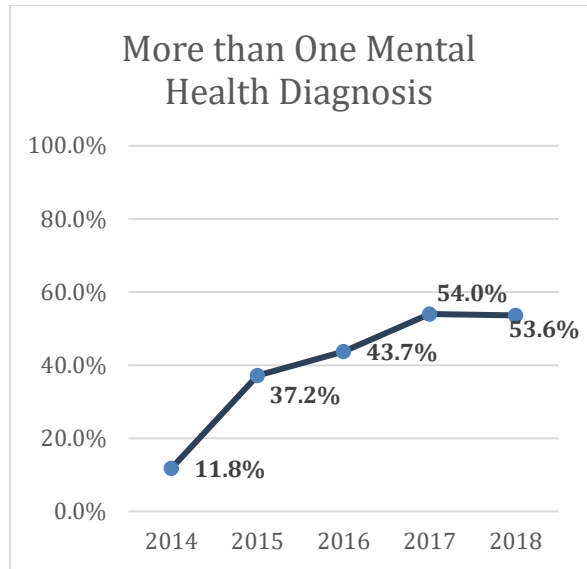
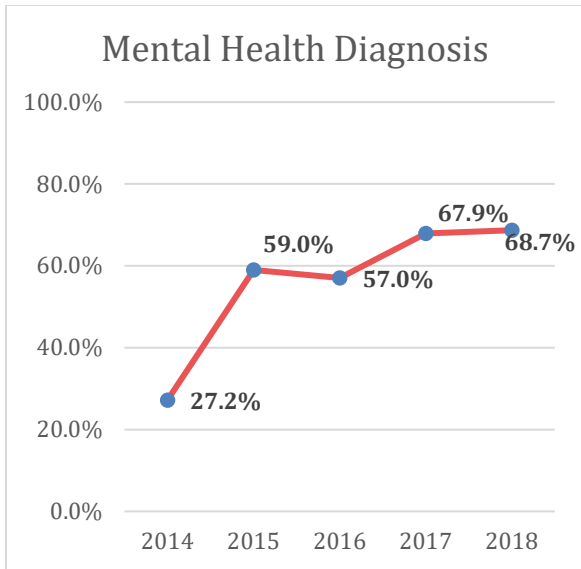


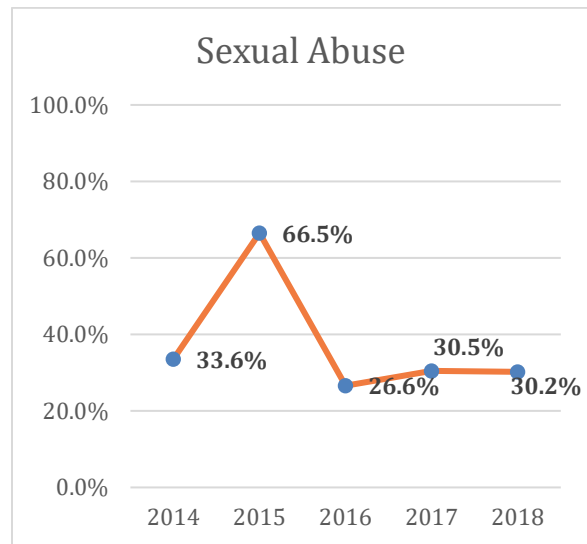
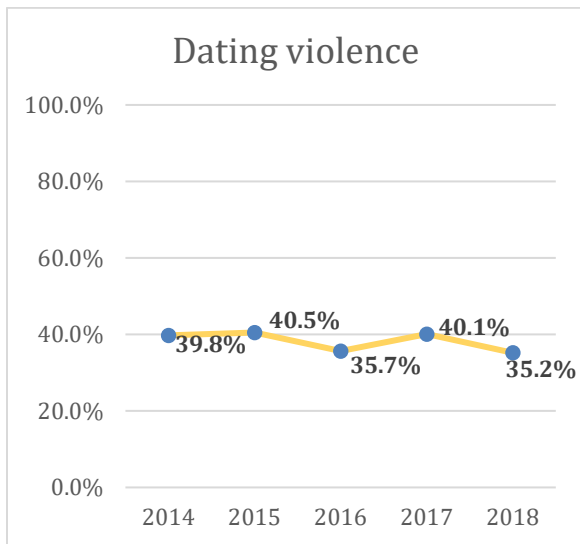
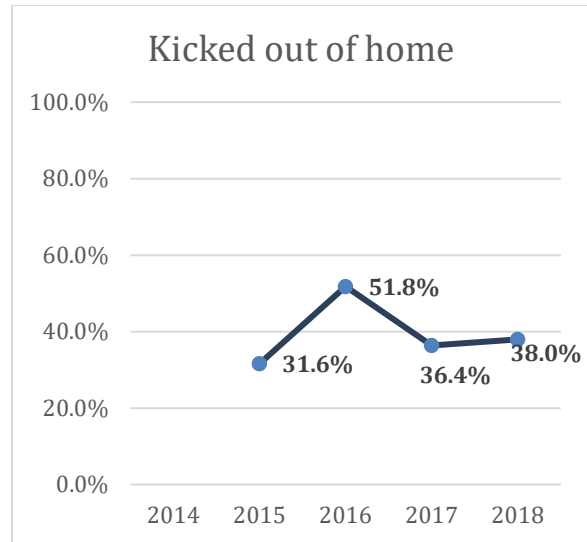
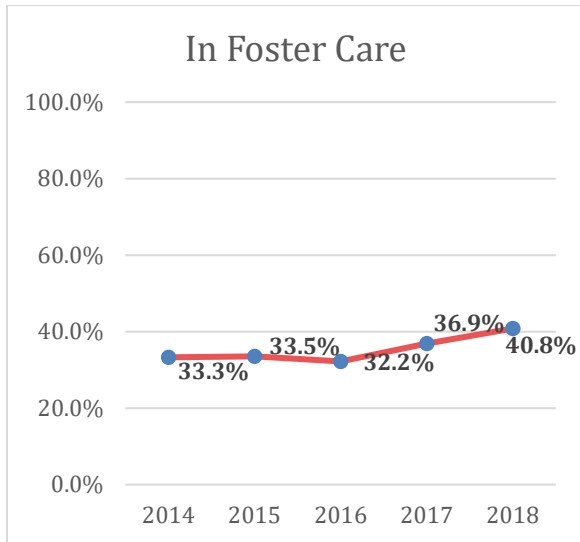
In 2017, almost one in three (n = 60, 32.1%) homeless young adult participants self-reported experiencing labor exploitation. The number slightly decreased in 2018 to almost one in four (n = 44, 24.6%) participants self-reporting an experience of labor exploitation.

Trends in Overall Sample over Time, From 2014-2018

Over the five years of the YES study, many of the variables studied have remained relatively stable. The graphs below depict the variables of most concern for the overall sample (sex trafficked and non-sex trafficked participants), as these variables continue to remain very high over the years and demand the attention of social services, policy makers, and the community at large.



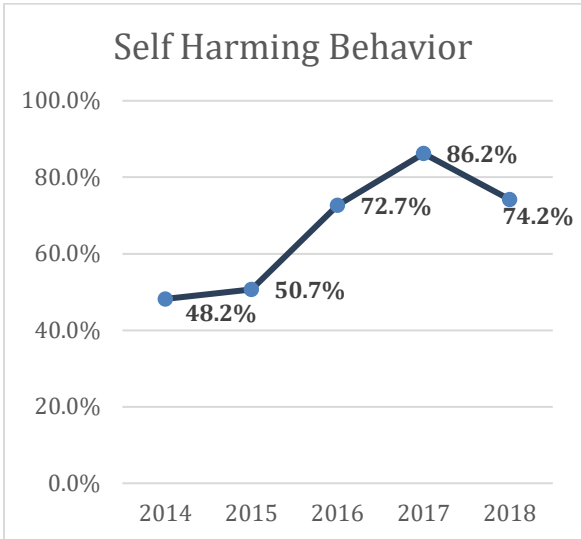
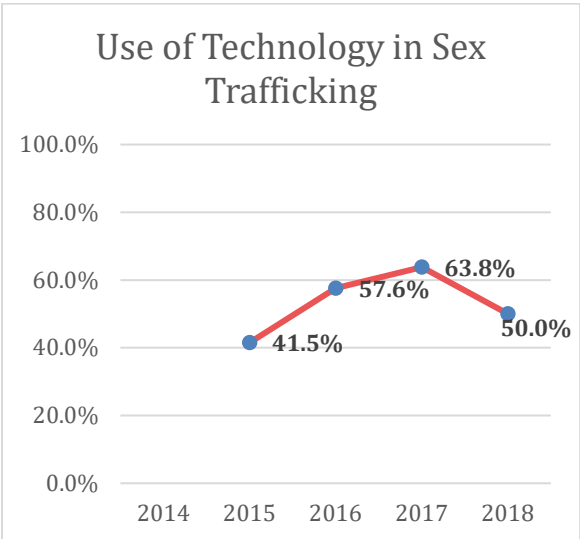
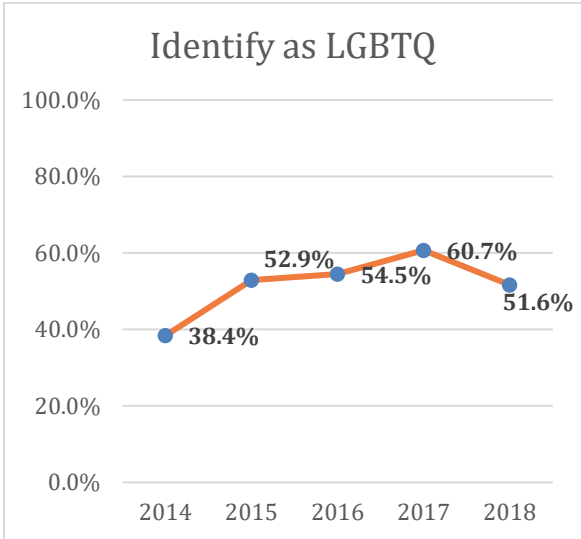
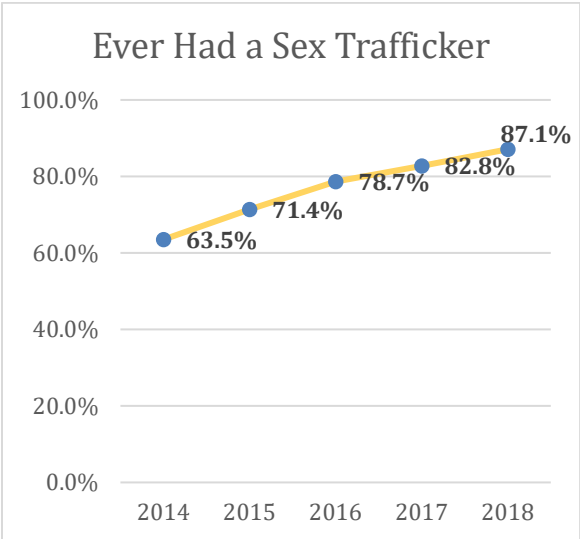
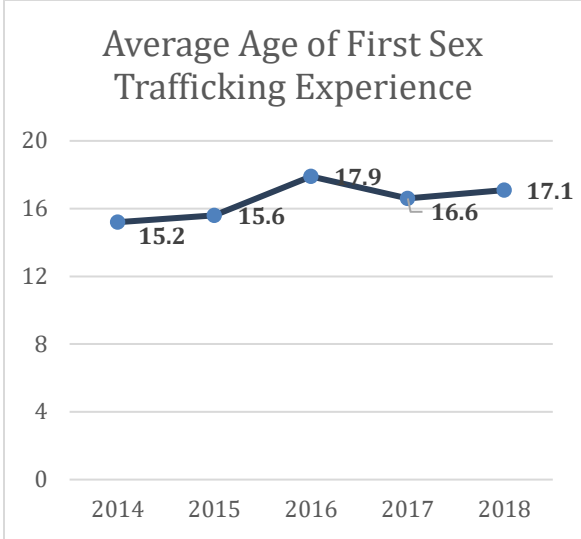
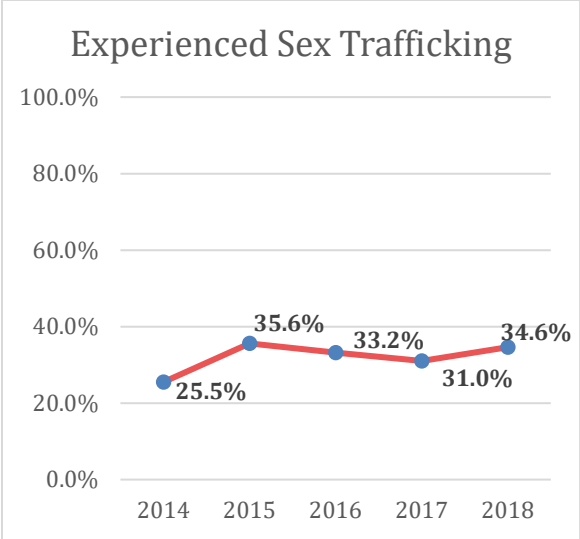


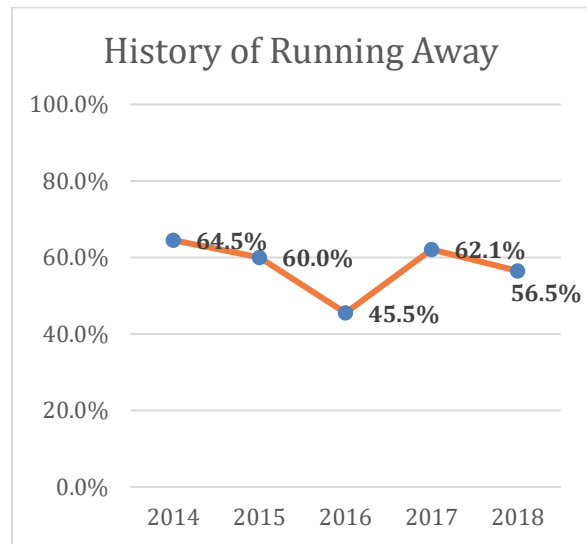
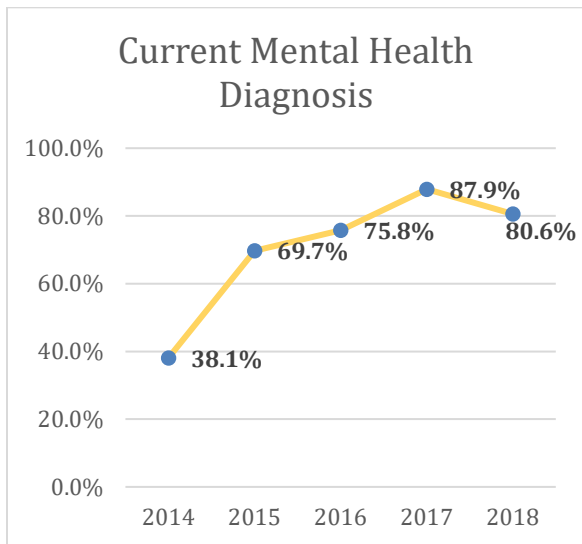


Trends in Sex Trafficked Only Group over Time, from 2014 to 2018

Specific to the sex trafficked group, several variables have remained relatively stable over the five-year study period. Significant factors to the sex trafficking experience, specifically, which remain of utmost importance include the presence of a sex trafficker, the victim identifying as LGBTQ, and the use of technology in the sex trafficking situation.

Other significant challenges that were continuously present in the lives of homeless young adults who identify as sex trafficking victims include self-harming behaviors, significant mental health challenges, and running away from home/placements.





DISCUSSION

The findings from year five of the YES study continue to demonstrate the incredible challenges that homeless young adults, ages 18 to 25, face in the state of Arizona. This is a unique population as they are just aging out of childhood and no longer have access to the same protections and systemic supports afforded to minors. Far fewer resources are available to this age group in the community and they are mostly lumped in with the adult homeless population for services regardless of their unique vulnerabilities. Coupled with the challenging life histories, this population has many current needs, including rehabilitation from substance abuse, mental health and medical support, housing, and therapeutic services. The findings from this study demonstrated that these issues are most often developed while the participants were living in Arizona. Over half of the participants (n = 114, 63.7%) reported that they were raised in the state of Arizona, and the majority of the sample (n = 150, 83.8%) had lived in Arizona for more than a year. These findings suggest that many participants in this sample first experienced homelessness in the state of Arizona.

Over half of the participants (n = 102, 57%) reported drug use, with 13.9% (n = 24) reporting an addiction to drugs and 10.6% (n = 19) reporting an addiction to alcohol. Age of first drug use ranged from the age of seven to twenty, with the average age of first drug use being almost fifteen years of age. The most commonly reported drugs used by the participants included marijuana, methamphetamines, and heroin. Substance use and abuse continues to be a serious challenge for this population and has contributed to the problems they are facing. Seventeen

(9.5%) participants reported losing stable and supportive housing (kicked out by their families) because they were using substances.

The fifth year of YES data collection also found that participants were still experiencing major mental health challenges, and the ramifications of housing instability, coupled with other life challenges may be contributing to the large number of participants engaging in risk taking behaviors (n = 56, 31.3%), self-harming (n = 96, 53.6%), and suicide attempts (n = 64, 35.8%). The most common mental health diagnoses reported were anxiety (n = 89, 49.7%) and depression (n = 78, 43.6%). The homeless young adults who participated in this study are already connected to services somehow, as evidenced by receiving the Youth Experiences Survey from a homeless youth serving agency staff but their level of engagement in services is difficult to assess.

Medical challenges continue to be prolific among homeless young adults in the state of Arizona, with over half (n = 97, 54.2%) reporting a current medical issue with only 23.5% (n = 42) reporting that they were receiving medical care for their ailment. The most common medical challenges reported were poor vision (n = 45, 25.1%) and asthma (n = 44, 24.6%). However, nearly two-thirds of the total sample reported having health insurance through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, suggesting that connection to service providers increases the likelihood that participants can have affordable access to healthcare.

The newly added questions to the 2018 YES Study was the inclusion of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) questionnaire. As mentioned previously, the findings from the first ACE study, and supported by subsequent studies, demonstrate that individuals who experience four or more ACEs are more likely to experience disease or early death, and are twelve times more likely to attempt suicide, (Felitti, et al., 1998). Participants from year five of the YES study had an average of four ACEs, with over half (n = 92, 51.4%) experiencing four or more ACEs. These findings are consistent with prior research on adverse childhood experiences, which suggest that negative experiences in childhood, such as abuse, neglect, domestic violence, drugs or mental illness in the home, or a household member incarcerated, may predict negative outcomes that include homelessness.

Of the overall sample of 179 homeless young adult participants in the 2018 YES study, 62 (34.6%) reported experiencing sex trafficking exploitation, and 55 (30.7%) reported experiencing labor exploitation. At least one form of human trafficking (either sex or labor) was reported by 80 (44.7%) participants and 37 (20.7%) participants reported experiencing both sex trafficking and labor exploitation. Comparison was made between participants who reported experiencing sex trafficking and those who did not, to explore if there were any factors that were different about these two groups. The purpose of this is to try to understand the unique variables that may place a homeless young adult more at risk for experiencing sex trafficking

victimization. The sex trafficked group was more likely to identify as LGBTQ, report a drug addiction, an alcohol addiction, and be kicked out by their family due to substance use. The sex trafficked group was also more likely to report self-harming behaviors, experiencing dating violence, and experiencing sexual abuse before the age of eighteen. Interestingly, the sex trafficked group was also eight times more likely to report experiencing labor exploitation than the non-sex trafficked group.

Comparison was also made between participants who reported experiencing labor exploitation and those who did not, to explore what factors may place a homeless young adult at greater risk for being exploited for labor. The labor exploited group had many more differences when compared to the non-labor exploited group than did the sex trafficked versus the non-sex trafficked group. The labor exploited group was more likely to report addiction to drugs and to alcohol, to engage in self-harm of various forms, to report a suicide attempt, current and multiple mental health diagnoses, medical challenges like chronic pain, and dating violence. The labor exploited group was also more likely to report experiencing many different types of childhood abuse, including sexual abuse, physical neglect, and emotional abuse. The labor exploited group was also eight times more likely to report a sex trafficking experience compared to the non-labor exploited group.

Limitations

There are a number of limitations to consider when interpreting the findings from this study. The data was drawn from the two largest cities in Arizona, Phoenix and Tucson, utilizing four service providers to collect the surveys. Surveys were not collected from rural areas or smaller cities. In the rural and smaller cities, sex trafficking prevalence along with the other issues presented in this study among homeless young adults may vary from the urban sample reported in this study. Another limitation of this study consists of the sample being limited to those in contact with a homeless young adult service provider whether through street outreach, at a resource/drop-in center, or in transitional housing. The \$5 gift card given to survey completers may have influenced their decision to complete the survey, but no surveys were turned in that were incomplete or appeared to be marked in a pattern. Finally, training efforts continue to be a focal point of sex and labor trafficking intervention in the state of Arizona. During the five years that the YES study has been collected (2014-2018) significant efforts were made to train the staff at all of the participating agencies, and new trafficking victim specific services were developed and implemented at the two largest agencies, UMOM and Our Family Services. This may have influenced who the surveys were given to within each agency.

Implications

The findings from the Youth Experiences Survey remain consistent year to year: the challenges and needs of homeless young adults in the state of Arizona are great. Young adults,

ages 18 to 25, who are experiencing housing instability are likely to also struggle with substance use or abuse/addiction, mental health and medical challenges, self-harm and suicidality, have experienced significant abuse, neglect or other challenges in their childhood, and are at heightened risk of experiencing sex trafficking and/or labor exploitation. Those who are engaging in services with homeless serving providers are being connected to mental health supports, access to health insurance, medical care, and over one quarter of the sample were placed in transitional housing. These are successful findings for these participants; however these findings demonstrate the need for more housing resources for this population, as well as additional innovative ways that medical providers can to meet the needs of homeless young adults.

Another consistent finding from the YES study over the five years was that homeless young adults are at heightened risk of experiencing sex trafficking and labor exploitation. The vast needs of this specific population, coupled with the high levels of reported exposure to trauma in early life, create a unique vulnerability for exploitation. Almost half of the sample (n = 80, 44.7%) reported experiencing at least one form of human trafficking, and one out of every five in the sample reported experiencing both sex trafficking and labor exploitation.

It is still unclear why individuals who identify as LGBTQ are at such heightened risk for sex and labor exploitation. More research is being done to better understand this issue, but it is evident that this must be a prioritization in research initiatives as each year of this study produces a similar finding. Agencies should consider this when serving homeless persons who identify as LGBTQ. Agencies that provide targeted services to LGBTQ persons experiencing homelessness should provide education and awareness around issues of sex and labor exploitation, discuss warning signs, and resources for support should a client report experiencing exploitation.

The findings from this study can be used to provide more targeted services to young adults experiencing homelessness in the state of Arizona. The unique factors that create a heightened risk for experiencing sex and labor exploitation should be considered when working with clients on a case-by-case basis. Screening tools can be developed with these variables in mind to assess for risk of trafficking. Awareness opportunities should be provided to this population to discuss the warning signs and what to do if a person has experienced sex trafficking or labor exploitation or is being groomed to be trafficked. Agencies may choose to offer psychoeducation or support groups for those who have experienced sex trafficking or labor exploitation as an additional support. Targeted training for agency personnel on this issue should be provided for ongoing and new staff.

As mentioned above, these findings are derived from a sample that is already seeking services, and access to homeless young adults that are not connected to a social service agency is a challenge. Homeless young adults may interact with many businesses, organizations, or

systems, whether they are seeking services or not. This highlights the need for continued training of the community to spot warning signs, and the implementation of a screening tool to assess for trafficking that can be used across disciplines. Arizona should continue to identify the greatest gaps in services, such as housing for young males, LGBTQ specific shelter services, treating trauma symptoms and experiences, and the identification of labor trafficking in the community.

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