



**2017 Youth Experiences Survey**  
Year Four

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ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **Youth Experiences Survey: Exploring the Sex Trafficking Experiences of Homeless Young Adults in Arizona, Year 4.**

The Youth Experiences Survey (YES) has been given each year for the past four years to a complex and difficult population to assess. Homeless runaway young adults (ages 18 to 25) are difficult to find and can be difficult to engage and there is limited knowledge about their needs and experiences. This survey was given to homeless young adults in both Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona through a small web of homeless youth-targeted service providers to explore their experiences and service needs. Over the past three years, the findings from the YES study have helped to provide insight to service providers and the community about the challenges and needs of Arizona's homeless young adults. Information from the YES study provides the Arizona community with rich data about the scope and complexity of their needs and challenges including the sex trafficking experiences of these young people.

Identifying sex 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 transitional housing, drop-in centers, and on the streets of Tucson and Phoenix.

A six-page paper survey was distributed to homeless young adults over two weeks in July 2014, July 2015, August 2016, and August 2017 by agency staff from four agencies. This report will begin with a description of the 2017 survey results of the respondents, proceed to compare the respondents that reported that they were sex trafficking victims with the non-sex trafficking victim respondents in the 2017 sample, and then conclude with comparisons across the four years of data collection regarding the experiences of the sex trafficking victims.

#### **Status of Homeless Young Adults in Arizona in the 2017 Youth Experiences Survey**

- 187 participants responded to the Youth Experiences Survey in 2017.
- The average age of the 187 homeless young adult respondents was 21.1 years old.
- Males represented 49.2% of the respondents, followed by females at 40.6% and transgender at 7% and other (genderqueer, two-spirit, non-conforming) at 2.7%.
- Of the 160 participants that reported their sexual orientation, 48.8% were heterosexual and 51.2% LGBTQ.
- The homeless young adults reported their living situations as living in a transitional housing program (28.9%), living on the streets (22.5%), living in a shelter (20.9%), couch surfing (15.5%), living in their own place paid by self (5.9%) or living in a hotel (1.6%).

- 52.4% of the respondents were raised in the state of Arizona, while the rest were from 26 other states and four other countries: Canada, Mexico, China, and Japan.
- Nearly two-thirds of the respondents (64.7%) reported that they had used drugs or alcohol, while 16.6% believed they had an addiction to drugs and 10.7% had an addiction to alcohol.
- The drug used most often by the respondents was marijuana (40.1%) followed by methamphetamines (33.2%), and heroin (18.2%).
- A suicide attempt was reported by 102 (54.5%) of the respondents.
- 67.9% (n =127) of the respondents reported experiencing a current mental health problem, 54% (n =101) had more than one mental health problem, with the most common mental health problems identified as anxiety (n = 89, 47.6%) and depression (n = 84, 44.9%).
- Over half (53.5%) of the respondents identified a current medical problem with 24.6% reporting they had received treatment for the identified problem(s).
- The most common medical problems reported included asthma (n = 46, 24.6%) and poor vision (n = 38, 20.3%).

### **Status of Homeless Young Adult Victims of Human Trafficking in Arizona**

Of the overall sample of 187 homeless young adult respondents, 58 (31%) reported experiencing sex trafficking exploitation, and 60 (32.1%) reported experiencing labor trafficking exploitation. At least one form of human trafficking (either sex or labor) was reported by 80 (42.8%) respondents and 38 (20.3%) respondents reported experiencing both sex and labor trafficking exploitation.

### ***Sex Trafficking Findings***

- 58 (31%) of the total sample (N = 187) reported experiencing sex trafficking exploitation.
- Over one out of every three (n = 29, 38.2%) female respondents self-reported that they had been sex trafficked.
- One out of four (n = 23, 25%) male participants self-reported a sex trafficking experience.
- The average age of first sex trafficking experience was 16.6 years old with 43.1% reporting that they were sex trafficked before the age of 18.
- 82.8% of the respondents who reported being sex trafficked reported that they had at some point had a sex trafficker, with 6.9% of the respondents reporting the current presence of a sex trafficker.
- The most common reasons identified by the 58 participants that reported sex trafficking victimization were for money (58.6%), for a place to stay (39.7%), and for food (36.2%).
- When comparing the sex trafficked homeless young adult respondents with the non-sex trafficked homeless young adult respondents using an odds ratio test, the sex trafficked group was found to be:

- Nine times more likely to report the self-harm activity of cutting.
- Six times more likely to have a history of sexual abuse.
- Six times more likely to have had a mental health problem/diagnosis.
  - Three times more likely to have diagnosis of Depression.
  - Three times more likely to have a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
  - Four times more likely to have a diagnosis of Anxiety.
  - Three and a half times more likely to have a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder.
  - Three times more likely to have a diagnosis of Schizophrenia.
  - Three times more likely to have a diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder.
- Five times more likely to have faced harassment by peers.
- Five times more likely to have more than one mental health problem/diagnosis.
- Four times more likely to report being addicted to drugs.
- Four times more likely to have attempted suicide.
- Four times more likely to have been kicked out of the home because the family did not approve of the respondents' sexual orientation.
- Four times more likely to have run away from home.
- Four times more likely to have a history of emotional abuse by a parent or guardian.
- Three times more likely to have been bullied by school peers.
- Three times more likely to have a history of physical abuse by a parent or guardian.
- Three times more likely to be a methamphetamine user.
- Three times more likely to be addicted to alcohol.
- Three times more likely to have been abused in a domestic violence relationship.
- Three times more likely to have been kicked out of the home due to using substances.
- Two times more likely to be LGBTQ.
- Two times more likely to have witnessed domestic violence in the home as a child.
- Two times as likely to have been the abuser in a domestic violence relationship.

***Labor Trafficking Findings***

- 60 (32.1%) of the total sample (N = 187) reported experiencing labor trafficking exploitation.
- Over one out of every three (n = 27, 35.5%) female respondents reported that they had been labor trafficked.
- Over one out of every four (n = 25, 27.2%) male participants reported a labor trafficking experience.

- The average age of first labor trafficking experience was 16.5 years old with 35% reporting that they were labor trafficked before the age of 18.
- 66.7% of the respondents who reported being labor trafficked reported that they had at some point had a labor trafficker, with 18.3% of the respondents reporting the current presence of a labor trafficker.
- The most common reasons identified by the 60 participants that reported labor trafficking victimization were for money (66.7%), for food (58.3%), and for a place to stay (55%).
- When comparing the labor trafficked homeless young adult respondents with the non-labor trafficked homeless young adult respondents using an odds ratio test, the labor trafficked group was found more likely to:
  - Seven times more likely to have been abused in a domestic violence relationship.
  - Six times more likely to have a history of sexual abuse.
  - Five times more likely to have participated in self-harm activities including cutting.
  - Five times more likely to have faced harassment by peers.
  - Four times more likely to be addicted to drugs.
  - Four times more likely to have a mental health problem/diagnosis.
    - Four times more likely to have a diagnosis of Depression.
    - Five times more likely to have a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
    - Three times more likely to have a diagnosis of Anxiety.
    - Two times more likely to have a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder.
    - Four times more likely to have a diagnosis of Schizophrenia.
  - Four times more likely to have more than one mental health problem/diagnosis.
  - Three times more likely to have been the abuser in a domestic violence relationship.
  - Three times more likely to have a current medical issue.
  - Three times more likely to have attempted suicide.
  - Two times more likely to have been kicked out by his/her family home.
  - Two times more likely to have witnessed domestic violence in the home as a child.
  - Two times more likely to have a diagnosis of ADD/ADHD.
  - Two times more likely to be a methamphetamine user.
  - Two times as likely to have been enrolled in special education classes.
  - Two times more likely to have a gang affiliation.
  - Two times more likely to have been bullied by school peers.
  - Two times more likely Have a history of physical abuse by a parent or guardian.
  - Two times as likely to have a history of emotional abuse by a parent or guardian.

## **Four Year Analysis**

Sex trafficking was reported by the participants over the four years with an average of 31.4% (ranging from 25.6% to 35.8%). LGBTQ participants were increasingly likely over the four years to report being a sex trafficking victim from 38.4% in 2014 to 60.7% in 2017 of the sex trafficked group. Other increases among the sex trafficked group of participants included reported suicide attempts, reports of more than one mental health diagnosis, and reported diagnoses of depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and bipolar disorder. Regarding the sex trafficking experiences, over the four years, participants reported increased use of technology in their exploitation including the use of backpage.com.

## **Key Findings**

The average age of first homeless for the 187 participants was 16 years old creating a particular set of risks for victimization as they are minors with limited options for employment and many are 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 trafficking 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. Forty-three percent of the sex trafficked youth were sex trafficked before they were adults and over a third of the participants reporting labor trafficking were minors when they were first labor trafficked. . Due to the broad spectrum of challenges faced by sex trafficked homeless young adults, targeted programming and interventions continue to be 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 trafficked homeless young adults may appear to have some of the most complex needs among homeless young adults. Screening for sex trafficking and labor 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 2017 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**

### **2017 Youth Experiences Survey: Exploring the Sex Trafficking Experiences of Homeless Young Adults in Arizona, Year Four.**

#### **Introduction**

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defined human trafficking 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). The issue of human trafficking, particularly sex trafficking, has received much attention over the past nearly 20 years, but many questions still 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, 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. Although much has been learned about vulnerabilities that put certain populations at risk for human trafficking, little is known about the impact of human trafficking on homeless youth and young adults.

Over the past decade the experiences of homeless young adults are more clearly understood in the United States through substantial 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 have been identified in the literature to explain young adult homelessness including transitioning from foster care to adulthood (Dworsky, Napolitano, & Courtney, 2013) and others which are similar to youth homeless including substance abuse, family conflict, history of childhood maltreatment, and identifying as LGBTQ.

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, the exchange of sex for subsistence needs, “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.

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 and labor

trafficking 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 trafficked and non-labor trafficked homeless young adults. The findings from this study will be compared to the 2014, 2015, and 2016 studies to examine trends over time regarding sex trafficking.

### **Research Questions**

The purpose of this study is to understand the scope and complexity of sex and labor trafficking 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.

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, and risk (childhood maltreatment, school problems, being bullied, history of foster care placement) and protective factors (said not 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 trafficked homeless young adults different from non-labor 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?

Within the sex trafficked homeless young adults:

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)?

How prevalent was the use of technology in their sex trafficking experience?

What is a profile of a sex trafficked homeless young adult from Phoenix/Tucson, Arizona?

Within the labor trafficked homeless young adults:

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

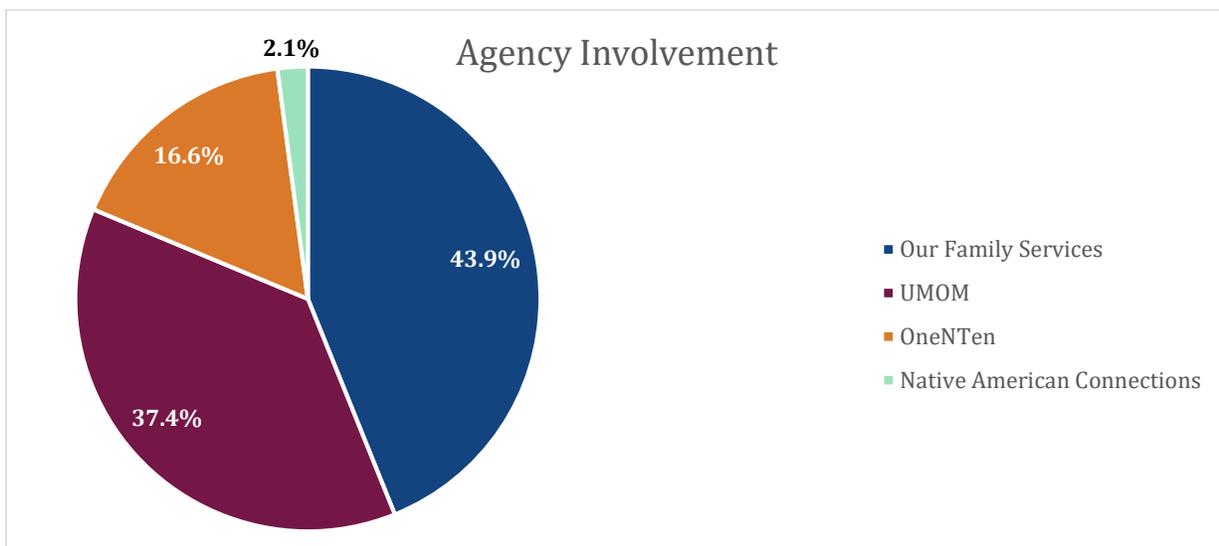
How prevalent was the use of technology in their labor trafficking experience?

What is a profile of a labor trafficked homeless young adult from Phoenix/Tucson, Arizona?

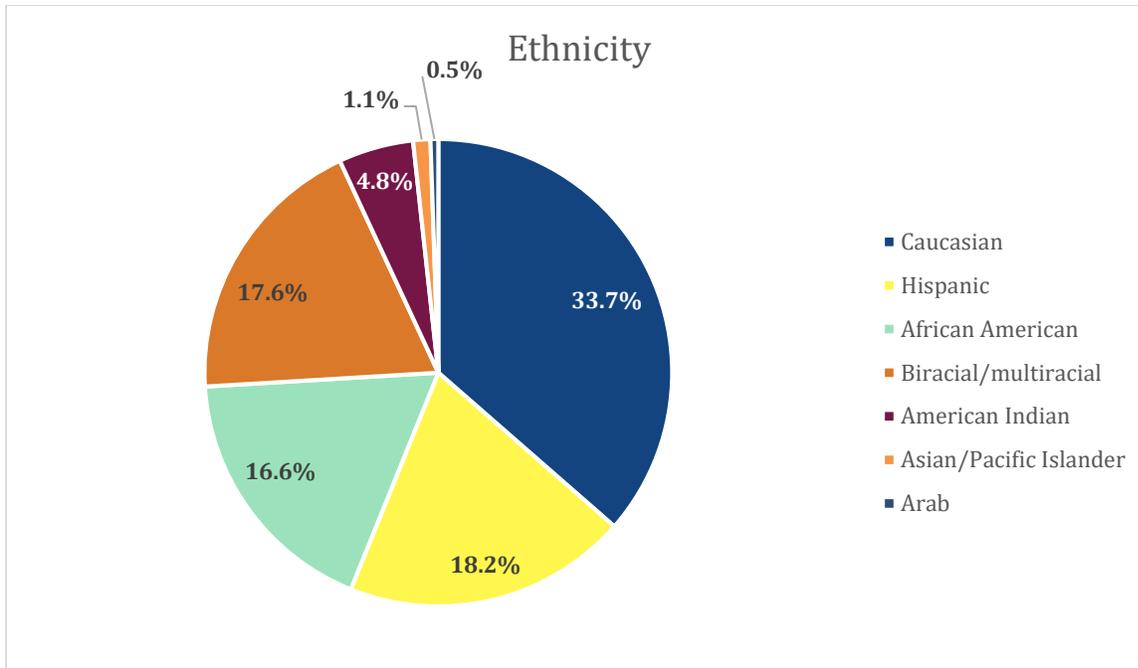
## METHOD

### Participants

In 2017, during a two-week period in August, 187 homeless young adults from the greater Phoenix, Arizona area and Tucson, Arizona completed the Youth Experiences Survey. Respondents were drawn from four agencies including Tumbleweed a Service of UMOM (Phoenix, Arizona), Our Family Services (Tucson, Arizona), One•n•ten (Phoenix, Arizona), and Native American Connections (Phoenix, Arizona). Our Family Services had 82 (43.9%) respondents; Tumbleweed had 70 (37.4%) respondents; One•n•ten had 31 (16.6%) respondents; and Native American Connections had 4 (2.1%) respondents.



Respondents identified as female ( $n = 76, 40.6\%$ ), male ( $n = 92, 49.2\%$ ), transgender ( $n = 13, 7\%$ ), and non-conforming ( $n = 5, 2.7\%$ ). The respondents age ranged from 18 to 25 ( $M = 21.1, SD = 2.23$ ). The most prevalent races/ethnicities reported were White ( $n = 63, 33.7\%$ ), Hispanic ( $n = 40, 21.4\%$ ), African American ( $n = 30, 16\%$ ), biracial/multiracial ( $n = 22, 11.8\%$ ), and American Indian ( $n = 15, 8\%$ ).



Respondents identified their sexual orientation as heterosexual (n = 78, 48.8%) and LGBTQ (n = 82, 51.2%). Of the respondents who identified as LGBTQ, 78 participants reported the following sexual orientation:

Sexual Orientation	n	%
Bisexual	28	35.9%
Asexual	19	24.4%
Pansexual	11	14.1%
Gay	9	11.5%
Lesbian	4	5.1%
Transsexual / Heterosexual	4	5.1%
Other	2	2.6%
Demisexual	1	1.3%

### Instrument

The Youth Experiences Survey is a 65-item, six page paper and pencil survey with questions regarding demographics, personal history, such as where they are from, their living situation, drug and alcohol use, a health history section with questions about self-harm, history of suicide attempts, mental health issues and mental health treatment, medical issues and medical treatment access, and pregnancy. The family history section includes questions about how they define their family, how they feel about their connectedness and support from their families, reasons for being kicked out, and if the respondent witnessed domestic violence in the home. The

life experiences section includes questions about how they make money and if they have experienced sex trafficking and/or labor trafficking. If the respondent reported a sex trafficking or labor trafficking 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 respondents 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?

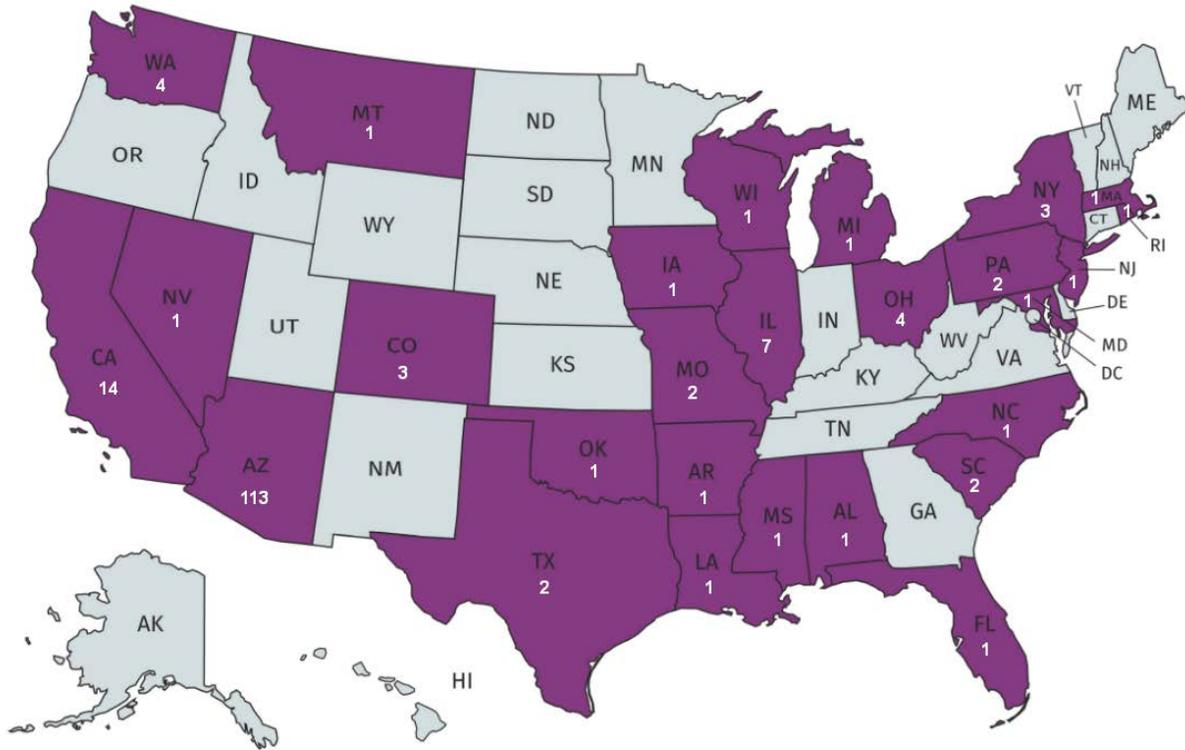
Labor trafficking was identified if the respondents answered yes to any of the following questions:

1. Have you ever been compelled, forced or coerced to perform a non-sexual act or form of labor, 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 a form of labor for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?
3. In the past, has anyone encouraged/pressured/forced you to exchange a form of labor for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?

Life experience questions included a range of possible experiences, such as: residential treatment, negative contact with law enforcement, dating violence, foster care/group home, involvement with the juvenile justice system, academic difficulties, running away from home, expelled from school, special education classes, bullied by school peers, harassed by peers, working in the adult industry (pornography, stripping, escort, etc.), physical abuse by a parent/guardian, gang affiliation, emotional abuse by parent/guardian, sexual abuse (molested or raped) as a youth (ages 13-17), and sexual abuse (molested or raped) as a child (age 12-under). Protective factors were also surveyed, these included: said no to drugs, said no when they felt they were being forced into sex, steady employment, being a part of a club or organization, enrolled in school or technical program, volunteered in community, supportive, loving family or group of friends, healthy, safe and permanent place to live, safe sex, trust/good relationship with law enforcement, feel secure or safe standing up for yourself/protecting yourself, and awareness of community resources.

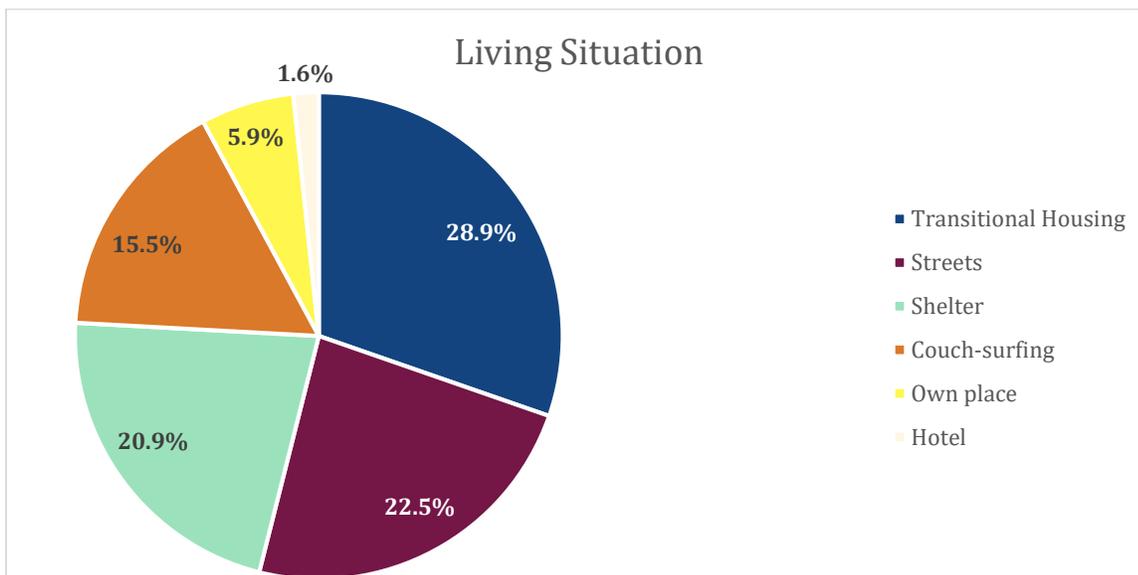
## **FINDINGS**

The 187 homeless young adult respondents reported they were from Arizona and 26 other states in the United States and four other countries: Canada, Mexico, China, and Japan. Over half (n = 98, 52.4%) of the respondents reported that they were raised in the state of Arizona. The majority of the respondents (n = 156, 83.4%) had lived in Arizona for more than a year with 7% (n = 13) 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 1 and 25 years ( $M = 16.9$ ,  $SD = 4.06$ ). They reported their living situations as: living in a transitional housing program ( $n = 54$ , 28.9%), living on the streets ( $n = 42$ , 22.5%), living in a shelter ( $n = 39$ , 20.9%), couch surfing ( $n = 29$ , 15.5%), living in their own place, paid by self ( $n = 11$ , 5.9%), or living in a hotel ( $n = 3$ , 1.6%).



## Drug Use

Drug use was reported by 64.7% (n = 121) of the homeless young adult respondents. The age of first drug use ranged from 6 to 24 years (M = 14.6, SD = 3.47). Thirty-one (16.6%) believed they had an addiction to drugs, and 10.7% (n = 20) reported an addiction to alcohol. Respondents reported drug use frequency as daily (n = 37, 19.8%), weekly (n = 12, 6.4%), monthly (n = 8, 4.3%) and not currently using (n = 120, 64.2%). Similarly, respondents reported alcohol use frequency as daily (n = 8, 4.3%), weekly (n = 10, 5.3%), monthly (n = 33, 17.6%), and not currently using (n = 123, 65.8%). Levels of reported motivation to change regarding drug use by the homeless young adult respondents ranged from: not at all motivated (n = 15, 8%), somewhat motivated (n = 26, 13.9%), very motivated (n = 45, 24.1%), and no response (n = 12, 6.4%).

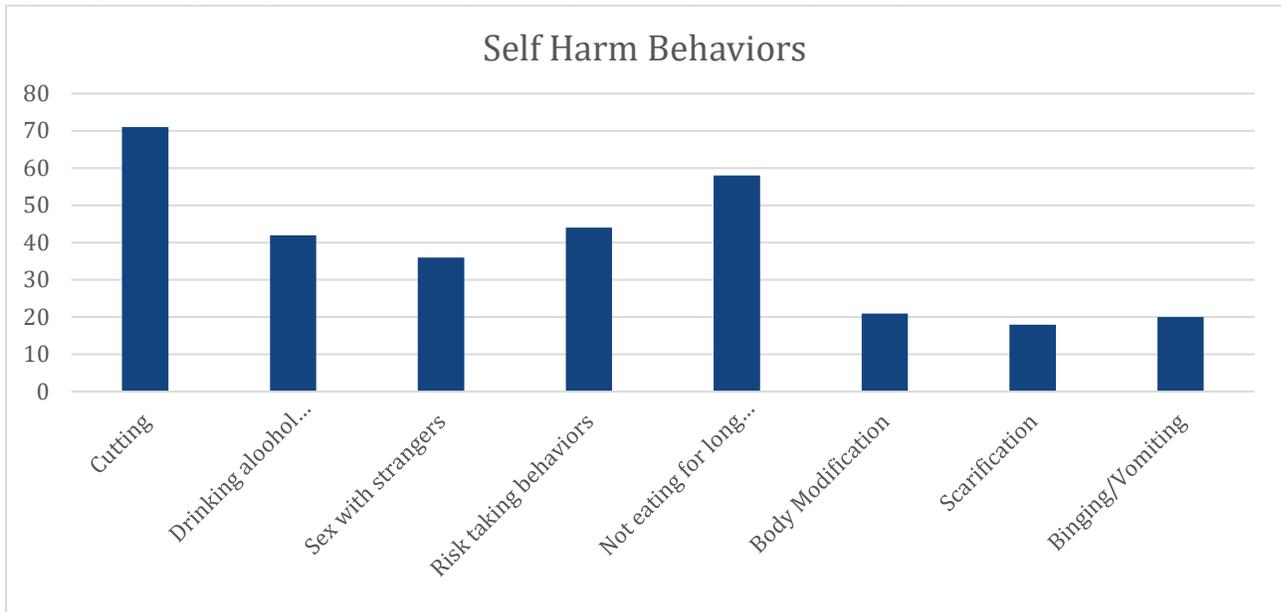
The types of drugs used by the respondents varied and some respondents identified using multiple drug types.

Drug Type	n	%
Marijuana	75	40.1%
Methamphetamines	62	33.2%
Heroin	34	18.2%
Crack/Cocaine	9	4.8%
Spice	5	2.7%
Acid	5	2.7%
Pills	4	2.1%
Opiates/OxyContin	3	1.6%
All drugs	3	1.6%
Ecstasy	1	0.5%
Gamma Hydroxybutyrate Rohypnol	1	0.5%
Special K/Ketamine	1	0.5%
Percocet/Percodan	1	0.5%
MDA	1	0.5%
PCP	1	0.5%

Respondents were asked directly if they had ever used methamphetamines and heroin. Thirty-four (18.2%) respondents reported heroin use, and sixty-two (33.2%) respondents reported methamphetamine use.

### Self-Harm Behaviors

Over half (n= 107, 57.2%) of the homeless young adult respondents reported that they participated in some form of self-harming behavior including: cutting (n = 71, 38%), drinking alcohol excessively (n = 42, 22.5%), having sex with strangers (n = 36, 19.3%), risk taking behaviors (n = 44, 23.5%), not eating for long periods (n = 58, 31%), body modification (defined as altering or modifying the human anatomy or physical appearance for self-expression, shock value or aesthetics (Featherstone, 1999) (n = 21, 11.2%), scarification (n = 18, 9.6%), and bingeing/vomiting (n = 20, 10.7%). Other self-reported self-harm behaviors included: burns, fighting, hitting things/self, breaking bones, poisoning, and shoplifting.



A suicide attempt was reported by over half (n = 102, 54.5%) of the homeless young adult respondents. Respondents reported last suicide attempt within the past week (n = 6, 3.2%), month (n = 2, 1.1%), six months (n = 23, 12.3%), year (n = 9, 4.8%), and over one year (n = 62, 33.2%).

### Mental Health Issues

A current mental health diagnosis was reported by over half (n = 127, 67.9%) of the homeless young adult respondents, with fifty-four percent (n=101) reporting more than one mental health issues/diagnoses.

Types of Mental Disorders Reported (N =187)	#	%
Anxiety	89	47.6%
Depression	84	44.9%
ADD/ADHD	75	40.1%

Bipolar disorder	69	36.9%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	38	20.3%
Schizophrenia	23	12.3%
Borderline Personality Disorder	16	8.6%
Autism	14	7.5%
Antisocial Personality Disorder	13	7%
Oppositional Defiant Disorder	11	5.9%
Dissociative Identity Disorder	2	1.1%
Asperger's	2	1.1%

Having received treatment for the reported mental health disorders was reported by 103 (55.1%) respondents.

### Medical Issues

The majority (n =134, 71.7%) of the respondents reported they had health insurance through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. A current medical problem was reported by 100 (53.5%) of the respondents, with 22 (11.8%) reporting a current dental issue. Medical problems included the following: asthma, vision issues, chronic pain, sexually transmitted infections, open wounds, skin problems and broken bones.

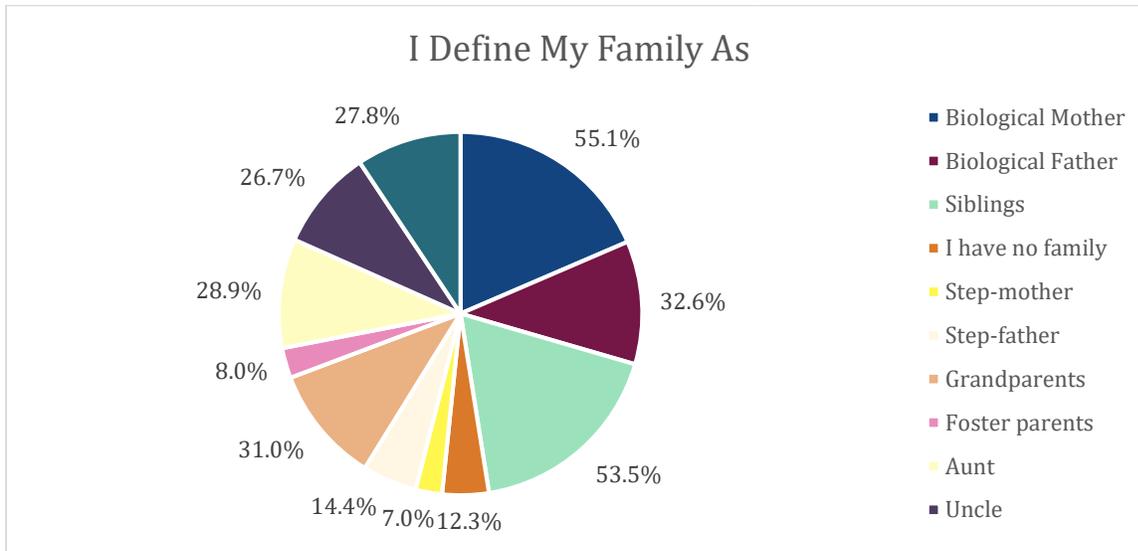
Medical Issues Reported	#	%
Asthma	46	24.6%
Poor vision	38	20.3%
Chronic Pain	25	13.4%
Open wounds	11	5.9%
Skin problems	10	5.3%
Broken bones	7	3.7%
Sexually transmitted infections	2	1.1%

Other self-reported medical conditions included emphysema, heart problems, HIV, and hypertension. The homeless young adult respondents reported less than a quarter (n = 46, 24.6%) were receiving medical treatment for their identified current medical problem.

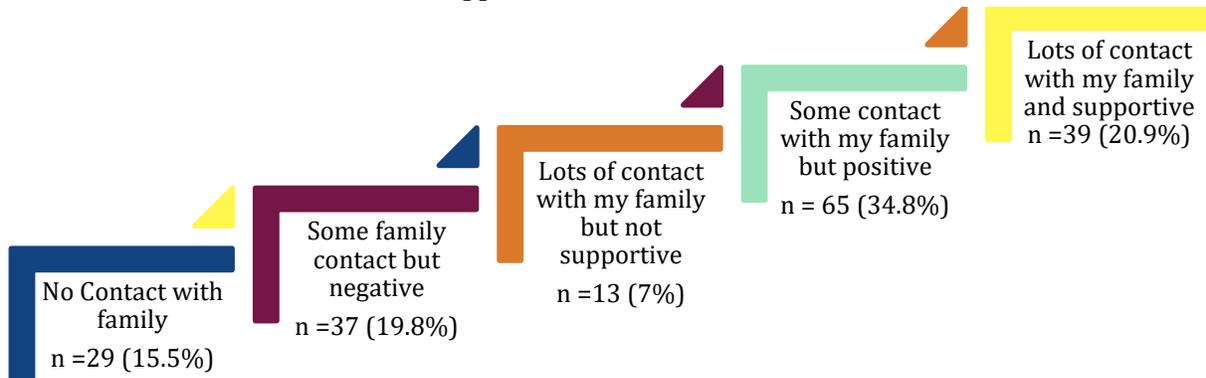
A current pregnancy was reported by 6 (3.2%) respondents. More than one-third (n = 71, 38%) of the respondents reported that they had children. The number of children ranged from 1 to 4 ( $M = 1.77$ ,  $SD = .85$ ). Respondents reported child custody or living arrangements as: Department of Child Safety (DCS) custody (n = 20, 10.7%), living in my care (n = 31, 16.6%), living in foster care (n = 10, 5.3%), and living with family (n = 17, 9.1%).

## Family Connection

The homeless young adult respondents reported that relationships with their families and their level of connectedness with their families varied. Respondents defined their family as:



Family contact was described as: no contact (n = 29, 15.5%). Some contact, but negative (n = 37, 19.8%), some contact, but positive (n = 65, 34.8%), lots of contact, but not supportive (n = 13, 7%), and lots of contact, and supportive (n = 39, 20.9%).



In response to a question about possible reasons for the respondents' level of contact with their families, 56 (29.9%) reported their family lives too far away, 27 (14.4%) reported that their home with their family was not a safe environment for them, and 68 (36.4%) reported that they were kicked out by their families.

Respondents reported being kicked out of their homes because the respondent was using substances (n = 28, 15%), the family did not approve of their sexual orientation (n = 21, 11.2%), their family did not approve of their gender identity (n = 14, 7.5%), their family could not provide for their needs (poverty) (n = 19, 10.2%), and family conflict/fighting with parents (n = 72, 38.5%).

Witnessing domestic violence in the home was reported by 62 (33.2%) respondents. Respondents reported witnessing their father hit their mother (n = 51, 27.3%), and their mother hit their father (n = 34, 18.2%). Respondents reported being abused in domestic violence relationship (n = 84, 44.9%), and being the abuser in a domestic violence relationship (n = 46, 24.6%).

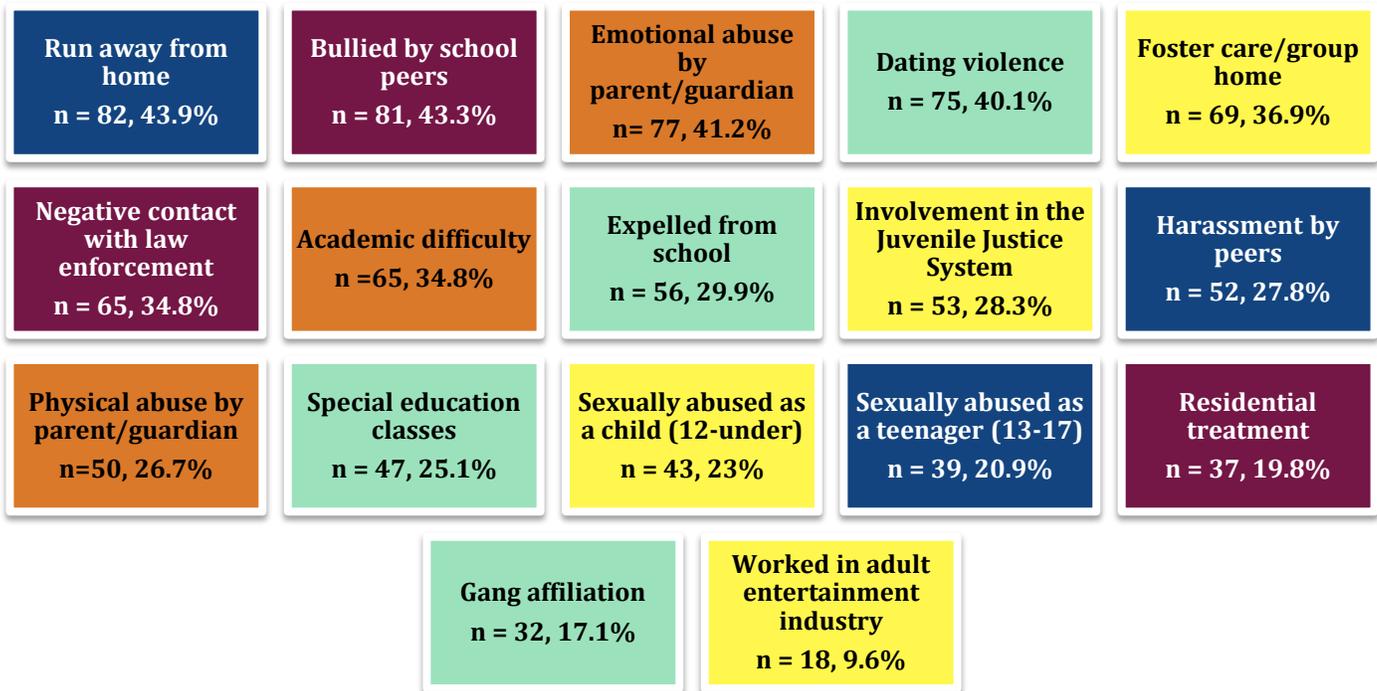
### **Economics of Homeless Young Adults**

The respondents identified a variety of ways 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.

<b>How the Respondents make money to live</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Steady job	42	22.5%
Side jobs for cash	48	25.7%
Selling their own belongings	39	20.9%
Panhandling	35	18.7%
Day labor	16	8.6%
Selling drugs	20	10.7%
Sex trading	8	4.3%
Selling stolen things	13	7%
Door to door sales	5	2.7%
Pick pocketing	9	4.8%

## Life Experiences

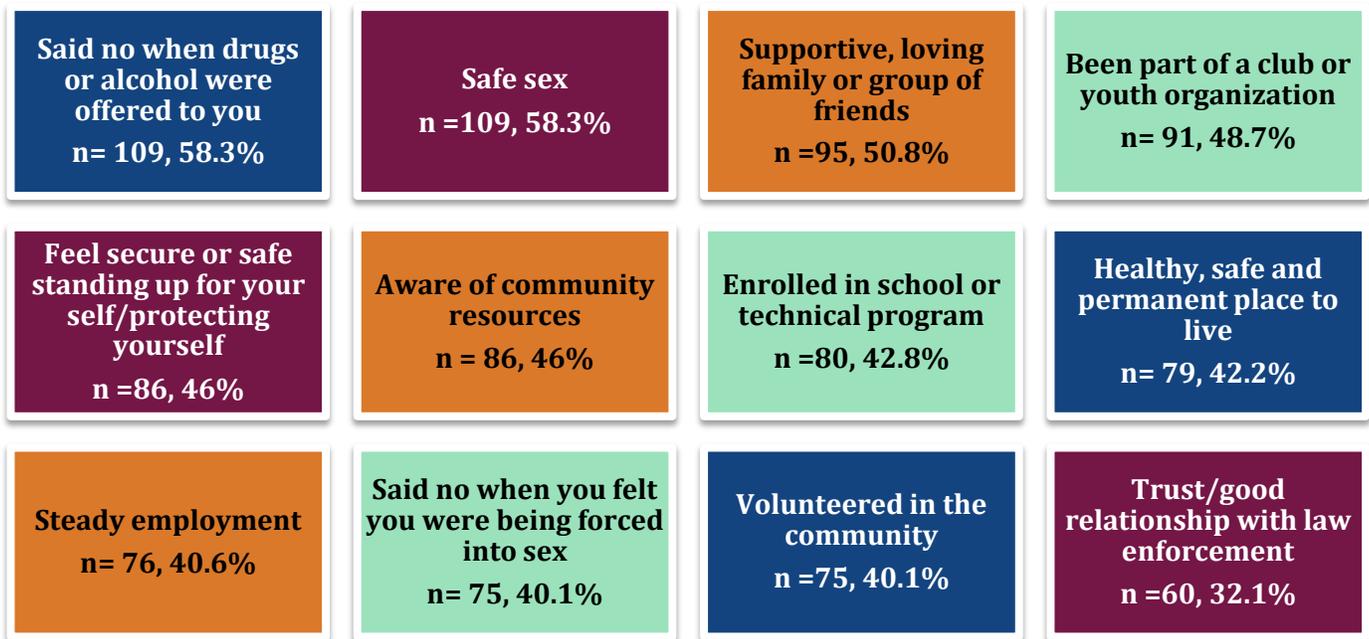
The homeless young adult respondents identified their life experiences as:



A total of 57 (30.5%) of the homeless young adult respondents reported that they had been sexually abused before the age of 18.

## Positive Life Experiences

Positive life experiences of the homeless young adult respondents varied with over half reporting that they had said no to drugs or alcohol when it was offered to them. Fifty-eight percent of the respondents reported that they practiced safe sex and 40.1% reported that they had said no when they felt they were being forced in to having sex. Having been in a club or youth organization was identified by 48.7% of the respondents. More than 40% reported that they felt secure or safe standing up for themselves or protecting themselves. Fifty percent reported that they had a supportive, loving family or group of friends. Being enrolled in school or a technical program was identified by 42.8% of the respondents. Having steady employment was identified by 40.6% of the respondents and having some experience volunteering in the community was reported by 40.1% of the respondents.



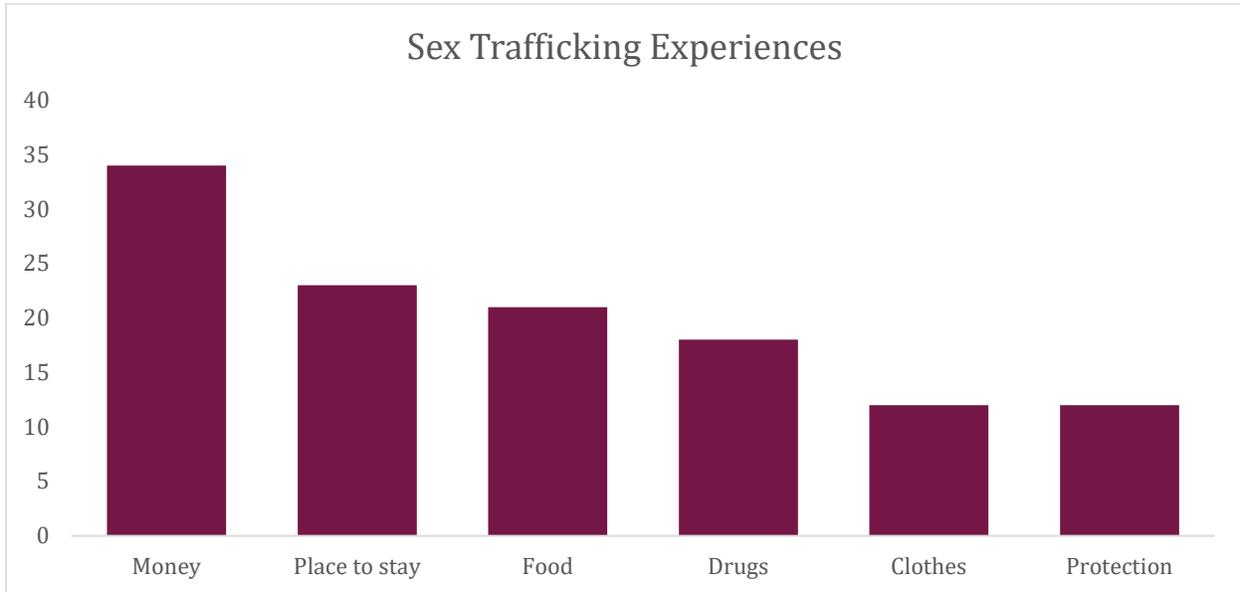
### Sex Trafficking Experiences of Homeless Young Adults

Fifty-eight (31%) of the homeless young adult respondents 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?

Twenty-nine female homeless young adults reported that they were a sex trafficking victim, which is 38.2% of the total number of female homeless young adult respondents. Of the 92 male respondents, 23 (25%) reported they were a sex trafficking victim. Finally, of the 18 individuals who identified as other gender (transgender, non-conforming), six (33.3%) reported that they were a sex trafficking victim. Regarding sexual orientation of the sex trafficked group (n = 58), 56 reported their sexual orientation. Twenty-two (39.3%) identified as heterosexual and 34 (60.7%) as LGBTQ. The age of first being sex trafficked was only reported by 38 (65.5%) of the 58 respondents who reported being sex trafficked. The age of first sex trafficking victimization reported ranged from 9 to 22 years ( $M = 16.6$ ,  $SD = 2.84$ ). Twenty-five (43.1%) reported that they were sex trafficked before they were age 18. The two most commonly reported reasons the respondents identified as how they were sex trafficked were: they were compelled, forced, or coerced to perform a sexual act that was for money (n = 34, 58.6%) followed by for a place to

stay (n = 23, 39.7%), for food (n = 21, 36.2%), for drugs (n = 18, 31%), for clothes (n = 12, 20.7%), and protection (n = 12, 20.7%).



Having a sex trafficker was reported by 48 (82.8%) of the respondents that identified as being a victim of sex trafficking. The 82.8% 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?

Four (6.9%) of the 58 respondents who reported a sex trafficking experience identified 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. Eighteen (31%) respondents 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.. Twenty-two (37.9%) of the 58 respondents identified the type of relationship with the sex trafficker as: a boyfriend (n = 10, 17.2%), a friend/acquaintance (n = 10, 17.2%), and a stranger (n = 2, 3.4%).

The use of technology for the purpose of the sex trafficking was identified by 37 (63.8%) of the 58 homeless young adult respondents who reported having been sex trafficked. The respondents 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=58)	#	%
Smart phone	23	39.7%
Facebook	13	22.4%
Dating websites	13	22.4%
Backpage.com	12	20.7%
Craigslist.com	11	19%
Pornographic pictures	11	19%
Instagram	7	12.1%
Tinder	6	10.3%
Twitter	6	10.3%
Tumblr	5	8.6%
Paypal	5	8.6%
Bitcoin	5	8.6%

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 Eros, Grindr, MeetMe, Tagged, and Seeking Arrangements.

Respondents reported that technology was used in their sex trafficking situation in a number of ways, including: To recruit into a sex trafficking situation (n = 16, 27.6%), as a tool in the sex trafficking situation (n = 16, 27.6%), to keep the respondent in the sex trafficking situation (n = 14, 24.1%), and to help the respondent get out of a sex trafficking situation (n = 9, 15.5%).

### **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 between the two groups regarding the gender identity of the respondents. Respondents 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 ( $\chi^2(1, N = 153) = 3.95, p < .047$ ).

Participants who identified as having a drug addiction ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 11.83, p < .001$ ) or an alcohol addiction ( $\chi^2(1, N = 173) = 4.98, p < .026$ ) were significantly more likely to report a sex trafficking experience. The sex trafficked group was significantly more likely to report the use of methamphetamines compared to the non-sex trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 174) = 9.40, p < .002$ ).

	Sex trafficked group (n =58)	Non sex trafficked group (n =119)
Sexual orientation*		
Heterosexual	22 (39.3%)	56 (47.1%)
LGBTQ	34 (60.7%)	41 (34.5%)
Methamphetamine use*	29 (50%)	33 (27.7%)
Drug addiction**	18 (31%)	13 (10.9%)
Alcohol addiction*	11 (19%)	9 (7.6%)

\*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 ( $\chi^2(1, N = 173) = 27.39, p < .000$ ). The sex trafficked homeless young adults were more likely to report they were participating in cutting behaviors when compared to the non-sex trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 18.13, p < .000$ ). Drinking alcohol excessively was significantly more likely to be reported by the sex trafficked group of homeless young adult respondents than the non-sex trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 25.48, p < .000$ ).

Drug use as a high-risk behavior was significantly more likely to have been reported by the sex trafficked respondents when compared to the non-sex trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 25.56, p < .000$ ). Having sex with strangers as a risky behavior was significantly more likely to have been reported by the sex trafficked respondents than the non-sex trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 47.77, p < .000$ ). Risk taking behaviors ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 29.95, p < .000$ ) was significantly more likely to have been reported by the sex trafficked respondents than the non-sex trafficked respondents. Vomiting ( $\chi^2(1, N = 171) = 16.89, p < .000$ ) and not eating for long periods of time ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 34.71, p < .000$ ) were significantly more likely to have been reported by the sex trafficked respondents than the non-sex trafficked respondents.

Engaging in body modification behavior ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 4.28, p < .039$ ) and scarification ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 7.46, p < .006$ ) were more likely to be reported by the sex trafficked homeless young adult respondents when compared to the non-sex trafficked group.

<b>Self-Harming and Risk Taking Behaviors</b>	<b>Sex trafficked group (n =58)</b>	<b>Non-sex trafficked group (n =119)</b>
Self-harming behaviors**	50 (86.2%)	56 (47.1%)
Not eating for long periods**	36 (62.1%)	22 (18.5%)
Cutting**	36 (62.1%)	35 (29.4%)
Drug use**	32 (55.2%)	22 (18.5%)
Sex with strangers**	29 (50%)	7 (5.9%)
Risk taking behaviors**	29 (50%)	15 (12.6%)
Drinking alcohol excessively**	27 (46.6%)	15 (12.6%)
Vomiting**	14 (24.1%)	5 (4.2%)
Body modification*	11 (19%)	10 (8.4%)
Scarification**	11 (19%)	7 (5.9%)

\*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 ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 173) = 15.67, p < .000$ ). The sex trafficked respondents were more likely to have a current mental health issue/diagnosis than the non-sex trafficked group ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 172) = 14.87, p < .000$ ). 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 ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 171) = 18.19, p < .000$ ).

The sex trafficked group were more likely to report being diagnosed with bipolar disorder ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 172) = 14.67, p < .000$ ), depression ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 172) = 8.55, p < .003$ ), schizophrenia ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 172) = 4.65, p < .031$ ), posttraumatic stress disorder ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 172) = 8.95, p < .003$ ), borderline personality disorder ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 172) = 4.51, p < .034$ ), and anxiety ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 171) = 15.77, p < .000$ ). The sex trafficked group were more likely to report that they had received treatment for their mental health problem than the non-sex trafficked group ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 167) = 12.35, p < .000$ ).

<b>Mental Health Issues</b>	<b>Sex trafficked group (n =58)</b>	<b>Non-sex trafficked group (n =119)</b>
Mental health issue/diagnosis**	51 (87.9%)	73 (61.3%)
Suicide attempts**	45 (77.6%)	57 (47.9%)
More than one diagnosis reported**	45 (77.6%)	55 (46.2%)

Ever received mental health treatment**	44 (75.9%)	58 (48.7%)
Anxiety**	41 (70.7%)	47 (39.5%)
Depression**	36 (62.1%)	47 (39.5%)
Bipolar disorder**	34 (58.6%)	35 (29.4%)
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**	20 (34.5%)	18 (15.1%)
Schizophrenia*	12 (20.7%)	11 (9.2%)
Borderline Personality Disorder*	9 (15.5%)	7 (5.9%)

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

### Medical Problems and Services

The two groups were not significantly different regarding reporting a medical problem. The two groups did not differ regarding the number of children they have and were similar in the locations of their children.

Pregnancy and Children	Sex trafficked group (n =58)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =119)
Have children	25 (43.1%)	44 (37%)
Children with family	8 (13.8%)	8 (6.7%)
Currently pregnant	2 (3.4%)	4 (3.4%)
Children in the respondent's care	8 (13.8%)	22 (18.5%)
Children in foster care	5 (8.6%)	5 (4.2%)
DCS Involvement	8 (13.8%)	12 (10.1%)

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

### Family Connection and Support

Although not significant, 46.6% of the sex trafficked homeless young adult respondents identified reported that they had been kicked out by their family compared to 32.8% of the non-sex trafficked group. The sex trafficked group was significantly more likely to report being kicked out of their homes due to substance use ( $\chi^2(1, N = 173) = 6.43, p < .011$ ) and the family not approving of the respondents' sexual orientation ( $\chi^2(1, N = 173) = 9.07, p < .003$ ).

Family Connection and Support	Sex trafficked group (n =58)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =119)
Some family contact, but positive	22 (37.9%)	40 (33.6%)
No contact	9 (15.5%)	19 (16%)

Some family contact, but negative	13 (22.4%)	24 (20.2%)
Lots of family contact, supportive	9 (15.5%)	30 (25.2%)
Lots of family contact, not supportive	4 (6.9%)	8 (6.7%)
<b>Reasons for disconnection and lack of support:</b>		
They kicked me out	27 (46.6%)	39 (32.8%)
They live too far away	23 (39.7%)	32 (26.9%)
The family was not a safe environment	12 (20.7%)	15 (12.6%)
<b>Reasons for being kicked out:</b>		
Family conflict	27 (46.6%)	43 (36.1%)
I was using substances (drugs and alcohol)*	15 (25.9%)	13 (10.9%)
Family did not approve of my sexual orientation**	13 (22.4%)	8 (6.7%)
Family poverty	8 (13.8%)	11 (9.2%)
Family did not approve of my gender identity	7 (12.1%)	7 (5.9%)

\*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 witnessing domestic violence in the home ( $\chi^2(1, N = 171) = 5.15, p < .023$ ). The sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report being abused in a domestic violence relationship ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 10.56, p < .001$ ), and being the abuser in a domestic violence relationship ( $\chi^2(1, N = 172) = 5.40, p < .020$ ).

<b>Experience of Domestic Violence</b>	<b>Sex trafficked group (n =58)</b>	<b>Non-sex trafficked group (n =119)</b>
Witnessing domestic violence in the home*	27 (46.6%)	35 (29.4%)
Abused in a domestic violence relationship**	37 (63.8%)	46 (38.7%)
Abuser in a domestic violence relationship*	21 (36.2%)	25 (21%)

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

### How Respondents Earn Money

The sex trafficked homeless young adult respondents were significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report selling drugs ( $\chi^2(1, N = 169) = 7.39, p < .007$ ), selling their own belongings ( $\chi^2(1, N = 169) = 10.83, p < .001$ ), and panhandling ( $\chi^2(1, N = 169) = 7.54, p < .006$ ) as a way to earn money.

How Respondents Earn Money	Sex trafficked group (n =58)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =119)
Side jobs for cash	18 (31%)	30 (25.2%)
Steady job	13 (22.4%)	28 (13.5%)
Selling my own things**	21 (36.2%)	17 (14.3%)
Panhandling**	18 (31%)	16 (13.4%)
Day labor	7 (12.1%)	9 (7.6%)
Sell drugs**	12 (20.7%)	8 (6.7%)
Selling stolen things	9 (15.5%)	4 (3.4%)
Door-to-door sales	3 (5.2%)	1 (0.8%)
Pickpocketing	6 (10.3%)	2 (1.7%)

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

### Negative Life Experiences

With regard to childhood abuse, the sex trafficked group were significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report a history of physical abuse by a parent/guardian ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 7.77, p < .005$ ), emotional abuse by a parent/guardian ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 14.64, p < .000$ ), sexual abuse (molested or raped) at age 12 or under ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 20.41, p < .000$ ), and sexual abuse (molested or raped) as an adolescent, ages 13-17 ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 35.43, p < .000$ ). Regarding housing placements and environments, the sex trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report running away from home ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 13.23, p < .000$ ), living in foster care or a group home ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 3.85, p < .050$ ), living in a residential treatment facility ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 5.11, p < .024$ ), and involvement in the Juvenile Justice System ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 6.41, p < .011$ ). The sex trafficked group were significantly more likely than the non-sex trafficked group to report harassment by peers ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 18.97, p < .000$ ), academic difficulty ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 6.36, p < .012$ ), and bullying by school peers ( $\chi^2(1, N = 162) = 12.3, p < .000$ ).

<b>Negative Life Experiences</b>	<b>Sex trafficked group (n =58)</b>	<b>Non-sex trafficked group (n =119)</b>
Physical abuse by parent/guardian**	23 (39.7%)	27 (22.7%)
Emotional abuse by parent/guardian**	35 (60.3%)	42 (35.3%)
Sexual abuse as a child (12-under)**	25 (43.1%)	18 (15.1%)
Sexual abuse as adolescent (13-17)**	27 (46.6%)	12 (10.1%)
Foster care/group home*	27 (46.6%)	42 (35.3%)
Residential treatment*	17 (29.3%)	20 (16.8%)
Juvenile Justice System*	23 (39.7%)	29 (24.4%)
Running away from home**	36 (62.1%)	46 (38.7%)
Harassment by peers**	28 (48.3%)	24 (20.2%)
Academic difficulty*	27 (46.6%)	37 (31.1%)
Bullied by school peers**	35 (60.3%)	45 (37.8%)

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

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### **Labor Trafficking Experiences of Homeless Young Adults**

Sixty (32.1%) of the homeless young adult respondents reported they had been labor trafficked by answering affirmatively to any of the following questions:

1. Have you ever been compelled, forced or coerced to perform a non-sexual act or form of labor, for money, drugs, food, a place to stay, clothing, or protection?
2. Do you currently have a person who encourages/pressures/forces you to exchange a form of labor for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?
3. In the past, has anyone encouraged/pressured/forced you to exchange a form of labor for money, drugs, food, place to stay, clothing or protection?

Twenty-seven female homeless young adults reported that they were a labor trafficking victim, which is 35.5% of the total number of female homeless young adult respondents. Of the 92 male respondents, 25 (27.2%) reported they were a labor trafficking victim. Finally, of the 18 individuals who identified as other gender (transgender, non-conforming), eight (44.4%) reported that they were a labor trafficking victim. Regarding sexual orientation of the labor trafficked group (n = 60), 28 (50.9%) identified as heterosexual and 27 (49.1%) as LGBTQ. The age of first being labor trafficked was only reported by 44 (73.3%) of the 60 respondents who reported being labor trafficked. The age of first labor trafficking victimization reported ranged from 4 to 24 years ( $M = 16.5$ ,  $SD = 4.20$ ). Twenty-one (35%) reported that they were labor trafficked before they were age 18.

The two most commonly reported reasons the respondents identified as how they were labor trafficked were: they were compelled, forced, or coerced to perform a non-sexual labor act that was for money (n = 40, 66.7%) followed by for food (n = 35, 58.3%), for a place to stay (n = 33, 55%), for clothes (n = 26, 43.3%), for drugs (n = 18, 30%), and protection (n = 17, 28.3%).



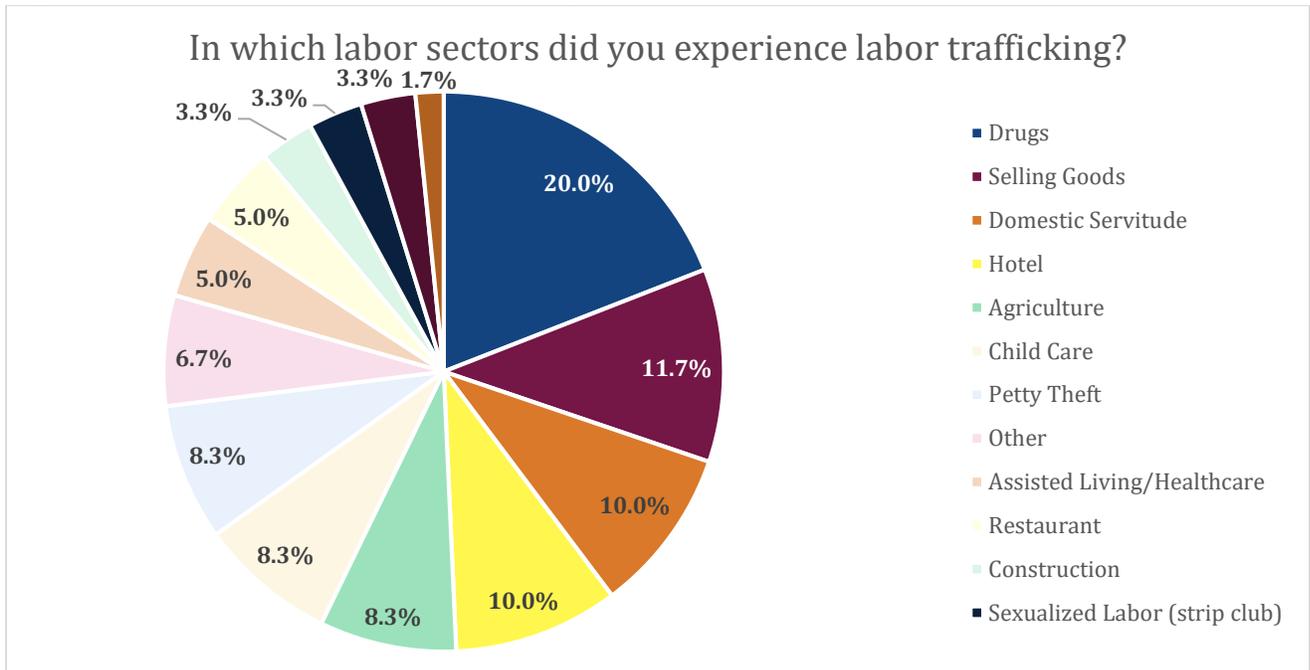
Having a labor trafficker was reported by 40 (66.7%) of the respondents that identified as being a victim of labor trafficking. The 66.7% who reported having a labor trafficker answered affirmatively to the one of the following questions:

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

Eleven (18.3%) of the 60 respondents who reported a labor trafficking experience identified they were currently being labor trafficked by a person who encourages/pressures/forces them to exchange non-sexual labor acts for money, drugs, protection, a place to stay, clothing or protection. Thirteen (21.7%) respondents reported that they had felt afraid to leave or quit the labor trafficking situation due to fear of violence or other threats of harm to self and to family.

Twenty-one (35%) of the 60 respondents identified the type of relationship with the labor trafficker as: a boyfriend (n = 7, 11.7%), a friend/acquaintance (n = 7, 11.7%), a family member (n = 4, 6.7%), a stranger (n = 2, 3.3%), and a gang (n = 1, 1.7%).

Respondents who identified as having experienced a labor trafficking situation were asked to report in which labor sector the exploitation was experienced. Respondents reported exploitation in a number of sectors, including:



### Comparing the Labor Trafficked Group with the Non-Labor Trafficked Group

To compare the labor trafficked and the non-labor 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 at first drug use. There were no significant differences between the two groups regarding gender identity or sexual orientation.

Participants who identified as having a drug addiction ( $\chi^2(1, N = 176) = 10.74, p < .001$ ) were significantly more likely to report a labor trafficking experience. The labor trafficked group was significantly more likely to report the use of methamphetamines compared to the non-labor trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 178) = 6.85, p < .009$ ).

	Labor trafficked group (n =60)	Non labor trafficked group (n =121)
Methamphetamine use**	28 (46.7%)	34 (28.1%)
Drug addiction**	18 (30%)	13 (10.7%)

\*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 labor trafficked group when compared to the non-labor trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 176) = 20.29, p$

<.000). The labor trafficked respondents were significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked respondents to report that they were participating in cutting behaviors ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 11.95, p <.001$ ), drinking alcohol excessively ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 10.28, p <.001$ ), using substances ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 18.53, p <.000$ ), engaging in sex with strangers ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 28.95, p <.000$ ), engaging in risk taking behavior ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 26.09, p <.000$ ), not eating for long periods of time ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 22.80, p <.000$ ), and bingeing/vomiting food ( $\chi^2(1, N = 174) = 13.14, p <.000$ ).

<b>Self-Harming and Risk Taking Behaviors</b>	<b>Labor trafficked group (n =60)</b>	<b>Non-labor trafficked group (n =121)</b>
Self-harming behaviors**	50 (83.3%)	56 (46.3%)
Cutting**	35 (58.3%)	36 (29.8%)
Not eating for long periods**	34 (56.7%)	24 (19.8%)
Drug use**	31 (51.7%)	23 (19%)
Risk taking behaviors**	29 (48.3%)	15 (12.4%)
Sex with strangers**	26 (43.3%)	10 (8.3%)
Drinking alcohol excessively**	23 (38.3%)	19 (15.7%)
Bingeing/vomiting**	14 (23.3%)	6 (4.9%)

\*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 trafficked group when compared to the non-labor trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 176) = 10.86, p <.001$ ). The labor trafficked respondents were more likely to report a current mental health issue/diagnosis than the non-labor trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 12.08, p <.001$ ). The labor trafficked group was also significantly more likely to report having more than one mental health diagnosis compared to the non-labor trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 174) = 17.13, p <.000$ ).

The labor trafficked group were significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report being diagnosed with bipolar disorder ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 5.73, p <.017$ ), depression ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 15.12, p <.000$ ), attention deficit disorder (ADD)/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 4.57, p <.033$ ), schizophrenia ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 11.25, p <.001$ ), posttraumatic stress disorder ( $\chi^2(1, N = 175) = 17.96, p <.000$ ), and anxiety ( $\chi^2(1, N = 174) = 10.82, p <.002$ ). The labor trafficked group were significantly more likely to report that they had received treatment for their mental health problem than the non-labor trafficked group ( $\chi^2(1, N = 170) = 11.43, p <.001$ ).

<b>Mental Health Issues</b>	<b>Labor trafficked group (n =60)</b>	<b>Non-labor trafficked group (n =121)</b>
Mental health issue/diagnosis**	53 (88.3%)	73 (60.3%)
More than one diagnosis reported**	47 (78.3%)	54 (44.6%)
Ever received mental health treatment**	46 (76.7%)	57 (47.1%)
Suicide attempts**	45 (75%)	57 (47.1%)
Anxiety**	41 (68.3%)	48 (39.7%)
Depression**	41 (68.3%)	43 (35.5%)
ADD/ADHD*	32 (53.3%)	42 (34.7%)
Bipolar disorder*	31 (51.7%)	38 (31.4%)
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**	24 (40%)	14 (11.6%)
Schizophrenia**	15 (25%)	8 (6.6%)

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

### **Medical Problems and Services**

The labor trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report experiencing a medical issue ( $\chi^2(1, N = 174) = 12.24, p < .000$ ). Poor vision was significantly more likely to be reported by the labor trafficked respondents than the non-labor trafficked respondents ( $\chi^2(1, N = 174) = 5.18, p < .023$ ).

<b>Medical Problems</b>	<b>Labor trafficked group (n =60)</b>	<b>Non-labor trafficked group (n =121)</b>
Current medical problem**	45 (75%)	54 (44.6%)
Poor vision*	19 (31.7%)	19 (15.7%)

\*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**

The labor trafficked group were significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report being kicked out of the home by family ( $\chi^2(1, N = 176) = 4.71, p < .030$ ). The labor trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report being kicked out because the respondent was using substances (drugs or alcohol) ( $\chi^2(1, N = 177) = 4.48, p < .034$ ), and because the family did not approve of the respondents sexual orientation ( $\chi^2(1, N = 177) = 9.18, p < .002$ ).

<b>Family Connection and Support</b>	Labor trafficked group (n =60)	Non-labor trafficked group (n =121)
They kicked me out*	29 (48.3%)	39 (32.2%)
I was using substances*	14 (23.3%)	14 (11.6%)
They did not approve of my sexual orientation**	13 (21.7%)	8 (6.6%)

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

The labor trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report witnessing domestic violence in the home ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 175) = 3.83, p < .050$ ). The labor trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report being abused in a domestic violence relationship ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 176) = 30.92, p < .000$ ), and being the abuser in a domestic violence relationship ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 176) = 11.14, p < .001$ ).

<b>Experience of Domestic Violence</b>	Labor trafficked group (n =60)	Non-labor trafficked group (n =121)
Abused in a domestic violence relationship**	45 (%)	39 (%)
Abuser in a domestic violence relationship**	24 (%)	22 (%)
Witnessing domestic violence in the home*	23 (%)	36 (%)

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

### **How Respondents Earn Money**

The labor trafficked group were significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report earning money by day labor ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 172) = 4.25, p < .039$ ), selling his/her own things ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 172) = 21.82, p < .000$ ), and panhandling ( $\chi^2 (1, N = 172) = 4.72, p < .030$ ).

<b>How Respondents Earn Money</b>	Labor trafficked group (n =60)	Non-labor trafficked group (n =121)
Selling my own things**	25 (41.7%)	14 (11.6%)
Panhandling*	17 (28.3%)	18 (14.9%)
Day labor*	9 (15%)	7 (5.8%)

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

## Negative Life Experiences

With regard to childhood abuse, the labor trafficked group were significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report a history of physical abuse by a parent/guardian ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 4.28, p < .039$ ), emotional abuse by a parent/guardian ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 6.14, p < .013$ ), sexual abuse (molested or raped) at age 12 or under ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 14.13, p < .000$ ), and sexual abuse (molested or raped) as an adolescent, ages 13-17 ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 15.80, p < .000$ ). Regarding housing placements and environments, the labor trafficked group was significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report living in foster care or a group home ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 3.92, p < .048$ ), and living in a residential treatment facility ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 12.18, p < .000$ ). The labor trafficked group were significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report being enrolled in special education classes ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 6.00, p < .014$ ), being bullied by school peers ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 4.24, p < .040$ ), and experiencing harassment by peers ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 19.02, p < .000$ ). The labor trafficked group were significantly more likely than the non-labor trafficked group to report experiencing dating violence ( $\chi^2(1, N = 170) = 17.68, p < .000$ ), having a gang affiliation ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 4.86, p < .027$ ), and experience working in the adult entertainment industry ( $\chi^2(1, N = 166) = 8.76, p < .003$ ).

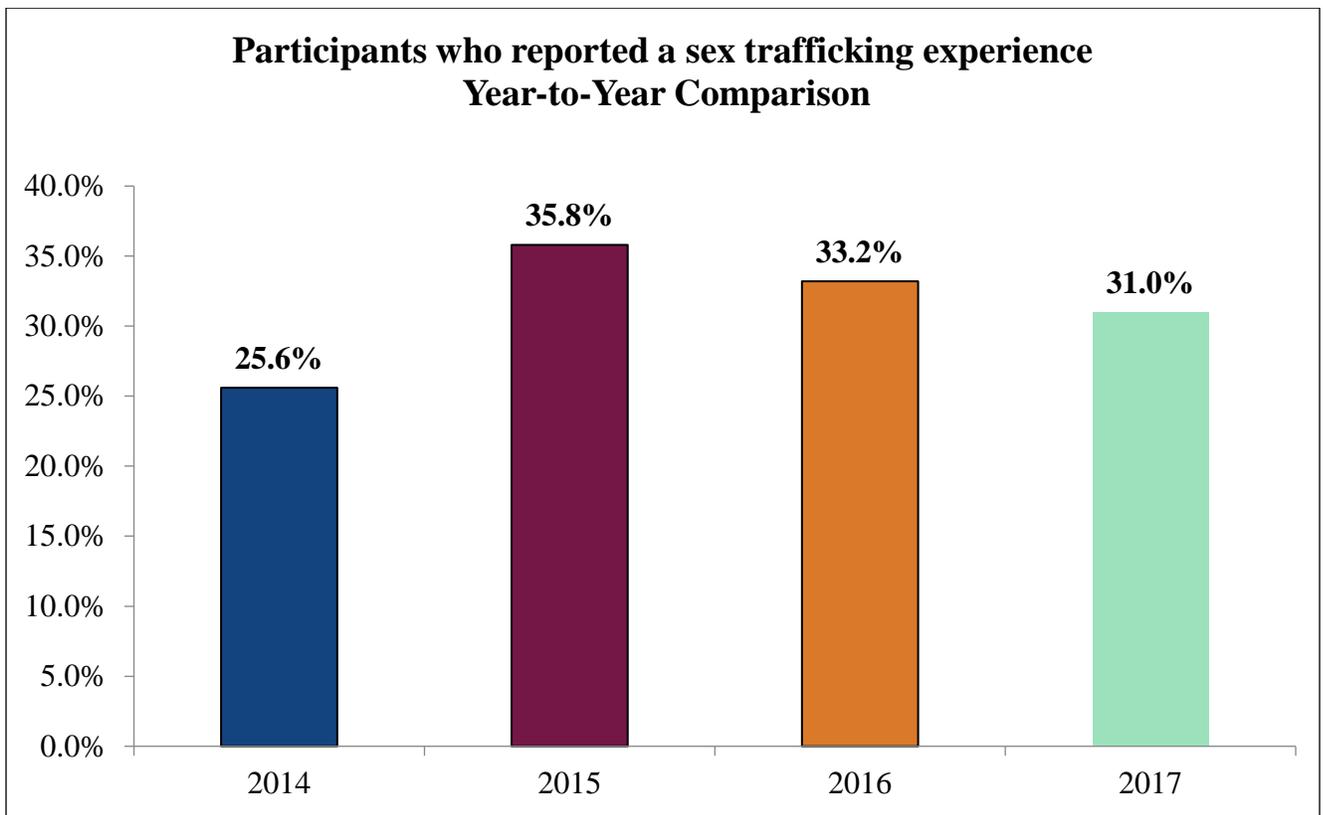
Negative Life Experiences	Labor trafficked group (n =60)	Non-labor trafficked group (n =121)
Dating violence**	37 (61.7%)	38 (31.4%)
Emotional abuse by parent/guardian*	31 (51.7%)	46 (38%)
Bullied by school peers*	31 (51.7%)	50 (41.3%)
Harassment by peers**	28 (46.7%)	24 (19.8%)
Foster care/group home*	27 (45%)	42 (34.7%)
Sexual abuse as a child (12-under)**	23 (38.3%)	20 (15.5%)
Sexual abuse as adolescent (13-17)**	22 (36.7%)	17 (14%)
Physical abuse by parent/guardian*	21 (35%)	29 (23.9%)
Special Education classes*	21 (35%)	26 (21.5%)
Residential treatment**	20 (33.3%)	17 (14%)
Gang affiliation*	15 (25%)	17 (14%)
Worked in the adult entertainment industry**	11 (18.3%)	7 (5.8%)

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

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

In 2014, 246 homeless young adults participated in the Youth Experiences Survey (YES). The 2015 YES was completed by 215 homeless young adults, the 2016 YES was completed by

199 homeless young adults, and the 2017 YES was completed by 187 homeless young adults. Due to the transient nature of this population and the anonymity of the respondents, 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 respondent origins, such as hometown and how long the respondent has resided in Arizona, what types of medical services the respondent utilizes, and if the respondent has children or is currently pregnant. New questions addressing family history and connectedness, spirituality, how the respondent makes money, and how technology was used in a sex trafficking situation were also included in the 2015 Youth Experiences Survey. New questions 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 questions about labor trafficking and exploitation.

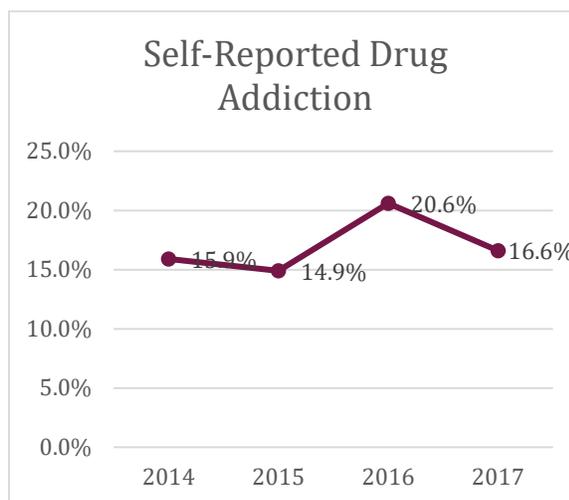
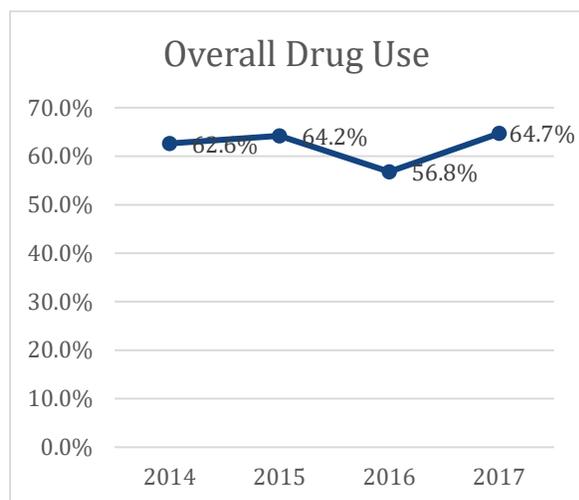


In 2014, one in four ( $n = 63$ , 25.6%) homeless young adult participants self-reported that they had experienced a sex trafficking situation. The 2015 respondents demonstrate an increase in the number of reported sex trafficking experiences by homeless young adults, with over one in three (77, 35.8%) respondents self-reporting a sex trafficking experience. The 2016 YES respondents reported that one in every three ( $n = 66$ , 33.2%) participants had experienced sex trafficking. The 2017 YES demonstrates a relatively consistent number of respondents identifying as having experienced sex trafficking exploitation.

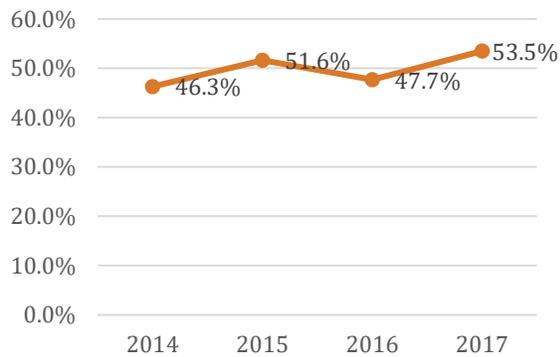
### Changes over time Youth Experiences Survey 2014-2017

Over the four years of the YES study, many of the variables studied have remained relatively stable. Overall drug use has remained a significant factor in the lives of homeless young adults, with the percentage of respondents reporting drug use averaging at about 62.1% over the four years. Self-reported drug addiction has remained relatively stable over the four-year study period, peaking in 2016 at 20.6% and declining slightly in 2017 at 16.6%. Other factors that have remained stable over the four year study period include: reports of a current medical issue (averaging 49.8% over four years), reports of being kicked out by family (averaging 39.9% over three years), reports of dating violence (averaging 36.5% over four years), reports of running away from home (averaging 45.2% over four years), reports of bullying by school peers (averaging 39.7% over four year), reports of emotional abuse by a parent/guardian (averaging 43.6% over four years), and reports of living in a foster care/group home setting (averaging 33.9% over four years).

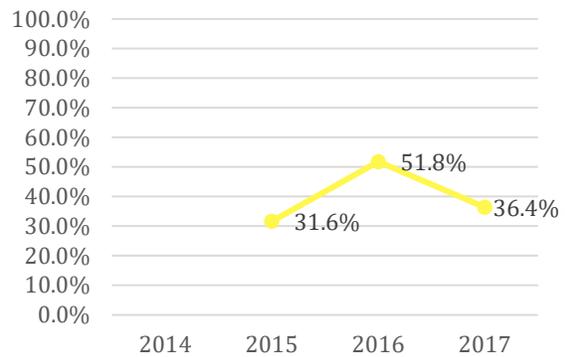
Other factors have increased steadily over the four-year study period for the overall sample of homeless young adults. A positive increase has been noted in the number of respondents who have gained access to state insurance over the four-year period. Significant mental health challenges have steadily increased over the four year period, including: self-harm behaviors (averaging 47.2% over four years), reports of a mental health diagnosis (averaging 52.8% over four years), reports of more than one mental health diagnosis (averaging 36.7% over four years), and reports of suicide attempts (averaging 41.4% over four years).



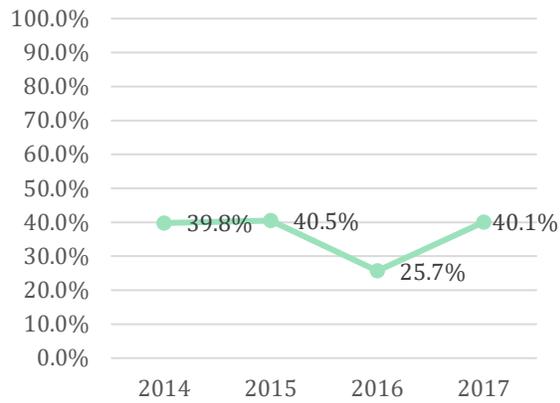
### Report of Current Medical Issue



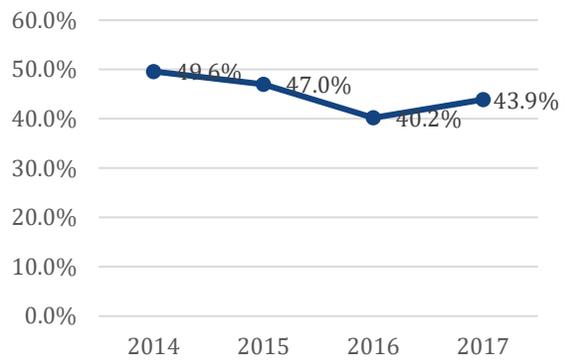
### Report of Being Kicked Out by Family



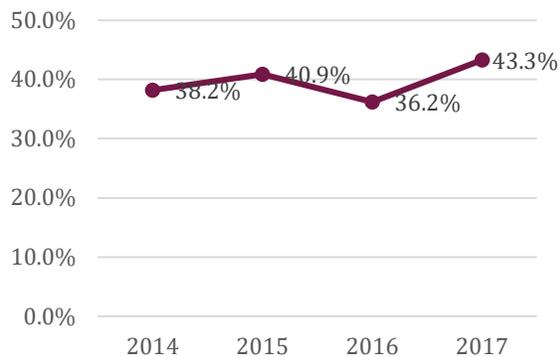
### Report of Dating Violence



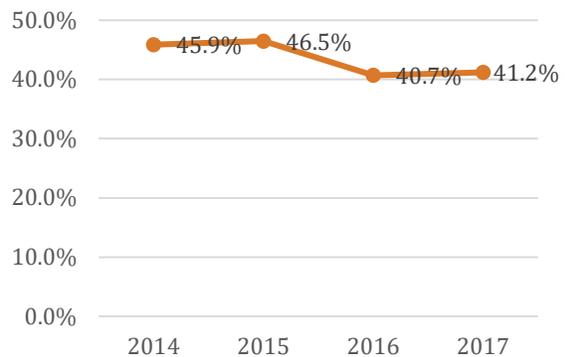
### Report of Running Away From Home

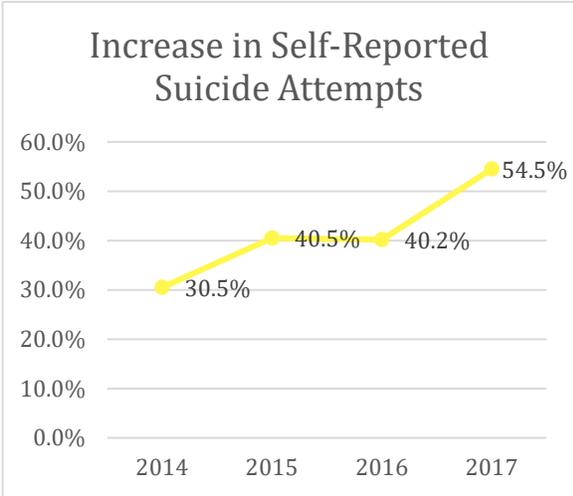
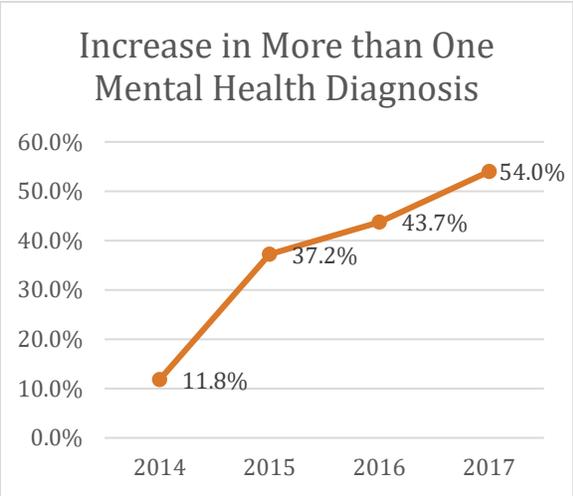
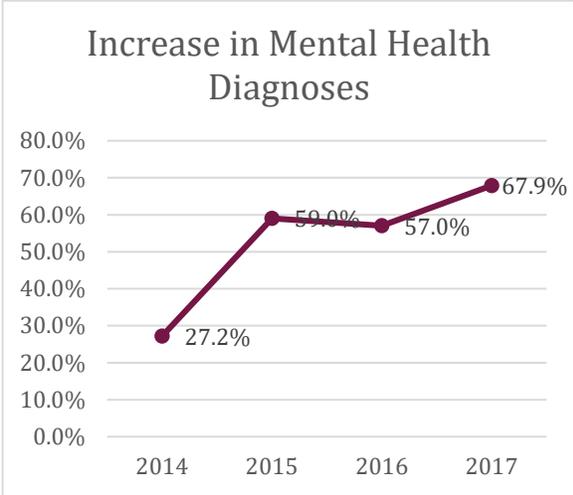
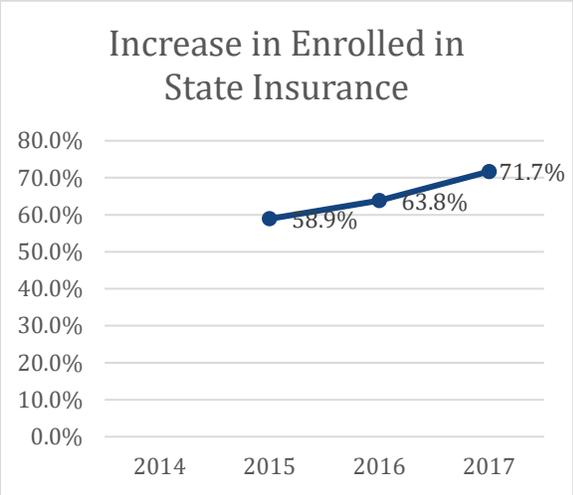
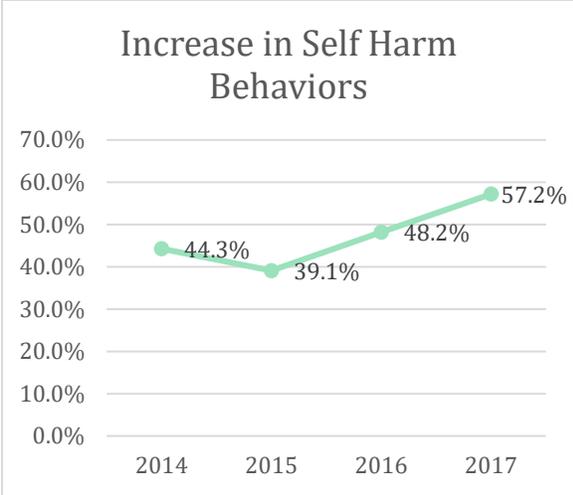
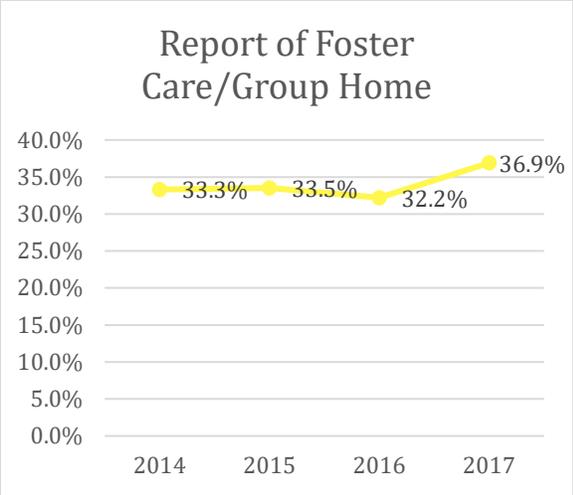


### Report of Bullying By School Peers



### Report of Emotional Abuse by Parent/Guardian

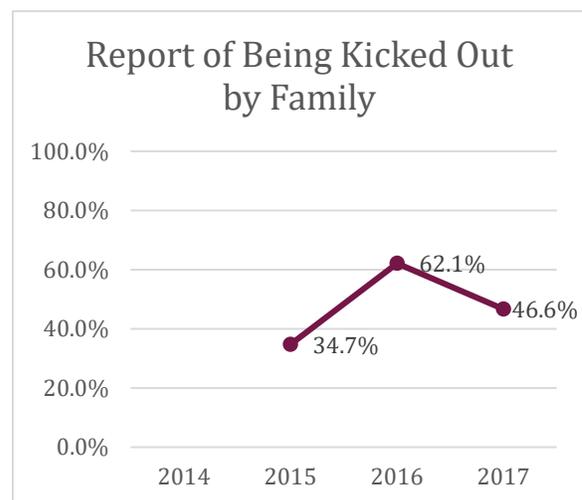
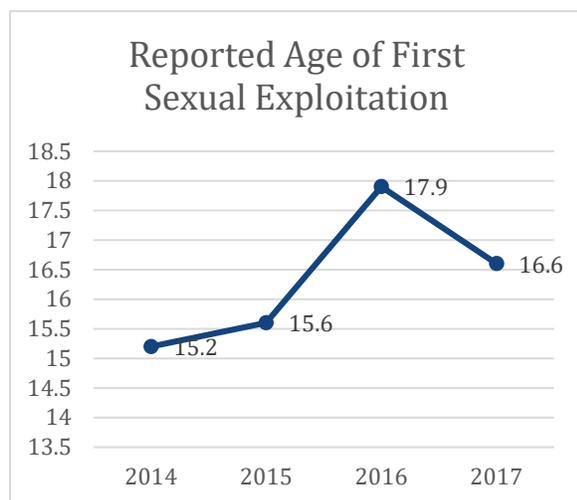


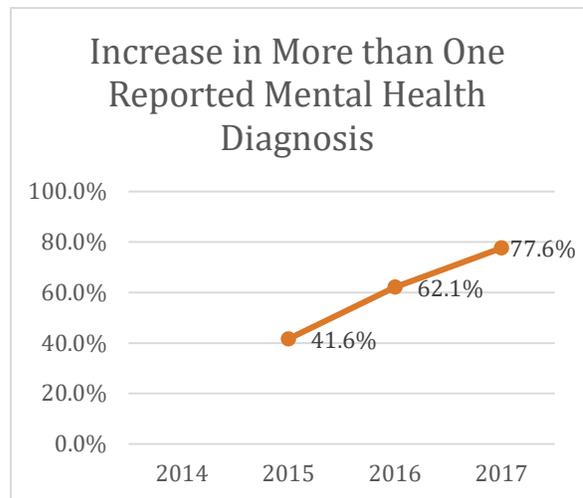
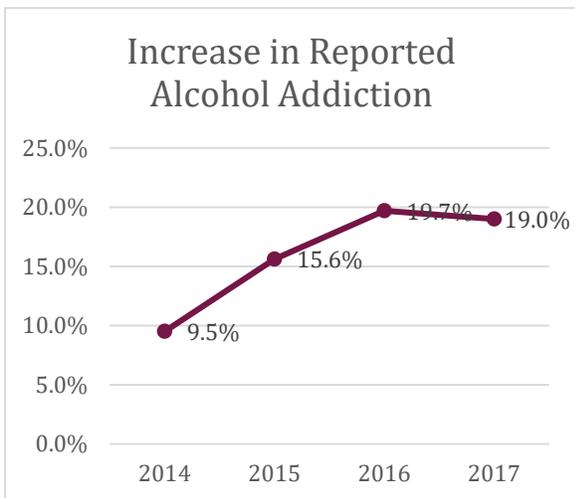
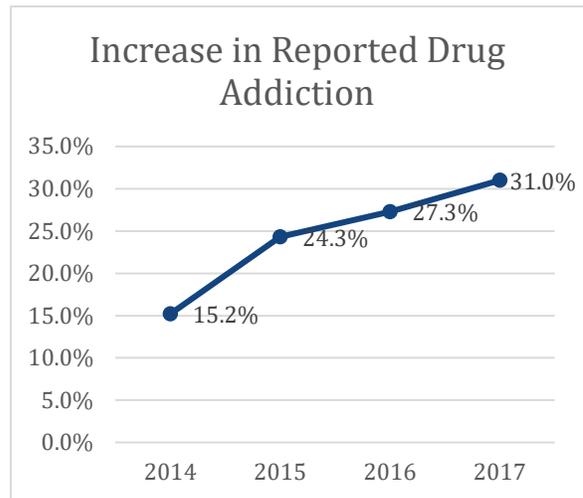
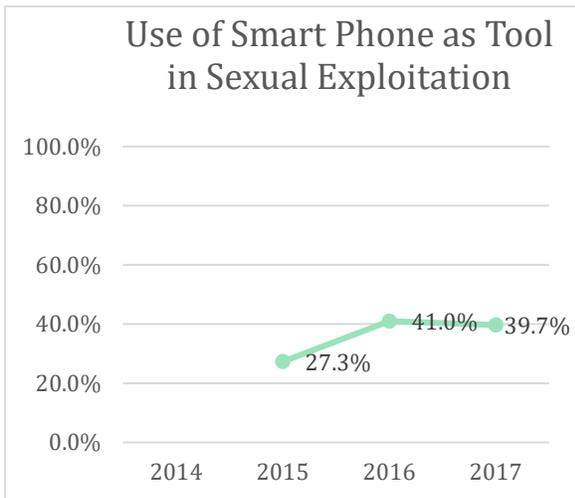
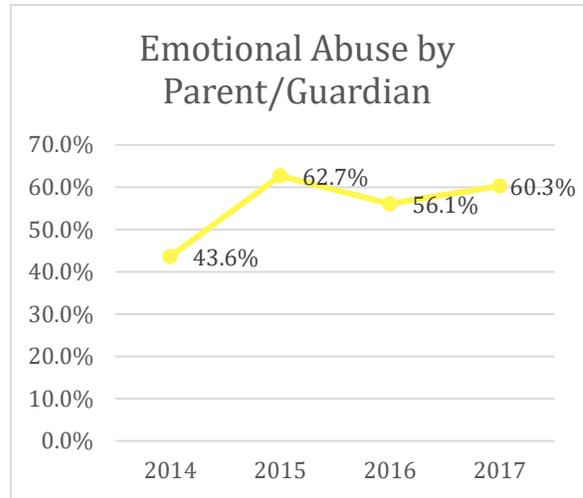
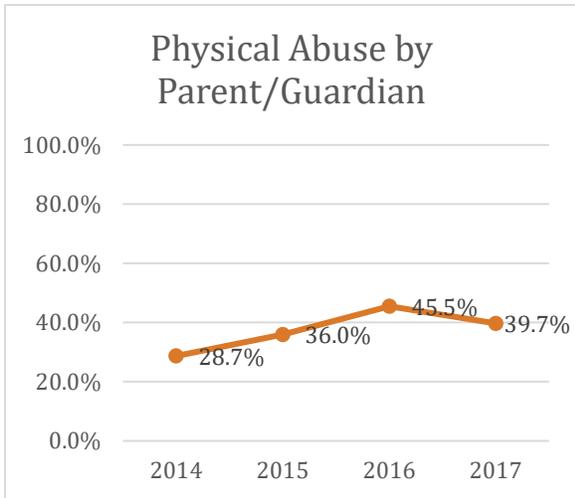


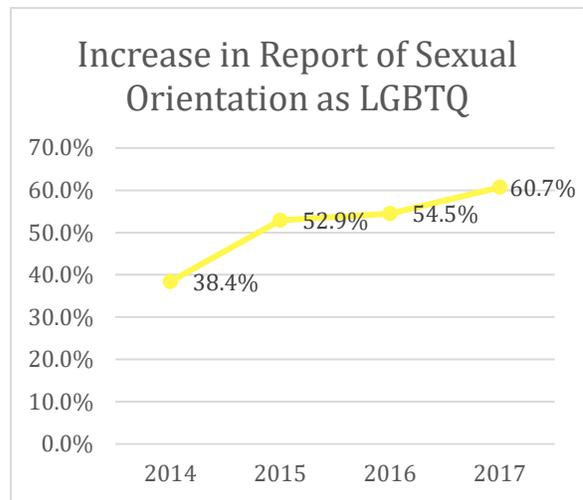
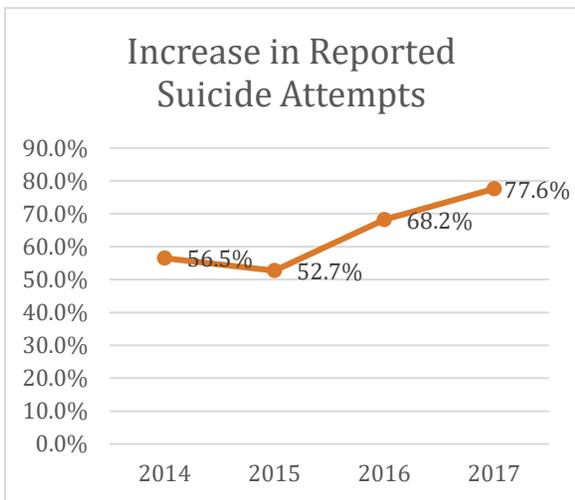
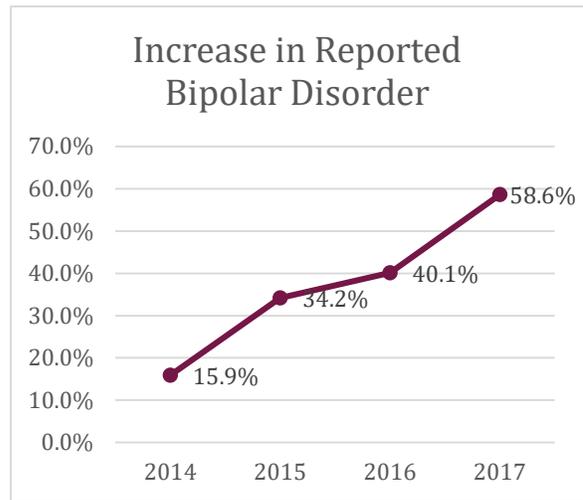
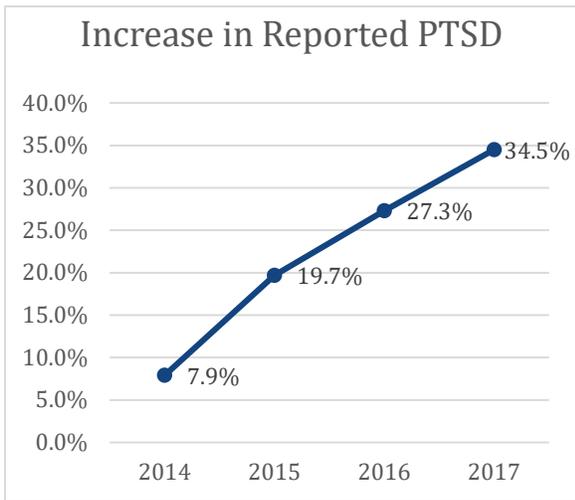
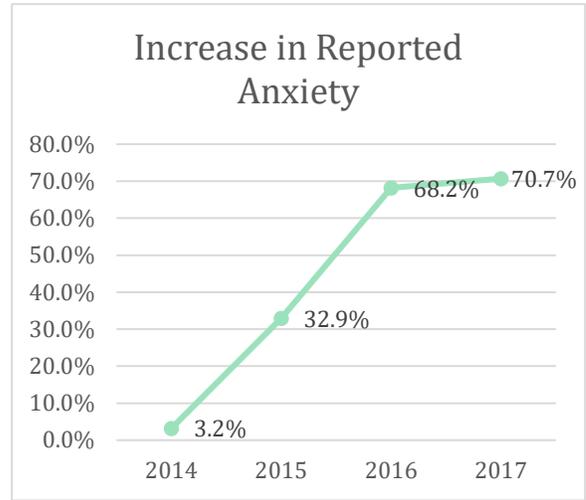
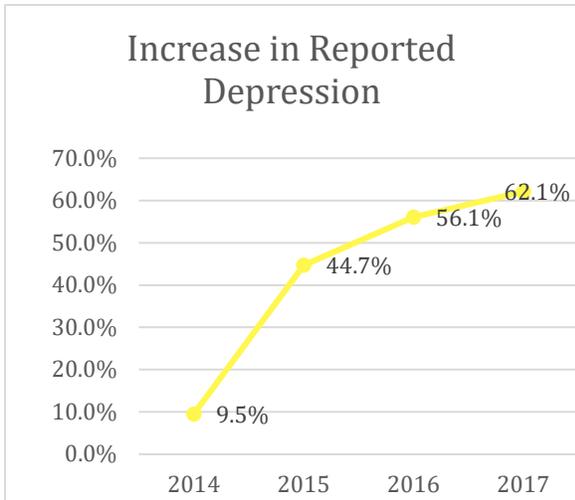
### Changes in Sex Trafficked Only Group Over Time, from 2014 to 2017

Specific to the sex trafficked group, several variables have remained relatively stable over the four-year study period. The reported age of first sex trafficking experience has remained steady, peaking in 2016 at 17.9 and declining again in 2017 to 16.6 years old. Other significant factors in the lives of the homeless young adult respondents that remained relatively stable include: Reports of being kicked out by family (averaging 47.8% over three years), physical abuse by a parent/guardian (averaging 37.5% over four years), emotional abuse by parent/guardian (averaging 55.7% over four years), and use of smart phone as a tool in the sexual exploitation (averaging 37% over three years).

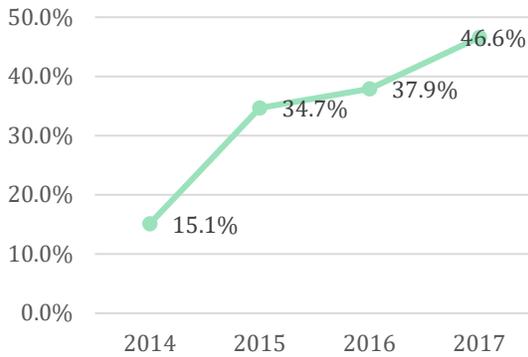
Other significant challenges in the lives of homeless young adults have steadily increased over the four-year study period. The percentage of participants who reported a sex trafficking experience and identify as LGBTQ increased over time, with an average of 50.7% over four years. The sex trafficked participants reported an increase in being diagnosed with more than one mental health diagnosis (averaging 60.4% over three years). The sex trafficked participants reported increasing rates of previous suicide attempts, from 56.5% in year one to 77.6% in year four. The sex trafficked group also reported increasing numbers of diagnoses of depression (averaging 43.1% over four years), anxiety (averaging 43.8% over four years), post-traumatic stress disorder (averaging 22.4% over four years), and bipolar disorder (averaging 37.2% over four years). The sex trafficked group reported an increased rate of sexual abuse by a parent or guardian and an increased rate of reported drug and alcohol addiction. The sex trafficked group also reported an increase in the use of technology in their sex trafficking experience, including use of smart phones and backpage.com.



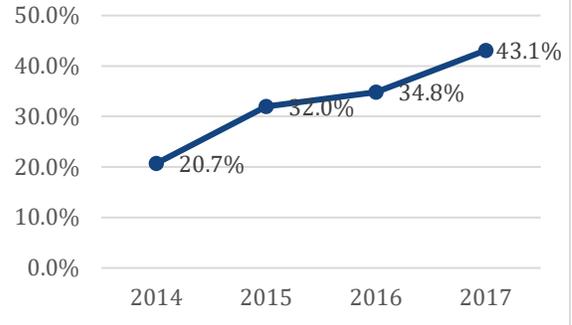




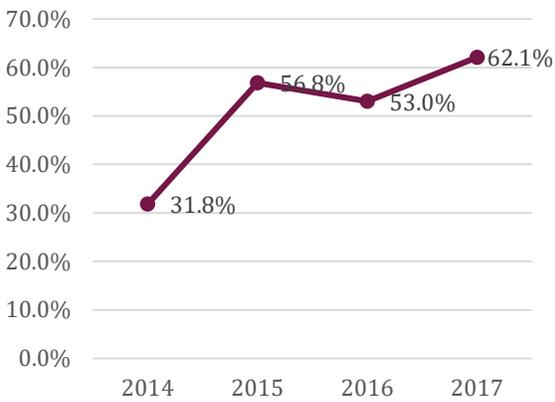
### Increase in Sexual Abuse by Parent/Guardian (13-17)



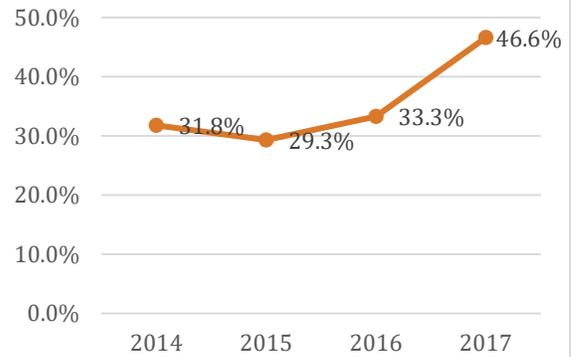
### Increase in Sexual Abuse by Parent/Guardian (12-under)



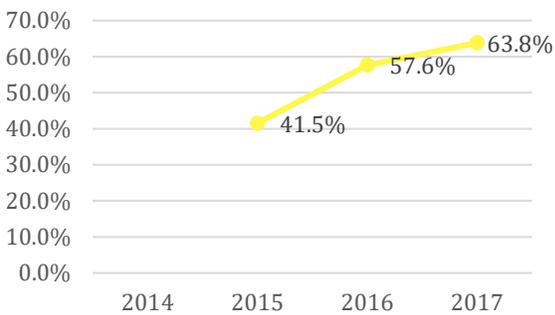
### Increase in Dating Violence



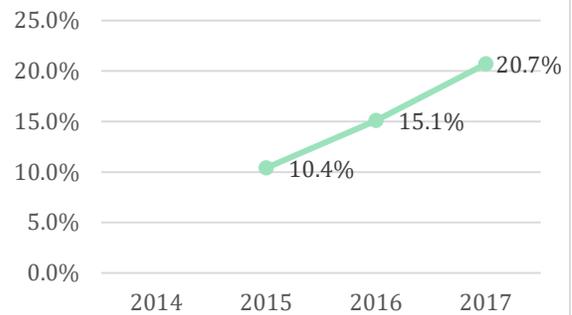
### Increase in Living in Foster Care/Group Home



### Increase in Use of Technology in Sexual Exploitation



### Increase in Use of Backpage.com as Tool in Sexual Exploitation



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## DISCUSSION

Over half (n = 98, 52.4%) of the homeless young adult respondents reported that they were raised in the state of Arizona. The average age of first homelessness experience was as a child, 16.9 years old. The findings of the 2017 YES study demonstrated that many respondents became homeless at a young age, some as early as infancy, and during their childhoods experienced significant negative events that created vulnerabilities for both homelessness and human trafficking victimization. Drug use and addiction was a significant issue identified within the homeless young adult in this study. Three out of four (n = 86, 76.1%) respondents reported first using a substance under the age of 18, with the youngest age reported being 6 years old. The three most frequently used drugs included marijuana (n = 75, 40.1%), methamphetamines, (n = 62, 33.2%), and heroin (n = 34, 18.2%). Almost half (n = 79, 42.2%) of the respondents reported having a negative connection or no connection to their family. More than one in three (n = 68, 36.4%) respondents reported being kicked out of the home by a parent or guardian. Reports of exposure to violence in the home and childhood victimization was extensive among the participants, with 33.2% (n = 62) witnessing domestic violence in the home, 41.2% (n = 77) experiencing emotional abuse, 30.5% (n = 57) experiencing sexual abuse, and 26.7% (n = 50) experiencing physical abuse in the home. Respondents also reported significant instability in living situation at a young age, with many respondents living in out-of-home care, such as living in a foster care/group home setting (n = 69, 36.9%) or residential treatment (n = 37, 19.8%), or having run away from home (n = 82, 43.9%).

It is clear that the homeless young adults (age 18-25) who participated in this study faced significant childhood challenges that may have created unique vulnerabilities to their current experiences of homelessness and human trafficking victimization. These experiences seem to have resulted in significant challenges in the respondents' current lives. For instance, almost half of respondents (n = 84, 44.9%) reported experiencing a domestic violence relationship. Of the 62 respondents who reported witnessing domestic violence in the home, 59.7% (n = 37) also reported ever being hit, kicked or physically assaulted by a partner in a romantic relationship and 32.3% (n = 20) reported having ever hit, kicked, or physically assaulted their partner in a romantic relationship. The respondents reported high rates of current mental health challenges, with 67.9% (n = 127) living with a current mental health diagnosis, and 54% (n = 101) reporting more than one mental health diagnosis. The most frequently reported diagnoses included anxiety (n = 89, 47.6%) and depression (n = 84, 44.9%). Over half of respondents (n = 102, 54.5%) reported a history of suicide attempts. Over half of respondents (n = 100, 53.5%) also reported experiencing a current medical challenge, with less than a quarter (n = 46, 24.6%) having received treatment for this medical challenge.

Sex trafficking victimization was reported by 31% (n = 58) of the homeless young adult respondents. Labor trafficking victimization was reported by 32.1% (n = 60), with 20.3% (n = 38) reporting experiencing both forms of exploitation, and almost half (n = 80, 42.8%) of the total sample experiencing at least one form of human trafficking exploitation.

One out of three (n = 6, 33.3%) respondents who identified as other gender (i.e., transgender, non-conforming) reported a sex trafficking experience. Over half (n = 34, 60.7%) of the respondents who identified as having experienced sex trafficking victimization identified as LGBTQ. The findings from this study have demonstrated a consistent increase in LGBTQ identification over the past four years, with the research demonstrating LGBTQ individuals to be two times more likely than heterosexual individuals to report experiencing sex trafficking victimization. There was a slight decrease in the average age of entry from YES 2016 to YES 2017, with the average age of entry being 16.6 years old. Almost half (n = 25, 43.1%) of identified sex trafficking victims reported being first exploited under the age of 18. The majority of respondents (n = 82.8%) who identified as having experienced sex trafficking also reported that they had a trafficker who was encouraging, pressuring, or forcing them to exchange sex for something of value. Respondents who identified as having experienced sex trafficking were also found to be nine times more likely to participate in self-harm activities, six times more likely to report a mental health diagnosis, six times more likely to report a history of sexual abuse, four times more likely to report an addiction to drugs, four times more likely to have attempted suicide, four times more likely to have run away from home, four times more likely to have an anxiety diagnosis, and four times more likely to report being kicked out of the home due to sexual orientation.

One out of three (n = 27, 35.5%) female respondents reported experiencing labor trafficking, one out of every four (n = 25, 27.2%) male respondents reported experiencing labor trafficking, and almost half (n = 8, 44.4%) of the respondents who identified as other gender (i.e., transgender, non-conforming) reported experiencing labor trafficking. Identifying as LGBTQ was not found to be significantly related to experiencing labor trafficking exploitation. The average age of entry into a labor trafficking situation was 16.5 years of age, which similar to the age of entry into sex trafficking. Over one in three (n = 21, 35%) reported being labor trafficked under the age of 18. Two out of every three (n = 40, 66.7%) respondent who reported experiencing labor trafficking also reported the presence of a trafficker who was encouraging, pressuring, or forcing them to perform non-sexual acts of labor for something of value.

Respondents who identified as having experienced labor trafficking were also found to be seven times more likely to have been abused in a domestic violence relationship, six time more likely to have a history of sexual abuse, five times more likely to participate in self-harming activities, five times more likely to report a PTSD diagnosis, four times more likely to have an addiction to drugs, and four times more likely to have a depression diagnosis.

## **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 but data was 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 used 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, during the four years of the YES study (2014-2017) significant efforts were made to train the staff at all of the participating agencies, and new sex trafficking victim targeted services were developed and implemented at the two largest agencies, Tumbleweed a Service of UMOM and Our Family Services. This may have influenced who the surveys were given to within each agency.

## ***Implications***

This YES study, along with the prior years of the YES, highlights the challenges homeless youth face in Arizona while attempting to achieve self-sufficiency. Homeless young adults are struggling to overcome substance use, mental health and traumatic life experience while attempting to secure permanent housing. These young adults have a limited family connection, lack acceptance in relation to their sexuality and gender identity and have ongoing medical issues without consistent medical care. The rate of sex trafficking reported over the last four years of the YES study is 31.4%. This is the first year to explore the experience of labor trafficking in the YES study, more young adults reported a history of labor trafficking at 32.1% while those reporting a sex trafficking experience (31%). The results of this study provide significance implications to the services providers in Arizona, not just the homeless youth providers but those cross system in the medical, behavioral health and child welfare.

In a climate where funding for transitional housing and youth focused programming is being decreased the results of this study only continue to support a community wide approach of providers to meet the critical needs of homeless young adults. While runaway and homeless youth (RHY) providers can implement screening and comprehensive services for victims of trafficking, the many systems where a young adult seeks care should also address screening and identification of victims. Homeless youth are often transient and inconsistent with care however with multiple systems trained and connected to the victim service providers, the greater chance that a homeless youth may be connected to the appropriate services. The increase of suicide attempts in trafficked youth highlights the need for hospitals and psychiatric units to screen for trafficking and create protocols that support connection. Providers can access national toolkits

and resources on how to implement screening and victim services into traditional RHY, domestic violence, and homeless programs.

While conversation around sex trafficking can also use the term “survival sex”, the authors of this study disagree with the use and dismissal of a human trafficking victimization that places the focus of the blame or act on the victim, particularly a vulnerable child or young adult. While “survival sex” has been used to outline a homeless young adults experience of trading sex for housing, food and basic needs, the need to assess for exploitation and victimization should always be the main focus. The use of “survival sex” dismisses the reality that in many cases youth are being sexually exploited by a third party involving the use of force, fraud and/or coercion during the exchange. Failing to identify the full experience of exploitation missed the impact of trauma, violence and a host of other complexities outlined in the YES study.

During the last four years of the YES Survey, sadly the implications remain the same for homeless young adults impacted by trafficking. Regardless of the type of trafficking, young adults require an array of specialized services to create safety and stability. The resources to serve victims shift with the funding cycles and the turnover with staff, often creating a dynamic where inconsistency can affect the services accessible to those most in need. Long-term community commitments that are not limited to type of trafficking, age and/or gender is required to provide the best care to the victims in Arizona’s communities. Arizona should continue to identify the greatest gaps in services, such as housing for young males, LBGTQ specific shelter services, treating trauma symptoms and experiences, and the identification of labor trafficking in the community.

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